

## Først lidt historie om Den Peruanske Paso Hest

Den peruanske paso hest stammer fra Peru. Der har den levet isoleret i mere end 400 år og den er derfor en af de reneste hesteracer og som sådan unik i hesteverdenen.

Den peruanske hest nedstammer fra de heste der blev indført til Peru af spanierne i det 16. århundrede. De spanske Conquistadore medbragte til Sydamerika bl.a. den spanske Celtic, Jennets og Berberen fra Marocco.

Siden de første heste kom til Peru har der ikke været indført nyt blod. Selektiv avl sammen med faktorer som klima og foder har været med til at skabe racen, den peruanske paso hest, en hest som besidder egenskaber og kvaliteter der udmærker den fra andre hesteracer.

Den peruanske hest mest karakteristiske træk er dens måde at bevæge sig på – gangarten kaldes Paso llano der betyder bløde skridt.

Det er en medfødte laterale firetakts gangart, ligesom tølten er hos den islandske hest. Med sit meget villige og lette temperament er Den Peruanske Hest en fantastisk nem og yderst behagelig ridehest, den er en værdig representant for det engelske udtryk for disse racer: Easy Gaited Horses.

## RACEINFO

Dansk: Peruansk hest

Eng.: Peruvian paso horse

Am.: Peruvian Horse

Tysk: Paso Peruano Pferd

Spansk: Caballos Peruanos de Paso

DEN PERUANSKE HEST er en middelstor hest som har en helt speciel gangart. Den er også kendetegnet ved sin villighed og sit lette og venlige temperament. Foreningen af disse karakteristika frembringer hvad erfarne hestefolk beskriver som den blødeste og mest behagelige ridehest som eksisterer.

Den peruanske hest rides i selvbæring, for lette tøjler. Hesten skal gå villigt frem for helt let sædehjælp og næsten uden schenkler. Det er som at ride en hest med automatgear og servostyring. Den Peruanske hests gangarter adskiller sig klart fra andre hesteracer. Udover skridt og galop besidder den en naturlig tølt lignende gangart kaldet Paso llano og i hurtigt tempo gangarten Sobreandando der nærmer sig pas.

Paso llano – jævne trin – er en naturlig brudt firetaktet bevægelse. Karakteristisk for gangarten er også hvad der betegnes Termino en livlig rullende udad drejet bevægelsen fra skulder til hov der kommer under forbenets fremføring.

Det har altid været meget vigtigt at den peruanske hest har et godt og villigt temperament.

Brio betegner fremdrift og villighed til at opfylde rytterens ønsker

Oprindeligt er hesten avlet til at bære sin rytter over lange afstande i fremmed og uvejsomt terræn. En nervøs eller stædig hest var ubrugelig. Og stadigvæk er den peruanske hest venlige gemyt dens mest indbydende fortrin. Den peruanske hest er et fantastisk mix af sjæl, energi og følsomhed med stor villighed til at tilfredsstille sin rytter.

## INTRODUKTION

DEN PERUANSKE PASO HEST

“Den store tølter”

Racen stammer som navnet siger fra Peru. Det der karakteriserer den Peruanske hest er blandt andet dens gangart. Den er firgænger eller som man siger på engelsk en easy-gaited horse. Det er en gangart der ligesom tølt er firtaktet, hos den peruanske hest benævnes denne gangart Pasollano,

der er spansk og betyder bløde skridt. Et andet vigtigt karaktertræk ved den Peruanske hest er dens blide temperament, alle Peruanske Heste er og skal være samarbejdsvillige og uden unoder.

Hvordan kom pasoen til Peru. Da Christoffer Columbus og Fracisco Pizarros i 1400/1500 tallet erobrede Sydamerika medbragte de og de andre conquistadores deres højt skattede krigshest. Ja, så disse heste var med til at besejre Inkaerne, desværre. Hestene som spanierne medbragte, var af spansk og nordafrikansk oprindelse. Fra Berberen har pasoen fået styrke, energi og udholdenhed og fra Andalusieren de store smukke bevægelser, den stolte holdning og skønhed.

