

Welcome to the world of the *Missouri* **FOX TROTTING HORSE**



Gentle,
sure-footed and
smooth to ride, the
Missouri Fox Trotter is an
internationally known
breed that excels in every
discipline from cutting
cows to dressage.

**WE INVITE YOU TO
LEARN MORE.**

Photo:
Valley Springs Foxtrotters

The World's Smoothest and Most Versatile Breed

The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse is described as every person's pleasure horse because of its gentle disposition and its comfortable ride. The breed is in demand for use in pleasure, show, versatility, trail riding, cross-country and endurance. Ninety percent of registered Missouri Fox Trotters are owned by people who use them for trail and pleasure riding. They are also popular with endurance riders, hunters, park rangers, and ranchers (many Missouri Fox Trotters have excellent cow sense), and of course they're an acclaimed show horse, exhibiting great beauty and style in the ring.

Physical Description

Missouri Fox Trotting horses generally stand between 14 and 16 hands tall. They have a proud carriage, standing squarely on their feet, with a graceful neck and well-proportioned head. The back is reasonably short and strong. The overall look is one of substance and grace. Missouri Fox Trotters come in all colors—from perlino to black and every shade in between, including spotted.

History of the Breed

More than a century ago, the settlers and pioneers of the Ozarks needed a sure-footed, easy-traveling horse that could perform the varied and often grueling work their way of life demanded. Those requirements included plowing fields, hauling logs and working cattle in rugged, rocky Ozarks terrain. And when the day was done, that

same horse had to serve as the family's stylish buggy and riding horse.

As people migrated west from the hills and plantations of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, they brought with them their most precious possessions, including their best saddle horses.

These breeds were largely Arabian, Morgan, and plantation horses from the Deep South. Later, American Saddlebred, Tennessee Walking Horse and Standardbred blood was added to the stock, resulting in a horse with a more pleasing appearance and disposition. This versatile animal, able to travel great distances at a comfortable, ground-covering gait (five to eight miles an hour), made the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse a favorite of the country doctor, sheriff, assessor and stock raiser.



In 2002, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse was honored by being named the official state horse of Missouri.



Upper photo: Nancy Ann F-166, dam of Lady Ann & Golden Rawhide.
Lower photo: Cotham Dare F-19 sire of many early Missouri Fox Trotters.

Missouri Fox Trotting Breed Association

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The Gaits of the Missouri Fox Trotter

Although the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse is capable of many different gaits, there are three that are considered standard for the breed.

The Flat Foot Walk

A true flat foot walk is a four-beat gait in which each foot is picked up and set down in an even cadence. The rear end movement should be smooth and close to the ground without any snap or pop. With each stride, the back foot should reach forward and slide in as it is set down, overstriding the track of the front foot. The head shakes in time with the rear feet. The gait should be smooth.

The Fox Trot

The fox trot is a broken diagonal gait with a distinctive rhythm that is created by the horse moving its front foot a split second before its opposite rear foot. The

fox trot is smooth because the horse is in contact with the ground at all times. A horse that is fox trotting correctly will never have more than two feet off the ground at any given time. On both the front and back ends, the horse will set one foot down as it picks the other foot up and for a moment both feet will be touching the ground.

The exceptional rhythm of the fox trotting horse begins at the tip of the nose with the characteristic headshake and continues back through the ripple of the tail. The diagonal nature of the gait is also what makes the Missouri Fox Trotter extremely sure-footed.

The Canter

The canter is a broken, three-beat gait, and should be performed with collection. In the canter, the feet strike the ground in this sequence: (1) the outside rear foot, (2) the inside rear and outside front, simultaneously, and (3) the inside front. This produces the three-beat cadence. The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse can perform an athletic lope or a collected rocking chair canter.



The famous Fox Trot silhouette illustrates the diagonal nature of the gait.

Photo: Steve Mayfield

The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association

The MFTHBA's mission is to record and preserve the integrity of the breed registry. The association promotes the breed through participation in expos, horse shows, trail rides and other venues. It also provides beneficial services for members to encourage ownership of Missouri Fox Trotters.



Membership in the MFTHBA

Whether you are the owner of a Missouri Fox Trotter or are simply an equine lover, the MFTHBA offers something for everyone. Your \$40 annual membership brings you many benefits and helps

support the growth of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse family. Some of these benefits include access to the MFTBA's official publication, The Journal, as well as the Annual Show and Celebration Catalog, and the online registry database. Membership also gives you discounted rates at MFTHBA sponsored events and on many equine-related products and services.

