



# Rules for Examiners

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## Introduction

**The Rocky Mountain Horse Association®, Inc.** (RMHA) is a non-profit (501c5) corporation, organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, dedicated to the preservation, development, breeding, and promotion of the Rocky Mountain Horse®<sup>1</sup> throughout the United States and internationally. Maintenance of the registry and certification of the Rocky Mountain Horse® is a means of preserving the traits and well-known characteristics of the horse<sup>2</sup> as defined in the RMHA Bylaws<sup>3</sup>.

**The RMHA Examiners Program** is managed by the RMHA Directors of Examiners, in accordance with the RMHA Bylaws, Rules, Rules of Registry, Show Rules, and Examiners Rules, under the administrative authority of the RMHA Board. Determinations as to appointment, suspension, and removal of an Examiner from his or her designation are within the authority of the Board in its sole and unreviewable discretion and are carried out through confidential administrative actions.

**The Board, Directors of Examiners, and Examiners** are responsible for the conservation of the traits of the Rocky Mountain Horse® through certification which is protected by the Rocky Mountain Horse® certification mark (No. 1,541,063), registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This registration defines the Rocky Mountain Horse® as "a Horse having a medium height, a broad chest, an ambling four-beat gait, a gentle temperament, and a solid body color."

## Directors of Examiners

The RMHA Board includes three Directors of Examiners (DoE) positions<sup>4</sup>. DoEs are elected for staggered three-year terms, with one DoE elected in June each year and beginning their term in September of that same year.<sup>5</sup>

### Responsibilities:

Subject to approval by the Board, establish methods and means for the training and certification of Examiners of horses for certification and establish and publish rules for the timely, efficient, and equitable certification of Examiners.<sup>6</sup>

Prepare standardized materials to be used at all Clinics for the training and evaluation of new Examiners. A master copy of these materials will be maintained by the RMHA office.<sup>7</sup>

Plan and conduct RMHA Examiners Clinics to provide working knowledge of the certification process and train qualified members of the RMHA to serve as RMHA Examiners.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bylaws, 6

<sup>2</sup> Rules of Registry, Mission Statement

<sup>3</sup> Bylaws, 6, 7

<sup>4</sup> Bylaws, 3.2.

<sup>5</sup> Bylaws, 4.2.C.

<sup>6</sup> Bylaws, 4.5.E.

<sup>7</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, D.

<sup>8</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, A.

Recommend appointment of Examiners as 1) Trainee and 2) Qualified Examiner, subject to approval of the Board.<sup>9</sup> Two Directors of Examiners must recommend appointment.

Recommend to the board re-instatement as RMHA Examiners those qualified members, made inactive through lapse of membership, who request re-instatement in writing to the RMHA office on renewal of their membership. Two Directors of Examiners must recommend re-instatement.

Conduct periodic reviews and audits of Examiners, report results of audits and reviews and make recommendations to the board for retention or dismissal of individuals as examiners, based on the results of the review.<sup>10</sup>

Investigate complaints regarding the certification process and will report their investigation findings and recommendations to the Board.<sup>11</sup>

Report results of reviews, audits, and investigational findings to the Board and make recommendations to the board for retention, suspension, or removal of an Examiner's designation, based on the results of the review.<sup>12</sup>

Review concerns regarding the eligibility of certification of any horse and make recommendations to the Board.<sup>13</sup>

Review and make recommendations to the Board regarding the eligibility for registration of any horse referred to them by the Registration Advisory Committee.<sup>14</sup>

May train experienced Senior Examiners to serve as Examiner Instructors to facilitate RMHA Examiners Clinics in all geographic areas. All Examiner Instructors will be approved by the Board and subject to periodic review by the current Directors of Examiners.<sup>15</sup>

Evaluate all video packets submitted (by any method) to the RMHA office for certification, verifying inclusion of all necessary elements in the video packet and evaluating the horse for certification and signing as the first Examiner of the video.<sup>16</sup>

## **Examiners**

Examiners are adult RMHA members who have attained three continuous years of membership and completed an Examiners Clinic, including education on the examination of horses for certification and the process of certification.

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<sup>9</sup> Bylaws, 4.5.E

<sup>10</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, B.

<sup>11</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1.F.

<sup>12</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, B.

<sup>13</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.0, O.

<sup>14</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 1.0, A.4.

<sup>15</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1.D.

<sup>16</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.0, F., G., K.

Examiners must show:

- (1) expertise in the evaluation of the Rocky Mountain Horse's natural traits.
- (2) a thorough working knowledge of current RMHA Examiner Rules and applicable Bylaws, Rules of the Registry, and Show Rules (currently in place and as updated).
- (3) ethical characteristics which, in the opinion of the RMHA, are necessary to carry out their duties as examiners and representatives of the RMHA.
- (4) support for the Rocky Mountain Horse and the promotion and preservation of their natural traits.
- (5) In relation to the foregoing, a commitment to maintaining the necessary knowledge and skills to continue in their role as an RMHA examiner.

**Responsibilities:**

Complete an application to become an Examiner after three continuous years of membership (immediately proceeding the application) and remain in good standing with the RMHA to be eligible to attend an RMHA Examiners Clinic.<sup>17</sup>

Complete an RMHA Examiners Clinic and satisfactorily pass the RMHA Examiners Test to be recommended as an Examiner, subject to approval of the Board.

Maintain continuous membership as an RMHA member. Examiners must pay membership dues for the current calendar year no later than the end of the 30-day Grace Period following the end date of their membership. Failure to do so can result in removal from the position held. At any time after the 30-day Grace Period, an Examiner that has dues that have not been paid may not act in their official capacity.<sup>18</sup>

Request reinstatement, after a lapse in membership, by renewing their membership and submitting, in writing, a request for reinstatement to the RMHA Office.

Pay an additional fee (equal to the amount of dues accrued since their last date of membership) if they lose their status as Examiners due to late payment of dues and are reinstated as examiners.<sup>19</sup>

Be subject to periodic review and audit by the Directors of Examiners which may result in recommendations to the Board for retention or dismissal as an Examiner.<sup>20</sup>

Complete all certification papers honestly, abide by all current Bylaws, Rules, Rules of Registry, Rules for Examiners, and Show Rules and conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Examiners found to have falsified certification papers, violated the Bylaws or Rules (including Rules of Registry, Rules for Examiners, and Show Rules), or conducted themselves in a prejudicial or unprofessional manner will permanently lose all rights as Examiners through administrative action of the Board, in its sole and unreviewable discretion. In addition, the RMHA

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<sup>17</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, A.

<sup>18</sup> Rules, Section 1.8.

<sup>19</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, H.

<sup>20</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, B.

may take other appropriate disciplinary action.<sup>21</sup>

Complete a Certification Evaluation form for each horse presented whether they pass or fail the examination. The Certification Evaluation Form of a horse that fails certification is to be sent by the examiner to RMHA Headquarters to be kept on file. The Certification Evaluation form of a horse that passes certification should be given to the owner or their representative for submission to the RMHA Headquarters.<sup>22</sup>

## **Your Role as An Examiner for the RMHA**

Examiners are to evaluate the horses presented to them to determine whether they perform a Rocky Mountain Saddle Gait and meet breed standards of temperament, conformation, and solid body color so that they may be eligible to participate in events relating to the RMHA and become part of the breeding population. Because every horse is different, Examiners must exercise personal discretion when deciding whether to allow or disallow each horse.

Examiners serve as representatives of the RMHA. They volunteer to support the breed and the registry by examining horses at no charge, maintaining the necessary knowledge to carry out evaluations, providing information about the certification process to others, and encouraging others to complete certifications. The integrity of the certification process is vital to the success of the registry and the breed and dependent on the honesty, professionalism, and commitment of all RMHA Examiners.

Examiners have FIVE main objectives when examining a horse:

1. Can the horse perform a Rocky Mountain Saddle Gait?
2. Does the horse meet the height requirement for Certification?
3. Is the horse free from deformities and/or flaws that would be considered inappropriate for conformation as stated in the rules?
4. Is the horse wearing the appropriate shoes/barefoot and tack as stated in the rules?
5. Is the horse demonstrating a temperament that is considered acceptable for the Rocky Mountain Breed?

Things Examiners are NOT required to evaluate:

- Differences in speed
- Quality of transitions
- Softness in the bridle
- Level of training
- Overall quality of frame(as if in a show)
- Consistency of perfection in footfalls
- Degree of beauty
- Equitation of the rider

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<sup>21</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, C.

<sup>22</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.1, H.

