

The Tennessee Walking Horse

FACING THE FUTURE WITH PRIDE



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Tennessee Walking Horses *Naturally Gifted*

- The smooth walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse, including its distinctive overstride, is a natural gait often performed by newborn foals as they stroll alongside their mothers. Careful and knowledgeable breeding over several generations has enhanced the components of this gait, enabling modern Tennessee Walking Horses to perform with more animation and flair.
- It is not uncommon to see Tennessee Walking Horses continue to show in all disciplines well into their late teens and 20s. In fact, The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, the breed's premier event, gives special recognition to all entered horses age 15 and above. In 2007 there were 53 such horses, deemed Classic Horses, entered in the show.
- The pads worn by performance Tennessee Walking Horses are tightly regulated as to height, angle, and materials used.
- An in-depth study conducted by Auburn University found that the pads and action devices, when used according to regulation, cause no ill effects to the horses that wear them.
- Many breeds use action devices for training and show. The action devices worn by performance Tennessee Walking Horses are limited in weight to six ounces. (A four ounce watch worn by a 130-pound woman is proportionately five times heavier than a six ounce action device worn by a 1,000-pound horse.) Action devices must be free of rough edges and they may not touch the horse's coronet band. They may only be used with an approved lubricant, such as mineral oil, so as not to cause any friction or discomfort for the horse.
- Pads do not prevent performance Tennessee Walking Horses from being turned out for exercise. Many performance Tennessee Walking Horses have their pads removed during the winter when they are enjoyed as trail horses.



THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE UNIQUE AMONG BREEDS

Grace. Beauty. Athleticism. The Tennessee Walking Horse was bred to embody each of these characteristics. It was the gracefulness and pure pleasure of riding a Tennessee Walking Horse that was the distinct purpose in the creation of this truly unique breed.

Bred mainly from Standardbred, Morgan, Thoroughbred, and American Saddlebred stock, the Tennessee Walking Horse has developed, after years of refinement, into one of the smoothest riding horses in the world. The three, easy-riding gaits of this breed – the flat-foot walk, the running walk, and the canter – are all natural, inherited characteristics, easily recognized even in a young foal as it walks alongside its mother. Rhythm, timing, and balance; every part of the horse is in tune with nature, making the gaits of the Tennessee Walking Horse not only an easy ride, but an elegant experience to watch.





With an amiable disposition and a kind manner, the Tennessee Walking Horse is suitable for just about any rider. It is a very intelligent breed with a gentle demeanor that makes it the ideal horse for men, women or children of any age. Even timid or inexperienced riders can enjoy this breed, which is often referred to as the “Gentleman of the Equines.”

A horse of many talents, the Tennessee Walking Horse has made a name for itself in multiple show ring disciplines, as well as, on the ranch, in public service, and on the trail. In the show ring this breed is well known for its showmanship, intelligence, athleticism, and grace. Those same characteristics are put to great practical use in public service, as well as, on the ranch and trail. Well suited for a variety of competitive events, Tennessee Walking Horses have earned high accolades in versatile disciplines such as driving, jumping, reining, pole bending, barrel racing, and endurance riding.



Every Horse, Every Time

- 100% of Tennessee Walking Horses are inspected 100% of the time before showing. Every horse, every class, every show. No other breed goes to this length to ensure the health and safety of show horses.
- In addition to pre-show inspections, horses are subjected to random post-show inspections. The inspection procedure for Tennessee Walking Horses covers three points – locomotion, appearance, and palpation.
- Once inspected, horses are kept under observation in the warm-up area. They are not allowed to leave this area until their class is called to the ring.
- Since the passage of the Horse Protection Act (HPA), incidences of abuse in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry have decreased steadily to the point that in 2007 over 99% of show and sale entries were found to be in compliance with the law.
- The walking horse industry’s inspectors, known as DQPs, undergo rigorous training alongside USDA Veterinary Medical Officers. The industry is working closely with the USDA in developing and utilizing new inspection technologies.
- The Walking Horse Trainers’ Association Code of Conduct calls for its members to treat horses in their care humanely and with respect and dignity. This code also calls for discipline for trainers that use techniques that cause pain for purposes of performance enhancement.



TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE BREEDERS' AND EXHIBITORS' ASSOCIATIONSM

FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

With the welfare of the breed always at the forefront, the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEASM), along with all other Tennessee Walking Horse industry organizations, publicly denounces intentional soring practices and abuse of any kind. TWHBEASM works hard alongside other industry organizations as well as the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure the utmost care for all Tennessee Walking Horses. Cooperative efforts within the industry have resulted in ever increasing rates of compliance and Tennessee Walking Horses are among the best cared for show horses in the equine world.

TWHBEASM is committed to promoting and ensuring the longevity of all disciplines within the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

The TWHBEASM protects the investment of Tennessee Walking Horse owners by establishing policies, requirements, and maintaining the breed registry. TWHBEASM educates owners by providing classes, informative videos, and brochures, and by publishing the official breed journal *Voice Of The Tennessee Walking Horse*. Also dedicated to promoting the Tennessee Walking Horse, TWHBEASM provides information for press exposure, presents the breed at horse fairs the world over, and does everything necessary to inform the public of the fine qualities of the Tennessee Walking Horse. TWHBEASM is committed to promoting and ensuring the longevity of all disciplines within the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

(931) 359-1574 • WWW.TWHBEA.COM



Statistics Speak Volumes

2007

50,620 Total Number of Horses Inspected by the National Horse Show Commission.

505

Total Number of HPA Violations, including Technical Violations (a 51% decrease from 2006).

99.01%

Percentage of Horses Deemed In Compliance with the HPA.

2006

56,602 Total Number of Horses Inspected by the National Horse Show Commission.

983

Total Number of HPA Violations, including Technical Violations.

98.27%

Percentage of Horses Deemed In Compliance with the HPA.

Never Satisfied

The National Horse Show Commission is continuing to enhance its inspection procedures; constantly striving to get closer to 100% compliance with the Horse Protection Act.

99.01% Rate of Compliance in 2007.

51% Decrease in HPA Violations from 2006.