

The Koninklijke Vereniging 'Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek'

The Friesian horse

Powerful beauty

The Friesian horse is the only breed of horse native to the Netherlands; even during the 13th century, horses of the Friesian type were being described. By applying a consistent policy of breeding, Friesian horses as we know them today still share the specific breed characteristics and therefore similarities with their ancient ancestors. Typical of these "black pearls" are their beautiful front, thick hair on mane, tail and fetlocks, black color and their extended powerful lofty gaits. The well-proportioned structure of the noble head placed on a slightly arched neck is a perfect expression of this breed's elegant appearance and proud bearing. Its friendly character is the key to a fine horse that can be used for many purposes.

A horse for many uses

Its beautiful self-carriage, willingness to work and eagerness to learn make today's Friesian a highly favored dressage horse; in days gone by, these horses were used as war horses, trotters, coach horses and on farms as draft horses. The Friesian horse is still driven with the traditional Frisian gig, show carts, etc. Driven alone, as a pair, in tandem or in a klavertjeddrie (a team of three with one horse in front followed by two side by side), these horses compete against each other in their own sports events. Friesians are also measuring up well when competing against other breeds in combined driving events and other disciplines.



photo: Jacob melissen

Purchasing a Friesian horse

When you want to buy a Friesian horse, the KFPS can provide you with a list of addresses of all the stallion managers from which you can make a choice. The KFPS does not play an intermediary role in these purchases.

In buying a horse, there are several important factors. The most important is the purpose for which you are buying the horse. After all, the criteria for a broodmare are not the same as those for a horse to be used in competitive equine sports. Always make sure that a horse has a valid passport and studbook document. The chip number on both documents must agree with the number of the microchip inserted into the surface on the left side of the neck around 4 inches below the mane. The studbook documents for the main class (the KFPS book) are printed on paper in tints of green, yellow-green and light gray. The paper used in making the registration document in the KFPS D book are tinted yellow, pinkish red and light gray. The papers for Bijboek I are tinted orange, reddish brown and light gray. The colors for Bijboek II are red, blue and light gray. The proof of registration is laminated and is certified by means of a palpable relief stamp of the Koninklijke Vereniging "Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek".

When you have bought a Friesian horse, the person who sold it to you will send the proof of registration to the KFPS with your name and address (the name and address of the new owner) on the reverse side. At the studbook office in Drachten, the horse will be transferred to the name of the new owner who will automatically become a member of the KFPS.

After paying membership dues and administration costs, the new owner will get the valid proof of registration sent to his/her home address.

Registration of foals

Every breeding of a Friesian mare with a Friesian stallion has to be registered with the KFPS. The KFPS will then provide the stallion manager with a birth notification that he will send on to the owner of the mare.

The birth notification has to be sent to the KFPS within two weeks after the birth of the foal. The owner then gets a confirmation of the birth sent to his/her home address. Later, when the foal gets its microchip implanted, this birth confirmation, accompanied by the barcode on the chip, can be sent to the KFPS. Once this information is processed, the owner gets the accompanying proof of registration and a horse passport sent to his/her home address.

The foals can be implanted with their microchip at one of the KFPS inspections by a special team. This can also be done at home by the veterinarian or microchip consultant.

The inspection

The KFPS collaborates with associations in other countries in organizing inspections during the summer season at which any Friesian horses can be presented. Mares and geldings three years of age and older can be distinguished at these inspections as follows:

STUDBOOK INFORMATION

Average scores for 5 main characteristics	Result	Title
> 7.5	Included with 1st premium	Studbook Star (stb star)
~ 7	Included with 2nd premium	Studbook Star (stb star)
~ 6 - 7	Included with 3rd premium	Studbook (stb)
~ 6	Included without premium	Studbook (stb)
< 6	Not included	Remains in foalbook

Note: In considering the awarding of premiums, the criteria relating to trueness to breed, the walk and the trot carry the most weight. In addition, a horse with a score of 4 or less for one or more criteria will not be registered, and a horse with a score of unsatisfactory (5 or less) for one or more of the main criteria cannot be entered into the star register.

For the stallions three years of age and older being presented at the foalbook inspection, there are two possible outcomes: the stallion will remain in the foalbook (Fb) or he will be declared star (Fb star).

At the regional breeders' events, foals, yearling mares and two-year-old mares are eligible for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd premium but may also receive no premium. Star mares and geldings inspected at regional breeders' events are eligible for a 1st or 2nd premium but may also receive no premium. The yearling and two-year-old stallions are judged only by the jury (no inspection).

Stallion selection

Stallions whose owners want them to be eligible for admission to stud service can present them for inspection by the studbook starting at three years of age. These young stallions will undergo three rounds of judging in the Netherlands: the first round of judging in November: assessment of conformation and movement both in hand (on a hard surface) and in free movement
the second round of judging in January on the Friday of the Stallion Inspection: assessment of conformation and free movement
the third round of judging on the Saturday of the Stallion Inspection: conformation and movement in hand.
The stallions must satisfy strict veterinary requirements including a clinical examination and X-ray testing, and semen testing. When selecting stallions for stud service, other factors such as the quality of their lineage and their degree of relationship to the entire Friesian horse population play a role. Once they have passed this strict selection process, stallions are eligible to prove themselves in the Central Examination. This is a ten-week testing period in which the stallion is tested for his aptitude for dressage, show driving and harness competition. Upon satisfactorily completing this testing, the stallion is entered in the studbook register.

