

# A CONFORMATION CLASS WITH



BOOMER BLOODSTOCK

Saturday 21st March 2026

# A CONFORMATION CLASS WITH



BOOMER BLOODSTOCK



# A LESSON FROM THE GREATS

Always walk away from a horse that is back at the knee. These horses find it hard to stand up to training.



**MIKE MITCHELL**  
on leg conformation

A strong forearm is crucial for a modern day racehorse to be able to push through the ground, especially with young maturing horses.



**GAI WATERHOUSE**  
on athleticism

A strong hindquarter with well defined muscles is crucial for the power needed to be a good horse on the dirt.



**NEIL DRYSDALE**  
on strength



# THE FAST HORSE FORMULA

Speed = Stride Length x Stride Frequency

# **SPEED VS SOUNDNESS**

A fast horse is only an asset if it can handle training.

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BLOODSTOCK**



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## **BALANCE OF THE HORSE**



**1**

**3**

**9**

**2**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**8**

**4**

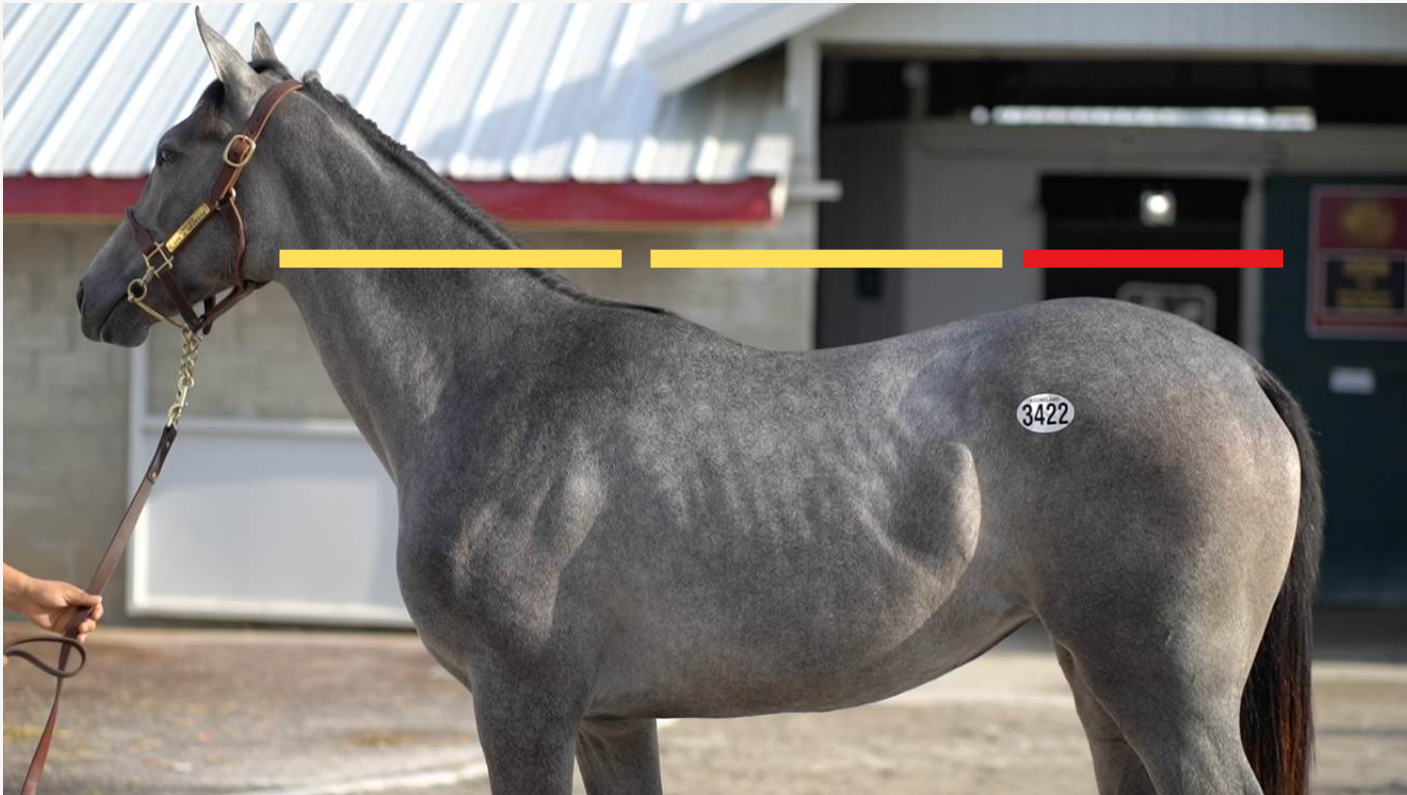
**7**

**6**

# 1

# BALANCE OF THE HORSE

Even body proportions help maintain a stable center of gravity, ensuring that weight is distributed evenly across all four legs to maximize stride efficiency and turn corners at high speeds.



