

= Welara =

The Welara is a part @-@ Arabian pony breed developed from the Arabian horse and the Welsh pony . It was originally bred in England by Lady Wentworth at the Crabbet Arabian Stud in the early 1900s from imported Arabian stallions and Welsh pony mares . Breeding then spread throughout North America . In 1981 , a breed registry was formed in the United States , and a studbook began to be published . They are used for many disciplines of English riding , and are known for their refinement , hardiness and spirit .

= = Breed characteristics = =

Welara stallions average 14 to 15 hands ( 56 to 60 inches , 142 to 152 cm ) and mares 13 @.@ 1 to 14 @.@ 3 hands ( 53 to 59 inches , 135 to 150 cm ) . To be registered , Welaras must stand between 11 @.@ 2 and 15 hands ( 46 and 60 inches , 117 and 152 cm ) high . Crosses between Arabians and each of the four sections of Welsh Pony ( A , B , C and D ) tend to produce slightly different types of pony . Section A Welsh Pony crosses ( the smallest ) tend to be under 13 hands ( 52 inches , 132 cm ) , and be used mainly as light driving ponies and mounts for small children . Section B crosses usually stand 13 to 13 @.@ 2 hands ( 52 to 54 inches , 132 to 137 cm ) and can be used for driving and as riding ponies for larger children and small adults . Section C crosses average 13 @.@ 2 to 14 @.@ 2 hands ( 54 to 58 inches , 137 to 147 cm ) hands and tend to be a heavier pony , sometimes with feathered feet , although still showing the refinement of their Arabian ancestors . Section D crosses generally stand 13 @.@ 3 to 15 hands ( 55 to 60 inches , 140 to 152 cm ) high . The latter two types are suited to riding by average and slightly larger adults and for the majority of disciplines .

All colors other than Appaloosa are allowed for registration . Welara Sport Ponies may be of any color or size , without the restrictions of the purebred Welara . The mix of Arabian and Welsh blood gives the breed refinement , spirit and hardiness , as well as good movement . The head is small and slightly concave , the neck is arched ( and prone to be cresty in stallions ) . The shoulders and croup are long and the back short . Welaras are used mainly in English riding , especially in hunter classes . They are also seen in show jumping , three @-@ day eventing , pleasure driving and as general leisure riding horses . Welara / Thoroughbred crosses are popular mounts for riders competing in hunter and jumper classes .

= = History = =

Crosses began to be made between the Arabian horse and the Welsh Pony in Sussex , England the early 1900s , by Lady Wentworth of the Crabbet Arabian Stud . She began breeding Arabian stallions , including Skowronek ( 1909 ? 1930 ) , a Polish Arabian stud , to Welsh mares from North Wales , especially the Coed Coch stud farm , which she imported beginning in the early 1920s . Other breeders in England and North America soon followed suit , although at this time they were not focused on creating a new breed , and the cross became known as the Welara .

In 1981 , a breed registry , called the American Welara Pony Registry , was created in the US in order to develop and promote the breed . A studbook also began to be published , and pedigrees of Welaras were collected and preserved . Only Welsh and Arabian blood is allowed for purebreds , and all registered ponies must have at least 1 / 8 and no more than 7 / 8 blood from each breed . As of 2005 , the registry claimed slightly over 1 @,@ 500 ponies registered in North America , with around 100 new foals registered annually . Welara Sport Ponies may also be registered ? these are ponies at least 50 percent Welara but with blood from other breeds , often the Thoroughbred . The association also registers pureblood Welsh and Arabian foundation stock .

Welaras have now spread to additional areas of the world , including the Caribbean , Oceania and Europe . In Europe , Welsh / Arabian crosses , sometimes with additional Thoroughbred blood , are often called " riding ponies " or " sport ponies " . In the US , the breed is seen most often in the central and western parts of the country .

