



# C1: HUNTER MEASUREMENT

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# MEASURING HORSES AND PONIES

- ▶ Many of you are very experienced at measuring horses and ponies, conducting numerous measurements throughout the competition year.
- ▶ But other stewards measure infrequently, or are new to the measurement process.
- ▶ This lesson should serve as a review to those who are experienced measurers, as well as to help others gain confidence in their measurement skills.

# WHO GETS MEASURED?

- ▶ HJ Subchapter 7 in the USEF Rule Book covers Hunter measurements
- ▶ Any horses or ponies entered in classes restricted by size i.e. pony hunter, children's pony hunter, junior hunter, small hunter, pony equitation
- ▶ Welsh ponies competing in breed specific classes/competitions follow the same measurement process as the Hunters.
  - ▶ WPCSA issued measurement cards are also permitted for ponies showing in breed specific Welsh classes/competitions.



# MEASUREMENT CARDS

- ▶ Competition Management is required to check measurement cards for horses or ponies showing in divisions, sections or classes where height is a requirement.
- ▶ A copy of the measurement form is also acceptable to present to the show secretary for 45 days if competing before USEF has issued a measurement card
- ▶ Management can confirm measurement with USEF electronically.

A sample of a USEF Measurement Card for a Hunter/Jumper Pony or Welsh (Temporary). The card includes fields for Card No., Sex, Color, Name, Foal Date, Owner, Markings, Date Measured, Shoeing Status, Height, Heel Height, Steward, and Official. It also includes a disclaimer at the bottom: "This is not a membership card."

 **USEF MEASUREMENT CARD**

**HUNTER/JUMPER PONY OR WELSH (TEMPORARY)**  
Expire Date: 11/30/2019

Card No: 124486      Sex: M      Color: CHESTNUT

Name: TEST PONY

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

Markings: STAR, LH SOCK, CL ON FH.

Date Measured: 12/6/2018      Shoeing Status: UNSHOD

Height: 14.1      Heel Height: RF 1" LF 1"

Steward: GEORGE E CHATIGNY      Official: C. MIKE TOMLINSON

This is not a membership card.

# REQUIRED MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ A horse or pony must be measured every year until it reaches the age of six.
- ▶ Animals that are five and younger will be issued a Temporary Measurement card designating the year measured.
- ▶ At six (and over) they will be issued a Standard Measurement card which does not have to be renewed.
- ▶ Exception: Horses that measure 16.2 hands or over will be issued a Standard Measurement card regardless of their age.
- ▶ See Subchapter HJ-7 (HJ127-139) for additional information on required measurements.

# REQUIRED MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ Junior Hunters
  - ▶ Only **small** junior hunters are required to have a measurement card
    - ▶ **A small junior hunter is 16.1 hands and under, beginning 12/1/2023**
  - ▶ Any junior hunter without a measurement card will be classified as a large junior hunter
- ▶ It is the responsibility of the trainer, rider, and owner to understand the requirements of obtaining a measurement for the animal and to receive points
- ▶ Review HJ143.2

# SHOW PURPOSE MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ If a vet is not present to do measurements and a pony or horse needs a measurement to compete you may do a “show purpose” measurement
- ▶ The measurement may be conducted by a Steward and a Judge or another Steward officiating at the competition.
- ▶ This allows the horse or pony to compete at that show only and is not a measurement card
- ▶ The horse or pony will need to be measured again at the next show, regardless of age or height measured

# ASSEMBLING 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



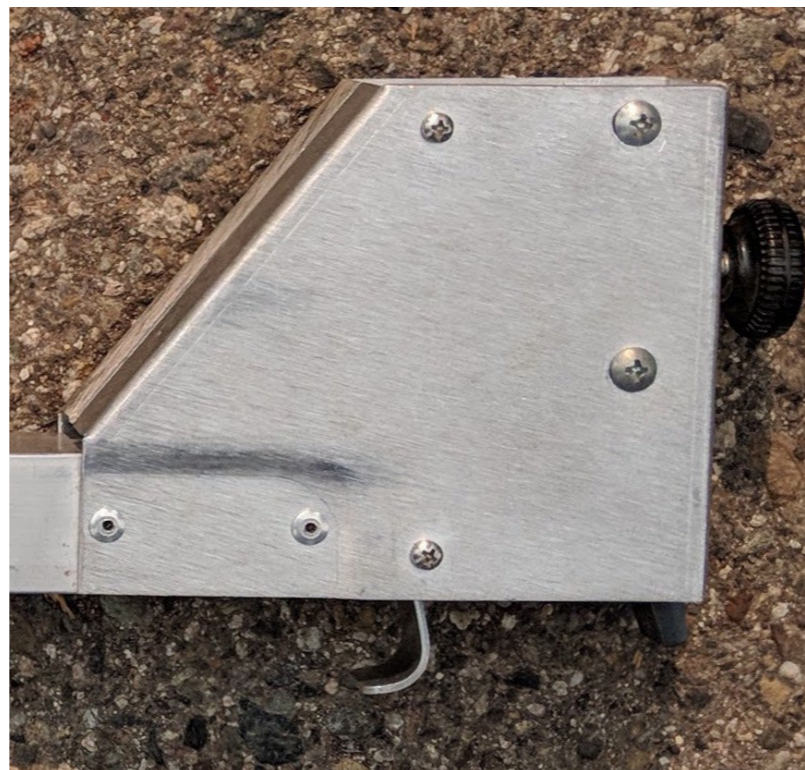
Cross  
Arm



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.
- ▶ Dirt or gravel is not acceptable.
- ▶ A level concrete slab or other paved surface is required.



