



C2: MEASUREMENT FOR THE BREEDS

BREED MEASUREMENT

- ▶ This lesson is for Breed Measurements only. It does not cover any Hunter type measurements.

BREEDS WHICH REQUIRE MEASUREMENT

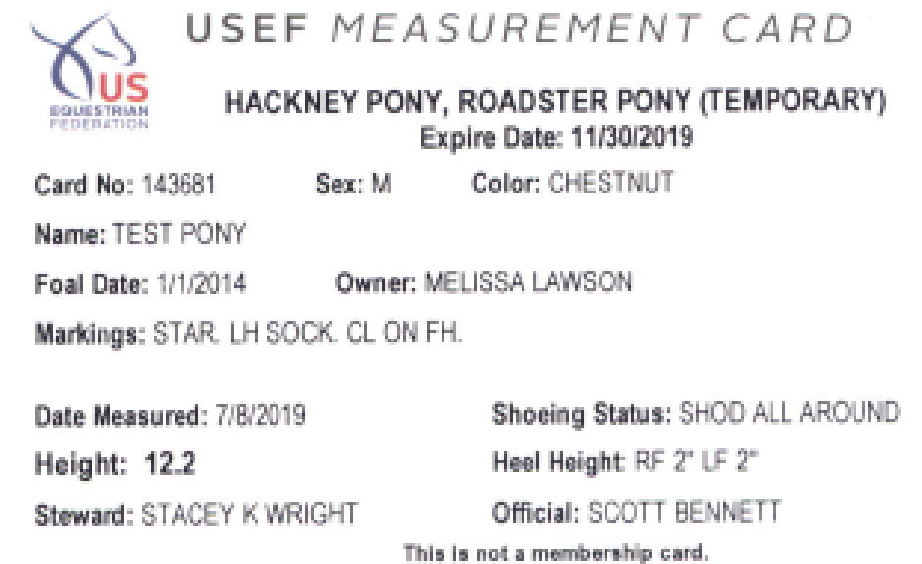
- ▶ The following breeds require measurement cards in accordance with Chapter 5 of the USEF Rule Book:
 - ▶ Arabian
 - ▶ Hackney
 - ▶ Roadster
 - ▶ American Saddlebred-type Pony
 - ▶ Shetland

BREED MEASUREMENT

- ▶ While the basic way the measurement is conducted is the same with the various breeds, there are some slight differences within the breeds.
- ▶ We will outline those differences in this lesson.

THE MEASUREMENT CARD

- ▶ Management shall not permit an animal to be shown (or give out a back number) in a performance class in any division that requires a measurement card unless the owner:
 - ▶ has a USEF Measurement Card;
 - ▶ has a copy of a valid Measurement Form;
 - ▶ or management confirms the measurement electronically with USEF.
- ▶ Shetlands may use a ASPC issued Measurement Card.
- ▶ These rules do not apply to Hunter, Jumper and Welsh Pony Divisions.



USEF MEASUREMENT CARD

HACKNEY PONY, ROADSTER PONY (TEMPORARY)
Expire Date: 11/30/2019

Card No: 143681 Sex: M Color: CHESTNUT
Name: TEST PONY
Foal Date: 1/1/2014 Owner: MELISSA LAWSON
Markings: STAR, LH SOCK, CL ON FH.

Date Measured: 7/8/2019 Shoeing Status: SHOD ALL AROUND
Height: 12.2 Heel Height: RF 2" LF 2"
Steward: STACEY K WRIGHT Official: SCOTT BENNETT

This is not a membership card.

MEASURE BREEDS UNTIL AGE SIX

- ▶ An animal must be measured each competition year until it reaches the age of six.
- ▶ Animals five years and under will be issued a temporary card designating the year measured. Temporary cards expire at the end of the competition year, November 30th.
- ▶ Animals six and over will be issued a measurement card which does not have to be renewed.

THE MEASURING STICK

- ▶ The measuring stick comes in two parts: the scale staff and the cross arm.
- ▶ The foot telescopes from the scale staff.

Scale
Staff



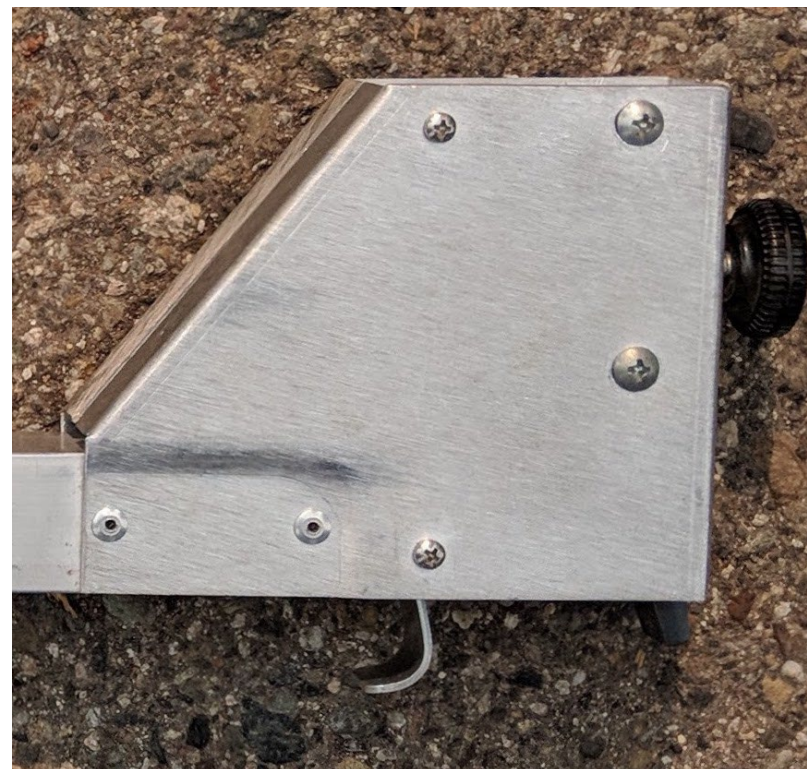
Cross
Arm



The
Foot

THE MEASURING STICK

- ▶ At the end of the cross arm is a black lock knob.
- ▶ Below the cross arm is a metal trigger.
- ▶ There is a small tab behind the trigger. It is difficult to see in this picture.



← Lock Knob

← Tab



Trigger

FINDING A LEVEL SPOT

- ▶ Before you assemble the stick, you will need to locate a level spot.
- ▶ Ask management where measurements will be taking place.
- ▶ Check out the known measurement area ahead of time to determine if and where there is a level spot large enough to measure.
- ▶ Ensure the measurements are going to be conducted in a safe area.

FINDING A LEVEL SPOT

- ▶ The measurement surface must be level and reasonably smooth.
- ▶ Dirt or gravel is not acceptable.
- ▶ A heavy sheet of plywood may be used in breed measurements if no other suitable surface is available.



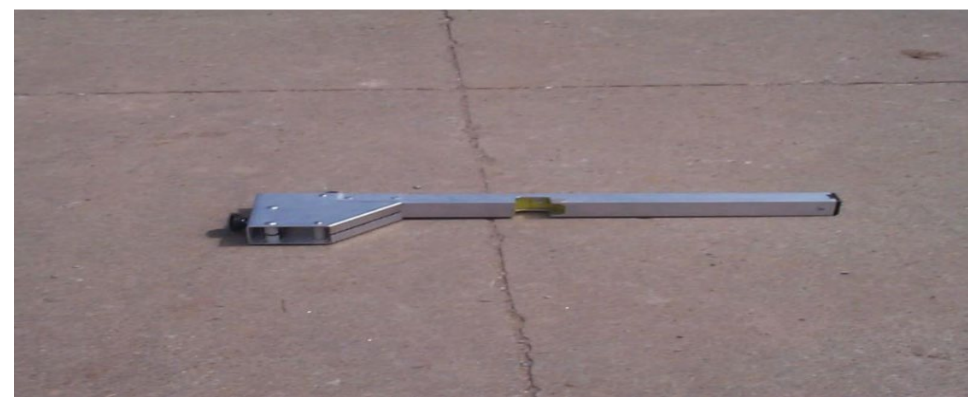
FINDING A LEVEL SPOT

- ▶ To find a level spot, place the scale staff where you think you have a level surface.
- ▶ Set the cross arm on top of the scale staff, placing the cross arm so that the trigger is over the edge and the arm can sit flat on the cross piece.

