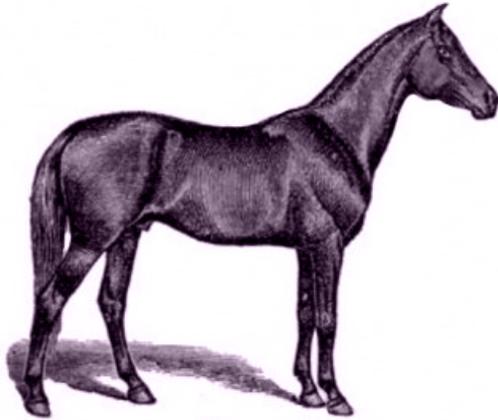


## Caspian Horse Breed Standards



The Caspian is a hot-blooded, pony-sized horse that should be viewed proportionate to that of a full-size horse. The overall appearance of the Caspian should be that of a refined and athletic horse, but in smaller form.

### Head

Broad, slightly domed forehead that gently slopes down and tapers into a firm, neat muzzle. A clearly defined, chiseled jaw with wide space between the two sides of the jawbone at the throatlatch. Length of head should be two-thirds the length of the topline of the neck.

### Ears

Placed just below the poll at the top of the head and spaced wide apart with good pivoting range for alertness. Short and neat with ear tips sharply curved inward.

### Eyes

Expressive, large, and prominent; usually dark in color.

### Nostrils

Large and neatly folded when relaxed, but flair and open wide for moving large volumes of air to regulate temperature during excitement or high levels of activity.

### Neck

Long sweeping neck mid-placed on the chest, balanced in a horizontal position for forward movement.

### Body

Light-framed, slender and sleek build that is also deep through the girth with well sprung ribs. The width of the chest is proportionate to the body with adequate space between the shoulders. Short-coupled, which is usually associated with a shorter back. The appearance of a rough-coupled back is not considered a fault.

### Shoulder

Long and sloping, ideally parallel with the angle of the pastern and between 45 and 50 degrees, but not greater than 55 degrees, and with a prominent wither set back from the elbow. The pivot point of the shoulder should be level with the hip.

### Hindquarters

Long well-defined hindquarters about one third the length of the body with a well sloped hip, and slightly pear-shaped rump with prominent point of buttocks.

### Legs

Refined with adequate bone. Straight knees, short cannons, and long, correctly sloped pasterns between 45 and 50 degrees. Good length from stifle to hock. As an adaptation to mountainous terrain, the hocks tend to point inward, which is not considered a fault.

### Hooves

Compact, strong, and well balanced. Oval in shape with front hooves more rounded and back hooves narrower at the end of the toe. Hooves are not shod to help maintain natural shape and balance.

### Tail

High set, usually raised while in a gallop, and often playfully arched over the back during a trot or prance.

### Height

The average height is between 11 and 12 hands high (44 to 48 inches or 1.12 to 1.22 meters), with the smallest around 9.2 hands (38 inches or 0.97 meters), and the largest ideally not to exceed 12.2 hands (50 inches or 1.27 meters). Will vary based off parents' heights and environmental factors.

### Coat

Smooth skin with moderate levels of subcutaneous fat. Silky body hair is dense with a highly reflective natural shine. Mane and tail hair is fine and smooth, lays flat, and is capable of growing very long. Clean legged with no lengthy feathering on the pastern and fetlock.

### Colors

Shades of bay and chestnut are common with some black. Modifiers include grey, dun, and dominant white. White markings tend to be limited to face, legs, and underside of the belly.

### Gaits

Beautiful suspension in all gaits with a floating appearance between strides while at a trot or canter. Broad sweeping action of the shoulder for a smooth, undulating canter and a far-reaching, ground-covering gallop. Collects well for jumping with large scope in comparison to size.

### Temperament

Very good instincts and naturally attentive and cautious. Curious, quick learners. Often show a preference for one person.