



Miniature Horse

Equus caballus

Description: Miniature horses originated in Europe and were bred as pets for the children of nobility. They were also used in coal mines to pull ore cars prior to mechanization. Now, they are trained to pull carts or wagons and are shown competitively. Developed from multiple sources, miniature horses were bred from many different pony breeds. The American miniature horse is a "height" breed being that they can measure no more than 34 inches at the withers once they have reached maturity. They are "miniature" versions of well-balanced horses, possessing confirmation characteristics found in most equine breeds. Miniature horses can be found in a rainbow of colors and types.



Geographic Range/Habitat: Miniature horses were originally from Europe but are now found all over the world.



Behavior: Eager to please, the miniature horse makes a gentle and affectionate companion for individuals of any age or ability. Though petite, they are extremely versatile and excel in a variety of disciplines including driving, halter, jumping, obstacle and others. Miniature horses are friendly and interact well with people. They can be trained as service animals for people with disabilities. They also can be found working in therapeutic programs for disabled children or the elderly. They are generally quite hardy, often living longer than some full-sized horse breeds. They can live 25-35 years.

Diet: Grasses, hay and alfalfa

Status: Common