

Ivory's Mountain Magic (Maverick) Conformation

Head

Measures 27" (poll to top lip)

Large gentle eyes set wide apart which gives good vision.

From side of head, there is good distance from the base of the ear and the outside corner of the eye. The greater the distance means the bigger the brain cavity, which can mean greater intelligence.

Wide, straight forehead which is thought to allow more room for the brain and therefore is believed to indicate greater intelligence.

Length at 27" should be similar in measurement to:

Point of hock to ground 22"

Point of hock to front of stifle 25"

Front foot- ground to chestnut 22"

Depth of body at girth 30"

Fold of stifle to croup 28"

Rear edge of shoulder blade to hip bone 24"



Eyes

Maverick's eyes are bold, bright and set wide apart near the side of the head, which is best for greater vision.

They have a kind and soft expression with beautiful blue color.



Ears

Ears are set just below the level of the poll at the top of the head. Since they are sitting squarely on top of the head, they can be rotated with ease and greater distance forward and backward. Small sized ears finely formed with nice hook.

Most TWH owners prefer a small ear and it adds to the beauty of the horses head.

Jaws and Teeth

Jaws line up correctly, no over or under bite.

The lower jaw is very nicely and clearly defined.

Enough room to place a closed fist between the two halves of the lower jaw closest to the throat. This gives room for a large and unrestricted windpipe.

Muzzle and cheek are appropriate in size. Nostrils are wide and thin, to allow expansion when greater intake is needed. 2 fingers width (average expected) between jawbone and the ridge of the first neck bone.

Throatlatch

Good arched area with spacing between head and neck.

This gives the head and neck more range of motion and the windpipe more room.

Throat angle is arched and gradual,

which allows for greater airway when head flexes during collection and flexing.



Neck

36" in length from poll to withers

Neck at 36" is longer than head at 27" (neck should be longer than head)

**Topline is slightly arched, underside is relatively straight
which means the neck vertebrae have the appropriate curves.**

Neck length (36") should be almost equal in length to front leg (30").

Some crest, good muscling.

Neck of 36" should not be greater than withers to tail measurement of 42".



Neck/Shoulder

Base of neck is higher than the point of shoulder,

which gives proper balance and a distinctive breast area.

Shoulder angle is 50 degrees, measured from horizontal line from point of shoulder to rear and point of shoulder to peak of withers

(Walker's shoulders should have slope of 45-50 degrees)

Angle of humerus is 90 degrees, measured from point of withers, point of shoulder, and point of elbow.

(Walker's angle should be 90 degrees) Having a well-laid back shoulder is an important factor in how well the horse moves.

If the angle is too steep, the horse will not have the ability to reach forward.

The horse with poor shoulder angle is more likely to have withers set too far forward which will cause more pounding on joints, a quicker and choppier gait and rougher riding. At a fast speed a horse can reach past its nose, if it has good shoulder angles, making for a longer-striding horse.



Withers

Nice upward curve at end of neck with good height, fairly long from front to back, good muscle covering and widening at the back. Same height from ground to withers as from ground to croup, best for balance and soundness.

Elbow

Positioned beneath the front of withers.

Good spacing if less than 4 fingers fit between the elbow and the rib cage. Max fits 3 fingers. This gives the elbow enough room to move the leg without rubbing the ribcage. Vertical, not turned in or out.

Front Leg

Measure's 36"

Not set too far apart (bull legged) or too close together (too narrow that legs would hit) Fetlock to elbow is 30", which should and does equal elbow to withers at 30".

A line from the point of shoulder to the ground should and does bisect the entire leg.



Knee

Flat at the front and large, shaped like a shield.

Faces directly forward.

Directly centered with forearm and cannon bone from every direction.



Front Leg Cannon Bone

Length is 8”.

Mav measures 8 1/2” circumference measuring below the knee and around cannon and tendons. The average horse measures 8” that weighs in around 1000#.

If less than 7” per 1000#, then horse is too fine boned and is at greater risk of injury.

This measurement gives an idea of how much weight a horse can carry and its athletic ability. Maverick is above average circumference for this measurement.

Is vertical from front, side and rear, wide looking and flat from side.

Tendons behind cannon bone are easy to see with nice sized grooves between them.

Leg’s circumference is the same from top to bottom of cannon bone.



Fetlock

Large, flat on sides and rounded a bit in the front.

Front Pastern

Slope is 55 degrees, average angle is 45-55 degrees.

