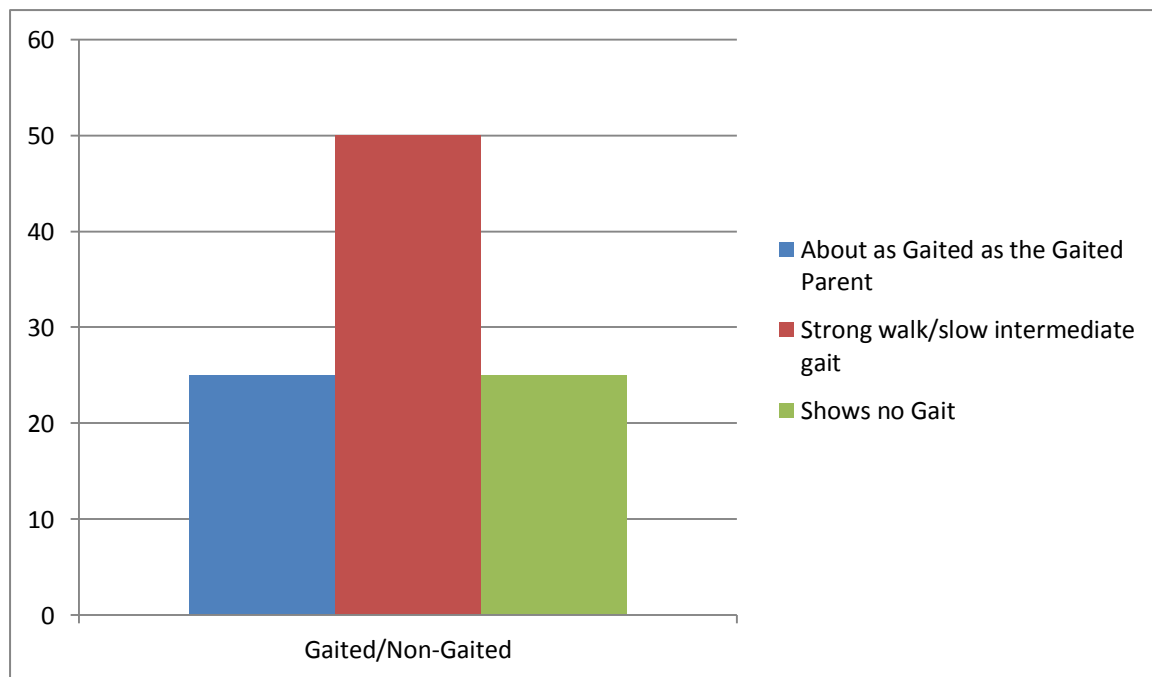


GAITED MORGANS – GAITED PARENTS VS GAITED TO NON-GAITED

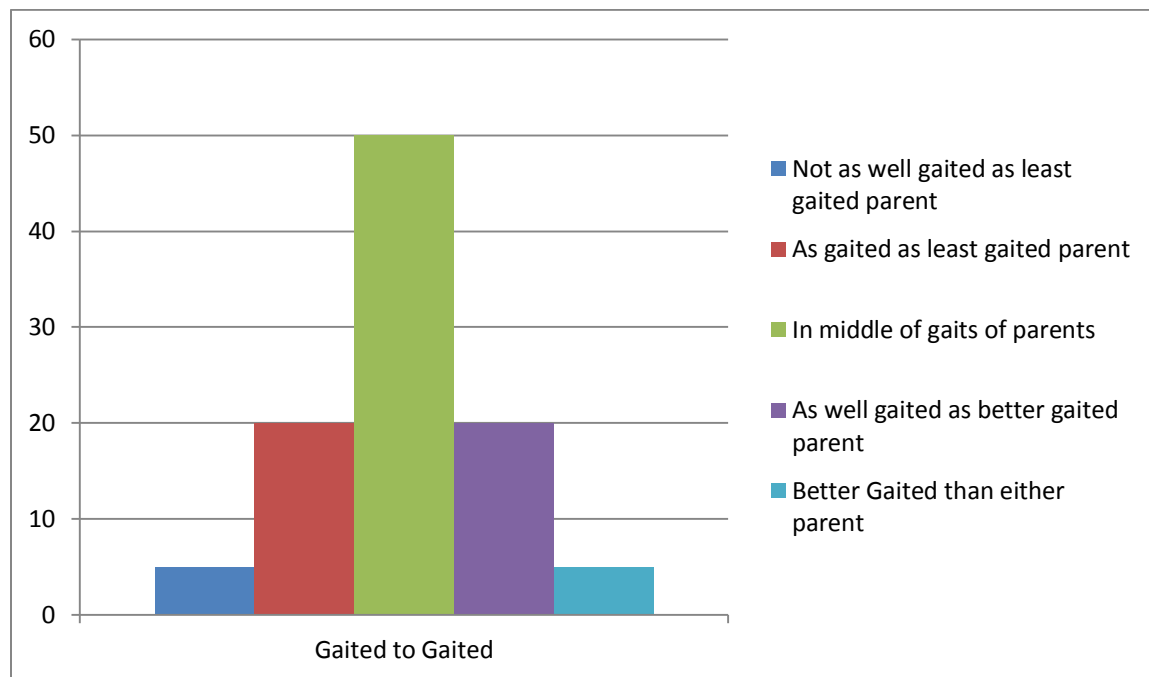
Gary Seibert July 2010 – Jellico@gaitedmorgans.com or 502-647-1572

