

CONFORMATION

The modern Clydesdale is a tall, weighty and athletic heavy horse, displaying an alert but calm temperament.

The Clydesdale head should be attractive and show intelligence. It should be attached to a good length of rein (length of neck), with the neck set on broad sloping shoulders. The body should show height in the wither and large depth of rib for in-



creased heart and lung capacity. The back should be of an appropriate length to allow the hindquarters and forequarters to co-ordinate when in motion. The hindquarters and rump should be large, round and powerful.

The hind leg is one of the most important aspects in a quality Clydesdale. The cannon bones should be long and flat, with broad hocks set high directly underneath the hindquarters, thus providing support and leverage. To most efficiently generate power the Clydesdale must have a good turn in each hock. This turn enables the hind legs to be kept under the horse when at work, maximising the power produced. To identify this attribute, the horse should show a defined "V" shape when the upper hind-legs are viewed from behind, with the widest section just below the rump, narrowing and meeting at the hock.

The forelegs, like the hind legs, should be perpendicular to the ground through the cannon bones. The cannons should be attached to broad flat knees and powerful forearms. Both front and hind legs should be set on angular pasterns to facilitate shock absorption, with large broad hooves to enable the horse's weight to be spread over a large surface area. Long silky hair should always accompany quality flat bone and should be abundant at the rear of all legs (feather) with plenty of hair (or "spat") covering the entire hoof.

At the walk or the trot, in hand or in harness, the Clydesdale should display collection, bold and active knee and hock action, closeness of hock from behind, and a proud head carriage. All joints should be clean and functional with no medical unsoundness.

A VERSATILE BREED

In this modern era the versatile Clydesdale is being increasingly used to produce quality performance horses when crossed with a lighter breed of horse. Where people now have less time to pursue their interests, the crossbred Clydesdale is evolving as the ideal pleasure or performance horse. With strength to bear weight, athletic ability, intelligence, and a calm relaxed temperament, they generally require minimal work in comparison to many other breeds of riding horse. The crossbred Clydesdale not only excels in adult riding and pony club environments but on an international stage as well, with many successfully competing at National and International levels. Quality Clydesdales have always been the important ingredient in order to produce top line crossbred horses.

EDUCATION

For those of you wishing to experience Clydesdale ownership for the first time, it is strongly recommended that you and your new equine friend undergo education from a recognised and reputable professional horseperson.

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The Clydesdale Horse

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POWER OF THE PASSION

Towering in presence but gentle by nature the Clydesdale will be the best mate you will ever have!

In this high-tech, fast-paced era we live in, sharing your life with a Clydesdale or two is one of life's pure pleasures. Whether you drive, ride or show a Clydesdale, or simply just have a Clydesdale in your paddock to adore, the Clydesdale will take you back to grassroots and allow you to meet others with similar passions. Enjoying the Clydesdale's inquisitive and affectionate nature will help release you from the stresses and ease the pressures of the modern lifestyle. For the increasing numbers of families deserting the city environment for a quality rural lifestyle on a small acreage, a Clydesdale is a viable addition to the family.

With the echo of those large hooves on the ground, and silky white hair flowing from their long athletic limbs, Clydesdales are unique in the horse world. They have captured man's attention and have fuelled his imagination for centuries. Noble in stature and spirited by nature they are constantly admired whether you love horses or not. Right from the day the awkward, gangly, but beautiful Clydesdale foal arrives in this world; his or her instinct is to befriend their human companion. It is then up to us humans to harmoniously develop a lifelong bond and trust.

The power of the Clydesdale is in the pleasure it gives.



THE BREED THAT BUILT AUSTRALIA



The Clydesdale is a breed developed and refined by man over many centuries. As a pure breed its origins can be traced back to the Lanarkshire region of Scotland in the early 1700's. In those Celtic lands an agile heavy horse was developed to handle all types of terrain and conditions. The Scots selectively bred horses to enhance strength, soundness and temperament as the breed progressed. The Clydesdale was extremely adaptable and found itself developing satellite colonies in Ireland, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The gold rush era of the 1850's brought many Scottish migrants to Australia in search of their fortune. Sadly, most of them were disappointed and did not fulfil their dreams, but they made a life for themselves developing the agriculture and farmlands of this foreign and at times extreme environment. They introduced their proven native Clydesdale to Australia and the horse adapted instantly. The horse worked the cereal crops of the Wimmera, the Mallee, the Riverina, the Darling Downs and similar areas all over Australia. The silky hair trailing from the body and legs (known as "feather") that once drained away the moisture in the wet Scottish environment now drained the sweat away in our hot and humid climate, preventing many fungal infections and skin diseases. Their active and spirited gait at the walk coupled with their willingness to work made them invaluable in covering our large acreages and vast distances between towns. Their kind temperament endeared them to those who worked with them. As a lorry horse, whether in the country or the city they had no peer. One famous Australian brewery with origins back in 1864 used Clydesdales back then and has never been without them since.

Over the years Australian Clydesdale breeders have imported some of the best bloodlines available from Scotland. Because Australia was much slower to embrace the mechanical revolution which followed the two world wars, they were able to benefit from access to some of Britain's premium stock. Even now, recently imported, quality Scottish stallions are adding size and substance to our stock, enabling Australia to remain recognised as a producer of quality Clydesdales.

In the same way man and the Clydesdale have shared modern history together, they may rely on each other again one day for their destiny. In this rapidly changing world, global warming and climate change will increasingly affect our lifestyles and shape our future. The environmentally friendly Clydesdale may again be just the answer in the uncertain times future generations will face. The majestic Clydesdale will again be there for man to enjoy their companionship, to be an honest work-mate or to help maintain a better quality of life.

