Judging Donkey

Parts of the Donkey
### Head
- Short rather than too long – in proportion with the rest of the animal
- Straight or slightly dished profile
- Eyes – large, mild expression, set low, wide apart and clear
- Nostrils – well shaped & open
- Teeth – good condition with no undershot or overshot jaws
- Jaws – generous, round and open
- Head deep through the jaws tapering to a small muzzle
- Ears – long, clean cut, set upright, carried firmly and alertly pointed
- Appearance – jennets: femininity, jacks: strength and masculinity

### Neck
- Well proportioned to the rest of the animal, joined to head and shoulder correctly and smoothly.
- Crest of the neck should be fairly straight, not ewe necked not fallen to the side or excessively fat.
- Neck firm, well fleshed and strong
- Mane usually short and upright, but may fall to the side as with the horse mane.

### Body
- Withers practically nonexistent, but if noticeable, so much the better.
- Shoulder slightly sloping, although more upright than the horse
- Ribs – well sprung and the girth deep
- Chest – relatively wide, not narrow
- Back – short and level or slightly dipped in the case of older animals or in foal jennets
- A long out of proportion back is undesirable
- Loin – strong broad and firmly coupled
- Quarters – long, wide and as flat as possible – well fleshed with plenty of length between point of hip and point of buttock
- Top of Croup – rounded, not extremely sloping
- Tail – well set, not low, covered with short hair and completed by a tuft of long hair

### Limbs
- Straight and true with adequate bone on proportion to the type of animal.
- Knees – flat and wide, cannon bones short
- Hocks – set low, strong, clean and correct shape
Feet
- Even, good shape and well trimmed
- Hard, clean, smooth elastic and tough
- Feet are generally smaller & more upright than a comparable sized horse

Movement
- Level and true, willing and active.

Reviewed by: Mrs. Sybil E. Sewell, Leslieville, Alberta

Source: The Donkey: Care and Feeding
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