Draw a Donkey Side Profile: Muzzle, Ear and Leg Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A side-profile donkey has x-height 5 cm. The ear is 6 cm, the muzzle depth is 3 cm, and the leg length is 7 cm. Using the hypothetical ranges in the lesson, check each proportion and state whether any adjustment is needed.

Answer: Ear is 1.2 x-heights, above the hypothetical 0.8 to 1.1 range, so shorten slightly or accept as a stylistic choice. Muzzle is 0.6 x-height, acceptable. Leg is 1.4 x-heights, within 1.2 to 1.6. Adjust the ear if strict range is required.

Reason: Divide each measurement by x-height: 6/5=1.2, 3/5=0.6, 7/5=1.4. Compare with the stated ranges.

Check: Re-measure x-height and each part with the same ruler, then recalculate the ratios.

Task 2

A drawing shows a donkey with a pointed muzzle, ears 0.5 x-height long, and hooves 1 cm above the baseline. Identify two mistakes and give a fix for each.

Answer: Mistake one: pointed muzzle; fix by blunting the contour and rounding the nose. Mistake two: short ears; fix by lengthening to about 0.8 to 1.1 x-height with an outward angle. Also lower hooves to the baseline.

Reason: Compare the described features with the lesson checks for muzzle shape, ear length, and ground contact.

Check: Redraw the head and legs lightly, then measure ear length and hoof contact against the baseline.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You are drawing a walking donkey in side profile. The front hooves are 2 cm apart along the baseline and the hind hooves are 3 cm apart. X-height is 4 cm. Describe how to place the leg joints so the pose reads as walking, and give one check.

Answer: Place the front leg forward with shoulder, elbow, and knee aligned toward the forward hoof; place the hind leg back with a clear hock angle toward the rear hoof. Keep joint spacing consistent with the hoof spacing. Check that the body mass stays centered over the supporting legs and that no hoof floats above the baseline.

Reason: Walking poses shift hoof positions along the baseline; joints must follow the hoof targets while keeping the body balanced.

Check: Draw vertical guide lines from each hoof to its joint chain and confirm the lines meet the intended joint points.

Task 4

A donkey side profile has body length 12 cm and x-height 4 cm. The ear is 4 cm and the leg length is 5 cm. Check body length, ear, and leg against the hypothetical ranges, and state one valid alternative for ear angle.

Answer: Body length is 3.0 x-heights, within the hypothetical 2.5 to 3 range. Ear is 1.0 x-height, within 0.8 to 1.1. Leg is 1.25 x-heights, within 1.2 to 1.6. A valid alternative is a more upright ear angle, as long as the ear remains long and clearly outward.

Reason: Divide each measurement by x-height: 12/4=3.0, 4/4=1.0, 5/4=1.25. Compare with the lesson ranges.

Check: Re-measure with the same ruler and confirm the ratios; check the ear angle against the neck line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body mass sits on the baseline with a clear midline and consistent x-height.
- [ ] Ear length and outward angle read as a long donkey ear, with valid alternatives allowed.
- [ ] Muzzle contour is blunt and rounded, not pointed.
- [ ] Leg joints are placed at shoulder, elbow, knee, hock, and hoof with hooves meeting the baseline for a standing pose.
- [ ] Overall silhouette reads as a donkey side profile, not a horse or mule.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?