

### **Stallion Selection Process Handbook – FHANA summer 2024 version**

In stallion selection, there is a role for the Stallion Selection Committee (HKC), the MT and the Board. The stallion selection jury is responsible for evaluation and consideration and advises the board on entry of stallions in the studbook register (art. 108-internal regulations). The board bears final responsibility for the registration (art. 108- internal regulations). The stallion selection committee jury will be directed by the studbook office (art. 108- internal regulations) and is responsible to the studbook office (art. 24-Bylaws). Monitoring stallion selection is established in Article 20 of the Stallion Selection Regulations, Spring 2023 version.

This procedure describes the way in which the selection of stallions is monitored by the MT of the KFPS, monitored and how the lines of communication in the triangle of stallion selection jury (HKC), MT and board are arranged. First-line monitoring is a responsibility of the Manager of Inspection Affairs. The Manager of Inspection Affairs can delegate matters to studbook staff. The procedure is written out per selection step.

**Stallion Selection:**

The FHANA selection of stallions for inclusion in the studbook register consists of the First Inspection, the Second Inspection, the Preliminary Days, the Central Examination and the Shortened Examination. This selection process is part of the KFPS breeding program.

In the selection process, stallions are tested against minimum requirements for measurable and non-measurable characteristics. At the end of the selection process, after the Central Examination or Shortened Examination, it is decided, based on all collected information/assessment, whether a stallion will be entered in the studbook register.

**The Selection Criteria are:**

pedigree, degree of kinship with the population, conformation (breed type, conformation, legwork), movement, final assessments Central Examination or Abbreviated Examination (sport ability), legwork quality based on X-ray assessment, semen quality, veterinary clinical assessment, health, character, and stable behavior.

**General matters**

Determine location and arrange facilities and necessary persons, communicate with communication department/ present Judges/ inspection/ board -> by studbook officer

## 1. First viewing

### **Assessment and procedure.**

See regulations.

### **Measuring:**

Stallions will be measured before starting on the street. Measurement ticket will be given to the HKC at the street.

- Meters (2 people) and measurement tickets to be arranged.

### **Linear scoring:**

Before starting assessment on the street

- Minimum of 1 linear scorer needed and arrange scoring forms per stallion

### **Assessment on the street:**

On hand, straight line of 30 meters on hard surface (not sand)

- Assessment of correctness, leg positions and movement flow.
- Set up, 1x out and back step, 1x out and back trot, on request HKC possible again. - Presentation on the street should be calm, so no excessive whipping and/or rattle.
- Only horses with correct conformation and correct movement will be referred to the cage.

### **Results street:**

Through or not through to the cage. In case of rejection a verbal explanation by HKC.

- Not manageable on the street could be a reason for rejection.

### **Assessment in cage:**

Free movement. Grades for basic gaits are given in the cage.

- The cage is equipped with an indoor cage. The attendant brings the stallion in by hand, steps a lap and sets him up in front of the HKC. The stallion is then released and escorted by the cage staff into the inside part of the cage, around two inserted diamond shapes and then into the fenced off outside area. At the direction of the HKC, the stallion is caught and presented in 1 round at the hand at a trot and then left the cage.
- During the free presentation in the cage, horses are allowed to wear black (dark) tendon guards on the front legs. On the hind legs it is not allowed to wear protectors.
- It is the intention that the stallions present themselves in the cage at rest as much as possible. If this is insufficiently the case, the HKC may decide to end the presentation. The stallion will then be given another chance in the cage at the end of all assessments of that part of the day.
- Horses presented incorrectly will not be judged (any further). These horses will be referred to the follow-up inspection.

- Height: the minimum height for a ster certificate is 1.58 m. For referral, the minimum height is 1.58 (3 years), 1.60 (4 years and up).
- After the stallions from a group have been judged, they all return to the cage at the same time. The chairman of the HKC then gives the results.

**Cage staff:**

- Selection of cage staff under the direction of the FHANA
- Guide the stallions with as much peace and quiet as possible in the cage. 1 person is in charge and is in contact with the HKC president for receiving directions.

