



# **GRADING EVALUATION RULES**

Revised January 2026

The Grading Evaluation Day is an important day in your horse's life.

The information contained within this booklet is to help you through the stages of the Grading Evaluation process — Please take the time to familiarize yourself with its contents.

If you are uncertain after reading this booklet about any aspect of the Grading Evaluation whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact TGCA for clarification.

Please see TGCA Website for current Contact details [www.tgca.co.uk](http://www.tgca.co.uk)

## **GRADING EVALUATION FEES**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Cost</b>
	<b>BEST OF BREED</b>	<b>BEST OF PERFORMANCE</b>
Youngstock Talent Pool - Colts, Geldings & Fillies	£100.00	£100.00
Senior - Stallion	£250.00	£150.00
Senior - Mare	£150.00	£150.00
Senior - Gelding	N/A	£150.00
Senior Ridden Assessment Only	£100.00	£100.00
Re-Assessments	£100.00	£100.00
DNA Profiling (if not already on file)	£50	N/A

### **Herd breeding stallion please Assured Breeders Scheme**

Please contact TGCA head office to book

## **GENERAL GRADING EVALUATION RULES**

**Stallion for showing** All stallions 4 years and over must be Performance graded for showing purposes.

**Stallions used for Breeding** must enter the Breed graded evaluation, please see information regarding the Elite Black Book

**Mares** are encouraged to undertake a grading evaluation for recognized Elite status

**Stallions Specialist shows** may require a further grading process. Special grading rules will apply. Stallions must be performance graded with a vetting certificate, owners / riders and handlers must be fully paid up TGCA members. For more information please contact TGCA head office

**Elite BLACK BOOK** The Elite Black Book for offspring from both parents in the MSB1 OR MSB2 (the sire needs to be a Breed graded TGCA approved stallion). Covering Certificates and a full DNA profile must be submitted at the time of registration. Breeders must be members in the year of covering and the year of foaling

**Geldings** are encouraged to join the performance grading evaluations to enter the TGCA star scheme, highlighting their talent Bring recognition to their breeders more information available from Head office.

## **AREA GRADINGS**

If you are able to locate a suitable venue within easy reach of your location within the UK and are able to assure us of a minimum of 6 horses/ponies forward for Performance grading, or a minimum of 4 for Breed gradings TGCA will send TGCA assessors to evaluate these animals. The cost for this is available upon request from TGCA Admin.

For Graded Breed Evaluations 2 Stage TGCA vetting The Vetting form must be provided to the TGCA 1 Week prior to the date of Grading and bring the original vetting pass to the Grading from this procedure. Mares must also be DNA tested at such time and the results supplied at the Grading. Vetting must have taken place no more than 1 calendar months prior to the Grading date.

If DNA is not currently on file, then a sample can be taken at time of Grading and processed at the cost the Owner/Exhibitor.

Anyone who wishes to arrange such grading should contact the TGCA Head Office to discuss the procedure and book the assessors.

## **COVERING CERTIFICATES**

It is a condition that stallions that pass their TGCA Breed Grading undertake to issue TGCA Covering Certificates (for dual registered stallions contact TGCA Administration) and are owned by current up-to-date TGCA Members in the year of both covering and foaling.

Failure to abide by these Rules will result in their Graded status (and subsequently, any further Covering Certificates) being revoked.

Covering Certificates are available to stallion owners/managers from TGCA Head Office and should be used for all mares covered by TGCA Graded and Licensed/Approved stallions. Further details can be found in the Members' Handbook or by contacting TGCA Head Office.

## **Guidelines & Rules for Owners**

1. The exhibits forward for grade Evaluations will be expected to be well-behaved. Any behavior which could put the handler, assessors, or officials (or any other person) at risk will cause the animal to be disqualified and as such will be classed a failure. Ill-mannered animals will be asked to leave the premises immediately.  
No refund of entry fees will be given.
2. It is the owner's/exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the animal is entered for Grading Evaluations under the correct category as this is how the Grading Panel will assess the animal.

Animals eligible for Grading Evaluations as Part Breds – this will cover the full spectrum of “types” as associated with TGC Part Breds. Each animal will be assessed on its own individual merits according to its “type/category” (if it has been entered as a Native it will be assessed as a Native and not, for example, a Show Cob, likewise if it has been entered as a Show Cob it will be assessed as a Show Cob and not Drum etc).

3. All animals entered for Grading Evaluations must be TGCA Registered or eligible for registration.
4. All exhibits must be owned by TGCA fully paid-up current members & handlers at the time of Grading Evaluation application.
5. No entry will be accepted without the correct fee in full.