I Peru blev pasoen de store jordbesidderes hest. Plantage ejerne havde brug for en bekvem og stabil hest, når de over store strækninger skulle inspicere deres marker og jorde. Hesten skulle samtidig udstrålede kraft, mod og ædelhed – det var deres Mercedes. Også, når fruene skulle til te hos naboen skulle hun have en pålidelig og smuk transport.

Avlsmålet er og har gennem disse 400 år, hvor der faktisk ikke kom nyt blod udefra, idet Peru er rimelig isoleret af bjerge og regnskov, det har været at avle en udholdende, villig og stabil hest som kan bære sin rytter behageligt over lange strækninger i uvejsomt terræn. Samtidig skal hesten være smuk, stærk og stolt.

Den Peruanske hest er middel stor hest på 143 til 155 cm, Man kan hos racen tydeligt se det iberisk/afrikansk præg. Hovedet er tørt og ædelt med lige eller let konveks profil. Halsen er høj ansat, kraftig og bæres oprejst med en lang man. Kroppen er kvadratisk med skrå skulder og med et godt afskydende kryds, lavt ansat og lavt båret hale. Bagbene er velvinklede og koderne lange og ret bløde. Alle helfarver er tilladt men ikke brogede.

Temperamentet hos den peruanske hest er vigtigt og skal udstråle villighed. Men det er også en modsætningsfyldt hest: Den er fyrig og fattet, robust og elegant, stolt og menneskevenlig og samtidig følsom og nervefast. Dens sprudlende temperament er kombineret med et stort mod. Denne ulige blanding kaldes Brio – denne fyrige arbejdsiver, der trods alt er fuldt styrbar.

Den specielle firtaktede gangart. Tilbage i tiden – i middelalderen -var firgængerne eller gangerne meget mere udbredte, de blev brugt i turneringer, i kamp og i det hele taget blev gangeren foretrukket til den beredne transport over store afstande, den travende hest blev kaldt knokkelbrækkeren. Men da der kom hestetrukne vogne var den travende hest bedre egnet til at trække kareten.

Den Peruanske hests særkende, dens bevægelse kaldes som nævnt Pasollano. Den er firtaktet som skridt, hvor trav er to taktet og galop tretaktet. Den rækkefølge som benene flyttes i svarer til skridt men i den hurtigere bevægelse kommer der et kort svævnings moment for ben parret. Pasollano er en lateral bevægelse, idet det samsidige benpar løftes næsten samtidig fra jorden, men fordi forbenene er længere tid i luften så bliver selve hovenes isæt klart firtaktet. Forbene har desuden en speciel og attrå værdig aktion, Termino, der minder om crawl – det er en udadrejning- et sving der udgår helt fra skulderen når forbenet føres frem, jo mere jo bedre. Forbenene løftes snapt som en fjeder fra jorden, det er med til at gøre hestene meget udholdende. Under pasollano holdes ryg og kryds meget roligt så man får det blødeste ridt i verden, halen ligesom fejler i samme højde over jorden- et champagne ridt.

Evnen til at bevæge sig på denne måde er medfødt og ikke tillært men bliver forfinet under hestens træning og uddannelse.

Den Peruanske hest er en ideel fritidshest. I natur og skov giver den villigt sin rytter et behageligt ridt. Den er god til trailrides og distance ridning. På banen kan man fornøje sig med at udføre forskellige figurer for lette hjælpere, tøjlerne skal hænge i en smuk bue, hesten skal naturligt gå i selvbæring uden konstante halve parader. Det er som at ride en hest med automatgear, servostyring og abs bremses.

Den Peruanske hest kan rides med almindelig sadel og hovedtøj. Det traditionelle Peruanske udstyr er smukt forarbejdet og udsmykket i hånden. Traditionelt bruges der som hovedtøj både en trense og en grime med grimeskaft, idet hesten aldrig bliver trukket i tøjlen, den skal bevare sin bløde og følsomme mund. I sadlens udformning kan man spore de spanske traditioner. Sadlen er udstyret med et bagtøjler der nu til dags er en del af udsmykningen og har som sådan ingen funktion. Stigbøjlerne er lukkede og oftest helt af træ. Ved shows bærer rytteren en poncho over hvide bukser og hvid skjorte, hvidt tørklæde og bredskygget hat.

