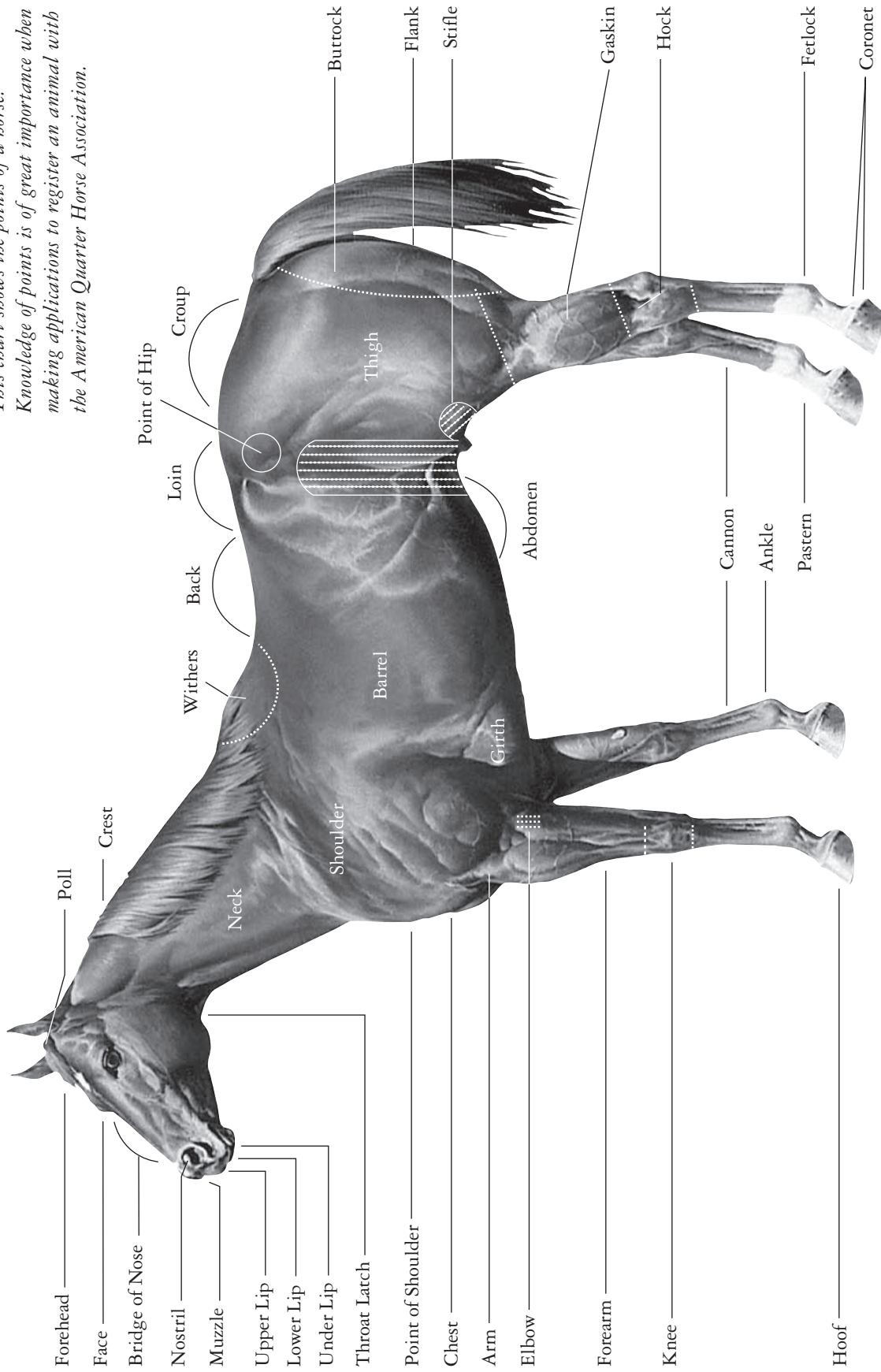


THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE

This chart shows the points of a horse. Knowledge of points is of great importance when making applications to register an animal with the American Quarter Horse Association.



