

A Guide to Judging the Warlander Horse



Studbook Society

www.warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au

Introduction

Judging the Warlander horse is in essence considering the same elements of the breed as for any other horse breed. The main concept to remember is that a Warlander is derived from two of the oldest and most strictly regulated 'purebred' horse breeds - the Friesian and the horse of the Iberian Peninsula. The Warlander must not exceed more or less than a 25 / 75% ratio of both base breeds.

The 50 / 50% ratio of base breeds is the 'ideal' and the Warlander horse must be 'racially' correct in the first generation. This percentage can only be replicated again when two 50 / 50% or two 25 / 75% Warlander horses, each carrying a higher percentage of Friesian or Iberian, are bred together.

The worldwide studbook for the Warlander horse is managed by the Warlander Studbook Society, which is a closed book meaning that a horse can only be registered if both parents are registered Warlander, Friesian or Iberian purebreds with their mother studbooks.

The Warlander is bred specifically for 'racial type and temperament' and is a versatile horse suiting a wide variety of pursuits. However, part of the Warlander classification process system used by the studbook includes a performance component as a way to measure quality. The philosophy of the studbook in improving and cementing a racial type for the Warlander horse is 'form will improve function'. As like any studbook, improvement of the breed is the primary goal.

The Breeding Goal

A functional and harmoniously built, usable horse that has the 'best' characteristics of both base breeds to produce a healthy, vital animal that has the aptitude to perform in sport. Temperament, namely a willing and kind nature is of utmost importance.

History

The history of the Warlander horse is believed to trace back to crusades and later the 80 year war (1568 - 1648) when it was very probable that purebred Spanish horses were bred to the native Friesian breed.*

* KFPS - <http://english.kfps.nl/HetFriezePaard/Hetfrieschepaard/Historievanpaard.aspx>

In 1990, a baroque horse breeder / trainer in Australia started a dedicated breeding program, penned a breed standard and named the breed 'Warlander'. Over the next 27 years (2017) a mother studbook was established and strict regulations and standards were adopted for breeding on a global basis. The Warlander horse moved into its third generation and has flourished throughout North and South America, Asia Pacific, Europe, Western Asia and South Africa.

In 2010, local European studbooks recognised the Warlander as a breed, issued Warlander passports and using the international Warlander breed standard judged and classified horses based on the European classification system (keuring).

Characteristics are a beautiful horse with extravagant knee and hock action with an excellent extension and suspension in all gaits. The Warlander horse must be supple and collect itself easily. It is always a solid colour and should have an abundance of mane and tail. Some may show slight feathering at fetlock.

When judging the movement of a Warlander horse it must be noted that the same rules apply for its base breeds and 'flat' movement must not be awarded even if other criteria are met. The movement, which makes up 60% of its classification judging must be flamboyant. The nature of the breed is to be gentle and intelligent with no exceptions.

The Breed standard

Following is the table that is used to describe the points of a Warlander horse in judging and classification. The standard is maintained by the mother studbook - Warlander Studbook Society.

| Component | Sub component | Ideal | Undesirable |
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| Breed type | General | A well boned harmonious, upwardly built 'baroque' type horse that possesses the best attributes of both base breeds suited for riding and driving pursuits including the characteristic front end of the Friesian, a long forearm, not too heavy in the body, an abundance of hair, solid colour, roomy, elevated gaits (knee action), a strong supple back and a natural propensity to collect. Overall, the Warlander horse makes a luxurious and proud impression. The Warlander is a 'horse' breed and must measure no less than 14.3 hands (145.3 cms) as an adult. The horse is must be placed in a square but not exceeding a rectangle with a ratio between front end, middle section, and hind end of 1:1:1. | |
| Exterior | Head | An expressive, noble head that is in perfect proportion to the body. The profile must be straight to slightly sub convex with a deep forehead. The ears are small to medium and pointing slightly forward is desirable. The eyes are placed far apart and should be of triangular shape, alert, yet soft with an air of gentleness and intelligence. Large nostrils with an inverted comma shape. The jaw is light and mouth opening long. Lips are firm and tactile. | Head too long, dull glazed eyes, convex nasal bone, Roman Nose or Arab head. Over or under-bite, heavy jaws, crude head and lacking expression. Short mouth |
| | Hair | The Warlander horse has an abundance of hair in the form of mane and tail, and some will have slight feathering at the fetlock. The coat must be fine and silky. | |
| | Colouring | The coloring must be solid with grey, black, bay and brown being the most common. White markings are allowed below the knee and facial markings such as star and snip acceptable. Only colours recognised (registered) by the mother studbooks for Iberian horses are permitted in Warlander horses including dilute genes (Perlino, Cremello, Champagne, Buckskin, Palomino, Grulla), Chestnut and Rabicano. | Strictly no broken colours (piebald or skewbald) or Spots (Appaloosa) are allowed. |
| | Neck | A long neck that is lightly arched with a well muscled top line (less so in mares), narrowing towards a long poll (hand width) and a poll / neck connection that displays enough room at the throat. The neck shows elevation and comes out well from the chest and has a flowing connection with the withers. | Straight or horizontal. Short or heavy or poor-muscled. Rises too deep from the chest The neck should not be so erect that it limits the movement of the back. Short or heavy Poll. No room at the throat. |
| | Shoulder | The shoulder is long and sloping (an angle with a horizontal line between 45 and 50 degrees). The angle of the chest has to be minimally 90 degrees. | Short shoulder Steep or straight shoulder 'Hollow' behind the withers |
| | Chest | Wide and roomy and in proportion to width of hips | Narrow Chest |

