

Lusitano breed standard



THE 2-YEAR-OLD MARE HASA DAS LEZÍRIAS GOT THE TITLE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS DURING THE LUSITANO FESTIVAL 2014

The Lusitano is recognized by its rounded head profile, square silhouette and harmonious lines. It is a medium sized horse that is gentle, generous and enthusiastic, with a natural ability to concentrate.

Characteristics for the Lusitano breed

This is how the **Portuguese Lusitano Association (APSL)** describes the characteristics of the Lusitano breed:

Type	Lusitanos weight around 500 kg. They are medium sized horses with a rounded shape and a silhouette that can be fitted into a square.
Height	Average height for females is 1.55m and average height for males is 1.60m (measured at withers at the age of six).
Coat	Lusitanos can be any solid colour, but gray and bay are the most common.
Temperament	The Lusitano is noble, generous and enthusiastic, but always gentle and able to support pressure.

Movements	The movements are lively, elevated forward, smooth and give the rider a feeling of comfort.
Aptitude	The Lusitano has a natural ability for concentration, with a great ability for high school work, and courage and enthusiasm for the gineta exercises (combat, hunting, bullfighting, work with cattle, etc.)
Head	The head is well proportioned, of medium length, narrow and dry. The lower jaw is relatively unpronounced and the cheek is relatively long. The forehead has a rounded profile that goes in outside of the eyebrow bones. The eyes are big and almond shaped, expressive and confident. The ears are of medium length, fine, narrow and expressive.
Neck	The neck is of medium length, arched with a narrow hairline. The junction between head and neck is narrow or fine. The neck is deep in the base and well inserted between the shoulders, rising up from the withers without any convexity.
Withers	The withers is well defined and long, with a smooth transition from the back to the neck. It is always higher than the croup.
Chest	The chest is of medium size, deep and muscular.
Ribcage	The ribcage is well developed, long and deep. The ribs are arched diagonally into the spinal column, providing a short and full flank.
Shoulders	The shoulders are long, slanting and well muscled.

<p>Back</p>	<p>The back is upright with a horizontal leaning, providing a smooth union between the withers and loins.</p>
<p>Loins</p>	<p>The loins are short, wide, muscular and slightly convex. They are well connected with the back and croup, with which they form a continuous and harmonious line.</p>
<p>Croup</p>	<p>The croup is strong and rounded, well proportioned and slightly slanting. It is identical in length and width. The croup has a convex profile that is harmonious with the point of the hip, which is relatively unobtrusive. The tail emerges from the same line as the croup, being of long, silky and strong hair.</p>
<p>Legs</p>	<p>The forelegs are well muscled and harmoniously inclined. The upper arm is straight and muscular. The knee is broad, dry and a slightly long. The shinbones are dry with well defined tendons and the fetlocks are relatively big with small joints and very little hair. The pasterns are relatively long and sloping. The hooves have a good build; they are well defined and proportioned without being too open; the line of the coronet is not very evident. The buttock is short and convex. The thigh is muscular and tends to be short. It is orientated in such a way that the patella is in the same vertical line as the hip bone, or point of the hip. The legs are slightly long from hock, which puts the point of the hock in the same vertical line as the point of the buttock. The hocks are large, strong and dry. The hind legs present a picture of relatively closed angles.</p>