

# CLASSIC AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY

## Standards and Halter Division Rules

### 2.1 General Description

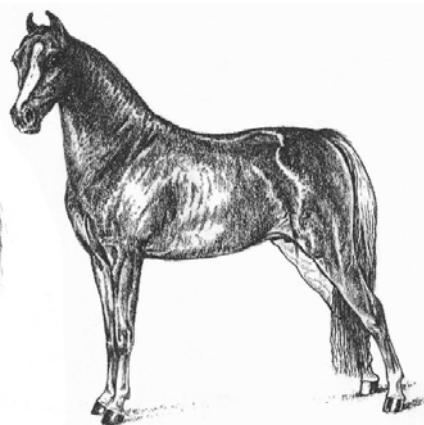
The Classic American Shetland has a well-proportioned body that maintains the strong Shetland constitution; a pony with substance in the chest, body and hindquarters. The short head is clean cut, with a fine muzzle, large nostrils, brilliant eyes, wide forehead and sharp, small well-set ears. The Classic American Shetland possesses fineness of throatlatch, length of neck in proportion to the body and a sloping shoulder. The legs are set properly under the body on the four corners, forearm well muscled, knee and cannon bone broad and well defined, with an ideally shaped pastern with proper size and angle of pastern and foot. The top line of the Classic American Shetland is straight, back short, loin short and well muscled. The tail is set high on the croup. The body has plenty of depth, well-rounded buttocks, and well-muscled gaskins. The ribs should be well sprung; pony should have a round barrel. The knees and hocks are well supported from below by strong short cannons, joints and hooves. The mane, foretop and tail are full. The coat is fine and silky. The Classic American Shetland has a natural, straight and springy way of going. Extremes in length of neck, body, legs and action are undesirable.

### 2.2 Standard of Perfection

There is broad diversity of types within the Classic Shetland Pony breed and type varies to a degree from one geographic region to another. The correct Classic American Shetland type should be based on Form Follows Function. The more correct type will be dictated by the discipline in which it is engaged or exhibited, such as halter classes, light harness, heavy harness, hunter/jumper, competitive driving or as a child's mount or pet.



*Classic Stallion*



*Classic Mare*

**GENERAL**

- CHARACTER.....** hardy, spirited and pony-like.
- HEAD.....** small, short and clean cut, well set on the neck and tapering from wide set eyes to the muzzle.
- EARS.....** small, alert and expressive, set well up on head and delicately curving to tip.
- POLL .....** horizontal just behind ears.
- FORETOP.....** long and full.
- EYES .....** expressive, large, bold, and luminous, placed well down from base of head, wide apart and prominent on side of head. Placement of eyes should give the head a diamond shape from the front view.
- FOREHEAD.....** wide, smooth and full.
- FACE .....** slightly concave (dished) preferred, but a straight profile is permissible. Any indication of a convex (Roman) profile shall be severely faulted.
- NOSE.....** Narrow but flat, blends into muzzle with gentle curve. A Roman nose shall be severely faulted.
- NOSTRILS .....** prominent and open on a small and refined muzzle.
- MUZZLE.....** small and refined, large nostrils and firm lips.
- CHIN.....** should continue line from upper lip, should not be meaty or flabby.



*Classic Mare*



*Classic Stallion*

- MANDIBLE..... smooth bottom line in mature animals and wide between the two mandibles.
- JAW..... not as pronounced and massive as on some breeds. Should show some bulge, particularly on stallions to denote masculinity.
- THROAT..... fine and pronounced. The insertion of the neck into the head should be horizontal to give a fine rounded throatlatch and an arched neck with the head carried high.
- NECK..... must be proportionate to the body with extreme length of neck to be avoided. The neck should be well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, without excessive crest; but inclined to be slightly crested in the case of mature stallions. A broken crest shall be faulted.
- ANGLE OF  
NECK ..... The angle of the neck coming out of the shoulder should be from 45° to 60°. The ideal angle of neck on the halter pony should not exceed 60°.
- POINT OF  
SHOULDER..... pronounced, setting well forward at approximately 45° angle from the withers.
- WITHERS..... clearly defined and narrow, but not pronounced. Should give pleasing blend to back and neck.
- BREAST ..... broad and deep, but not too wide and flat between the front legs.

