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*Supplement of*

## **Ratings of equine conformation – new insights provided by shape analysis using the example of Lipizzan stallions**

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**Supplementary Table 1** Definitions for the different traits used in the standard scoring protocol of the Austrian Federal stud farm of Piber. Single traits are scored on a scale from 1 to 10 (valuating scoring scale from unfavourable to favourable) by increments of 1 point. (10 = excellent, 9 = very good; 8 = good; 7=satisfactory; 6 = sufficient; 5 not sufficient; 4 = bad; 3 and 2 = very bad; 1 = not shown)

Trait**	Definition
Type	Expressive expression, noble posture, the overall conformation is harmonious, the frame more rectangular than square. Ideally, the adult horse should measure between 153 cm and 158 cm.
Breed type*	Similar to type with more emphasis of the Iberian phenotype (curved forehead, long head); Arabian like phenotypes are not desired.
Sex type*	Clearly expressed sexual dimorphism
Harmony*	Fore-, mid- and hindquarter should follow the proportion of 1:1:1; the diameter of cannon bones should be in a relation to body size and weight.
Head	The head is expressive with large, black eyes, a wide, slightly curved forehead, finely modelled lower jaw, strong cheeks with sufficient freedom, straight or slightly convex nose line.
Neck	In keeping with the requirements of the Baroque, the strong and highly set neck has an arched main line and erect posture.
Shoulder	The shoulders are strong and sufficiently long and should be set at an angle between 50° and 65° to the proportionately long upper arm.
Chest	The chest should be deep and wide.
Withers	moderate high and long withers
Back	The back is wide, muscular and compact, the haunches are strong.
Croup	The croup should be round, strong and have a harmonious set tail.
Legs	The horse should have relatively short, strong, dry legs with clear tendons, strong joints and hard, correctly formed hooves.
Overall score	Mean of Type, breed type, sex type, harmony, head, neck, withers, shoulder, chest, back, croup, legs

\* sub-traits included for scientific purpose

\*\* Complete scoring protocol also includes stance, walk and trot