De første peruanske heste kom til Tyskland i 1970'erne og nu er der ca. 800 stykker i Europa og heraf ca. 30 kårede hingste, det er rimelig mange men det forhindrer indavl og der bliver stadig importeret heste især fra USA. Den første renracede peruanske hest kom til Danmark i 2005 og det første dansk avlede føl blev født i 2007. Bestanden i DK er på knap 30 stk. og med 3 kårede hingste. Den Peruanske hest er en ret nøjsom race og den tåler fint det omskiftelige nordiske klima. Der er en europæisk forening for peruanske paso heste – Paso Peruano Europe, PPE. De arrangerer konkurrencer, shows og trail rides. De udgiver et blad Passollano News..

Caballo Peruano de Paso

(The Peruvian Stepping Horse)

There are many different types and breeds of horses that are used for many different things. Some are specialized in jumping, some in racing, others in showing or parades, and some are great for rodeos. However the qualities that make the best all around horse are temperament, beauty, versatility, low maintenance, and being all around pleasurable. The one breed of horse that meets this criteria and is the most pleasurable of all is the Peruvian Paso.

The Peruvian Paso is known as one of South America's best kept secrets ( Reusser 20 Jan. 2005 ).

The first people to introduce the horse to the Americas was the Spanish. Christopher Columbus brought the first horses to the island of Santo Domingo in 1493 that were used to start the first breeding operation. The most outstanding breed at the time was the Andalusian which became the foundation of the Peruvian Paso ( Peruvian). Soon after, the breed moved down into the central parts of South America and were used for mounting troops during their conquests. In 1532 Francisco Pizarro's troops used an early version of the Peruvian Paso when he conquered the Inca empire. It was here, in Peru's rough terrain, where these lovely animals stayed isolated and were bred to perfection. It would be 450 years later before the secret was unleashed to the rest of the world.

The most important quality in a horse is temperament; and the Peruvian has the best. Due to its isolation in Peru for so many centuries, the Peruvian is one of the purest breeds in the world. During their 450 year isolation, the Peruvian breeders would only breed the horses that had the best temperaments. Any horse that had an unsuitable disposition was banned to field work or even worse, literally banned to the dinner table (Albright, History). So bad traits and habits such as biting, bucking, and kicking faded with each generation and today are very rare among this breed (Kiesow 28 Jan. 2005)! Currently, if a Peruvian has a bad habit, it was most likely taught to them by a human and not inherited (Ripley 1 Feb. 2005).

So if their temperament lacks in bad qualities, what are their good qualities? The best quality is its willingness to serve. The Peruvian lives to serve. Horse breeder Annie Kiesow said that Peruvians are so willing to obey that they will literally be shaking when asked to do something scary, yet will still obey. It is almost as if they say, "I am scared about this, but you asked me to do it, so I will" (Kiesow 28 Jan. 2005). Furthermore sensibility, patience, loyalty, and dependability are cherished Peruvian qualities. One example of how sensible and patient the Peruvian is, is that if a Peruvian gets hung up in a fence, it would usually stand and wait to be untangled by its owner rather than go wild such as other horses would (Kruger 20 Feb. 2005). Annie Kiesow commented on their loyalty in the following quote, "My Gelding would die for me, I just know it, bred down from the horses of the Spanish conquistadors, they have the heart of a warrior, I had a young horse once that stood his ground while an angry cow hit him so hard she knocked the wind out of him, but he stayed between her and me." (Kiesow). "You can even see them reason and they sense your feelings and act accordingly", Carole commented (Photiadis 6 Feb. 2005). Once they learn something, they generally never forget, which makes them extremely dependable. The Peruvian, because of their great temperament, is the national horse of Peru and is highly respected (Hirthler 1977).

