

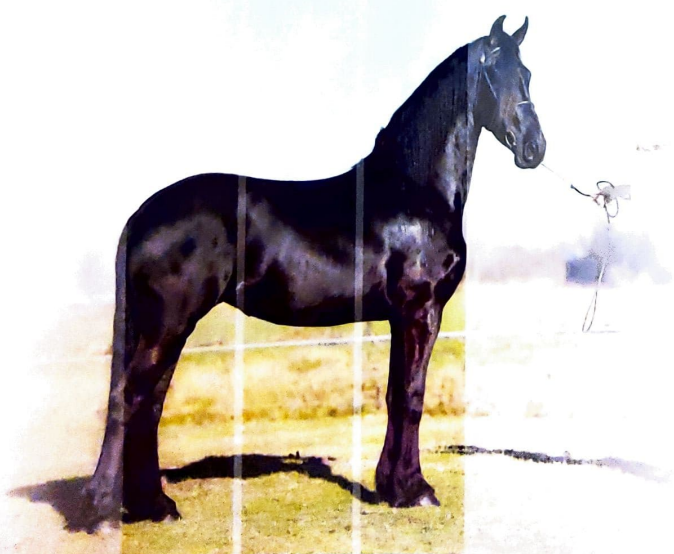
Friesian horse in detail
The Koninklijk Friesch Paarden-Stamboek is the second largest horse studbook in The Netherlands. Many Dutchmen own a Friesian but also outside the Netherlands the Friesian breed is enormously popular. Exterior and character traits clearly have a big attraction. But how do you know what is and is not desired in a Friesian? And what makes a Friesian a Friesian? In the series 'Friesian Horse in Detail' every facet of the Friesian horse is explained. In this second part of the series becomes clear why Friesian horses are inspected and according to what standard.

The first glance at a horse gives an impression of the horse's health and condition.

The How and Why of Inspecting

Inspecting horses usually happens for a specific reason. A breeder inspects his horses to come to a good stallion choice. A seller inspects a horse to evaluate the qualities and value. Inspections are indissolubly connected with a studbook so that the horses can be selected according to the standards of the breeding goal.

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The horse is inspected in the order of front, middle, hindquarters, for which the proportion 1:1:1 is desired for the skeleton.

The main goal of every studbook is to improve the breed. That is, for studbooks that represent a breed, because there are also studbooks that register categories of horses, such as KWPN. The Dutch warmblood is part of a sport studbook that wants to breed sport horses from various breeds and bloodlines. The Friesian horse is a breed with a closed studbook registration. When you inspect many horses, you obtain information about the status quo of the Friesian horse population. In this way the studbook can draw conclusions from which subsequently policies can be drafted. So there are various motivations to inspect horses: collecting data, selection with the goal to improve the breed, and safeguarding good characteristics. In addition the user of a horse will also want



Conformation of the front legs is evaluated on correctness as seen from the side and the front. Conformation of the hind legs is evaluation from the side and the back.

to inspect the horse so he or she can evaluate the qualities of the Friesian horse against a certain purpose of use. In short, inspecting is a form of quality control of the horse, related to the demands of the inspector.

Quality control

In inspecting it first of all is about observation. We look at the horse as a whole as it is presented to the judges. Then we continue on to the various line items. With inspecting we cover the characteristics of the horse that play an important role in the realization of the breeding goal. With linear scoring we only evaluate the characteristics that have a high degree of heredity. These characteristics are evaluated according to a strict standard that is reflected on the linear scoring form. The linear scoring form shows what the exterior of the horse is like. With this form the horse is compared to the average Friesian horse per line item. In addition ratings are given for the five rated characteristics at the bottom of the form: breed type, conformation, legs, walk, and trot. These ratings are the basis for the premie rating and the predicat connected to that premie rating.

HORSE IN DETAIL

What to inspect::

- overall condition, health
- breed type
- character (IBOP and ABFP test),
- conformation,
- movement.

Order of inspection:

- overall image,
- front, middle,
- hindquarters,
- legs,
- walk,
- trot,
- canter (first and second viewing of stallions).

What to inspect?

When a horse is presented to the judges the judges first look at the overall condition of the horse. A horse needs to exude health, be in good condition, and have a shiny coat. Then the horse is evaluated on breed type. The breed typical characteristics of a Friesian horse are among other things the characteristic head, front, ample hair, and the black color. Then the conformation of the horse is inspected. The desired conformation is harmonious, functional, in proportion, and upward. The horse needs to have a long front leg and not be too heavy in mass. It is desired that the horse stands in a square with the front, middle, and hindquarters in proportion as 1:1:1.

Important in evaluating is the correctness and quality of the legs. Then the judges look at the horse in movement. First in walk and then in trot. The stallions are, during the first and second

viewing of the stallion inspection also evaluated on the canter while at liberty in the cage. For the movement the judges first look at the rhythm, then the length in stride, power, and suppleness. The character of the Friesian horse is an important item. At inspections in hand it is almost not possible to evaluate the character of the horse but it is possible to evaluate the horse for that during one of the aptitude tests, namely ABFP, IBOP, and the Central Performance Testing. In these test personality traits are also evaluated.

Order of inspection

The inspection of a horse takes place in a steady order. As mentioned before the judges always start with the overall image of the horse. Then the line items of the front, middle, and hindquarters follow. Subsequently the judges inspect the correctness of the legs, and then comes the movement; first in walk, then in trot. •



After the evaluation of the exterior characteristics and the legs, the movement in walk and trot (picture) is evaluated.