

Bridle Ridge Gaited Horses Breed Philosophy

We breed because we believe that the Missouri Fox Trotter is one of the best horses there is. We believe it is a horse that is truly untapped in the equine market. It is one of the most versatile breeds out there - they are a trusting trail companion, a beautiful show horse, a steady mount for the National Forest Service, great ranch horse, and the list goes on and on.

Below you will find the criteria we look for in our breeding stock:

DISPOSITION: Our first and foremost criteria when looking at a horse is its disposition. The horse **MUST** possess a calm demeanor, exhibit a willing, trusting attitude, and be easy to work with.

GAIT: After we have determined that the disposition is there, we next look at the gait of the horse. We personally like to have a foxtrot and running walk in our breeding stock. We do not like to have any pace in our program. We like to see the horse use its body efficiently, its “power train” come from the hindquarters, be agile and flexible. We prefer the horse to cap its track or have a very slight overreach.

Of Note: A foxtrot is a gait that a horse can perform much easier when its back is slightly rounded. The horse drives from behind, and is in a nice collected frame. When a gaited horse is stiff in its body and travels in a ventroflexed frame, it is more likely to pace. If a Foxtrotter paces under saddle, but then foxtrots comfortably at liberty in the pasture, it is wise to explore the probability that the pace is actually “manmade”. In many cases rider error, bad fitting tack, or poor training produces the pace, not necessarily bad breeding.

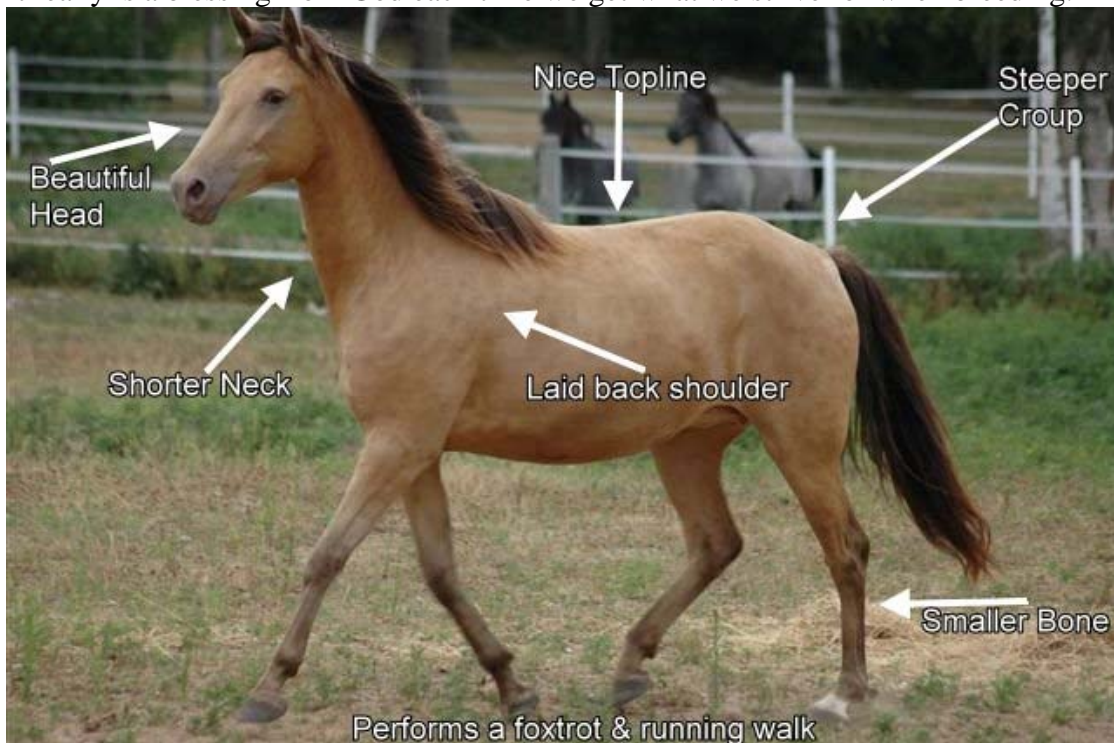
CONFORMATION: We have chosen our horses because they exemplify what we personally like to see in a horse - a nice topline, strong back, good bone, a nice laid back shoulder, a longer hip, a flatter croup, an elegant neck, and a refined head. We have chosen our breeding stock on these conformational characteristics and the abovementioned criteria. Though none of our horses have “perfect” conformation, we believe we have chosen our breeding stock so that they will compliment each other. When breeding our stallions and mares we look at each horse individually. We pick out the things we do and do not like about the horse. We determine if those two horses share the same weaknesses and the same strengths. If they share the same weaknesses, we will not breed those particular horses together, i.e. both have a steeper slope in the croup or too straight of a shoulder. Another point we consider is how big the horse will be. We would like the resultant foal to range between 14.2 to 15.1H. Thus, we have chosen stallions that range between 15 to 15.3H and our mares range between 14.1H to 14.3H. From experience, we find that the majority of customers are seeking a horse around the 15H range.