Length is 4 ½”.

Average length is ½ to ¾ front cannon bone, which is 8” on Mav.

Chest

Front view, chest is well defined. Forms an inverted V, between front legs.

Ribs are rounded (like a barrel), project backward, and extend far back, giving larger lung capacity and making him deep thru the flank.

This also creates a shorter loin area, making the back stronger.

Widest part of chest is behind girth, helps keep saddle on.

Should appear and does look like a wedge shape, more narrow at the front and wider towards the back, from top view.

Heart Girth = Chest Capacity. Mav’s is 72”, which is average.

Heart girth of 72” is greater than height of 63”. Should always be greater.

A larger chest capacity is desirable since it means the horse will not tire as easily and become winded. Depth of body (top of withers to underside) is 30”, which should and does equal Mav’s underline to fetlock at 30”.



Back

31" (withers to point of croup)

Neck (36") should be slightly longer than back (31')

Short back with longer neck is the best conformation.

This gives the most maneuverability of the head and the neck for correct balance.

A short back means a shorter loin (muscle area between last rib and croup) than a long backed horse.

A short loin is no more than a hand across the last rib and the point of hip (Mav measures 3 fingers width).

Short loins make the back stronger and allows for more weight to be carried. A common fault, especially in Walkers, is being too long in the back. A long back causes leg problems and difficulty carrying the rider's weight. Mav has a convex area on both sides of the backbone along the loin, which means strong loins and good muscling in this area. The lumbosacral joint or coupling is in proper position, directly above the point of hip. This is considered a forward position. This creates a shorter lumbar span which is desirable because it is the weakest part of back.

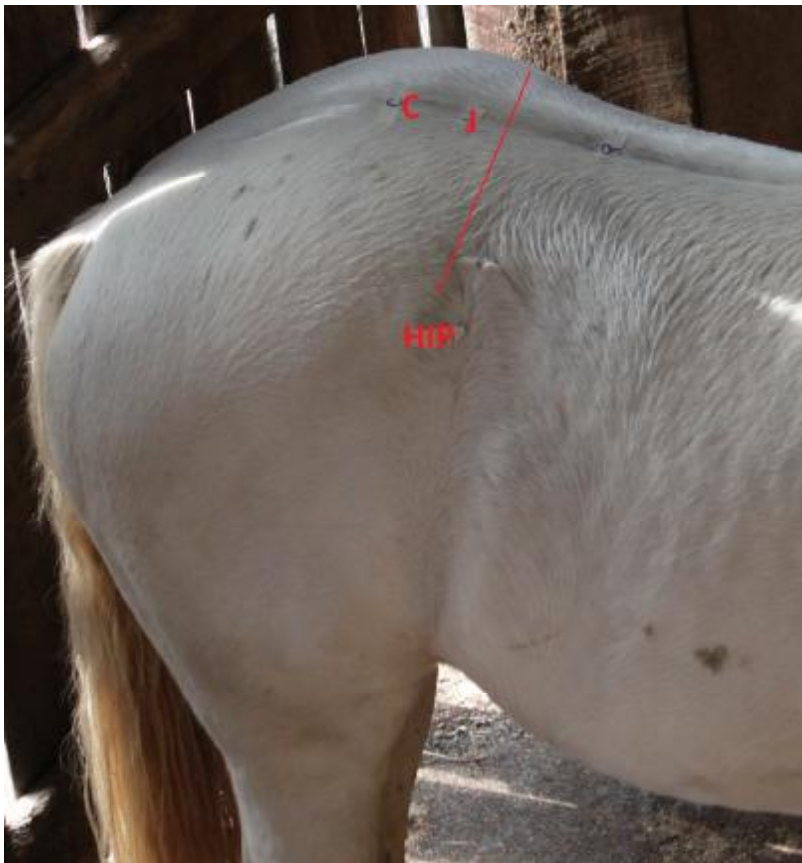


Croup

Falls in line just behind the point of hip and lumbosacral joint.

Same height as withers at 63". If one of these heights is higher than the other, the horse's topline will be uphill or downhill. It can make it difficult to stay balanced as a rider, make a saddle slip front or back and be uncomfortable. For the horse, it can put more strain on the front or rear end.

Rounded and has good muscling, smooth.



Quarters

Measures 23" (point of hip to point of buttock)

All lines should be similar from buttock to hip

(Mav is 23"), buttock to stifle at 23" and stifle to hip at 17", making an equidistant triangle.

