

DON (Donskaya)

The Don breed was developed on the steppes of the Don river and its tributaries. It arose mainly from the south Russian steppe horses crossed with stallions of oriental breeds such as the Persian, Karabakh and Turkmenian.

While intensive horse breeding in the Don area began in the late 18th century, the selection of the Don breed started in the 1830s. The modern Don breed had emerged by the 20th century. The population in the west Don region was improved chiefly by horses of the Orlov-Rostopchin (Russian Saddle horse) and by Thoroughbreds. That in the steppes east of the river Don retained many features of native steppe horses and oriental breeds.

Plenty of good fodder in the virgin lands and keeping in taboos contributed to the establishment of the breed with its strong constitution and remarkable adaptability.

This led to its extensive use in all steppe regions - west and south Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, south Siberia and the Transbaikal area - both as a purebred to improve local horses and to form new breeds. The Don was admirably adapted to the mountain regions of Kazakhstan and Kirgizia and used in the development of the New Kirgiz and the Kushum breeds. By the 20th century the Don population had become the largest in Russia. In the Transdon steppes it reached 70 000 head. However, during World War One and the Civil War it practically disappeared. Volume I (1949) of the Don studbook recorded only 89 pure stallions and 466 mares.

Reestablishment of the breeding nucleus was carried out at S.M. Budennyi and Zimovnikovski studs in Rostov region and at Issyk-Kul stud in Kirgizia. Numbers rose and fell and in 1980 Volume VI recorded 126 stallions and 392 mares and the total population of purebreds numbered 17 000.

Including all generations of crossbreds the Don breed numbered 128 000. Classified as a saddle breed the modern Don has a distinctive exterior. Its features are: medium-sized or sometimes light head with a straight or slightly dished face, wide forehead, fleshy jaw, medium-length neck low- or high-set, prominent crest and insignificant throat latch, medium withers, straight, flat and wide back, wide and flat loin, correctly sloping or sometimes straight croup, well-developed chest and wide trunk.

The modern Don has considerably improved forelegs. While in 1950-60 underdeveloped knee-joint and knees which were too far back occurred in 20% of purebreds, the defect is now practically eradicated. The shoulder and the pasterns also showed much improvement. The number of sickle-hocked horses has decreased.

The measurement of breeding animals at studs in 1984 produced the following results (in cm): stallions - height at withers 166; oblique body length 164; chest girth 194; cannon bone girth 21.0; mares 164, 165, 195 and 20.5 respectively.

The predominant colour is chestnut, often with a golden sheen.

The breed now consists of three intra-breed types - eastern, heavy and saddle. An effort is presently being made to use extensively horses combining the qualities of the heavy and eastern types with improved conformation.

The formation of the new Zaboï line on the basis of the Zabavnik line and the Gulsyn line from the old Cheln line is almost complete.

The fertility is high - up to 87% live births with 85% survival to one year of age even under moderate management conditions.

Pure breeding in improved taboos and infusion of Thoroughbred blood showed that while an increase in Wright's inbreeding coefficient to 8-10% did not decrease height, body size or performance an increase of Thoroughbred blood over 25% sharply reduced fitness for the taboo conditions and eventually resulted in an increase in abortions and a decline of body size.