## General Rules for Certification<sup>23</sup>

As stated in Rules of Registry	Examiner's duties
<b>A.</b> The Certification of a Rocky Mountain Horse® evaluates a horse to ensure the horse meets the requirements of the breed as set forth in the Bylaws protected by the registered Certification Mark No. 1, 541,063. Horses must meet the requirements enumerated in Articles 6 and 7 of the Bylaws of the RMHA.	The Examiner <b>must</b> verify each horse submitted for examination meets the requirements set forth in the Bylaws. (See Appendix I of this manual for quick reference to Bylaws, Articles 6 and 7)
<b>B.</b> A Rocky Mountain Horse® stallion or mare must be at least 23 months of age before certification and must be RMHA registered with proof of parentage prior to certification. All Rocky Mountain Horse geldings shall, after the age of two (2) years, be inspected and certified.	The Examiner <b>must</b> verify the horse's age as documented on the registration papers. Due to a discrepancy in the Bylaws, stallions and mares must be at least 23 months of age on the date of first examination and geldings may be certified after the age of two years.
<b>C.</b> Stallions, mares and geldings must prove parentage to a RMHA registered and certified sire and dam by DNA analysis or blood analysis.	The Examiner <b>must</b> verify the horse's registration has been processed at the time of examination by having the horse's registration papers in hand at the time of certification.
<b>D.</b> Horses must meet height requirements of 14.0 hands and not exceed 16.0 hands.	The Examiner <b>must</b> verify the horse's height at the time of certification is 14 to 16 hands by measuring accurately at the highest point of the wither. (See Appendix II)
<b>E.</b> Owners may certify a Rocky Mountain Horse® by live examination or by video. <b>For live certification instructions, refer to the form Certification - Live</b> at <a href="http://www.rmhorse.com">www.rmhorse.com</a> under Forms. <b>For video certification instructions, refer to form Certification by Video</b> at <a href="http://www.rmhorse.com">www.rmhorse.com</a> under Forms.	Examiners <b>must</b> provide information about all methods available for certification (i.e., may be examined by three live examiners, by 1 or 2 live examiners with completion by video of gait taken at the time of examination and submitted to the RMHA office, or by submission of a complete certification video to the RMHA office for initial review by a DoE and 2 other examiners). Examiners <b>should</b> direct owners and others to the Instructions for live and video certification located on the Forms page of the <a href="http://rmhorse.com">rmhorse.com</a> website.

<sup>23</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.0



<p><b>F.</b> For all video certifications, the complete video submission, original registration papers, Veterinarian Certificate of Inspection if applicable (see Veterinarian Certificate of Inspection at <a href="http://www.rmhorse.com">www.rmhorse.com</a> under <i>Forms</i>), four full body photos, and the certification fee is to be sent directly to the RMHA office, and the RMHA office will send it to a Director of Examiners to begin the certification process. All videos submitted become the property of the RMHA.</p>	<p>For certifications completed by video, the video link or video recording must be sent to the RMHA office, along with all other required items (registration papers, Vet Certificate, if applicable, photos, and fee) to begin the certification process. The RMHA office will then send all necessary information to a Director of Examiners for review.</p> <p>Examiners <b>cannot</b> evaluate horses by reviewing a video, unless asked to do so by the RMHA Registrar after the video has been reviewed and signed off on by a Director of Examiners.</p>
<p><b>G.</b> Three examiners <b>must</b> inspect all Rocky Mountain Horses for live or video certification. <b>NOTE: For video certifications only, the first video approval must be completed by a Director of Examiners.</b> Examiners should not have had any conflict of interest in the ownership, sales, or training of the horse within the past six months. The owner of the horse is entitled to one uncontested examiner challenge prior to the examination of the horse. If, in the opinion of the examiners, the horse meets the requirements of the Rocky Mountain Horse®, then they will certify the animal. If the horse does not meet the requirements of the breed, it will be handled according to RMHA Bylaws. Horses that do not meet requirements will not receive certification and may NOT be shown and foals born of such horses will not be eligible for registration under any circumstances.</p>	<p>Every horse must be examined by three disinterested Examiners.</p> <p>Examiners <b>MUST NOT</b> examine a horse they own or have owned (individually or in partnership), sold (personally or on contract), or trained (personally or by their farm) in the past 6 months (180 days).</p> <p>Examiners <b>MUST NOT</b> examine a horse if the owner requests that it not be evaluated by them. <b>DO NOT</b> conduct an exam or complete a certification evaluation form on a horse if the owner has requested, prior to the examination, that you <b>NOT</b> examine their horse.</p>
<p><b>H.</b> Examiners <b>will</b> complete Certification Evaluation forms for each horse presented whether they pass or fail. All Certification Evaluation Forms on horses that fail certification will be sent by the examiners to RMHA Headquarters where they will be on file. A horse that fails certification must wait 30 days before the owner again presents it for certification.</p>	<p>The Examiner must indicate their findings, initial, sign and print their name, and enter the date of examination on the certification evaluation form for each horse presented indicating whether the horse has passed or failed.</p> <p>If an examiner FAILS a horse, the examiner must include an opinion as to whether that horse should be retained in the registry. The examiner must send the form of any horse they have failed to the RMHA and notify the owner that there is a 30-day waiting period from the date of the examination before a failed horse can be presented for examination again.</p>

<p>I. Owners of horses that pass certification will be given the completed Certification Evaluation Form by the examiners and will submit it to RMHA Headquarters for processing along with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original registration papers</li> <li>• Four photographs printed on photo quality paper (3.5 inches or larger) of front, left side, right side, and rear of the horse, showing the entire horse, and including the hooves. Label all photos with the proposed name of the horse. Photographs may be emailed to the office for an additional fee (see <i>Fee Schedule</i> at <a href="http://www.rmhorse.com">www.rmhorse.com</a> under <i>Forms</i>).</li> <li>• Payment (see <i>Fee Schedule</i> at <a href="http://www.rmhorse.com">www.rmhorse.com</a> under <i>Forms</i>).</li> </ul>	<p>An Examiner passing a horse <b>must</b> return the certification form to the owner, so they can submit it to the RMHA office with all other necessary items. If three Examiners have completed the form, the owner can submit the form for processing along with the original registration papers, four properly taken and labeled photos, and the appropriate fee.</p>
<p>J. Once the process of certification starts, the horse must be certified within 90 days, beginning with the first examiner's signature, and ending with the receipt of certification documents at RMHA Headquarters. All supporting documents (veterinarian statements, pictures, video, etc.) and payment must be received within the 90-day window. The certification date is the date of the last examiner's signature.</p>	<p>The Examiner <b>must</b> remind the owner that the certification process from first signature to submission to the RMHA office is to be completed in a 90-day window.</p> <p>The Examiner <b>must</b> explain that the certification date will be the date of the last signature, whether this is by live or video certification. This date is important to breeders, as breeding prior to completion of certification will increase registration fees for the foal.</p>
<p>K. An examination that is started by one or two examiners in person may be completed by video provided that the video is taken at the time of examination. The video needs to be of the gait only.</p> <p>The video, signed Certification Evaluation Form, original registration papers, four current full body pictures, and payment will be sent to the RMHA office, and the office will send it to a Director of Examiners to sign off on.</p>	<p>If 3 examiners are not present for live examination, an examiner <b>should</b> create or supervise creation of a video of the horse gaiting (gait work should be a continuous filming of approximately 60 seconds each way) at the time of examination. The owner can submit the Certification Evaluation Form, signed by 1 or 2 examiners, with the video and all other necessary items to the RMHA office for completion of certification. <b>NO</b> examiner can approve a horse by reviewing a video until that video has been submitted to the RMHA office and has been seen and approved by a Director of Examiners.</p>
<p>L. Horses three and older must be certified in order to participate in any activity sponsored by the RMHA, unless otherwise designated as an activity for uncertified horses. After successful examination and payment of fees, a gold seal will be affixed to the original registration papers to indicate the horse is certified to breed and show.</p>	<p>Examiners <b>must</b> remind owners that horses must be certified to participate in shows, parades, or breed demos after the age of 3, if the event is sanctioned by RMHA but the RMHA Trail Program includes a section designated for uncertified horses.</p>

<p>M. Female offspring of a Certified to Breed Grade Mare who is recognized and certified at the time of breeding and who is bred to a RMHA registered and certified stallion can be registered as a RMHA filly. Male offspring of a Certified to Breed Grade Mare who is registered and certified at the time of breeding and who is bred to a RMHA registered and certified stallion can be registered only as a gelding.</p>	<p>Examiners <b>must</b> be aware that a Grade Mare's registration number begins with the letter "G" and that male offspring of a Grade Mare should have registration papers marked "Must be gelded" and <b>cannot</b> be certified unless gelded.</p>
<p>N. A sire must be certified as a stallion, not as a gelding at a later date, for an offspring to be eligible for registration</p>	<p>An examiner <b>CAN NOT</b> certify a gelding to enable registration of offspring sired prior to being gelded.</p>
<p>O. Concerns regarding the eligibility of certification of any horse will be referred to the Directors of Examiners for review and recommendation</p>	<p>An examiner <b>must</b> refer any concerns regarding the eligibility of any registered horse to be certified to the DoEs for their review and for their recommendations to be made to the Board.</p>

## Shoeing requirements for certification<sup>24</sup>

Horses presented for certification must be barefoot on all four hooves or be shod on all four hooves, in compliance with the current RMHA show rules. No mixture of barefoot and shod is allowed.

