



# FHANA STALLION TESTING PROCEDURES

2025

## **FHANA Stallion Selection Handbook**

### **August 2025**

#### **Background**

The FHANA Stallion Selection Manual provides an overview of the Koninklijk Friesch Paarden-Stamboek (KFPS), processes and requirements in North America. The stallion selection process for 2025 involves several stages, including pedigree review, conformation assessments, movement evaluations, and performance testing.

The Stallion Selection Manual outlines eligibility for Stallion Viewing, requirements for First and Second Viewings, Presentation Days, Central Examinations (70-Day Testing), and the Short Test (Attachment A, page 12). It also covers veterinary assessments and selection criteria. For more details, see the “Regulations Stallion Selection” at [KFPS Stallion Selection](#) or contact FHANA’s Executive Director.

Stallion candidates in North America must attend a Stallion Viewing at a FHANA-designated location, usually held during a Circuit 5 event at the end of the NA Inspection tour. Eligible candidates are Foal Book stallions—Ster or not—aged 2.5 to 6 years, without needing a KFPS invitation. Both First and Second Viewings occur in the same week at Circuit 5, while Presentation Days and Central Examination (70-Day testing) take place at a later time and location that is chosen by FHANA and KPS.

#### **KFPS Regulations and Roles**

During the KFPS stallion selection process, several key stakeholders are involved, each with defined responsibilities. These include the Stallion Committee, specialists in exterior assessment and in-hand evaluation, the Stallion Performance Jury, which assesses aptitude and talent, the Breed Technical Committee with expertise in breeding, and the Veterinary Commission.

The Stallion Selection Jury is responsible for evaluation and consideration and advises the Board on entry of stallions in the Studbook registry (Article 108-internal regulations). The Board bears final responsibility for the registration (Article 108- internal regulations). The Stallion Selection Jury is directed by the studbook office (Article 108- internal regulations) and is responsible to the studbook office (Article 24-Bylaws). Monitoring stallion selection was established in Article 20 of the Stallion Selection Regulations, Spring 2023 version.

#### **Stallion Selection Process and Requirements**

FHANA's stallion selection processes and logistics follows the KFPS regulations. The regulations

consists of a First Viewing, Second Viewing, Presentation Days, Central Examination (70-Day Testing), and/or a Shortened Examination.

To advance from the KFPS Foal Book to the Studbook, a stallion must meet all KFPS requirements. During selection, stallions are evaluated on both measurable and non-measurable traits. After the Central or Shortened Examination, a decision is made on Studbook entry based on assessments.

### **The KFPS Stallion Selection Criteria:**

Selection criteria includes:

- The stallion's pedigree;
- The stallion's degree of kinship with the population;
- Conformation (breed type, conformation, legwork);
- Movement;
- Final assessments from the Central Examination or Abbreviated Examination (sport ability);
- Legwork quality based on X-ray assessment;
- Semen quality;
- Veterinary clinical assessment;
- Health;
- Character;
- And stable behavior.

### **FHANA/KFPS Roles in the Selection Process**

FHANA is responsible for securing the event location and facility, managing stallion viewing logistics, recruiting necessary personnel, and communicating with relevant KFPS stakeholders. KFPS is responsible for selecting and providing Judges, as well as communicating with the Board and FHANA.

## **Circuit 5 First Viewing** **Street/Hard Surface - Day 1**

### **KFPS Assessment and Procedures**

See the KFPS website for specific details.

### **Measuring**

Stallions are measured prior to proceedings on the street or hard surface. FHANA/KFPS assigns two individuals to conduct the measurement, using a measuring stick and a slip to record the height. The required minimum height for the Ster predicate is 1.58 meters for three-year-old stallions and 1.60

meters for stallions aged four years and older.

### **Linear Scoring**

- A linear scorer will be assigned
- Linear scoring forms will be available

### **Assessment on the Street/Hard Surface**

Stallions are presented in-hand on a straight line of 30 meters on a hard surface (not sand).

- The stallions are assessed for correctness, leg positions, and movement flow.
- Stallions are evaluated in-hand for conformation.
- Next, the stallion is walked in-hand 30 meters away from the Jury and back, then trotted 30 meters away and back. The Jury may request the stallion to repeat walk and/or trot. Presentation on the street should be calm with no excessive whipping and/or rattle.
  - The hard surface allows judges to identify irregularities with the walk & trot.
  - Only horses with correct conformation and correct movement will be referred to the next assessment.

This hard surface assessment will result in either the stallion being approved for assessment in the cage or not. In the case the stallion does not advance to the cage assessment, a verbal explanation will be provided to the stallion owner. If the stallion is not manageable on the street/hard surface, it could be a reason for rejection.

### **Assessment in the Cage - Day 1**

The indoor cage allows evaluation of the stallion's natural movement and transitions in a controlled setting, with grades given for walk, trot, and canter.