**Results cage:**

- Star, referral to 2nd viewing.
- Star, no referral to 2nd inspection
- Not star, but referral to 2nd round viewing
- Not star, no referral to 2nd round viewing
- Forwarding to 2nd round viewing, no explanation
- No referral to the 2nd round viewing, explanation given

**Stallions not assigned to the second viewing can participate in a resit the following year.**

**Monitoring and communication.**

First-line monitoring of the First Inspection is a responsibility of the HKC who then reports to the Board. Should the need arise, the board will be called in by the HKC.

- The evaluation of the stallions is generally assessed against the inspection guideline.
- The under beam scores are checked for consistency with the priming (star declaration) and adjusted where necessary in consultation with the HKC.
- The inspection results are evaluated, as is the case with the mare inspections.

## 2. Second viewing

### **Assessment second viewing:**

The evaluation of stallions is assessed in general terms against the inspection guidelines. The stallion (re)judging committee will determine whether a stallion will be designated for the Preliminary Inspection, based on the following assessments and criteria:

1. Assessment during the First Inspection.
2. Exterior and basic gaits during the Second Inspection (Star-worthy\*).
3. Pedigree and degree of kinship with the population.
4. Veterinary clinical examination.

\*In exceptional cases, the stallion selection committee may refer interesting stallions that do not yet meet the requirements for the Ster predicate to the preliminary viewing days. During the first preliminary round, these stallions will be re-assessed by the HKC and their conformation and basic gaits must be worthy of the Ster predicate.

*Additional criteria for conformation and movement are included in the Stallion Selection Regulations:*

- Allowed markings (see Article 16)

*Additional criteria conformation and movement - Jury Manual guidelines:*

- Unstable/falling mane crest:

Foal book stallions, older than three years, with a falling mane crest will not be entered in the Stud Book.

### **Method of judging second viewing**

The hand inspection will take place in a triangular track.

- Stallions enter in walk and are lined up for the HKC.
- Stallions walk a small triangle once.
- Stallions trot two rounds.

At the direction of HKC leave the lane and the new stallion can enter.

Excessive whipping is not allowed, horses must be presented in peace and quiet.

After the stallions from 1 group have been judged, they all come back at the same time for walking around and results.

After 2-3 groups, all referred stallions (possibly o.v.b. of veterinary inspection) return for homage with owner.

### **Results second viewing:**

The above criteria (excluding veterinary inspection) will be included in the evaluation.

Designation to the Preliminary Days subject to veterinary inspection or rejection. In case of designation and rejection, a public explanation by the HKC will follow.

Result:

- referral to the Preliminary Days subject to veterinary inspection
- no referral to the Preliminary Days

### **Veterinary Inspection:**

A veterinary inspection will take place after the second viewing. This veterinary examination takes place after the assessment in hand. Here a report is made by the veterinarians where the horse is judged clinically. They also check if the horse has white (soles) and if the stallion has a C-line. The owner is given a copy of the veterinary report and signed.

If any veterinary issues, unauthorized white/c-line are found the veterinarian will notify the Manager of Inspection. After the inspection/or at a break time, the HKC may consult with the veterinarians and, upon request, view the stallion again in the presence of the owner. The owner will then be taken aside and verbally informed of the decision to maintain the designation or not. The owner will then also be informed (in writing) by the KFPS. It is possible that the HKC may defer this decision until further notice in case further consultation or investigation is required. The owner is then notified of the postponement and later informed by email of the final result. This will be confirmed in writing. Both by the KFPS.

### **Unauthorized) white or other veterinary matters;**

Only conclusively substantiated veterinary certificates submitted in advance will be included in the judging. Veterinary certificates handed in afterwards will not be considered for this inspection but could be considered for a subsequent inspection.

### **Monitoring and communication in the triangle (HKC, MT and board).**

First-line monitoring of the Second Inspection is a responsibility of the Manager of Inspection who then reports to the MT. If necessary, the board will be called in by management.

- Manager of Inspection Affairs is not present at the explanation of the X-ray reports by a member of the evaluation committee prior to the Second Inspection but receives a report prepared by the committee.
- Manager is present at the report of the veterinarians regarding the veterinary inspection after the second viewing.
- Manager sees to it that the guidelines regarding the subsidiary findings are correctly applied.
- Manager monitors the handling of veterinary remarks and markings (permitted and not permitted).

