

# Conformation Faults

USPC D Manual pp243-5

## Teacher Copy

Conformation means the way a pony is built

Why is good conformation important? A pony with good conformation can:

- move and perform better,
- may have smoother gait,
- may be less likely to break down

## Head

### Good

1. wide at the jaw
2. large, kind eyes
3. large nostrils

### Faults

1. narrow jaws
2. small "pig eyes"
3. small nostrils

## Neck

### Good

1. medium long
2. slightly arched,
3. blends smoothly into withers
4. not thick or puffy at throat

### Faults

1. short and thick (bull neck) causing short choppy gaits
2. Dips at the top, bulges at bottom (ewe neck)

# Shoulder

## Good

1. long and
2. sloping

(from end of mane to the point of shoulder)

This gives longer strides, smoother gaits, and easier to jump

## Faults

1. short
2. upright

Causes rough gaits, shorter stride and harder to fold front legs when jumping

# Pasterns

## Good

1. medium length and slope

(shock absorbers, should be springy)

## Faults

1. short (rough gaits)
2. upright (not springy enough)
3. slope too much (weak)

# Back

## Good

1. short
2. well muscled
3. smoothes into the loin and withers

A short, muscled back is stronger and good withers help keep the saddle in place

## Faults

1. too long
2. withers too high
3. withers too low and fatty

A long back is weaker, and high withers are harder to fit for a saddle.