This horse was also bred for a quality called brio. A horse with brio is focused, willing to work, and is quick to react and learn. The word brio isn't synonymous with the word "spirit" referring to a horse that is hard to control, such as the spirit of the Arab. Rather, the energy and heart of a horse with brio is completely at the service of the rider. Underneath all that energy is a calm and completely willing horse. To be willing is the most important characteristic in brio (Albright, Peruvian). One great example of Peruvian's easy temperament combined with their brio took place at a pre-show press

conference at the luxurious Radisson Hotel in Odessa, Texas. Joan Box and her associate brought their horses to the show and to accommodate the journalists, they took their horses through the glass doors, down the stairs, and into the lobby with complete calmness. One man in the hotel hoped that they would be staying in the room next to him because they were better mannered than the people who stayed there the night before. After the Press conference, they gave pony rides to all who wanted. Albright said, " Those who saw them in the show arena a few days later were treated to high-stepping, fire-breathing, show-stopping excitement. Watching them in competition, it was hard to believe that the same horses had calmly walked inside a busy hotel and given pony rides to tourists on a crowded sidewalk. I know of few breeds where this would be typical of high performance show horses." ( Albright, Versatility) These great horses will be quiet in the pasture and when they are with other horses but as soon as they are under saddle they really "wake up" and all their energy is at your, the rider's service (Windom 25 Jan 2005). Carole Photiadis describes how brio can be felt by just sitting on a Peruvian. She said, " climb aboard and feel the muscles quiver beneath you, waiting for your command." ( Photiadis).

Dale Roberson says that, " Watching a Peruvian should induce a special feeling for even the most naive equestrian." Brio brings out the spirit, pride, and heart of the horse that makes it thrilling to watch or ride. Albright interprets the sensation of brio in the following quote:

" He comes into view, elegant and handsome... maybe even a little pretentious and arrogant. Always on parade, he fills the scene with his ample movements. The universe is barely big enough to contain his boastful gaiety. He is a source of great pleasure to his owner and to those who see him." ( Albright, Versatility) Brio is the controlled energy that the Peruvian gives off simply in it's presence. When watching the horse it looks full of energy, movement, and pride but underneath all that, the rider feels complete calmness. Brio is something you have to see yourself because words cannot accurately describe it.. It creates the pleasure of catching every eye you pass.

To compliment a Peruvian Paso's brio is the pleasure of it's majestic beauty. The Peruvian has a body full of strength and stamina with well developed muscles giving it a refined appearance. It's height is between 14 and 15 hands ( about 4½ to 5 feet to the withers). It's head is of medium size, proportional with it's body, and has a small muzzle. It's eyes are dark and expressive with a graceful, arched neck. The body is long and muscular. The coat is always a deep color that shines and looks and feels soft and silky. The mane and tail are long, thick and beautiful ( Reusser 20 Jan. 2005).

Overall they are one of the most beautiful breeds to look at.

Another reason owners find pleasure in the Peruvian is because they require such little maintenance in care, riding , and training. They eat very little because of their high metabolism and small size. Consequently, they don't cost as much to take care of. Where some horse breeds require extensive foot care, the Peruvian's feet require little maintenance. Their feet are so tough that they don't need shoes or any other special care. (Kiesow 28 Jan. 2005). The Peruvian is generally less dominant than most making them easier to handle while in the pasture and during training Ripley commented that, " I got my mare out of the pasture when she was six years old and got on her bareback and lead lines on her halter. That was how I "trained" her." ( Ripley). Compared to other horses they are very easy to train , which saves the rider much frustration and time

After considering all the above qualities, one might question ,what is a Peruvian like to ride? Their sensitivity and responsiveness makes them extremely easy to ride and train. They are sensitive and require very little effort for communication. They can pick up even the smallest body movements of their rider and are very light with the reins ( Ripley 01 Feb. 2005). It' s easy to concentrate on other things while riding because it's not necessary to be always jerking on the reins.

Along with their responsiveness, comfort is a quality that can make riding a great pleasure. The years of their isolated breeding has resulted in the Peruvian having the smoothest gait in the world. After riding a Peruvian Paso Arlene Margrino stated , " After traveling over three continents and riding countless trails on every breed of horse ... I've found the end of the rainbow. The Peruvian is by far the smoothest riding horse. I've ridden them all and believe me this is it!" (Albright ,Peruvian). They are so smooth that a common way to judge a show is to have each rider carry a champagne glass and see who spills the least. Quite often nobody spills a drop. The best thing about their gait or paso

is that they pass it on to one-hundred percent of their offspring. (Kiesow 28 Jan. 2005). Even a Tennessee walking horse and other gaited horses seem bouncy compared to the Peruvian ( Reusser).