### 3. Preliminary Days

#### **Prior to the Preliminary Days:**

The radiographs will be assessed by the University of Utrecht (under the direction of A.J. van de Belt - specialist radiology) and a report will be drawn up. Based on the outcome of this report, a positive or negative decision will be made according to the standardization article 14 of the Stallion Selection Regulations. In the case of secondary findings that are not regulated, these will be discussed with the veterinarians. This report is discussed with the veterinarians and HKC prior to the Preliminary Days. The HKC makes the final decision on the stallion's progression. In this way, experts make a decision on the x-ray report. These discussions of the X-ray reports can take place (via teams) this way owners can also be informed earlier if the opinion is negative (so even before the First Inspection if desired).

#### **Clinical examination and Cornage examination**

Prior to the Preliminary Days, stallions will need to be clinically inspected. During the clinical examination, extra attention is paid to the mane crest, whether an incipient C-line is detected here. This assessment is at a standstill. The owner receives a copy of the examination report, this report is signed by the owner/trainer and veterinarian. The cornage examination is also performed, provided it has not been performed previously in the same year. After the clinical examination a discussion with the HKC and Manager Inspection Affairs follows, should there be any peculiarities found then a decision will be made by the HKC.

Prior to the Central Examination, three Preliminary Days are organized by the KFPS. The objective is to have the horses start the CE as optimal as possible. These days also serve as a selection moment. During the third Day, the HKC will decide whether a stallion will be selected for the CE.

Stallions can only participate in the Preliminary Days if they have been appointed for this purpose by the Stallion Inspection Committee.

#### **Judging and Procedure.**

Prior to First Preliminary Day:

- Of importance is that all stallions have met the requirements of the semen examination. A semen report is valid for a maximum of 12 months. If a stallion is referred to a subsequent year in the selection process, a new report must be submitted 10 days after designation CE in the subsequent year and must meet the standard for stallions four years of age and older.

#### **Preliminary Days:**

During the three Preliminary Days, which will be viewed by the HKC through ZOOM, Skype or FaceTime, riders will be clearly instructed by the performance judge.

- The stallions must be ridden with a light touch and must be responsive to the aids. In the training the emphasis is on riding the transitions. This involves the transitions between the different gaits (and in the case of the 5-6 year olds a few steps of extension and yielding) in the respective gaits. Stretching the neck is also a part of this, where the stallion follows the hand forward and down, walking on his own legs and the natural gait of the horse are included. The emphasis is on riding forward, the use of the body, the purity of the gaits and the carrying of the hind leg.
- During the Preliminary Days, stallions from 3 to 6 years old can be presented. This age difference entails a different presentation. This means that a 6-year-old can be expected to have more switching ability, carrying capacity and balance. This manifests itself in riding several transitions in a row and shifting more sequentially in the same gait. Obviously, less is required of a 3-year-old. To properly assess the natural talent of a stallion, it is important to take the age and the corresponding degree of training into account and adjust the presentation accordingly.
- Three- and four-year-old stallions should not be singled out.
- There will also be a supervisor at the rear of the entry area who can call riders and riders to account for their riding style when necessary.
- Blood in the mouth ALWAYS means leave the arena.

### **Results Preliminary Days:**

During the third Preliminary Day, the HKC will inform owners of the follow-up. This may include the following:

1. the stallion is designated for the CE;
2. the stallion will not be appointed to the CE; HKC will give a brief verbal explanation\*
3. the HKC will give the stallion the option of re-entering for the preliminary days the following year

\* After the 3rd Preliminary Day a report will be made of all non-designated stallions. This report is made in cooperation with and with the approval of the HKC. The KFPS will be responsible for this.

#### **4. Central Examination (70 Day Test)**

The purpose of the Central Examination is to determine a stallion's potential as a riding horse, driving horse and harness horse, as well as to collect information regarding health, character and stable behavior. It lasts 10 weeks and is open to stallions with a maximum age of 6 years. Stallions can only participate in the Central Examination if they have been appointed by the HKC.