- 6.** To retain Graded status with this Society, and also continuity of supply of TGCA Covering Certificates, it is stipulated that the stallion owner's membership with this Society MUST be maintained on an annual basis due 01<sup>st</sup> January each year.
- 7.** Ideally a minimum of TWO people are present with each exhibit when presented before the Assessors. Both the animal and exhibitors should have prepared for the day ahead and ideally have practiced at home for all sections. Age is taken as of 1st January in the current year. No upper age limit exists for mares or stallions.
- 8.** All stallions, 4 years old or over, will be required to complete Performance Grading Evaluation prior to competing in TGCA Events or TGCA Affiliated Classes at shows.
- 9.** All stallions 4 years old or over must be evaluated. If he has not completed a Ridden Assessment, he will only be permitted to compete in In- Hand Classes until a ridden assessment is passed.
- 10.** All animals forward must be sound.
- 11.** All colts, stallions and mares going through the Graded Breed Evaluation Scheme MUST have a DNA profile, and PSSM tests results, which are to be submitted to the TGCA. (Please see the requirements for special colour testing)
- 12.** Grading is optional as a 3-year-old at the discretion of the owner if he/she feels their colt/filly is sufficiently mature. Please be aware that no exhibit may be presented for Grading more than twice. If an exhibit fails on the second attempt it will not be permitted to re-present.
- 13.** Animals returning for re-assessment may request consideration of their offspring to be considered and used in this re-assessment to back-up their suitability as a breeding animal.
- 14.** Graded horses are permitted to advertise themselves as "TGCA Breed Graded" or "TGCA Performance Graded", it must be made clear which section/s they are Graded in on any advertisements. Horses with misrepresented section or omitting any information of Grading may have their Graded status revoked.
- 15.** The results of the Grading Evaluations may be published on the TGCA website and the TGCA Facebook page/group.
- 16.** No "prohibited substances" (Please refer to the current TGCA Members' Handbook for additional information on prohibited substances). Owners/exhibitors of animals found with any such prohibited substance such animals will be excluded from that Grading.
- 17.** Random Dope Testing (as defined in the current TGCA Members' Handbook) may be taken at Association discretion. Positive testing costs will be borne by the owner of the said animal.
- 18.** Amendments may be made to this Grading Evaluation Rules Handbook,
- 19.** Entry to TGCA Grading Evaluations will be deemed acceptance of all TGCA rules
- 20.** If you are in any doubts as to what to do, where to go or what is expected of you or horse - please contact the TGCA for further information and advice.

## **Presentation**

- 1.** All animals must be presented in good health.
- 2.** All animals must be presented in “show” condition — i.e. According to their type/category (Traditional or Part bred -plaited, hogged, trimmed etc.).
- 3.** All animals should be recently shod or trimmed ideally.
- 4.** All animals will be expected to walk and trot-up in a controlled manner.
- 5.** It is advised to practice at home all aspects of what will be required for the grading procedure — including in-hand work, loose schooling, ridden work etc.
- 6.** Ensure you have the correct attire and tack as per members handbook.

## **B. The Exhibit**

- 1.** Please take the time to present your exhibit in a clean, fit condition, and turned out in accordance with its type/category
- 2.** Please ensure you have with you all correct equipment you will need on the day.
- 3.** Any animal which is deemed unsound will not be able to continue the Grading Evaluations

## **The Handler**

- 4.** All handlers of all animals are to wear suitable protective headgear to standard.
- 5.** A maximum of two handlers per exhibit is required.
- 6.** Handlers must present themselves dressed correctly
- 7.** The instruction of the Assessors, Officials or Stewards MUST be obeyed at all times.
- 8.** Anyone attending the grading with an exhibit are reminded that is an official TGCA event so is run under TGCA rules.
- 9.** Owners /exhibitors wishing to challenge or dispute the Assessors' decision please contact head office

### **C. On the day**

- 1.** Grading times will have been allocated prior to the event —contact TGCA Head office if you have not received yours
- 2.** Please allow yourself plenty of time for arrival – declare you and your horse to the Event secretary to collect your number.
- 3.** Missed time slots cannot be guaranteed to be substituted for a later time.
- 4.** Every animal presented for grading must be accompanied by its passport.
- 5.** Please take the time to locate to the area designated for assessment by the Grading Panel.
- 6.** Results will be verbally given on the day after the last entry unless previously agreed, passports need to be sent into the TGCA office for results to be registered.
- 7.** it is your responsibility to ensure you are ready and waiting, you may be called early so please keep updated with the day's proceedings.
- 8.** The Grading is divided into 2 or 3, depending on your whether you are doing the ridden assessment or not, as follows:  
Stage 1 — Conformation and Movement Assessment In-hand.  
Stage 2 — Loose Assessment  
Stage 3 — Ridden Assessment, for stallion 4 years old or over.  
Please note Temperament will be assessed throughout all stages, any animal showing unreasonable behavior may be asked to retire and the grading will be discontinued.

#### **STAGE 1**

##### **CONFORMATION, MOVEMENT**

On entry into the ring, you will be expected to stand your horse up in front of the Grading Evaluation panel, where they will inspect your exhibit for conformation and breed type and mark accordingly.

They may request that you move the mane, tail, feather or open the horse's mouth.

