

TYPES OF GAITED HORSES

Rocky Mountain

Gaited mountain horses perform a rack, saddle rack, or single-footed with an even 4-beat lateral gait. The front hoof will land after the hind with equal timing between each foot-fall. When you listen, you will hear four evenly timed hoof beats of (1-2-3-4). The 4-beat gaited sequence is left hind: left fore: right hind: right fore.

The gaits consist of a walk and a rack. The rack will be more of a trail rack or a country pleasure rack, but can be stylish enough for style racking.

Class choices would be trail rack, style rack, country pleasure, easy gaited equitation, showmanship, and either trail or trail-in-hand. Which of these classes would depend on the manner the horse carries itself and the rider's skill.

Paso Fino

Each hoof moves independent from the other three hoof in a perfect succession, which translates into a rhythm of four by four. Thus, four independent quick beats or sounds are heard when the four hooves hit the ground during every cycle, one sound for each hoof. The sequence of their steps are left hind: left fore: right hind: right fore.

All four hooves travel close to the ground while in motion and are lifted equally in height as the horse covers ground. There are three gaits. The first is the classic fino or paso fino which is a collected gait with rapid footfalls that cover as little ground as possible. (Walking, trotting, cantering or detected break from the rapid evenly spaced sequence of steps is grounds for disqualifying).

The second gait is paso corto and is slightly more extended, and used during trail rides. The speed of this gait is comparable to the speed of a trot but much smoother. The third gait is paso largo and is a fast, lateral, four-beat gait in which the speed is equivalent to a canter or slow gallop.

Class choices would be English and Western Pleasure, driving, easy gaited equitation, showmanship, and trail or trial-in-hand.

Racking Horse

The rack is a fast evenly timed, bi-lateral gait in which each foot meets the ground separately at equal intervals. The "rack" is neither a pace nor a trot. It is often called a "single-foot" because only one foot strikes the ground at a time. There is no head nod, and the shoulders and hindquarters are very active. The horse appears to jump from one foot to another as he moves. There can be some overstep, but not as much as in the running walk.

The gaits consist of a walk and a rack. The rack will vary upon the horse's motion. It can be a trail rack, a style rack (a much stylish rack), a slow rack, or a speed rack (can be up to 30 miles per hour).

Class choices would trail rack, style rack, country pleasure, English and Western Pleasure, easy gaited equitation, showmanship, and trail or trail-in-hand.

Spotted Saddle (Tennessee Walkers, Racking, Standardbred, Paso Fino)

Spotted saddle horses are horses that can be registered due to their coloring and not their gaits. The gait will depend upon the breeding of the horse. If the breeding is Tennessee Walking, then it will gait as a TWH will. If it is bred from a Racking horse, then the gaits will be the gaits of a Racking horse. This holds true for each breed.

The classes will depend upon the gaits that the horse demonstrates.

Tennessee Walker

A Tennessee Walker is a 4-beat gait with a rhythmic head shake. A Plantation horse will have a more lots of head shake and will be more animated than any other type of walking horse. The back hooves will come up to meet and possibly overstride the front hooves.

The Country Pleasure will display a cadenced head shake and the back end will come up under itself but not overstride itself. The Trail Pleasure horse will have a more pronounced head shake than a Country Pleasure horse, but less than the Plantation horse. The Trail Pleasure horse should also display a more pronounced flat walk and run walk than the Country Pleasure horse; however, it should not be as animated as the Plantation horse. Both the Plantation and the Trail Pleasure horse can perform the canter, but the Country Pleasure horse does not.

The gaits of the Plantation horse is flat walk, run walk, and possibly canter. The Trail Pleasure horse can either be a dog walk or a flat walk, the run walk, and possibly the canter. The Country Pleasure horse will flat walk, run walk, and possibly trail walk.