- ARM..... muscular, but not too bulgy and massive; set forward on shoulder.
- FOREARM..... long, smooth muscles, but pronounced.
- CANNON BONE... short, wide, flat, dense, tendons standing out.
- KNEE..... smooth, well blended and in straight line with forearm and cannon bone.
- FETLOCK JOINT.. clean and hard; no puffiness, no cocked-over appearance.
- PASTERNS..... long and springy, but not at the expense of strength.
- HOOVES ..... hard and dense, wider at the base than at the coronary band, heels open and the same angle as that of the pastern.
- FOOT..... should toe straight, not turned in or out.
- TENDONS..... broad and clearly defined: when felt between the fingers should be hard and taut; should not be overly cut-in below the knee and the hock.
- PISIFORM..... clear-cut and clean; one of the signs of quality joints.
- ELBOW..... close to barrel.
- RIBS ..... to have feed capacity, endurance and good looks a pony must be well ribbed. There must be a combination of breed character or quality and the good spring of ribs for which the Shetland has been noted for centuries. The ribs should be extended back as close as possible to the point of the hip. In other words the pony should have a rounded barrel.
- GIRTH ..... when viewed from the side the pony should be deep in the heart girth.
- COUPLING..... the back and the loin areas are short; the hip or croup is long and level; then the pony is said to be short-coupled, which is desirable. These last three points -rib spring, girth and coupling should be closely watched, for to lose them would be to lose the hardiness for which the Shetland is justly famous. At a glance from side, the belly line is longer than the

backline. This indicates several things: the heart girth is deep, the ribs well sprung, the coupling short and the foreleg set well forward which it must be to have the angle of shoulder necessary for good “shoulder action.”

- FLANK ..... should not be “cut-up.”
- STIFLE..... round, full and strong.
- HOCK JOINT..... When a pony stands with the hind legs squarely under him, a plumb bob should fall from the point of the buttock straight down the back of the hind leg from the hock to the ankle. From a posterior view, the point of the hock should be the same distance apart as the fetlocks. The joint itself should be large, but neat and clean, with the bones defined, else the hock will look “meaty”. A pony that is cow hocked or sickle hocked shall be faulted.
- GASKIN..... well rounded, wide and muscular.
- THIGH ..... the distance from the stifle to the buttock should be deep and full.
- POINT OF BUTTOCK..... gracefully and symmetrically rounded; viewed from the rear should be wide.
- TAIL..... should spring from the line of the back, not hung down below as though an after-thought. Tail should be long and full.
- DOCK ..... The portion of the tail arising from the back, should come out boldly.
- CROUP ..... There should be a pleasing, gentle curve, but comparatively speaking, it is a horizontal croup. Viewed from behind, the croup should be oval, not broad and flat, and not come to a point.
- POINT OF HIP. .... should be laid in smoothly to give a pleasing appearance. The angle of the line from the points of the buttocks should be low and the distance great.
- LOINS..... full, broad and strong; should blend smoothly.

- BACK**..... short and wide, not flat, but in proportion to the neck of the pony.
- ACTION**..... Free, true and forcibly straightforward. The walk should be a relaxed flat-footed walk, a four beat straight movement. The trot should be easy going, square with elasticity and freedom of movement that is open and reaching, capable of covering ground when asked to do so. Stiff legged extension (pea shooting) or lack of freedom of movement to be faulted. Up and down motion (piston-like) without extension shall be faulted.
- SOUNDNESS**..... As a minimum requirement, all Shetlands must be serviceably sound for show purposes. Any pony showing evidence of lameness, deformity in feet, or broken wind. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the deltiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the horse's papers.
- COLOR**..... Shetlands may be of any color, either solid or mixed, except appaloosa. No particular color is preferred; no discrimination shall be made because of the color of eyes, such as glass, watch, hazel or blue. Recognized Shetland colors are as follows: Albino, Bay, Black, Brown, Buckskin, Chestnut, Cremello, Dun, Grey, Grullo, Palomino, Perlino, Pinto (Tobiano, Overo, Tovero, Sabino) Roan (Bay, Red, Blue), Silver Dapple, Sorrel, White.

### 2.3 Classic Shetland Movement

- A. The Classic American Shetland is a pony that possesses style and substance. It is more refined than the original imported Shetland.