The Peruvian has four unique four-beat gaits: The Walk, Paso Llano, Sobreandando. These gaits are lateral instead of diagonal like trotting horses and so the weight is more evenly distributed and little to no movement is transferred to the rider which creates a smooth ride. These gaits always include three feet on the ground at a time. Even though these are their most common gaits, just like any horse the Peruvian can still canter and gallop. ( Reusser).

Another quality that is unique to the Peruvian is a component called termino. The word termino describes the front leg action that is similar to that of a swimmer. This action creates a lot of front leg action without any bounce transferred to the rider; Also it looks very beautiful because of how high they pick up their feet( Reusser).

Another thing that makes the Peruvian a great all around horse is that it is good for all types of people: old, young, big , little, experienced or not. Because of their quiet disposition and dependability, anyone can handle these horses. In most Peruvian shows, there are separate sections for juniors because they are so good with children (Mindel 1989). Michele Ripley even lets all her nieces and nephews ride her gelding and never has to worry about them (Ripley 01 Feb. 2005). Carole Photiadis believe that, " the younger the child, the more gentle the horse becomes. I have seen toddlers on the Peruvians and the Peruvians acted as if their cargo was glass." Many buy this breed as their first time horse, including retired people because the Peruvian gives a nice smooth ride and is easy to handle. The Peruvian is so easy to handle, in fact, that seventy-nine year old Rose Walker from Oregon, and her mother who is one hundred years old often go on all day rides on their Peruvians (Albright, Who). A Peruvian breeder said, "The largest of stallions can be ridden by the smallest of children"( Hirthler 1977).

These horses are a joy because they can be therapeutic. Where most people with back problems, hip problems, pregnancy, and many other health problems shouldn't ride horses, the Peruvian is actually good for them. Linda Garro has chronic arthritis in her spine and hips. Throughout her life she had always been a fox hunter but the doctors prohibited it because of her arthritis. But since she has found the Peruvian she is able to ride again with no pain. She even claims that her back feels better on days when she rides. This is just one of countless other stories. Some doctors that know about the Peruvian Paso even recommend the breed. (Albright, Who).

Because of the Peruvians unique body build it is very athletic and versatile. The chest is wide and deep which allows a large breathing capacity which improves endurance. The Peruvian also has an extremely sure foot because of it's gait and the angle of the pasterns. The original purpose of the breed was to cover a lot of ground while giving the smoothest ride possible. The plantation owners could ride up to forty miles a day and feel like they've only ridden one ( Mindel 1989). This horse was meant for anything from the mountains, to the dessert, to the beach. Thanks to the Peruvian Paso the great Andes mountains were conquered by man ( Hirthler 1977). Some may argue that their small size might hinder their abilities but on the contrary, it proves to be no disadvantage at all. They don't feel small at all because their heart is so big. Their brio and the way they carry themselves makes the rider feel as if they are riding a much larger horse. Their size contributes to their agility. Their size was originally preferred by the farmers because of the easy mounts and dismounts. They are also much stronger than expected and can carry up to 250 pounds (Photiadis 06 Feb. 2005). A man from Idaho took a Peruvian on an elk hunt and after another larger horse refused to pack an elk out of the rugged country, they put the meat on the smaller Peruvian who not only brought the meat out , but did it in record time (Albright , Peruvian). Another example is when rider ,Joan Box, attempted to compete her Peruvian on an endurance race and the ride manager almost wouldn't let her come but she ended up being one of the first to finish. Another competitor commented , " I think the Peruvians and their riders should have to go back out and ride at least another hour. It's only fair. The horses aren't tired, and neither are the riders!". Although some think that the only uses for the Peruvian is for show. "Audrey Gaisfield of Ranch Que Sabe often rides her most successful show horse on the trail ( or would it be more correct to say that she uses her most successful trail horse in the show arena?)" (Albright who).

