

## The Styrian draught horse before and after the First World War

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Until after the First World War the dukedom Styria consisted of three parts: The “Obersteiermark” and “Mittelsteiermark” that is more or less the federal country Styria as it is today and the “Untersteiermark” the region between the rivers Mur and Sava today belonging to Slovenia.

Horse breeding was well organised. Stallions of the desired breeds and types were bought and kept by the k. u. k. Reichskriegsministerium, responsible for horse breeding in all of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and covered the local mares at very moderate prices. The farmers could sell the foals either to the government (colts) or keep and raise them for replacements and farm work (fillies). Breeding horses of farmers were allocated to different types rather than divided into breeds with the exception of the Noriker in the Obersteiermark. This region was marked as a pure-breed region for Noriker only and no other draught type horse breed was allowed (Wrangel 1888).

In the rest of Styria various types of horses were bred. Light riding horses and Thoroughbreds were mostly bred by nobles for military, pleasure and sport horses. Draught horses were bred by farmers using “government stallions” on their own mares (Gassebner 1894).

The official differentiation between draught horses was simple:

Light draught type	<160cm at withers	<175cm chest measurement
Heavy draught type	160cm - 175cm at withers	>175cm chest measurement

The Süd- and the Untersteiermark were known for excellent light draught type horses. The type was ensured by the use of a multitude of stallions ranging from Lippitsan to Thoroughbred and from Noriker to Belgian Cold Blood. Special care was given to the size and type of the foals – they should be big framed and heavy boned but of harmonious build and with good gaits. If the mares were too light a heavy stallion was used, if they were too heavy a warmblooded stallion or even a Thoroughbred made the offspring more elegant. Carrossiers were bred with Nonius, Kladruber and Lippitsan stallions especially in the region of Bad Radkersburg at the river Mur (Gassebner 1894).

According to the *Hengsteinteilungslisten 1900 – 1908* stallions of the following breeds are listed in the Süd- and Untersteiermark:

- Anglo-Norman
- Ardenner
- Belgian Cold Blood
- Branbanter
- Burgunder
- English Thoroughbred
- English Half-blood
- Kladruber
- Lippitsan
- Nonius
- Noriker
- Norman
- Oriental Half-blood

After the First World War the former Untersteiermark belonged to the kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, the later Yugoslavia. In the remaining part of Styria the Noriker became the dominant heavy draught horse breed (Druml 2006).

The heavier type of the Haflinger became established as replacement of the former light draught type and was used by farmers in vineyards and for lighter farm work (Haflingerpferdezuchtverband Tirol 2010).

## **Contemporary breeding goals for Noriker, Haflinger and Franches-Montagnes (Freiberger) horses**

### **Breeding goal Noriker (ARGE Noriker 2008)**

Driving and draught and the suitability as a carriage and draught horse for heavy work, further as a pleasure riding horse. Desired is a mid-weight mountain cold blood horse with a deep and broad rump, low centre of gravity, sure footed and with good balance.

Accepted colours: Black, chestnut, bay, dark head/slate blue roan ("Mohrenkopf"), bay roan, strawberry roan, leopard patterns and piebald/skewbald (Tobiano patterns only).

Height at withers (stick) for mares shall be more than 152 cm, optimum height is 156 to 162 cm.

Height at withers (stick) for stallions 2,5 years old shall be more than 156 cm, for stallions 3 years old more than 157 cm and for stallions 4 years old and over more than 158 cm.

Maximum height at withers for stallions when judged is 170 cm. Optimum height is between 158 and 165 cm.

Desired cannon girth in mares is 22 – 25 cm, in stallions 23 – 26 cm.

#### **Conformation:**

The head should be clean boned with a good natured and alert expression, of good type and of austere nobility.

The neck should be strong, well joined and of middling length with a not too well developed the lower muscle.

The forequarters should show a sloping, well muscled shoulder with ample width and depth of breast and a well developed withers.

The mid-section should be sufficiently long and deep with a firm but supple back with ample rib curve and sufficiently long hind ribs, well joined to fore- and hindquarters.

