

WELSH BREED CONFORMATION

Ideal conformation for all sections of the Welsh breed is essential to preserve their present and future identity.

The accompanying diagram is dissected into five squares, each consisting of circles representing conformation points. Each circle carries an evaluation of 0 to 3 points. Perfect conformation from all circles totals 90 points. If examples of unsoundness such as: parrot mouth, impaired vision, undershot jaw, laminitis (founder), heaves, offset cannon, or ring bone are evident, then some of the 10 points would not be added to the 90 points for perfect conformation.

Square I

In relationship to the body, the short small head should be clean cut, well set on and tapering to a square muzzle. Flared nostrils allow for deep breathing during all phases of activity. Bold eyes wide apart on the side of the head permits broad

range vision. Small pointed ears must be close together at the top of the head.

A clean finely cut throat latch attaches to a long shapely neck, cresty in stallions, less in mares and geldings.

Square II

The desired long sloping 45 degree shoulders blend into clearly defined withers joining a strong back and well sprung ribs. In mature Welsh, the length of the foreleg should equal the depth of the body from the bottom of a deep girth to the top of the wither.

Square III

Muscular strong and well-coupled loins connect to a relatively flat lengthy croup extending to a gayly carried tail. Flanks and quarters should be fully developed.

Square IV

Forelegs set square and true under the body form a vertical line connecting from the ground upward to the front of the wither. Round flat hooves with low heels support medium sloping pasterns, short cannon bones, and long forearms.

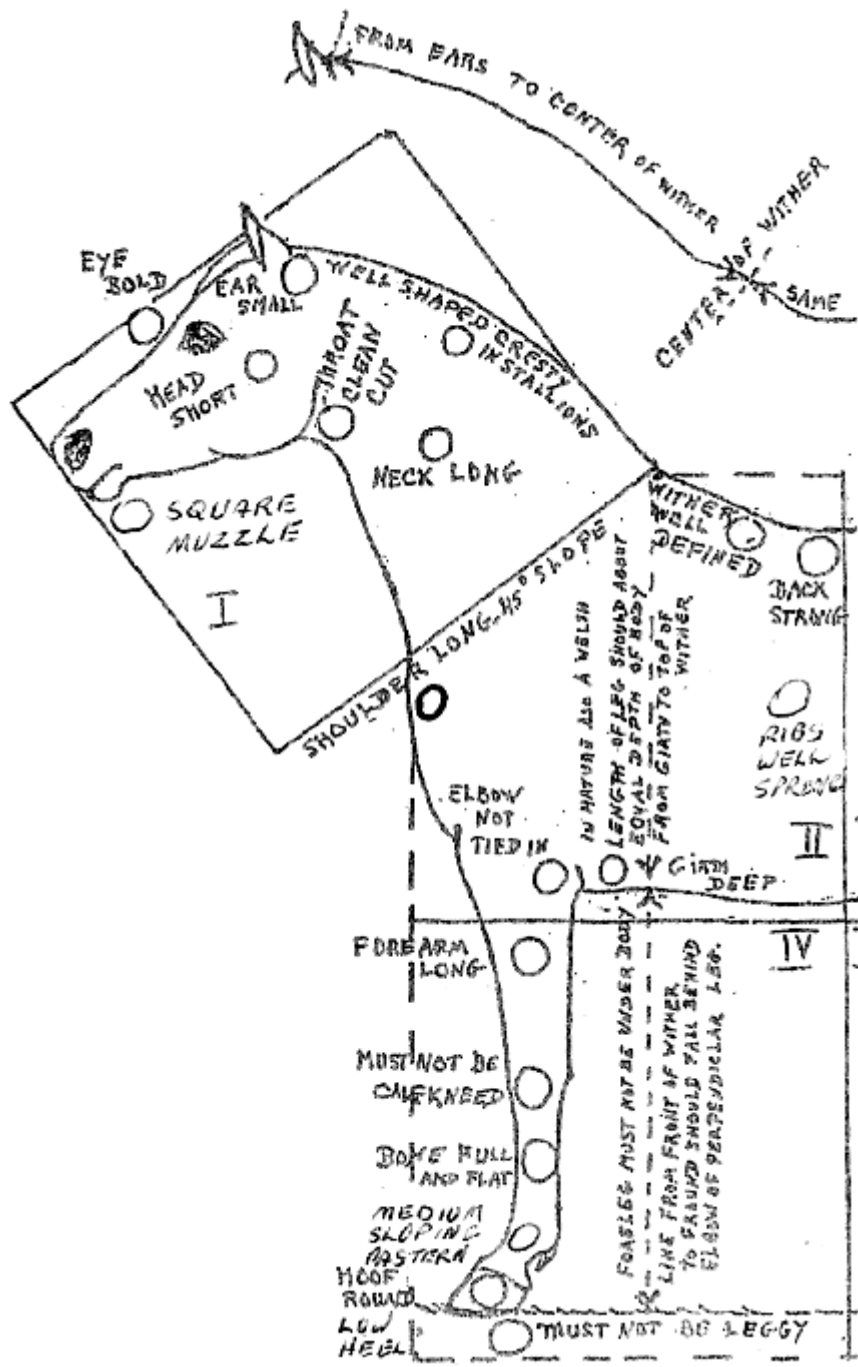
Square V

Low heels join short cannon bones and form a vertical line upward to the back of large hocks. This line continues upward through full rear quarters to the dock where a lengthy croup connects to the tail. Hocks that turn neither inward nor outward are the driving force propelling shoulders to display forward reaching action.

Due to ancestry, variations in conformation may be present in the Section B and Partbred, but the Welsh characteristics need to be evident.

Selective breeding will produce many common similarities in Sections A, C, and D except for size and body structure.

Serious attention to these five conformation categories will preserve the integrity of the breed well into the future.



DISTANCE TO BASE OF TAIL

