



## Gaits of the Missouri Fox Trotter -Breeding Goal

The Miller-Ranch as breeder, exporter and enthusiast for the Missouri Fox Trotting Horses. The successful and proven Missouri Fox Trotting stallions, the fantastic foundation mares and their offspring from the Miller-Ranch are perfect for everyone, involved in breeding.

Whether pasture, hand, embryo or artificial breeding (A1), the stallions and mares of the Miller-Ranch belong to first class bloodlines of the breed and are passing on their virtues.

It is the **philosophy** of the Miller-Ranch and our main concern and high priority to breed the type of Missouri Fox Trotter, showing and proving its unbeatable versatility combined with beauty and charisma, stamina, flexibility and cow sense, nature gaits and rhythm.

Only the best of the best, meeting all these requirements, should be selected for breeding.

### The Gaits of the Missouri Fox Trotter

#### 1. Fox Trot (breed goal)

The Fox Trot is a diagonal 4-beat gait. The Fox Trot is a stylish gait; the horse walks in an elegant manner with the front legs and trots with the hind legs. This rhythmic motion travels through the whole body from nose to tail. The front legs should not show any high knee action. The hind legs should perform a sliding movement, during which the hind hoof steps into or over the track of the front hoof. The head should be slightly elevated and convey the rhythmic motion of the hind legs. The tail is to be carried in a naturally elevated manner and should also move in rhythm with the gait. The gait should be flat, in good rhythm and must be consistent over distance.

#### 2. Flat Foot Walk (breed goal)

The Flat Foot Walk is a 4- gait in lateral step sequence. The track of the hind hoof should over stride the track of the front hoof. When executed correctly, one can hear the steady equal four beat cadence of the hooves. The up and down motion of the head in the walk is stronger than during a Fox Trot. The gait should be flat consistent over distance.

#### 3. Canter/Lope (breed goal)

The Canter is a rhythmic 3-beat collected gait. The definition “Canter” and “Lope” are interchangeable. The canter of the Fox Trotter should be rhythmic, ground covering and of moderate speed. It is similar to the lope of a Western Horse and should have a slightly rolling motion. The horse should appear relaxed and move freely on a light rein.

#### Show Canter (required during Performance test, in Europe beginning with 6-year old horses)

The Show Canter is a rhythmic 3-beat gait. It should be performed collected. The horse should go slowly and composed at rider’s hand. The rocking chair motion allows the horse an expressive demonstration of its head as counter balance to the 3-beat gait. The head reaches its highest point, when the outer hind leg hits the ground and the lowest point, when the inner front leg hits the ground. Shown correctly, the Show Canter is not faster than the Flat Foot Walk. Too much elevation in front, failure to maintain forward motion, four beat canter, excessive speed and excessive pumping with the reins are not appropriate.