

BREEDING POLICY OF THE CAPE BOERPERD

It is not the intended policy of the Cape Boerperd Breeders Association to take over or prejudice the identity of any other breed of horse, but rather to establish one of its own. As has already been spelled out in the Conformation Standards of the Cape Boerperd, a fundamental difference does exist in the conformation of the Cape Boerperd and any other breed.

The idea to develop this breed originated in 1948 among a group of enthusiasts who were all lovers of horses and who realised that the horse was fast disappearing in our mechanical age – especially with the advent of the bakkie.

These people realised how popular and sought after the Cape horse was throughout the world. These horses had been exported to Australia and were the first ever to land there. They were also exported for mounted duty in large numbers to India where they were regarded as some of the world's best. Roughly 85% of the horses that participated were Cape horses.

The Cape horse was famous for its hardiness, endurance and its capacity to work hard on minimum feed, yet still maintain condition. Furthermore, these horses were comfortable to ride and could carry a heavy rider over difficult terrain to long hours on end.

It was all these outstanding characteristics that made this group of people want to raise a breed that would display all the good characteristics of the Cape horse and they wished to refine and improve it without sacrificing any of its attributes. The appearance and conformation of the Cape horse made it ideally suitable to meet the harsh and extreme conditions of South Africa. It had to be a horse that could easily perform hard farm work for its rider, yet be a horse for pleasure considering its easy-going temperament. Furthermore, it needed to show off well in the show ring.

In the past the characteristics of the saddle-horse have been heeded as well as those of the dual-purpose breed, but in the future more attention will be paid to its good characteristics as a saddle-horse. Taking all the above-mentioned points into consideration, the following course was adopted:

Breeding animals with the required conformation and type will be selected from the already small stock of remaining Cape horses which have been so popular and sought after the world over.

Seeing the number of old Cape horses were depleted as a result of horse-distemper, export and wars (Anglo-Boer War), an essential problem was the acquisition of suitable male stock for breeding purposes. Stallions of other breeds which conformed to the required characteristics of the envisaged breed and could in any way improve the breed e.g. The Arabian and the American Saddle, will be used. Their progeny could then be used for the improvement of the breed.

Caution is essential when using stallions of other breeds in that good attributes of the Cape horse should not be lost. These stallions of other breeds will be used until their progeny exhibits all the requirements and standards of the new breed from which point it would not be necessary to use any blood from outside.

No branding or tattoo will be tolerated: animals will only be known by name or colour. Colour marks should be indicated at the time of the birth notice and will be carefully considered at senior competition level.

All horses will first be judged and those accepted will be placed in foundation. Foals born to foundation parents will then go to Fx, but can, after inspection, be placed back in foundation, or else be completely rejected. Foals born to Fx parents proceed to Fy, but can, after inspection, be placed

back into Fx, or foundation, or can be totally rejected. Foals of Fy parentage pass to Fx but can, after inspection, be degraded to any lower stage, or can be culled. This will enable only outstanding animals to survive.

Notice of birth of the above-mentioned horses should be despatched to the Cape Boerperd Breeders office within 60 days for acceptance, while mares will be inspected for acceptance or declassification at the age of two years and stallions at three.

The name Boerperd was at a stage changed to National Saddle Horse but was changed back to the original nomenclature after a few years.

The record books of the Boerperd were closed in 1964 and after this no foreign animal was taken up for registration. Only foals born to pre-recorded parents and those who answered to the breeding standards laid down, were accepted. Later the books were again opened for about a year but were closed again in 1970 up to 1981 when the Pedigree Association were prepared to accept the affiliation. After this horses with sufficient farm records, possessing the required characteristics and which had passed inspection, were accepted as F1.

Since 1981 stallions of other breeds have been eligible for recording in the stud book. All the progeny of these breeds, as well as those of the stallions which have been recorded in the stud book, must be supplied to the offices of the Cape boerperd Breeders Society within 90 days of birth. As mentioned before, such animals are only in the foal book and will be approved at a later stage.

In 1993 it was judged that the Cape Boerperd was losing its identity. It was then decided that members may nominate stallions of other breeds which could promote the Boerperd. Such stallions would then be selected by an Inspector. In 1994 only 8 stallions were considered worthy of improving the breed. Subsequently only the progeny of these selected stallions and those already recorded as Cape Boerperd will be taken up in the foal book and later, after careful selection, be recorded as F1.

What the breeding policy of the future will comprise, will greatly depend on the advice and recommendation of the SA Pedigree Association of the Department. It must be remembered that the Cape Boerperd is still a developing breed.

The following slight changes will be introduced:

1. The hoses, as recorded in the files of the Cape Boerperd Breeders Society, will be taken up by the SA Pedigree Association. These horses will be placed in various categories according to their breeding record as obtained from the offices of the Cape Boerperd Breeders Society.
2. Upgrading will be done as in the past, except that the symbols Fx,y,z, will in future be replaced by foundation F1, F2,F3 etc.
3. Progression will also remain the same: foals of foundation parents will progress to F1, foals of F1 parents to F2 etc. In the above mentioned cases, and even higher up, this will only take place after inspection. A horse can thus be degraded to a lower grade or even to foundation, or totally rejected, but no horse will be passed anywhere without inspection. This implies that the grading system of the SA Pedigree Association will apply.
4. Mares which do not appear on the books will be inspected when applied for. When such a mare measures up to all the standards of the breed as well as complies with all the necessary farm records, she will be recorded as foundation.
5. Male animals cannot be accepted the way females are in the above mentioned rules because such a stallion's offspring (even though the mare is F1) will never be able to

progress higher than foundation 1.