# 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

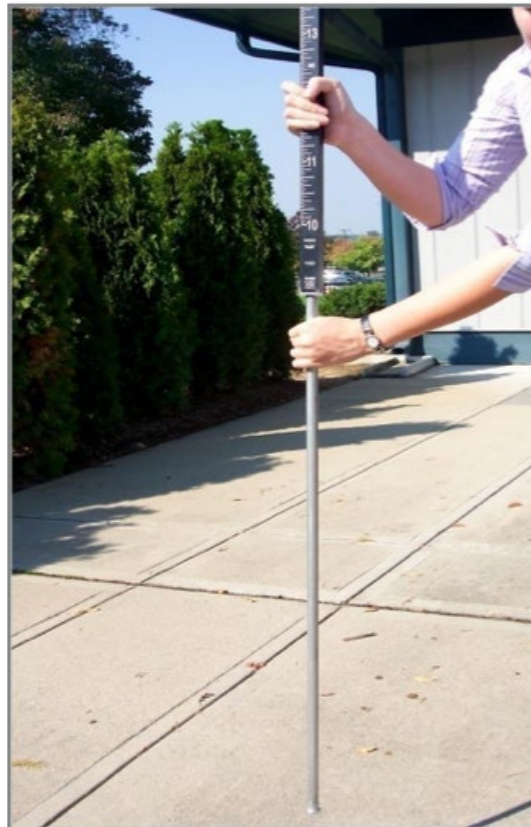
# ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ 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.



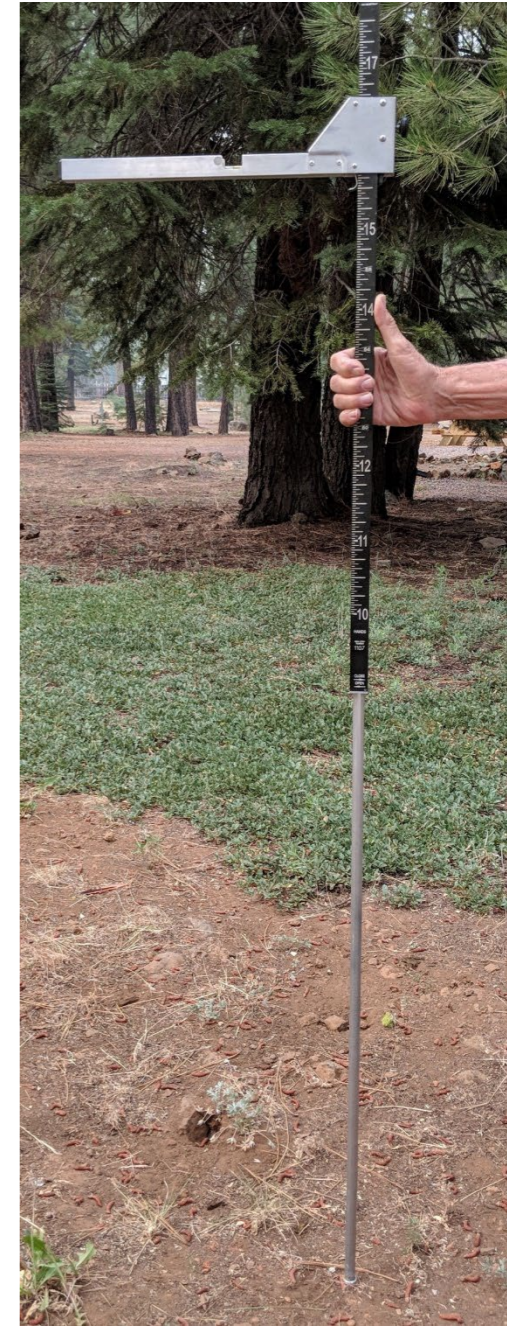
# ASSEMBLING THE STICK

- ▶ 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

- ▶ Each stick has a number which must be noted on the measurement form.
- ▶ The number 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 FORM

- ▶ The top part of the measurement form must be filled out completely before measurement takes place.
- ▶ The form must be completed by the trainer who signs the entry blank.
- ▶ The trainer 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 competing USEF 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.
- ▶ Equestrian Canada measurement cards are acceptable unless the competitor wants points, then a USEF measurement card is required.

# THE VETERINARIAN

- ▶ The competition veterinarian must be in attendance at the measurement.
- ▶ If the vet is not available, the measurement can be done by the steward and an officiating judge, or two stewards at the competition, and it will be for that competition only.
- ▶ The vet will confirm the age of the animal by checking its teeth.
  - ▶ If there is a discrepancy between the stated age of the animal and what the vet believes is accurate, it should be noted on the measurement form.

# THE JOG

- ▶ The competition vet will also jog the animal for soundness.
- ▶ The animal must be jogged with the same shoeing status as it is measured.
- ▶ The animal must be jogged on a firm, level surface and show no evidence of lameness.
- ▶ If found to be lame by the competition veterinarian, said animal cannot show at that competition and no measurement will be conducted.
- ▶ In the event of an animal found lame during the jog, no copy will be given to the owner but will be sent to USEF marked not sound.

# THE VETERINARIAN

- ▶ The vet can assist with paperwork and/or markings, but they may not conduct the measurement.
- ▶ Only the steward can measure the animal.
- ▶ The Vet will verify age and soundness.

# POSITION OF THE ANIMAL

- ▶ A maximum of two handlers may present the animal for measurement
  - ▶ They must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in this 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.

# POSITION OF THE ANIMAL

- ▶ The animal must stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters.
- ▶ The poll must be in the same horizontal plane as the withers and no lower and the head should be in a normal position.



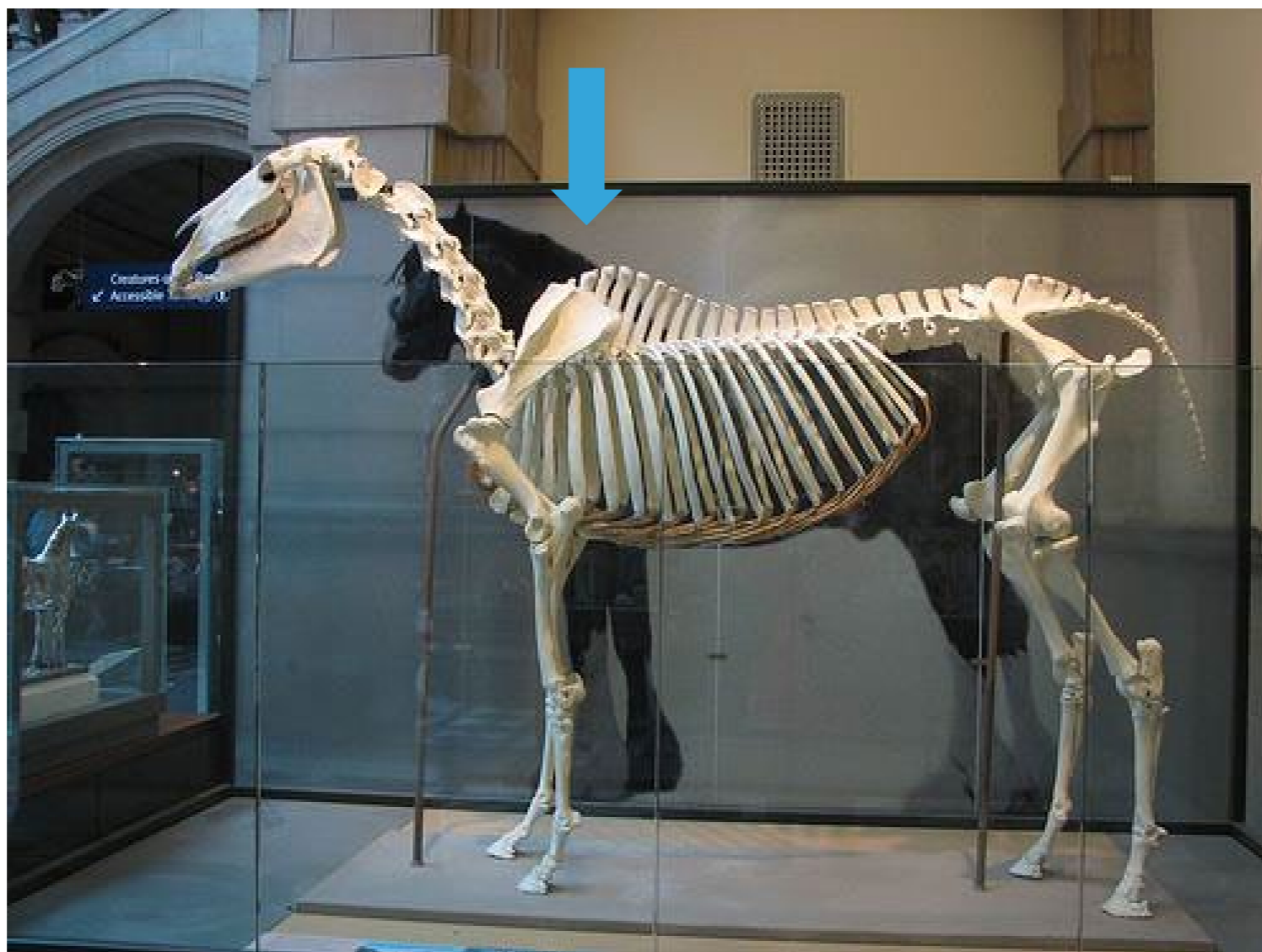
# POSITION OF THE ANIMAL

- ▶ The animal may be presented with or without shoes, regardless of how it is shown.



# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Withers are spinous processes.



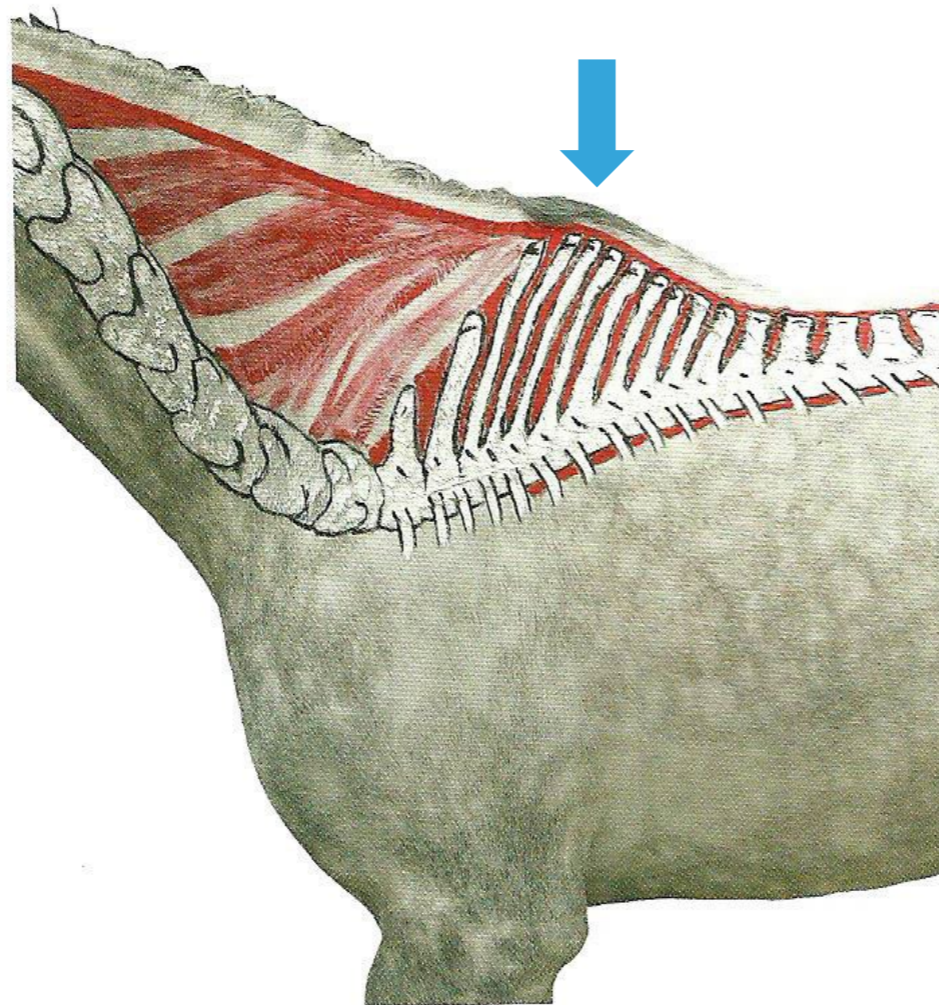
# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ The spinous processes



# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ Without the scapula/shoulder blade



# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

Prominent Withers

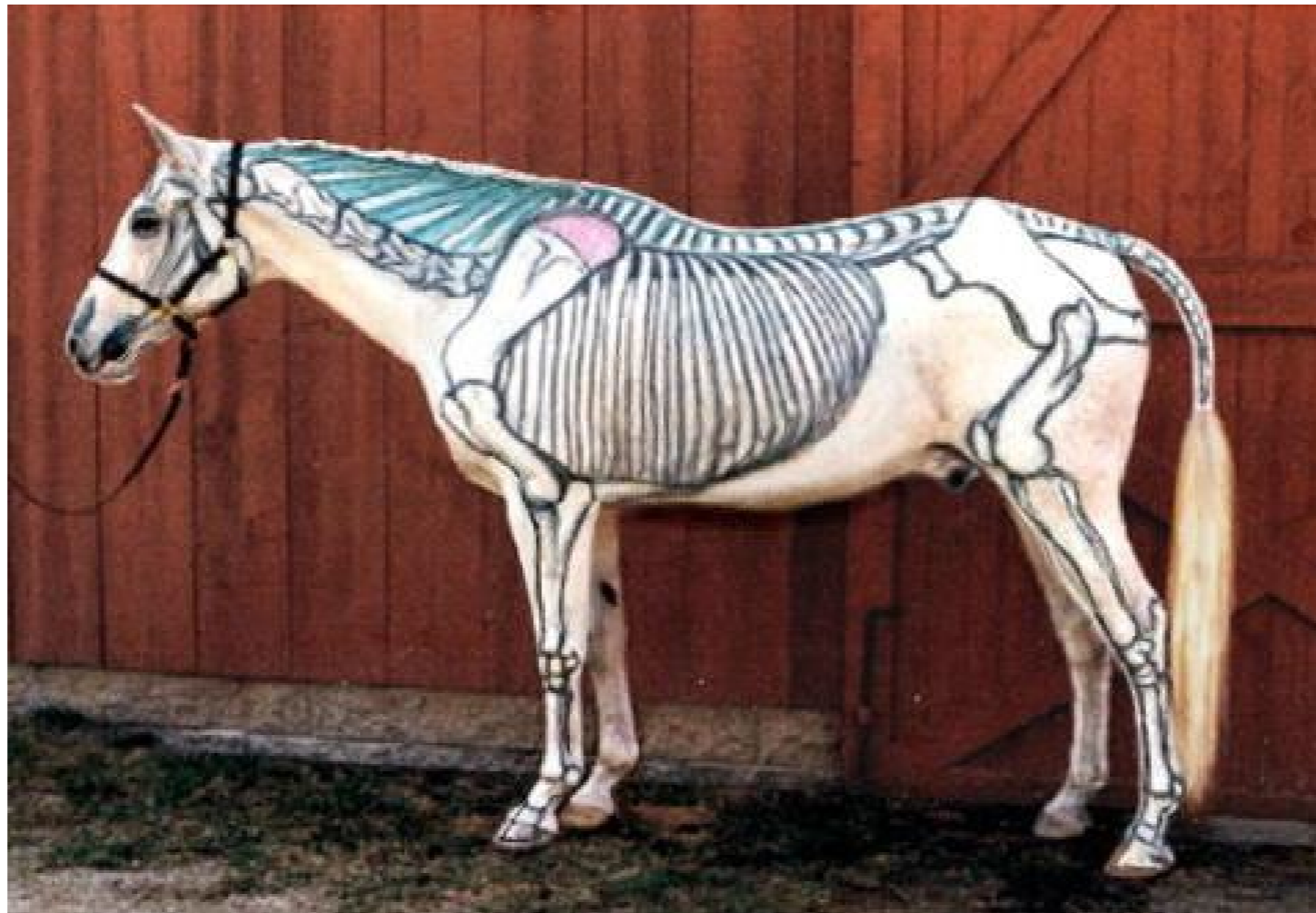


Mutton Withers



# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

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



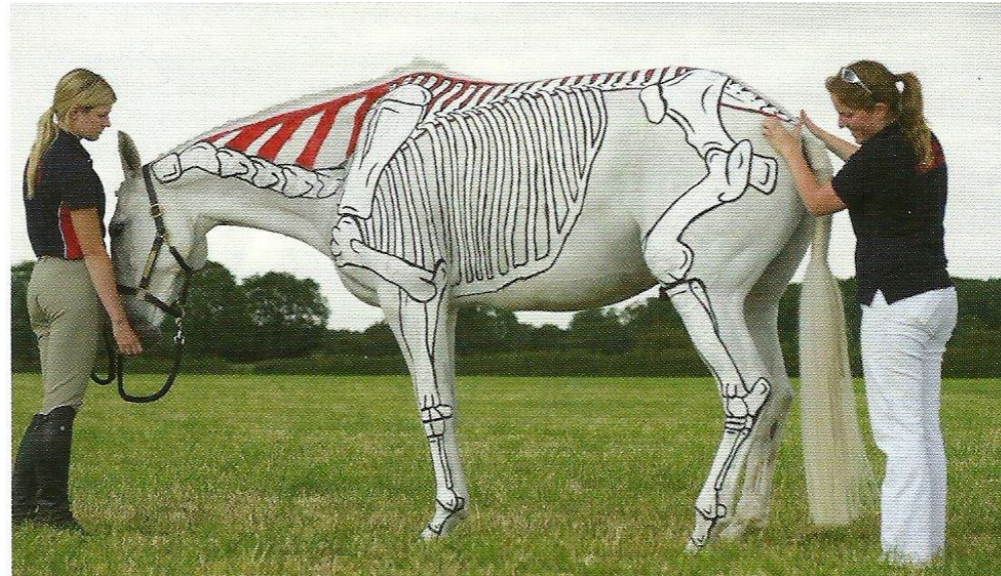
# FINDING THE HIGH POINT OF THE WITHERS

- ▶ 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

- ▶ You may need to pat or scratch the animal in order to allow it to relax.
- ▶ Give the animal a moment to get used to the measuring 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

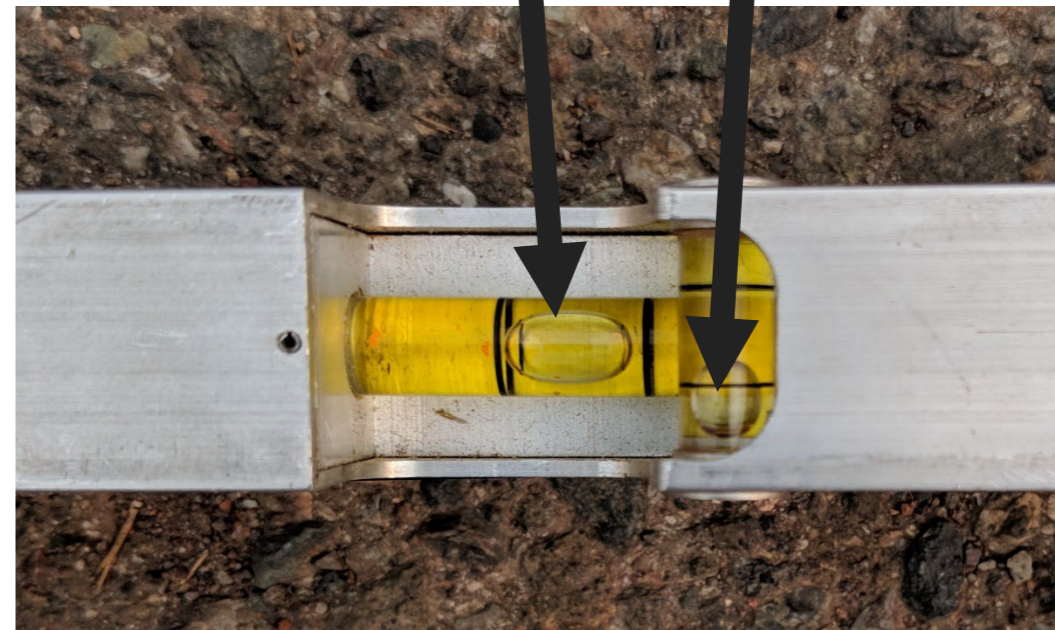
Bottom Bubble      Top Bubble



Neither bubble is aligned

Bottom Bubble

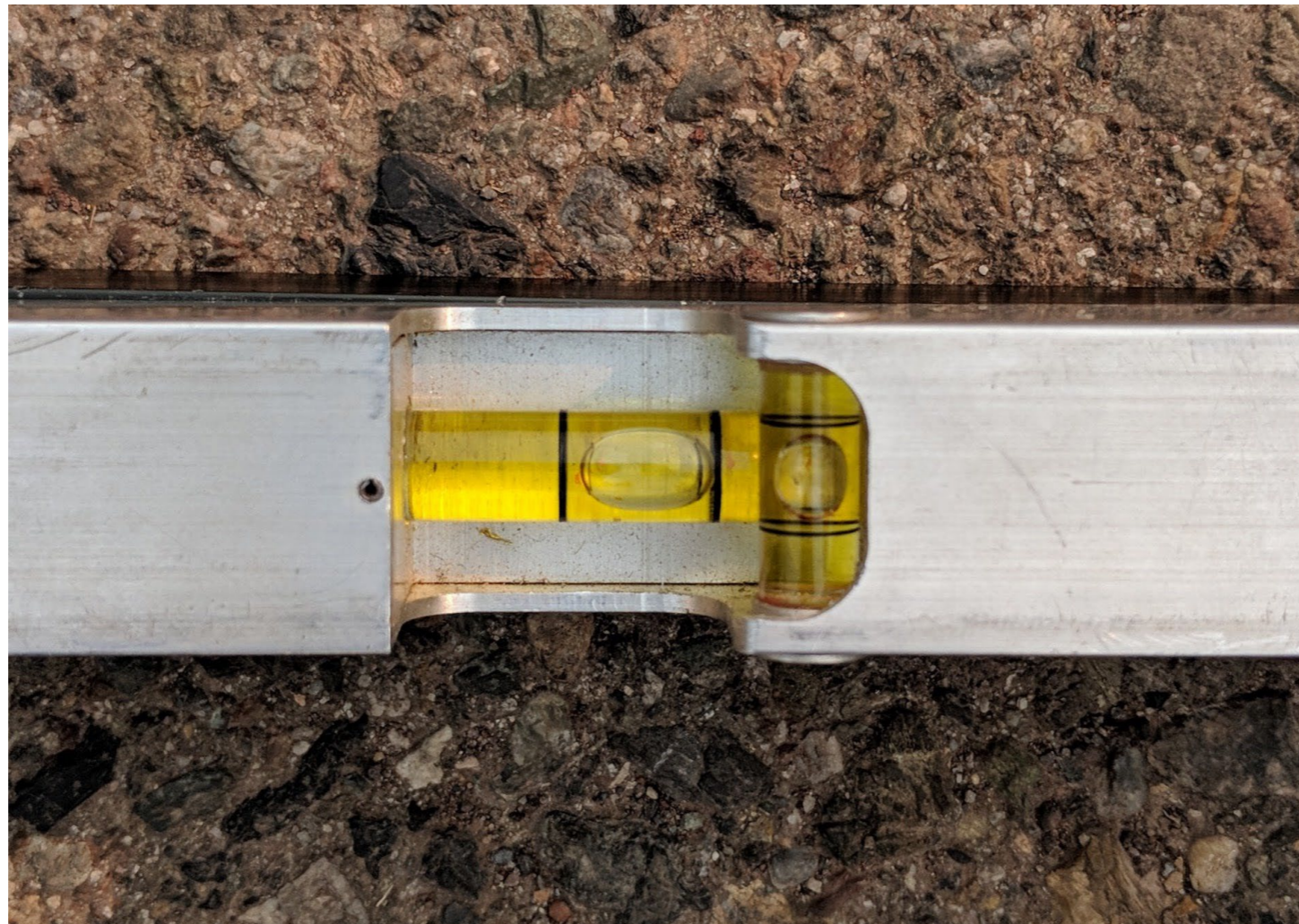
Top Bubble



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 up the stick to get the bubbles aligned but rather use the base of the stick foot to pivot.