**1. POLL OF HEAD TO WITHER**



**2. WITHER TO POINT OF THE LOIN**



**3. LOIN TO HIND QUARTER**

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**1**

**3**

**9**

**2**

**THE TRAPEZOID  
THEORY**

**4**

**4**

**5**

**8**

**7**

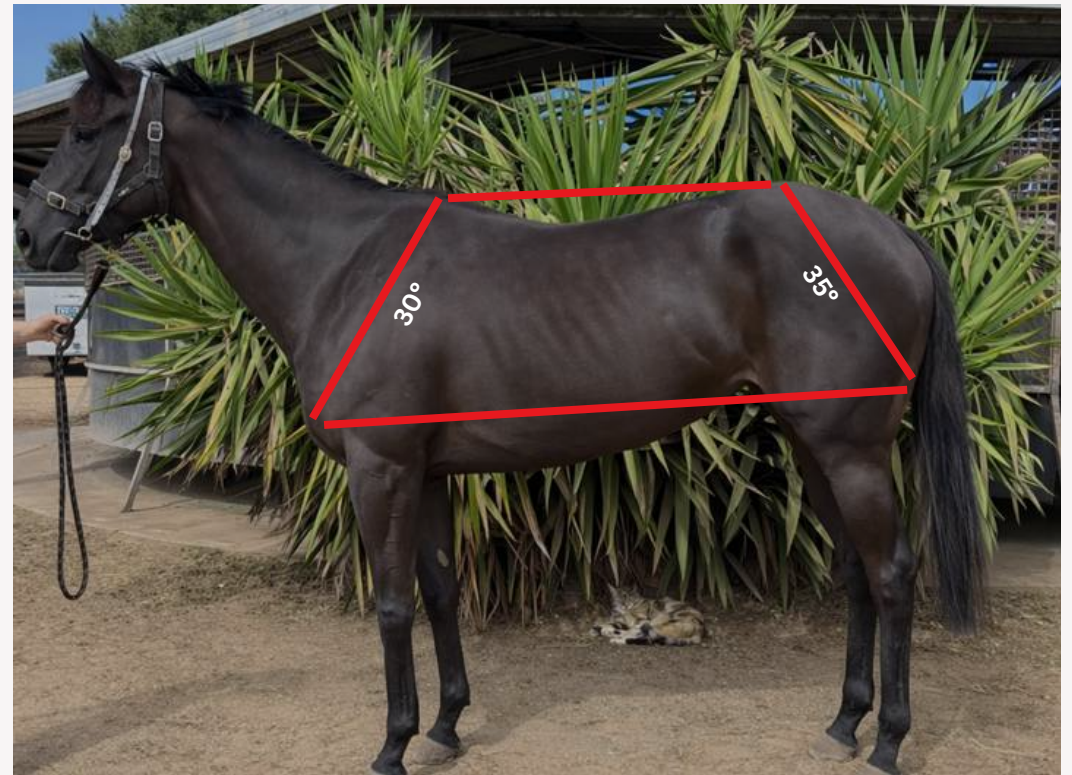
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**6**

2

# THE TRAPEZOID THEORY

The greater the angles the longer the stride



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1

3

THE TOP LINE

9

2

4

4

5

8

7

6

6



### 3 THE TOP LINE

- Neck
- Girth
- Back strength



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1

3

9

2

**FOREARMS  
& GASKIN**

4

4

**FOREARMS  
& GASKIN**

5

8

7

6

6

4

# FOREARMS & GASKINS



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1

3

9

2

4

4

**KNEES  
SIDE ON**

5

8

7

6

6



**FLAT KNEES**



**BACK AT THE KNEE & OVER AT THE KNEE**

**5**

## **KNEES SIDE ON**

Flat is ideal. Back at the knee is cause for concern and over at the knee is not a major soundness issue as seen in Into Mischief



