

Clydesdale

DOMAIN
Eukarya

KINGDOM
Animalia

PHYLUM
Chordata

CLASS
Mammalia

ORDER
Perissodactyla

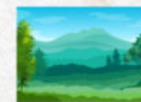
FAMILY
Equidae

GENUS
Equus

SPECIES
E. caballus

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Clydesdales originated in Scotland. Today, the breed is kept worldwide, with main populations in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.



WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE AND HOW BIG THEY ARE

Clydesdales are large draft horses, typically standing 16-18 hands high and weighing 1,600-2,400 pounds. They are best known for their feathered lower legs, broad chests, powerful build, and calm, expressive faces. Most are bay with white markings. Four "stockings" on their legs and a distinct blaze are common hallmarks, though solid colors and body spots also appear, and color variations like black, chestnut, roan, and grey occur.



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Clydesdales thrive on a diet centered around high-quality forage, including grass and hay, which makes up the majority of their intake. Due to their size, they consume large amounts of forage and require constant access to fresh water. Supplemental feeds, minerals, and vitamins may be added.



FAMILY LIFE

Clydesdales are social, herd-oriented horses that form strong bonds with other horses and with people. Mares usually give birth to a single foal after an approximately 11-month gestation, and foals are quick to stand and nurse. Young Clydesdales learn social behavior by observing older herd members and mature more slowly than lighter breeds, often taking several years to fully grow.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CHANGES

Historically, Clydesdales were essential workhorses in agriculture, transportation, and industry, pulling plows, wagons, and heavy loads. With the rise of mechanization in the 20th century, their numbers declined sharply. Today, they are celebrated as a heritage breed, appearing in parades, agricultural shows, cultural events, and educational programs.



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Demand



Mechanization



Genetic Diversity



Though the species has made an incredible comeback, several threats remain:

- **Declining Demand:** With fewer working roles for draft horses, interest in breeding and keeping Clydesdales has decreased, leading to lower population numbers.
- **Mechanization:** Tractors, trucks, and modern machinery replaced the heavy labor once performed by Clydesdales, causing a sharp decline in their use during the 20th century.
- **High cost of care:** Their large size means higher feed, housing, veterinary care, and farrier costs, limiting the number of people able to keep them.
- **Small Breeding Population:** Limited genetic diversity



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE CLYDESDALE

- Although Scottish in origin, Clydesdales helped shape farming and transport systems across North America, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Every Clydesdale alive today carries genetic links to horses that powered agriculture before engines existed.
- A single Clydesdale hoof can be bigger than a dinner plate, and its shoes can weigh several pounds each.
- That beautiful leg feathering needs regular cleaning and drying; otherwise, it can trap moisture, leading to skin issues like scratches or mites.
- Many modern Clydesdales can trace their lineage back through studbooks dating back over 150 years.

