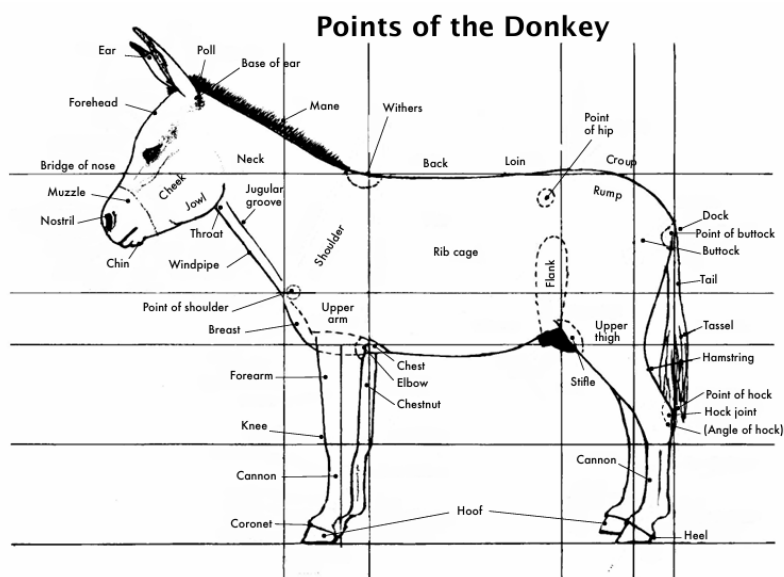


Standards of Conformation & Type - Donkeys



Types of Donkey

American Mammoth Jackstock
American Miniature Mediterranean
Australian Teamster
Ponui Island

American Mammoth
American Miniature Mediterranean
English/Irish

Overall Appearance

- Compact, symmetrical animal with no appearance of coarseness.
- Attractive and pleasing to the eye.
- Head carried moderately high with an alert, kind expression.
- Proud and graceful in movement.

Temperament

- Good temperament is essential.
- Donkeys should be gentle, good humoured, and intelligent.
- Aggression, bad temper, or meanness should not be tolerated.
- Jacks, jennies, and geldings should each show appropriate sex or type characteristics.

Head Conformation

- Head should be proportional to body size, balanced overall and consistent with the donkey type.
- Masculinity and femininity are important features.
- Profile straight or slightly concave; some larger breeds may allow a mild Roman nose.
- Ears well set and alert; eyes large, dark, clear, and expressive.

Faults of the Head & Mouth

- Undesirable features include heavy Roman nose, low-set or lop ears, and small or bulging eyes.
- Parrot mouth and monkey mouth are faults.
- Lips should meet evenly and jaws should align correctly.
- Faults may affect both appearance and function.

Neck, Back & Body

- Neck should be proportional, flexible, and well carried.
- Back should appear short and level, with good depth of girth.
- Chest should be rounded with well-sprung ribs for breathing capacity.
- The donkey should be in good condition, with ribs just palpable under the coat. Loin should be short, strong, and well-muscled.

Standards of Conformation & Type - Donkeys

Loin, Croup & Tail

- Loin should be short, strong, and well muscled.
- Croup should slope gently with the tail set high and carried straight.
- Buttocks should be well fleshed.
- Faults include weak loins, goose-rump, and low tail set.

Forelegs

- Forelegs should have strong, proportional bone and well-developed muscle.
- Knees should be wide and flat; cannon bones should be short.
- Pasterns should be moderate in length and slope.
- Legs should be straight when viewed from the front.

Foreleg Faults

- Examples include splay-footed, pigeon-toed, knock-kneed, bow-legged, and bench-kneed.
- Other faults include over at knee, back at knee, tied in at knee, and calf knee.
- Incorrect placement of bones can lead to unsoundness.
- Movement faults often become obvious at the trot.

Hind Legs & Hindquarter Faults

- Hindquarters should be strong and muscular with parallel cannon bones.
- Minor inward turning at the hocks may be acceptable if movement remains straight.
- Faults include sickle hocks, camped out behind, overly straight legs, bandy-legged, and cow-hocked.
- These faults can reduce stride quality and soundness.

Action

- Action should be active, smooth, straight, and free flowing.
- Active, smooth, straight, free flowing and covering the ground evenly with a good length of stride. Level and true at all gaits. Smart, light and active.

Coat

- To be in well groomed condition, not dry or staring.
- **No clipping out other than tidying stray hairs.**
- All colours are determined in the summer coat. Winter coats, clipped coats and foal coats will be deceptive as to colour.

Markings & Colouring

- All colours are determined in the summer coat. Winter coats, clipped coats (not allowed in the show ring) and foal coats will be deceptive as to colour.
- Colour should be judged from the summer coat.
- Recognised colours include grey dun, brown, black, white, broken coloured, red, and roan.
- Some coat markings, skin patterns, and crosses help distinguish colour types.
- Breed-specific colour rules may apply, such as for Australian Teamsters.

Height Categories & Breed Measurements

- Good conformation is not determined by height alone. It should not matter what the height of the donkey is when considering whether a donkey has good conformation.
- Miniature, small standard, standard, and large standard categories are defined by height at the wither.
- Specific measurement standards apply to American Mammoth Jackstock, American Mammoth, American Miniature Mediterranean, Australian Teamster, English/Irish, and Ponui Island donkeys.
- Heart girth and cannon bone circumference are important in larger breeds.

Key Takeaways

- Good donkey conformation balances structure, soundness, movement, and temperament.
- Breed type matters, but quality and functionality remain central.
- Faults should be assessed in relation to health, movement, and usefulness.