

## SUPREME SULTAN



Susan M. McFadden photo

The conformation of the American Saddlebred is ideally suited for competition, recreation, and pleasure. The beauty, charm and adaptability of the breed to any task makes the Saddlebred owner proud to be the horse's partner in any setting. He carries himself with an attitude that is elusive of description—some call it “class,” presence, quality, style, or charm. This superior air distinguishes his every movement.

The ideal American Saddlebred is well-proportioned and presents a beautiful overall picture. The animal should be in good flesh, with good muscle tone and a smooth, glossy coat. Masculinity in stallions and femininity in mares are important and should be taken into consideration.

The average height is 15 to 16 hands and the weight 1,000-1,200 pounds. Any color is acceptable; the most prominent are chestnut, bay, brown and black with some gray, roan, Palomino and Pinto.

**HEAD**—well-shaped with large, wide-set expressive eyes, gracefully shaped ears set close together on top of the head and carried alertly; a straight face line with a relatively fine muzzle and large nostrils and a clean and smooth jaw line.

**NECK**—long, arched and well-flexed at the poll with a fine, clean throatlatch.

**WITHERS**—well defined and prominent.

**SHOULDERS**—deep and sloping.

**BACK**—strong and level with well sprung ribs.

**CROUP**—level with a well carried tail coming out high.

**LEGS**—The front leg should set well forward under the shoulder. The line of the hind leg, in a natural stance, should be vertical from the point of the buttock to the back edge of the cannon bone. The forearms and hindquarters are well muscled to the knees and hocks. Legs are straight with broad flat bones, sharply defined tendons and sloping pasterns.

**HOOVES**—good and sound, open at the heel, neither toed in or toed out.

## The American Saddlebred in Competition

The American Saddlebred remains the ultimate show horse, high-stepping and elegant. A show horse is a spectacle of beauty and grace but is also an intense athletic competitor. American Saddlebreds compete in four primary divisions in the show ring:

Five-Gaited, Three-Gaited, Fine Harness and Pleasure. Each division has its own “look,” and competitors should be groomed to perfection. Five-gaited, fine harness and show pleasure horses are exhibited with full manes and tails. Five-gaited and fine harness horses also wear protective boots on their front feet. Three-gaited horses are shown with roached, or trimmed, manes to accentuate their long, fine necks.



Schatzberg photo

The common denominator for Saddlebreds in the show ring is that they should be alert, showing with neck arched, head up and ears forward, projecting an attitude of “Look at me!” They are judged on performance, manners, presence, quality and conformation.