Correct



Incorrect



You must use both pieces of the stick in order to find the level spot.

ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- 1.) Put the cross arm on the scale staff.
- 2.) Then unscrew the foot.



If needed, unscrew the knob about $\frac{1}{4}$



Align the cross arm at top of scale staff

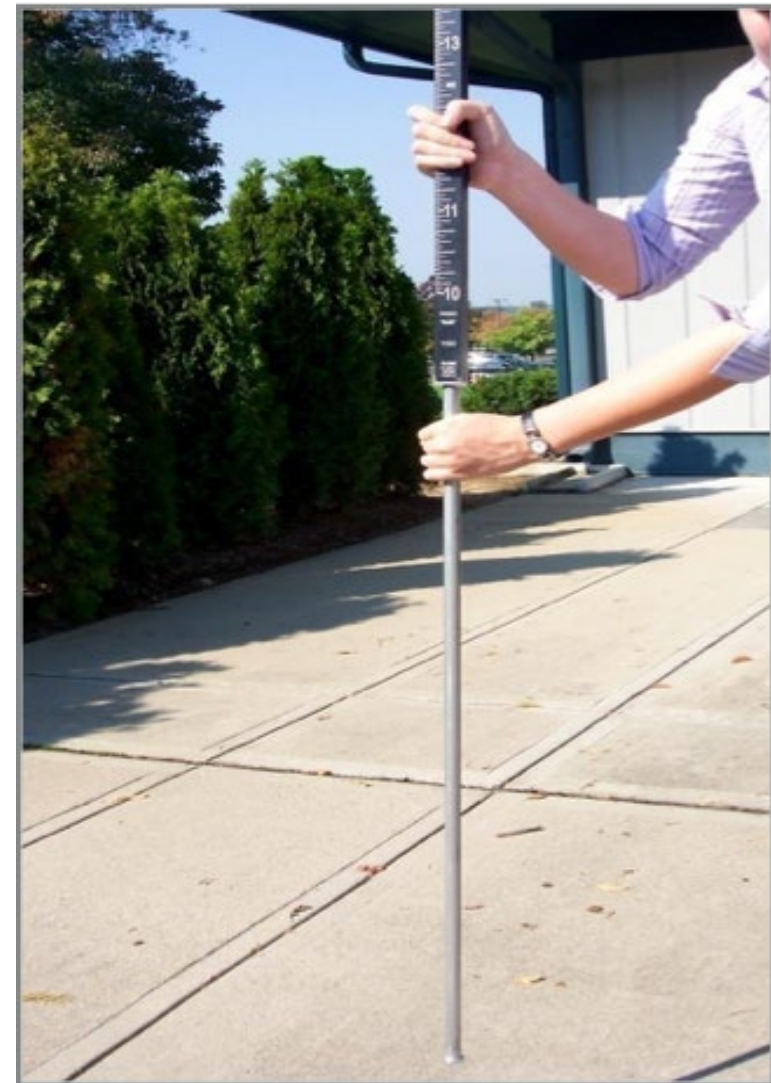
ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ At the bottom of the stick it states “Open” and “Close”.
- ▶ To open the stick, turn it counter-clockwise, in the direction of the Open arrow.



ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ Note: it is important that the stick is held as close to true vertical as possible while extending the foot.
- ▶ Use gravity to allow the foot to drop.
- ▶ Remember to put the cross arm on before you extend the foot.



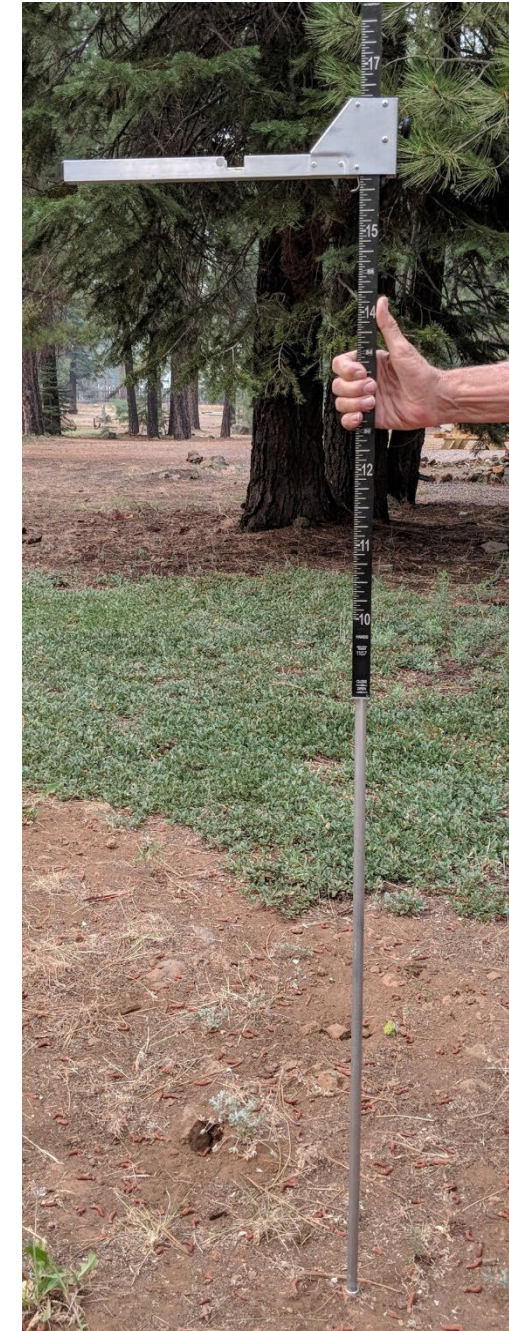
ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ Keep turning toward “Open” until the stick can not turn any more.
- ▶ Note: the stick must be turned all the way open in order to be able to lock.
- ▶ Turn it gently but firmly.



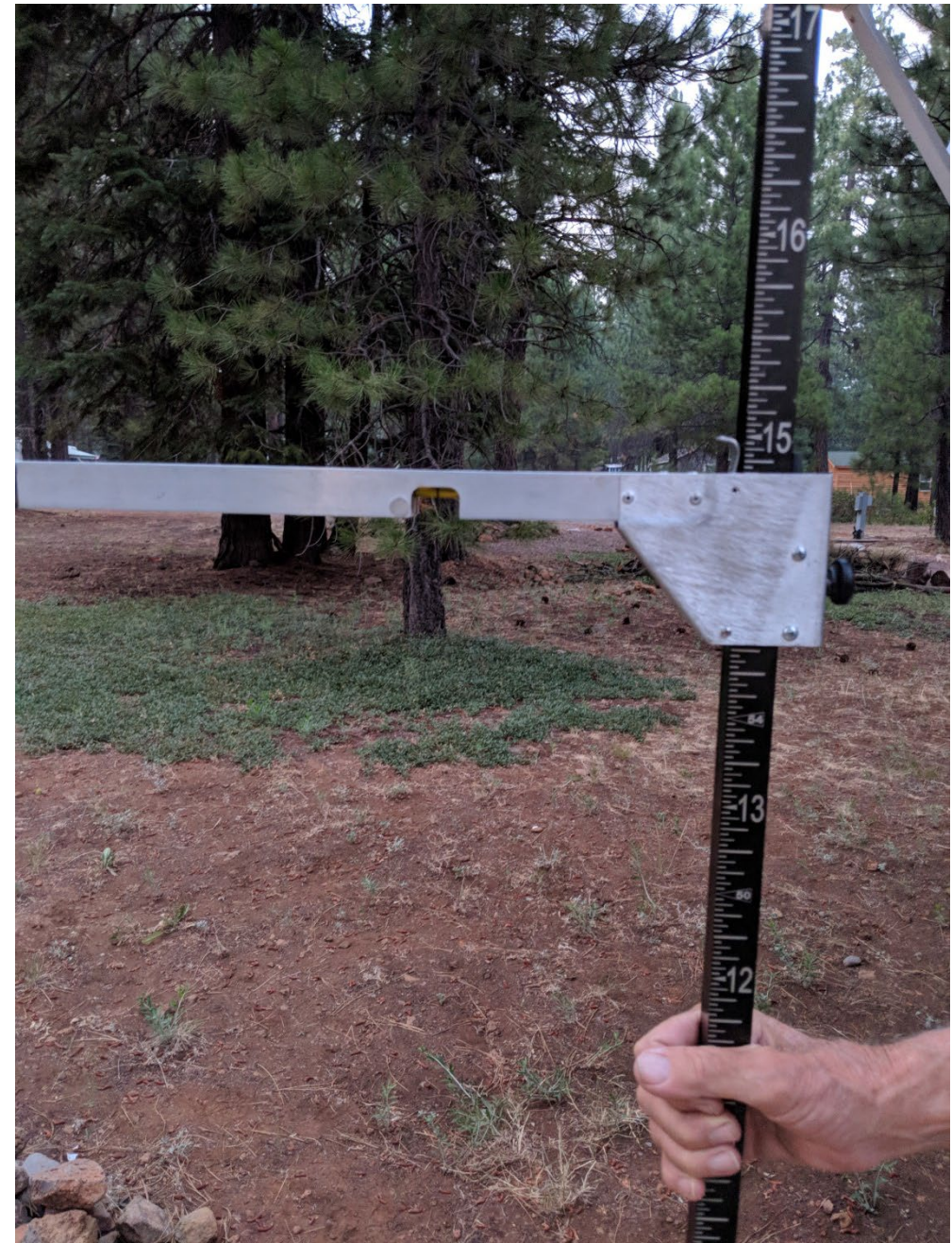
ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ The stick on the left was opened but not all the way until it locked into place.
- ▶ Note the bend in the stick that would give an inaccurate measurement
- ▶ The stick on the right was opened and locked correctly.



ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ Be aware that it is possible to assemble the stick upside down.
- ▶ If the levels are on the bottom of the arm, you have assembled it incorrectly!



ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ The stick number, which must be noted on the measurement form, can be found at the bottom of the stick, just above “Open” and “Close”.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Introduce yourself.
- ▶ The steward should speak directly to the owner/agent/trainer of the animal and ask if he/she is aware of the importance of having the animal properly prepared for measurement.
- ▶ The owner/agent/trainer may want to ask questions about the measurement procedure, or review the USEF Rule Book rules concerning measurements.
- ▶ Federation officials should strive to be as helpful and forthcoming with information as is necessary to ensure that the animal is ready to be measured.

THE MEASUREMENT CARD

- ▶ Arabians may use a Hunter measurement card, if they have one, to compete in Arabian shows.
- ▶ However, they may not use an Arabian measurement card to compete in a Hunter show.



THE TOP PART OF THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ The top part of the measurement form must be filled out completely before measurement takes place.
- ▶ The person must be 18 or over and is responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.

| THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY INDIVIDUAL PRESENTING ANIMAL TO BE MEASURED | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| HORSE/PONY'S NAME | | FOAL DATE | USEF REC. OR ID # | |
| OWNER'S NAME | | USEF # | | |
| OWNER'S ADDRESS | | PHONE | | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP | EMAIL | |
| HORSE/PONY'S ENTRY # | | MICROCHIP # | | |
| NAME/TITLE OF PERSON PROVIDING INFORMATION | | | | |
| (Please print - must be 18 years of age or over) | | | | |
| CHECK ONE: | <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER | <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAINER *REQUIRED FOR HUNTER/JUMPER/WELSH |

THE MEASUREMENT FORM - MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ The owner must be a current USEF competing member or they must note that a USEF membership has been applied for.
- ▶ EC members in good standing will be given a USEF Competing Membership at no cost for the purpose of competing in USEF-licensed competitions. All USEF Competing Members who are 18 years of age or older must annually complete the SafeSport Training provided by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport before being allowed to compete.
- ▶ An Equestrian Canada measurement card can be used if the owner is not showing for points.

THE STANCE – ALL BREEDS

- ▶ A maximum of two handlers may present the animal for measurement
- ▶ The handler(s) must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in the correct position.
- ▶ They may not have any direct physical contact with the animal that could influence the measurement,
 - ▶ Except that a handler may cover the animal's eyes.
 - ▶ Blinkers are allowed.

THE STANCE – ARABIAN, ROADSTER, SADDLEBRED-TYPE PONY & SHETLAND (NOT HACKNEY)

- ▶ Squarely on all four legs, with front legs vertical to the ground.
- ▶ Back of hocks should be in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters.
- ▶ The head must be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the withers, but no lower.

THE STANCE – HACKNEY

- ▶ The animal should stand squarely with his front legs perpendicular to the ground.
- ▶ Ideally his head should be lower than his withers.
 - ▶ This easily locates the high point of the withers, where the measurement should take place.

THE MEASUREMENT - SHOEING

- ▶ American Saddlebred-type Pony
 - ▶ Ponies must be presented for measurement unshod (for purposes of protection a ¼" pad or plate may be nailed to the foot and then deducted from the official measurement.
 - ▶ If an American Saddlebred-type Pony measures up to one inch over 14.2 hands the pony will be issued a measurement card reflecting its height.
 - ▶ The pony will be permitted to compete in classes for ponies 14.2 and under.

THE MEASUREMENT - SHOEING

- ▶ Shetlands may be presented with or without shoes, regardless of how shown.
- ▶ Arabians do not require heel measurements.

