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# *Freshening Up On Inspection Procedures*

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By the time you will receive this issue it will already be time again to think about the upcoming inspections. In last year's fall issue of *The Friesian*, you may have read some helpful tips from runner Rob de Bruin. Many FHANA members have visited inspections or prepared horses several times; but for the new Friesian horse owners, first time visitors and for those who want to freshen up on their knowledge about the inspection procedures, here is another article about the presentation of your horse at an inspection.

## APPEARANCE

Usually the horse is accompanied by two people: the runner, who presents the horse, and someone who will encourage the horse to show nicely from the middle of the arena, either with a whip or a little rattle box. This box can be a little tin box (an empty soda can for example) with some coins or little stones in it. Both people in the arena wear white clothes, preferably with a tie. Adult horses are presented in a white bridle (sometimes two-year olds, too, when necessary), usually without a nose band. Foals need to wear a halter and know how to lead. It's obvious that the horses need to be clean and shiny. You can clip away excessive hairs on the head and ears to make it look more elegant. Although you may braid the mane and tail the evening before to be curly, braids need to be taken out before entering the arena.

## PRESENTATION

The judges will evaluate the conformation of the horse, the walk and the trot. For this the horse moves in a triangle shaped area in the arena. The judges will be standing at a point of the triangle. After entering the arena, the horse is presented near the judges. The judges like to see all four legs from one side, with the legs away from the judges straight and the legs towards the judges a little to the front and the back. If the horse is fussy and it doesn't work, then the front legs may also be right next to each other. Pay attention to the footing of the arena. Make sure you don't put the horse with it's front legs in a lower area. You always want to have the horse look built uphill, instead of downhill. The horse should look attentive and bright with its head up. To encourage this, the person with the can may stand in front of the horse asking for its attention by softly rattling the can or moving the whip a little. Take a good look at your horse and look for weak and strong points so you can use that information. If your horse has a weak back or short front legs, for example, you try to find a higher spot for the front legs. If your horse has a very short back, make it stand a little stretched out. If your horse has a short and thick neck, don't push the head up, but try to train the horse to stretch its nose a little (up and out). You're not fooling the judges, but it is up to you to emphasize the good points and minimize the lesser points of your horse!



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Cont.

## LINEAR SCORING

For horses in the class for entering the studbook (first time) a linear score form will be filled out. This will take several minutes. This form will only be filled in once, so if a horse has been entered into this class before, or are now entered into a class for possible upgrading, the form will not be completed again. The form will be sent to you some time after the judging.

## WALK AND TROT

The judges will give you a sign when you can start to walk with the horse. This is where the triangle comes in. Why the triangle? Moving in this shape, the judges will be able to see the horse walk away and towards them as they look to see that the horse goes straight. At the far side of the triangle they can see the horse's movement from the side, where they can see the use of the hind end, knee action, power and outline. For the walk, you can use half the size of the big triangle. At the trot, the triangle also makes it possible for the judges to see how the horse slows down before the turn and speeds up after. They like to see this transition done with power from behind. During the trot, the far end is the most important section, as here they are looking at the outline of the horse. Where possible this should be the longest leg of the triangle. The horse is usually presented to the judges standing still (shortly) one more time before leaving the arena, if time permits.

After all horses in one class are done, the judge will call all, or a number of them, back for a line up. Then it will be announced which horses will be studbook and/or star and what premiums they get, or, in other classes, which horse will be upgraded and/or get a premium.

## FOALS

Foals are led into the arena with their dams. They can be held on the lead rope while standing still and turned loose at the walk and trot. If the foal leads very well and you're afraid it will run off the minute you turn it loose, you could choose to lead it at the walk. When loose, you should try to keep the foal on the right side of the dam. Don't panic when it runs off in the other direction, because they usually show very nicely when they come trotting back to mom. For some foals, it's good to practice a little ahead of time. After transportation and being in a different environment with so much excitement, some foals will show better, others will be so intimidated they will squeeze up to the mare and not move well at all. It is for you to decide what's best in your case...

## AFTER THE JUDGES INSPECT

Horses are no longer branded with F, S, or M, but horses that are entered into the studbook need to be measured. Foals need

to be chipped and hairs need to be pulled for DNA testing. Remember to bring the birth certificate for your foal and the original paper from your adult horse (keep a copy for your records). For horses that change status (from foalbook to studbook/star, or from studbook to star, or from star to model) the judges will take the papers back to the FPS office to be updated. Please do not leave the inspection site until you ascertain whether your horses need any of these procedures; the order in which the judges perform these tasks may not be the same at all inspection sites. Your host should have the order of the day's events.

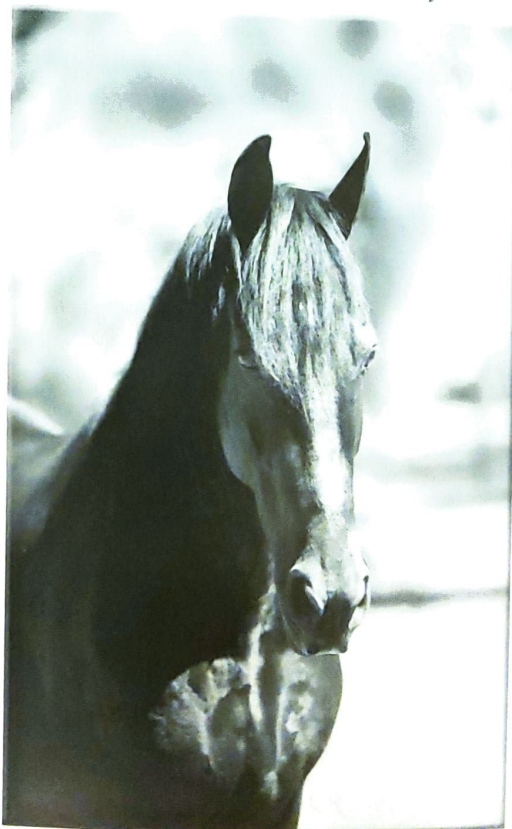
If you have any questions regarding your horse, most judges are very willing to answer and explain the outcome, time permitting, of course. Don't be afraid to ask!

### Relevant information:

*Presenting Your Horse, The Friesian, Fall 2003*

*Linear Scoring, The Friesian, Fall 2002*

*Judging in the triangular arena, Membership Book, Appendix J.*



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