GAITED HORSE BREEDS, GAITS, AND SHOW CLASSES

Gaits	Possible Breeds	Eligible Classes
Flat Walk Run Walk (Lots of head shake & animated with legs & 4-beat gait)	Tennessee Walker	Showmanship Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter Plantation - No Canter Trail Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand
Flat Walk Run Walk (Slight head shake & no animation & 4-beat gait)	Tennessee Walker Morgan Paso Fino Spotted Saddle Rocky Mountain	Showmanship Easy Gaited Equitation - No Canter Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Country Pleasure Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand
Flat Walk Run Walk Canter (Lots of head shake & animated with legs & 4-beat gait)	Tennessee Walker	Showmanship o Saddle Seat Equitation - Canter r Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter o Plantation - Canter r Plantation - No Canter o Trail Pleasure - Canter r Trail Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand
Flat Walk Run Walk Canter (Slight head shake & no animation & 4-beat gait)	Tennessee Walker Morgan Paso Fino	Showmanship o Easy Gaited Equitation - Canter r Easy Gaited Equitation - No Canter o Easy Gaited Pleasure - Canter r Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Country Pleasure Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand
Walk Trail Rack (Single-foot gait)	Tennessee Walker Rocky Mountain Racking Spotted Saddle	Showmanship Easy Gaited Equitation - No Canter Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Trail Rack Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand

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Gaits	Possible Breeds	Eligible Classes												
Walk Style Rack (Single-foot gait)	Tennessee Walker Rocky Mountain Racking Spotted Saddle	Showmanship Easy Gaited Equitation - No Canter Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Style Rack Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand												
Walk Trot	Saddlebred Standardbred Morgan Spotted Saddle	Showmanship Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter English/Western Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand												
Walk Pace	Saddlebred Standardbred Morgan Spotted Saddle	Showmanship Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand												
Walk Trot Canter	Saddlebred Morgan Arabian	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Showmanship <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Saddle Seat Equitation - Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> English/Western Pleasure - Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> English/Western Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r
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Walk Pace Canter	Saddlebred Morgan	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Showmanship <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Saddle Seat Equitation - Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Saddle Seat Equitation - No Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Easy Gaited Pleasure - Canter <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>o</td></tr> <tr><td>r</td></tr> </table> Easy Gaited Pleasure - No Canter Driving Trail Trail-In-Hand	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r	o	r
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GAITED HORSE BREEDS, GAITS, AND SHOW CLASSES

Horse	Gaits	Classes
Paso Fino	walk gait canter	English Pleasure Western Pleasure Driving
Saddlebred	rack running walk fox trot and/or slow pace	English Pleasure 3 Gaited 5 Gaited
Morgan	walk/rack trot/running walk/stepping pace canter	English Pleasure Western Pleasure Country Pleasure Saddle Seat Trail Pleasure Racking
Rocky Mountain	walk/rack	English Pleasure Western Pleasure Country Pleasure Saddle Seat Hunter
Racking	slow rack trail rack/fast rack/trail rack	Trail Racking/Style Racking/Speed Racking Trail Pleasure Country Pleasure Western Pleasure Park Pleasure Show Pleasure Style Pleasure
Spotted Saddle (TWH, Racking, Standardbred, Paso Fino)	stepping pace fox trot single foot flat walk running walk pace rack *depends on the breed	Trail Racking/Style Racking/Speed Racking Trail Pleasure Country Pleasure Western Pleasure Park Pleasure Show Pleasure Style Pleasure Plantation
Standardbred	trot or pace *depends on their gaiting trotters - diagonal gait pacers - same side gait	Hunt Seat Western Pleasure Jump Trail Racking Saddle Seat Equitation
Tennessee Walker	flat walk running walk canter *can be racking also	Plantation English Pleasure Western Pleasure Lite Shod Heavy Shod Cantering Trail Pleasure Country Pleasure Trail Racking/Style Racking/Speed Racking Equitation

GAITED HORSE BREEDS, GAITS, AND SHOW CLASSES

Arabian	walk trot canter	English Pleasure Western Pleasure Country English Pleasure Hunter Hunter Hack Equitation
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