

"Observing and assessing a horse according to our purpose: purchase, use or reproduction"

Quality of conformation and movement, functionality and biomechanics, breed characteristics, health and temperament

Program of the weekend - 31st of May to 1st of June 2025 - Eteimbès

Day 1 - Saturday the 31st of May

In the morning - 9h00 to 12h30

1. The ABC of the Horse

- Reminders: internal structures: skeleton, muscles, tendons, ligaments
- The exterior of the horse : looking for functionality, soundness and style
 - Forehand
 - Barrel
 - Hind quarters
 - Limbs and stance
 - Posture
 - Temperament
- What is biomechanics? How does the "horse system" work?
- The 3D translation of the structure in motion: gaits and biomechanics of the horse

2. The evolution of the horse during the growth

- Phases of skeletal development from birth to adulthood and changes in proportions.
- The influence of the hormones on the horse's body and behaviour.

3. Specificities of the conformation

- Related to the breeds/types of horses
- Required for the disciplines

4. Conformation and gaits faults

Prioritising faults with regard to their impact on the horse's health and performance potential - heritability of faults

- Body
- Limbs
- Gaits
- Some known heritabilities of conformational faults

5. Observation methodology

- ⇒ Methodology
 - Standing
 - In motion
 - The tracks and the footprints

In the afternoon – 14h00 to 17h00

Implementing theory into practice

- ✓ Methodical observation and benchmarks on the horse's body – axes, angles, lengths, orientation and proportions of the parts, according to the required characteristics for performance and functionality
- ✓ Observation of these features in motion
- ✓ Discovery of the educational tool: conformation and gaits assessment tool

Day 2 – Sunday the 1st of June

In the morning – 9h00 to 12h30

6. Various purposes, different needs: purchase, use and reproduction

- Purchase
- Use for a discipline or for company
 - In-hand discipline: show (beauty), trail in hand
 - Ridden discipline: dressage, show jumping, endurance, trekking, leisure, ...
- Reproduction

7. The key to a fruitful search.

- to know what we need
- to observe what we find
- to understand the full picture
- to draw conclusions
- to avoid the emotional trap

In the afternoon – 14h00 to 17h00

Implementing theory into practice

Assessing a horse through the lens of our specific needs and expectations.
Exchanges, individual and group exercises.

- ✓ To master the practical assessment tool and to interpret the results
- ✓ Methodical observation, comparison between the required characteristics for our purpose and the reality of the horse
- ✓ Expression and analysis of our findings

Conclusion of the seminar and goodbye