

The Chelyan Runnerbeast

A Brief History

When Lord Dunn, the son of an established minor Holder in the north, was selected to start one of the first experimental Holds in Southern to see if human colonization of the large and wild continent was feasible, he immediately set about buying breeding stock from the BeastCraft Hall. Although he also purchased Bovine, Caprine and Ovine stocks he turned a particular eye to the Runners. Reports had reached him of the wild Runner herds of Southern, and how they exhibited some fine characteristics that had either been bred out of Northern stocks for one reason or another, or were very rare and tended not to breed true. Coming from a Hold which bred both Runners and Bovine, he could see the distinct advantages to this wild genotype being bred back into the established Northern stocks. So too could the BeastCraft Hall and here was someone who intended to do all the work for them! They happily supplied Dunn with the best stocks they had and even assigned a Journeyman Herder (Tampe) and a Journeyman BeastHealer (Laritin) to travel south and not only help Dunn manage his ambitious breeding project, but to help build what would become Chelyan BeastHold.

They succeeded beyond their dreams. The favorable traits of the wild Runners bred consistently true, while the favorable traits of the northern stocks also tended to breed true, and in less than 15 Turns Chelyan BeastHold has produced a strain of Runners that far surpass their Northern cousins for sheer endurance and stamina. They excel at endurance running because of their shorter, stronger back which allows them to carry substantial weight in comfort, large nostrils and trachea for greater lung capacity, dense, compact bones, and lighter muscling which dissipates heat and lactic acids more readily. Their legs tended to be longer and thinner than the Northern stocks, but so far they have proven to be sound and surefooted. The breed also has a refined and beautiful physical appearance which includes a dished or concave face, large, dark, expressive eyes set wide apart, an arched neck with clean throat latch, a high tail carriage and a light elegant way of moving. They are intelligent, alertly curious, resourceful, easy to train and seem to enjoy human companionship. In short, the perfect Runner for distance traveling Harpers, Guardsmen that require fast, intelligent mounts, as well as for the stables of status conscious Lord Holders.

Lord Dunn, well pleased with the fast results of his breeding programs, promptly sent a brood mare and a stallion back to the BeastCraft Hall, where the animals were promptly praised as well worth the expense and effort that had been put into them. There the breed was recorded in the records, officially recognized and named Chelyan Runnerbeasts. Now the challenge will be turning his small breeding population into a viable, exportable herd.

Quick Facts For Chelyan Runnerbeasts

- A dished or concave face.
- Delicate muzzle with flaring nostrils allowing for maximum oxygen intake.
- Plenty of room for lung expansion because of well-sprung ribs and a deep chest cavity.
- Large, dark, expressive eyes set wide apart.
- Arched neck keeps the windpipe defined and clear to carry air to the lungs.
- High tail carriage.
- Strong resilient legs are free of most lameness problems.
- Light, elegant way of moving.
- Excels at distance running.
- Sound health.
- Average weight is 72 stones (or 1,008 lbs).
- 15 hands (or 5 ft) at the withers.
- Intelligent.
- Easy to train.
- Friendly, loyal disposition, marked by a desire to please their master.
- Possesses a long memory.
- Quick comprehension.
- Consistently out lives other breeds.

Glossary of Terms

One Hand = 4 Inches

1 Stone = 14 lbs

Withers - The ridge between the shoulder bones of a Runnerbeast or a part corresponding to the withers in other quadrupeds.