### TOE LENGTH

The horse's natural toe length shall not exceed 4.5 inches, with or without a shoe. This measurement is obtained by placing the hoof on a flat level surface and then measuring from the coronet band where the soft flesh meets the hard part of the hoof at the center of the front pastern along the hoof wall to the ground and includes the shoe, if present. (See Example – Toe Length)\*

### SHOES ALLOWED

Factory made keg shoes (See Example – Keg Shod)\* up to 15/16 inch or 24mm in width at all locations on the shoe, and up to 3/8 inch in thickness at all locations on the shoe.

Shoes must be of the same type, manufacturer brand and metal on all four feet, but may be a combination of flat and caulked shoes.

Shoes must fit the NATURAL HOOF

Shoes may have either drill tech, borium or dowels applied

Two dime-sized dots of borium or drill tech may be applied up to total thickness (including shoe) of 5/8 inch.

Caulks are allowed up to 7/8-inch total thickness.

Shoe clips are permitted when drawn from the shoe only.

Hoof repair with an acrylic/filler may be present on one hoof

### NOT ALLOWED

**NO** plantation shoes, hand-made shoes, hand turned heels or trailers of any kind (straight or turned), or bars

Shoes are **NOT** to extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof wall at the toe and quarters nor beyond the bulb of the heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.

**NO** pads of any type

**NO** pressure shoeing (Note: a shoe smaller than the natural hoof with the hoof filed down to fit the shoe shall be considered a form of pressure shoeing).

**NO** welded-on shoe clips

**NO** ridges or lines may be present in borium or drill tech

**NO** combination of drill tech, borium or dowels on any one shoe

Repairs with acrylic and/or filler on more than one hoof **NOT** allowed

**\*See Appendix IV. Measuring Hoof/Bit/Shoes**

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<sup>24</sup>2022 Show Rule Book, Section VI. B.

## Bit requirements for certification<sup>25</sup>

**Bitless bridles or hackamores** (NOT mechanical) may be used with an appropriate **Western** headstall.

Stallions must be ridden with a bit.

**Snaffle and Shank bits** allowed are based on FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses) recommendations. The bit mouthpiece may be solid, single jointed, double jointed, may have a roller, and may have a port.

Choices include but are not limited to:

**Snaffle-** D Ring, Loose ring, Boucher (B-ring), Egg Butt, Full Cheek, Bradoon

**Shanked, Leverage or Curb-** Weymouth, Pelham (single rein only), Walking Horse, Kimberwick, and Wonder Bit, with a single rein only. Shanks must be 8 ½ inches or less, including solid ring. (Measurements are made from the top of the upper ring to the bottom of the lower ring made into the shank. See Example- Shank Length)\*. If a curb strap or chain is used, it must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lay flat against the horse's chin with allowance for the trainer or handler to put two-fingers flat between the chin and curb chain.

**No** dropped nosebands or dropped nose cavessons.

**No** mechanical hackamores.

**No** studded cavessons.

**No** single twisted wire, double twisted wire gag, or any type of chain mouthpiece.

**No** double reins.

**No** twisted or tight curb chains.

**\*See Appendix IV. for Examples**

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<sup>25</sup> Show Rule Book, Section IX

## Horse Color

...The horse must have a solid body color....<sup>26</sup>

Horse color should be checked by the Examiner against the color on the Registration Paper to verify the identity of the horse. Color identified when examined must be recorded and initialed on the Certification Evaluation form by the first examiner.

### Horse Color/Changes<sup>27</sup>

Until Certification, papers will remain as marked at the time of registration application. Horse colors must be listed from the following colors:

- Black
- Bay or Brown
- Champagne
- Buckskin
- Palomino
- Chestnut or Sorrel
- Silver Black “Chocolate”
- Silver Bay “Red Chocolate”
- Dun
- Grullo – colt
- Grulla – filly
- Red Dun
- Black Roan
- Bay Roan
- Red Roan
- Gray
- Gray - Black
- Gray - Red

The registry will accept the following colors with DNA Proof of Coat Color furnished with the Application for Registration or presented to examiners at time of Certification:

- Cremello
- Perlino
- Smokey Cream
- Silver Buckskin
- Silver Red – Chestnut or Sorrel
- Smokey Black

NOTE MODIFIERS: Silver Dapple, Roan, etc.

The registry will also consider other colors with DNA Proof of Coat Color. Owners must provide DNA along with the Application for Registration or give it to examiners at the time of Certification.

A Director of Examiners will sign off on any deviation of these colors. If, during certification, examiners mark the color of a horse, which later turns out to be incorrect after the owner conducts a color-coding test, the owner may apply for a Color Change Request (see Color Change Request at [www.rmhorse.com](http://www.rmhorse.com) under Forms). The horse owner will pay for DNA or other genetic testing tools for color.

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<sup>26</sup> Bylaws, Article 6.2

<sup>27</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 4.0, F.

## Descriptions of Colors

- Black – black body, legs, head, mane, and tail; can fade to reddish brown color on sun exposed parts
- Bay – red to tan body and head; black lower legs, mane, and tail
- Brown – brown body, head, legs, mane, and tail; lighter areas on muzzle, flanks, inner legs and around eyes
- Champagne – light to dark gold, tan, slate, or red body, head, and legs; flaxen to white mane & tail; blue, green, or amber eyes; pink skin with freckles
- Buckskin – yellow to tan body and head; black lower legs, mane, and tail; black rimmed ears
- Palomino – gold to cream body and head; flaxen to white mane and tail
- Chestnut or Sorrel – red body, head, legs, mane, and tail; chestnut is darker, sorrel is brighter red to copper
- Silver Black “Chocolate” – chocolate body, head, and legs; flaxen to white mane and tail
- Silver Bay/Red Chocolate” – red to tan body and head; chocolate lower legs, flaxen to white mane and tail
- Dun – light bay to buckskin body; black lower legs, mane, and tail; primitive markings (legs, shoulders, ears, face, and dorsal stripe)
- Grullo – colt with dove to slate body; black lower legs, mane, and tail; primitive markings (legs, shoulders, ears, face, and dorsal stripe)
- Grulla – filly with dove to slate body; black lower legs, mane, and tail; primitive markings (legs, shoulders, ears, face, and dorsal stripe)
- Red Dun – light sorrel body; darker lower legs, mane, and tail; primitive markings (legs, shoulders, ears, face, and dorsal stripe)
- Black Roan – mixed black and white hairs to body; black lower legs, head, mane, and tail
- Bay Roan – mixed red to tan and white hairs to body; black lower legs, head, mane, and tail.
- Red Roan – mixed red and white hairs to body; red lower legs, head, mane, and tail
- Gray – mixed dark (red or black) and white hairs to body, legs, head, mane, and tail
- Gray - Black – mixed black and white hairs to body, legs, head, mane, and tail
- Gray - Red – mixed red and white hairs to body, legs, head, mane, and tail

## Markings

... there shall be no white above the knee or hock except on the face where modest amounts of white markings are acceptable. Excessive facial markings such as in bald-faced horses are not acceptable.<sup>28</sup>

Horse markings should be checked by the Examiner against the markings on the Registration Paper to verify the identity of the horse. Markings may vary slightly from registration as a foal to examination for certification. All markings (face, legs, and body) noted at the time of examination must be recorded and initialed on the Certification Evaluation form by the first examiner.

### Recording Markings<sup>29</sup>

It is important to accurately describe markings on the Application for Registry for proper identification of the horse. Owners/agents should use the following illustrations and definitions for a consistent description of markings on the face and lower legs.

**A. Head Markings:** Head markings consist of a star, blaze, snip, patch, or combination of these markings. When completing the Application for Registry, it is important to clearly and accurately identify head markings.