Slope of pelvis is gradual, no goose rump or flat butt.



Tail

Tail placement is correct. Not too high or too low.

Large tail head. The circumference of the tail head=size of vertebra thru the rest of the spine.

Hips

Pear-shaped and slightly square looking from rear view.



Thighs

Good muscling along the femur, since wider across at thighs than hips.

Back of thighs (or hams) are muscled enough to touch each other most of their length.

Equilateral triangle is formed between point of hip, point of buttock and stifle.



Hamstrings

Long hamstrings which tie in low to the Achilles Tendon.

Femur

Long in length, but slightly shorter than the tibia, which is desirable in the Walker.

A long femur enables a Walker to have a longer hamstring muscle; this allows the horse to stretch further under itself for greater over stride.

Gaskin

Good muscling on inside and outside of gaskin,

but not too heavy on either area that it effects the forward movement of the leg by pulling it to the inside or outside.



Tibia

Tibia is slightly longer than femur, which is preferred in a Walker. It is important in a Walker that the length in the hind limb comes from the tibia and the femur, almost being equal in length. This allows the horse to bring it's back leg up and under itself and allow for a better over stride.



Stifle

Height is the same as the elbow on the front leg.

Rear view, stifle is the widest part of the hind end which shows good muscling.

Stifles are wider than hips from rear view.

Stifle is in direct line with hip bone.



Hock

22" from front of stifle to point of hock does equal 22" from point of hock to ground, gives balanced leg. These measurements should be similar to head length at 27".

From behind, hock lies directly below point of buttocks.

Point of hock at 22" is equal to front leg chestnut from ground at 22".

This makes the hock slightly above the knee of the front leg.

Hock is as wide as gaskin is from front to back at a side view.



Rear Cannon

Similar to front cannon in appearance, but slightly wider in circumference.

Measure's 8" in length, which sets his hocks nice and low.

If Maverick had long rear cannons, it would create a too long hind limb and set him butt high or cause him to not be able to stride under himself.



Hind Pastern

31/2", which is shorter than the front pastern.
Angle is 55 degrees, average is 49-56 degrees.

Feet

Soles are concave, no flat feet.

The frog divides the sole into even parts.

Feet wear evenly with no flares.

Good heel at half the length of the front of hoof.

Hoof and pastern angles are the same.

Rear feet angle slightly outward. This is common in most horses to stand cannon straight and toe out slightly. This allows a longer stride, since the stifle does not hit the rib cage when moving.

Square

A good horse is a horse that is square, because it is properly balanced with no extremes.

A horse is considered square when:

- *the body length (point of shoulder to buttock) is equal to the height.

(Ground to top of withers). Maverick's length is 60" and his height is 63".

- *the depth of body (peak of withers to elbow) is equal to elbow to fetlock.

Maverick's measurements are both equal at 30".

- *Same height at withers and croup. Mav is 63".

No white markings

Maverick has non-pigmented feet. Unfortunately for Maverick, a non-pigmented (or white) hoof is much weaker than a black or pigmented foot. Although Maverick's feet are white, he has no markings and is therefore unlikely to throw any white such as a star or blaze or any white on the legs or feet, which would cause a non-pigmented foot. This is important because lack of pigment in the hoof horn tends to cause the hoof to be worn

down quicker. When a white hoof becomes wet it will become softer than a black foot. When the white foot becomes dry, it will be more brittle; therefore, more easily chip and crack.

Shoes tend to fall off quicker on white feet because of this and nails placed to hold a shoe can easily make the hoof split.

Equal Parts

Usually a horse can be broken into 1/3rds.

The neck, back and quarters should all be near equal.

However, in a gaited horse, it is typical that the quarters are shorter.

In fact, most gaited horses do not have long quarters.

Maverick's quarter is 23", back 31" and neck is 36".

This is perfectly balanced for a gaited horse.

However, a long pelvis is extremely important for the athletic horse, such as a race horse, giving it more speed, muscle and power.

Hind Legs

If a line is dropped from the point of buttock down on the side view of Maverick (leg must be set so that the cannon bone is vertical), it touches the hock and runs parallel to the cannon and falls just behind the heel. He has nice hind end limb length because of a long gaskin and femur, but short cannon. He does not stand butt high with his hind limbs under him. He is not post legged nor is he too camped out or sickle hocked. Since Maverick's pelvis has a moderate slope, it allows him to coil his short strong loin to thrust his hind limbs under him for a nice over stride.

