

# Judging Draft Horses

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# What's a Draft?

- Draft horses are known as “cold blooded”
- Bred to pull heavy loads on farms
- Compact bodies with short backs and rounded croups



# Common Breeds

- Belgian
- Clydesdale
- Shire
- Suffolk Punch
- American Cream Draft
- Gypsy/Drum Horse
- Percheron

# Belgian



# Clydesdale



# Shire



# Suffolk Punch



# American Cream Draft





# Gypsy/Drum Horse



# Percheron



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JumoKjtevXo&list=UUmKQkCHYEQU\\_AxoQ3qV1xA&index=24](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JumoKjtevXo&list=UUmKQkCHYEQU_AxoQ3qV1xA&index=24)

# What To Look For

- BIG and MUSCULAR! Remember, these horses were bred to do work on farms, often pulling plows through rocky soil
- Compact bodies: back should be short!
- Legs should be “set” (More on this in a minute)
- Well sloped shoulder with good neck attachment
- Rounded croup
- Deep Heart Girth
- Big feet
- Overall Quality: shiny coat, healthy looking, bright eyes, freely moving without any movement faults

# Short Back

**Short**



**Long**



## A whole bunch of shapes

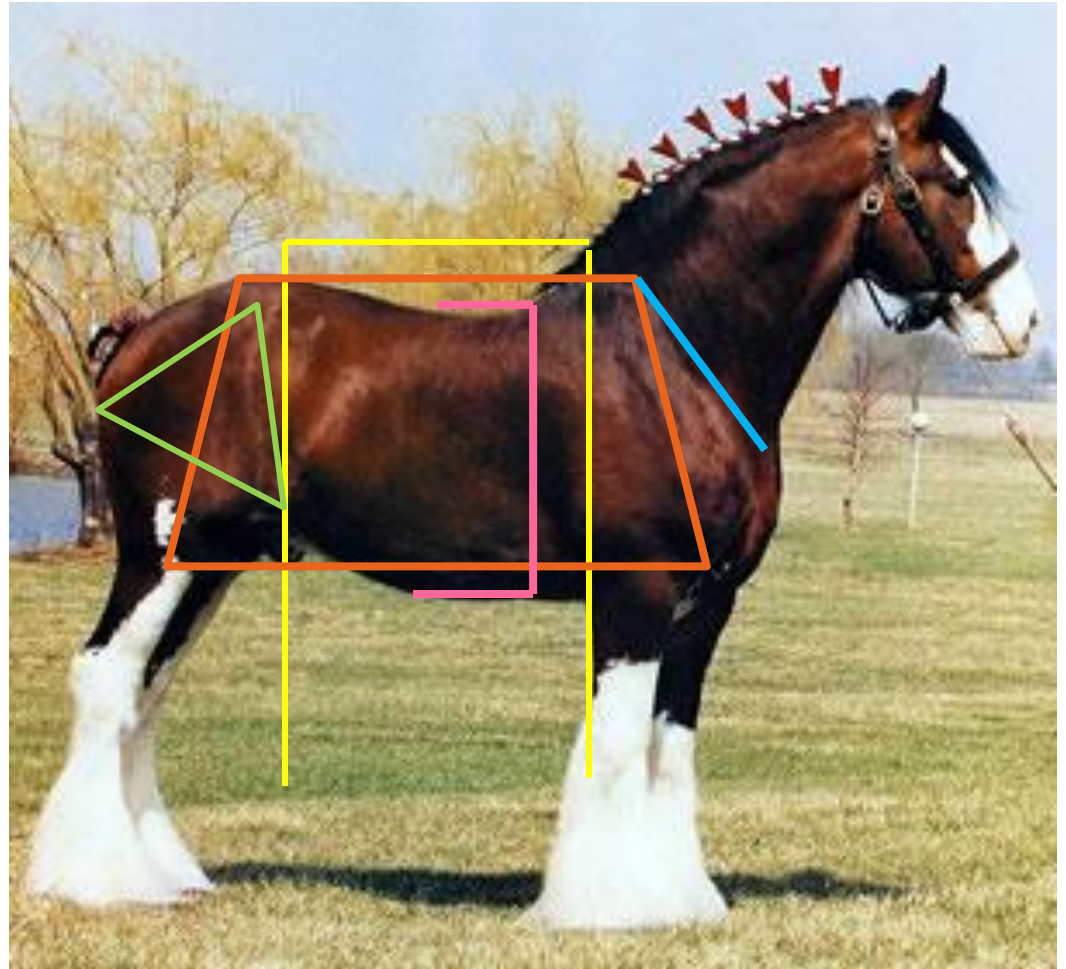
Orange trapezoid: the short back and good angle to the shoulder

Green triangle: shows the proper shape of the hip

Yellow lines: notice how the horse can be broken into 3 almost equal portions

Blue line: this horse has a nice angle in his shoulder. This will let him move more freely

Pink line: notice the deep heart girth. This allows ample room for the lungs and heart, which are essential to allow the horse to work



# Leg Set

- Used to add extra leverage for pulling
- This is NOT the same as cow hocked

# Set Legs vs. Cow Hocked

**Set Legs**



**Cow Hocked**



# Set Can Vary By Breed

**Gypsy**



**Clydesdale**





# Who Would You Want Pulling Your Plow?

**Horse A**



**Horse B**



# Who Would You Rather Have Pulling Your Wagon?

**Horse A**



**Horse B**



# Rail Classes

- Walk, trot/jog, canter/lope
- Will have more action in the knees than stock type horses
- Should look like a pleasurable ride- calm horse who is willingly working and actively listening
- Should have the correct lead at the lope/canter
- Head set may be higher than stock horses

# Percheron Western Pleasure

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFWqAnzgAOM>