



## **Gypsy Vanner Horse Evaluation Program**

### **Introduction**

The Gypsy Vanner Horse evaluation program has been developed as an educational tool for the horse breeder, to promote thoughtful breeding of Gypsy Vanner Horses of the type as detailed in the breed standard, and for the public to educate them about the breed. The program's purpose is to help breeders and owners to educate themselves about the strengths and weaknesses of their horses so they can use this knowledge in making educated breeding and purchasing decisions. This system should be looked upon as an important tool to help preserve the wonderful characteristics of the Gypsy Vanner Horse.

This is a voluntary program, therefore its success depends on its acceptance and use by Gypsy Vanner owners. It is a controlled system based on the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society breed standards. Each horse is scored against the breed standard, not against another horse. It is not a horse show and is not judged as such. There are two parts to the evaluation; the conformation/ movement evaluation for horses of all ages, and the performance testing for horses age 3 and older in english riding, western riding and driving. A horse can be entered into any part of the evaluation program in a given year, whether it be conformation/movement alone, performance alone, or any combination of evaluations and tests.

### **GVHS Approved Evaluators**

Horses will be evaluated and scored by two GVHS approved Evaluators. Evaluators will complete the evaluation training program. Training will consist of classroom work, slides and videos, hands on training and participation as a learner evaluator. Evaluators must sign an agreement with the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society to only evaluate Gypsy Vanners within the GVHS Evaluation System, and will not participate in private evaluations on farms, or at horse shows unless they are part of an approved, organized GVHS Evaluation.

Ethical principles must be adhered to by the Evaluators. In every situation the evaluators should attempt to act and behave with the highest ethical standards in mind. Evaluators have a compelling responsibility to fairly and independently evaluate each horse and to provide the horse owner with information and guidance which is clear and useful. Because some owners are novices, evaluators should take care that explanations are understandable. Evaluators are expected to be able to explain their assessments in addition to the written scores. Brief explanations can be given in the ring and evaluators should be available to make explanations to horse owners outside the ring and after the evaluation is finished.

The Evaluator must attempt to present a positive and professional image. The evaluator should be willing to offer helpful information and suggestions. The verbal manner of an evaluator and his/her personal behavior is very important. The Evaluator shall be friendly and respectful while evaluating and educating. Evaluators will dress in an appropriate manner and be prompt and on schedule, while also taking enough time to sufficiently evaluate each horse. The Evaluator must never disparage a horse, its breeder, or owner in any way.

The Evaluator evaluates a horse only by comparison to the breed standard not by the pedigree, the bloodline or the breeder/owner/handler. The Evaluator must judge a horse objectively as it is presented before them on that day. Any information previously received or heard, regarding a particular horse must be rejected, and the evaluation based on only what is seen at the time of evaluation. Evaluators must not assign scores to animals outside an official evaluation.

### **Dispute Resolutions**

In the event it is claimed an evaluator has acted in an unethical manner, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The incident or complaint should be reported to the on site Evaluation Manager immediately. It is preferable if the matter is raised at the evaluation site. If not, there is a 30 day time limit to file the concern.
2. The Evaluation Manager will make every effort to protect the privacy and dignity of all concerned.

3. If the matter cannot be resolved on site it will be taken to the Evaluation Committee which is overseen by the Board of Directors of the GVHS.
4. The GVHS BOD will make final decisions in all disputes after hearing recommendation of the Evaluation Committee.

## **Conduct of Breeders and Owners**

Owners and Breeders are expected to present their horse in a professional manner. Breeders and Owners will be respectful of the evaluators, the other breeders and owners, and show management. Breeders and Owners have an obligation to respect the view of the evaluator. Care must be taken not to misquote evaluators, take them out of context, or disparage an evaluator. Any issues or complaints are to be taken to the Evaluation Manager.

## **Evaluation Rules**

### **A. Eligibility**

1. The horse (of any age) must be registered with the GVHS in the Gypsy Vanner Studbook.  
OR
2. The horse must be 3 years old or older and registered in the GVHS Pre-Stud Book.

### **B. Equine Health and Fitness**

1. All Gypsy Vanners must provide a negative Coggins test from their veterinarian. The Coggins test date must be the shortest of one of the following date requirements:
  - a. within 12 months of the evaluation
  - b. in accordance with state regulation of the state where the evaluation is being held
  - c. in accordance with the requirements of the facility.
2. Horses traveling across state lines or country borders must comply with health certificate requirements for the state or country where the evaluation is being held.
3. The Evaluation Committee is responsible to contact local veterinarians and convey to exhibitors any recommendations regarding local outbreaks or contagious diseases.
4. Cruelty or abuse of a horse by any person at an evaluation is forbidden.
5. No horse will be misrepresented by the use of drugs, surgery, medications or appliances of any type.
6. The GVHS, the committee, the evaluators and the host venue will not be responsible for any accident, injury, damage, or illness to any horse, handler, owner, spectator, or other persons or property.
7. All tack, harness and vehicles will be safe, fitted and in good working condition.