6. Because male animals are not acceptable – as in point 5 – stallions of other races can not be made use of either.

7. To prevent any doubt arising between the authenticity of this breed and any other, great care should be taken that the Cape Boerperd does not lose its identity.

BREEDING STANDARDS AND CONFORMATION OT THE BOERPERD

The horse should be of average size (14-16 hands), strong, yet not clumsy. There should be plenty of quality, especially in the legs.

A – BREEDING AIMS

1. The Boerperd is used for hard, demanding farm work. Thus it must be a hardy animal with plenty of stamina, be agile with firm tread.

2. It must be comfortable to ride, with enough speed at various gaits to make it a pleasure horse for all who ride it. It should not tire the rider.

3. It must possess enough style and action to compete favourably in the show ring against and Breeding and Saddle class.

B – CONFORMATION

HEAD: Straight profile, dry and well-defined. Wide jaw. Fleshiness (pulpiness) is a disqualification. Forehead must be broad, full and with eyes wide apart. Bent profile (roman nose) or concavity is a disqualification.

MOUTH: Refined with thin lips, cutting back reasonably far with the stamp of quality.

Nostrils must be large with teeth that fit well on top of one another. Strong or long lower jaw is a disqualification.

EYES: Large, bright, clear and soft with a lively and intelligent look.

EARS: Moderate to large. Well formed, pointed, fine with an attractive posture. Not too far apart.

NECK: In the case of a stallion, muscular, with a prominent mane. Large gullet, under neck fine with no fleshiness. Neck moderate to long. Deep where it enters the body. Neck must adjoin the body high up, but not exceedingly so.

HAUNCHES: Long and well attached at an angle of 45 degrees measured from the vertical. Muscular with no trace of loose shoulders.

DORSAL VERTEBRAE: Fine, high, well covered, yet not prominent.

UPPER ARM: Short, jutting out at a good angle. Upright upper arm facilitates leg injuries and the horse rides uncomfortably. Against this we should discriminate.

FORE-ARM: Muscular, long and broad.

KNEE: Not fleshy, broad, straight, deep. Must have strong support with prominent and hard muscle attachment.

LONG BONE: Short, broad with prominent tendons that protrude at the back and are well defined.

KNUCKLE-JOINT: Broad, straight and not fleshy.

FETLOCK: Strong and forming an angle of 45 degrees with the ground. A short and upright fetlock is a disqualification.

HOOF: Medium, rather large than small, wall of hoof compact and of good texture, radius large and resilient, veins strong, sole concave with a wide heel.

CHEST: Broad and muscular, with an inverted V-shape between forelegs, which ideally should have a wide girth.

RIBS: Good hock, long and close together, enough room for vital organs.

BACK: Straight, short, broad, muscular.

LOINS: Short, broad, strong, muscular connections must be strong and fit in smoothly with

back and haunches without being prominent. A maximum of 10 cm is permissible between the last rib and the point of hip in the case of stallions and 12,5 cm in the case of mares, within the required height of 14 – 16 hands.

ABDOMEN LINE: Moderate to long. Central part (mesosoma) as a whole should be deep and create the impression that the animal is short in the leg. The flanks should be full.

Discriminate against lankiness.

BLOOM: Smooth and sleek.

RUMP: : Long and broad and muscular, yet not straight forming a distinct curve from the point of hip to caudal implantation also from the of the one hip to the point of the other hip. The haunches should show a muscular curve down to the gaskin.

TAIL: Attached high up, jaunty with long thick yet fine hair.

THIGHS: Long, muscular and broad.

GASKIN: Long, broad, muscular without excessive undercutting where the gaskin meets the haunch.

HOCK: Not fleshy, but broad, straight, clean and hard.

HEIGHT: The desired height is 14.2 to 15.2 hands. Horses shorter than 14 hands and above 16 hands are disqualified.

OTHER FEATURES IN JUDGING THE HORSE

The Boerperd can show much pride, spirit and action providing it conforms to requirements of conformation and type. When a horse's stance is artificial so that its conformation and general appearance is misleading, it is advisable that such an animal be allowed to move to ascertain whether its conformation is faulty or not.

A proud and spirited bearing of the head is of the essence, it should move with a high roll action and use all four legs. It should move with action, style and grace, ride with comfort and possess a good temperament. It should not be easily excited or easily take a fright.

COLOURS

The following colours are not permissible: Albino, Ash, Piebald, Skewbald.

FAULT TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST

Any form of fleshiness (pulpiness) of head or bottom of neck

Long or weak back

Weak head

Weak neck linkage at head or shoulders

Sloping croup

Fleshy knuckle joints

Lankiness or cut back in the flanks

DISQUALIFICATIONS

When they occur now and then in the Standard of Excellence they should be listed here.