A common question by both those wishing to breed their non-gaited Morgan to a gaited Morgan and those which are breeding gaited to gaited Morgans: What can I expect? There are no studies or scientific methods to determine the answer exactly, but the experiences of many over several years seem to indicate there is a general pattern for each type of breeding. The results seem to approach a normal curve/distribution. There is always a second question: What gaits will the Morgan foal perform? This question cannot be answered based on any long term generalizations/experiences. This is a recent activity by very few Gaited Morgan breeders. The goal has been to achieve gaited offspring and any gait has been acceptable. As time passes some will probably start to selectively breed for certain gaits which are lateral, diagonal or combination in these Gaited Morgans.

What can you expect in terms of intermediate 4 beat gaits if you breed gaited to non-gaited? My experience seems to indicate the upper end includes 25% being about as well gaited as the gaited parent. The lower end includes about 25% showing "no" gait, or so weak not to be considered as having an intermediate 4 beat gait. The majority, 50%, falling somewhere in the middle between the two parents and display a strong walk and some slow intermediate 4 beat gait. These can be "TRAINED" to perform gaits, but they are not "naturally gaited horses". So the odds are about 75% against getting a foal with enough intermediate 4 beat gait to be thought of as gaited.



What can you expect in terms of intermediate 4 beat gaits if you breed gaited to gait? Observations on my part seem to show about 50% of the foals will end up being about in the middle of the parents gaits, about 20% will be about as well gaited as the least gaited parent, and about 20% will be as well gaited as the better gaited of the parents. The last 10 % seems to be at either end of the spectrum: Five percent are not as well gaited as the least gaited parent, and the jackpot is about 5% who are better gaited than either parent.



These observations/percentages are based from breeding and being around gaited horses for 55 years. If you want gaited offspring from gaited and non-gaited parents, the odds are about 75% against getting a foal with enough intermediate 4 beat gait to be thought of as gaited. Thus I do not normally breed or recommend breeding gaited to non-gaited horses. On the other hand if you start out with two gaited parents, the odds are 95% of at least getting gaited offspring.

There are also from time to time horses which are gaited from non-gaited parents. Some call these out cropping and various other names. They do occur, but with no consistency. Many have tried to determine the likely hood of these produce. The happenings might be based on two possibilities. The first would be the parents were misidentified as non-gaited when they were. The other possibility seems to include several noted or suspected Gaited Morgan ancestors on both the sire and dam lines back four to five generations. What concentration is needed to produce these out cropping horses has not been studied. But there may be an accumulative effect.

Most foals of gaited parents are going to be gaited. My goal is to select and only breed the 5% who are better gaited than either parent and use them to produce future generations of Gaited Morgans. This process of selectively breeding only the best will reduce the variances and increase the desired gaits on successive generations. This is what the Peruvian Paso breeders have done for several centuries. It has proven successful in producing desired gaits and temperament.

