

## **Breeding Principles for the “Pony Of The Americas” (POA) breed in accordance with Decision 92/353/EEC**

The original stud book for the “Pony of the Americas” breed is jointly maintained by the breeding associations Appaloosa Horse Club Germany (ApHCG) e.V., Servicebüro & Zuchtbüro, Wickengartenstr. 3, 35428 Langgöns - Dornholzhausen, and Bayerischer Zuchtverband für Kleinpferde und Spezialpferderassen e.V., Landshamer Str. 11, 81929 Munich.

The Breeding Principles for the POA breed were compiled on the basis of the “Official Handbook of the POAC”. Where the provisions laid down there do not comply with EU Animal Breeding law, regulations were made which are as close to the rules of the “Official Handbook of the POAC” as possible.

Amendments to the Breeding Principles for the POA breed can be made if both breeding associations mentioned above make statutory decisions and the amendments are approved by the authorities responsible for the breeding associations mentioned above.

The latest Breeding Principles for the POA breed will be published on the websites of the breeding associations mentioned above in German and English in due time before they take effect.

Breeding associations maintaining subsidiary stud books will be informed of the amendments in writing and have the opportunity to implement the changes in a reasonable period of time.

### **1. Pedigree recordings/data in the stud book:**

*Information concerning the animal:*

Name, UELN, identification in accordance with VO 504/2008, sex, last covering date of the dam, date of birth, colour, markings, coat pattern, breed, stud book section, name and address of the breeder and the owner, identification (microchip).

*Information on the parents and at least two further generations of ancestors, if available:*

Name, UELN, identification in accordance with VO 504/2008, breed, sex, colour, markings, coat pattern, stud book section, name of the breeder, identification (microchip).

### **2. Definition of the characteristics of the breed:**

The POA is a compact, well-muscled pony with a lot of nobility, substance, beauty and well-balanced proportions as well as a typical coat pattern. The proportions typical of the breed should be those of a horse; mane, tail and forelock may be thin. The POA should be suitable particularly for children and young people as well as light-weight adults, versatile, and suitable for both leisure and competition riding. It is often used for western riding. The POA should have a balanced and, most of all, quiet and benign, but never stoic disposition, as well as a hardy constitution, stamina, good health and an undemanding character. The gaits typical of the breed are rhythmical and comfortable for the rider.

### **3. Identification:**

Identification of the equidae is carried out in accordance with EU Regulation 504/2008.

In addition, the diagram in the horse passport is filled in and markings are recorded for every horse of the POA breed.

### **4. Basic breeding aims:**

<b>Breed</b>	<b>Pony Of the Americas (POA)</b>	
<b>Origin</b>	USA	
<b>Height</b>	Height at withers	approx. 117 to approx. 142.5 cm ( 46“-56“)

#### **Relevant characteristics**

- 1) Coat patterns
- 2) Mottled skin
- 3) Eyes with a white sclera (human eye)
- 4) Vertically striped hooves

## Colours

13 base colours, no albinos and pinto spotting patterns

1. Bay  
This colour covers all lighter and reddish shades of brown, with the mane, tail hair, lower legs and ears being black.
2. Black  
"Black" describes black horses without any lighter tints but with black mane and tail.
3. Sorrel  
The base colour is reddish to copper-red, with mane and tail being of the same colour or lighter.
4. Chestnut  
The chestnut colour ranges from dark red to red-brown. Mane and tail hair can either be the same colour as the coat or even be flaxen-coloured.
5. Dun  
The coat is of a yellow to golden colour. The mane and tail hair is brown, reddish, yellow, or a mixture of all three. The Dun always features a dorsal band (without white markings) and may have zebra stripes at the legs.
6. Buckskin  
The coat colour is a sub-category of the Dun and also yellowish or golden with black mane and tail hair and black lower legs. A Buckskin may have a dorsal band, but no "zebra stripes" on the legs.
7. Red Dun  
A sub-category of Dun. The coat is yellowish to skin-coloured. Mane, tail hair and legs are reddish.
8. Grullo  
This colour is often referred to as smoke or mouse or dove coloured. It is not the result of dark hair intermixing with white hair, but each hair is coloured in the same shade. Mane and tail hair as well as the lower legs are black, sometimes Grullos also feature zebra stripes and/or a dorsal band, and the face is always darker.
9. Palomino  
The coat of the Palomino is of a shiny golden yellow. Mane and tail are always lighter than the coat colour.
10. Gray  
The coat colour Gray is a mixture of white and black hair with a dark background. Almost any horse of this colour is born in a very dark shade, growing more and more white hairs over the years, initially mostly around the eyes and ears. Gray is considered a base colour only and must feature a further pattern.
11. Red / Blue / Bay Roan  
Red / Blue / Bay Roan are usually born as Roan, however, with some of them, the colouring only becomes apparent after the first coat change. These animals usually do not turn completely grey when they get old. Red / Blue / Bay Roan is considered a base colour only and must feature a further pattern.
  - a. Red Roan: This colour results from white (roan) hairs intermixing with the base colour.
  - b. Blue Roan: The Blue Roan features white hairs intermixing with a black base colour. Mane and tail hair may be black or grey.
12. Cremello  
Cremellos feature pink skin, blue eyes and ivory-coloured hair.
13. Perlino  
Perlino feature pink skin, blue eyes and ivory-coloured hair, with mane and tail being a darker shade than the coat.

