

Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association

Glossary of Terms

AMATEUR: One who rides or exhibits for the love of the sport and not as a profession or for profit.

APPEARANCE: The special beauty and vitality that radiates from the horse as a result of good health and well-being, and physical fitness.

APPOINTMENTS: The correct bridling, saddlery, and rider/handler attire used with each type of horse which have been standardized by custom.

BELLA FORMA (Bay-ya For-mah) - The means by which Paso Finos are exhibited in order to show conformation and naturalness of gait. Horses are shown in halter with two long lines attached, and either one or two handlers.

BRILLIANCE: High spirits and dynamic energy so abundant it can scarcely be contained; sparkling in attitude and performance.

BRIOS (Bree-o): Spirit; dynamic energy. A highly spirited horse is said to "Have lots of brios".

CADENCE: The rhythmic recurrence of a sound; the beat, time or measure of rhythmical activity. Ideally a Paso Fino's foot-fall is absolutely even in cadence.

COLLECTION: The position of a horse in which it is attentive, responsive to the headgear, has its neck arched at the poll and the hocks well under the body so that the weight is shifted toward the rear, and the hindquarters are engaged toward the center of gravity.

CANTER: A slow, collected gallop.

CONFORMATION: The comparison - as to physical characteristics - of a given horse to an ideal specimen of his breed.

CORTO: Or "Paso Corto". Refers to the medium speed of the Paso Fino gait. Commonly called "road gait". May be executed with or without collection.

EXTENSION: The total distance which a horse's leg extends forward.

FINO: Commonly called "Classic Fino" or "Fino Fino". Refers to the most highly collected form of the natural four beat gait. Forward speed is extremely slow whereas the footfall is exceedingly rapid.

GAIT: In equine terms gait refers to any natural or artificial manner of movement, i.e. walk, trot, gallop, etc. In Paso Fino terms, gait refers to the Paso Fino horse's natural, inherited 4-beat lateral gait that is unique to this breed.

HAND: The unit by which a horse is measured. A hand is four inches.

HOCKS AND HOCK ACTION: The "elbows" of the rear legs are designated anatomically as the hocks. Hock action refers to the use of these rear leg joints.

IMPACT: The contacting or striking of the hoof to the ground. Ideally each of the Paso Fino's four hooves strike the ground with precisely the same impact.

JAQUIMA (Hah-kee-mah) - Rope halter. Often used in training the Paso Fino.

LARGO: Or "Paso Largo" refers to the speed form of the Paso Fino gait.

OPEN CLASS: One in which any horse of the specified breed is eligible regardless of age, sex, number of firsts, or the amateur or professional status of the rider.

PASO CORTO (Pah-so-Cor-to) - The more relaxed, slightly faster pleasure gait.

PASO FINO (Pah-so Fee-no) - Defined as "Fine Movement", refers to the way in which a Paso Fino horse moves in a broken pace, with the rear foot striking the ground just before the forefoot, making it possible to detect four separate beats. It provides what is said to be the smoothest ride possible. "Paso Fino" may also be used to refer to the highly collected, show ring form of the gait.

PASO LARGO (Pah -so Lar-go) - The speed gait. All three gaits (Paso Fino, Paso Corto and Paso Largo) have the same footfall.

PRESENCE: A proud carriage and alert attitude that causes a horse to stand out in the crowd.

REFUSAL: Occurs when a horse stops before a jump or an obstacle.

RESERVE CHAMPION: The second place winner in a Championship class.

SERRETTA (Suh-ret-uh) - A device sometimes used in the training of the Paso Fino. It is attached to the halter or bridle and used around the nose. It looks like a cavesson, but the reins are attached to it.

SOUNDNESS: Physical fitness of the horse. A sound horse is free from physical defects of any type.

STEP: The forward distance between the footprints of the two corresponding legs (the two forefeet or the hind feet).

STRIDE: The distance between successive imprints of the same foot.

TACKSTALL: Exhibition stalls which the exhibitor decorates with trophies, ribbons and equipment. The public is invited to visit them.

TIE (PIN) A CLASS: To rate the entries in a class as to their placement. "The judge tied that horse 2nd."

WAY OF GOING: Individual style typifying the class requirements, as well as symmetry of movements and correct tracking.