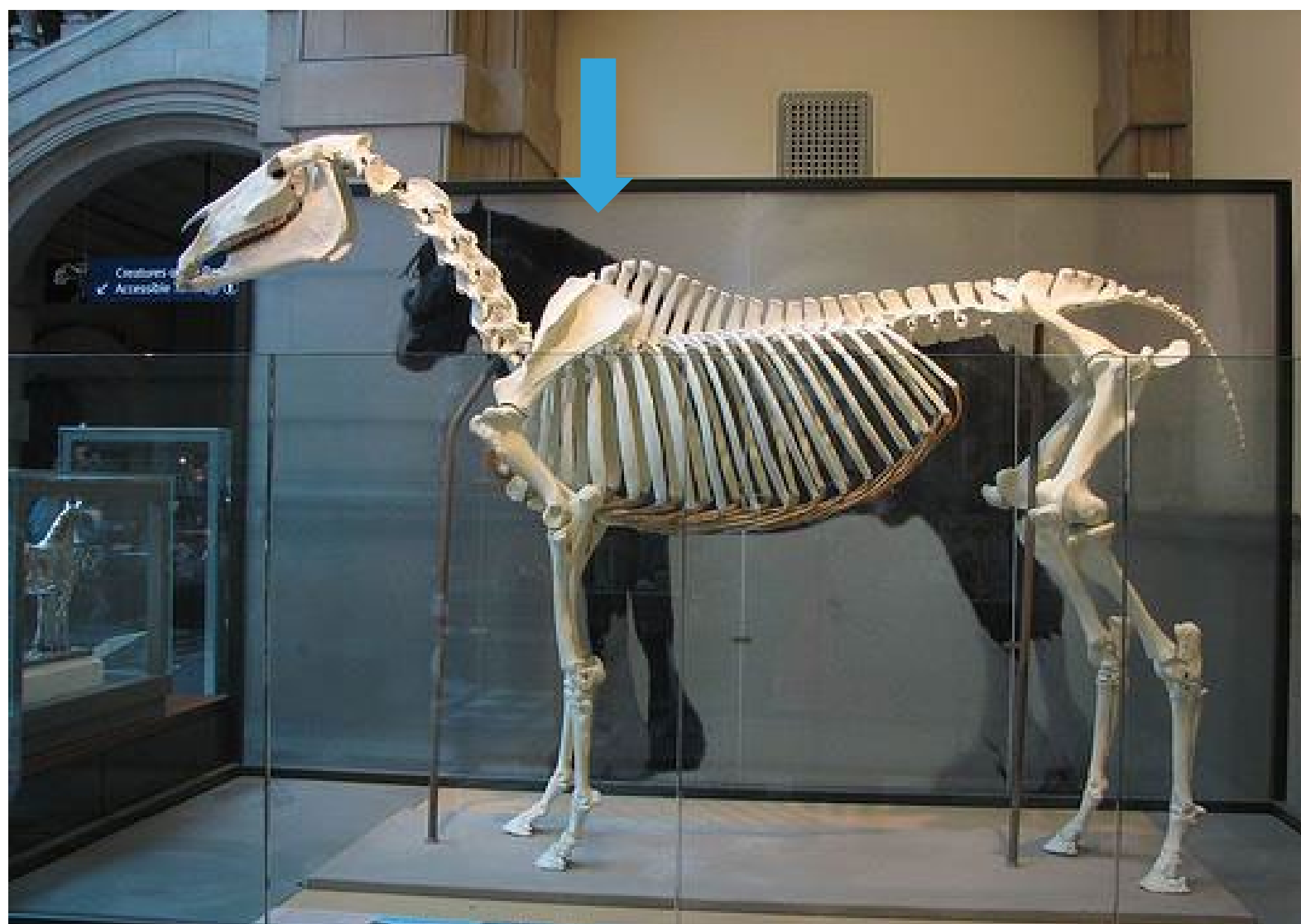


MEASUREMENT- THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARIAN

- ▶ In all breed measurements, the veterinarian is optional, as the animals are not jogged.
- ▶ You need two people to complete a measurement, but the second person can be another steward, a judge or the veterinarian.
- ▶ The second person **MUST** be an official of the show.
- ▶ The veterinarian is **NOT** to perform the measurement.
- ▶ Only a steward may measure.

FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Withers are spinous processes.



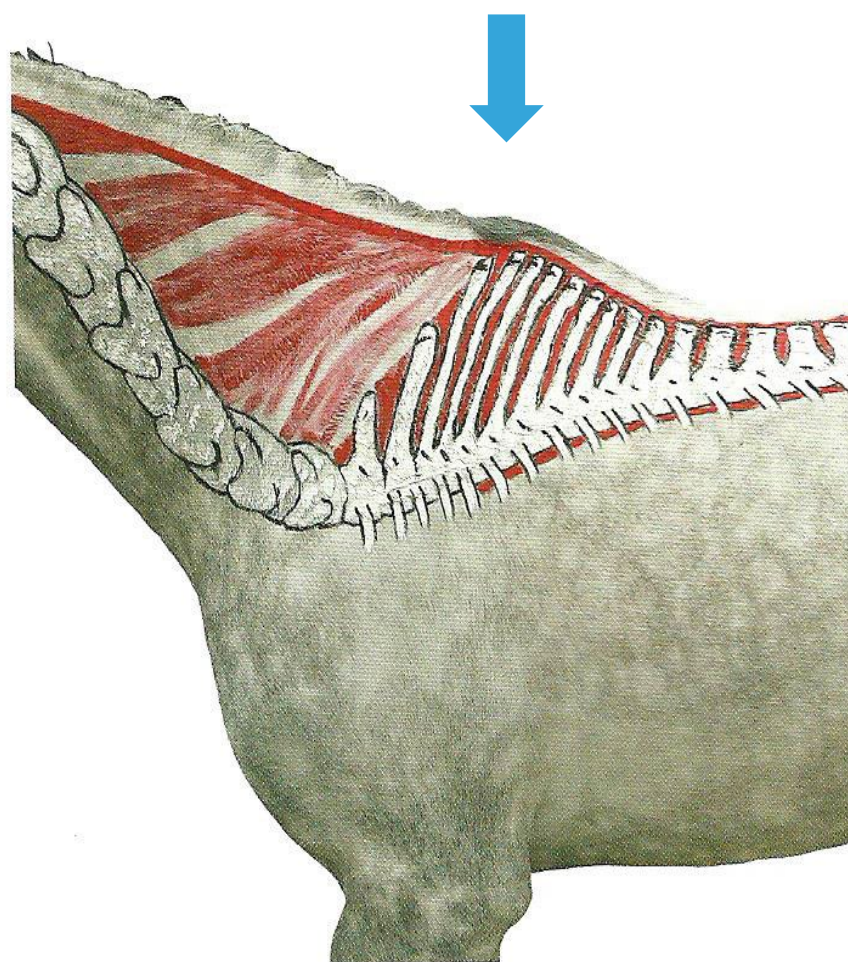
FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ The spinous processes



FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Without the scapula/shoulder blade



FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

Prominent Withers

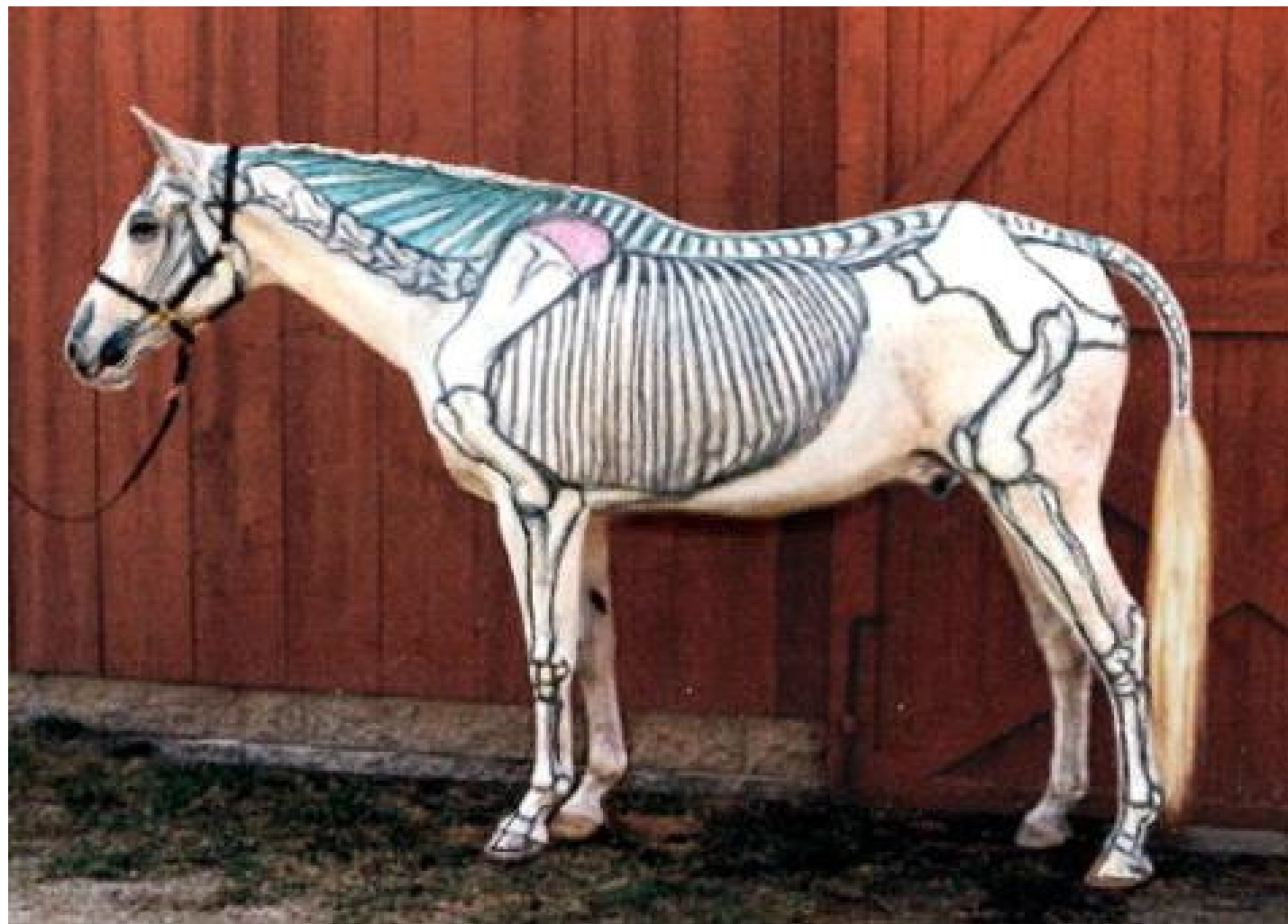


Mutton Withers



FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ We do not get a road map to find the highest point of the withers.



