



CHAPTER 3

Breeds, Types, and Classes of Horses

Through selection, inbreeding, and outcrossing, humans created horses for speed, strength, endurance, size, good nature, hardiness, beauty, and athletic ability. Today, over 300 breeds exist. These breeds represent numerous types and classes. The various breeds and types of horses are also bred to donkeys to produce different types of mules.

This chapter acquaints the reader with the breeds of horses and the methods and terms used to group the breeds.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe how horse breeds started with foundation stallions
- Understand the concept of breed, types, and classifications
- Describe the common height measurement for horses
- Define the terms *warmblood*, *coldblood*, *cob*, and *hack*
- Name 10 common breeds of light horses and their origin
- Name five common breeds of draft horses and their origin
- Name five common breeds of ponies and their origin
- List five color breeds of horses
- Name five lesser-known breeds of horses or ponies and their origin
- Explain the origin of feral horses
- Describe how mules are produced

- Identify the common breeds of donkeys
- List 10 uses for horses
- Describe some of the uses for the miniature donkeys and horses
- List six uses for mules

KEY TERMS

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| breed | draft horses | light horses |
| breeding true | feral | miniature |
| breed registries | foundation sires | mustangs |
| cob | hack | pony |
| coldblood | hand | roadsters |
| color breed | hinny | warmblood |
| conformation | jennet | |

BREEDS

Through selective breeding, people learned to develop specific desirable characteristics in a group of horses. After a few generations of selective breeding a **breed** of horse was born.

A breed of horses is a group of horses with a common ancestry that breed true to produce common characteristics such as function, **conformation**, and color. **Breeding true** means that the offspring will almost always possess the same characteristics as the parents.

Recognized breeds of horses have an association with a stud book and breeding records. Many recognized breeds have certain **foundation sires** and all registered foals must trace their ancestry back to these stallions. For example, the three foundation stallions of the Thoroughbred are the Darley Arabian, the Byerly Turk, and the Godolphin Arabian. Justin Morgan is the foundation sire of the Morgan horse breed. Allen F-1, a Morgan stallion, is the foundation sire of the Tennessee walking horse. Morgan horse stallions also contributed to the development of the Standardbred, quarter horse, American albino, and the palomino breeds.

People who found particular colors appealing established registries with color requirements. Some of these registries require only color for registration, but others have conformation standards as well.



FIGURE 3-1 Appaloosa. (Courtesy of Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc., ID)

The Palomino Horse Association of California was the first **color breed** registration. Other color breed registries now include the Appaloosas (see Figure 3–1), albinos, paints, pintos, buckskins, whites, cremes, and spotted. Color breeds do not breed true. Table A–16 in the Appendix lists the names and addresses of many **breed registries**.

CLASSIFICATIONS AND TYPES

In addition to breed, horses can be classified several different ways. For example, horses can be grouped as light, draft, or **pony**, according to size, weight, and build. Within these groupings horses can be further divided by use, for example, riding, racing, driving, jumping, or utility. They can also be classified as **warmblood**, **coldblood**, or ponies.

Horse classifications depend on the height and weight of the horse. The common measurement of horse height is the **hand**. The height of a horse is measured from the top of the withers to the ground. A hand is equal to 4 inches. So a horse that is 15 hands is 60 inches. A horse that is 15.2 (15 hands 2 inches) is 62 inches tall from the top of the withers to the ground.

Light Horses

Light horses are 12 to 17.2 hands high (hh) and weigh 900 to 1,400 pounds. They are used primarily for riding, driving, showing, racing, or utility on a farm or ranch. Light horses are capable of more action and greater speed than **draft horses**.

Draft Horses

Draft horses are 14.2 to 17.2 hands high and weigh 1,400 pounds or more. They are primarily used for heavy work or pulling loads. Historically, when draft horses were bought and sold for work, they were classified according to their use as draft, wagon, farm chucks, or southerners.



FIGURE 3–2 A Welsh pony stallion. (Photo courtesy of Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America, Winchester, VA)

Ponies

Ponies stand 14.2 hands high or less and weigh 500 to 900 pounds. Ponies possess a distinct conformation on a reduced scale. They are either draft, heavy harness, or saddle type (see Figure 3–2).

Warmblood

Warmblood does not relate to horses with a certain blood temperature. It refers to the overall temperament of light-to-

medium horse breeds. Warmblood horses are fine-boned and suitable for riding. In some countries, the warmblood is distinguished as a horse having a strain of Arab breeding. Some groupings classify all light horses as warmbloods. According to some, all breeds that are not definitely Thoroughbred, draft, or pony are classified as warmblood.

Coldblood

Coldblood horses are heavy, solid, strong horses with a calm temperament. This term is probably best thought of as another way of describing draft horses.