1. Star: A solid collection of white hair found on the forehead. Describe the star as to size and shape, and note if it is in the center, to the left or right of center of the forehead.
2. Small Star: A solid area of white about the size of a nickel found on the forehead. If the horse only has a group of scattered white hairs, do not identify it as a star, but rather a “scattered area of white hairs on the forehead.”
3. Medium Star: A solid area of white hair about the size of a half dollar found on the forehead.
4. Large Star: A solid white area on the forehead three (3) inches or more in diameter.
5. Mixed Star: Having the coat color mixed with the white of the star.
6. Stripe: A narrow white marking starting at the eye level or below and ending on or above the muzzle. Describe the stripe as to width, length and whether they are connected to the star. Always note the area on the head where the stripe ends.
  - Bordered Stripe: The coat color is mixed with the white hairs along the outer edge.
  - Connected Stripe: The star and stripe are connected.
  - Broken Stripe: The stripe is disconnected from itself in one or more places.
  - Blaze: A wider white marking down the face about three inches in width or more. Always note on the head where the blaze ends.
  - Snip: A snip is a small white marking between the nostrils. The pink skin beneath the hair of the snip is often easily seen. A snip will often extend down onto the upper lip where there isn't any hair and will show as pink skin.

**NOTE: Bald-faced horses are not accepted for registry in the RMHA. Bald-faced is described as white markings or a wide blaze that for all or part of its length covers the front of the face, extending to or past the inside corner of one or both eyes, and extending over the sides of the face, and may extend past the upper lip to the lower lip.**

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<sup>28</sup> Bylaws, Article, Article 6.2

<sup>29</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 5





**Small Star**  
Small star  
left of Forehead



**Large Star & connected**  
Large star and  
short narrow stripe  
starting on nose bridge &  
ending between nostrils  
into left nostril



**Diamond Star**  
Diamond star  
Faint snip



**Bordered Star &  
Mixed star**



**Mixed Star**  
Connected  
bordered stripe



**Large Oval Star**



**Pointed Star**



**Narrow Diagonal  
Star**



**Oval star &  
disconnected patch**



**Star & connected  
broken stripe**



**Large Oval Star  
& Blaze**



**Diamond Star & Narrow  
Connected Stripe**



**Large Star & Connected  
Wide Blaze**



**Bald Face**  
(Not acceptable)

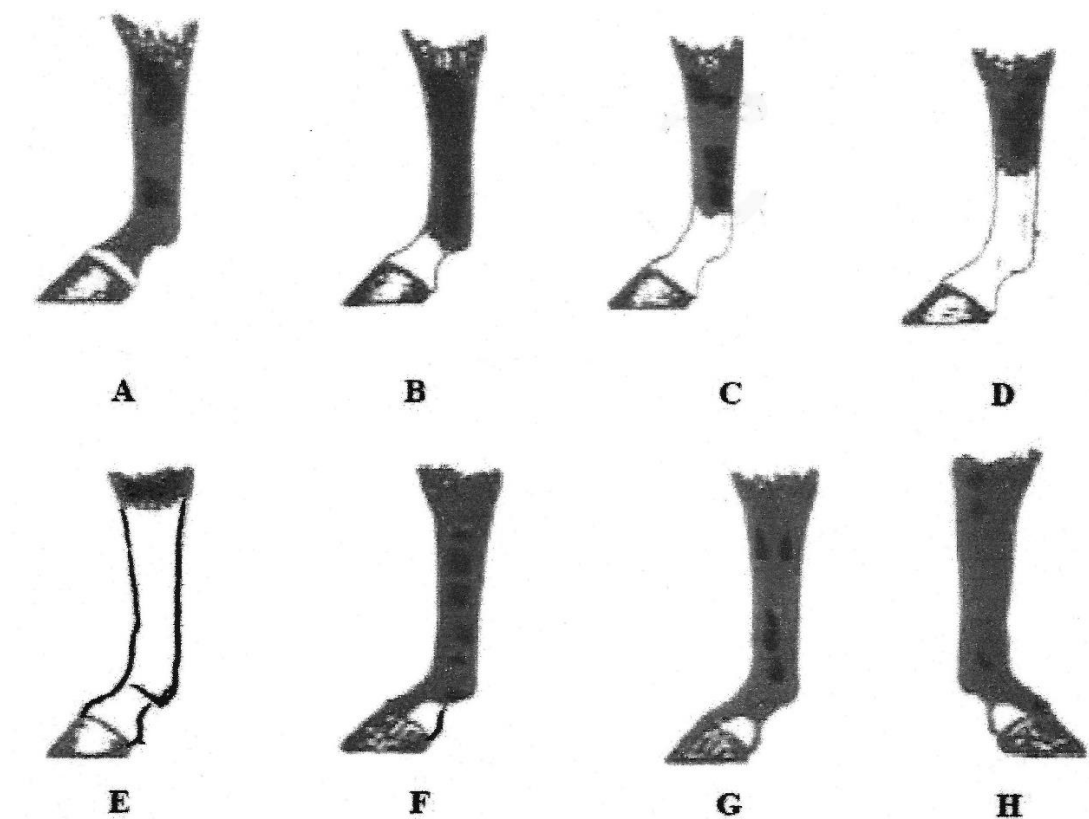
*Image above from Rules of Registry<sup>30</sup>*

<sup>30</sup> Rules of Registry, Exhibit A

**B. Leg Markings:** No horse shall be accepted into the Rocky Mountain Registry if there is white above the knee or hock, except on the face (see Exhibit B). For the knee, white should not extend above the top of the accessory carpal bone. For the hock, white should not extend above the top of the calcaneus. When completing the Application of Registration, it is important to clearly and accurately identify leg markings.

- A. Coronet: A white stripe covers the coronet band.
- B. Pastern: White extends from the coronet to and including the pastern.
- C. Ankle: White extends from the coronet to and including the fetlock.
- D. Half Stocking: White extends from the coronet to the middle of the cannon.
- E. Stocking: White extends from the coronet to the knee. When the white includes the knee it is called a full stocking. White should not extend above the top of the accessory carpal bone on the knee or above the top of the calcaneus on the hock.
- F. White Heels: Both heels are white.
- G. Outside Heel: White is only on the outside of the heel.
- H. Inside Heel: White is only on the inside of the heel.

\*Ermine Markings on the legs (not illustrated) must be described and noted on all applications for registry or certification.



*Image above from Rules of Registry, 2022<sup>31</sup>*

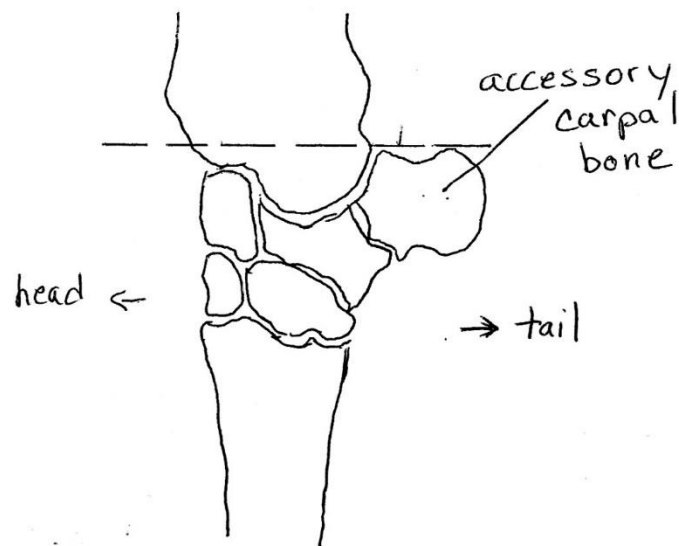
<sup>31</sup> Rules of Registry, Exhibit B

**C.** When describing a horse for registration, indicate any acquired markings (those marks that have been produced after birth) such as scars or tattoos as to size, shape, coloration and location. Also annotate Cowlicks.

