

STUD BOOK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why evaluate mares and geldings ?

A. In previous years we have only offered a show License & or a breed License to stallions. The TGCA constantly strives to gain public awareness of the talent and attributes of this breed. Being a relatively new Stud Book, we have to continue to raise the standards. With this in mind we should not just promote Stallions, we need to promote all sexes and all talents, giving each horse equal opportunities regardless of sex. So hence the Evaluation system was brought in to promote and offer the chance for all to gain Main Stud Book Status, with ELITE STAR STATUS, by collecting Stars for various disciplines. This could take a few years but is progressive and does not exclude horses of unknown breeding as past systems have. The TGCA has created this for all to enjoy and promote their Traditional Gypsy Cobs

Q. What is the benefit of evaluations with my Breeding mare?

A. As mentioned previously, present day breeders are dealing with a very discerning market where the customer, increasingly, understands the process of breeding and evaluations. The Evaluations of your mare allows the purchaser of her foals to know that the mare has met a quality standard in her type, conformation and paces. This is particularly important if you are selling an older horse that you have bred when, for one reason or another, the mare cannot be seen. This "Quality Mark" should support the value of both your mare and her offspring. Further, the stock that you breed from her will be ultimately eligible for the TGCA Black Book IE Main Stud book Status, Subject to the offspring meeting the standards of our breed assessment. Breeding is an exciting but expensive business and to get the top prices for your production you need the best accreditation.

Q. Why would I performance test my mare?

A. If you have made a substantial investment in your breeding mare then you may wish to obtain as many good foals as possible while the mare is young and therefore not wish to embark on a ridden career. In this case you are missing that vital ingredient in the future marketing of her offspring as her movement and ability under saddle and her ride ability have no measure or proof. The Mare Performance Test solves this problem. We believe that the indicators for a mare achieving First Star status equate well with the early stages of competition.

Q. What is the benefit of evaluations my stallion?

A. As with the other questions about evaluations and testing it is clear that we are in an increasingly discerning market and we must compete, and are able increasingly to compete, on a level playing field with the longer established studbooks. This means adopting the same standards of assessment. Evaluations your stallion is part of this process and will allow him to be “competitive” as a breeding animal with his type, conformation, paces and ability enabling him to step onto the first rung of Stallion Evaluations. You may wish to follow this initial evaluations with ridden competition or breeding, or your next step may be to present a progeny group. Either way your will be doing your best to ensure that your stallion has the best breeding credentials from a society that values Breed type ,pedigree, performance and correctness. Once again there is the question of the discerning market, and a stallion without graded status is unlikely to attract the best mares and will therefore have little chance to produce the best offspring.

Q. Is my colt good enough to make a stallion?

A. This is always difficult to answer until the colt has begun preparation for the performance Assessment, and it is often difficult to benchmark a colt when he is considered in isolation. It is easier to say when a colt is not good enough on the grounds of correctness. It does not require an expert eye to see whether limbs are straight, feet equal etc. We now offer an assessment class for young stock. This enables the owner to present young stock to the same quality of judges who would preside over a stallion evaluations. Their comments may or may not be conclusive, but their indication is helpful.