A young stallion receives a breeding permit for 180 mares a year. Once his oldest offspring reach the age of three or four, 20 of them are tested in the offspring judging. When

the offspring are shown to have a sufficient level of quality in areas such as health, uses, conformation and movement, the stallion is "approved on the basis of his offspring". From that time onward, the stallion may be bred with an unlimited number of mares every year.

KFPS events

Central inspection

Except for foals, the horses awarded a 1st premium during the inspection season will be invited to participate in the studbook's annual Central Inspection. This conclusion to the inspection season is held in October. At the Central Inspection, mares three years of age and older are eligible to receive the provisional crown title or even the provisional model title (the model title being the highest title for conformation available to mares). A mare can also be awarded the provisional crown or provisional model titles at inspections held in countries outside of the Netherlands.

These provisional titles can be made definite titles when the mare accumulates at least 77 points with an average score of 7 for the basic gates in an IBOP or ABFP test, or if she is awarded the sports title. The IBOP can also be held in a country outside of the Netherlands.

Stallion inspection

In addition to the Central Inspection, the KFPS also holds the annual Stallion Inspection. This is held in January in Leeuwarden and is intended primarily for selecting young stallions and for conducting the annual inspection of approved KFPS studbook stallions. The event is held on a Friday and Saturday, the Friday evening also being devoted to shows. On the Thursday afternoon previous to the Stallion Inspection, a clinic open to the public is held. For many lovers of Friesian horses, the Stallion Inspection that attracts more than 10,000 visitors is the event of the year.

KFPS competitions

Young dressage horses can participate in the Competition for Young Friesian Horses with Dressage Aptitude. This competition is open to mares, stallions and geldings 4, 5 and 6 years of age. In the pre-selections that are held (till now) in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Czech Republic, these horses can qualify to participate in the finale held at the Central Inspection in October.

Young show driving horses can participate in the Competition for Young Friesian Horses with Aptitude for the Sport of Show Driving that is open to mares, stallions and geldings 3, 4 and 5 years of age. The pre-selections are held at the

Dutch regional breeders' events, and the finale is held at the Central Inspection.

Tests and the sport title

In the Netherlands, the KFPS offers two tests in which Friesian horses can participate: the IBOP and the ABFP tests. The IBOP test is intended to establish, in the most objective way possible, the suitability of the horse for a certain use. The ABFP test is intended to establish, in the most objective way possible, the horse's aptitude as a dressage and/or harness and/or show driving horse.

Friesian horses are also eligible for the sports title. Sports achievements outside of the Netherlands will be subject to comparable requirements as assessed by the KFPS inspection team.

Other titles

When a stallion has an excellent record of siring offspring that have inherited his positive characteristics, he can be given the preferent status. Mares, too, can be awarded the preferent status when four of a mare's offspring have received the star title. Having given birth to a studbook stallion also counts toward a mare's preferent status. The title of performance dam is awarded a mare when three of her offspring have earned the sports title.

How can I find a stallion for my mare?

Looking for the right stallion to breed with your mare is a major decision to be made with great care. You have to consider how the foal is to be used in the future: for dressage, show driving or perhaps a horse with an aptitude for various uses. In selecting a stallion, you have to determine which weaker points of your mare you wish to improve and which strong points you wish to accentuate. Good tools to use in determining the strong and weak points of the horse are the linear scoring forms that are created during the inspection of the mare for inclusion in the studbook. The next step is to look at what characteristics a stallion's offspring have inherited. This data can be accessed at the KFPS website and is also published every year in *Phryso*. Based on this information, you can select the stallion that will provide the greatest improvement.

Find the stallion information on the website www.kfps.nl login at 'My KFPS'

Choose 'breeding information'/ KFPS studbook stallion info
Fill in the characteristics you want to select on

Yet another important factor to consider is that since the population of Friesian horses is a closed population and was still very small not so long ago, you will have to deal very carefully with the aspect of inbreeding. The KFPS advises a combination with no more than 5% inbreeding. It is also important not to have the same stallion appearing in the foal's first three generations.

Announcements

Naming of foals

The names of foals begin with the letters assigned to the year in which they were born. Foals born in 2009 will have names beginning with D, E or F. In 2010, the letters will be G, H and I. This system is useful to know not only when you have to name a foal but also when you want to buy a horse. Suppose you are offered a horse born in 1993. The studbook documents give the name of the horse as being Imke. By being aware of the naming system, you immediately know something is wrong because the letters assigned to 1993 were D, E and F. A horse with a name beginning with I was born in 1994 or 2002.

Naming table:

Eight letter combinations make it possible to quickly estimate the age of a horse:

Letter combinations	Years
A, B or C	1992, 2000, 2008
D, E or F	1993, 2001, 2009
G, H or I	1994, 2002, 2010
J, K or L	1995, 2003, 2011
M, N or O	1996, 2004, 2012
P, Q, R or S	1997, 2005, 2013
T, U or V	1990, 1998, 2006, 2014
W, X, Y or Z	1991, 1999, 2007, 2015

Registration certificates in various colors

The KFPS has divided its main section into classes as follows:

- KFPS Book (main class)
- KFPS D Book
- Bijboek I
- Bijboek II

The difference between them is quickly seen by the color of the registration certificate. The inner side of the registration certificate in the KFPS Book is printed in shades of yellow, yellow-green and light gray. In the KFPS D Book, the colors are shades of yellow, pinkish red and light gray. Bijboek I is printed in shades of orange, reddish brown and light gray, and Bijboek II is printed in shades of red, blue and light gray. The registration certificate is laminated with plastic and embossed with the intaglio stamp of the Koninklijke Vereniging "Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek" (KFPS). There is one exception: registration certificates for horses born before 1989 are white, printed on paper twice the size of normal letter-size paper, and are not laminated.