



## METHOD OF MEASURING HEEL

### MEASUREMENT APPEALS

An owner or trainer who questions the accuracy of an initial measurement, or an owner or trainer of an animal declared ineligible for a division or section on account of height may appeal the measurement. Pending the appeal of the initial measurement, the animal continues to be eligible to compete as initially measured. Appeals must be made to the USEF office in writing within the appropriate time frame and must be accompanied by the required fee. Additional veterinarian fees may apply.

**\* In Hunter Divisions, a Re-measurement can be requested by the owner through the Federation office. Please refer to HU178 for details.**

### MEASURING FOR COMPETITION PURPOSES ONLY

Occasionally, circumstances will necessitate the measurement of a pony for competition purposes only. In such a case, the measurement is used only to determine which section the pony should compete in at that particular competition. Completed "competition purposes only" measurement forms are sent to the USEF office and no copies are to be given to the owner. The reasons allowed are:

- 1 - No suitable measurement surface is available.
- 2 - Required combination of officials is not available to measure animal.
- 3 - Owner/agent does not have the animal's measurement card in possession, or management cannot confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation. The owner is allowed one such measurement per year; subsequent re-measurements will incur a fine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All participants in a Hunter/Jumper/Welsh divisions, sections or classes where height is a requirement are advised to be familiar with the Hunter Division subchapter HU-10 of the current United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. Rule Book

All Arabian, Hackney/Harness, Parade, Roadster, and Shetland Ponies are to be measured using General Rules found in Chapter 5. They are NOT jogged for soundness.

For Saddlebred Ponies only, the height measurements are placed in the box on the left side of the measurement form.

Please review the most current version of the USEF Rulebook for more complete rule reference changes and descriptions.



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION**  
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## MEASUREMENT GUIDELINES

for

**Hunter Pony,  
Children's Hunter Pony,  
Pony Jumper, Junior Hunter,  
Small Hunter  
Welsh, Arabian,  
Hackney/Harness,  
Parade, Roadster,  
Saddlebred & Shetland**

**For USEF  
Stewards, Judges, Veterinarians,  
Owners/Agents and Trainers**

It is the goal of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. to ensure that all animals requiring height measurements are properly measured and shown in the correct height sections. Federation stewards, judges and competition veterinarians are the individuals responsible for performing accurate measurements. With this in mind, all parties should reference the guidelines presented in this brochure, and are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the complete rule pertaining to measurement found in Chapter 5 and Hunter Division Measurement Rules of the most recent version of the USEF Rule Book.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

In Hunter Divisions, measurements must be performed by a steward with the official competition veterinarian in attendance, both of whom shall sign the measurement form. If the official competition veterinarian is not present at the competition, or not available when on call the measurement may be conducted by a steward and a judge officiating at the competition, or another steward officiating at the competition; however, the measurement will be for the purposes of that competition only and no measurement card will be issued. Measurement forms will be sent to the Federation, but will not be given to the owner. Written reports of every measurement or attempt to measure must be sent to the Federation's Lexington, KY office together with the Steward's Report, or the steward will be subject to charges and penalties per Chapters GR6 and GR7. The steward shall be either a steward officiating at the competition or a steward authorized in writing to conduct the measurement by the Federation CEO or Executive Director.

For Arabian, Hackney/Harness, Parade, Roadster, Saddlebred and Shetland Divisions, the animal must be measured by an officiating steward and any one of the following officials officiating in the competition: a veterinarian, judge or another steward.

## IMPORTANT NOTE - Hunter Division - All Sections

An animal may be tended to by a farrier to prepare for its measurement prior to its presentation to Federation officials. Federation officials are not to perform "courtesy," "trial," or repeat measurements. Once an animal is presented for measurement, the owner/agent must accept the resulting measurement. The animal may be presented for measurement with or without shoes regardless of how it is shown.

## PRIOR TO MEASURING THE ANIMAL

1 - The steward should speak directly to the owner/agent of the animal and ask if he/she is aware of the importance of having the animal properly prepared for measurement. The owner/agent may want to ask questions about the measurement procedure, or review the guidelines in this brochure or in the USEF Rule Book. Federation officials should strive to be as helpful and forthcoming with information as is necessary to ensure that the animal is ready to be measured.

