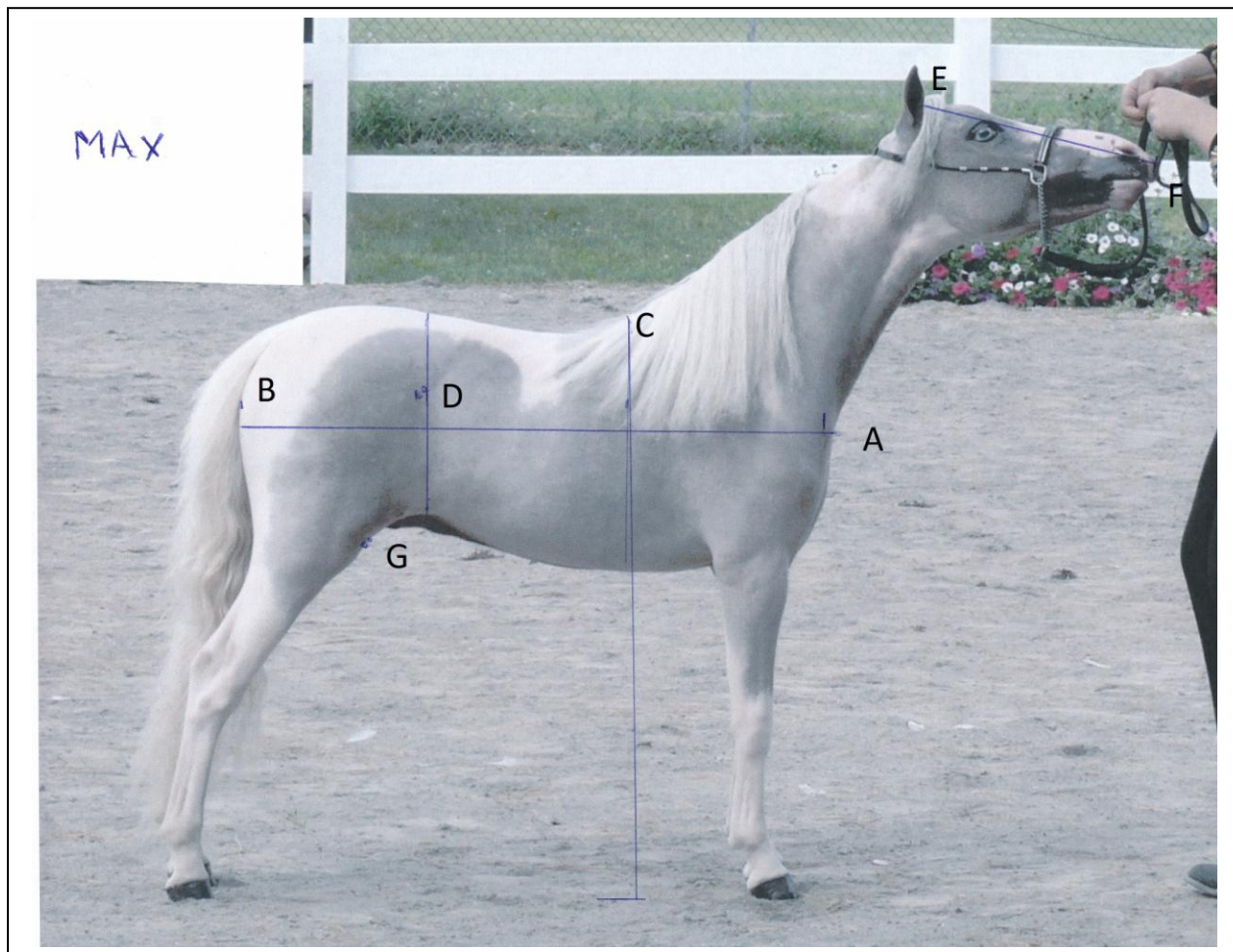


Little Hooves 4-H
Horse Conformation I

When looking at or judging horses, there are certain proportions that are desirable, no matter what the size, breed, or type. Looked at from the side, the horse should be able to be divided into three equal sections : from the front of the chest (point of shoulder) to just behind the withers (shoulder section); the back, from the withers to the hip; and the hindquarters, from the point of hip to the point of buttocks. All measurements need to be taken in a flat plane rather than following the contours of the body so a yard stick may work better than a tape measure and a photo may be better than the actual animal. A tape measure is handy though, so just make sure it is kept in a straight line. Horses whose 3 body sections are about the same size will look balanced.

A horse should also fit in a square, not a rectangle, if you consider just the body and not the head and neck. So the height measured from the ground to the top of withers should be the same as the length measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks. The next page shows additional measurements that should be the same for a horse to have ideal conformation. Measurements shown were made on a **larger** version of the photo of Max below and found to be close to ideal. His front leg was a bit long compared with his depth of heart girth but that is to be expected for a yearling. Note the letters, dots, and lines that indicate where measurements should be taken and see what you get.



Measurements

Horse: _____ Photo of Max _____ Date: _____

Measurements in same color should be the same or similar. See above for how to measure.

Horse should fit in a square (minus the neck & head):

Length (pt of shoulder(A) to point of buttocks (B)): 5 1/16" _____ (2.5 head lengths)

Height: top of withers (C) to ground: 5 1/16" _____ (2.5 head lengths)

Length of front leg (Fetlock to elbow): 2 5/8" _____

Depth of heart girth (elbow to top of withers): 2 1/8" _____

Overall balance:

Horse in thirds: drop imaginary lines down from top of withers (C) and point of hip (D) and measure from those points to point of shoulder (A) and point of buttocks (B) used in first measurement.

Shoulder section: 1 3/4" _____ Back: 1 3/4" _____ Hindquarters: 1 11/16" _____

Head (top of poll (E) to end of nose F)): 2 1/8" _____

Point of hock to ground: 2 1/8" _____

Point of hock to front of stifle(G): 2 1/8" _____

Stifle fold to top of croup: 2 1/16" _____

Depth of body at girth (not withers): 2 1/16" _____

Ground to front chestnut: 2 1/8" (est because can't see chestnut) _____

Buttock (B)to hip (D): 1 5/8" _____ Buttock (B) to stifle (G): 1 5/8" _____ Stifle(G) to hip (D): 1 1/2" _____

Neck (front of withers to poll): 2 3/4" (est.) _____ Should be longer than head

Topline (withers to tailhead): 2 7/8" (est) _____ Should be shorter than

Underline (elbow to stifle): 3" _____

How does your horse match up???