- B. Some Classic ponies that are eligible by registration to enter Classic Shetland competition, but may be too extreme, making them off type. If the entry looks so extreme as to look as if it should be exhibited in a Modern Shetland Open or Pleasure class, then it is too extreme. These off type ponies are not to be placed ahead of ponies of correct type set forth by Standard of Perfection.
- C. The Classic American Shetland has a natural, straight, and springy way of going. Extremes in length of neck, body, legs, and action are undesirable.
- D. Motion more extreme than the above example is not desirable.
- F. A pony is considered “over”, regardless of age in the following examples:
  1. A yearling Shetland that measures 41” is over and if qualified, would show in the over championships. Although his actual height is 41” he is not eligible for the Grand Championship Under. The assumption is that a 41” yearling will mature over 42” and is to be considered an Over pony throughout.
  2. A two year old measuring 41.5” is an Over pony and would not be eligible for Classic Pleasure Driving or Classic Roadster class even though the height is listed 42” and Under. It would be unusual for a two year old to show in performance classes, but if the pony in this example did compete, the pony would have to be shown in the Over class.

## 2.4 Height for Classic Shetlands

- A. To be eligible for registration, the maximum height at the withers shall not exceed 46”. There are two major showing height divisions for Classic Shetlands. There are graduated divisions within the two height divisions for Classic ponies less than three (3) years of age.
- B. Over Division of Classic Shetlands
  - 3 years old and older – Over 42” not to exceed 46”
  - 2 years old – Over 41” not to exceed 44.5”
  - 1 year old – Over 40” not to exceed 43”

- C. Under Division of Classic Shetlands
  - 3 years old and older – 42” and under
  - 2 years old – 41” and under
  - 1 year old – 40” and under
- D. Foals of Current Year – 40” and under.
  - 1. Foals of current year shall exhibit in classes divided by sex, but not into Over and Under. In the event that Over and Under Halter Division is offered, all foals of current year shall compete in the Under Division.
- E. Classic maximum heel barefoot or shod including the plate should not exceed 1¾ inches. For assistance determining heel measurement see the Section IX – Measurements 1.10 – Heel Measurement.

## 2.5 Heights For Foundation Shetlands

- A. Height not to exceed 42 inches for exhibition purposes only.
  - 3 Years and Older – 42” and Under
  - 2 Years Old – 41” and Under
  - 1 Year Old – 40” and Under
  - Foal of current year – 38” and Under
- B. Heel height to be the same as for Classic Shetlands.

## 2.6 General Show Rules

- A. The Classic Shetland Pony is to be shown to its best advantage. It is preferred that the pony stand square. The judge at his or her discretion may ask to have the pony stand square, which means all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone perpendicular to the ground.
- B. Halter Show Ring Procedure:
  - 1. Ponies will enter the ring at a walk and line up as indicated by the ringmaster.
  - 2. Entries will be examined by the judge in the line up.
  - 3. Each entry will be worked individually on a line at a walk and trot for the judge. Conditions permitting, ponies are to be worked parallel to the rail, fence or wall.



4. Ponies will return to the line up for final inspection by the judge.

C. Cross-entering:

1. No cross entering will be allowed between Classic and Modern classes at the same show.
  2. No cross-entering will be allowed between Classic and Foundation classes with the exception of youth halter, color, group halter, and Classic performance classes – unless an equivalent Foundation Performance class is not offered.
  3. At Area National Shows double registered ASPC/AMHR Shetlands may enter ASPC Futurity Class (non-rated) if showing at the Area Show as an AMHR horse (rated classes).
- D. Absolute correctness of movement and soundness will be noted by the judge. All ponies must be examined in the line up and observed at a walk and trot. The exception being the Model and group classes which are not worked on a line.
- E. Cleanliness and a neatly trimmed and groomed pony are priorities of the show ring. Ponies may be clipped or shown in a full coat. No balding or razoring of the muzzle up past the nostrils will be allowed. If found to be razored, a penalty will be assessed.
- F. Classics shall show with full manes and tails. No roached manes. Thinning, pulling, shortening, etc. of the mane and tail is permissible. The mane and tail length shall be left to the discretion of the exhibitor. Docked tails are permissible only on draft pony entries.
- G. Changing the coat color of a pony is not permitted but highlighting the mane and tail, eyes, ears, muzzle, etc. is permissible.
- H. No ginger, nicked tails, false tails or set-up tails allowed. Ginger, false tails or switches and set-up tails will result in disqualification.
- I. Classics may be shown barefoot or with a light plate of uniform thickness and weight. No pads are permitted.

No built up feet or heel measurements exceeding 1¾", allowed. No weighted shoes or shoes having toe or side clips, grabs, caulks, or trailers. The plate shall be of equal length in the branches from the toe back and shall not extend past the bulb of the heel. No corrective shoeing will be permitted.