There is a saying in Peru, "The Peruvian Paso is a work horse suitable for showing- not a show horse suitable for working. (Albright who).

Peruvians can participate in many other activities as well. Some additional activities in which they excel include showing, pleasure riding, parades, endurance racing, drill teams, sidesaddle riding, polo, and just about anything any other breed enjoys (Albright, Who). The Peruvian horse is capable of performing, at least moderately, in all activities and you can be sure it will be the most beautiful horse participating. As Carole Photaidis said, "There is no other breed that is close to the Peruvian. He is in a class all of his own."

Therefore for being strictly rodeo queen, the Quarter horse is the best. For only racing, the Thoroughbred would be the best. For pulling a carriage, the Clydesdale is great, but for the best all around horse that does a little bit of everything and makes the most pleasurable friend, the Peruvian Paso is perfect.

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Georges Smits +32 475 490760 [www.pasoperuano.eu](http://www.pasoperuano.eu)

## **GANGART**

SKRIDTEN er som hos andre heste firtaktet og uden svævnings moment.

### **PASO LLANO**

Den peruanske hests varemærke er en speciel, arvet og helt naturlig fire takts lateral bevægelse kaldet paso llano. Paso llano er en brudt gangart og i takten svarer den til den islandske hests tølt.

Den består af permanent, harmonisk og rytmisk "steppen", hvorved hestens rygsving bliver jævn og behagelig rullende. Den har en hurtig afvikling og hestens tyngdepunkt forbliver ens, hvilket giver et meget blødt ridt.

### **SOBREANDANDO**

er en meget hurtig bevægelse hvor takt forløbet bliver mere henimod pas dvs. næsten samtidig bevægelse af samme sides for og bagben.

GALOP ses når hesten er fri uden rytter, det er ikke en gangart som bedømmes.

## **OPSADLING**

Den traditionelle opsadling udgøres af et fint flettet hovedtøj, *jato*, der bæres samtidig med en fin knyttet grime, *jaquima*. Sadlen, *montura*, er en rigt dekoreret og har altid et bagtøj.

Den unge hest tilrides uden bid med en peruansk borsal. Den er lavet af flettet rålæder. Næsebåndet er kraftigt og stift og strammes fast om næsen. Tøjlerne fastgøres i to læder ringe over næseryggen. Når hesten har lært de elementære hjælpere får den bid, i munden, men bliver fortsat redet med både borsal og bid "for fire tøjler". Det er meget vigtigt at kontakten med hestens mund er meget let.

Biddet, *bocado*, er et leddelt stangbid. Den peruanske hest skal være blød og følsom i munden og rides med lette tøjler. Den skal bære sig selv i alle gangarter. Traditionelt ledes hesten aldrig i bid tøjlerne fra jorden, den har altid grime og grimeskaft på.

Til det fine show hovedtøj, *Jato*, hører som dekoration øjenklapper, *tapa ojos*, som dog sidder ovenfor øjnene. Show hovedtøjet er flettet af 2 mm brede læderremme og med fint forarbejdede spænder og sølvbeslag.

Sadlen, *Montura*

Bag det flotte håndværk i showsadlen er en lang tradition. I sadlen ses oprindelsen fra den iberiske halvø blandet med western udrustningen.

For og bag svidsel er meget markante, sædet er fladt. Sadelklapperne er flade uden knæpuder. Læderet er præget med forskellige ornamentter og blomstersnoninger. For og bagvidsel har sølv dekorationer.

Under sadlen ligger et tykt uldfilt, *jerga*, og mellem sadel og filt er et stort kraftigt læderunderlag, *carona*. Over sadlen på sædet kan lægges en tynd læderpude, *pellon*, hvori der er fæstet tusinde små uldløkker/snoninger.

Til sadlen hører også et bagtøj, *guarnicion*. Over halen ligger en stor dekoreret læderlap, *tapacola*. Bagtøjret har ingen funktion.

Stigbøjlerne, *estribos*, er pyramideformede trækasser, der også er fint udskåret og med sølvbeslag.