The HKC is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the stallions' performance. The HKC is advised during the Central Examination by two members of the performance HKC, appointed by the board.

##### **Assessment and procedure**

During the check-in of the CE, the stallions will be viewed under saddle and there will be a veterinary inspection and an exterior assessment. In case of a positive evaluation, the stallion can move into the stable for the CE.

In the event the stallion cannot be accepted for veterinary reasons, or for other reasons is advised not to allow a stallion to enter the examination, the owner will be informed on the spot by the HKC and this will be confirmed in writing by a Manager of Inspection Affairs.

A supervisor will need to be present during the submission to review and monitor behavior, animal welfare and guidelines.

##### **Presentation - Riding under saddle**

Stallions must be ridden under saddle by a rider designated by the owner. The stallions should show a simple performance, consisting of walk, trot and canter and some moments of relaxation by stretching the neck in trot and showing a number of transitions. The purpose of this is to check the correctness of the gaits upon presentation. The presentation will be supervised by the Training Director. The HKC will decide if the stallion may enter yes or no. This will always be confirmed in writing by the Manager of Inspection in consultation with the HKC. After designation, the process of check-in continues through clinical examination and check-in.

The stallions must have fulfilled all conditions of entry beforehand (semen examination, DNA examination, Cornage examination). Manager of Inspection Affairs will ensure that these conditions are met.

The conformation grades (given during the First Inspection) will be adjusted by the HKC upon check-in.

##### **Clinical Inspection**

An arrangement should be made so that stallions can be judged and checked in peace and quiet. Ensure that visitors are kept at a distance. Position the HKC and veterinarians in such a

way that they can easily discuss without the presenter/owner hearing everything. Provide a table behind the straw bales so that things can remain there.

For the purpose of the clinical examination, the stallions will be hand-monitored on the straight line and the circle (both on hard surfaces – no sand). Detected defects, abnormalities and irregularities will be recorded in writing. The owner will receive a copy of the examination report, this report is signed by the owner/trainer and veterinarian.

### **Assessment and Procedure Central Examination (after submission):**

The CE is a ten-week period and there are two examination days. The first examination day is a saddle presentation and takes place after six weeks. Here the stallions receive a grade list regarding the riding portion and the written confirmation whether the stallion can continue the Central Examination. Here it is decided whether a stallion can continue with the driving and harness portion. The driving and harnessing part covers the last four weeks and will be concluded with an exam day on which the driving and harnessing will be assessed and scored.

The marks of the second examination as well as the content of the report will be communicated orally to the owner by the HKC. The owner receives the report including marks. Afterwards, all grades of the stallions will be announced.

If a stallion leaves the Central Examination mid-term, the owner will receive a written report of this.

One week prior to the exam, the owner will be informed whether or not his stallion can participate in the exam.

A written report will be prepared for all approved stallions. This report is prepared in consultation and with the approval of the HKC. The preparation of the report should be done by the HKC in cooperation with the Manager of Inspection Affairs. At final examination/approval, the report should be ready so that it can be handed over to the owner with verbal explanation.

The report must be prepared and published within 1 week after approval or disapproval.

### **Procedure Central Examination - Training**

Animal welfare is a high priority for the KFPS. Stallions are trained and fed in an animal-friendly manner under the guidance of the Training Leader. During the CE the stallion will be worked on the lunge, in front of the carriage and under the saddle. Training will consist of both dressage work and harness typical work. A report will be made of the stallion's performance and behavior during training and his behavior in the stable. This at the direction of the training leader, stable manager, riders and drivers and under the responsibility of the HKC. A log will be kept by the stable master.

The training sessions are based on the training schedule of training physiologist Carolien Munsters. In the beginning of the CO a fitness test is performed (lactate and heart rate measurements) by the veterinarian and the stable master. The results are shared with the training director and the HKC.

A manure examination + dental check is also performed by the veterinarians during the first week. Abnormal results are communicated to the HKC and owners.

If a stallion is shod, this will be done in consultation with the training leader, who will check the shoes afterwards and a video and/or photos will be made beforehand. The stallion must be shod correctly.