Background: In 1948, a group of horse breeders, wishing to preserve the type of horse that had for many years been selectively bred in the Ozarks, incorporated and secured a charter for the purpose of maintaining an accurate stud book. The Association kept its registry open and continued to accept horses that could qualify as characteristic foundation stock until 1982. That year, all horses approved under saddle to be registered were required to have at least one parent permanently registered in the MFTHBA. Beginning in 1983, any horse approved under saddle for registration was required to have two registered parents. From then on, the registry's books were closed.

The world headquarters for the MFTHBA is in Ava, Missouri.

Missouri Fox Trotting Pony Registry

In 2004, the MFTHBA recognized the need for a registry specifically for Missouri Fox Trotting horses between 44 and 56 inches in height. In May of that year, the Missouri Fox Trotting Pony registry was launched under the auspices of the MFTHBA.

Stay Connected with the MFTHBA

There are many ways to stay connected with the world of Missouri Fox Trotters:

- Visit mfthba.com for the most comprehensive and up-to-date information
- Sign up to receive our free email newsletter (mfthba.com/newsletter-signup)
- Subscribe to the Journal, the MFTHBA's official publication (mfthba.com/publications/about-the-journal)
- Check out our annual Show and Celebration Catalog (mfthba.com/2014_Celebration/#2).

MFTHBA Member Programs

Youth Organization

“It’s not about me, it’s about the horse.” This slogan drives the purpose of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Youth Association (MFTHBYA).

The youth program provides fun and educational activities for members 17 and under. Its purpose is to give young people the opportunity to learn and practice business skills in the horse industry, help worthy causes and events, and engage in leadership positions. The program emphasizes good horsemanship and recognizes those who show initiative and interest in owning, riding and raising Missouri Fox Trotters.

National Trail Ride Program

You can earn prizes by participating in the National Trail Ride Program riding your registered Missouri Fox Trotting Horse. The National Trail Ride program welcomes people riding all breeds of horse, but if you’re a member in good standing of the MFTHBA and are riding a registered Missouri Fox Trotting Horse, you can earn credit toward your award for each ride you go on. All you need to do is ride! The prizes are a Montana Silversmith buckle or a customizable embroidered jacket.

Fox Trot America



Few things in life are better than being rewarded for doing something you love! That’s what the Fox Trot America program is all about: It

recognizes participation in equine activities outside of traditional competitions. Whether your activities include pleasure trail riding, parades, ranch work, natural horsemanship, training, pleasure driving or any other activity you enjoy with your Missouri Fox Trotter, each hour will count toward your lifetime achievement record and enable you to receive recognition and awards from the MFTHBA.

National High Point Awards

The National High Point program recognizes members who promote Missouri Fox Trotters in the show ring. Any MFTHBA member is eligible and the qualification is simple: participate in three or more MFTHBA-pointed horse shows in a calendar year on a registered Missouri Fox Trotter – that’s it! The exhibitor pays no additional fees to compete for a National High Point Award.



Photo: Kim Harmon

Fox Trot Service Net

The Fox Trot Service Net is designed to help Missouri Fox Trotter people connect with each other. The Service Net is our fox-trotter-related listing of products and services, which are grouped by state so people can easily find a provider local to them. If you have a product or service to offer, the Service Net is a great way to reach Missouri Fox Trotter enthusiasts. You can sign up on our website.

Missouri Fox Trotter Events and Activities

World Show and Celebration

In September, Missouri Fox Trotter enthusiasts gather in Ava for the pinnacle event of the season. This annual celebration of the Missouri Fox Trotter has been going strong since 1959. In those days, the show took place in one day and consisted of 14 classes. Today, it is a week-long event with more than 130 classes that include performance, model, ranch horse and versatility.

The show culminates in the World Grand Championship competition but there are many other events that take place throughout the week: organized trail rides, a trail obstacle challenge at the Fox Trot Playground, lots of shopping for Missouri Fox Trotter-related merchandise, and much more.

Spring Show & Futurity

In June, it's the 3-year-olds' time to shine at the Spring Show and Three Year Old Futurity. More than 75 classes including performance, model and versatility are offered, and several National Trail Rides and a Youth Seminar are take place. The highlight of the show is the Three Year Old Futurity, where

Missouri Fox Trotters compete for a share of \$25,000 in cash prizes.

