

Questions & Answers

BY DR. STEPHEN DUREN

CI really enjoyed your article in a past Equineews on the Paso Fino horse. The first week in November, I am planning on attending the Paso Fino World Championships that are being held in Tampa, Florida this year to learn more about these fascinating horses. A friend told me that not all Paso Finos are the same, and that there will be some that have different gaits other than the Paso Fino, Paso Corto and Paso Largo you mentioned in the article. Would you please explain the other movements (gaits) so that I will know what I am looking for when I get to the Championships. –Susan Smith, Tampa FL

AI hope you enjoy the World Championships. It should be a fascinating event. Yes, it is true that not all Paso Finos are created equal. In my travels to Colombia, I have come across many of these horses with gaits different from those of the classic Paso Fino. In Colombia, Paso Finos are in fact called “Criollos” and within the Criollo breed there are four different types based on their movement. The most well known is the classic Paso Fino whose gaits are all lateral (the legs on the same side of the body move forward at the same time), and they perform the Paso Fino (fine step), Paso Corte (short step) and Paso Largo (long step). The other Criollo gaits are all diagonal (legs on opposite sides of the body move at the same time) and are the Trote y Galope Reunidos Colombianos, Trocha y Galope Reunidos Colombianos and Trocha Colombiana. Although all Criollos look fairly similar, there are small differences in conformation which predispose a horse to possess the various gaits. On careful inspection, differences in the angles of the shoulder blades and hips of Criollos can be observed.

The Criollo gaits make for incredibly smooth riding. Trying to recognize which gait the horse is doing may be challenging until one learns to differentiate the amount of lift in the knee during the competition and the different sounds of the gaits as the horses hit the sounding board or pista.

The Paso Fino Colombiano is an animated lateral four beat gait (each foot hits the ground at a different time) with a moderate amount of lift in the knees and very fast movement, which make it obviously different from the diagonal gaits. The Trocha Pura Colombiana is a four beat gait and the velocity in which the front legs rise and strike the ground is very fast, similar to the speed of the movement of the Paso Fino. The movement is lateral and the knees are more elevated in the stride than the Paso Fino. The resulting gait is very smooth for the rider.

The Trote y Galope Reunidos Colombianos is a trot, where the horse’s legs strike the ground diagonally two at a time (two beat gait) in very even continuous movements with-

out any suspension time. These horses have a lot of brilliance in movement like the Paso Fino. They possess such flexibility in the knees and hocks that they have even higher leg action than either the Paso Fino or the Trocha.

The collected canter, El Galope Reunido, is a movement complementary to the trot, and is done in a collected frame and driving well off the hind end. The diagonal sequence is in three beats. The Trocha y Galope Reunidos Colombianos perfectly combines the Trocha and the Galope Reunido, with a slightly slower trot and the same canter as the Trot and Gallop type. These horses go from a four beat gait of the broken trot to the three beats of the collected canter.

I greatly appreciate the help of the people at Solla, S.A. (our KER Team Member in Colombia) for their help in defining these gaits. Solla S.A. feeds some of the best Paso Finos of Colombia, including those of the Trote y Galope or Trocha types. One of their most noted clients of the Criollo world is “Criadero Portefino” who will be competing eight of their champion horses at the World Championships. Look for them to be placing well in the diagonal gaited classes.

CI recently read an article that said giving a bran mash to a horse with wheat bran does little to nothing to help a horse (aside from the mineral oil that may be added), and when fed more frequently is actually harmful. Is this true? – Kiersten Hines, Stockton, CA

AWhat you read is a half truth. If you are feeding bran as a laxative, it does not necessarily aid this function. Wheat bran does not serve as indigestible fiber to keep the digestive tract moving in a horse as it does in humans. In fact, the fiber in wheat bran is very digestible to a horse. Further, there is not as much fiber in wheat bran as you might think; it has less fiber than oats.

The so-called “harmful effect” of wheat bran is the excess of phosphorus and lack of calcium in it. Much is dependent on the quantity of bran fed as to whether it will disrupt the balance. Also, if a horse is eating alfalfa hay, which is high in calcium, feeding bran is not usually a problem.

A bran mash can be helpful if you are trying to get water into a horse. Bran can hold a lot of water when it is soaked. In the winter, if a horse is not drinking because the water is too cold, a warm bran mash is a savory way of increasing water intake.

Wheat bran can also be a good source of energy. Wheat bran has more calories per kilogram than oats. If a horse has gone off his feed or has become finicky, a bran mash could entice him to eat. ☺

Kentucky Equine Research Team Member Directory

Allfarm AG

Ruttimatt 130
Pfeffingen, CH-4148
Switzerland
011-41-61-751-7501
011-41-61-753-9620 FAX

Armada Grain Co.

73180 South Fulton
P.O. Box 918
Armada, MI 48005-0919
810-784-5911
810-784-5918 FAX

Aslin Finch

10424 W. Aero Road
Spokane, WA 99204
800-538-8700
509-455-5635 FAX

Bagdad Roller Mills, Inc.

5740 Elmburg Rd.
P.O. Box 7
Bagdad, KY 40003
502-747-8968
502-747-8960 FAX

Banks Mill

1270 Banks Mill Rd.
Aiken, SC 29803
803-641-0007
803-502-0600 FAX

Bartlett Milling Co.