Types and Uses

Types of light horses include riding, racing, showing, driving, all-purpose, and **miniature**. Riding horses are generally thought of as the gaited horses (three- and five-gait), stock horses, horses for equine sports, and ponies for riding and driving. Racing horses are running racehorses, pacing/trotting racehorses, quarter racehorses, and harness racehorses (see Figure 3–3). Driving horses include the heavy and fine harness horses, ponies, and the **roadsters**. All-purpose horses and ponies are used for family enjoyment, showing, ranch work, etc. Miniature horses and donkeys are used for driving and as pets.

Obviously, some breeds fit better into some of these types than other breeds.

The terms **cob** and **hack** are also used to describe types of horses. A cob is a sturdy, placid horse. It stands 14.2 to 15.2 hands high and is not heavy or coarse enough to be classified as a draft animal. A hack is an enjoyable, good riding or driving horse, sometimes considered a small Thoroughbred in Europe or a saddlebred in America.



FIGURE 3–3 Standardbred trotter “Colonial Charm.” (Courtesy of United States Trotting Association, OH)

COMMON BREEDS OF HORSES

Table 3–1 briefly describes some of the more common breeds of horses, their origin, classification, and height. Table 3–2 lists some of the less well-known breeds of warmblood or light horses and their origin. Table 3–3 lists some other breeds of draft or coldblood horses and their origin, while Table 3–4 provides the name and origin of some lesser-known breeds of ponies and their origin.



FIGURE 3–4 Miniature horse pulling a cart at the Boise Horse Show.

MINIATURE HORSES

Miniature horses are scaled-down versions of a full-size horse and are not dwarfs. Miniatures are not a breed but can be registered with the Miniature Horse Registry. The maximum height for registration is 34 inches at the withers.

Miniatures are often kept as pets. Some are exhibited as driving horses in single pleasure and roadster driving classes. Also, some people exhibit miniature horses in multiple hitches pulling miniature wagons, stagecoaches, and carriages. Because of their size, only a small child can ride them (see Figure 3–4).

RARE BREEDS

Some breeds are threatened because American agriculture has changed. Many traditional livestock breeds have lost popularity and are threatened with extinction. These traditional breeds are an essential part of the American agricultural inheritance. They evoke our past and represent an important resource for the Earth's biodiversity in the future. Rare breeds are classified by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.¹ A breed is considered rare if there are fewer than 1,000 North American registrations and fewer than 5,000 estimated worldwide on an annual basis. According to this definition the following horses are considered rare breeds:

- Canadian
- Dartmoor

- Hackney
- Lipizzaner
- Rocky Mountain

A breed is classified as “critical” by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy when that breed is on the verge of being lost. The critical category means there are fewer than 200 North American annual registrations and fewer than 2,000 estimated worldwide. Horses classified as critical breeds include the following:

- Akhal Teke
- American Cream
- Caspian
- Cleveland Bay

One Horse Is Most Remembered—Man o’ War

Man o’ War was not just another racehorse. Man o’ War was one of 1,680 Thoroughbreds foaled in 1917. He was born on March 29 at the Kentucky Nursery Stud owned by August Belmont II. Man o’ War’s sire was Fair Play, by Hastings. To provide balance to Fair Play’s temper, Belmont bred him to Mahubah, by Rock Sand, who had won the British Triple Crown. Mrs. Belmont named the foal “My Man o’ War,” since he was a war baby. Belmont had to serve in the Army in 1918, so he ordered his entire crop of yearlings sold at Saratoga.

At Saratoga, Man o’ War was bought by Pennsylvania horseman Samuel Riddle for \$5,000 and shipped to Riddle’s training farm, “Glen Riddle,” in Maryland. Man o’ War was trained by Louis Feustel who had trained Mahubah, Fair Play, and Hastings. When he was sent off to his first race at Belmont Park, a retired hunter named Major Treat accompanied him and would continue to travel with Man o’ War throughout his racing career.

On June 6, 1919, ridden by Johnny Loftus, Man o’ War won his first race by six lengths, crossing the finish line at a canter. He showed his desire to be a front-runner and never liked to have any other horse in front of him. He ran only in expensive stake races for the remainder of his career. As his wins built up, so did the weight he was required to carry. By his fourth race, Man o’ War was carrying 130 pounds.

His sixth race was the Sanford Memorial and the only defeat of his career. A bad start left him with a 10-length deficit and once he caught the pack he was boxed in. He was beaten by a horse ironically named Upset. Man o’ War had beaten Upset on six other occasions. In spite of this lone defeat, he was selected Horse of the Year at the end of his 2-year-old season.