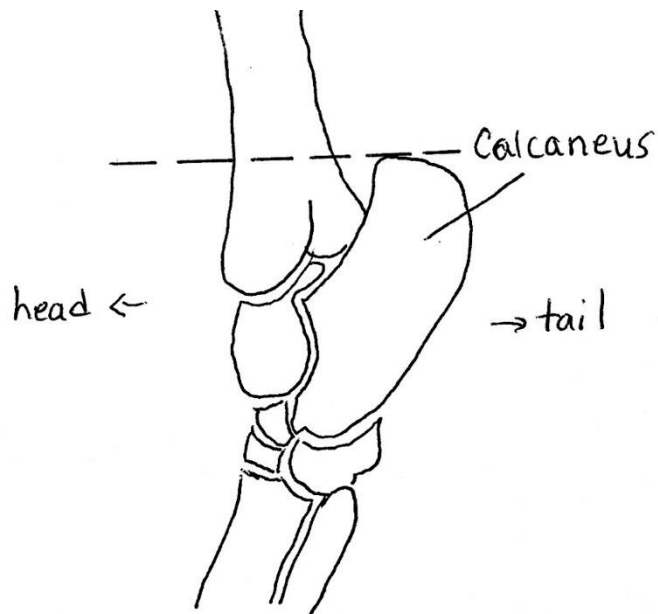
**NOTE:** No horse shall be accepted into the Rocky Mountain Registry if it has white markings on the body of the horse except modest amounts of white on the face.

For further clarification of leg marking limits:

“For the knee, white should not extend above the top of the accessory carpal bone.”



“For the hock, white should not extend above the top of the calcaneus.”

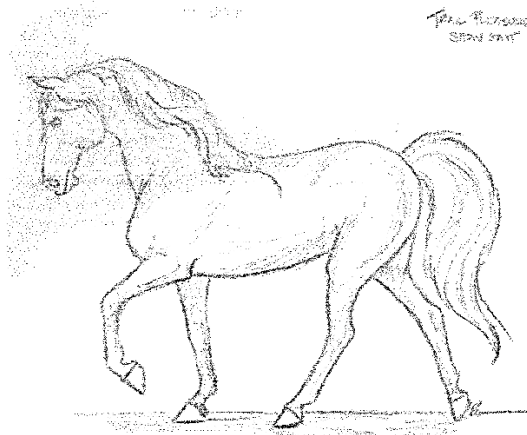


## GAIT

### The Rocky Mountain Saddle Gait

The desired gait of the Rocky Mountain Horse belongs in the Racking family of gaits. To be certified to breed and show, the Rocky Mountain Horse MUST perform an EVEN or NEAR EVEN 4 beat lateral gait.

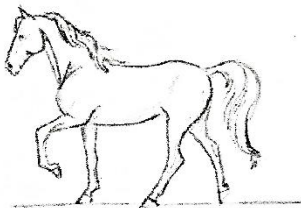
### The Rocky Mountain Saddle Gait



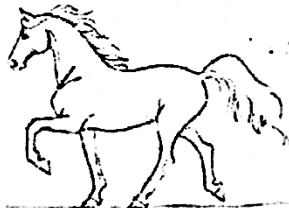
- The sequence is initiated by the hind foot lifting and followed by the same side front foot. Though the same side hind and front may nearly mirror each other in the pick-up and momentum phase, the set down is clearly independent. This is what separates the rack from the stepping pace and creates the 1-2-3-4 vs a 1,2-3,4 gait.
- A saddle gait has a rolling shoulder and a bobbing hindquarters.
- A good saddle gait should feel smooth and forward moving, rolling ahead and as if the horse is pedaling a bike with the front legs.
- The rider may feel a gentle pivot through their hips but will feel comfortable centered in “the eye of the storm of energy” of the horse’s legs, which all move independently and quickly.

The saddle gait has a 2-foot 3-foot support sequence at slower speeds, while the faster speeds transition to a 3 to 2 to 1 support sequence and finally at the fastest speed a 1-foot to 2-foot support sequence.

\*Note: Many Rocky Mountain Horses do not have the ability to perform the fast speed “singlefoot” or true rack. Most will fall into the lower speed categories with 2 to 3 and 3,2,1 foot support sequence as this is the most desirable for the largest segment of the owners and breeders of this breed.



slow speed: 3-foot support



medium speed: 2-foot support

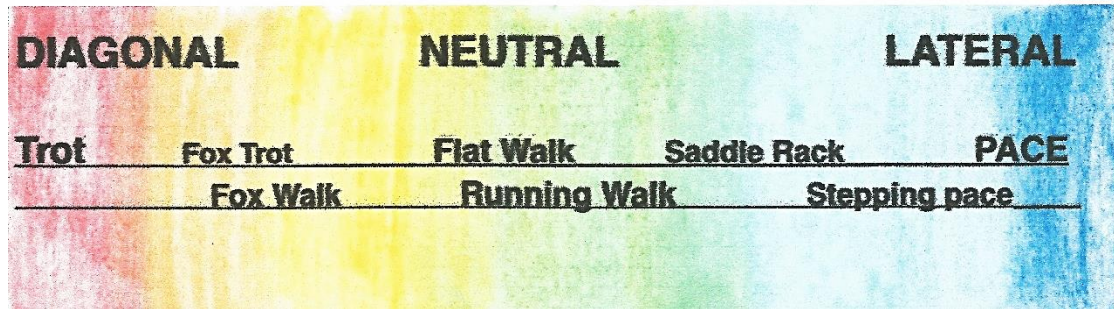


fast speed: 1-foot support

Even with differing speed and support sequence, the racking gaits will all feel very much the same to the rider. Other names for these gaits in different speeds and styles for other breeds are: Corto, Slow Tolt, Largo, Fast Tolt, Tranco, Trapatka

### Symmetrical Gaits

Figure 1. Continuum of Symmetrical Gaits



As you can see, the saddle rack is unique; neither completely neutral nor completely lateral!

#### A DIAGONAL GAIT:

A diagonal gait is one in which opposite pairs: (right front + left hind and right hind + left front) are mirroring each other and setting down at the same time or close to the same time. In a diagonal gait the back of the horse is rounded or neutral.

Examples: Trot (2 beats), Fox Walk (broken 4 beats), Fox Trot (broken 4 beats), Fox Rack (broken 4 beats)

#### A NEUTRAL OR "SQUARE" GAIT:

A neutral gait is one in which each leg moves independently and sets down independently. They can be known as "square" because they are very even in both momentum and support phase. The back is neither overly rounded nor overly hollow, in other words: neutral. Sometimes a Rocky Mountain can be regarded as "square", meaning they have a very even cadence. In some places, the saddle rack is called a square gait due to the nature of the independent set down of the hooves.

Examples: Walk (4 beats), Flat Walk (4 beats), Running Walk (4 beats)

#### A LATERAL GAIT:

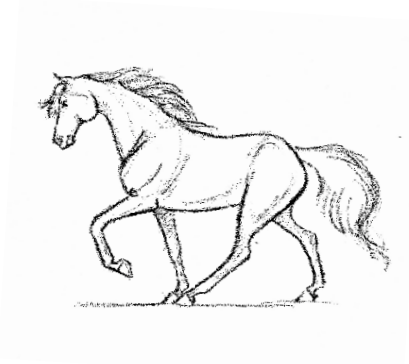
A lateral gait is one in which same side pairs (right front + right hind and left front + left hind) are mirroring each other and setting down at the same time or close to the same time. The reason that the saddle rack is more correctly classified as lateral is due to the lateral movement of the legs and the position of the back in a more hollow frame than that of a running walk. The back of the lateral moving horse is hollow.

Examples: Pace (2 beats), Stepping/Broken Pace (broken 4 beats), Saddle Rack/Saddle Gait (even 4 beats)

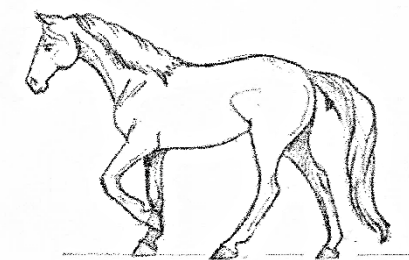
#### What are all the ingredients for a successful saddle rack?

- slight inversion (hollow) of the back
- essential tension in the neck (unique to the racking family of gaits!)
- contracting muscles over the shoulders and loins
- lateral movement of the limbs
- independent set down of the hooves

## How Other Symmetrical Gaits Look and Feel

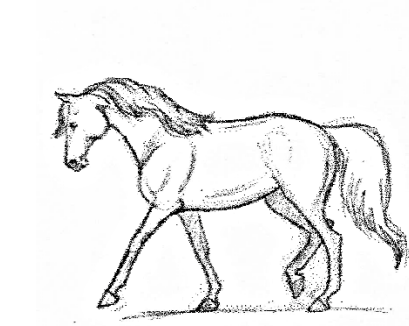


- **The Running Walk** is an evenly timed 4-beat square gait. If the rider feels a stronger rocking chair motion, very smooth and gliding forward, with a slower longer step of the legs, it is more than likely that the horse is leaning toward a running walk. The Running Walk is a neutral gait or a “square” gait. Each foot moves independently. It has the same even cadence as the saddle rack, but the legs take longer strides and so the cadence has a slower rhythm, even with a running step. The hindquarters will glide forward rather than bob. The difference will be a more sweeping motion of an exaggerated walk vs the rolling/stepping motion of a saddle rack.