701 South Center, 28677
P.O. Box 831
Statesville, NC 28687
800-438-6016
704-873-8956 FAX

Brandt's Mill

630 N 9th Street
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-272-6781
717-272-7009 FAX

Brooks Feed Store

RR #4
1580 Hwy 7A
Port Perry, ONT L9L 1B5
Canada
905-985-7992
905-985-8297 FAX

Brumfield Hay & Grain

671 Bizzell Dr.
Lexington, KY 40510
606-255-0788
606-254-5722 FAX

Burkman Feeds

1111 Perryville Road
Danville, KY 40422
606-236-0400
606-236-7307 FAX

Burlington

Consumers Co-op
638 Kane St.
P.O. Box 220
Burlington, WI 53105
414-767-2019
414-767-2026 FAX

Cache Commodities

860 W. 24th St.
Ogden, UT 84402
800-327-3234
801-392-2498 FAX

Culpeper Farmers Cooperative

15172 Brandy Rd.
P.O. Box 2002
Culpeper, VA 22701
540-825-2200
540-825-2210 FAX

Dodson & Horrell, Ltd.

Spencer Street
Ringstead
Northants NN14 4BX
United Kingdom
011-44-1933-624-221
011-44-1933-625-461 FAX

Farmers Feed Mill

251 W. Loudon Ave.
Lexington, KY 40508
606-255-7602
606-255-9815 FAX

Farmers Warehouse Co.

4367 Jessup Rd.
P.O. Box 160
Keyes, CA 95328-0160
800-400-6377
209-634-6341 FAX

Feed-Rite

17 Speers Road
Winnipeg, MB R2J 1M1
Canada
204-233-8418
204-235-1260 FAX

Fitman a.s.

Helvikovice 90
Zamberk 56401
Czech Republic
011-42-446-27-49
011-42-446-23-57

Flint River Mills

1100 Dothan Rd., 31717
P.O. Box 995
Bainbridge, GA 31718
800-841-8502
800-288-4376 FAX

Hamilton Farm Bureau

4670 East Washington St.
P.O. Box 186
Hamilton, MI 49419
800-442-4137
616-751-7032 FAX

Hubbard Feeds, Inc.

424 N. Riverfront Dr.
Mankato, MN 56002-8500
507-388-9400
507-388-9453 FAX

Hy Gain Feeds PTY. Ltd.

10 Hickson Road
Officer, Victoria 3809
Australia
011-61-03-5943-2255
011-61-03-5943-2258 FAX

Jenco Feeds

47 Warwick St.
Allora, QLD 4362
Australia
011-61-07-4666-3366
011-61-07-4666-3400 FAX

Lakeland Cash Feed

502 Lake Mirror, 33801
P.O. Box 24868
Lakeland, FL 33802-4868
800-682-6144
941-686-9427 FAX

Lakin Milling Co.

4456 S. Dysart Road
Avondale, AZ 85323
623-932-3970
623-932-2798 FAX

LMF Feeds Incorporated

967 Haas Rd.
Weiser, ID 83672
800-344-0563
208-549-4123 FAX

M. Kelliher & Sons LTD

North Circular Road
Tralee, Co. Kerry
Ireland
011-353-66-21144
011-353-66-21775 FAX

Master Blend Feeds

P.O. Box 24
Old Harbour
St. Catherine, Jamaica, W.I.
876-983-2305
876-983-9241 FAX

NRM NZ

100 Carlton Gore Rd.
4A Private Bag 99927
Newmarket, Auckland
New Zealand
011-64-09-379-1869
011-64-03-300-3185 FAX

Nutribec, Ltee

2950 Rue Ontario Est
Montreal,
QUE H2K-1X3
Canada
514-527-9661
514-527-9452 FAX

Nutrition Services, Inc.

501 Division Ave.
York, NE 68467
800-697-1998
402-362-1750 FAX

Otter Co-Op

P.O. Box 4200
3600-248th Street
Aldergrove, BC V4W 2V1
Canada
604-856-2517
604-856-3598 FAX

Pennfield Corp.

711 Rohrerstown Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17603
800-995-0333
717-295-8783 FAX

Pivot Stock Feed Mill

Oaks Road
Carrick Via Launceston
Tasmania
Australia
011-61-03-6393-6655
011-61-03-6393-6771 FAX

O.H. Kruse

5150 Blue Mound Rd.
Fort Worth, TX 76106
817-624-7183
817-624-7281 FAX

Poulin Grain, Inc.

24 Railroad Square
Newport, VT 05855
802-334-6731
802-334-7791 FAX

Premier Feeds

238 Melvin Road
Wilmington, OH 45177
800-888-8162
937-584-4874 FAX

Producer Feeds

165 North Clay Street
Louisville, KY 40202
800-295-2836
502-568-2293 FAX

Pryde's Animal Feed Specialists

Quia Rd.
Gunnedah, NSW 2380
Australia
011-61-02-6742-3966
011-61-02-6742-4423 FAX

SOLLA S.A.

Autopista Norte km 6
Apartado Aereo
Medellin 1272
Colombia
011-57-4-273-7111
011-57-4-273-6837 FAX

Sunglo Feeds, Inc.

300 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 789
Hesston, KS 67062
316-327-2280
316-327-4949 FAX

Tottenham Feed Services

41 Mill Street
Tottenham, ONT LOG 1W0
Canada
905-936-4163
905-936-2812 FAX

Woodford Feed

498 Lexington Rd.
Versailles, KY 40383
606-873-4811
606-873-5430 FAX