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| | Ribs | The ribs are long and curved. | Barrel chested. Too short or too long |
| | Withers | A broad wither that flows into the back. | Poorly developed and with an insufficiently flowing connection. Too flat or too pronounced. |
| | Back | The back is strong and muscled (not tight or weak). The back has a flowing connection with the wither and loins. The length of the back is proportionate to the length of the front end and hindquarters and is slightly concave | Weak (sway-back) or too tight (roach backed) No flowing connections. |
| | Loins | The loins are strong, broad and well muscled (not tight or sunken). They have a flowing connection to the back and croup. | Narrow Raised, poor muscled, sunken No flowing connection to the croup |
| | Croup | The croup is slightly sloping, well muscled and long (measured between the vertical lines of the point of the hip and seat bone) and ties well into the back. | Short Too much slope or too straight Roof-shaped, poor muscling High tail set, too high in the croup and rounded (seen from behind) Croup with a groove running down the middle |
| | Gluteal | The gaskin muscle is long and developed. | Too short and little muscling |
| Legs | Front legs | The front legs are as seen from the front placed perpendicularly with a hoof width in between. As seen from the side the front leg is perpendicular through the fetlock joints. The forearm and the cannon are long. The fetlock joints are oval and dry as seen from the side. Legs should not be overly heavy. | Knock Kneed Base narrow or wide Standing under or over Back at the knee (calf kneed) Swellings/galls at the fetlock Over at the knee Short fore-arm, short cannon bone Toeing in/toeing out |
| | Hind Legs | The hind legs are straight (parallel) as seen from behind. As seen from the side the angle of the hock is between 145 and 150 degrees. The gaskin is well muscled. The hock is dry, hard, and well developed (broad and deep). The fetlock joints are oval and dry as seen from the side. | Cow hocked, base narrow or wide Straight hind leg or sickle hocked (<145) Connection hock-cannon bone too abrupt, fluid in the legs, wind galls, capped hocks, curbs |
| | Pasterns | The pasterns are mid to long and flexible. The front pasterns have an angle with the ground from 45 to 50 degrees. The hind pasterns have an angle with the ground of 50 to 55 degrees. | Too short or too long Upright pastern Weak, sloping pastern |
| | Hooves | The feet are of good size and well formed, even, and befitting the horse. The feet are slightly wider in front than behind and must be strong and dense with good length of heel and a slightly upright profile. | Wide or narrow small feet Flat feet, low heels, wrong proportion heel to toe. Length heel 2:1 at the front, 1 ½ :1 at the back |

| Movement | The movement must be uphill, agile, rhythmic and effortless with suspension and extravagance in knee and hock action. Flat movement must not be awarded. | | |
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| | Walk | <p>The walk is roomy with a good over track and a pure four-beat. The legs are straight in walk as seen from the front and behind.</p> <p>The hind leg shows bend in the hock and is powerfully and well placed under the body. The hind leg moves the foreleg, which is moved forward with room and lots of freedom in the shoulder.</p> | <p>Irregular, lateral gaits</p> <p>Hind legs insufficiently strong</p> <p>Short (front leg)</p> <p>Going wide, dishing</p> <p>Insufficient flexion in the hind-leg, stiff</p> <p>Cocked ankles (forward bending of the pastern)</p> <p>Steps insufficiently under the body</p> <p>Base narrow or wide</p> |
| | Trot | <p>The trot is a pure two-beat. The hind leg is powerfully and well placed under the body and shows with that much bend in the hock.</p> <p>The front leg shows knee action and is well placed forward.</p> <p>The trot is characterized by suppleness and a long moment of suspension. The horse shows with that much balance and rises in the front with an elevated neck. As seen from the front and the back the legs need to be straight.</p> | <p>Short and rushing foreleg. Insufficient freedom in the shoulder</p> <p>Loss of regularity or lack of regularity of rhythm.</p> <p>Pushing, slow hind-leg, on the forehand</p> <p>No self-carriage due to lack of impulsion</p> <p>Insufficient balance and elevation</p> <p>Sluggish movements</p> <p>Base narrow or wide, winging in</p> <p>Fast, single rhythm</p> <p>Stiff, no elasticity and bounce</p> <p>Not enough power of impulsion</p> |
| | Canter | <p>The canter is a pure three-beat. The canter is roomy with a front leg that reaches forward and the inside leg carrying. The canter is upward and shows a long moment of suspension, lots of suppleness, and balance.</p> | <p>Insufficient forward going</p> <p>No bounding canter</p> <p>Cantering on the forehand</p> <p>Insufficient reach in front</p> <p>Falls on the inside leg</p> |
| Temperament | <p>The Warlander is not a 'hot' horse. It must possess the balanced, docile and people orientated nature of the Friesian tempered with the bravery and energetic air of the Iberian. The Warlander adapts itself well to diverse situations and is a responsive horse with a willing nature.</p> | | |
| Vitality and Health | <p>In breeding Warlander horses, a high standard is set by the Warlander Studbook Society for the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stamina * Limited inbreeding * Fertility * Full disclosure of any genetic or abnormal defects. The Warlander Studbook Society offers testing of Warlander horses for known genetic disorders such as dwarfism and hydrocephalus known to come from the Friesian breed. | | |