When the grading Evaluation panel have completed their inspection, they will ask you to move off and walk away from the panel in a straight line to the end of the arena, turn and return back to the panel, go past the panel and ask the exhibit to trot toward the other end of the arena then track right around the arena at trot, continue along long side of the arena until the panel indicate you to stop. If they require a further inspection or movement they will advise.

## **STAGE 2**

### **LOOSE ASSESSMENT**

Each horse/pony will then be required to free school in the arena. This natural balance of paces can then be assessed.

The panel will indicate when they have seen all they need.

2 handlers will be needed for this section., please ensure you have practiced at home to the exhibit can be easily caught when needed

## **STAGE 3**

### **TGCA RIDDEN ASSESSMENT**

This is compulsory for stallions wishing to compete under saddle with TGCA affiliated classes

It is expected that the stallion will display good manners and obedience while working within a group of other ridden exhibits.

The ridden section is run like a showing class with the same ridden format, guideline for the format can be found in the members handbook.

The panel do have score sheets to mark which will be held by the TGCA for future use for the Gold Star books.

Conformation, movement, way of going, quality of breed type, manners both individual and while working or standing in line up are some of the points the panel look for.

Any exhibit that is displaying anything deemed dangerous or at risk to its self and any officials or attendants will be asked to leave, as such will be marked as a failed exhibit.

When all exhibits have performed an individual display, the group will be asked to wait in the arena while the Youngstock and In Hand exhibits are asked to join them to presented the Champion and Reserves for each section.

### **TRADITIONAL GYPSY COB BREED STANDARD**

A strong, active cob, full of quality and spirit coupled with an abundance of flowing mane, tail and leg hair.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** The Traditional Gypsy Cob should be a strong, sturdy and powerful cob coupled with an abundance of luxuriant flowing mane, forelock, tail, and leg hair known as feather.

Traditional Gypsy Cobs should always have plenty of heart room, and a deep girth to match. They should display ample bone and be well muscled within a broad compact body and powerful hindquarters.

They should have a kind, willing, intelligent and gentle disposition. They are renowned for their patient, kind and sensible nature. Traditional Gypsy Cobs are extremely versatile, suited to both driving and riding they are ideal family horses.

## **COLOUR AND MARKINGS**

All Colours and Markings are permitted

### **HEAD**

Neat, small, sweet, noble and in proportion to the body. Broad between the eyes which should be bright and alert, displaying a large kind eye. Blue eyes are acceptable.

### **EARS**

Small, neat ears slightly incurving.

### **NECK**

Strong and slightly arched and of a medium length.

The neck is to be well muscled and well set onto a good sloping shoulder. Stallions should display a bold outlook with a well-arched crest.

### **SHOULDERS**

Well laid, long, sloping shoulders. Should not be fine at the withers.

### **BODY**

Short coupled and a strong back of good outline, muscular loins, good deep well sprung ribs, which are round from the shoulders to the flank. Plenty of depth from the wither to the girth. Chest must be good and wide.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Deep, lengthy and powerful and displaying an apple shape.

Second thighs well muscled and let down. Tail should be well set on – not too high, nor too low.

### **FEET, LEGS AND JOINTS**

Feet of good size, round and well formed, open at heels and well concaved. Pasterns to be nicely sloping and of a good length. Forelegs should be very well defined and muscular. Well defined flat broad knees. Plenty of bone below the knee (eight inches at least). Hocks should be well defined and not coarse. Canons should be short with clearly defined clean flat bone.

### **MANE TAIL AND LEG HAIR(FEATHER)**

A NATURAL abundance of long flowing mane, forelock and tail hair Feather (leg hair) should start from the back of the knee and hock joints and cover the entire hoof. Hair should be straight and silky, curly hair is less desirable and coarse hair is not desirable.

### **MOVEMENT**

Clean, active, straight and true. Going forward on all fours with tremendous energy. The knee and hock should be powerful with a workmanlike ‘action with hind legs flexed well under the body for powerful drive.

## **TGCA PART BRED SHOWING SECTIONS**

**NATIVE** - 50% Traditional Gypsy Cob, the remaining 50% to be made up of any individual Native Pony Breed as registered with their own society breed requirements.

**PONY UNDER 128CM** 50% Traditional Gypsy Cob, the remaining 50% to be made up of any individual Native Pony Breed as registered with their own society breed requirements.

**SPORT PONY** – not exceeding 148cms. 50% Traditional Gypsy Cob, the remaining 50% to be made up of any individual breed that is recognised as sports bred.

**SPORT** – 148cms – upwards. 50% Traditional Gypsy Cob, the remaining 50% to be made up of any individual horse breed that is recognised as sports or performance bred.

**SHOW COB** -50% Traditional Gypsy Cob the remaining made up of any type that could be termed as a show cob type and be hogged and stripped out – no height limits

**DRUM** – The Drum Horse must be a combination of Shire, Clydesdale and 50% Traditional Gypsy Cobs. Shires and Clydesdales crossed with gypsy cobs will breed true to type, and the outcome will be consistently predictable.

Can be shown traditionally with full manes, tails and feather OR pulled tails and hogged manes.