Horses with coat patterns typical of the breed receive a higher rating for a comparable physical appearance.

The following 10 coat patterns are used as descriptions and categories which the respective horse is allocated to. This category is noted in the horse passport in the Other Markings section.

1. Snowflake Pattern  
is a pattern of small white spots which appear on the base colour continuously distributed in an irregular pattern. One or two small spots do not indicate a Snowflake Pattern. The snowflakes must be discernible from a distance of 40 feet (approx. 12 m). The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent. This rule applies to all ponies registered after 31 December 2009.
2. Frost Pattern  
is a pattern that creates the impression of a light glazing on the back, loins and croup. It is defined by white hairs intermixing with the base colour. Frost must be discernible from a distance of 40 feet (approx. 12 m). The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent. This rule applies to all ponies registered after 31 December 2009.
3. Blanket Pattern  
is characterised by a dark base colour and a white defined "blanket" across croup, hindquarters and back (or parts thereof). Blankets can feature isolated dark spots.
4. Leopard Pattern  
is characterised by a white base colour and dark spots which are distributed over the whole body and neck.
5. White With Dark Spots  
describes a white base colour with dark spots on the hindquarters, loins, croup and back (or parts thereof).
6. Snowcap Pattern  
consists of a purely white blanket that spreads from the withers across the back, loins and hips. While large white blankets are more common, some Snowcaps have smaller blankets which only cover the loins and hips.
7. Marbeleized Roan Pattern  
is a dark base colour interspersed with white hairs. A characteristic feature is a mixture of light and dark hairs with one light colour dominating, as well as a varnished look. The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent. This rule applies to all ponies registered after 31 December 2009.
8. Few Spots Leopard Pattern  
is a white base colour with no or only few dark spots. Solid-coloured or Dark-Roan areas can mostly be found on the ears, behind the elbows, on the flanks and usually on the underside of the neck. The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent.
9. Roan  
describes a dark base colour with white hair, which appears in areas such as flanks and tailhead and must be discernible from a distance of 40 feet (approx. 12 m). A varnished look may occur. The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent. This rule applies to all ponies registered after 31 December 2009.
10. Solid With Dark Spots  
is characterised by a uniform coat colour which is interrupted by some individual dark spots. The characteristics of mottled skin and eyes with a white sclera and/or striped hooves must be existent for the horse to be registered at Shows.

## External appearance (according to the POA Breed Standard)

- Type: The desired appearance is that of a compact, well-muscled pony with a lot of nobility, substance, beauty and well-balanced proportions in combination with the coat patterns typical of the breed. The proportions should be those of a horse. A soft and supple topcoat as well as thin mane, tail and forelock will not be discriminated against.
- Head and neck: The head is noble and wedge-shaped with a small firm muzzle, strong throat latch with a clean throat, straight nose-line and broad forehead. The size of the lean head should be in proportion to the body. Desired features are large, friendly and attentive eyes; small fine ears; neck of medium length, with a light poll and flexible, slightly arched and becoming considerably narrower.
- Body: Approaching a square form; long, sloping, well-muscled shoulder; even division into three parts; breast with sufficient width; well-arched ribs; back and loins not too long, broad and well-muscled; significant withers, not too high, reaching far into the back; long and well-muscled croup with muscles reaching far down the legs; strong legs; strong muscles, particularly on the hindquarters
- Legs: In an appropriate relation to the pony's size; correct and well-angled limbs; medium length pasterns; short, lean cannon bones with pronounced tendons; pronounced and lean joints; strong hocks; hard hooves

**Sequence of movements** Desired features are three rhythmic gaits without extravagant action but with a good thrust of the hindlegs; paces similar to those of a large horse; active and ground-covering, rather flat walk; relaxed trot with little action which is easy to sit for the rider; no high-frequency and hurried trot; soft strides and supple canter in a clear three-beat.