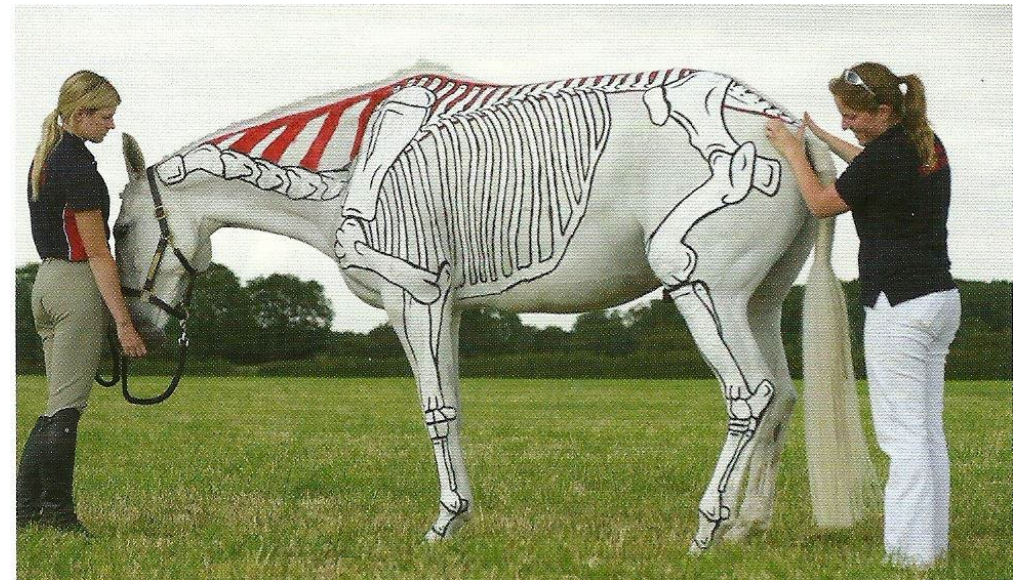
FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ What if the animal's head and neck are up?



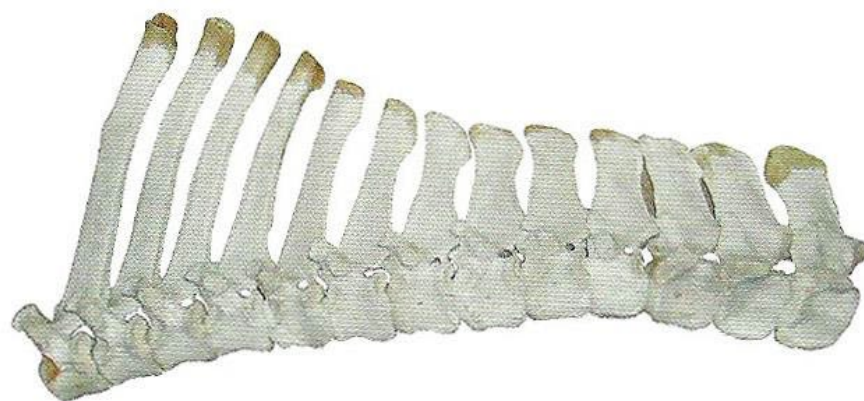
FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Where the animal's head is makes a difference as to which is the tallest spinous process.
- ▶ Tension in the body, back or neck can all lead to their withers being higher than if the animal was relaxed.



FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

Head down



Head up and back stiff



The pony in the picture on the right is tense and has grown taller than he was on the left.

FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ You can ask the handler to lower the animal's head down below level to identify the high point of the withers.
- ▶ When you have identified the high point, the head should come to the correct position for measurement.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Walking up to the animal with the arm of the measuring stick pointing toward them may frighten the animal.
- ▶ A frightened animal will be a taller animal and you will struggle to get an accurate measurement on them.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Try to help the animal relax.
- ▶ Scratch or pat him, if necessary, and try to get him comfortable with the stick.

THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Having the arm of the stick across your body can be less intimidating to the animal.
- ▶ Some stewards will show the stick to the animal ahead of time and some do not.
- ▶ It is up to you to decide what you think will work best.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Place the stick far enough away from the animal to allow you to move it towards/away from him and front & back until the bubbles are level.
- ▶ Once you have the stick upright and set at a good distance, do not pick it up to center your bubbles. Pivot it from its base.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ If the stick is placed too close to the horse/pony's body, there is no room to move the stick to get the bubbles level.



THE LEVELS

- ▶ Check both of the levels to make sure they are lined up between the black lines.



Bottom Bubble

Top Bubble



Bottom Bubble

Top Bubble

In both of these photos, the bottom bubble is off.

THE LEVELS

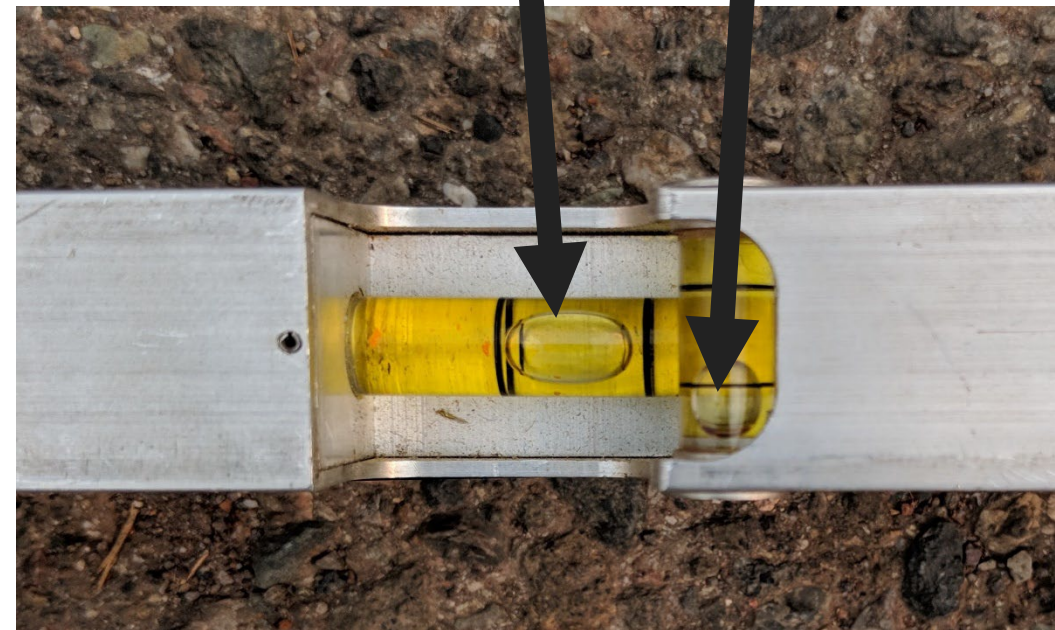
Bottom Bubble Top Bubble



Neither bubble is aligned

Bottom Bubble

Top Bubble



The top bubble is off

THE LEVELS

- ▶ Both bubbles are correctly aligned in this photo.