### **C. Entries**

1. A completed entry form and fees must be paid and submitted to the Registrar by the closing date.
2. Entries will be accepted on first come, first served basis.
3. Number of entries may be limited depending on location, number of stalls or other criteria.
4. If the evaluation does not go forth as planned, entry fees will be refunded.
5. Refunds will only be issued for extraordinary circumstances such as sickness or injury of horse or owner.

### **D. Other**

1. All entrants are responsible to understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the evaluation process.
2. Handlers under age 18 must be supervised by an adult and are not allowed to handle stallions.
3. Substitute runners for running conformation/movement patterns are permitted.
4. If a horse presents a risk to itself, the handler, the evaluators, or the public it will be removed from the area and may be disqualified from the evaluation.
5. Once you have shown your horse in conformation or performance you cannot ask to have the score erased. Once the score has been written it stands and will be recorded. A horse can be reevaluated at another evaluation and each score will be recorded in the record book. A horse can withdraw part way through a conformation or performance presentation if the handler deems the animal not fit to continue and the score will not be recorded.
6. The owner will be given the owners copy of the score sheet. The original will be placed in the horses file in the offices of the GVHS registrar.

# Conformation/Movement Evaluation

## A. Scoring

There are eight categories of conformation based on the breed standards, each worth 1-10 points. Breed type is worth 1-10 points X 2 providing a maximum of 100 points possible. Each horse will be scored by the Evaluators independently and these scores will then be averaged to compute the official scores.

Numerical values given to each category reflect the following:

10 = Top quality	5 = Sufficient
9 = Very Good	4 = Non Satisfactory
8 = Good	3 = Insufficient
7 = Rather Good	2 = Poor
6 = Satisfactory	1 = Very Poor

Total point scale:

0-49	Unsatisfactory
50-59	Below average
60-69	Acceptable
70-79	Average to Good
80-100	Very Good to Excellent

## B. Conformation Scoring Categories

### 1. Head

- Length proportional
- Forehead flat and broad
- Frontal facial bone – flat to slightly convex
- Nostrils large
- Ears – proportional size, shape, position
- Eyes – large, expressive, placement
- Bite

### 2. Neck

- Length appropriate
- Crest arched and well muscled
- Shoulder Attachment
- Throat latch and neck underline

### 3. Body

- Shoulder angle
- Withers, defined, not sharp or round
- Back, short, strong
- Coupling/Loin proportional
- Croup round, high tail set
- Hip
- Chest, wide, developed
- Barrel, Girth deep with well sprung ribs
- Flank area deep

### 4. Forelegs

- Straight, correct
- Defined joints
- Dense flat heavy to medium bone
- Forearm to cannon
- Amount and quality of feather
- Pasterns length and angle
- Hooves
- Base narrow stance

### 5. Hind legs

- Straight, correct

Defined joints  
Dense flat heavy to medium bone  
Gaskin  
Hocks, set, angle  
Amount & quality of feather  
Pasterns length and angle  
Hooves

#### **6. Movement at walk**

Free, unrestricted  
Length of stride[Profile]  
Deliberate, forward, straight  
Suspension  
Tracking [Front/Rear]

#### **7. Movement at trot**

Natural, free flowing  
Length of Stride[Profile]  
Use of knee and hock  
Tracking [Front/Rear]  
Head and neck carriage

#### **8. Overall Impression**

Image of a small draft horse  
Balance and harmony

#### **9. Breed Type**

Presence- attitude, temperament  
Overall substance and bone  
Abundant feather  
Ample flowing mane and tail  
Gender characteristics

### **C. Conformation Presentation**

#### **1. Grooming**

Horse is to be presented clean and groomed.  
Horse can be clipped or unclipped.  
Mane, tail and feather to be free and flowing. Tail can be slightly banged or natural.

#### **2. Tack**

Mature horses to be shown in halter or bridle, reins, chain shank or lead rope.  
Young stock (under the age of 3) to be shown in halter, chain shank or lead rope.

#### **3. Attire**

Attire should be comfortable, clean, neat, appropriate and safe.