The croup should be well formed sufficiently long, broad, well split and heavily muscled.

Special attention has to be turned to strong, straight and clean boned legs with well formed joints and hard hooves.

The desirable movements are a pacing, even walk, an energetic swinging supple and far reaching trot with straight movements.

Special attention has to be paid to health, fecundity, long life, good feed conversion, good milk yield, a good character and even-tempered nature, great stamina, versatility, good draught power and possibly riding points.

## **Haflinger Horses** (ARGE Haflinger 2008)

Breeding goal international

**ORIGIN** : The Haflinger breed was founded on the indigenous small horses of the Tyrolean Mountains and the oriental half-blood 133 El`Bedavi XXII (1868). The result was the stallion 249 Folie.

**DESCENT** : After the stallion Folie, crossing with a horse from another breed is not permitted either on the side of the stallion or the mare. **Pure breeding** is the primary guideline.

### **EXTERNAL APPEARANCE:**

**Color** : Color may range from pale chestnut to dark liver chestnut with pale mane and tail. Color impurities in the base color, as in roaning, black spots etc. are undesirable and excessive deviations will be judged as negative and strongly discouraged for breeding animals. Color impurities in the mane and tail are undesirable and excessive deviation from white or flaxen will be judged as negative and strongly discouraged for breeding animals.

**Markings** : Head markings are desirable, but not a prerequisite, too many markings are undesirable and can go as far as being strongly discouraged. Leg markings are not desirable: One white leg will not be penalized, two white legs will result in a one point deduction, three white legs will result in a two point deduction, and horses with four white legs or white above the knees or hocks will be strongly discouraged from breeding. A white leg is a white sock that extends above the fetlock joint. White markings are signified by a change in skin pigment.

**Size** : The desired size is from 54 in. to 60 in. (138 to 150 cm) Non-achievement of the minimum size should result in the horse being strongly discouraged from breeding. The maximum size may be exceeded in the case of an excellent or outstanding exterior evaluation.

**Type** : A **desirable** appearance of the horse is one of elegance and harmony. To this belongs a lean and expressive head with large eyes, well formed neck and supple mid-section, a good croup not too divided and not too short, a distinct musculature as well as correct, defined limbs with good joints. Stallions and mares for breeding should have clearly defined masculine or feminine features.

**Undesirable is** in particular a stout, plump non athletic appearance, a coarse head, unclear contours, undefined joints, and coarse limbs as well as a lack of defined masculine or feminine features.

**Body structure:** A harmonious body structure that is suitable for all-round pleasure horse. It should have the following qualities:

1. The head should be noble and lean, the size in harmony with the horse, with large forward pointing eyes and wide nostrils. The head should have enough poll freedom to allow for correct flexion, a clean connection of the head to neck through the jowl area and correct positioning of the ears.
2. The neck should be medium long and slimmer towards the head, with no bulky lower line, not too wide and demonstrate good freedom of the lower jaw muscles.
3. A pronounced **withers** reaching well into the back, large diagonally lying **shoulders** and sufficient depth of chest are the most striking distinguishing features of the forehead.

4. The **back** should be medium long and muscular as well as displaying swinging, load bearing capacity and balance in its movement.
5. The **hindquarters** should have a long, slightly sloping but not too steep with a not too obviously divided well-muscled **croup**. The tail should not be set too low.
6. All in all a harmonious **distribution** of the forehead, mid-section and hindquarters is to be aimed for.
7. Front and hind limbs are extremely important and should have correct conformation and clearly pronounced joints, with a broad and flat knee-joint and a broad strong hock. A full range of bone measurements proportionate to height shall be considered, with special attention to the quality of the cannon bone, as indicated by an oval shape, clean connection to both the fetlock and pastern joints, and clear definition of the tendons and ligaments. Seen from the front and from behind limbs should show straight conformation, seen from the side a straight standing foreleg and hind leg angled at approximately 150° at the hock as well as a hoof angle of approximately 45° to 55° to the ground are desirable. The pasterns should be moderately long and well developed. The hooves should be round, distinct and hard.
8. The **stride** should be correct, supple and of a pure rhythm without serious faults.
9. The horse should have as good as possible long-reaching **swinging stride** at its disposal with an elastic and not too flat gait, showing good impulsion from behind.
10. In particular an excellent **character** without vices and an even temperament.

