

DRESSAGE Tips

By Emad el-din Zaghloul

The trot is a pace of “two time” on alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.

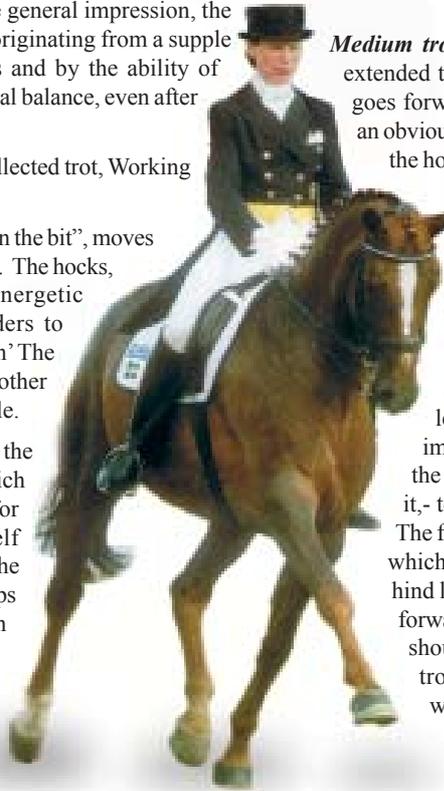
The trot always with free, active and regular steps, should be moved into without hesitation.

The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps - originating from a supple back and well engaged hind quarters and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition from one trot to another.

The following trots are recognised: Collected trot, Working trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.

Collected trot. The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, thus enabling the shoulders to move with greater ease in any direction. The horse’s steps are shorter than in the other trots, but he is lighter and more mobile.

Working trot. This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements. Shows himself properly balanced and, remaining “on the bit”, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” does not mean that collection is a required quality of working trot. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hind quarters.



The TROT

Medium trot. This is a pace between the working and the extended trot, but more “round” than the latter. The Horse goes forward with free and moderately extended steps and an obvious impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining “on the bit”, to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The steps should be as even as possible, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

Extended trot. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same cadence, he lengthens his steps to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining “on the bit”, without leaning on it, - to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should be similar “more or less parallel” in the forward moment of the extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters

All trot-work is executed “sitting”, unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.



Breeding Tips

....Risk Of Mating....

It would be impossible to discuss all of the possibilities in the space available here, but we’ll attempt to highlight a few of the bigger issues. Probably one of the biggest risks to both horse and owner is inexperience. Breeding horses is not something to be undertaken lightly, and we recommend that you find an established breeding facility and veterinarian to help you accomplish your goal. There are some problems that may occur that you should be aware of. For the sake of this discussion, we will group them into five categories: infections, trauma, abortion, laminitis and dystocia.



Infection: This can occur both in the stallion and in the mare, and the cause can be bacterial, viral or fungal. Stallions can carry infections in their semen or on their penises, which during the mating process may infect the mare. Likewise, a mare’s uterus may contain an infection that can be passed to the stallion during natural cover. Before breeding, both the stallion and mare should be checked for infectious diseases. This usually involves culturing a sample taken by a veterinarian.

Trauma: There are many ways accidents can happen during mating. Trauma can easily occur to the mare from the stallion biting her. Also, some mares kick while being bred, potentially causing serious injury to the stallions genitalia. This is also an easy time for humans to get hurt. It is important to have experienced people handling the horses during mating. If artificial insemination is being utilized, it is also possible for trauma to occur to the uterus and cervix. Finally, tearing might occur