## Attitude / performance ability / health

The POA should always be obedient towards people. It should feature a quiet and balanced character. The ponies should be easy to ride and willing to perform. They are supposed to be particularly suitable for children and young people, but also be able to carry light-weight adults. The POA should have a gentle and friendly disposition, be intelligent, motivated and robust and have a pleasant temperament as well as strong nerves.

**Uses** Versatile family horse for children, young riders and adults, suitable for all disciplines of leisure and competition riding, particularly western riding.

## 5. Subdivision of the stud book into sections

### Stud book sections

The stud book of the POA breed consists of

- a main division (HA)
- a special division.

### Stud book sections

- The main division of the stud book is divided into the following sections:
  - Hengstbuch I
  - Hengstbuch II
  - Appendix I for stallions
  - Appendix II for stallions
  - Stutbuch I
  - Stutbuch II
  - Appendix I for mares
  - Appendix II for mares
- The special division of the stud book is divided into the following sections:
  - Vorbuch for stallions

- Vorbuch for mares

For being entered into the stud book of the breed, horses are evaluated according to the following criteria of their external appearance:

1. Type (breed and gender)
2. Conformation
3. Hooves / legs
4. Correctness of gaits
5. Quality of the movements
6. Overall impression and development

#### Overall assessment

The overall score is calculated from the arithmetic average of the evaluated registration criteria and rounded off to two digits after the decimal point.

The assessment of the criteria is carried out according to the following scoring system and is expressed in full and/or half scores:

10 = excellent	5 = sufficient
9 = very good	4 = insufficient
8 = good	3 = fairly bad
7 = fairly good	2 = bad
6 = satisfactory	1 = very poor
	0 = not performed/evaluated

Different rating systems are permitted, provided an equivalent stud book registration is ensured.

## **5.1 Stud book for stallions**

### *5.1.1 Hengstbuch I (main section of the stud book)*

A stallion will be registered in the 3rd year of its life the earliest, provided that

- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it belongs to the POA breed and its pedigree is fully verifiable over at least two generations,
- it was presented to have its identity verified,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of its parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it received a total score of at least 7.5 for its external appearance at a centralised event of a breeding association, with no score being lower than 6.5 in any of the registration criteria and with the quality of its movements evaluated on the lunge as well. Alternatively, it can produce 10 points (ROM) in an approved Halter discipline.
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health within the framework of a veterinary examination and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,
- it displays a coat pattern typical of the breed and mottled skin as well as at least one further characteristic typical of the breed,
- it successfully completed its stallion performance test (HLP) with at least 70 points or
- it can produce 10 points (ROM) in an approved Performance discipline or
- it can produce 10 points (ROM) in endurance riding.
- From the 2015 registration year, the performance test must be provided no later than two years after the assessment on the occasion of the stud book registration.
- If a stallion does not yet meet the requirements of a stallion performance test under the saddle at the time of registration, it will be provisionally registered with Hengstbuch I on the condition that it will have to meet the requirements of the stallion performance test within two years after the stud book registration.

As a general rule, equivalent performance tests and competition/show results are to be recognised for registration with Hengstbuch I.

### *5.1.2 Hengstbuch II (main section of the stud book)*

A stallion will be registered in the 3rd year of its life the earliest, provided that

- it belongs to the POA breed,
- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it was presented to have its identity verified,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of its parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health within the framework of a veterinary examination and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1.

#### *5.1.3 Appendix I for stallions (main section of the stud book)*

A stallion will be registered in the 3rd year of its life the earliest, provided that

- it belongs to a breed approved as refining/improvement breed,
- it is registered in Hengstbuch I of the breeds Connemara, English Thoroughbred, Arabian Thoroughbred, Appaloosa, Morgan Horse, Australian Palouse Pony, or in a section of a stud book of its breed equivalent to Hengstbuch I or
- it is registered in Stud book I or Superior Stud book I of the American Quarter Horse breed or
- it was presented to have his external appearance assessed and received a total score of at least 7.5, with no score being lower than 6.5 in any of the registration criteria, or it produces 10 points (ROM) in an approved Halter discipline,
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health within the framework of a veterinary examination and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of its parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1.