#### **Not Desirable is :**

1. A lack of harmony in the body structure and a lack of features defining masculinity or femininity.
2. A head that is coarse or too big, a Roman nose or even a too wide or too small head are undesirable. In compliance with AHR licensing requirements, faults of the mouth such as parrot or monkey mouths will exclude stallions from being licensed. These faults in mares are strongly discouraged.
3. In particular a short, heavy or deep-set neck structure.
4. A small, steep shoulder, a short or less pronounced withers or too little depth of chest.
5. A back that is too short or overlong, or soft or too stiff. The loin coupling is of great importance: The longer the distance from the withers to the coupling and/or the longer the distance from the last rib to the point of hip, the weaker the back. A high "waist" as well as narrowness from left to right sides over the loin coupling also indicates weakness. Structural strain or breakdown is indicated by lumpiness in this area. .
6. A short or straight croup with a high set tail or a too broad and strongly divided croup.
7. Incorrect limbs such as the following: small, slim or restricted joints, too weak or too massive cannon bones and short, steep or too long or too soft pasterns as well as small or too steep hooves, in particular with inwards or outwards directed frog as well as the following conformations; pigeon toed, splay footed or knock-kneed or bow-legged front legs, narrow or wide at the hocks. Further undesirable are calf knees or bench knees, steep or sickle-hocked, cow-hocked or bandy-legged limb conformations.

**Movements: The basic gaits: Desirable are** hard-working rhythmic and swinging basic gaits (Walk 4-time, trot 2-time, canter 3-time). The movements at a walk should be relaxed energetic and elevated. The movements at the trot and gallop should be supple, swinging, light on the feet with a noticeable swinging phase and with a natural suspension. The clear thrust of the foot from an active working hindquarter should be transferred over a loosely swinging back to the anticipating forehead moving freely from the shoulder. Some knee action is desirable. In particular the canter should demonstrate a clear forwards and upwards springing sequence.

**Undesirable are** especially short, flat and non supple movements with a stiffly held back, heavy movements falling on the forehand or movements without rhythm as well as, pigeon-toed, traveling wide, splay-footed movements, interference, brushing or rope-walking.

#### **INTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS/HEALTH :**

Desirable is a horse with a strong character, a good-natured, strong, all-round, eager and able to perform, an easy feeder, resistant, and easy to acclimatize that is useful for all purposes. In particular this is valid for riding, driving and vaulting in the pleasure and sport sector, but also as a working horse for pulling and carrying.

Breeding Horse Classification:

For recognition of the predisposition for performance the following features will be examined:

1. Character and temperament as observed by the judges during the inspection and measurement process.
2. Conformation, shown standing in hand.
3. Basic gaits (walk and trot) shown on the triangle
4. Free schooling, including canter or gallop

The Classification of breeding horses aged 6 or over are final decisions, the judgments will not be revised up or down afterwards, however, an owner is entitled to one appeal and the opportunity to re-present the horse one time only at a later inspection under different judges. The decision at the second inspection will be final. The measurements for entry in classification records are typically taken at 3 years. These measurements correspond to the minimum and maximum sizes laid down in the breeding objectives. Failure to attain the minimum height at 3 years means the animal will be strongly discouraged from breeding.

## **Franches-Montagnes** (Schweizerischer Freibergerzuchtverband 2010)

*(no official English version available, translated from the German version by me!)*

### **Breeding goal**

The breeding goal is an expressive, typical, medium framed, correct, powerful, pleasant horse in line with the market, of medium heavy type with swinging elastic correct movements and surefooted gaits.

Because of the outstanding character, the willingness to perform, suitability for riding and driving as well as fecundity, robustness, early maturing and good nutrient uptake it should be a typical driving and riding horse for pleasure, farmers and the army.

### **Height at withers**

150 - 160 cm at 3 years

### **Origin**

Originates from the Swiss Jura Mountains. Now bred everywhere in Switzerland.