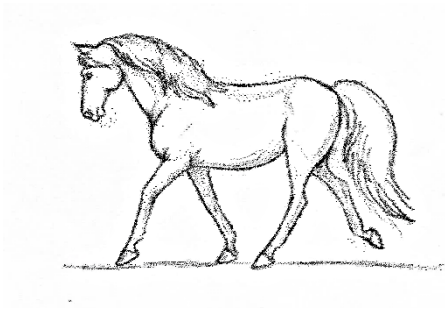


- **The Flat Walk** is an evenly timed 4-beat square gait. If the rider feels a very smooth and very slight front-to-back motion, and the footfalls are faster and tighter than an ordinary walk, but without an energetic bobbing motion of the hindquarters, it is more than likely that the horse is leaning toward a flat walk. The Flat Walk is a slower version of the Running walk with a shorter stride and no running step.

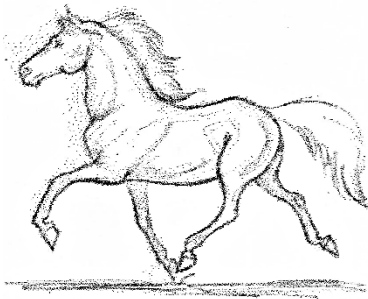
If doing a Flat Walk or Running Walk, the horse may have a head nod, even if only slight in comparison to that of a Tennessee Walking Horse or a Missouri Foxtrotter.



- **The Foxtrot:** is a broken 4-beat diagonal gait. If the rider feels a push for more vertical momentum in the saddle, with a quicker step but a slight pause in the cadence, it is more than likely that the horse is leaning toward a foxtrot. The foxtrot is the only diagonal based “easy” gait. Variations depending on speed and length of step are called the fox walk, fox rack, or trocha.



- **The Stepping Pace:** is a lateral unevenly timed 4-beat gait. The cadence will sound the same as a foxtrot in cadence. If the rider feels side to side shifting momentum in the saddle, it is more than likely that the horse is leaning toward a pace or stepping pace. However, sometimes a stepping pace can be very smooth and difficult to pinpoint!



- **The Pace:** is an even timed 2-beat gait that will sound the same as a trot in cadence. The rider will feel a much stronger side to side shift in movement due to the moment of suspension within this two-beat gait. Sometimes called a "hard pace" to make the difference between the strong stepping pace (still 4 beat) and the true 2 beat pace.

### Use of Judgment During Evaluation of Gait

It is important to note that horses may vary slightly in footfall sequence and cadence depending on their frame and conformation. Many certainly can switch from gait to gait within seconds. This often happens with inexperienced and young horses and can be known as a "mixed gait", when the rider cannot get the horse to stay consistently in one gait. A horse with a "mixed gait" can often put a canter stride into their hind quarters as well. Examiners can give the rider the opportunity to work through the mixed gait to find consistency, even if it only lasts for a couple minutes.

Some horses can be very difficult to tell if they are doing a flat walk or a saddle gait due to the nature of the very low lift. The same holds true for horses that are inclined to step pace. Since the stepping pace can be extremely close in timing to the saddle rack, Examiners can be befuddled by what exactly the horse is doing. They can see the horse is "gaiting", but it might not be quite right. It is the Examiner's responsibility to determine whether the horse exhibits the ABILITY to perform gait in even or near even cadence. The RMHA Bylaws state that the Rocky Mountain Horse performs a smooth forward moving ambling gait that is laterally based in a near even cadence-simultaneous but asynchronous. This is descriptive of both a stepping pace AND a saddle rack. While the saddle rack is accepted as THE signature gait of the Rocky Mountain Horse, the Bylaws do make an interesting case for the horse that performs a very smooth nearly even stepping pace. Therefore, it is up to the Examiner to determine whether the lateral gait is "near even" enough. If not perfectly in cadence, is the horse close enough to be considered gaiting in the manner the RMHA requires? It never hurts to ask to see more or give suggestions to the rider to help the horse "time up".



It is NOT the Examiner's mission to judge every horse to the standard of perfection, but there will be times when an Examiner must say "no" or "not today, come back and try again later" when evaluating gait work. Sometimes a horse may pace so smoothly that the rider is unaware. Other times, a horse may only be able to gait well when pushed fast and hard and, due to the speed and quick movements of the legs, it can be difficult to tell between a "fox rack" vs a saddle rack. The cadence, though fast like the saddle rack, will still be slightly broken and, when scrutinized closely, the observer will be able to see the diagonal pairs working together. The horse may appear to be scrambling rather than rhythmic and even. If moving consistently in these ways, without breaking into a nearly even or even saddle rack, it would be inappropriate to say the horse meets the gait requirement, as they would not be demonstrating essential parts of the sequence. A consistent pace or foxtrot is not an acceptable gait to certify.

While it isn't the Examiner's job to be overly critical, since often assessments are of young or inexperienced horses, it IS the Examiner's job to be consistent, fair, and cautious. A horse can always be redirected and submitted again at a later date for approval.

### **Audible clues**

It is important to develop an ear for the cadence for times when the frame and speed and lift of the horse may be confusing. There are subtle differences in the beat and cadence of the easy gaits. A flat walk and running walk both have an even cadence, but it is typically a slower rhythm than the saddle rack.

The racking family of gaits will have the quickest footfall pattern and so, the quickest cadence. What does the pattern sound like?

**Say it: "chuggasodachuggasodachuggasodachuggasodachuggasoda"**

Sometimes we believe that the sound of the horse is even, but it helps to listen to and memorize the sound of a very good example of a saddle rack and train the ear to hear the slight differences that appear in the case of a fox rack or a flat walk or a step pace.

The stepping pace and the fox trot typically sound the same because they are both broken gaits. What does the pattern of each sound like?

**Say it: "hunk'o'meat-and two potatoes, hunk'o'meat-and two potatoes"**

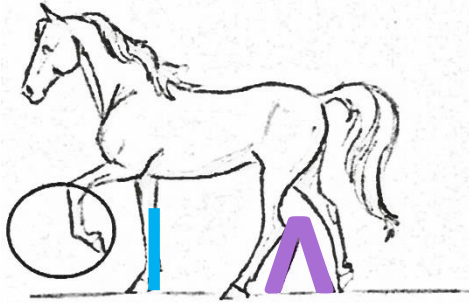
OR

**"ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk"**

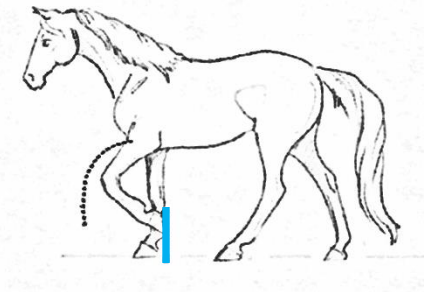
### **Visual clues**

An additional tool for an Examiner to have in determining gait is the still frame. Along with watching the footfall pattern and listening for cadence, the final tool in our skill set is to photograph or video the horse and judge the still frame. This is more for learning and developing our skills for when we view the horse in action, and it can be an important tool to use in particularly complicated situations where the horse may be slightly diagonal or a bit too lateral.

The starting point for comparison is to view each horse at the point where one front leg is straight and load bearing: **Perpendicular to the ground**. Figure 2. depicts the image usually used to portray a Rocky Mountain Horse in gait, with one front leg perpendicular to the ground (in this case the right). This is the best image to judge toward for comparison, noting where the horse's other legs are in relation to that load bearing leg.

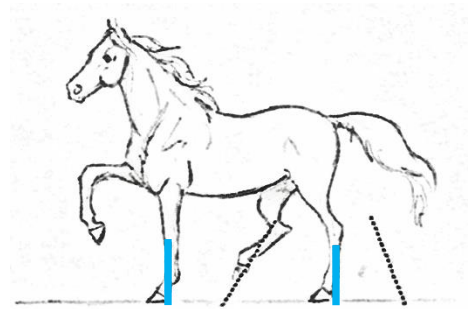
Figure 2. Saddle Rack still (at point of one foreleg perpendicular in support sequence)		
<p>The foreleg in blue is in full support mode, bearing most of the weight.</p> <p>The circled foreleg has already cleared the supporting blue foreleg and reached breakover point.</p>		<p>The hind legs in relationship to the foreleg create the appearance of an upside-down V shape.</p> <p>In this support sequence the lateral movement has been broken up by the set down of the hind leg.</p>
<p><i>*Whether in 3-foot, 2-foot, or 1-foot support sequence due to speed, the hind legs will still have essentially the same positioning in relationship to the forelegs for the saddle rack. They still will follow the "lateral" or same side rules and, if you look closely, you can imagine the same side pairs working together.</i></p>		

The **Flat Walk**, by comparison, has one major difference in perpendicular leg support sequence. The opposite foreleg has not cleared the supporting foreleg and has not reached break over point. Also, the same side hind is still strongly supporting the body, where in the saddle rack (due to the quickened hindquarters), it should already be ready to pick up. Sometimes it can be difficult to tell from the hindquarters in still frame when differentiating between flat walk and saddle rack.