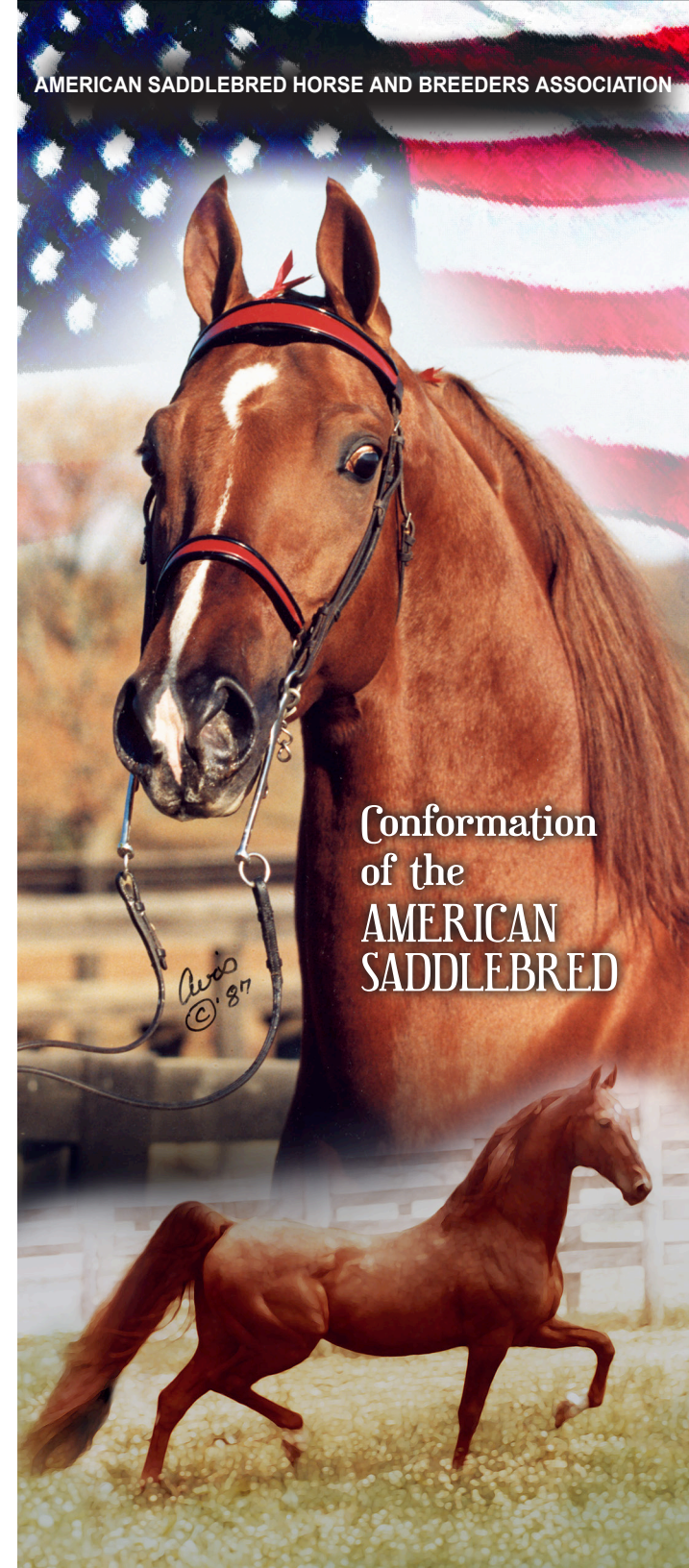
### American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association

4083 Wing Commander Way, Suite 50  
Lexington, Kentucky 40511  
859.259.2742

[www.saddlebred.com](http://www.saddlebred.com)

Front cover photos: Supreme Heir (Supreme Sultan x <sup>CH</sup>Supreme Airs BHF by Stonewall Supreme) by Avis; Supreme Sultan (<sup>CH</sup>Valley View Supreme x Melody O'Lee BHF by Anacacho Denmark) by Susan M. McFadden.

## AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



Conformation  
of the  
AMERICAN  
SADDLEBRED



## GENERAL APPEARANCE

### TYPE

Symmetry, overall ease of identification as an American Saddlebred

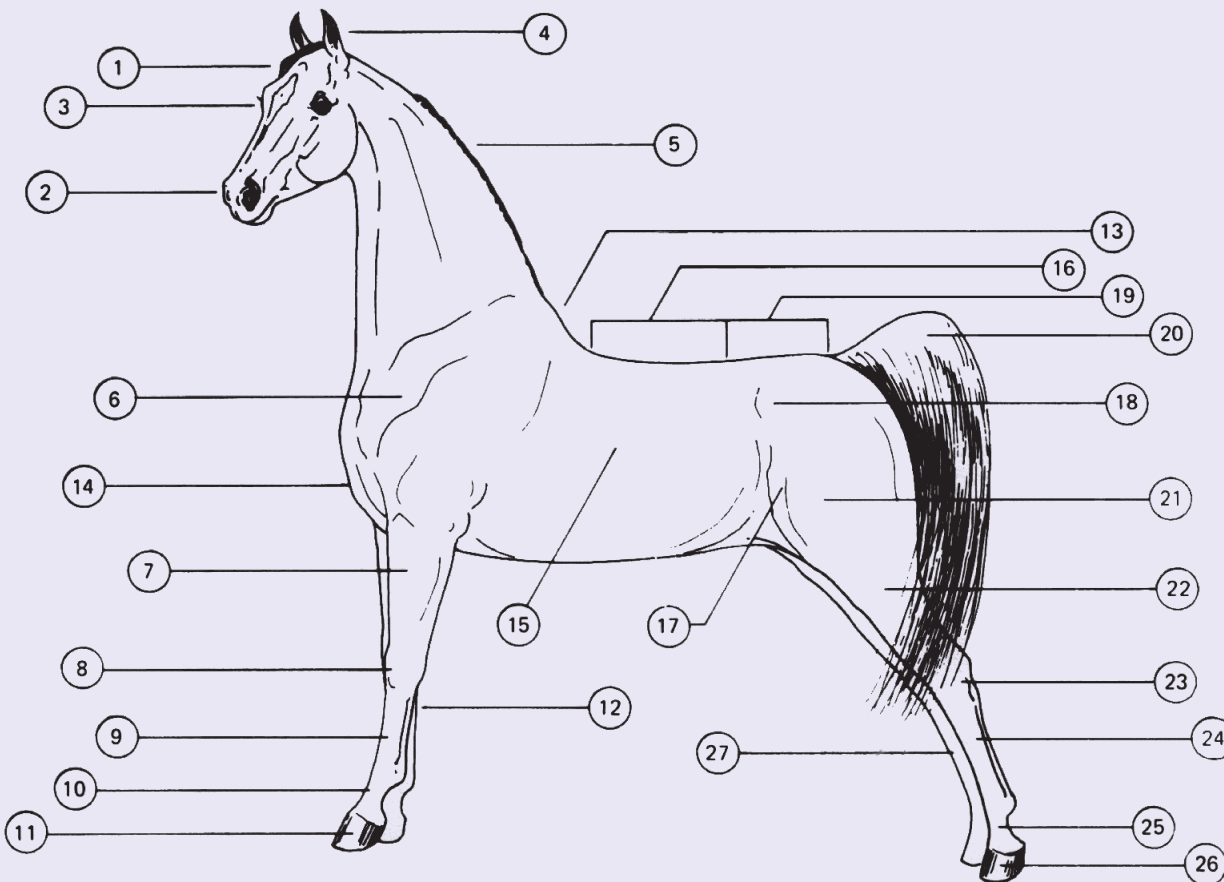
### QUALITY

Bone clean, dense, fine, yet indicating substance. Tendons and joints sharply defined, hide and hair fine, general refinement

### TEMPERAMENT

Gentle disposition, active, intelligent

1. **HEAD** (carried relatively high; size and dimensions in proportion, clear-cut features, well-chiseled, smooth jaw line)
2. **MUZZLE** (fine; nostrils large; lips thin, trim, even)
3. **EYES** (wide-set, large, full, bright, clear, expressive, lid thin)
4. **EARS** (small, fine, alert, out of top of head, pointed, set close)
5. **NECK** (long, supple, well-crested; throatlatch clean; head well set on)
6. **SHOULDERS** (long, sloping, deep, muscular)
7. **FOREARMS** (long, broad, muscular)
8. **KNEES** (straight, wide, deep, strongly supported)
9. **CANNONS** (short, broad, flat, tendons sharply defined, set well back)
10. **PASTERNS** (long, sloping, 45-degree angle with vertical, smooth, strong)
11. **HOOVES** (round, uniform, straight; frog large and elastic; heels wide)
12. **LEGS** (sinewy — when viewed from front, a vertical line from the point of the shoulder should divide the leg and foot into two lateral halves; viewed from the side, the same line should pass through the center of the elbow joint and the center of the foot)
13. **WITHERS** (well-defined, well-finished at top, extending well into the back)



GENERAL APPEARANCE

14. **CHEST** (medium-wide, deep)
15. **RIBS** (well-sprung, long, close)
16. **BACK** (short, level, strong, broad)
17. **FLANKS** (deep, long, full flank, not tucked, low underline)
18. **HIPS** (broad, round, smooth)
19. **CROUP** (long, level, smooth; no goose rump)
20. **TAIL** (comes out high from back; well-carried)
21. **THIGHS** (full, muscular)
22. **GASKINS** (broad, muscular)
23. **HOCKS** (straight, wide, point prominent, deep, clean-cut, smooth, well-supported)
24. **CANNONS** (short, broad, flat, tendons sharply defined)
25. **PASTERNS** (long, sloping, smooth, strong)
26. **HOOVES** (slightly less round than in front, uniform, straight, sole concave; frog large and elastic; heels wide and full)
27. **LEGS** (viewed from the rear, a vertical line dropped from the point of the buttock should divide the leg and foot into lateral halves; viewed from the side, the same vertical line from the point of the buttock should touch the hind edge of the cannon from the hock to the fetlock)