Into Mischief

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1

3

9

2

4

4

5

8

7

**PASTERNS**

6

6

**PASTERNS**

## 6 PASTERNS



**SOFT**

- 30 degrees
- Strained ligaments



**UPRIGHT**

- 80 degrees
- Shock up knees



**IDEAL**

- 60 degrees

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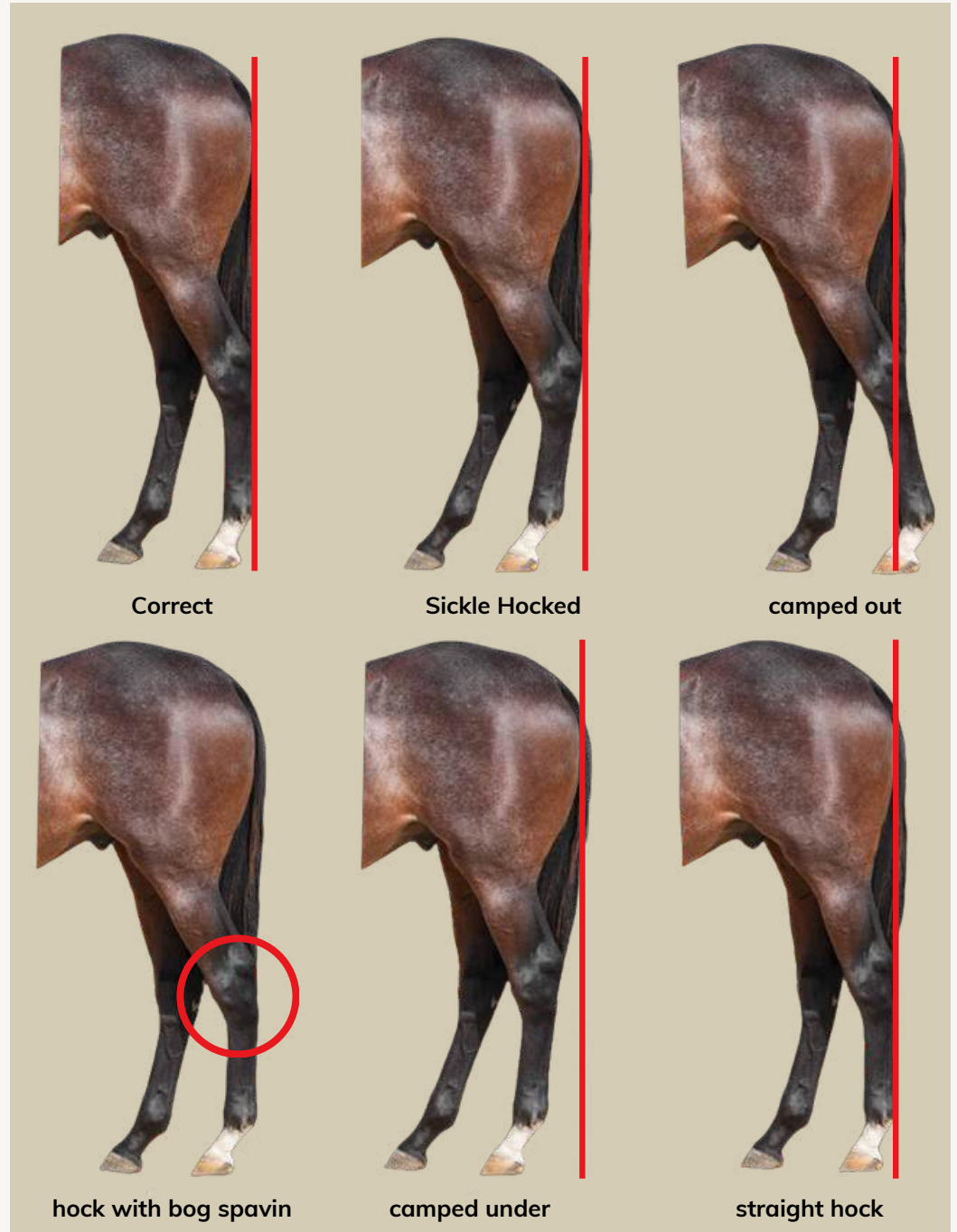


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# HOCKS



Cow hocked



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1

3

9

2

4

4

5

**BONE  
DENSITY** 8

7

6

6

8

# BONE DENSITY



Light bone



Ideal bone

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**SIZE  
MATTERS**

**1**

**3**

**9**

**2**

**4**

**4**

**5**

**8**

**7**

**6**

**6**





Zenyatta is 17.2 hands high

Hong Kong Harry is 15.3 hands high

## 9 SIZE MATTERS

You generally want to focus on horses over 16 hands, when fully grown, but there are exceptions to any rule.