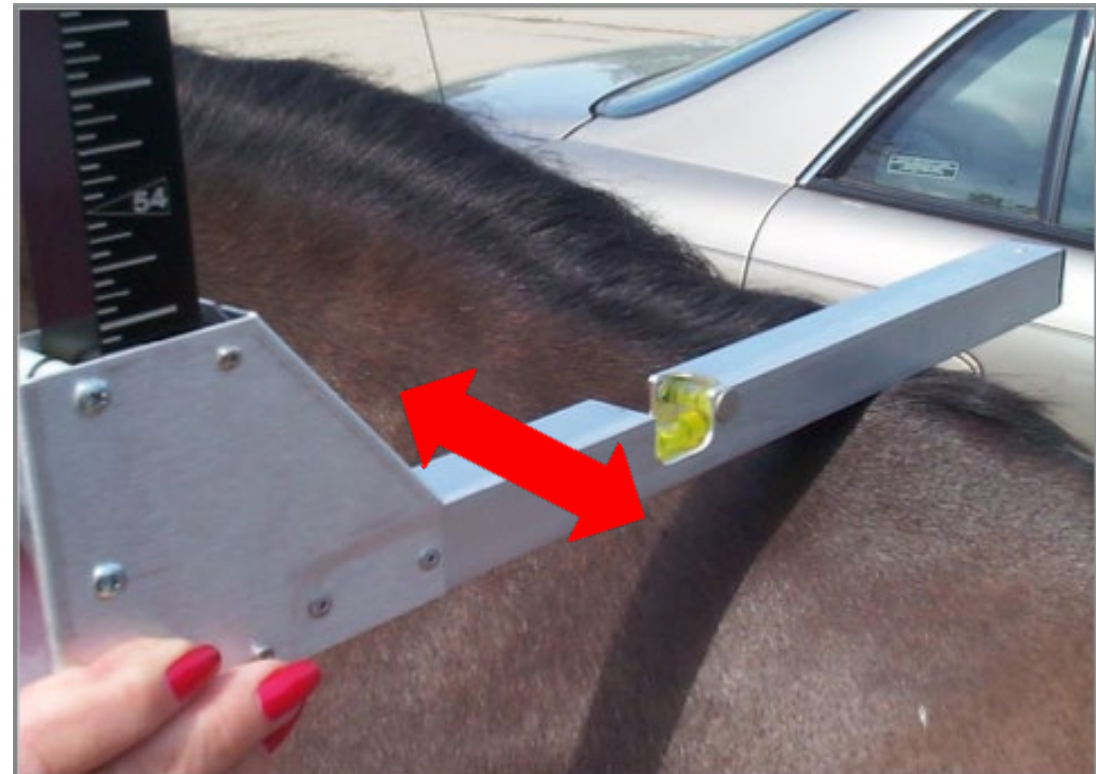
FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Are you centered?
- ▶ An easy way to line up your bubbles is to get them both level before you have eased the cross arm onto the withers.



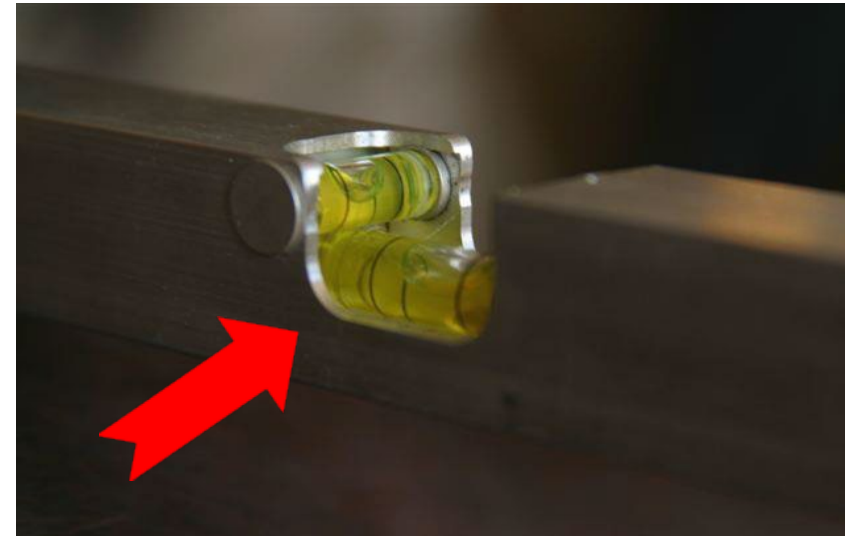
THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Your top bubble is adjusted by moving or tilting the stick left or right.
- ▶ **Do not pick the stick up** to get the bubbles aligned but rather use the base of the stick to pivot.



THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Your bottom bubble that points towards the tip of the stick is adjusted by tilting the staff of the stick towards the animal or away from the animal.
- ▶ **Do not pick the stick up** but rather use the base of the foot of the stick to pivot from.



THE MEASUREMENT – PLACING THE CROSS ARM

- ▶ Lower the cross arm so it rests on the highest point of the withers.
- ▶ Seat the cross arm firmly, but do not apply additional pressure to the withers.
- ▶ If you guide the cross arm to the spot on the withers, remove your fingers from the top of the cross arm once you get there.
- ▶ Do not press down on the cross arm while getting the measurement.



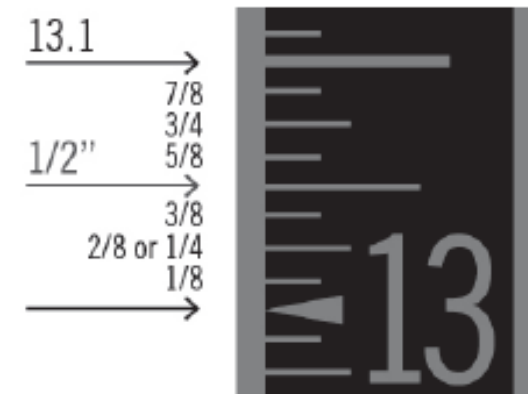
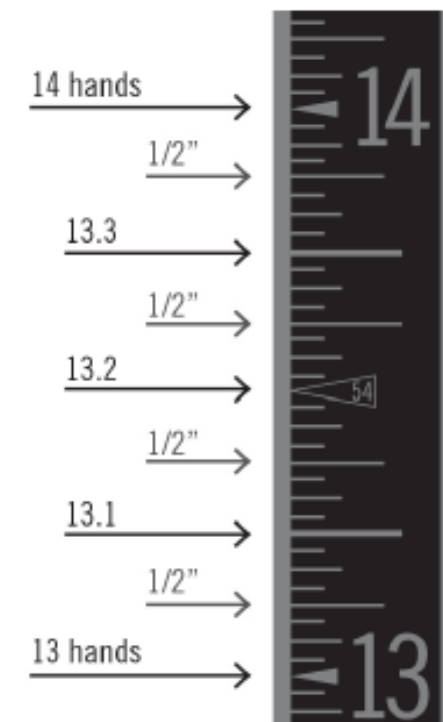
THE MEASUREMENT: READING THE STICK

- ▶ Only when both bubbles have been lined up, confirming the stick has been properly positioned, should the measurement be read.
- ▶ Step back from the animal with the stick.
- ▶ Take your time reading the stick.
- ▶ Try not to move the arm to read the measurement spot. If you must, be sure you have marked the location with your finger.
- ▶ Show the measurement to the handler.



THE MEASUREMENT: READING THE STICK

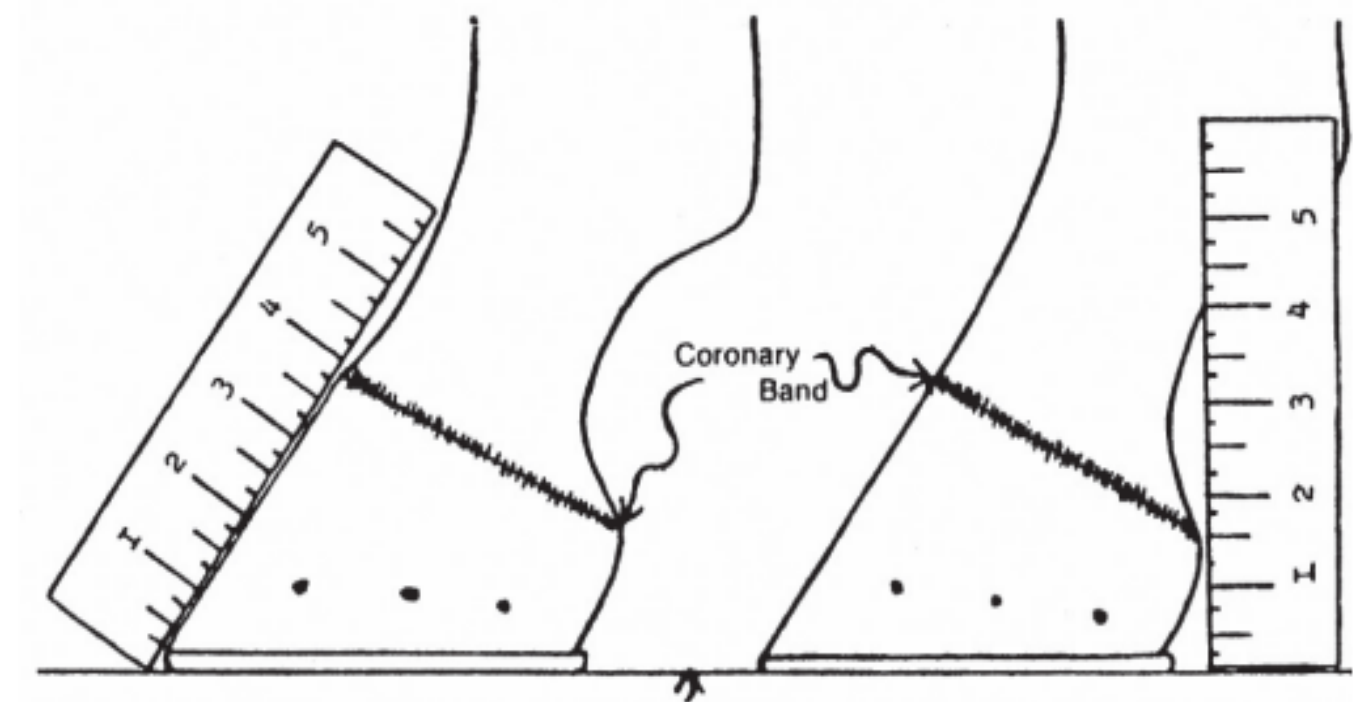
- ▶ Again, try not to move the arm to read the measurement spot.
- ▶ Be very careful when you read the stick. Take your time and be absolutely sure you have read the stick correctly.
- ▶ It may be an unfamiliar stick. Markings can be slightly different than on the stick you usually use.