Man o’ War went undefeated as a 3-year-old in 1920, and reduced the American record for the mile by $\frac{2}{3}$ of a second, to 1:35 $\frac{1}{2}$; and even at that, his jockey, Clarence Kummer, had held him back. Later, in the

- Exmoor
- Florida Cracker
- Mountain Pleasure
- Spanish Mustang
- Spanish Barb
- Suffolk

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy also classifies breeds as “watch” and “study,” which represent progressions toward the rare or critical classifications. Breeds are classified as “recovering” when individuals or organizations have taken initiative to save a rare or critical breed.

Belmont Stakes, he set a record that stood for 50 years. By the time of the Dwyer Stakes at Aqueduct, Man o' War could find only one opponent, John P. Grier, a horse from the Whitney Stables. In this race, Grier challenged Man o' War, and Kummer used his whip for the first time. Man o' War dashed to victory, and set a new American record at 1:45½.

The crowning event of Man o' War's career came in a match race against the celebrated Canadian horse Sir Barton, the first winner of the Triple Crown. On October 12, 1920, Sir Barton and Man o' War met in Windsor, Ontario. Man o' War won by seven lengths! In his career he won 20 of 21 races.

Man o' War's stud career was just as distinguished as his career on the track. At stud on Hinata Stock Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, he sired 13 foals his first season, the most notable of which was American Flag. Riddle did not allow Man o' War to breed many mares besides his own. Although Man

o' War became history's leading sire in terms of his offspring's winnings, his stud career might have been even greater had he been bred to better mares. Among Man o' War's most important get were Triple Crown-winner War Admiral, Crusader, Blockade, War Hero, War Relic, Clyde Van Deusen, and Battleship. In all, he sired 379 foals that won 1,286 races.

Under the close care of his groom, Will Harbut, Man o' War was visited by thousands each year at Riddle's Faraway Farm. In 1947, Will Harbut died of a heart attack; barely a month later, Man o' War died at the age of 30, also the victim of a heart attack. Man o' War's burial was a time of national mourning; his funeral was broadcast on the radio and covered by the press from all over the world. Samuel Riddle had commissioned Herbert Hazeltine to sculpt a memorial statue of Man o' War while he lived, to be placed on his grave. In 1977, the remains of Man o' War and his famous statue were brought to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses

| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Akhal Teke | Turkmenistan | Light | 15–15.2 hh | Gold with metallic sheen; also, bay, cream, chestnut | Less than 2,000 purebreds in world; Marco Polo said foundation sire was Alexander the Great's horse, Bucephalus |
| Albino | United States | Light | No height requirements | White only | Foals born white |
| Alter-Real | Portugal | Light | 15–15.2 hh | Mostly bay or brown; some chestnuts and gray | High-strung temperament; does well in dressage; carries Andalusian breeding |
| American Buckskin | United States | Light | 14 hh | Four color patterns accepted | Descendants of Norwegian Dun and Spanish Sorraia |
| American Cream | United States | Light | Varied from 12.2–17 hh | Three variations of cream accepted | Color breed |
| American Quarter Horse | United States | Light | 15.2–16.1 hh | Any solid color; mostly chestnut | Oldest of American breeds; most versatile horse in the world; largest equine registry in the world; natural cow-sense |
| American Saddlebred | United States | Light | 15–16 hh | Black, bay, brown; white markings on face and legs | Formerly Kentucky saddler, amiable; can perform several gaits; very showy |
| American Standardbred | United States | Light | 14–16 hh | Any solid color, mostly brown, bay, black, chestnut | Developed as trotter/pacer; direct line can be traced to one male, Messenger |
| American Warmblood | United States | Light | Varies | Any color | Relatively new breed; common crosses are Thoroughbred/draft or Thoroughbred/warmblood |

(continued)

| TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments | |
| American White | United States | Light | Varied from 12.2–17 hh | Snow or milk white hair, pink skin, brown, black, or hazel eyes | Color breed; not true albino | |
| Andalusian | Spain | Light | 15–16.2 hh | Gray, born dark and becoming lighter over years | Oldest and purest of all horses after Arabian; breed founded in 710 A.D.; almost became extinct in 1830s; saved by monks; used by mounted bullfighters in Spain; no Arab blood used in development | |
| Appaloosa | Spain, United States | Light | 14–15.3 hh | White sclera, striped hooves, mottled skin and coat pattern | Bred by Nez Perce Indians; third largest breed registry in world; popular in United States and Australia | |
| Arabian or Arab | Arabia | Light | 14.3–16 hh | Bay, brown, chestnut, gray, black | Large nostrils and long eyelashes adapted for desert conditions; one less vertebra than any other breed; has influenced the foundation of all light breeds; can carry more weight over longer distance than Thoroughbred or quarter horse; characteristic dishd face; oldest purebred, dating 5000 B.C. | |
| Barb | North Africa | Light | 14–15 hh | Dark brown, bay, chestnut, black, gray | One of great foundation horses; used to strengthen other breeds; considered forerunner of Thoroughbred | |
| | | | | | (continued) | |

TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses (continued)

| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Bashkir Curly | Russia | Light | 13.2 hh average | All colors | Noted for long, curly coat of hair, milking ability, cold-hardy |
| Belgian | Belgium | Draft | Up to 17 hh | Mostly roan with black points, chestnut, sometimes bay, brown, dun, gray | Descendant of medieval great horses; magnificent animal; one of most powerful of horse breeds |
| Chickasaw | United States | Light | 13.2–14.7 hh | Bay, black, chestnut, gray, roan, sorrel, palomino | Developed by Native Americans of Tennessee, North Carolina, Oklahoma; used as cow ponies |
| Cleveland Bay | England | Light | 16–16.2 hh | Bay, mahogany with black points mane, tail; feet blue in color | Very versatile and hardy; easy keepers |
| Clydesdale | Scotland | Draft | 16.2–18 hh | Bay, brown, black, roan; much white on face and legs and sometimes body | Displays action; popular in big hitches; much feathering on foot; regularly exported from Britain to wherever horses are needed for over 100 years. |
| Connemara | Ireland | Pony | 13–14.2 hh | Gray, black, brown, dun | Hardy, sure-footed |
| Dales | England | Pony | 14.2 hh maximum | Mostly black | Very hardy; good for children; used as workhorse |
| Dartmoor | British Isles | Pony | 11.2–11.3 hh | Bay, brown, black | Used for pack ponies in the mines of England; good for children |
| Dutch Warmblood | Holland | Warmblood | 16 hh | Any color | Mix of Groningen and Gelderland breeds; willing temperament |
| | | | | | (continued) |

| TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments | |
| Fell Pony | England | Pony | 14.2 hh maximum | Black, brown, bay, gray, no white markings | Very hardy, all-purpose horse | |
| French Saddle Horse or Selle Français | France | Light | 15.2–16.3 hh | Usually bay or chestnut | Descended from Anglo-Norman studs; developed as a competition horse | |
| Friesian (West Friesian) | Holland | Draft | 15 hh | Black | Used by knights of old; have heavily feathered legs; breed lighted for carriage and sport horse; tail and mane may touch ground | |
| Gotland (or Skogsross) | Sweden | Light | 12–14 hh | Dun, black, brown, bay, chestnut, palomino | One of the oldest breeds; excellent youth horse, jumper, trotter | |
| Hackney | England | Pony | 14 hh maximum | Dark brown, black, bay, chestnut | Trotting horse; good carriage horse | |
| Hackney | England | Light | 14.2–16 hh, some taller | Black, brown, chestnut, bay | Flamboyant pacers, usually used in shows and harness; distinctive trotting action | |
| Haflinger | Austria | Pony | 14.2 hh | Chestnut; white mane and tail | All of today's Haflingers are traced back to foundation sire, 249 Folic; family horse | |
| Hanoverian | Germany | Warmblood | 16–17.2 hh | Any solid color | Dominate in international competition; stable and willing temperament | |
| | | | | | (continued) | |

TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses (*continued*)

| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Highland (or Garron) | Scotland | Pony | 14.2 hh maximum | Various shades of dun; dorsal eel stripe, black points or silver hair in tail and mane; also, gray, chestnut, bay, black | Very versatile; sturdy, sure-footed |
| Holstein | Germany | Warmblood | 15.3–16.2 hh | Any solid color, mostly black, brown, bay | One of the oldest warmbloods from great horse types; competes well; good carriage horse |
| Lipizzaner | Austria | Light | 15–16 hh | Mostly gray | Famous horses from Spanish Riding School of Vienna, performing haute école riding; great athletic ability, performing airs-above-the-ground |
| Lustiano | Portugal | Light | 15–16 hh | Usually gray | Bred from Andalusian stock; used for bullfighting |
| Missouri Fox Trotter | United States | Light | 14–17 hh | Any color, usually sorrel | Natural ability for specialized gaits; comfortable ride |
| Morab | United States | Light | 14.3–15.2 hh | Usually solid | Cross of Morgan and Arabian breeds only |
| Morgan | United States | Light | 14–15.2 hh | Bay, brown, black, chestnut | One common foundation sire, Justin Morgan of Massachusetts; works very well under harness or saddle |
| Mustang | United States | Light | 14–15 hh | All colors | Original cow pony; feral horses of American West; small but tough; Native Americans used extensively |
| | | | | | (<i>continued</i>) |

| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|
| New Forest | England | Pony | 12–14.2 hh | Any color except piebald or skewbald | Very hardy; good family pony; allowed to run wild most of year; easy to train |
| Norwegian Fjord Pony | Norway | Pony | 13–14 hh | Dun with black eel stripe down center of back; zebra stripes on legs | Primitive-looking horse, resembling Przewalski's horse; hardy and sure-footed; still used as farm ponies in Norway; gentle |
| Oldenburg | Germany | Warmblood | 16.2–17.2 hh | Any solid color | Tallest and heaviest of German warmbloods; based on Friesian breeding |
| Paint | United States | Light | Variable | Black and white in bold patches all over body | All paint horses must be sired by a registered paint, quarter horse, or Thoroughbred |
| Palomino | United States | Light | 14.2–15.3 hh | Gold coat; white mane and tail; no markings | Not possible to breed true to color; first color registry |
| Paso Fino | Caribbean, Puerto Rico, South America | Light | 14.3 hh | All colors | Shows the natural lateral 4-beat gaits |
| Percheron | France | Draft | 15.2–17 hh | Gray, black | Most popular cart horse in world; slight Arab features in face |
| Peruvian Paso | Peru | Light | 14–15.2 hh | Mostly bay and chestnut | Has unique gait; can carry rider long distances not becoming too tired |
| Pinto | Spain, United States | Light | Variable | Black and white in bold patches all over body | Associated with Native Americans |
| | | | | | (continued) |

TABLE 3-1 Well-Known Breeds of Horses (continued)

| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Pony of the Americas (POA) | United States | Pony | 11.2–13 hh | Appaloosa color pattern | Cross between Appaloosa and Shetland; one of newest breeds; very good for young riders |
| Shetland | England | Pony | 11.2 hh maximum | Variable | Popular with children; very hardy, gentle |
| Shire | England | Draft | 17 hh average | Bay and brown most common with white markings | Very docile; can be trusted with a child; tallest horse in the world; heavy feathering on foot; descended from great horses; popular as team horse |
| Spanish Barb | Spain, United States | Light | 13.3–14.1 hh | Varied | Three strains recognized: scarface, rawhide, and buckshot |
| Spotted Saddle | United States | Light | 14–16 hh | Spotted coloring | Good all-around horse; good disposition |
| Suffolk (or Suffolk Punch) | England | Draft | 15.2–16.2 hh | Chestnut | Developed as workhorse; not as big as other draft breeds |
| Swedish Warmblood or Halfbred | Sweden | Warmblood | 16.2 hh | Usually chestnut, bay, brown, gray | Outstanding saddle horse; competes very well in dressage |
| Tennessee Walking Horse | United States | Light | 15–16 hh | All solid colors | Well known for two unique gaits—flat walk and running walk; bred for comfortable ride; good for beginners |
| Thoroughbred | England | Light | 14.2–17 hh | Any solid color, white markings allowed | Bred mainly for racing; must be handled carefully |
| | | | | | (continued) |

| Well-Known Breeds of Horses (concluded) | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Name | Origin | Classification | Height | Color | Comments | |
| Trakehner | Germany, Poland | Warmblood | 16–16.2 hh | Any solid color | Very versatile, considered most handsome of all German warmbloods; competes well in all sports | |
| Welsh Pony (Sections A, B, C, D) | Wales | Pony | 13.2 hh maximum (height determines which section) | Any solid color | Very hardy; very good trotting ability; good jumper; influenced trotters all over the world | |
| Württemberg | Germany | Warmblood | 16 hh average | Black, bay, chestnut, brown | Developed to do work on small mountain farms | |

TABLE 3–2 Lesser-Known Breeds of Warmblood and Light Horses

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| American Remounts | USA | French Trotter | France |
| Anglo Arab | Britain, France, Poland, Hungary | Furioso North Star | Hungary |
| Anglo-Argentine | Argentina | Gelderland | Holland |
| Bavarian Warmblood | Germany | German Trotter | Germany |
| Beberbeck | Germany | Gessian | Germany |
| Brandenburg | Germany | Gidran | Hungary |
| Brumby | Australia | Groningen | Holland |
| Budyonny | Russia | Hispano (Spanish Anglo-Arab) | Spain |
| Calabrese | Italy | Iberian | Iberian Peninsula |
| Campolina | Brazil | Iomud | Central Asia |
| Charollais Halfbred | France | Irish Hunter | Ireland |
| Criollo | South America | Jaf | Iran/Kurdistan |
| Dølegudbrandsdal | Norway | Kabardin | Russia |
| Danubian | Bulgaria | Karabair | Uzbekistan |
| Darashouri | Iran | Karabakh | Azerbaijan |
| Don | Central Asia | Kladruber | Czechoslovakia |
| East Bulgarian | Bulgaria | Knabstrup | Denmark |
| East Friesian | Germany | Kustanair | Kazakhstan |
| Einsiedler | Switzerland | Latvian Harness Horse | Latvia |
| European Trotter | France, USA, Russia | Libyan Barb | Libya |
| Fox Trotting Horse | Ozarks | Limousin Halfbred | France |
| Frederiksborg | Denmark | Lokai | Uzbekistan |
| Freiburger Saddle Horse | Switzerland | Malapolski | Poland |
| | | | <i>(continued)</i> |

