

NOOITGEDACHTER STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

APPENDIX B OF THE CONSTITUTION

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Nooitgedachter has good balance between the fore quarter, middle and hind quarter where each part forms a third. A square stance is characteristic with strong bone structure.

Good quality is exhibited by a proud appearance and attitude, non-fleshy (fine) head, supple skin and shiny coat. The horse has an alert, intelligent attitude with an inherent curiosity that reflects in an affinity and attraction to people. Stallions must express clear masculinity and mares femininity.

Nooitgedachters are predominately late-developers although they may reach puberty at a young age.

The height of horses range from 138cm to 163cm or 13.2 to 16 hands. The variation occurs due to a definite tendency in the breed towards both ponies and horses as well as due to the selection criteria in various ecotypes.

FUNCTIONAL/PERFORMANCE EFFICIENCY

The Nooitgedachter is a functionally efficient athlete that must produce excellent performance for many years. Because of this, hooves of excellent quality are essential. Thus shoeing should seldom be necessary.

The joints are prominent but dry and in proportion with the horse. The horse is capable of carrying an adult rider daily over rough terrain. Comfortable gaits such as walk, amble (strykstap), trot, rack and canter are characteristic. These make the Nooitgedachter an excellent work horse and participation in a great variety of equestrian disciplines is possible.

The skin must be dark pigmented. A lack of pigmentation is a reason for disqualification. Horses are any colour, but no colour patterns such as paint or pinto.

TYPE

The Nooitgedachter varies in type from wiry to stocky. The Nooitgedachter's outline is more inclined to be square than rectangular. The head must be regal with a dry/clean throat attachment and a medium - length neck that is set onto the shoulder relatively high. Prominently arching crests are relatively common

and together with the dry/clean throat attachment increases the proud and regal appearance.

The body is relatively well muscled with the appearance of symmetrical roundness and good depth. The proportion between the forearm and cannon bone as well as gaskin and hind cannon bone is approximately two to one.

Characteristics of the Nooitgedachter that are especially strongly apparent are their affinity to people, strong constitution and excellent digestive system, excellent legs and hooves, their comfortable ride and their grace.

TEMPERAMENT

The Nooitgedachter is known for its inherent attraction and affinity to people. Recognisable characteristics of good temperament are that the horses are adaptable and easy to train.

Movement is rhythmic, balanced and springy, with ground covering gaits. The Nooitgedachter in motion is an attractive picture with the flight of fore and hind hooves in line with each other while the horse is propelled from the loins. Although riding comfort, with the smooth gaits such as walk, amble, trot, canter, rack and gallop are characteristic, pacers are undesired because of the conformation faults associated with the pacing gait, which influences the correctness of gaits.

HEAD

A dry/clean head with strong, well defined cheek bones and an open gullet is characteristic. Stallions have a proud, observant attitude. The head, seen from the front, is in proportion to the body, short from muzzle to forelock, with a broad flat forehead and relatively short sharp pointed ears that are correctly placed and mobile.

The profile must be straight or slightly concave, with cheek bones defined and prominent and the jaw bone straight in horses that have finished shedding teeth. The nostrils must be large and elastic. The eyebrows must be prominent but not too heavy. The top and bottom teeth must align. A dry/clean/ non-fleshy head with a pliable fine skin and defined points of bone and visible veins is preferred.

EYES

The eyes must be large, open and placed well apart. The eyebrows must be prominent but not too heavy. An intelligent, captivating gleam to the eye is aspired to. Wild, white and rolling eyes are not characteristic of the breed. In mares the eye should exhibit softness and femininity.

NECK AND ATTACHMENT

The neck is moderately long, supple and well-muscled with a dry head attachment. The throat latch is well defined with plenty of space in the gullet. The attachment with the shoulders is high and well defined. An arched crest in stallions, finer in mares is aspired to. The top line of the neck is longer than the under line. Manes are thick and abundant.

WITHERS AND SHOULDER ATTACHMENT

A loose, deep and sloping shoulder with a long shoulder blade is striven for, while correct forearm / cannon bone proportion allows for long strides. A line from the point of shoulder to the highest point of the withers should form an angle of around 50 degrees with the horizon. The shoulder should be well muscled, but not loaded at the attachment with the withers. The withers should be higher than the croup and be in such a position that the saddle fits behind it naturally. The shoulder and pastern should have the same approximate angle.