HEEL MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ There are no heel measurements for Arabians.
- ▶ For the other breeds:
 - ▶ Using a 6" ruler, the height of the heel is determined by measuring from the skin line on the lower side of the coronary band to the ground, with the ruler perpendicular to the ground.

METHOD OF MEASURING TOE AND HEEL



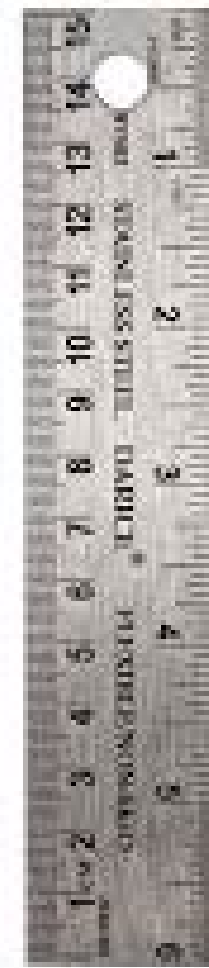
Smooth Flat Surface

ARABIAN TOE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Toe measurements for Arabians are not conducted as part of the measurement process.
- ▶ However, some Arabian shows, such as some National Championships, do require toe measurements.
- ▶ Arabian toe measurements vary from the other breeds in that they are measured from the hairline, not the soft part of the coronet.

ARABIAN TOE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ AR106.4(b): Using a 6" metal ruler, the length of the toe is determined by measuring the front of the hoof, in the center, from the hairline to the ground.
- ▶ Hairline is considered the origin of the hair at the coronet band.



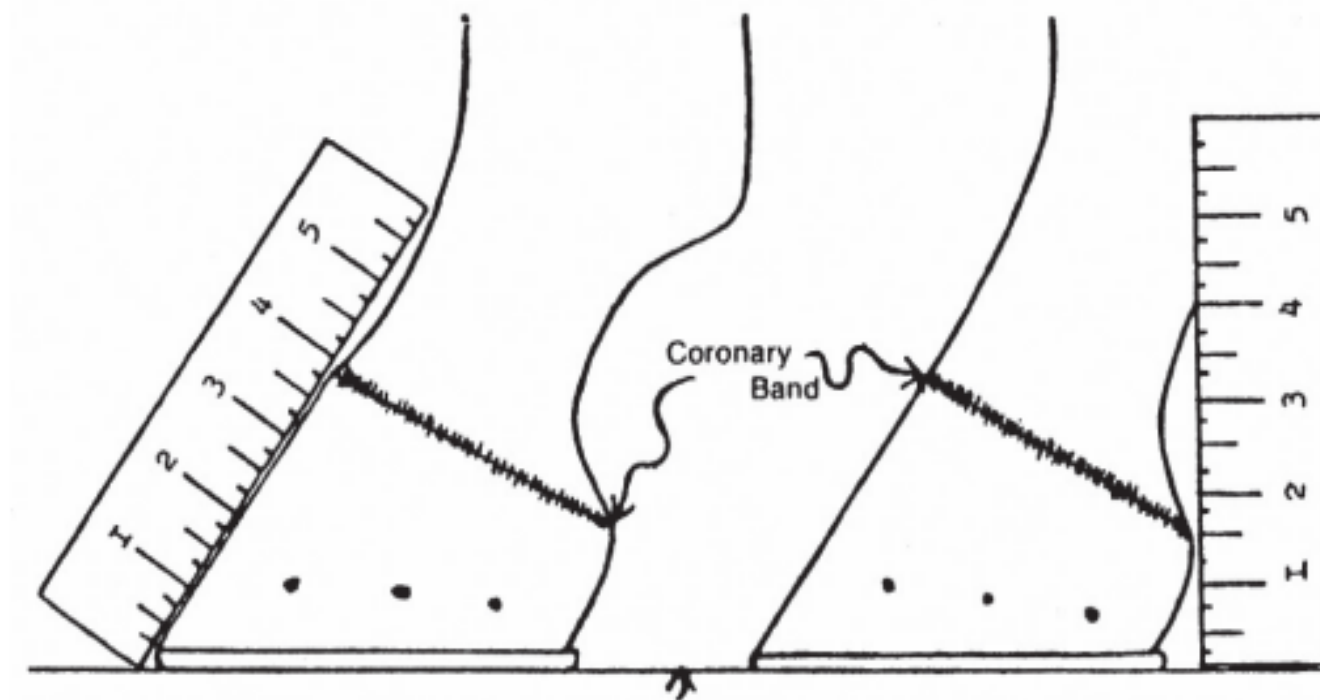
TOE MEASUREMENTS- EXCEPT ARABIANS

- ▶ Using a 6" metal ruler, the length of the toe is determined by measuring the front of the hoof, in the center, from the skin line on the lower side of the coronary band to the ground.
- ▶ The thumb should be used to press on the horny hoof wall proceeding from the ground to the hairline.
- ▶ The first compressible soft tissue palpated is the lower side of the coronary band.
- ▶ The hairline does not necessary constitute the lower side of the coronary band.

TOE MEASUREMENT

► Example:

METHOD OF MEASURING TOE AND HEEL

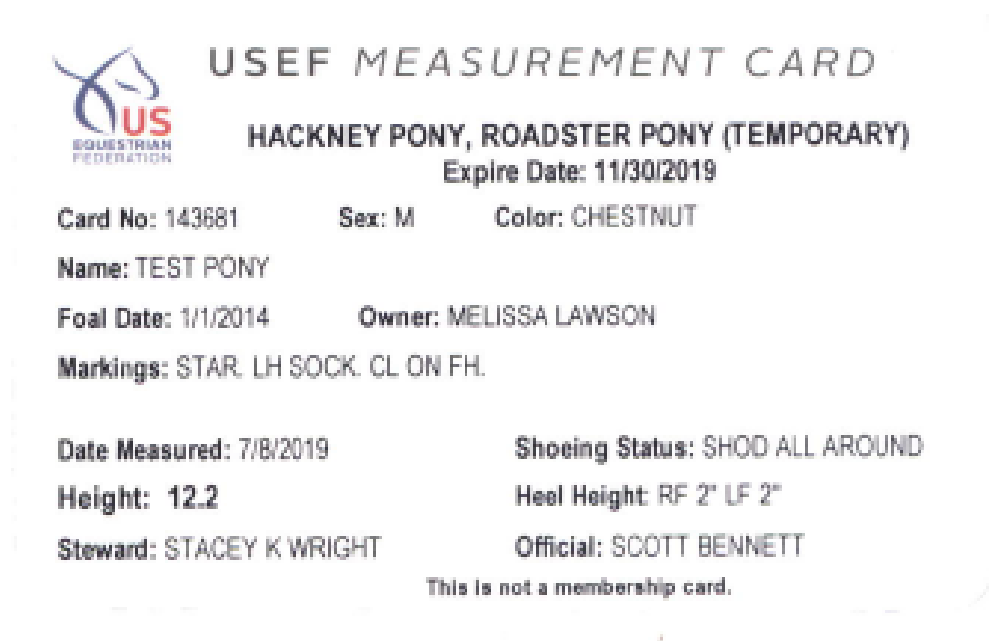


Smooth Flat Surface

MORGAN TOE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ GR510
- ▶ At an all Morgan competition and any competition designated as an AMHA Regional Championship Competition, all Champions and Reserve Champions in classes restricted to Morgans must have one foot measured immediately upon leaving the ring except in classes where points are accumulated to determine Championships (i.e., Dressage and Hunter)

COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM



USEF MEASUREMENT CARD

HACKNEY PONY, ROADSTER PONY (TEMPORARY)
Expire Date: 11/30/2019

Card No: 143681 Sex: M Color: CHESTNUT

Name: TEST PONY

Foal Date: 1/1/2014 Owner: MELISSA LAWSON

Markings: STAR, LH SOCK, CL ON FH.

