

The Peruvian Paso Horse



Something for Everyone: Thanks to its unique, inborn, four-beat lateral gait, the Peruvian horse is the smoothest riding horse in the world. This horse, one of the world's last remaining naturally gaited breeds, is becoming a sensation among American horse enthusiasts for several very good reasons. There is "something for everyone" in this smooth, elegant animal; riding comfort, strength and stamina for the avid trail rider; calm tractable disposition so important in the family mount; arrogant, flashy presence and action which set the exhibitor and parader apart from others, and investment potential solidly supported by its relative rarity and increasing popularity. No other horse in the world provides the "ultimate ride" and versatility of a Peruvian Paso. The Peruvian Paso is the ideal combination of a horse with an incredibly smooth gait, a tractable disposition and willing temperament combined with great energy and sensitivity. He excels as a mount for pleasure riding, endurance/competitive riding, in the show-ring or as a parade horse. Imagine putting your child on his first horse, fulfilling your own dream of owning a horse, or even getting back in the saddle when you were sure your riding days were over. Picture yourself riding over rough terrain for hours on end only to return relaxed and remarkably refreshed. Visualize riding your beautiful gaited horse into the center of the show ring to accept the coveted championship trophy. More and more of this country's horsemen are finding the comfort and excitement of owning a horse that can be ridden successfully by anyone who wishes the thrill and luxury of this marvelous breed. The show ring - even at National levels - is full of amateur and junior riders who compete and win in every type of halter and performance class.

Gait (movement): Reemphasizing the Peruvian Paso as the smoothest riding horse in the world; its gait can be as slow as a walk or as fast as an extended trot or slow canter. Both the gait and the flashy leg action are completely natural. They are not induced or aided in any way by artificial training or devices. The Peruvian Paso transmits its smooth gait to all purebred foals. No artificial devices or special training aids are necessary to enable the horse to perform its uniquely splendid gait. In addition, the Peruvian is the only horse in the world with "termino" which is a graceful, flowing movement in which the forelegs are rolled towards the outside as the horse strides forward, much like the arm motion of a swimmer. "Termino" is a spectacular and beautiful natural action.



Heritage: Although a newcomer to North America, the Peruvian Paso had its origins over four centuries ago in South America, where the horses brought to Peru by the conquistadores and subsequent Spanish settlers were bred selectively to produce the genetic miracle which became the "National Horse of Peru." The judicious fusion of several Old World breeds provided the foundation for the Peruvian horse. The Spanish Jennet gave its even temperament and smooth ambling gait, the African Barb contributed great energy, strength and stamina while the Andalusian imparted its excellent conformation, action, proud carriage and beauty to the new breed. Once established, the Peruvian Paso was maintained in its native country as a closed population, isolated by geography and the dedication of its creators from the influence of additional outside blood.

Peruvian Paso and Paso Fino: Many people assume a close relationship between the Peruvian Paso and the Paso Fino. The Paso Fino was developed in and around the Caribbean, Central and South America, while the Peruvian horse was born entirely within the borders of the country for which it was named. The Peruvian is somewhat larger, deeper in the body and wider. Both have high head carriage and front leg lift, are smooth to ride and exhibit basically the same four-beat footfall although it is executed differently. The Paso Fino is not bred for the distinctive "termino" and its finest show gait does not require the length of stride so essential in Peru for traveling long distances.



Size, Color and Disposition: Peruvian Pasos come in all the basic colors: black, brown, bay, chestnut, gray, palomino, buckskin, roan, and variations thereof. They range in size from 14.1-15.2 hands. Their natural beauty is often enhanced by a long mane and luxurious tail. He is prized for his **Brio**, that certain presence and arrogance passed down from his war horse ancestors. Yet he still retains the intelligent, tractable and eager to please disposition so notable in the breed. To dedicated breeders everywhere, disposition is equally important. Because Peruvian horses were originally bred to carry their riders long distances over harsh terrain, no rider wanted to deal with a temperamental, stubborn or nervous horse. In fact, the kind disposition of the Peruvian Paso may be his most appealing virtue. A Peruvian Paso's motto might well be "ask and you shall receive." The horse is an enigmatic blend of spirit, energy and sensitivity with a great willingness to please.

National Organizations

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