

Shire Horse Society

APPENDIX B

STANDARD OF POINTS FOR SHIRES

A scale of points for the breed has been carefully drawn up and this has been amended when necessary, to meet modern requirements. For instance, years ago, a great characteristic of the Shire was the wealth of hair, or feathers, on the legs. Today the demand is for a cleaner legged horse, with straight fine, silky hair.

The standard of points laid down by the Council is as follows:-

STALLIONS

Colour	Black, brown, bay or grey. No good stallion should be splashed with large white patches over the body. He must not be roan or chestnut.
Height	Standard 17 hands and upwards. Average about 17.2 hands.
Head	Long and lean, neither too large nor too small, with long neck in proportion to the body. Large jaw bone should be avoided.
Eyes	Large, well set and docile in expression. Wall eyes not acceptable.
Nose	Slightly Roman nostrils thin and wide; lips together.
Ears	Long, lean, sharp and sensitive.
Throat	Clean cut and lean.
Shoulder	Deep and oblique, wide enough to support the collar.
Neck	Long, slightly arched, well set on to give the horse a commanding appearance.
Girth	The girth varies from 6ft to 8ft in stallions of from 16.2 to 18 hands.
Back	Short, strong and muscular. Should not be dipped or roached.
Loins	Standing well up, denoting good constitution (must not be flat).
Fore-end	Wide across the chest, with legs well under the body and well enveloped in muscle, or action is impeded.
Hind-quarters	Long and sweeping, wide and full or muscle, well let down towards the thighs.
Ribs	Round, deep and well sprung, not flat.
Forelegs	Should be as straight as possible down to pastern.
Hindlegs	Hocks should not be too far back and in line with the hindquarters with ample width broadside and narrow in front. "Puffy" and "sickle" hocks should be avoided. The leg sinews should be clean cut and hard like fine cords to touch, and clear of short cannon bone.
Bone Measurement	Of flat bone 11 inches is ample, although occasionally 12½ inches in recorded — flat bone is heavier and stronger than spongy bone. Hocks must be broad, deep and flat, and set at the correct angle for leverage.
Feet	Deep, solid and wide, with thick open walls. Coronets should be hard and sinewy with substance.
Hair	Not too much, fine straight and silky.

A good Shire stallion should stand from 16.2 hands upwards, and weigh from 18 cwt. to 22 cwt. when matured, without being overdone in condition. He should possess a masculine head, and a good crest with sloping, not upright, shoulders running well into the back, which should be short and well coupled with the loins. The tail should be well set up and not what is known as "gooscrumped". Both head and tail should be carried erect. The ribs should be well sprung, not flat sided, with good middle, which generally denotes good constitution. A Stallion should have good feet and joints; the feet should be wide and big around the top of the coronets with sufficient length in the pasterns. When in motion, he should go with force using both knees and hocks, which latter should be kept close together. He should go straight and true before and behind. A good stallion should have strong character.