### **Type**

#### *Desired qualities:*

Noble, harmoniously built medium framed horse in middle heavy type, square format with expressive head, big and trusting eyes, well formed neck, sturdy muscles and correct clean and sound legs. Stallions should have a marked gender and breed typical appearance.

The colours bay, black or chestnut are preferred with as little white markings as possible.

#### *Not desired properties:*

In particular an unharmonious appearance, too heavy or too light type, coarse head, blurred outlines, too light extremities, blurred joints and in breeding animals lacking gender resp. breed type.

### **Interiour/predisposition for performance and behaviour**

#### *Desired qualities:*

\_ a horse willing and able to perform, versatile and resilient for all kinds of riding and driving purposes, suitable as draught and pack horse and to be used as baggage horse in the army,

\_ an uncomplicated, pleasant horse as well as showing initiative, with strong nerves and reliable showing good character properties in its appearance and behaviour as well as a placid and well balanced temperament and leaving an alert and intelligent impression,

\_ an easy-care, companionable, early maturing, frugal horse with good nutrient uptake,

\_ a high physical (good recovery properties) and psychic (emotional) capacity.

### **Outstanding in the Franches-Montagnes horse is its pronounced good character!**

#### *Not desired properties:*

In particular difficult to handle, timid, fussy or fierce horses as well as horses with verifiably bad habits.

### **Gaits**

#### *Desired qualities:*

Cadenced, swinging, sure footed and ground covering gaits (walk 4-beat, trot 2-beat, gallop 3-beat).

Movement in walk should be supple, energetic and exalted with the hooves markedly touching and leaving the ground.

Movement in trot and gallop should be elastic, swinging, fleet-footed with natural erection and balance. The clear thrust from the foot created by the elastic, active and far reaching hindquarter should be transmitted by a supple swinging back to the shoulder-free moving forelegs.

#### *Not desired properties:*

In particular short, flat, stiff movements, shoulder-locked movements with stiff back, clumsy, falling on the forehand and not cadenced movements as well as unsteady and swaying or markedly shambling or flailing, rolling, narrow resp. pigeon-toed or travelling wide resp.

splay-footed movements.

### **Conformation**

#### *Desired qualities:*

A harmonious conformation suited for riding and driving purposes.

That needs:

- \_ an expressive head with broad front
- \_ a well carried neck with ample freedom of the throat latch,
- \_ well shaped withers with a good saddle position,
- \_ a long sloping shoulder,
- \_ a sufficiently wide and deep chest,
- \_ a well muscled and coupled strong back,
- \_ a strongly muscled, long and slightly sloping croup,
- a harmonic partitioning of fore – middle- and hindquarters.

#### *Further desired qualities:*

- Clean legs fitting the body conformation with correct, well developed and attached joints,
- \_ middling long pasterns and well shaped hooves,
- \_ a correct and straight set of the legs,
- \_ well shaped hocks.

#### *Not desired properties:*

- \_ a disharmonious build,
- \_ a short thick neck with strongly developed lower neck muscles or lacking freedom of the throat latch,
- \_ a short steep shoulder,
- \_ not marked withers,
- \_ a not sufficient saddle position, a too short or too long and weak back,
- \_ hard or arched loins,
- \_ a short or horizontal or steeply sloping croup with high dock,
- \_ too wide breast,
- \_ shallow breast and drawn up flank,
- \_ not correct limbs, meaning: weak, narrow or tied in joints, weak or tied in cannon bone and short, straight or too long, flat pastern as well as contracted feet, too small hooves with drawn in heels,
- \_ splay-footed, pigeon toed, base-wide, base-narrow, calf-kneed, straight or sickle-hocked, cow-hocked or bandy legged fore or hind limbs.

### **Health**

#### *Desired qualities:*

- a horse of robust health and high regeneration ability
- a horse with an exceptional natural fertility
- breeding horses must be healthy and free of hereditary defects.

#### *Not desired properties:*

- horses with sweet itch, navicular disease, roarers and other hereditary defects or stereotype behavioural problems.

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