# THE MEASUREMENT

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



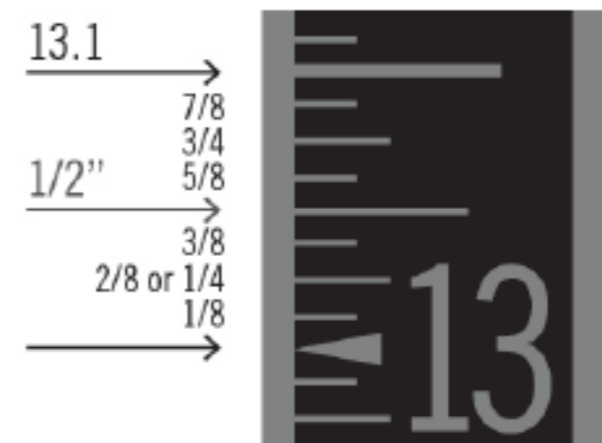
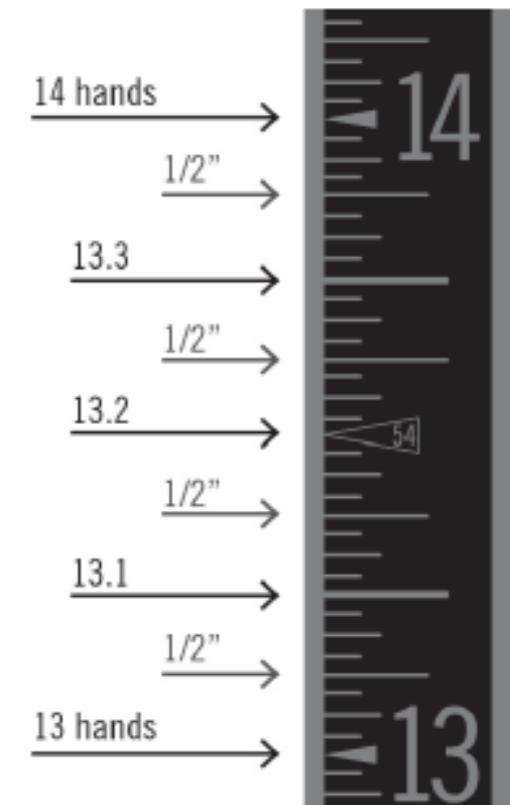
# THE MEASUREMENT: READING THE STICK

- ▶ 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.



## THE MEASUREMENT: 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.
- ▶ 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.



# COMPLETING THE MEASUREMENT FORM



USEF MEASUREMENT CARD  
HUNTER/JUMPER PONY OR WELSH (TEMPORARY)  
Expire Date: 11/30/2019

Card No: 124486      Sex: M      Color: CHESTNUT  
Name: TEST PONY  
Foal Date: 1/1/2014      Owner: MELISSA LAWSON  
Markings: STAR, LH SOCK, CL ON FH.

Date Measured: 12/6/2018      Shoeing Status: UNSHOD  
Height: 14.1      Heel Height: RF 1" LF 1"  
Steward: GEORGE E CHATIGNY      Official: C. MIKE TOMLINSON  
This is not a membership card.

- ▶ The measurement card is very small and has minimal detail about the animal.
- ▶ You do not need to go into great detail on your markings.
- ▶ 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 ( <i>circle one</i> ) <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.			
<b>SADDLEBRED - TYPE PONIES ONLY</b> 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).
- ▶ Fill in the description legibly and completely.

HUNTER/JUMPER/WELSH: ☐ UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE ☐ SIX OR OLDER (\*Examination of teeth must be performed)

HORSE/PONY'S SEX

COLOR

BREED

MARKINGS (Leave no blank spaces; indicate "None" if no markings are present.)

HEAD

COWLICKS

BODY

LEG:

LF

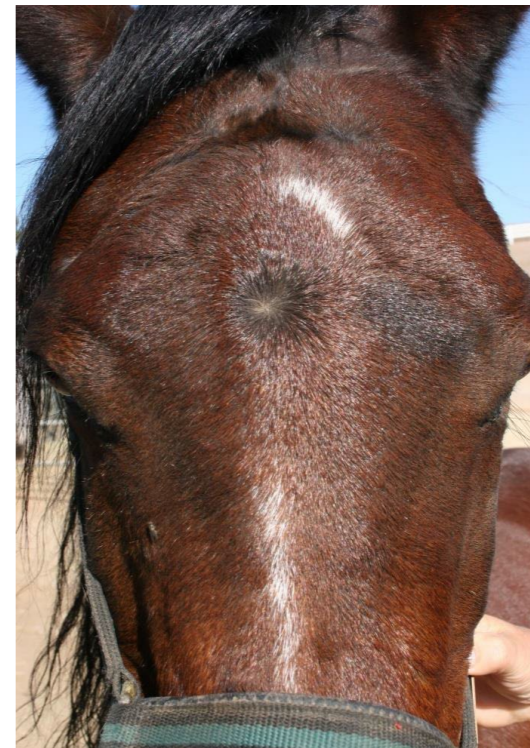
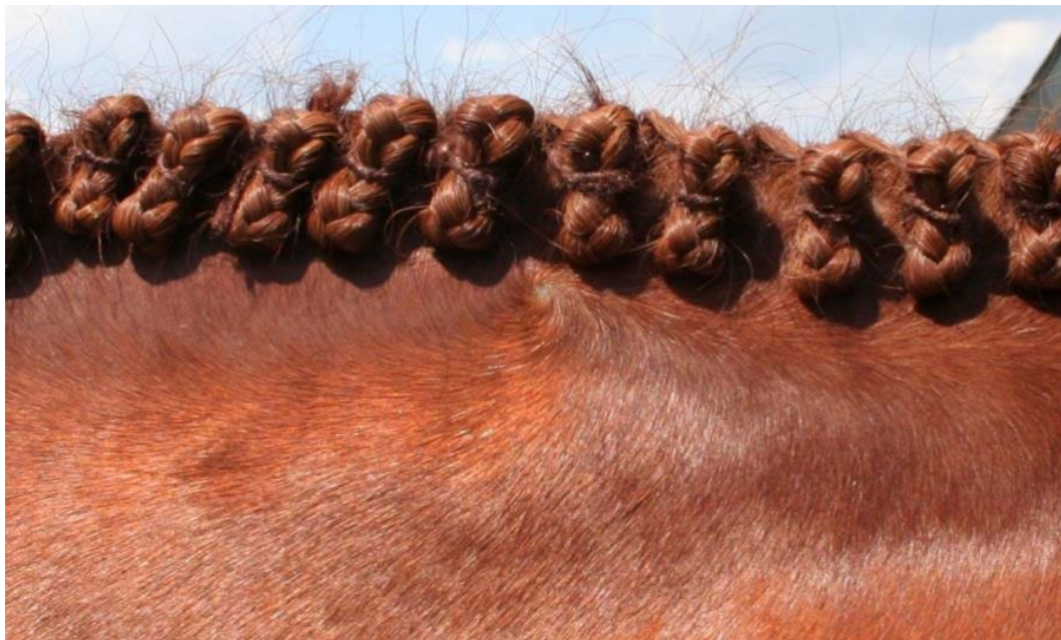
RF

LH

RH

# 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 it 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 described.
- ▶ 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.



# COMPLETE THE FORM

- ▶ The form must be signed by the Steward and filled in for the other Official.
- ▶ When completing an Online Measurement Form, please verify that the markings listed are correct. Any changes, corrections or additions will go in the Notes section.

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

©USEF

# 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.
- ▶ 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.

# APPEAL

- ▶ An appeal is filed if an owner/trainer questions the accuracy of a measurement.
- ▶ It must be filed within 14 days of the card being received and requested in writing to [measurements@usef.org](mailto:measurements@usef.org)
- ▶ You will be notified by the Federation via phone and email that an Appeal has been scheduled. The Testing Vet will be in attendance along with you and the Competition Vet and will collect a blood and urine sample. Testing Vet fees will apply. A consent form will be sent to you that will need to be signed by all parties and submitted with the measurement form. The form indicates agreement to measurement requirements and the administration of Lasix if necessary.

# RE-MEASUREMENT

- ▶ **A re-measurement to move to a lower division** is filed if a measurement is questioned and the 14-day window for an appeal has passed. It is filed in writing to [measurements@usef.org](mailto:measurements@usef.org). The Re-Measurement is conducted under the Measurement Appeal Rules (HJ138). Testing Vet fees will apply. If the new measurement results in an animal moving down a division, the animal cannot compete in any height restricted divisions for 90 days. Testing vet fees will apply.
- ▶ **A re-measurement to move up a division** can be requested anytime and filed in writing to [measurements@usef.org](mailto:measurements@usef.org). If the animal moves up, it can begin competing in the higher division immediately. No testing vet is required.

# PROTEST

- ▶ An owner or trainer may protest the height of only one horse or pony competing in a class in which he is also competing.
- ▶ The protest must be filed on the Measurement Protest Form with the steward at least one hour prior to the end of the competition day on which the horse or pony is showing in a division requiring measurement.
- ▶ The animal is required to be presented for measurement within one hour of the completion of the animal's last class on the day of the protest.
- ▶ If the animal remains in the current height section, it may continue to compete. If it measures outside the height section, it is suspended from competing for 90 days. An appeal may be filed per HJ138.5.
- ▶ \$100 Non-refundable fee required.

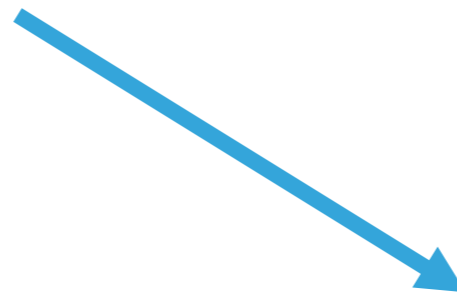
# COURTESY MEASUREMENTS

- ▶ Courtesy measurements are not allowed.
- ▶ Once you have begun the measurement, it must proceed.
- ▶ For additional measurement questions, call the USEF Measurement Coordinator,
  - ▶ [measurements@usef.org](mailto: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**