# ASSESSING A HORSE FROM BEHIND



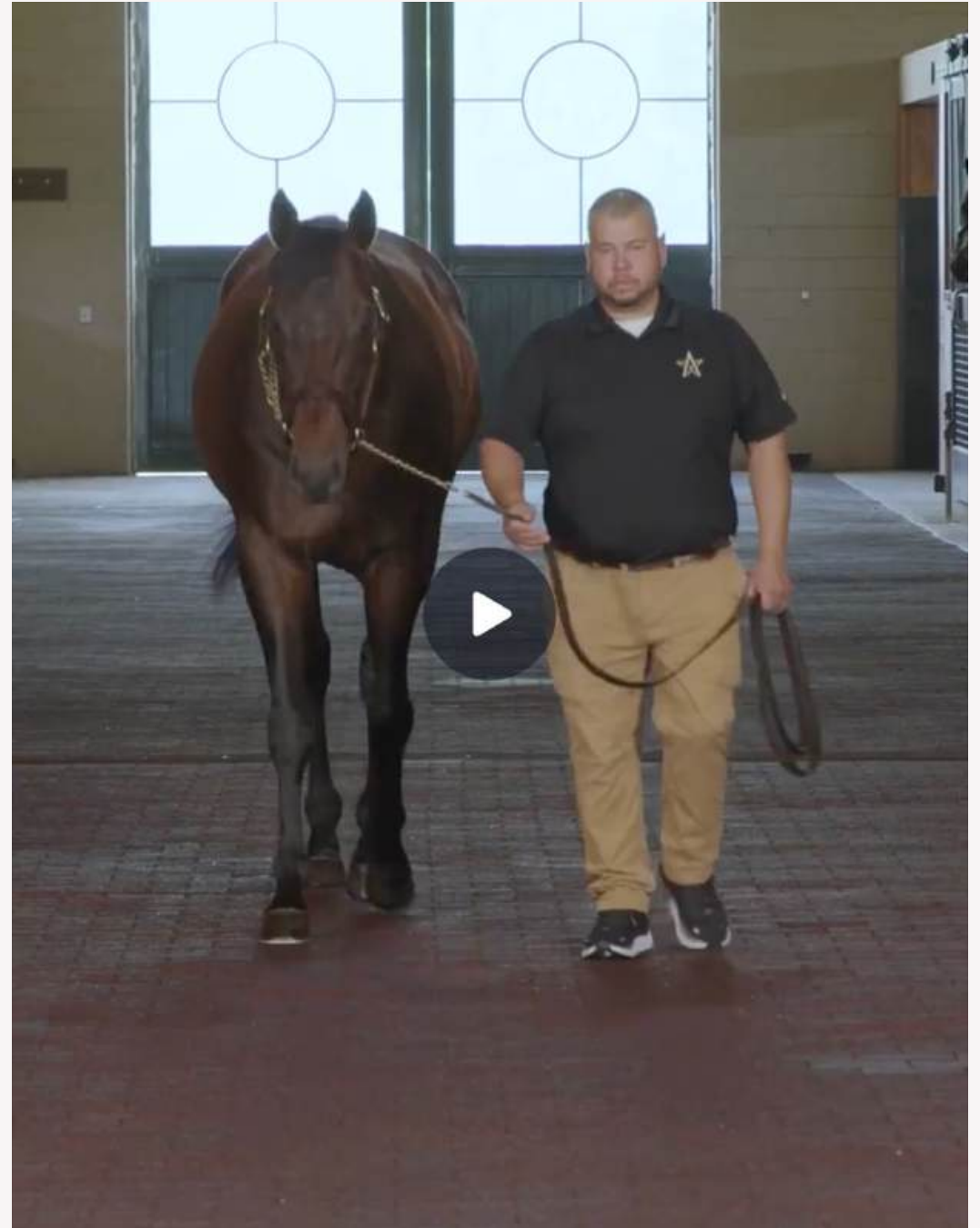
# ASSESSING A HORSE FROM BEHIND



# ASSESSING A HORSE FROM THE FRONT



# ASSESSING A HORSE FROM THE FRONT



# ASSESSING A HORSE FROM THE SIDE





BOOMER

**FINAL THOUGHTS;**  
**DESIRE**

# THANK YOU



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