



Canadian Shire Horse Association
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Canadian Shire Horse Association Breed Standard

The Standard of points laid down by the Board of Directors is as follows:

STALLIONS

COLOUR

Black, brown, bay or grey. No good stallion should be splashed with large white patches over the body. He must not be roan or chestnut.

HEIGHT

17 hands (173 cms) high at maturity. Average about 17.2 hands (178 cms).

HEAD

Long and lean, neither too large nor too small, with long neck in proportion to the body. Large jaw bone should be avoided.

EYES

Large, well set and docile in expression. Wall eyes not acceptable.

NOSE

Slightly Roman nostrils thin and wide; lips together.

EARS

Long, lean, sharp and sensitive.

THROAT

Clean cut and lean.

SHOULDER

Deep and oblique, wide enough to support the collar.

NECK

Long, slightly arched, well set on to give the horse a commanding appearance.

GIRTH

The girth varies from 6 ft (183 cms) to 8 ft (244 cms) in stallions of from 16.2 (168 cms) to 18 hands (183 cms).

BACK

Short, strong and muscular. Should not be dipped or roached.

LOINS

Standing well up, denoting good constitution (must not be flat).

FORE-END

Wide across the chest, with legs well under the body and well enveloped in muscle, or action is impeded.

HIND- QUARTERS

Long and sweeping, wide and full of muscle, well let down towards the thighs.



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RIBS

Round, deep and well sprung, not flat.

FORELEGS

Should be as straight as possible down to pastern.

HINDLEGS

Hocks should be not too far back and in line with the hind-quarters with ample width broadside and narrow in front. "Puffy" and "sickle" hocks should be avoided. The leg sinews should be clean cut and hard like fine cords to touch and clear of short cannon bone.

BONE MEASUREMENT

Of flatbone 11 inches (28 cms) is ample, although occasionally 12½ inches (32 cms) is recorded – flat bone is heavier and stronger than spongy bone. Hocks must be broad, deep and flat and set at the correct angle for leverage.

FEET

Deep, solid and wide, with thick open walls. Coronets should be hard and sinewy with substance.

HAIR

Not too much, fine straight and silky.

A good Shire Stallion should stand from 17.0 hands (173 cms) upwards, and weigh from 18 cwt (900 Kg) to 22 cwt (1100 Kg) when matured, without being overdone in condition.

He should possess a masculine head and a good crest with sloping, not upright, shoulders running well into the back, which should be short and well coupled with the loins. The tail should be well set up and not what is known as "gooserumped".

Both head and tail should be carried erect. The ribs should be well sprung, not flat sided, with good middle which generally denotes good constitution. A Stallion should have good feet and joints; the feet should be wide and big around the top of the coronets with sufficient length in the pasterns.

When in motion, he should go with force using both knees and hocks, which latter should be kept close together, he should go straight and true before and behind.

A good Stallion should have strong character.