TABLE 3–2 Lesser-Known Breeds of Warmblood and Light Horses (concluded)

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Mangalarga | Brazil | Salerno | Italy |
| Maremmana | Italy | Sardinian | Sardinia |
| Masuren | Poland | Shagya Arab | Hungary |
| Mecklenburg | Germany | Sokolsky | Poland/Russia |
| Metis Trotter | Russia | Spotted Saddle Horse | USA |
| Murgese | Italy | Tchenaran | Iran |
| Native Mexican | Mexico | Tersky | Russia |
| New Kirgiz | Kirgiz/Kazakhstan | Toric | Estonia |
| Nonius | Hungary | Waler | Australia |
| Novokirghiz | Central Asia | Westfalen | Germany |
| Orlov Trotter | Russia | Wielkopolski | Poland |
| Plateau Persian | Iran | Yorkshire Coach | Ireland |
| Pleven | Bulgaria | Zweibrucker | Germany |
| Rhineland | Germany | | |

TABLE 3–3 Lesser-Known Breeds of Coldblooded or Draft Horses

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Ardennais | France/Belgium | Dutch Draught | Holland |
| Auxois | France | Finnish | Finland |
| Boulonnais | France | Irish Draught | Ireland |
| Breton | France | Italian Heavy Draught | Italy |
| Comtois | France | Jutland | Denmark |
| Døle Trotter | Norway | Lithuanian Heavy Draught | Baltic States |
| | | | (continued) |

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Mulassier | French | Schleswig Heavy Draught | Germany |
| Murakov | Hungary | Schwarzwälder | Germany |
| Noriker Pinzgauer (Oberländer, South German) | Austria/Germany | Soviet Heavy Draught | Russia |
| North Swedish | Sweden | Swedish Ardennes | Sweden |
| North Swedish Trotter | Sweden | Trait du Nord | France |
| Poitevin | France | Vladimir Heavy Draught | Russia |
| Rhineland Heavy Draught | Germany | Woronesh | Russia |
| Russian Heavy Draught | Ukraine | | |

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Acchetta | Sardinia | Burma (Shan) | Burma |
| Ariège | France | Camarguais | France |
| Assateague | USA | Caspian | Iran |
| Australian | Australia | China | China |
| Avelignese | Italy | Chincoteague | USA |
| Balearic | Balearic Islands | Costeno | Spain, Peru |
| Bali | Indonesia | Dülmen | Germany |
| Bashkirsky | Russia | Exmoor | England |
| Basuto | South Africa | Falabella | Argentina |
| Batak (Deli) | Indonesia | Fjord (Westlands) | Norway |
| Bhutia | India | Fjord-Huzule | Czechoslovakia |
| Bosnian | Yugoslavia/Bosnia-Herzegovina | Galiceño | Mexico |

(continued)

TABLE 3-4 Lesser-Known Ponies of the World (concluded)

| Name | Origin | Name | Origin |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Garrano (Minho) | Portugal | Mongolian | Mongolia |
| Gayoe | Indonesia | Native Turkish | Turkey |
| Huçul | Poland | Peneia | Greece |
| Huzule | Romania | Pindos | Greece |
| Icelandic | Iceland | Sable Island | Canada |
| Java | Indonesia | Sandalwood | Indonesia |
| Kathiawari | India | Skyros | Greece |
| Kazakh | Kazakhstan | Spiti | India |
| Konik | Poland | Sumba | Indonesia |
| Landis | France | Sumbawa | Indonesia |
| Leopard Spotted | England | Tarpan | Eastern Europe |
| Macedonian | Yugoslavia | Tibetan (Nanfan) | Tibet |
| Manipur | Assam-Manipur | Timor | Indonesia |
| Marwari | India | Viatka | Russia |
| Merens | France | Zemaituka | Russia |

FERAL HORSES

Horses that were once domesticated and have become wild are called **feral** horses. No one knows for sure where, when, and how the first horses escaped from or were stolen from the Spaniards in America. During the 1700s and 1800s, the number of feral horses in America could have been 2 to 5 million. Most of these were located in the Southwest.

Currently, habitats for feral horses are found in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. These habitats are public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Some horses on these lands have been feral for many generations but others have been recently released.



FIGURE 3–5 Feral horses from the Wyoming Red Desert penned up at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, dairy farm. Note height of fence.