AMERICAN
QUARTER
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ASSOCIATION

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The American Quarter Horse originated in colonial America in the early 1600s and was used primarily for sprint racing because of his quick acceleration and muscular build. Its foundation bloodlines were a mix of Arab, Barb and Turk horses bred to English mares

which produced a compact, heavily muscled horse that could run short distances faster than any other horse. But as the new country grew so did the American Quarter Horse, and it was adapted into more of a work horse that could be used for almost any kind of task. Along with the first pioneers, the American Quarter Horse forged its way westward pulling wagons, herding cattle and exploring the wide open plains.

Today the American Quarter Horse is known as "The World's Most Versatile Horse" and its popularity has grown as fast as the breed which now numbers in excess of four million AQHA registered horses worldwide. It is still used on ranches and racetracks, as well as having become popular in the show ring and as a recreational riding horse. There are more than one million American Quarter Horse owners in all 50 states and 77 countries worldwide.

Founded in 1940, the American Quarter Horse Association is a nonprofit organization that provides horse owners and breeders a variety of services and information to help them enjoy their horse more.

"America's Horse," a national television show about the American Quarter Horse shown on OLN, and two magazines, *The American Quarter Horse Journal* and *The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal* also help promote the breed nationally. Videotapes about

the uses and many facets of the American Quarter Horse are available for individual purchase while brochures and booklets are free of charge.

The American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA) is a great opportunity for young people 18 years and under to learn about and get involved in the pleasures and responsibilities of owning an American Quarter Horse. Ownership of a horse is not required to become a member of the organization.

For anyone interested in showing American Quarter Horses, AQHA provides a variety of competition levels in its youth, amateur and open divisions.

AQHA is devoted to preserving and promoting the American Quarter Horse breed and making it easier for owners to enjoy and learn about this great animal.

For more information on the American Quarter Horse or how you can become a member of the American Quarter Horse Association or the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, contact us anytime by mail or call (806) 376-4811.

CONFORMATION STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE

STANCE - The American Quarter Horse normally stands at ease with his legs well under him which explains his ability to move quickly in any direction.

ACTION - The American Quarter Horse is collected in action enabling him to turn or stop with noticeable ease and balance, with his hocks always well under him.

HEAD - The head of an American Quarter Horse reflects alert intelligence. He has a short, broad head topped by small ears; kind wide-set eyes; large nostrils; short muzzle; and firm mouth. Well defined jaws give off an impression of strength.

NECK - The head of the American Quarter Horse joins the neck at a near 45-degree angle, with a distinct space between jawbone and neck muscles allowing him to work with his head down without restricting his breathing. The medium length, slightly arched, full neck blends into sloping shoulders.

SHOULDERS - The American Quarter Horse's good saddle back is created by medium-high distinct withers, extending back and combining with deep sloping shoulders. This helps keep a saddle in the proper position for balanced riding.

CHEST AND FORELEGS - As shown by his heart girth and wide-set forelegs, the American Quarter Horse is deep and broad chested. His smooth joints and short cannon bones are set on clean fetlocks, and medium length pasterns are supported by healthy hooves. The powerfully muscled forearm tapers to the knee, whether viewed from the front or back.

BACK - The short back of the American Quarter Horse is full and powerful across the kidneys. The barrel is formed by deep, well-sprung ribs which extend to the hip joints. The underline, or abdominal area, should rise cleanly to the flank.

HINDQUARTERS - Viewed from either side or the rear, the hindquarters are broad, deep and muscled fully through the thigh, stifle and gaskin down to the hock. The thickly muscled hind legs indicate the American Quarter Horse's great power and speed. When viewed from the rear, there is great width extending evenly from the top of the thigh to the gaskin. The hocks are wide set, deep and straight.

BONES, LEGS AND HOOVES - The flat, strong bones are free from fleshiness, puffs and injuries. The hooves are well-rounded and roomy, with deep open heels.

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