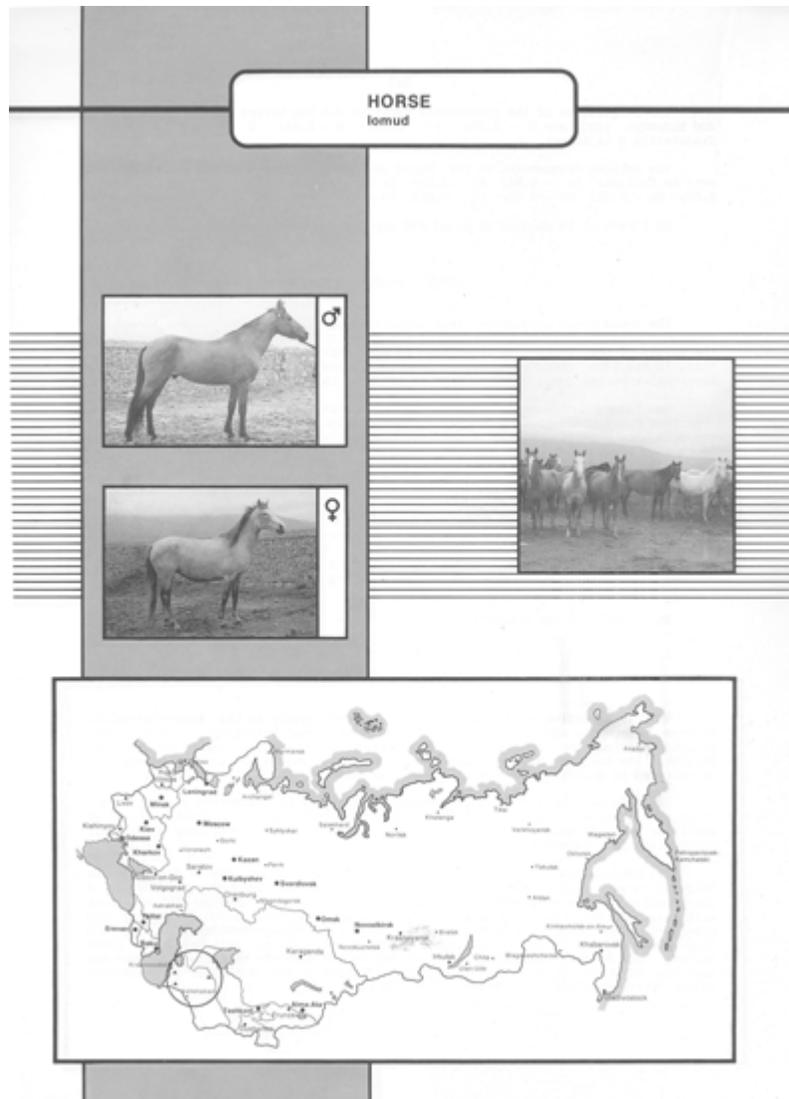
Don horses have versatile working qualities. Although they are not very fast they possess remarkable endurance and rather high jumping abilities. They are of interest for mounted tourism and have high food efficiency.

The breed record in flat races is 2 min 43 sec for 2400 m distance set by Mig (born 1971).

The frequencies of the transferrin types in 341 Don horses at the Zimovnikovski and Budennyi studs are D - 0.16; F - 0.49; H - 0.44; O - 0.21; R - 0.08. Transferrin M is absent.

The antigen frequencies in the blood groups of 200 mares at the Budennyi stud were as follows: Aa - 0.84; Ac - 0.36; Ca - 0.78; Da - 0.07; Db - 0.34; Dd - 0.69; De - 0.41; Dh - 0.05; R₃ - 0.86; Ka - 0.10; Pa - 0.03; Qa - 0.22.

In future it is planned to breed and improve the Don by pure breeding.

