

The Breed of Choice: Welsh Pony and Cob

The Welsh breed is the ideal equine for the performance rider or family. With an outstanding disposition and good mind, these animals can be trained in any discipline, are hardy, and are long-lived members of their families. Whether you are looking for an excellent children's pony, a talented pony hunter, a reliable western mount, a driving cob, or an affectionate member of your family, this breed can fulfill your needs.

The Welsh breed is native to Wales in the British Isles and evolved as wild ponies in the hills over many centuries. The environment in Wales helped create a very beautiful but hardy pony adapted to extreme conditions. All of the Welsh ponies and cobs in the United States are imported or bred from imported stock.

In California, we have some of the premier imported and homebred Welsh ponies and cobs in the country. Nineteen of these animals have earned their Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America's Legion of Merit or lifetime achievement equivalent award.

The Welsh breed is composed of four distinct types of ponies and cobs:

Section A The Welsh Mountain Pony



photo by Liza

Small in stature, not exceeding 12.2 hands, the Welsh Mountain Pony of modern times has retained its original hardiness and is the prettiest of the pony breeds. It is a favorite mount and driving pony for both children and adults, and is strong enough to carry riders of all ages. These ponies have a pretty head, with large, expressive eyes, small ears, and a taper to a small muzzle. They should have a refined (not coarse) appearance with excellent substance and good bone. The trot is the hallmark of this pony, and it should move freely from the shoulder with great extension.

Section B The Welsh Pony



photo by Sheri Scott

Not exceeding 14.2 hands, with no lower height limit, the Welsh Pony inherits many of the characteristics of its smaller counterpart, which is the foundation of his breeding. This is an outstanding riding and driving pony with quality and substance, and an extremely versatile child's pony. He is equally at home on the trail, in Pony Club, in the show ring, doing hunter trials, or show jumping. The Welsh Pony is equally successful in English and Western pleasure classes, and is an excellent driving pony. As a foundation to breed larger riding ponies from, including the Half-Welsh, he is unsurpassed, with his legacy of true "pony quality" and lovely temperament.

Section C Welsh Pony of Cob Type



photo by Keith Facchino

This Cob-type pony may not exceed 13.2 hands. The Welsh Pony of the Cob type is characterized as being strong, hardy and active, with pony character and as much substance as possible. He has bold eyes, a muscular chest, strong laid back shoulders, a moderate quantity of silky feather, dense hooves, lengthy hindquarters, and powerful hocks. His jumping and pulling abilities are pronounced, as is his speed. He makes for a marvelous, strong pony for both children and adults for all purposes, and his great disposition makes him the ideal family member.

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Section D Welsh Cob



photo by Kim Qualls

The Welsh Cob exceeds 13.2 hands with no upper height limit. A strong and powerful animal, he has been described as being fleet of foot, a good jumper, and able to carry substantial weight on his back. He is extremely intelligent and kind, and constantly alert, traits that make him easy to train. His movement is free and forceful, with knees bent and the whole foreleg extended from the shoulders as far as possible, with the hocks well flexed, producing powerful leverage. He is an ideal equine for dressage, English pleasure, hunting, or trail riding, and an outstanding driving animal. With his many talents, he is a popular choice for equestrian sports with multiple disciplines, like eventing and combined driving.

Half-Welsh



photo by Mobile Digital Pics

Welsh bloodlines are eagerly sought for performance ponies, be it crossing with thoroughbreds, Arabians, warmbloods, quarter horses, or other breeds. The Welsh genes bring intelligence, stamina, bone, free movement, courage, heart and beauty to their offspring. Many of the outstanding hunter and sport ponies in the country are one-quarter to even full Welsh. Our national organization (WPCSA) currently only recognizes half-Welsh for registration, but in the United Kingdom, part-bred Welsh of at least 12.5% Welsh blood may be registered. Half-Welsh are legendary in their accomplishments in the pony hunter world and as foundation breeding stock for sport ponies.

**WELSH PONY AND COB
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA,
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