Date Measured: 7/8/2019 Shoeing Status: SHOD ALL AROUND

Height: 12.2 Heel Height: RF 2" LF 2"

Steward: STACEY K WRIGHT Official: SCOTT BENNETT

This is not a membership card.

- ▶ You do not need to go into great detail, but all markings should be indicated.
- ▶ Try to make it so someone could look at your description and pick out that animal.
- ▶ Be concise and accurate.

COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ This part is self-explanatory.
- ▶ For gender, spell out mare, stallion or gelding.

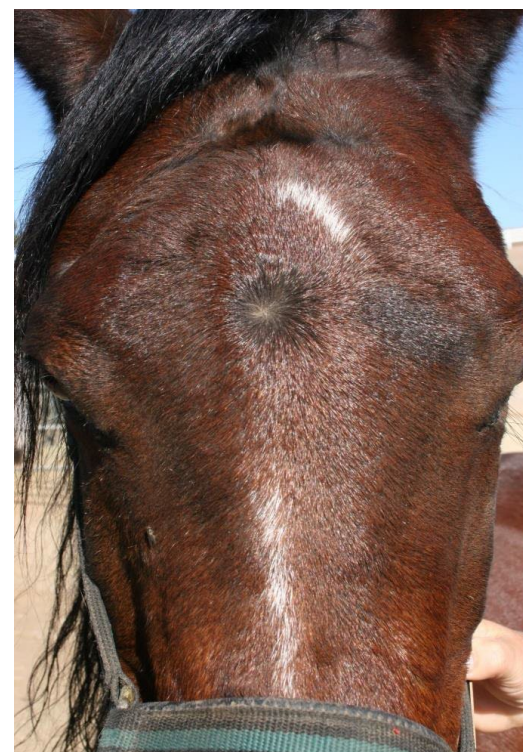
| THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY STEWARD AND VETERINARIAN ONLY | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------|
| DATE _____ | | NAME/COMPETITION # _____ | |
| MEASUREMENT STICK # (approved measurement stick must be used) _____ | | | |
| PURPOSE OF MEASUREMENT | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First measurement or measurement to replace expired temporary card. <input type="checkbox"/> Protest/Appeal/Re-measurement (circle one) <input type="checkbox"/> Change in shoeing status - Saddlebred Type pony, Hackney, Roadster, Shetland | | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured for this competition only; indicate reason: <input type="checkbox"/> No suitable measuring surface was available <input type="checkbox"/> Required combination of USEF officials not available | |
| *Any alterations/scratchouts/rewrites to any part of the height, height of foreheels, or thickness of shoe/pad must be clearly indicated and initialed by the measuring officials. | | | |
| SADDLEBRED - TYPE PONIES ONLY Height with pads/plates _____ Hands _____ Inches Heel measurement _____ LF _____ RF _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unshod <input type="checkbox"/> Shod only behind Deduct thickness of pad/plate: _____ LF _____ RF _____ (Pad/Plate may not exceed 1/4") True height of animal _____ Hands _____ Inches | | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Pony <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Hunter <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Hunter <input type="checkbox"/> Small Hunter <input type="checkbox"/> Pony Jumper <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> Hackney <input type="checkbox"/> Roadster <input type="checkbox"/> Arabian <input type="checkbox"/> Shetland <input type="checkbox"/> Parade Height _____ Hands _____ Inches Heel measurement _____ LF _____ RF _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unshod <input type="checkbox"/> Shod only in front <input type="checkbox"/> Shod only behind <input type="checkbox"/> Shod all around Animal was jogged and appears sound <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | |
| HUNTER/JUMPER/WELSH: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE <input type="checkbox"/> SIX OR OLDER (*Examination of teeth must be performed) | | | |
| HORSE/PONY'S SEX _____ | | COLOR _____ | BREED _____ |

COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ Some colors are hard to determine.
- ▶ You can ask the handler and the vet (if there is one present).
- ▶ Describe the markings.

COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ Note any scars, brands, whorls (or cowlicks).
- ▶ Find some sort of identifying marks. This may be difficult on a solid colored horse but is important.



COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ Cowlicks (also called whorls)
 - ▶ Where the hair changes direction
 - ▶ Exact location is important



COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ The presence of colored spots in distal white markings (ermine marks) should be noted.
- ▶ Any variation in the hoof pigment should be noted.



COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM

- ▶ Don't forget to look under the belly and under the chin.



CONCLUDING THE MEASUREMENT

- ▶ Use your breed specific Measurement Checklist and confirm you have completed the measurement correctly.
- ▶ Tell the handler what their animal has measured.
- ▶ Ask if they have any questions.



COMPLETE THE FORM

- ▶ The form must be signed by the Steward and filled in for the other Official.

MEASURING STEWARD

PRINT NAME _____

USEF MEMBERSHIP # _____

SIGNATURE _____

OFFICIAL/VETERINARIAN

PRINT NAME _____

USEF MEMBERSHIP # _____

CHECK ONE: ☐ STEWARD ☐ JUDGE ☐ VETERINARIAN

(Valid for 45 days from date of measurement except for Saddlebred ponies, Hackney and Roadster which are valid for the remainder of the current competition year.)

USEF : 4001 WING COMMANDER WAY : LEXINGTON, KY 40511 : (859) 258-2472 : (859) 231-6662 FAX : USEF.ORG

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COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FORM

- ▶ Must be legible and accurate.
- ▶ Forms are submitted with the report online or through the LO tab. You can upload the form or use the Online Measurement Form. USEF will not accept mailed or emailed forms.
- ▶ A verification of the measurement will be emailed to the owner, which is valid for 45 days. They will receive their measurement card via email. Exception: Hackney, Roadster and Saddlebred type pony measurement forms are valid for the remainder of the competition year.
- ▶ For show purpose only measurements, a copy of the form is not given to the owner. When using the Online Measurement Form, the owner will receive an emailed statement that a measurement was performed for that competition only but not card will be issued.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ▶ Animal was measured by a steward and/or vet not officiating at the competition (Invalid measurement)
- ▶ Person presenting was under 18 (Invalid measurement)
- ▶ Heel heights not taken (Invalid measurement, except Arabian)
- ▶ Corrections and clarifications can be emailed to measurements@usef.org.

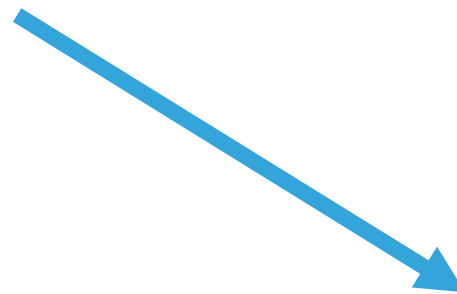
COURTESY MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ Courtesy measurements, while prohibited in Hunter and Welsh, are allowed in the breeds.
- ▶ For additional information on measuring for the breeds, see USEF Chapter 5.
- ▶ For additional measurement questions, contact the USEF Measurement Specialist,
 - ▶ measurements@usef.org, 859-225-2026

USEF MEASUREMENT STICKS

- ▶ USEF approved measurement sticks can be purchased or rented. The forms are available on the USEF website or can be ordered through your USEF Member Dashboard.

- ▶ Go to:



Order Forms

