

Horse Breeds of the World

Akhal-Teke

A breed from Turkmenistan, it usually has a dun color (grey-gold or tan) though it can also be grey or bay. It is a very elegant horse and is used in different equine disciplines. It is an average of 15 to 15.1 hands high.



*Kuma, the Akhal-Teke**



*Spinner, the Quarter Horse**

American Quarter Horse

A speedy North American breed, this horse is known for its fast quarter-mile sprints. The horse is found in every type of coloring. The American Quarter Horse can be used for all types of activities like ranch work or leisure riding. Today, it is the most popular breed in America, and it stands 14 to 16 hands high.

American Saddlebred

Kentucky plantation owners who wanted smooth, quick riding around their land developed the American Saddlebred. Today, this horse is often seen in the show ring. It has a showy nature and dramatic gaits. The horse has a small head on a long, strong neck. The tail is set high up on the horse. The American Saddlebred ranges from 15 to 17 hands in size.



*Silk, the Saddlebred**

American Standardbred

This breed is used in harness racing and is known for trotting and pacing. The American Standardbred has a long body with shorter legs. The horse most often has a bay, brown, black, or chestnut coloring. The Standardbred is an average of 15.2 hands high.



Andalusian

The Andalusian is a Spanish breed that is usually grey, white, or bay colored. It has great agility and can compete in all equine disciplines. The breed is a good riding horse because of its physical appearance. The Andalusian is an average of 15.2 to 16.2 hands high.



Maluso*, the Andalusian*

Appaloosa

Bred by the Nez Perce Indians, this horse has a distinct spotted coat and is an average of 14 to 16 hands. It is a good saddle horse and can be used for show and stock work. It has unique features in addition to the coat pattern including mottled skin and striped hooves.



Herby, the Appaloosa*

Arabian

The oldest pure breed in the world, this elegant and intelligent horse is known for its endurance. It was often used as a war horse, and it is prized for its beauty and speed. Arabians are grey, chestnut, bay, or roan and sometimes even solid black. They are typically 14.2 to 15 hands high.



Dartagnon, the Arabian*

Belgian

This strong horse can carry out many tasks and were used in medieval times by some knights as a warhorse. The Belgian is a draft horse with a very large, muscular body and stands from 16 to 18 hands high. This breed has large feet with some leg feathers.



John, the Belgian*



Cleveland Bay

The Cleveland Bay is an English breed that transports lighter items. The horse has a large head and long back. It is usually bay colored but chestnut colored sometimes occurs. The Cleveland Bay is 16 to 16.2 hands high.

Clydesdale

This heavy draft horse is used in farm work and transportation of heavy loads. It has heavy feathering on its lower legs. The breed has white coloring sometimes on the face and legs. It is a very large horse averaging around 16 to 18 hands.



*Nick, the Clydesdale**

Fjord

This unique-looking breed is from Norway. It has a dun color with a “zebra stripe” on its legs, mane, and tail. They are mild-mannered horses and are very versatile. Fjords are an average of 13 to 14 hands.



*Smoke, the Friesian**

Friesian

Friesian horses are always black with a very long mane and tail. The breed also has long leg feathers. It can be used for carriage driving, light farm work and is sometimes found in circuses. Friesians are around 15 hands.

Hackney

A British breed, this flashy trotting horse is often used as a carriage horse. It has a small head and small ears with bay, brown, black, or chestnut coloring. The Hackney is an average of 15 hands high.

Icelandic

The Icelandic is the only horse in Iceland as importing horses into the country is illegal and all exported horses are not allowed to return. The horse is used for transportation, racing, and show. The Icelandic is an average of 13 to 14 hands high and almost all colors are found in the breed.



Lipizzaner

This Austrian breed is typically grey and is intelligent and easily trained. The horse can take part in riding school performances like dressage. The Lipizzaner is the horse used by the famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna. The Lipizzaner is an average of 15 to 15.2 hands high.



Ross, the Lipizzaner*

Marwari

This Indian breed is known for its unique ears that curve inwards, the tips of the ears sometimes even touching. They have long legs and are colored bay, chestnut, brown, palomino, piebald (white and black patches), or skewbald (patches with white and another color besides black). The Marwari has an average height of 14 to 15.2 hands high.



Zubeida, the Marwari*

Morgan

An American breed, the Morgan is a sturdy horse that can perform many tasks. It can haul heavy items, do farm work, race, and perform in a show ring. Morgans are usually chestnut but they can be bay or brown and are typically 15.2 hands high.



Sneaky, the Morgan*

Mustang

The Mustang breed has descended from horses brought by the Spanish in the 1500s. This breed is a sturdy horse and is found in all different colors. The horse is an average of 14 to 15 hands high.



Lil Harley, the Mustang*



Palomino

The Palomino is a breed determined by color. This means that other breeds, like Thoroughbreds and Arabians, can be considered Palominos. These horses must be a “ring-dove” coloring with a light gold coloring and white mane and tail. Their eyes must be brown, black or hazel. They stand between 14 and 17 hands high.



*Hank, the Palomino**



*Echo, the Paso Fino**

Paso Fino

The Paso Fino is known for its unique natural gait. The breed has many colors including bay, chestnut, black and grey. The size of the breed is an average of 13 to 15.2 hands high.



*Ty, the Percheron**

Percheron

This French breed is a draft horse with black, grey, and occasionally white coloring. A large horse, the Percheron is between 15.2 and 17 hands high. The breed is used as work horses on farms and to pull heavy wagons.

Prezewalski

The Prezewalski is a rare and endangered subspecies of wild horse native to the steppes of central Asia, specifically Mongolia. It has a short, bristled mane and small legs. The coat is usually dun colored and it has a dark dorsal stripe running down its back. The Prezewalski is between 12 and 14 hands.



Shetland Pony

One of the oldest breeds in Britain, the Shetland has thick hair with a long mane and forelocks. Used in coal mines due to its short size, the pony is a strong horse. Shetland Ponies can be many different colors. Shetlands are an average of 9.3 hands and do not exceed 10.2 hands.



Kimba, the Shetland Pony



Bert, the Shire

Shire

Used in war by English knights, the Shire is a draft horse that has been used in modern times for transportation and in agriculture. The breed has many colors and has long leg feathers. The Shire has an average height of 16 to 17 hands high.

Suffolk Punch

An English draft horse, this breed is often used as a farm horse. A Suffolk Punch can only have a chestnut color. It is an average height of 16.1 hands but can even reach 17 or more hands.

Tennessee Walking Horse

This American breed is known for its quick, smooth “running walk” when their hind legs will over stride their front legs. They are bay, black, and chestnut colored and can have white markings. The Tennessee Walking Horse is around 15 to 15.2 hands in height.

Thoroughbred

Most notable as a racing horse, the Thoroughbred horse is known for its speed and elegant body. The breed has a well-defined head, long neck, and powerful legs. It varies in color and stands from 14.2 to over 17 hands in height.



*Funny Cide, the Thoroughbred**

*Horses are at the Kentucky Horse Park at the Horses of the World Barn. Breed photos courtesy of Jim Shambhu, Kentucky Horse Park.

