

**CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES  
FOR  
SHOW AND WORKING HUNTER HORSES**

**1. TYPE:**

---

A Hunter ‘type’ should possess the following:

- strength, quality and presence without fineness;
- correct conformation;
- the appearance of being able to carry weight in the hunt field;
- suitable condition to follow hounds for a days hunting;
  - ie: substantial build without being overweight;
- properly underpinned with appropriate bone and length of leg.

A Hunter horse does not have to be of any specific breeding and can be of any colour.

**2. BONE:**

---

Weight and bone has a strong influence in the selection of Hunter horses. Bone is measured by the circumference of the horse’s leg taken just below the knee.

A Hunter horse over 15hh should carry 8 to 9 inches of bone. Galloways and ponies should contain a similar amount of bone in proportion to their height, shape and overall size.

Strong flat bone, large knees and hocks are desirable, however, limbs should be well defined without being coarse.

### 3. MOVEMENT:

---

A Hunter horse must display stronger, plainer paces than would be expected of a Open Hack. Thus Hunter horses should be forward moving without extreme or flashy movement to ensure that they carry their rider safely over uneven terrain - short, choppy movement or high knee action is not acceptable.

A gallop is required in Hunter workouts. A true gallop is immediate, forward and executed out of a canter, without any sign of laziness or disobedience. A horse will not be penalised if it swaps leads on slippery ground to balance itself during the gallop.

When bringing their horse back from the gallop, riders should demonstrate at least two or three paces of a collected, controlled canter.

In keeping with tradition, a lengthened or extended trot is not performed on a hunt field and should not be asked for in Hunter classes.

### 4. MANNERS

---

Manners are particularly important for hunter horses as they are required to complete a full day of work with their rider. As such disobediences such as bucking, rearing, jig-jogging, snatching at the bit and unrest in the line up should be penalised and horses must settle after a gallop.

A well mannered horse will always place above a disobedient horse.

Judges will often ask for a long rein walk at the end of a work out.

Judges may refuse to award a place to disobedient horses and may ask horses that they consider to be dangerous or out of control to leave the ring.

## 5. JUMPING: (Working Hunters only)

---

A Working Hunter should have a bold jumping style which is clean in front, but performed at a more forward pace and with less collection than Showjumping.

The marks for the Jumping Phase of a Working Hunter Class are awarded on the basis of conformation, manners, soundness and style and as such these take precedence over the speed and agility which is expected in Showjumping.

---

**© Australian Hunter Horse Association Inc.**

All content on this website is protected by copyright laws and, unless otherwise indicated, is the property of the Australian Hunter Horse Association Inc (“AHHA”).

- AHHA permits the copying, downloading, or other use of materials on this website only for the purposes of: non-commercial use;
- educational purposes; and
  - personal use;
  - as permitted under Australian copyright laws.

Commercial use of material on this website is prohibited without the express, written permission of AHHA. This includes use of, or reference to, materials contained on this website by show societies not affiliated with the AHHA.

The text, images and content on this website are provided “as is” and without a warranty of any kind, whether expressed or implied. AHHA accepts no responsibility and is not liable for any loss or damage, however caused, as a result of or in connection with use of this website, or the downloading or use of any text, images or content from this website.

[www.hunterhorses.com.au](http://www.hunterhorses.com.au)  
[info@hunterhorses.com.au](mailto:info@hunterhorses.com.au)

“Chequers” 32 Knights RD  
GALSTON NSW 2159