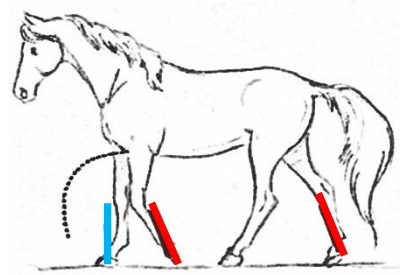
*\*The dotted line shows where the foreleg should be for a saddle rack.*

The **Pace**, by comparison, shows that the same side pairs are still working together and mirroring each other while the supporting foreleg is in perpendicular still frame sequence. Notice that the same side hind leg is also perpendicular and sharing support, while the opposite side has not touched down (as it would need to be in a saddle rack.) While the front legs may look correct, it is important to watch what the hind legs are doing in this case.



*\*The dotted lines show where the hind legs should be for a saddle rack. Again, the opposite hind would need to be closer to set down if not already on the ground in a saddle rack, while the hind leg in blue should be pushing off and more at an angle as the dotted line shows.*

The **Foxtrot**, by comparison, has an entirely different sequence. If confused by a smooth fox trot, the still frame in perpendicular foreleg support phase will always tell the truth. While not as obviously diagonal as the regular trot, the diagonal pairs (shown in red) are working together. The opposite foreleg is only just beginning to pick up and is nowhere near break over point, as it would need to be for a saddle rack.



*\*The dotted lines show where the opposite foreleg needs to be for a saddle rack.*

The still frame is a useful tool for developing an understanding (and an eye) for the different gaits, but it is not always foolproof. A flat walk, a running walk, and a saddle rack can all look the same in a still frame, depending on the frame and the animation of the horse!

Also, it is important to remember that a still frame in a mid-support sequence may mimic many kinds of gaits, even the canter! Therefore, it is important to choose one particular kind of still frame, as illustrated above, with one foreleg as straight as can be, to compare fairly.

Many people can also be fooled by a slow-motion video. In an effort to identify a four-beat gait, it is easy to mistake a flat walk, running walk, and stepping pace for a saddle rack in slow motion, as it slows down each set down of the foot, telling you that it is a four-beat gait.

**SO**, remember that each element of identification helps the others:  
Visual + Audible + Still Frame + Slow Motion Video

All these elements are **NOT** required to be evaluated to certify a Rocky Mountain Horse but learning each of them helps everyone to be better Examiners, breeders, owners, trainers, and riders regarding identifying the gait.

*Each person will have their own personal preferences about the gait, so it is important that Examiners ALWAYS refer to the Bylaws, Rules, and Rules of the Registry and make their best effort to be objective, non-biased, and ethical. The future of this breed ultimately depends on the consistency and integrity of the Examiners.*



## **APPENDIX**

### **Appendix I:**

#### **Bylaws, Articles 6 and 7**

##### **Article 6 The Horse**

The Association is dedicated to the preservation, breeding, development, and promotion of the Rocky Mountain Horse in which the natural gait breeds true. Proper breeding will enhance this and other desirable characteristics in successive generations. To this end, no action devices, aids, or harsh training methods are permitted. Through breeding, we, the Members of the Association, strive to produce an animal that meets the highest standards of this breed -- a horse for most occasions and all persons.

##### **6.1 Gait**

The Rocky Mountain Horse naturally demonstrates a smooth, ambling gait which glides forward. The horse moves out with a lateral gait in which one can count four distinct hoof-beats that produce a cadence of near equal rhythm. The speed may vary but the four-beat rhythm remains constant. The gait may technically be described as the simultaneous but asynchronous motion of the legs of the same side of the body followed by the movement of the legs on the opposite side. The gait is initiated by the hind leg. The length of stride for both hind and foreleg should be nearly equal. The Rocky Mountain Horse moves his feet with minimal ground clearance and minimal knee and hock action. Because this gait does not waste motion it enables the horse to travel long distances with minimal tiring.

##### **6.2 Conformation**

The conformation of the Rocky Mountain Horse will be as follows. The height of the horse will be no less than 56 inches (14.0 hands) and no more than 64 inches (16 hands). They should have, medium-sized bones; with medium-sized feet in proportion to the body; a wide and deep chest with a span between the forelegs. The fore and hind legs should be free of noticeable deformity. The horse should have sloping shoulders (ideally with an angle of 45 degrees), bold eyes, and well-shaped ears, and a face which is neither dished nor protruding. The head should be medium sized in proportion to the body with medium jaws. The neck should be gracefully arched, medium in length and set on an angle to allow a natural carriage with a break at the poll. The horse must have a solid body color. There shall be no white above the knee or hock except on the face where modest amounts of white markings are acceptable. Excessive facial markings such as in a "bald-faced" horses are not acceptable.

##### **6.3 Changes in qualifications**

Amendments to this Article will be adopted in the same manner as all other amendments to the Bylaws of the RMHA, except that approval of an amendment to this Article shall require a vote in favor of amendment by seventy-five percent of ballots returned.

#### **ARTICLE 7 The Registry, Registration and Breeding of the Rocky Mountain Horse**

##### **7.1 The Registry**

The Registry's records shall be maintained by the Secretary or by the Registrar, if one is appointed, acting under the direction of the Secretary unless such duties are assigned to a specific Association employee. Such records, including but not limited to registration papers, shall be kept in such fashion and in such location as deemed appropriate by the Board which shall have the ultimate responsibility

for approving changes in format, rules of function, or operation of the Registry. At intervals of no less than monthly, the Secretary or Registrar, if one is appointed, shall prepare and keep at a separate location duplicate records of registration. The Registration Advisory Committee shall be responsible for preparing and, from time to time, recommending changes to the Rules of Registry. The initial approval of the Rules of Registry shall be done by the Board. Changes to the Rules of Registry, other than changes in fee schedules, shall be subject to the provisions of Article 10.3. The Registry and Registration Advisory Committee does not mediate disputes between members or others. The Association provides the Registry as a service to its members and is in no way liable for any fraud or misrepresentation concerning the horses registered to a buyer or to the public.

## **7.2 Registration**

The procedures for registration shall be set forth in the Rules of Registry and subject to the provisions of these Bylaws. The registration of a Rocky Mountain Horse shall be guided by the following principles:

### **7.2.A. The Rocky Mountain Horse**

Except as specifically provided for Foundation Geldings in Article 7.2.D below and Certified Grade Mares in Article 7.3.B below, all Rocky Mountain Horses presented for registration after the effective date of these Bylaws (9/27/03) must be able to provide proof of parentage, by appropriate laboratory methods as set forth in the Rules of Registry.

#### **7.2.B. Foundation Stallions<sup>32</sup>**

Foundation stallions were historically registered under the following rules:

1. Must have an appropriate Rocky Mountain Horse gait with no signs of pacing;
2. Must have nearly perfect conformation;
3. Must have produced a foal that meets the requirements for registration from a registerable mare. Foundation Stallions were to be examined when they were at least two years of age by three Examiners, none of whom is the owner. The owner had the right of one uncontested challenge of an examiner. An application was filled out for the owner to submit to the association with the appropriate fees.

NOTE: A good temperament, while not officially listed as a requirement, was used in judging stallions that were to be registered as foundation stock.

#### **7.2.C. Foundation Mares<sup>33</sup>**

Foundation mares were historically registered under the following rules:

1. Must have an appropriate Rocky Mountain Horse gait with no sign of pacing;
2. Must meet conformation requirements;
3. Must have a good temperament.<sup>16</sup>

Foundation mares were to be examined when they were at least two years of age by an Examiner who was not the owner. The owner had the right to a single uncontested challenge of an examiner. An application was filled out for the owner to submit to the Association with appropriate fees.