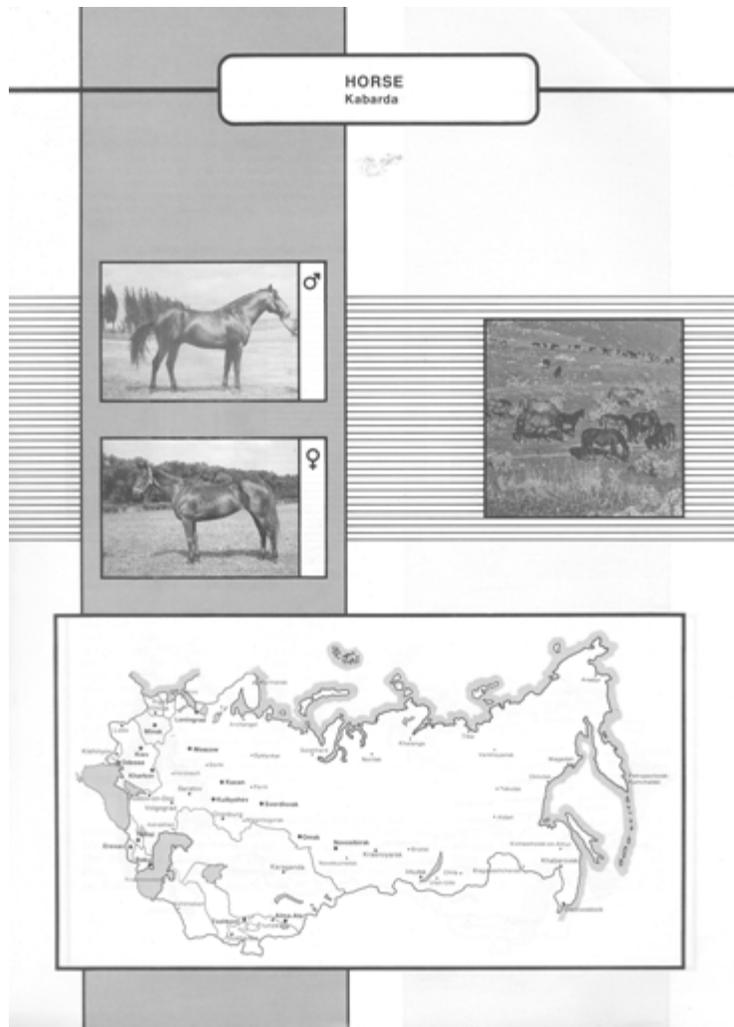


IOMUD (Iomudskaya)

The Iomud breed originates from ancient Turkmenian horses. It was formed by the Iomud tribe in the Tashauz oasis in southern Turkmenia. As the breed occupied the margin of the Turkmenian breed area it was influenced by steppe breeds. After that, in the 14th century, it was influenced by Arabian stallions. In contrast to the Akhal-Teke the Iomud breed is kept in herds in the desert and semi-desert.

The Iomud conformation has the following features: large clean-cut head, sometimes Roman-nosed, medium-long neck; medium-high withers, solid back with small curve to the withers, nicely turned and regularly sloping croup, shallow chest; clean fine legs, often bowed; sparse mane and tail; delicate skin. Colour is grey or chestnut, rarely golden chestnut or black. The measurements (in cm) of stallions are: height at withers 152, oblique body length 151, chest girth 168, cannon bone girth 19; mares: 149, 150, 167 and 18.3 respectively.

The lomud is a long-lived healthy horse. It shows soft "floating" action. The purebred population has declined substantially. Therefore stud farms to preserve the lomud genotype were set up in Turkmenia in 1983. They are charged with protecting the breed and restoring the breeding nucleus to a size of 240-250 mares from the present 140 mares. A conservation farm is being established in the Kyzyl-Atrek district. The breed requires protection.



KABARDA (Kabardinskaya)

This is a native North Caucasian breed found mainly in the Kabardino-Balkar Autonomous Republic and in the foothills area of Stavropol territory. In the process of its formation the Kabarda was influenced by many breeds - steppe horses, the Karabakh, the Persian and the Turkmenian. Kabarda horses are kept in taboos and transferred to mountain pastures in summer and to the foothill area in winter.