#### *5.1.4 Appendix II for stallions (main section of the stud book)*

A stallion of the POA breed is registered provided that

- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it was presented to have his identity verified or its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of its parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it is a homozygous or heterozygous carrier of HERDA, HYPP, GBED or/and PSSM,
- it features the characteristic of “extensive White” according to the rules of the “Official Handbook of the POAC”.

#### *5.1.5 Vorbuch for stallions (special section of the stud book)*

A stallion of the POA breed will be registered in the 3rd year of its life the earliest, provided that

- it was born in Europe,
- it is registered with the POAC in the USA,
- it does not have a pedigree verified through DNA according to the rules of the original stud book,
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health within the framework of a veterinary examination and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,
- it received a total score of at least 6.0 for its external appearance at a centralised event of a breeding association, with no score being lower than 6.0 in any of the registration criteria.

#### Rules for advancement into better sections

Offspring from crosses of Vorbuch stallions with mares registered in Stutbuch I and Appendix I for mares can be registered in the division of the main section the registration requirements of which they meet.

## **5.2 Stud book for mares**

### *5.2.1 Stutbuch I (main section of the stud book)*

An at least three-year-old mare can be registered provided that

- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it belongs to the POA breed and its pedigree is fully verifiable over at least two generations,

- it was presented to have its identity verified,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of the parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it was presented to have its external appearance assessed and received a total score of at least 7.5, with no score being lower than 6.5 in any of the registration criteria, or it produces 10 points (ROM) in an approved Halter discipline,
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,
- it displays a coat pattern typical of the breed and mottled skin as well as at least one further characteristic typical of the breed,

#### 5.2.2 *Stutbuch II (main section of the stud book)*

An at least three-year-old mare can be registered provided that

- it belongs to the POA breed,
- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it was presented to have its identity verified,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of the parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,

#### 5.2.3 *Appendix I for mares (main section of the stud book)*

An at least three-year-old mare can be registered provided that

- it belongs to a breed approved as refining/improvement breed,
- it is registered in Stutbuch I of the breeds Connemara, English Thoroughbred, Arabian Thoroughbred, Appaloosa, Morgan Horse, Australian Palouse Pony, or in a section of a stud book of its breed equivalent to Stutbuch I or
- it is registered in Stud book I or Superior Stud book I of the American Quarter Horse breed or
- it was presented to have its external appearance assessed and received a total score of at least 7.5, with no score being lower than 6.5 in any of the registration criteria, or it produces 10 points (ROM) in an approved Halter discipline,
- its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of the parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,

#### 5.2.4 *Appendix II for mares (main section of the stud book)*

A mare of the POA breed is registered provided that

- its parents are registered in the main section of a stud book of the (approved) breed,
- it was presented to have its identity verified or its DNA typing has been provided,
- DNA typing of the parents has been provided (for dead parents only if available),
- it is a homozygous or heterozygous carrier of HERDA, HYPP, GBED or/and PSSM,
- it features the characteristic of “extensive White” according to the rules of the “Official Handbook of the POAC”.

#### 5.2.5 *Vorbuch for mares (special section of the stud book)*

An at least three-year-old mare of the POA breed is registered provided that

- it was born in Europe,
- it has been registered with the POAC in the USA,
- it does not have a pedigree verified through DNA according to the rules of the original stud book,
- it meets the requirements regarding breeding soundness and health and does not display any characteristics harmful to health according to Appendix 2,
- it is free of the genetic diseases listed in Appendix 1,
- It received a total score of at least 6.0 for its external appearance, with no score being lower than 6.0 in any of the registration criteria.

Rules for advancement into better sections

Offspring from crosses of Vorbuch mares with stallions registered in Hengstbuch I and Appendix I for stallions can be registered in the division of the main section the registration requirements of which they meet.

6. Lineages:

The breeding aim is pursued by means of pure breeding. The stud book is open for ponies and horses of the breeds listed below, the involvement of which is instrumental to reaching the breeding aim. Ponies of the Americas (POA) are products of breeding POA to each other or breeding POA to registered breeding animals of approved breeds, provided that these breeding animals are registered with the stud book of the POA breed. Breeding products resulting from breeding improvement breeds with or among each other are not permitted.