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<sup>32</sup> Foundation Stallion Books Closed 1-1-1988

<sup>33</sup> Foundation Mare Books Closed 9-1-1988

#### **7.2.D. Foundation Geldings (Amended November 10, 2007)<sup>34</sup>**

Foundation Geldings shall be accepted for registration under the following rules:

1. Must be certified in accordance with the procedures of 7.3.A below.
2. Must be able to prove by appropriate laboratory methods as set forth in the Rules of Registry one registered Rocky Mountain parent; and
3. Must have proof of complete castration, or a veterinarian's statement that the testicles absent on examination.
4. Must be presented for certification and registration no younger than 23 months of age and before February 11, 2011.
5. Following February 11, 2011 only geldings in which both parents had been certified prior to the breeding that resulted in the candidate gelding shall be accepted into the registry.

### **7.3 Certification and Breeding**

The procedures for certification and breeding shall be set forth in the Rules of Registry and subject to the provisions of these Bylaws. The certification and breeding of a Rocky Mountain Horse shall be guided by the following principles:

#### **7.3. A. Certification Procedures (Amended June 23, 2018)**

Per these Bylaws, the Rocky Mountain Horse Association advocates sound breeding practices which require that both the sire and the dam be certified prior to breeding and before a resulting foal would be eligible for registration in the Rocky Mountain Horse Association. However, in the event a foal is conceived before both the sire and the dam are certified to breed the resulting foal will NOT be eligible for registration until both parents have been issued the "GOLD" seal of certification as outlined in the Rules of Registry of the Rocky Mountain Horse Association. Prior to breeding, all Rocky Mountain Horses should be inspected and certified. The certification process for both stallions and mares is identical. To be certified, the animal must be inspected by three disinterested Examiners, none of whom is the owner. The owner of the animal will be allowed one uncontested challenge of an Examiner prior to the examination of a horse. To be certified, the individual horse must have the correct gait for the Rocky Mountain Horse, be ridden under saddle with bridle, and must meet all conformation requirements enumerated in Article 6.2 of these Bylaws. For breeding purposes, stallions must have both testicles below the external inguinal ring. All horses must have a good temperament and a graceful way of going. Electronic technology may be used to collect, compare, store, and retrieve data used in the certification process. Appropriate rules and regulations for the use of electronic technology shall be devised by the Registration Advisory Committee with the approval of the Board and entered in Rules of Registry. After a successful examination, papers will be issued on the horse indicating the animal is certified. An appropriate fee will be charged. Male and female horses that are not certified to breed will be retained in the registry if, in the opinion of the examiners, the defects that resulted in their disqualification are not of a degree that would have a detrimental effect on the reputation of the breed. Should any of these animals produce offspring, those offspring will not be eligible for registration under any circumstance. If severe defects that in the opinion of the examiners would be detrimental to the reputation of the Breed are found, the animal will be removed from the registry.

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<sup>34</sup> Foundation Gelding Books Closed 2-11-2011

#### 7.3.B. Certified Grade Mares Offspring<sup>35</sup>

For those non Rocky Mountain Horse mares previously designated as a Certified to Breed grade mare, their offspring from a certified to breed Rocky Mountain Horse stallion may be registered. The female offspring of a certified to breed grade mare and a certified to breed Rocky Mountain Horse Stallion may be registered and, if certified, bred. Male offspring may be registered only if castrated and meet all of the standards established for foundation geldings. Such colts will be issued clearly marked temporary papers until the Registry receives proof of complete castration.

#### 7.3.C. Certification of Geldings

All Rocky Mountain Horse geldings shall, after the age of two (2) years, be inspected and certified. To be certified, the animal must be inspected by three disinterested examiners none of who is the owner. The owner of the animal will be allowed one uncontested challenge of an examiner prior to the examination of the horse.

To be certified the gelding:

1. Must be certified in accordance with the procedures of 7.3.A above;
2. Must have proof of complete castration, or a veterinarian's statement that the testicles were absent on examination. After successful examination, papers will be issued on the gelding indicating that the animal is a 'Certified RMHA Gelding'. If the examination is not successful and if, in the opinion of the examiners, the defects that resulted in the gelding's disqualification are not a degree that would have a detrimental effect on the reputation of the breed, the gelding will be retained in the registry, and the papers marked accordingly. These geldings will not be allowed to show in Rocky Mountain horse classes, nor promoted by the Rocky Mountain Horse Association in any way. If severe defects are found that, in the opinion of the examiners, would be detrimental to the reputation of the Breed, the animal will be removed from the registry.

#### 7.3.D. Records

Breeding Records shall be kept in an accurate and current fashion by all stallion and mare owners in accordance with the Rules of Registry

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<sup>35</sup> Grade Mare Books Closed 11-18-2007



## **Appendix II:**

### **Measuring height**

Examiners must be able to accurately measure and record a horse's height.

#### **How to Use an Equine Measuring Stick**

1. Stand the horse on level, hard ground.
2. Have someone hold the horse or put them in a cross-tie.
3. Some horses will be afraid of the stick, so they may need to be desensitized to it before you try to measure them.
4. Before approaching the horse:
  - a. Slide the top portion of the measuring stick upwards, extending the pole until you hear a click.
  - b. Unfold the plastic arm at the top of the measuring stick.
5. Approach the horse:
  - a. With the stick standing straight up and down at your horse's side at the \*highest point of their withers, make sure the base of the measuring stick is sitting flat on the ground.
  - b. Move the arm portion either up or down until it rests at the flat area of the horse's withers, adjusting the angle you are holding the measuring stick or slightly raising or lowering the arm until the bubble is in the very center of the built-in level.
6. With the arm resting against the horse's wither and the level centered, your horse's height measurement will be the closest black line that touches the bottom of the plastic arm.
7. When finished, fold the plastic arm back in the down position and slide the top half of the stick back into the bottom portion and record the horse's height.

Record the horse's height as the next highest line, if the measuring arm is between two lines.

\*"highest point of their withers" can be easily located by asking the horse to lower the head below the withers

### **Appendix III.**

#### **Photos for certification**

“Four photographs printed on photo quality paper (3.5 inches or larger) of front, left side, right side, and rear of the horse, showing the entire horse, and including the hooves. Label all photos with the registration name of the horse. Photographs may be emailed to the office for an additional fee (see Fee Schedule at [www.rmhorse.com](http://www.rmhorse.com) under Forms).”<sup>36</sup>

All 4 photos can be printed on a single sheet of paper. Each photo must be at least 3.5 inches or larger. Lighting must be adequate to identify color and all markings. Photos judged to be of poor quality will be rejected and new photos will be required before certification process can be completed.

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<sup>36</sup> Rules of Registry, Section 2.0, I.



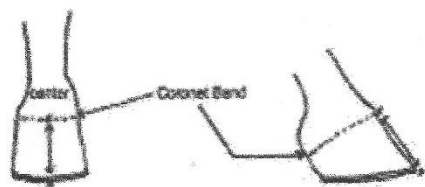
**Name: Super Awesome Horse**  
**Registration # 123456789**  
**Sire: Super Awesome Sire**  
**Dam: Super Awesome Dam**

If submitting all photos on a single page, use a full size sheet of paper (as in example).

If photos are submitted individually, each photo must be labeled with the full registration name of the horse.

#### Appendix IV. Measuring hoof, bit, shoe.<sup>37</sup>

##### Example – Toe Length

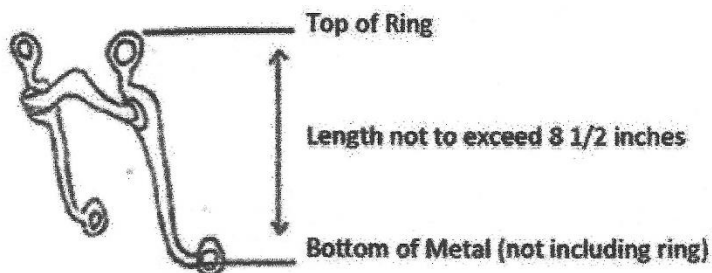


Toe length not to exceed  
4 1/2 inches, including shoe.

Measure from front center of coronet band, where soft flesh meets the hard part of the hoof, down front center of hoof wall to the ground.

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##### Example – Shank Length



##### Example – Keg shod

**Plain Keg**  
15/16 inch wide  
3/8 inch thick  
at all points on  
shoe



**Plain Keg with  
Caulk Heel**  
15/16 inch wide  
3/8 inch thick + borium/drill tech  
up to 1/4 inch thick or caulk up to  
1/2 inch thick  
Total thickness may not exceed  
7/8 inch at caulks



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<sup>37</sup> Show Rules and Regulations, SECTION XVI, Index of Examples