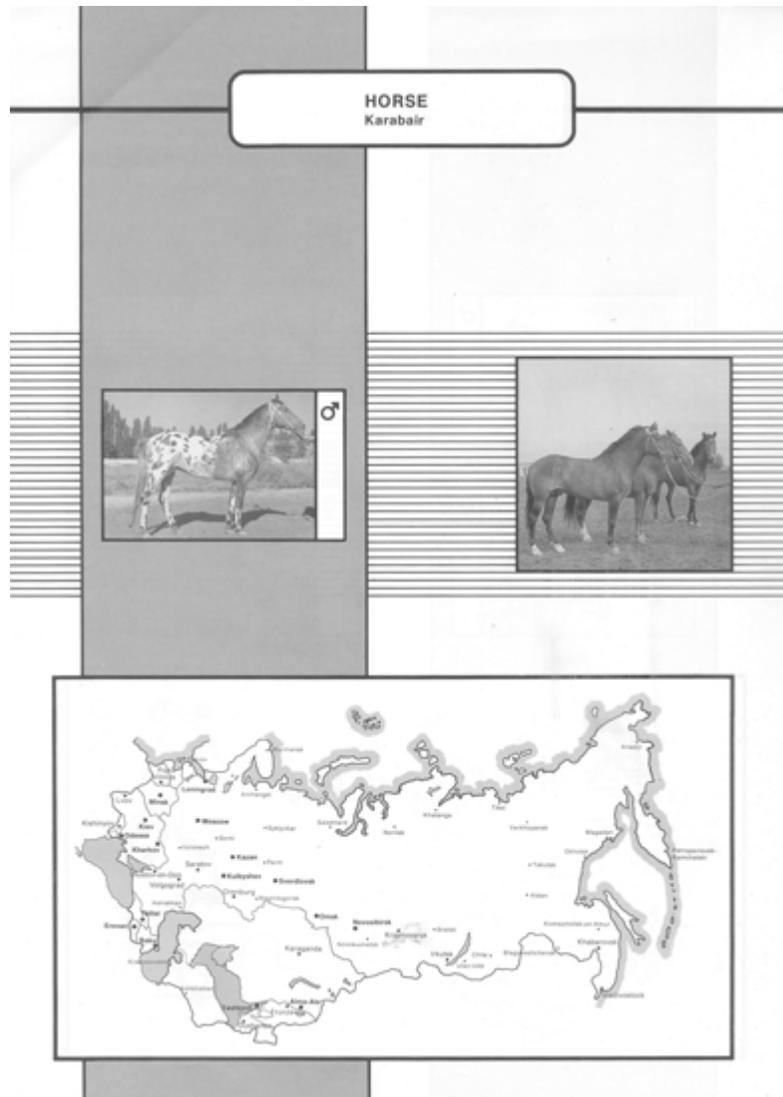
The Kabarda is primarily a saddle horse. The bulk of the horses are not large. Their average height ranges from 145 to 152 cm. However, the measurements (in cm) of stallions at studs were as follows: height at withers 155, oblique body length 153, chest girth 180, cannon bone girth 20. The Kabarda has a solid clean build. Its conformation may be described as follows: head - clean, sometimes coarse, ram profile, with long ears and usually a short poll; neck - medium-long, straight and well muscled; medium-high and long withers; straight, short and solid back; well-muscled loin; slightly sloping and heavily-muscled croup; medium-long and correctly-sloping shoulders; deep and long-ribbed chest; correctly-set legs, hindlegs often bowed; well-developed clean joints; hard hoofs. Although the Kabarda

has only a moderate hair coat its mane and tail may be quite thick and legs may have feather on the fetlocks. Predominant colour cherry bay, often bay brown; black is rare.

The Kabarda horse is well fitted for mountainous and stony terrain. It is considered to be the best mountain horse. It can show a fair speed and remarkable endurance. The breed's speed record is 1 min 54 sec for 1600 m and 2 min 44.2 sec for 2400 m. The record for the 50 km long distance is 1 hour 41 min 25 sec.

The purebred population recorded in volumes I-III (1935-53) of the studbook was 446 stallions and 3272 mares. The breed's breeding nucleus has dropped to 400-450 mares concentrated at Malokarachaevski and Malkinski studs and at the horse breeding farms of the Karachaevo-Cherkess Autonomous Region. The sharp decline of the pedigree nucleus stock is explained by the insufficient speed of Kabarda horses in hippodrome tests. The main breeding centres are Malkinski stud in the Kabardino-Balkar Autonomous Republic, and Malokarachaevski stud and the breeding farm of Krasny Partizan collective farm in Stavropol territory.