Approved breeds are:

- Connemara Pony
- Morgan Horse
- American Quarter Horse
- Appaloosa
- Arabian Thoroughbred
- English Thoroughbred
- Australian Palouse Pony

Horses born in the United States may also have the following breeds in their pedigree:

- American Quarter Pony
- Arabian Partbred
- Anglo-Arabian
- Welsh Pony and Cob

## Appendixes

### **Appendix 1: Genetic defects**

1. relevant genetic diseases which, according to recent study and research methods, are taken into account with regard to the breeding programme include:
  - HERDA (Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia), autosomal recessive inheritance
  - HYPP (Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis Disease), autosomal dominant inheritance
  - GBED (Glycogen Branching Enzyme Deficiency), autosomal recessive inheritance
  - PSSM (Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy), autosomal dominant inheritance
2. If a negative test result can be produced for both parent animals, their progeny will not have to be tested for the genetic defects mentioned above.

### **Appendix 2: characteristics harmful to health**

The following characteristics harmful to health are taken into account with regard to the breeding programme:

- Anomalies of the jaw
- Cryptorchidism / microorchidism
- Hemiplegia laryngis (paralysis of the larynx)

### **Appendix 3: Performance test for mares, stallions and geldings**

The stallion performance test (HLP), the mare performance test (SLP) and the performance test for geldings (WLP) are conducted according to the generally accepted rules of Western Riding. They may be taken as field tests or verified by means of show successes, the so-called Performance ROM.

#### 1. Age of the horses:

Three-year-old and older stallions / mares / geldings are entitled to participate.

#### 2. Equipment:

Western equipment is compulsory according to the valid Rulebook of the POAC. Hoof protection, leg protectors and boots are permitted. Bridles, bits and the manner of holding the reins must comply with the POAC Rulebook.

Broodmares that can be verified to have been used for breeding over a longer period of time may be presented two-handed on snaffle bit even when they are more than five years old.

#### 3. Rating:

In particular, the stallions / mares / geldings are given marks by the judges for the following criteria:

- 1) Walk to the centre of the arena
- 2) Jog ½ circle
- 3) Extended trot on the diagonal
- 4) In the corner, transition to walk
- 5) Walk to the bridge
- 6) Crossing of the bridge
- 7) 180° turn on the forehand
- 8) Backwards through an L
- 9) Lateral movement to the right across the outer poles
- 10) Jog to the centre of the arena
- 11) 2 spins to the right
- 12) 2 spins to the left
- 13) 3 circles to the left at a canter, the first two large and fast, the third one small and slow
- 14) Flying change / simple change of leg (flying change may receive credit)
- 15) 3 circles to the right at a canter, the first two large and fast, the third one small and slow
- 16) Flying change / simple change of leg (flying change may receive credit)
- 17) ¾ circle to the left at a canter
- 18) Canter on the diagonal (Run down)
- 19) Stop. 5 steps backwards

20) Pause to indicate the end of the test, walk to the judges.

4. Rating criteria:

The combined test comprises elements of the Western Pleasure, Trail and Reining disciplines. All three parts will be weighted the same and evaluated following the POAC Rulebook.

The sections are subdivided as follows:

- Western Pleasure (walk, jog, extended trot, slow circles)
- Trail (bridge, backwards, turn on the forehand, backup, L, sidepass)
- Reining (change of leg, all canter circles (speed control), spins, run down, stop, backup)

Starting from a score of 70, the following points are added or subtracted for each manoeuvre (see POAC Rulebook):

- 1 ½ extremely poor
- 1 very poor
- ½ poor
- 0 average
- + ½ good
- + 1 very good
- + 1 ½ excellent

Points are awarded according to the POAC Rulebook. The test is deemed passed if an overall score of 70 has been achieved.

An error of course in the patterns does not necessarily result in the horse not passing the performance test: minor errors of course (e.g. one spin short/too many or one circle short/too many) will be penalized with 5 points each.

5. Recognition of achievements in sport:

The performance test may also be deemed passed if the stallion / mare / gelding can prove to have gained at least 1 ROM in sports. Competition classes will be held and recognised in the approved Performance disciplines (except for Longeline, Trail in Hand, Showmanship at Halter, Heritage and Walk/ Trot Classes) or approved endurance classes of the POAC. Sport achievements from other associations can be accepted, provided they are equivalent.