

Breeds of draught horses:



Fig.2.1 : Draught horse

1. The percheron:

This breed is characterized by its large body size and high speed. It was firstly produced in France with two main colors the black and grey colors while other colors are found but uncommon. The height ranges between 15-17 hands while the body weight ranges between 800-900 kg.

2. The Belgian:

It was produced in 1850 in Belgium, the common color is the chestnut of the trunk with a white mane and tail. The horse is quite and slow in movement, the height ranges between 16-17 hands while weight reaches to 1000 kg.

3. Clydesdale:

This breed is characterized by the presence of white areas on trunk and limbs with different colors, of these are dark brown,

brown, black and chestnut. We can notice the presence of long hair similar to the feathers at the lower part of limbs. The height ranges between 16-17 hands and the weight ranges between 800-900 kg.

4. The Shire:

This horse is considered as the largest draught horse its height reaches 17 hands and it weighs 1100-1300 kg. The black color is the common one but the dark brown and light brown are not uncommon. The horse is also characterized by the presence of white marks on the face, limbs and long hairs at the lower parts of the limbs.

5. The Suffolk:

The chestnut color is common in this breed, it is also characterized by the absence of long hairs at the lower portion of the limbs. This breed is the smallest draught horse with 15-16 hands height and 700 kg weight.

B. Light or Riding horses:

These horses are used for riding and racing, the height ranges between 14-17 hands and the weight ranges between 400-650 kg (Fig.2.2) The breeds of these horses were improved through selection of their pedigree records. The speed of light horses varies according to the step- system of the animal, as we can find a slow one which is called Trot, or rapid one which is called Running.

Breeds of Light Horses:

1. The Barb:



Fig.2.2 : Light horse

The origin of this horse was North Africa, which existed with the Arabian horse during the eighth Century. It is an impure breed as the blood has been mixed with the Arabian one, thus no pure strain breed is found. The height ranges between 14-15 hands and weighing 400-500 kg. The Barb has contributed to the development of other important breeds. Off-springs of the famous Godolphin Barb (1689) were used as the original stock for development of the English thoroughbred. The barb stallion, Guzman, founded the Spanish breed " Guzmanes" . the horse which was brought to America by the Spanish explorer were strong in barb blood.

2. Thoroughbred:

This is one of the famous English horse breeds. It was produced at the beginning of 13th century from three Arabian stallions which had been transferred to Britain and cross-bred with English mares. Thoroughbred breeding is the best example of targeted selection for the particular trait which is the speed. The

thoroughbreds are the " Lord of Race track" , they are the fastest. The height of this horse ranges between 15-17 hands and weighing 600 kg (Fig.2.3), while the colors of thoroughbred are black , brown, chestnut, dark brown and grey (Fig.2.4).



Fig. 2.3 : Thoroughbred horse

3. Anglo-Arab:

This horse was developed by the cross-breeding of Arabian and thoroughbred horses, and it is found in France and Poland. The horse which contains 25% of Arabian blood (genetic characters) characterized by the two colors, chestnut (Fig.2.5) and dark brown. The height ranges between 15-16 hands and the horse is widely used in racing and polo games.



Fig.2.4 : A Grey horse

4. The Quarter Horse:

The horse was produced during the 13th century in USA and it is now considered as the famous horse there. It is called the quarter horse due to its rapid speed during the first quarter of mile at the racing yard. The horse is mainly used by cattle owners for controlling their animals during grazing as well as in polo games. The height of the horse reaches 15 hands and of different colors.



Fig 2.5 : A Chestnut horse

5. American Bashkir Curly:

Its origin from Russia (Bashkir region) and it has a long curled coat. The hairs of mane and tail are shedding in summer and retrieve its growth in winter season. This horse which is adapted for cold weather has small nostrils and different colors.

6. The Saddle bred:

This horse is characterized by its body size with a height ranges between 15-16 hands and 500-600 kg body weight (Fig.2.6). It possesses small head, long neck, erected tail at the base, long back and long limbs.



Fig. 2.6 : Saddle bred horse

7. Arabian horses:

Evidences revealed that the origin of Arabian horse was the Arabian Peninsula, and that five mares had escaped from Yemen to other parts of Arabian Region, these mares were called : Ikhailan-Al-Ajooz, Al-Saklawiah, Al-Hamdaniah, Al-Shammah and Obayan. Old Iraqis had captured thousands of Arabian horses and introduced them to Iraq from 2500-750 B.C.



Fig. 2.7: Arabian horse

The Arabian horse is characterized by its distinctive head (Fig.2.7). The bulging forehead and concave face gives a dished-appearance (Fig.2.9)

. The eyes are large and set low in the head. A slight bulge at the back of the head and a light muzzle give the head a wedge-shaped appearance. The neck is arched (Fig.2.8) , large and rounded. The back is short , straight, and rather level at the hip, reflecting the long, somewhat horizontally set pelvic bones. The short back usually reflects a missing thoracic vertebra rather than a missing lumbar vertebra (Fig.2.9).



Fig. 2.7: Arabian Horse, arched neck.

The Arabian horse is characterized by four colors, namely, grey, bay, chestnut and brown. However, black and white colors are rarely seen in Arabian horses, while the grey is the dominant color and the brown is the recessive one (Fig.2.10). The height of Arabian horse ranges between 14-15 hands and its body weight ranges between 400-500 kg.



Fig.2.8: Dished appearance face



Fig.2.9: erected tail



Fig.2.10: Brown colored horse with wide nostrils

C. Ponies:

The height of these horses dose not exceed 10 hands.

1. The Shetland horse:

This is the oldest and smallest breed of English ponies, and they are used for agricultural purposes. The height ranges between 9-10 hands and with different colors. The horse is characterized by its small head and short strong limbs (Fig.2.11). Moreover, the hair of trunk, neck and tail become thick during the winter season.

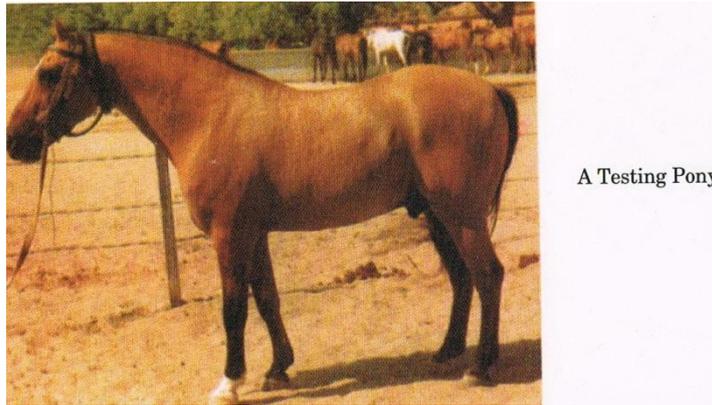


Fig.2.11: A pony

2. Gotland horse:

Its origin from Swiss, it is small, with 12 hands height and 200-220 kg body weight. We can see different colors of the skin and some of them are striped. The Arabian horse blood played a role in its current shape.

D. Hybrids:

These are the crosses between various subgenus and many times progenies are found superior to the parents due to exploitation of genetic interaction called hybrid vigor.



Fig.2.12: A mare with her young mule

1. Mule:

cross of Donkey stallion X Horse Mare (Fig.2.12).

2. Hinny:

Reciprocal cross of mule

Cross of Horse Stallion X Donkey Mare.

3. Zeony:

cross of Shetland pony mare X Zebra stallion.

4. Zebroid:

Cross of horse stallion X zebra mare.

The hybrids have better heat tolerance for tropical climate and are fairly disease resistant.