There are 4 blood lines in the breed. A new breed group has been formed by crossing the Kabarda with the Thoroughbred, the blood of the latter being from 5/8 to 3/4. Anglo-Kabarda horses are noted for their strong constitution, high speed and vigour. They combine perfectly the advantages of the foundation breeds and are of a very special type. In 1966 this breed group was recognized. The breeding farms of Kabardino-Balkar and Stavropol regions breed both purebred Kabarda and Anglo-Kabarda horses. The breed needs protection.



KARABAIR (Karabairskaya)

The Karabair is one of the most ancient breeds of Central Asia. Developed in Uzbekistan and northern Tajikistan the breed was established under the influence of southern and steppe breeds. It is well adapted to use under saddle and in harness (arba cart). It has the typical build of a saddle and harness horse.

The Karabair purebred population recorded in volumes I-IV of the studbook was 1537 stallions and 3871 mares. The Karabair breed is zoned for breeding in all regions of the Uzbek Republic.

In appearance the Karabair resembles the Arabian, Persian, and Turkmenian as well as the steppe breeds. It has a medium-sized clean-cut head with a straight or ram profile, wide jaw, medium-long poll and high set medium-long neck. Some Karabairs may have a shorter heavily muscled neck. It has medium-high and medium-long withers; wide and short, sometimes soft, back; medium-long, wide and well-muscled loin; regularly sloping and sometimes dropping croup; medium-long shoulders

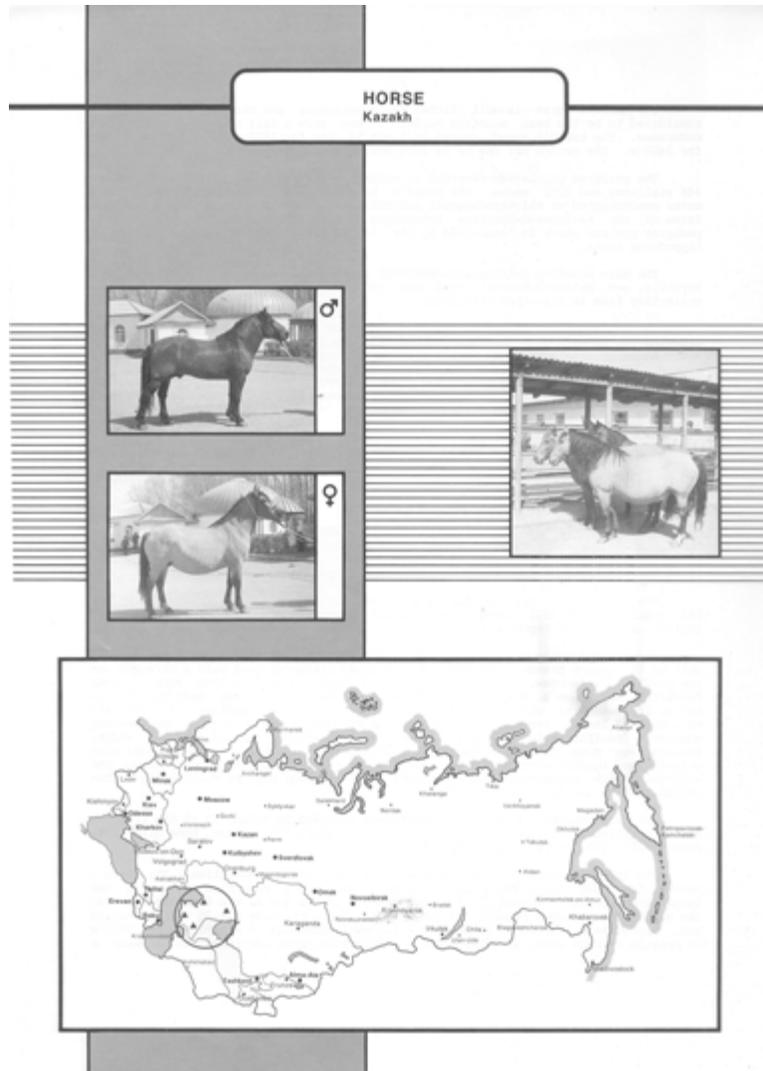
insufficiently sloping; chest well developed in length and width, forequarters more developed than the hindquarters; clean, strong legs with well-defined tendons; correctly-set legs. As a result of insufficient feeding the knee-joints are occasionally underdeveloped and hindlegs may be cow-hocked. The colour is bay, chestnut, grey or black.

