

= Quarter pony =

The Quarter Pony is a breed of pony that is similar to the American Quarter Horse . It stands up to 14 @. @ 2 hands ( 58 inches , 147 cm ) high and was developed from American Quarter Horse foundation bloodstock . The breed was originally developed from Quarter Horses that did not meet the American Quarter Horse Association 's height requirement . It is bred to look like a small Quarter Horse , although the various registries also allow crosses with other breeds , including Paint horse , Appaloosa and Pony of the Americas , all stock types . There are three registries for the Quarter Pony , all with slightly different registration requirements . The first registry was begun in 1964 , and two more were started in the 1970s . The breed is used today in a variety of Western riding disciplines .

= = Characteristics = =

The Quarter Pony is bred to be an American Quarter Horse built on a smaller scale . Breeders focus most on the height and conformation of the breed , and insist that their ponies display Quarter Horse @-@ type characteristics and stand between 11 @. @ 2 and 14 @. @ 2 hands ( 46 and 58 inches , 117 and 147 cm ) high . Depending on the registry , the Quarter Pony may come in any color or combination of colors , including pinto patterns such as tobiano and overo and spotted Appaloosa patterns . In the early years of the breed , only solid colors were allowed . The breed averages 13 @. @ 2 hands ( 54 inches , 137 cm ) high , however , some breeders are working to breed taller animals between 13 @. @ 2 and 14 hands ( 54 and 56 inches , 137 and 142 cm ) high . The breed has a short , broad head with small ears and wide @-@ set eyes , set on a slightly arched neck . The shoulders are sloping , the withers sharp , the chest broad and deep . The back is short and the hindquarters broad and deep .

Quarter Ponies are often used in western riding activities as mounts for children because of their small size , and calm , even temperament . Larger ponies are more suitable for adult riders and sometimes used for rodeo events such as steer wrestling .

The Quarter Pony is recognized by several different breed registries that each have different requirements . The American Quarter Pony Association requires that , although parentage may be unknown , the pony must have conformation that is desirable for breeding and be easily recognizable as having Quarter Pony or Quarter Horse breeding. pinto , leopard complex ( Appaloosa ) , and white horses are not eligible for registration , nor are gaited ponies . The National Quarter Pony Association requires that stallions be registered with the AQHA before they can be registered with the NQPA . Mares must have one parent registered with the AQHA , be registered with the AQHA themselves , or go through a special registration process . Geldings simply have to be of Quarter Horse type to be eligible for registration . Horses with Pinto or Appaloosa markings , or with excessive white , are not eligible for registration . The International Quarter Pony Association allows Pinto and Appaloosa markings , and simply requires that ponies be of Quarter @-@ type conformation and good disposition for registry . Any type of pony meeting these requirements may be registered through the hardship registration program , which includes a special inspection . However , if ponies have a parent registered with an approved breed registry ( approved breeds include the Quarter Pony , Quarter Horse , Paint horse , Appaloosa and Pony of the Americas ) , they are automatically eligible for registration , with no inspection required . Crosses with gaited breeds are not accepted for registration .

= = History = =

The Quarter Pony was originally developed from horses that did not meet the American Quarter Horse Association 's original height requirement of 14 @. @ 2 hands ( 58 inches , 147 cm ) high . This height requirement was later removed , but the Quarter Pony breed continued . Breeders and registries encourage known bloodlines from Quarter Horses , but these are not required by all registries .

The American Quarter Pony Association was begun in 1964 with the ideals of a registry which would register small horses and ponies of western type , whose breeding could be unknown but which were desirable for breeding purposes . Crossbred and purebred animals are eligible for registration , as are animals registered with other registries that meet the entry requirements . In 1975 , the National Quarter Pony Association was begun to preserve the smaller , stockier type Quarter Horse when breeding trends were leaning towards taller , leaner animals . The AQPA now registers horses in several foreign countries , as well as all US states and Canadian provinces . The International Quarter Pony Association , begun in the 1970s , also registers Quarter Ponies , and is a worldwide association for ponies of Quarter Horse type . The Quarter Pony Association is an association affiliated with the International Quarter Pony Association , with the goal of promoting the Quarter Pony . In 2005 , the IQPA and the QPA became one organization , with the IQPA acting as the registry and the QPA as the membership branch . As of 2005 , there were an estimated 3 @ , @ 000 Quarter Ponies registered with all registering organizations . Registries say that registrations of adult animals outnumber those for foals every year , as many owners wait until the pony is old enough to be shown under saddle before registering them .