- J. No tack is permitted in halter classes other than the following: Show halter or show bridle (hunter type) with snaffle bit without shanks. Stallions may be shown with a stallion bit. Bits are permitted only on animal two years old and older.
- K. Dress for the youth and adult exhibitor should be appropriate for purpose. The Rider/Driver/Exhibitor to be dressed safe, neat and clean. Closed toe/heel foot attire is required (boots or athletic shoes). No T-shirts, shorts, skirts above the knee, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes allowed.
- L. No stable, farm, individual name, animal name or business promotional apparel may be displayed on exhibitors. Exception: Draft Harness driving classes.
- M. One attendant, in addition to the handler, shall be permitted for each entry if needed in a halter class.
- N. Handler or attendant may use one whip no longer than four feet, including lash and handle.
- O. No item disturbing to other entries may be used inside or outside the ring while showing a pony. Conduct designed to distract a pony or otherwise interfere with the showing of another exhibitor's animal will not be tolerated by the show management. Offenders will be asked to leave the show area. If the offender is also an exhibitor, he or she will be excused from the ring and barred from personally showing during that show. His or her pony, however, may compete with a different exhibitor. The offense shall be reported to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office by the Show Steward for review by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Board.
- P. For safety reasons an unruly pony may be excused from the ring by the judge, ring master, or Steward. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.

- Q. In the Classic Division, No shackles, shackles with anything attached, chains, rubber bands, weighted boots, weighted bell boots, bell boots with chains or any mechanical device that enhances a pony's movement is not permissible at any show, including a fair show, that is sanctioned by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR registry while pony is on the grounds of said show.

## 2.7 Classic Halter Division

- A. The Classic Shetland halter entry should be a classy pony that is bright and alert with a smart way of going. The pony/entry should possess all of the attributes of quality set forth in the Standard of Perfection, with as few faults as possible and free of any disqualifying characteristics. The Classic Shetland Pony shall be judged in such a manner as to divide the class by type first and then judged on merit of quality. Judges should realize there might be Classic ponies that are eligible by registration to enter Classic Shetland competition, but are too extreme, making them off type. If the entry looks like a Hackney pony or as if it is so extreme as to look as if it should be exhibited in a Modern Shetland Open or Pleasure class then it is too extreme. These off type ponies are not to be placed ahead of ponies of correct type set forth by Standard of Perfection. In the event a Judge in his/her opinion does not have an entry presented in the class with correct type or worthy of first place, the judge can refrain from presenting first place and start the class placing with second place.
- B. All eligible first and second place class winners (Model, amateur and group winners excluded) must compete in their respective championship classes, unless excused by show management. The Championship Class is judged as a new class, and the ponies must be worked unless only one pony is competing, then at the judge's discretion, it may be judged concurrently with that class. The second place pony shall not be discriminated against in judging because of its earlier standing and therefore should not be lined up behind the first place pony.

- C. A pony being shown in an Amateur Owned and Shown Class need not have been shown throughout the entire show by the amateur owner.
- D. Stallions, three (3) years old and older, to qualify in breeding classes, must have all the fully developed physical characteristics of a stallion.
- E. In the event that Over and Under Halter Division is offered, all foals of current year shall compete in the Under Division.
- F. Youth are not allowed to show a stallion in any Youth Halter or Youth Showmanship class. Exception: Youth may show a stallion foal of current year.
- G. Halter Divisions - Each halter division (Stallion, Mare & Gelding) to be judged separately unless otherwise specified. The divisions are as follow:
  - 1. **Model:** The Model Class, if offered, must be the first halter class held in the respective stallion, mare and gelding halter division. Entries must be two (2) years old or older. To be judged 100% on conformation. Designed to set a “pattern” or “standard” for the entries to follow in all other classes of the show. Model ponies will not be asked to work on a line.
  - 2. **Aged 5 years old and older:** To be judged 60% on conformation and breed type, and 40% on performance, quality and manners. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.
  - 3. **Aged 3 & 4 Year Olds:** To be judged 60% on conformation and breed type, and 40% on performance, quality and manners. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.
  - 4. **Broodmare:** Broodmares to be judged 60% on conformation and breed type and 40% on performance, quality and manners. Entries must be three years or older, and wet (nursing a foal), and are eligible for Senior Champion Mare, but cannot cross enter in to the Aged Mare class. Broodmares may be shown in