A unique aspect of the Futurity shows is that the horses are entering the show ring for the first time under saddle. Thus, the Futurity not only tests the horse's ability to perform the gaits required of the breed standard, it also showcases the horse's excellent disposition and willing attitude, two characteristics for which the breed is renowned.

National Youth Seminar

Held in conjunction with the annual Spring Show and Three Year Old Futurity, the Youth Seminar offers youths the opportunity to further their horsemanship skills. A variety of events are held throughout the day allowing young people to connect with equines, whether or not they bring a horse to the event. The entire day is focused on inspiring the love of horses.

Stallion Tour

The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Stallion Tour, held in odd-numbered years, is a fun-filled day-long event where attendees are chauffeured in a luxury motor coach to meet some of the breed's top stallions. The tour takes place in Missouri, but stallions from outside the area are featured on video monitors in the coach, so attendees can view them en route. The Tour is an excellent way for potential breeders to meet a line-up of stallions, and is valuable to stallion owners who benefit from more than two years of advertising leading up to the tour.



The thrilling World Grand Champion competition during the World Show and Celebration at Ava is the pinnacle event of an exciting week.

Showing Your Missouri Fox Trotter

While most Missouri Fox Trotters are ridden for pleasure and trail riding, their beauty, grace and style make them shine in the show ring. Classes usually include model, performance and versatility.

Model: During model classes horses are shown in hand. Horses are judged on how closely they match the breed standard for conformation. In addition, judges evaluate the horse's gait at the flat foot walk, and sometimes the fox trot, in hand.

Performance: In the performance ring, Missouri Fox Trotters are judged against the breed standard for gaits under saddle. Here, horses compete in either two- (flat foot walk and fox trot) or three-gait (flat foot walk, fox trot and canter) classes.

Versatility: Many exciting classes take place in the versatility arena. These include western pleasure, horsemanship, English, reining, barrel racing, pole bending, and ranch horse competitions. These classes follow the same guidelines as other breed competition for these events with one exception: In most classes, horses are expected to perform a fox trot.



Ranch Horse classes are popular with Missouri Fox Trotting Horse owners. Photo: Royal Ridge Designs.

The Sky's the Limit

While these are the types of competition you will see at most MFTHBA-sponsored shows, there is no limit to showing a Missouri Fox Trotter. This breed continues to succeed in open breed competitions including trail, endurance, roping, ranch horse, field trial, jumping and dressage.

The Missouri Fox Trotter—versatile, stylish, intelligent, gentle and smooth. It is truly a horse for all ages and all disciplines.



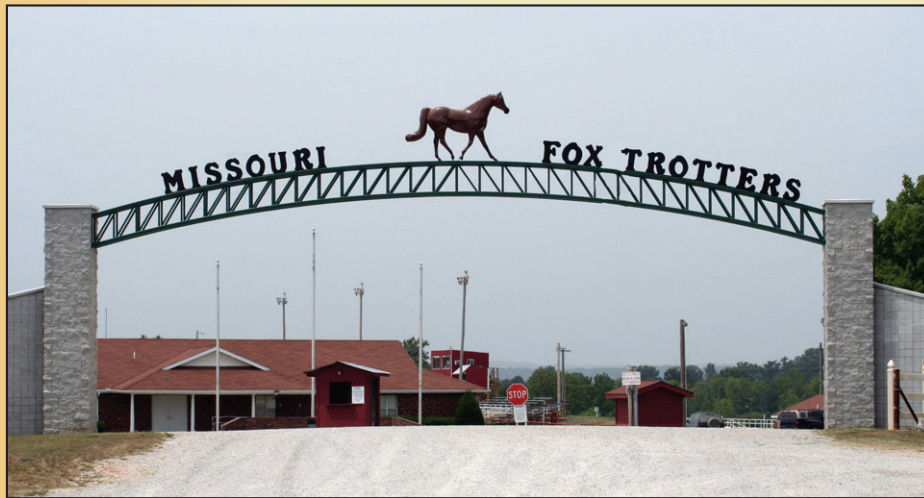
Above photo: 2014 World Grand Champion, Legend's Wendy. Photo: Steve Mayfield.

Photo to the right: Model classes showcase the beauty of the breed. Photo: Dr. Ruth Massey



MISSOURI FOX TROTting HORSE

Show • Versatility • Trail Riding • Pleasure • Endurance



The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, founded in 1948, is the official organization of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse. The MFTHBA maintains the registry's records and works to promote and improve the breed. We invite you to visit mfthba.com to learn more.



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