#### **4. Presentation**

Horse to be presented standing 10 feet in front of the judge. Horse will be asked to walk a triangle pattern with 40 ft sides. Then they will be asked to trot a triangle with 60 feet per side. Cones will be placed at the points of the triangles and the horse/handler will go on the outside of these cones.

### **Performance Evaluation**

There are three disciplines, ridden under English saddle, ridden under western saddle, and driving. Horses can be entered into any combination of evaluations and tests, at any time, whether it be conformation, and all performance tests, just performance tests, or any combination thereof. Tests may be retaken another time if a higher performance test score is desired. A horse cannot take the same performance test over on the same day.

The purpose of performance testing is to reflect the various ways the Gypsy Vanner is shown or used. The patterns have been adapted from standard patterns that are regularly used in the various disciplines of English or Western riding and driving. The tests are designed to allow the participant to show the horse's willingness to work, obedience, quality of the gaits, and level of training. **The emphasis of evaluating the horse's performance is focused on the horse's behavior.** Rider/driver errors made while executing the patterns, will not cause the horse to lose points for its performance. An entry may be asked to repeat parts of the test if the evaluator believes that a rider/driver error caused the horse not to perform well. Because it is best to give the horse every opportunity to show himself to the best of his

capability, it is recommended that participants familiarize themselves with the tests in advance and practice them prior to the evaluation date.

#### **A. General Rules**

1. Performance tests can be taken by any horse age 3 or over
2. Performance participants may be any age, however, no one under the age of 18 will be allowed to ride or drive a stallion. If the participant is under the age of 18 the entry form and release must be signed by a parent or guardian.
3. A reader is allowed for all tests without penalty.
4. A header is required for mounting and dismounting. While the horses are being mounted or dismounted the header is required to stand approximately 5 feet to the right of the horse's shoulder ready to assist with control if necessary. Points may be lost if assistance is needed.
5. Harness, saddles and bridles do not have to be show type. They must be clean, safe, serviceable and well fitting of the proper type for the discipline being tested. In the case of driving, the harness must be appropriate for the type of vehicle being used.
6. Mounting assistance for the physically challenged may be granted without penalty in advance by the Evaluation Manager. A mounting block may be used by anyone without penalty.

### **Awards and Recognition**

#### **A. General Rules**

1. Award levels can be noted on the registration certificate. A new certificate can be ordered by returning the current registration certificate and paying the current certificate replacement fee.
2. Awards, Recognition and scores will only be published if the owner gives permission by signing a release form.

#### **B. Star Award**

The Star Award is given to horses that attain qualifying scores in the Conformation/ Movement portion of the evaluation program.

- a . 60-69 Score will be given a Three Star recognition
- b. 70-79 Score will be given a Four Star recognition
- c. 80-100 Score will be given a Five Star recognition

#### **C. Gold Medallion of Quality**

Any horse with qualifying scores in the Conformation/Movement portion of the program and the Performance portion of the program will be awarded a Gold Medallion of Quality.

Gold Medallion of Quality in Under Saddle-Western requires a score of 70 or more in the Conformation/Movement Evaluation and a score of 70 or more in the Western Riding performance test.

Gold Medallion of Quality in Under Saddle-English requires a score of 70 or more in the Conformation/Movement Evaluation and a score of 70 or more in the English Riding performance test.

Gold Medallion of Quality in Driving requires a score of 70 or more in the Conformation/Movement Evaluation and a score of 70 or more in the Driving test.

#### **D. Versatility Medallion of Honor**

Versatility is a very important attribute of the Gypsy Vanner Horse. Because of this it is encouraged that Gypsy Vanners be trained in a variety of disciplines. The ultimate horse has good conformation, movement, and is a willing partner in multiple riding disciplines and driving. Tests can be taken over a period of time as training and skill level develop.

When a horse has received a Gold Medallion of Quality in all 3 performance tests that horse will be presented with the Versatility Medallion of Honor.

## **E. Hall of Fame**

A Gypsy Vanner stallion or mare can also be qualified for honors, based on recognition of the quality of its offspring. To be called a GVHS Hall of Fame Stallion or a GVHS Hall of Fame Mare the horse must meet the following requirements:

1. The horse must have offspring that are evaluated in the GVHS Evaluation program. These offspring must be evaluated in Conformation/Movement and in Performance.
  - a. A Hall of Fame Stallion must have 5 offspring that have received a Gold Medallion of Quality.
  - b. A Hall of Fame Mare must have 3 offspring that have received a Gold Medallion of Quality.
2. The owner must notify the GVHS registrar if they have a horse that qualifies for the Hall of Fame by filling out the provided form. The information will be verified by the Registrar.