2 - To be eligible to be measured, the animal must be entered to compete in a licensed competition. To ensure that the animal is actually entered, the steward must have the entry number on the measurement form, or send the owner/agent to the show office to obtain the number. The secretary should not give the actual number to the owner/agent, but should be able to tell them the number being assigned to that animal. Do not measure any animal prior to knowing it is correctly entered in the competition. After the animal is measured, the secretary will give the physical number to the owner/agent.

3 - Before any animal is measured the person presenting the animal must have in his possession either the owner's membership number or a signed statement signifying that the owner has applied for membership.

4 - The owner/agent must fill in the information requested on the top portion of the Measurement Form, including his/her signature, and USEF number of the owner and horse/pony. They must be over 18 years of age. **For Hunter Divisions the trainer must sign.** Measurement cards will not be issued if the form is not completely filled out and legible. Exhibitors, owners, agents and trainers are cautioned to make sure their measurement forms are filled out accurately and completely. The steward should have the form in his or her possession before proceeding with the measurement. Any alterations, scratch outs, or rewrites to any part of the height or height of fore heels must be clearly indicated and initialed by the measuring officials. No changes can be made to the information once the form is signed.

5 - Before an animal is measured for a measurement card in the Hunter divisions, the animal must be jogged for soundness and show no evidence of lameness. A smooth, level surface should be used (a gravel driveway, for example, is inappropriate). If possible, competition management should provide a covered area. If the official competition veterinarian finds the animal to be unsound, said animal cannot show at that competition and no measurement may be conducted. The veterinarian should also check the animal's teeth to determine whether it is younger than eight years of age (Temporary Measurement Card) or eight years of age or older (Standard Measurement Card). This information is entered on the Measurement Form.

6 - Jogging for soundness is not required for Arabian, Hackney/Harness, Parade, Roadster Ponies, Shetland Ponies or Saddlebred Ponies.

## THE MEASUREMENT

7 - A level surface must be used - preferably a concrete slab or other paved surface; a plywood sheet is NOT considered a suitable surface for Hunter Pony Divisions. However, a heavy sheet of plywood is acceptable for Junior Hunter Horses and divisions governed by Chapter 5. It is recommended that the steward check the surface to ensure the surface is level by placing the cross piece of the official stick on the measuring surface and checking the bubbles. Under no circumstances should animals be measured on dirt or gravel. Note that "A" competition grounds are required to have a level surface area for measuring when there are divisions requiring measurement and that Regular Competitions having

Hunter Pony and Junior Hunter classes are responsible for providing a USEF Approved Measurement stick as well as a suitable measurement surface. A measurement area should be as free from distractions as possible and covered, if at all possible.

8 - Only the Federation Approved Measuring Stick may be used. All Federation approved measuring sticks will be numbered, carry the Federation logo and the legend Federation Approved.

9 - The steward should check the Federation-approved measuring stick for proper assembly and make sure it is fully extended and locked. The steward should familiarize the animal with the stick.

10 - The steward should be patient with the animal and give it adequate time to relax. If the animal appears frightened or unruly, let it stand with its attendant until it is comfortable with the situation.

11 - The animal must stand square, with the front legs vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters. For Hunter Divisions, the poll must be in the same horizontal plane as the withers and no lower and the head should be in a normal position. For all other divisions, the head must be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the withers and no lower. (Exception: Hackney)

12 - The handlers must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in the correct position.

13 - The crosspiece, arm or bar of the measuring device must be placed over the highest point of the withers. (To find the highest point, the handler should drop the pony's head below its withers to allow the measuring official to feel for the point with his/her hand. Return the animal's head to the level position before measuring.)

14 - Lower the cross-arm so it rests lightly on the withers. Do not apply pressure to the cross-arm. The actual measurement must be done by the licensed steward. The veterinarian is solely responsible for checking soundness (Hunter divisions) and checking the animal's teeth for the age of the animal although he or she may assist the steward.

15 - Check both of the levels on the stick to ensure that it is straight.

16 - Only when the steward is satisfied that the stick is properly positioned should the measurement be read. Note the measurement on the form.

17 - The last step is to measure the animal's two fore heels. The height of the heel is determined by measuring from the skin line on the lower side of the coronary band to the ground, with a six-inch ruler held perpendicular to the ground. Please note that heel measurements are not required for Hunter/Jumper/Welsh.

18 - The owner/agent or trainer is given the white copy of the form. The blue copy is returned to the Federation office with the Steward's report, while the pink copy is retained by the measuring steward.