Public concern for the plight of feral horses led to the passage of two federal laws to protect them—Public Laws 86-234 and 92-195. Feral horses are also called **mustangs** (see Figure 3–5).

DONKEYS

The breeds registered by the American Donkey and Mule Society, which was founded in 1968, are the mammoth (or American standard) jack, large standard donkey (Spanish donkey), standard donkey (burro), miniature Mediterranean donkey, and American Spotted Ass.

The mammoth breed is a blend of several breeds of jack stock first imported into the United States in the 1800s from southern Europe. It is the largest of the asses, with the jacks being 56 inches or more high. The foundation sire was a jack named Mammoth. His name was given to the breed.

The large standard donkey (Spanish donkey) is between 48 and 56 inches high, while the standard donkey (the burro) is between 36 and 48 inches high. The miniature Mediterranean donkey, originally imported from Sicily and Sardinia, must be under 36 inches (down from the original 38 inches) to qualify for registration. The height restriction is the only requirement for registration by the American Donkey and Mule Society (see Figure 3–6).

The American Spotted Ass is a trademark of the American Council of Spotted Asses, founded in 1967. It can be registered as either white with colored spots or colored with white spots. However, the spots have to be above the knees and hocks, and behind the throat latch. Stockings and face markings do not qualify.



FIGURE 3-6 Two wild jacks registered as standard donkey/wild burros, owned by Elmer Zeiss of Valley, Nebraska. (Photo courtesy of American Donkey and Mule Society, Lewisville, TX)

Miniature Donkey

The Miniature Donkey Registry of the United States, founded in 1958, is currently governed by the American Donkey and Mule Society. Color and other considerations, such as ancestry, do not define the miniature donkey. The only requirement is that it be 36 inches or less in height.

The original imported donkeys had the typical gray-dun color, in which the hairs are all gray and not mixed with white hairs. All shades of brown are also common, and black, white, roan, and spots are possible. True gray is extremely rare in donkeys of any size, and is distinguished from gray-dun because true gray donkeys are born with a dark coat that lightens to almost white over the years. One other characteristic of the donkey is the cross, consisting of a dorsal stripe from mane to tail, and a cross stripe between the withers. In black animals the cross marking may be difficult to detect.

The miniature donkey with good conformation should give the impression of being small, compact, and well-rounded, with four straight strong legs, and all parts in symmetry and balance. The coat of the miniature donkey is not as thick in winter as the coat of larger donkeys, probably because of its ancestry from climates in the Mediterranean.

Although the most obvious use of these little donkeys is as pets, they can also be used as companions to foals at weaning time to relieve foal stress. Their calm also serves when they are used as companions for nervous horses or horses recovering from surgery. They do not take up much room in the stall, but have a great calming effect.



FIGURE 3–7 Meredith Hodges cross-country jumping with her mule. (Photo courtesy of Meredith Hodges and American Donkey and Mule Society, Lewisville, TX)

MULES

A cross between a donkey and a horse is called a mule or a **hinny**, depending on its parentage. A mule is the offspring of a male donkey (jack), and a female horse (mare). It is like the horse in size and body shape but has the shorter, thicker head, long ears, and braying voice of the donkey. Mules also lack, as does the donkey, the horse's calluses, or chestnuts, on the hind legs (see Figure 3–7).

The reverse cross, between a male horse (stallion), and a female donkey (called a **jennet** or jenny) is a hinny, sometimes also called a jennet. A hinny is similar to the mule in appearance but is smaller and more horse-like, with shorter ears and a longer head. It has the stripe or other color patterns of the donkey.

Classifications of Mules

Historically, mules were classified as draft, sugar, farm, cotton, and pack and mining.

Draft and sugar mules were the largest being 17.2 hh (hands high) to 16 hh and 1,600 to 1,150 pounds. Farm and cotton mules were intermediate in size (16 hh to 13.2 hh and 1,250 to 750 pounds). Pack and mining mules were smaller, but could range from 16 hh to 12 hh and 1,350 to 600 pounds.

Today mules are classified as draft, pack/work, saddle, driving, jumping, or miniature. The type of mule produced depends on the breed or type of horse and breed or type of donkey used to produce the mule.

SUMMARY

Worldwide, about 300 breeds of horses exist. They range in size from the gentle giant draft horses at almost 6 feet in height to the miniature horses at barely 3 feet in height. People have bred and selected horses for specific, common characteristics such as function, conformation, and color. Horses breeding true or with a common ancestry are registered in breed registry associations. These horses meet the standards defined by the registry. Besides breeds, horses are classified by type, such as light, draft, and pony, and by use such as riding, driving, harness, sport, gaited, stock, and all-purpose. Some breeds have specific purposes while other breeds serve a variety of uses.

