



Hollywood St. Patrick's Day Parade watchers are in for a real treat! We are proud to have the world renowned Budweiser Clydesdales marching in the parade. Here are some facts and history about our special guests.

The Clydesdale Breed: The Clydesdale Breed: Farmers living in the 19th century along the banks of the River Clyde in Lanarkshire, Scotland, bred the Great Flemish Horse, the forerunner of the Clydesdale. These first draft horses pulled loads of more than one ton at a walking speed of five miles per hour. Soon their reputation spread beyond the Scottish borders. In the mid-1800s, Canadians of Scottish descent brought the first Clydesdales to the United States, where the horses resumed their existence on farms. Today, the Clydesdales are used primarily for breeding and show.

To Pull the Wagon: A Budweiser Clydesdale must be a gelding at least four years old, stand 72 inches at the shoulder, weigh between 1,800 and 2,300 pounds, have a bay coat, four white legs, a white blaze, and a black mane and tail.

Feed: Each hitch (team) horse consumes as much as 25 quarts of whole grains, minerals and vitamins, 50 to 60 pounds of hay, and 30 gallons of water per day.

Stables: The official home of the Budweiser Clydesdales is an ornate brick and stained-glass stable built in 1885 on the historic 100-acre Anheuser-Busch brewery complex in St. Louis. The building is one of three located on the brewery grounds that are registered as historic landmarks by the federal government.

Handlers: Expert groomers travel on the road with the hitch. They are on the road at least 10 months every year. When necessary, one handler provides around-the-clock care for the horses.

Transport: 10 horses, the famous red, white, and gold beer wagon and other essential equipment are transported in three 50-foot tractor-trailers. Cameras mounted in the trailers are connected to monitors in the cabs, allowing drivers to keep an eye on the Clydesdales. The team stops each night at local stables so the horses can rest. Air-cushioned suspension and thick rubber flooring in the trailers ease the rigors of traveling.

To Drive the Wagon: Hitch drivers are trained extensively to control 12 tons of wagon and horses. Drivers control 40 pounds of lines held by the driver plus the tension of the horses pulling creates a weight of over 75 pounds.

Harness: Each harness and collar weighs approximately 130 pounds. The harness is handcrafted with solid brass, patent leather, and stitched with pure linen thread.

Names: Duke, Captain, Mark, and Bud are just a few of the names given to the Budweiser Clydesdales. Names are kept short to make it easier for the driver to give commands.

Horseshoes: Clydesdale horseshoes measure more than 20 inches from end to end and weigh about 5 pounds.

Wagon: Turn-of-the-century beer wagons have been meticulously restored and equipped with two braking systems - a hydraulic pedal device and a hand-brake.

Dalmatians: Dalmatians have traveled with the Clydesdale hitch since the 1950s. The Dalmatian breed long has been associated with horses and valued for their speed, endurance, and dependable nature. The Dalmatians are seated next to the wagon driver.



Clydesdale Coloring Fun!

