

Appendix C

Equine physical attributes according to species

The attributes listed here are those typical of each equid species. There is great variation, and individual equids may have features more like that of one of the other species. The attributes are therefore only indicative. For images, see figure 2.1.

Donkey (*E. asinus*)

Body	less slender
Head	large head compared to body, pronounced muzzle, pronounced forehead
Ears	long
Forelock	absent or very thin, standing
Mane	upright, thin and scruffy
Neck	short, low set
Chest	narrower
Back	straight
Croup	higher than withers
Legs	short-legged
Hooves	small and narrow, high
Tail	tufted at end; typically mid-length, reaching the hock or a little lower
Chestnut	fore limbs only
Coat	same as horse, but more commonly shades of grey-brown with darker legs and lighter belly
Markings	dorsal and shoulder stripes (not always present)
Sound	bray
Gaits	smooth, short steps

The same characteristics apply to the wild donkey (*E. africanus*).

Horse (*E. caballus*)

Body	less slender
Head	small head compared to body, muzzle can be narrower
Ears	short
Forelock	hanging
Mane	hanging, long and thick, can also be upright
Neck	long, high set
Chest	broader

Back	curved
Croup	lower than or equal to withers
Legs	long-legged
Hooves	large and rounded, low
Tail	full and long from the base; reaches hoof-length or even longer
Chestnut	fore and hind limbs
Coat	great variety (grey, black, bay, chestnut, roan, dappled etc)
Markings	great variety in leg and face markings
Sound	whinny
Gaits	bouncy, long steps, fast

Hemione (*E. hemionus*)

Body	overall slender
Head	large compared to body, concave nose ridge, pronounced muzzle, large nostrils
Ears	Syrian: short, Persian: long
Forelock	absent or very thing
Mane	upright, "clipped" appearance
Neck	short
Chest	narrower
Back	straight, shorter
Croup	higher than withers or flat; Syrian: angular; Persian: broader and rounder
Legs	long-legged
Hooves	small and narrow, high
Tail	tufted, but quite full from halfway down the length; typically mid-length, reaching the hock or a little lower
Chestnut	fore limbs only
Coat	Varies from sandy yellow to reddish to pale buff, with white or lighter belly, legs, muzzle and around eyes; Syrian perhaps more brownish
Markings	Syrian: dorsal stripe, no shoulder or leg markings; Persian: dorsal, sometimes shoulder and sometimes hint of leg stripes
Sound	shrieking / short donkey bray / rasping call

Kunga (*E. asinus* x *E. hemionus*)

Specific physical characteristics are not known, but can be assumed to vary between those of the donkey and those of the hemione. If the same pattern occurs as with mules and hinnies, a kunga may take after its mother in its extremities and after its father in its body shape.

Mule/hinny (*E. asinus* x *E. caballus*)

Body	variety as parents. Mule: body of horse with extremities of donkey; hinny: body of donkey with extremities of horse;
Head	mule: heavy, hinny: lighter
Ears	mule: long, hinny: short
Mane	mule: short, thin and upright; hinny: longer and thicker, more like horse

Back	mule: straight
Croup	higher than withers
Legs	mule: slender
Hooves	mule: small, narrow and high; hinny: rounder and lower
Tail	mule: donkey-like, hinny: fuller
Chestnut	mule: fore limbs only
Markings	same variation as horses and donkeys; mules can have shoulder stripes, and zebra stripes on legs and shoulders
Sound	mule: combination of whinny and bray

Gestation

Donkey	365-370 days
Horse	335-346 days
Hemione	365-368 days
Kunga	infertile
Mule/hinny	infertile

Chromosomes

Donkey	62
Horse	64
Hemione	56
Mule/hinny	63

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