Five breeds of donkeys are recognized. Donkeys are crossed with horses to produce mules. The type of mule that results depends on the breed and type of donkey and horse used in the cross. Both donkeys and horses have miniatures. These miniatures are used for pets and exhibition hitches and as companions to sick or nervous horses.

REVIEW

Success in any career requires knowledge. Test your knowledge of this chapter by answering these questions or solving these problems.

True or False

1. Feral horses were commonly bred by the early Spaniards.
2. Coldblood horses and draft horses are similar classifications.
3. Warmblood horses exhibit a body temperature 3 degrees above normal.
4. A mule is the offspring of a stallion bred to a female donkey or jennet.
5. Mules are ridden in contests.

Short Answer

6. Name the three foundation stallions of the Thoroughbred breed.
7. Name five color breeds of horses.
8. Name five common breeds of light horses and give their place of origin.
9. How long is the measurement of 1 hand?
10. Name five common breeds of draft horses and give their place of origin.
11. How many chromosomes do horses, donkeys, and mules possess?
12. Name two common breeds of donkeys.
13. List five less well-known breeds of horses and give their classification and country of origin.
14. List six uses for mules.

Discussion

15. Define a breed.
16. Define the terms *light*, *draft*, *pony*, *warmblood*, and *coldblood* and explain the relationships among any of the terms.
17. Describe 10 uses for horses.
18. Discuss some of the uses for the miniature donkeys and horses.
19. Compare light horses to draft horses.
20. Compare a mule to a horse.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Choose a competitive event such as racing, driving, dressage, or riding. Research the breed of horse most commonly used for this event and explain why the breed is appropriate for the event.
2. Write to a breed registry association listed in Appendix Table A–16 and request more information and pictures of a breed of light horse, draft horse, or pony.
3. Use the Internet to discover more information about five horse breeds of your choice. Write a report comparing the five breeds.
4. Construct a family tree for a famous Thoroughbred showing how this horse's ancestry can be traced to the foundation stallions.
5. Some horse breeds have their own magazine or newsletter. Select two common breeds from Table 3–1 and obtain sample copies of their newsletter or magazine. Next, read an article of your choice in the magazine or newsletter and write a summary.
6. Create a poster showing the color markings of the Appaloosa, the paint, the pinto, and the buckskin horse. Describe how horses are bred to produce these color breeds.
7. Explain why the process of blood typing could be important to breed registration, and diagram how blood typing is done.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**Books**

- American Youth Horse Council. (1993). *Horse industry handbook: A guide to equine care and management*. Lexington, KY: Author.
- Davidson, B., & Foster, C. (1994). *The complete book of the horse*. New York: Barnes & Noble Books.

- Dossenbach, M., & Dossenbach, H. D. (1994). *The noble horse*. New York: Crescent Books (Random House).
- Ensminger, M. E. (1999). *Horses and horsemanship* (7th ed.). Danville, IL: Interstate Publishers.
- Evans, J. W. (1989). *Horses: A guide to selection, care, and enjoyment* (2nd ed.). New York: Freeman.
- Knight, L. W. (1902). *The breeding and rearing of jacks, jennets and mules*. Nashville, TN: Cumberland Press.
- Mills, F. C. (1971). *History of American jacks and mules*. Hutchinson, KS: Hutch-Line.
- Silver, C. (1993). *The illustrated guide to horses of the world*. Stamford, CT: Longmeadow Press.

Associations and Registries

Any of the associations or registries in Appendix Table A-16 can be contacted for more information about a specific breed.

Magazines

Magazines such as *Horse Illustrated*, *Horse & Rider*, *Western Horseman*, and *Horse and Horseman* often feature articles on a single breed.

Internet

Internet sites represent a vast resource of information, but remember that the URLs (uniform resource locator) for World Wide Web sites can change without notice. Using one of the search engines on the Internet such as Yahoo!, HotBot, Google, Excite, Dogpile, or About.com, find more information by searching for these words or phrases:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| specific name of any horse breed | draft horses | mules |
| foundation sires | miniature horses | types of mules: |
| horse color breeds | cob | draft |
| warmblood horses | hack | pack/work |
| coldblood horses | roadster | saddle |
| pony | feral or wild horses | driving |
| light horses | mustangs | jumping |
| | donkeys | miniature |

Some good Web sites for learning more about the many breeds and types of horses, mules, and donkeys include the following:

<<http://www.horseworlddata.com/breed.html>>
<<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/HORSES/>>

<<http://www.imh.org/imh/bw/home2.html>>
<<http://www.haynet.net/Breeds and Associations/>>

Table A-18 also provides a listing of some useful Internet sites that can serve as a starting point for further exploration.

END NOTES

1. The numbers in this section represent classifications by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy <<http://www.albc-usa.org/>> in July 2001.