UNIQUE COLOR AND PATTERNS: We have spent the last seven years building our breeding program. We strive to incorporate all of the qualities that are first and foremost

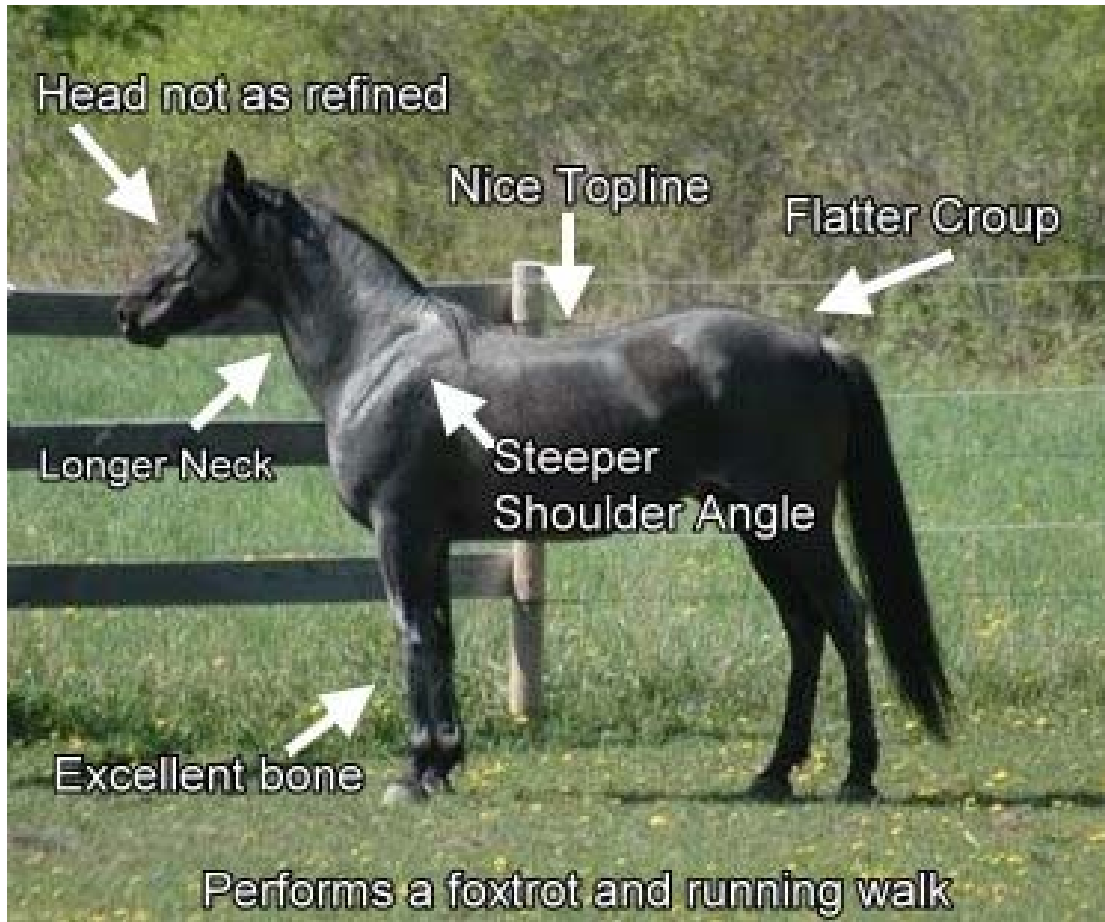
in our horses, such as their temperaments, correct conformation, and gait. Then we add the color. We believe that a good horse is a good horse no matter what color it is. However, we also understand that from a business standpoint, we need to offer the customer what they want. From our experience we have found that most people want a good horse with a calm demeanor that is very trainable, smooth in its gaits, and is correct in conformation. But they also want a horse that is beautiful and a bit unique. This is why we incorporate the unique colors and patterns into our breeding program.

PEDIGREE: We do like to look at the pedigree of the horse but we do not put a lot of emphasis on the pedigree. Our above criteria must be met first before even looking at the pedigree.

Below is a mare and stallion that we have chosen to breed together and the resultant foal. We believe the foal has turned out better than either parent. He has the best traits of both parents, exhibits a very nice running walk and foxtrot, and is a true joy to work with, and is a beautiful bay roan that is homozygous for the black gene. Thus, we have accomplished what we had set out to do with that particular mating. Though we will do this exact same cross again, it is no guarantee that we will get the exact same type of foal. It really is a blessing from God each time we get what we strive for when breeding.



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