- their respective age class instead of the Broodmare class, but cannot be shown in both classes at the same show.
5. **2 Year Old:** To be judged 60% on conformation and breed type, and 40% on performance, quality and manners. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.
  6. **Yearling & Foal of Current Year:** Each to be judged 75% on conformation and breed type, and 25% on performance, quality and manners. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.
  7. **Senior Champion and Reserve:** To be the first and second place winners from Aged 5 years old and older & Aged 3 & 4 Year Olds & Broodmares. Judged as a new class and therefore, should not be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes.
  8. **Junior Champion and Reserve:** To be the first and second place winners from 2 Year Old, Yearling and Foal of Current Year. Judged as a new class and therefore, should not be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes.
  9. **Grand Champion:** The Senior and Junior Champion and Reserve winners (foals are eligible if they are Junior Champion or Reserve). Judged as a new class and therefore, should not be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes.
  10. **Multi Color:** Any age, any sex of any pinto color pattern, Tobiano, Overo, Tovero or Sabino. Judged 100% on color. Open to Classic and Foundation.
  11. **Solid Color:** Any age, any sex of solid color recognized by ASPC other than Pinto. Judged 100% on color. Open to Classic and Foundation.
  12. **Youth Halter:** Classic mare or gelding, any age, shown by a Youth. To be judged 60% on breed character and conformation and 40% on performance, quality and manners. The exhibitor is to have complete control of the pony throughout the class. Open to Classic and Foundation.

13. **Any Age, Bred, Owned and Shown by Exhibitor:** Judged on basis of age group. Breeder is defined as owning dam at time of service. An owner is a person holding title or members of his/her family. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.
14. **Any Age, Amateur Owned and Shown:** Judged on basis of age group. Pony need not have been shown throughout the entire show by the amateur owner. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot. Refer to Section III – Part 3 – 3.9 for Amateur Owned and Shown specifications.

### Group Halter Classes

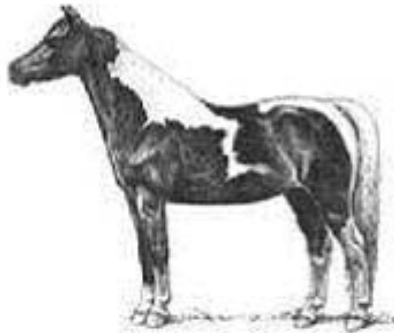
15. **Mare and Foal:** Mare and her current year foal. Judged 50% on Mare's and 50% on foal's conformation. Will not be asked to work on a line. Open to Classic and Foundation.
16. **Get of Sire:** Three Classic Shetlands; stallions, mares and/or geldings, any age, the get of the same sire. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. Combined ownership permitted. Entry is made in the name of the sire. Will not be asked to work on a line. Open to Classic and Foundation.
17. **Produce of Dam:** Two Classic Shetlands; stallions, mares and/or gelding, any age, the produce of the same dam. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. Combined ownership permitted. Entry is made in the name of the dam. Will not be asked to work on a line. Open to Classic and Foundation.
18. **Herd of 4:** One Classic stallion and three Classic mares, any age. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. One owner, and entry is made in the name of the owner. Will not be asked to work on a line. Open to Classic and Foundation.
19. **Herd of 6:** Six (6) Classic Shetlands, any age, any sex. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. One owner, and entry is made in the name of the owner. Will not be asked to work on a line. Open to Classic and Foundation.

## 2.8 Foundation Halter Classes

The Foundation class entry is an animal on which the foundation of the breed has been founded. The entry should be more conservative in type than an entry in Open Classic classes and should exhibit slightly more bone and substance. The Foundation entry will be required to provide show management with proof of pedigree verification from ASPC (Registration certificate must include Foundation certification). To be judged 60% on conformation and breed type, and 40% on performance, quality and manners. Will be asked to work on a line at a walk and trot.



*Foundation Stallion*



*Foundation Mare*

No cross entering into Open Classic Halter Classes with the exception of Classic performance, youth, color, and group halter classes; if no Foundation Classes are offered. The Foundation should be shown in as natural a state as possible, but clean and neatly turned out. Shoes are optional. The maximum heel shall not exceed 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

In the Foundation Division - No shackles, shackles with anything attached, chains, rubber bands, weighted boots, weighted bell boots, bell boots with chains or any mechanical device that enhances a pony's movement is not permissible at any show, including a fair show, that is sanctioned by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR registry while pony is on the grounds of said show.

Foundation graduated classes are required at all National Area Shows and the ASPC/ASPR Congress, but are optional at all other ASPC sanctioned shows.