CHEST

Seen from the side the chest floor (pectoral region) should be lower than the point of the elbow. Seen from the front the chest muscles should be well developed with a relative broad chest floor. The upper arm should be parallel to the rib cage. Seen from the side the humerus should be relatively short and upright and so bringing the forelegs far forward on the trunk.

FORE LEGS

The proportion between the forearm and the cannon bone must be approximately two to one. The horse, seen from the front, should stand square on its forelegs.

Seen from the front, a straight line should run from the point of shoulder, through the middle of the knee, the cannon bone, the fetlock and the hoof. Seen from the side the leg should stand vertically. The forearm should be long

and muscled. The knees, seen from the front, are deep, broad and dry with the tendons equal and clearly visible. The fetlock should be relatively large and dry/clean. The pastern moderately long and resilient /elastic with the same angle as the shoulder.

MIDDLE

The top line of the middle portion is formed by the back and the loins. It must run more or less horizontally and join the croup smoothly. The top line should be shorter in comparison with the under line. The ideal is that the horse should have a short, well-muscled back with strong loins but stand over a lot of ground.

To accommodate a deep chest and provide plenty of space for the heart and lungs the rib cage must be oval. For the horse to have a good constitution the short rib must be well sprung and long to provide for a deep and full flank. The space between the last rib and the hip must be relatively small.

HIND QUARTER

The hind quarter must be relatively long and muscled from the point of hip to point of buttocks. Seen from the back the hind quarter must be broad between the pins, with the hips and croup well-muscled and full. The croup, seen from the side, slants moderately downwards, with a relatively high tail set. A too flat croup, or too much of a slant, are discriminated against. Seen from behind the hind quarter, inside and gaskin should be well-muscled and full low down towards the hock. The gaskin must be long, broad and strongly muscled. The proportion between the gaskin and cannon bone must be as near as possible to two to one.

HIND LEGS

The hind legs, seen from behind, are parallel and are straight from point of buttocks through the the hock, cannon bone, fetlock and to the hoof heel. Seen from the side a straight line can be drawn from the point of buttock, right on the back line of the cannon to the ground. The pastern must be moderately long and elastic but can be more upright than the forelegs' pasterns. Fetlocks must be broad and strong.

HOOVES

Seen from the side the hoof has more or less the same angle as the pastern. A well-formed hoof with a relatively high heel is ideal with the hoof wall broad

and thick. The coronet must be rounded. Guard against pinched heels but also against too open heels and flat soles. Seen from underneath, the sole is concave with a prominent, elastic frog. The frog should divide the hoof in half, from front to back .

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

The reproductive organs must be well developed and complete (ie in stallions both testicles must be present). In mares the udder must be well formed and large.

UNDISERABLE CHARACTERISTICS / DISCRIMINATIONS

- Conformation points that deviate from the ideal such as: a coarse, fleshy head; small eyes; short thick round neck; short upright shoulder; too fleshy (loaded) shoulder and point of shoulder; sway back, poor back muscling; too long a back; roach back; a too high/pointed (dakkig) or too flat croup; back at the knee (calf knees); over at the knee; poor hoof wall; flat open hooves; hooves that turn excessively outwardly or inwardly (splay or pigeon toed); cow hocks; sickle hocks; x legs; upright, short pasterns; tied in under the knee.
- Characteristics that prevent functional/performance efficiency.
- Colour deviations such as a too large a blaze, or extremely high socks.
- A horse that does not move rhythmically, balanced, with impulsion and long strides.
- Thick and long fetlock hair – feathers.
- A non-typical head (especially a fleshy coarse head).
- A head/neck setting that is too coarse.
- Long ears.

Disqualifications

When judging or inspecting the Nooitedachter take note of the following undesired characteristics and the reasons for the disqualification.

- Undesirable temperament. Horses that are clearly afraid of people (menssku), aggressive or unpredictable.

- Inherited characteristics and conformation deviations such as parrot mouth, sway back, strong roach back, bowlegged hocks, curbs, weak fore or hind legs, joints or hooves.
- Wither height less than 134,11 cm or more than 162,56cm
- Colour patterns (piebald or skewbald) or lack of pigmentation (albino).
- Blue eyes.
- Eye with too much white showing
- rig or underdeveloped reproductive organs.
- Pace - associated with conformation deviations and influences the correctness of the gaits.