The measurements (in cm) of the purebreds recorded in volume IV of the studbook are: stallions: height at withers 156, chest girth 175, cannon bone girth 20; mares: 151, 178, and 19 respectively.

The Karabair shows good endurance and versatile working qualities. The breed's records for 1600 and 2400 m are 1 min 54 sec and 2 min 51.4 sec. In the long-distance race it scored 22 min 34.6 sec for 14 km and 42 min 6 sec for 25 km. The Karabair gives good results in long rides. The best time for 75 km is 3 hr 32 min. Speed tests in harness produced the following results: 5 min 51 sec for 1600 m in Russian harness with a 600 kg load; 1600 m were paced in 14 min 45 sec with a 2000 kg load. The Karabair performs very well in national types of equestrian sports, mainly in kok-par. The Karabair is distinguished by sound health, average longevity and normal fertility, i.e. 75 to 85 foals per 100 mares.

The breed consists of three intra-breed types, basic, heavy and saddle, as well as 8 sire lines and 5 mare families.

The main studs are Jizak stud, the horse breeding farm of Gallyaaraal state farm and Navoi stud in Jizak region. The breed is improved through pure breeding.



KAZAKH (Kazakhskaya)

This group of steppe horses was numerous as early as the 5th century B.C. Since then Kazakh horses were influenced by many breeds - Mongolian, Karabair, Arabian and Akhal-Teke. In the late 20th century Kazakh horses have been improved by the Thoroughbred, Orlov Trotter and Don. Kazakh horses are kept on pastures the year round. They are concentrated in western Kazakhstan. In this vast territory they have become differentiated into various ecological types and varieties. The most widespread are: the Jabe and the Adaev.

Jabe horses were formed in southern districts of Aktubinsk regions and then spread all over Kazakhstan. Their most important characteristics are: rugged head, thick neck, wide body and deep chest. The back is straight and the croup well muscled. Legs are set correctly and are sufficiently strong. The skin is thick and dense; hair covering is rather good. Colour is bay, dark bay or red, occasionally greyish or grey.

The measurements of stallions (in cm) are: height at withers 144, chest girth 180, cannon bone girth 19; those of mares are lower 142, 178, and 18.8 respectively. Considering their small measurements, Kazakh horses of the Jabe type have a high live weight - 400-500 kg.

Meat and milk performance of Jabe horses are very high - some mares yield up to 20 kg of milk at hand-milking and they fatten quickly.

Horses of the Adaev type have a more pronounced saddle character; they have a more clean-cut conformation, light head, long neck, well-defined withers, and straight back. However, horses with narrow chest and too light bone occur because of the primitive management conditions.

All in all, Kazakh horses fall short in performance. Their gaits are poor: short stride, jolting and not strong trot. At the same time they are very hardy. Thus the stallion Zolotnik covered 264 km per day and Adaev horses did 297 km during a daily run. Jabe horses are noted for their good meat characteristics - the meat yield at slaughter is 57-60%. The Kazakh breed numbers over 300 000. The best farm is the Mugojar stud.