- The stallion is evaluated in an indoor cage. The attendant brings the stallion into the cage in-hand, walks a lap and positions him in front of the Jury. The stallion is then released and escorted by the cage staff into the cage, around two inserted diamond shapes. At the direction of the Jury, the stallion is caught and presented in one round in hand at a trot and then leaves the indoor cage.
- During the free presentation in the cage, horses are allowed to wear black (dark) tendon guards on their front legs. Protectors on the hind legs are not allowed.
- It is the intention that the stallions present themselves in the cage as relaxed as possible. If this is not the case, the Jury 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).
- After the stallions from a group have been judged, they all return to the cage at the same

time. The chairman of the Jury announces the results.

#### Cage Staff

- Selection of cage staff is the responsibility of FHANA.
- The stallions are guided by the cage staff with as much relaxation as possible. One person is in charge and is in contact with the Jury for receiving directions.

#### Results from the Cage Assessment:

The Jury will determine if the stallion will be awarded Ster and if it will be referred to the next level.

The following are the possible outcomes:

- Ster, referred to Second Viewing;
- Ster, not referred to Second Viewing;
- Not Ster, but referred to Second Viewing;
- Not Ster, not referred to Second Viewing;
- Forwarding to Second viewing, no explanation;
- And no referral to the Second Viewing, explanation given.

*\*\*Stallions not assigned to the second viewing may participate in a rejudging the following year.\*\**

#### **Monitoring and Communication Responsibilities**

First-line monitoring of the First Viewing is the responsibility of the Jury who then reports to the Board. Should the need arise, the Board will be called in by the Jury.

- The evaluation of the stallions is assessed according to the KFPS inspection guidelines.
- The under beam scores (numerical scores on the lower bar of the linear score sheet) are checked for consistency with the predicate requirements for Ster declaration and adjusted where necessary in consultation with the Jury.
- The inspection results are evaluated. The Jury and the Board work in concert with each other, with the Board having the final say.

### **Circuit 5 Second Viewing - Day 2**

#### **Second Viewing Assessment**

Stallions who advance from First Viewing are evaluated according to established KFPS inspection guidelines. A review is conducted on each stallion and the Jury decides on the stallion's eligibility to

move onto Presentation Days based on specific assessments and established KFPS criteria:

- First Viewing assessment;
- Exterior and basic gaits during the Second Viewing “Ster-worthy.” 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 Jury, and their conformation and basic gaits must be worthy of the Ster predicate;
- Pedigree and degree of kinship with the population;
- Under saddle test for stallions four years of age or older;
- And veterinary clinical examination.

*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 in-hand inspection will take place on a triangular track.

- Stallion enters at a walk and is lined up for the Jury.
- Stallion walks a small triangle once.
- Stallion trots a large triangle twice.

At the direction of the Jury the stallion leaves the triangle, and the new stallion can enter.

Excessive whipping is not allowed; horses must be presented in a relaxed manner.

After the stallions have been judged, they all come back at the same time and walk around the triangle and to receive results.

### **Under Saddle Test for Stallions Four Years of Age and Older**

The purpose of the saddle test is to check the correctness of the stallion’s gaits and transitions. The under saddle test includes:

- 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.

### **Results Second Viewing:**

All criteria except veterinary inspection will be part of the evaluation. If invited, Presentation Day participation depends on passing a veterinary inspection. If designated entries are rejected, the Jury will give a public explanation.

Result:

- Referral to the Presentation Days subject to veterinary inspection
- No referral to Presentation Days

### **Veterinary Inspection:**

A veterinary inspection will be conducted after the Second Viewing, following the in-hand assessment. Veterinarians provide a clinical report, evaluating the horse and checking for white soles and, in stallions, a fallen crest (c-line in Dutch). The owner receives a signed copy of this report.

If any veterinary concerns, such as unauthorized white markings or fallen crests, are identified, the veterinarian will inform the Manager of Inspection. Following the inspection or during a scheduled break, the Jury may consult with the veterinarians and, if requested, re-examine the stallion in the presence of the owner. The owner will be privately informed verbally about the decision regarding the designation. This information will also be provided in writing by the KFPS. In some cases, the HKC may postpone the decision for further consultation or investigation. The owner will be notified of the delay and subsequently receive an email informing them of the final outcome, which will also be confirmed in writing by the KFPS.

### **Unauthorized) White or Other Veterinary Matters**

Veterinary certificates that are conclusively substantiated and submitted in advance will be included in the judging process. Certificates provided after the submission deadline will not be considered for this inspection but may be reviewed for a future inspection.

### **Monitoring and Communication in the Triangle (HKC, MT and Board)**

First-line monitoring of the Second Viewing 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; however, they receive 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 (both



permitted and not permitted).

## **Presentation Days**

### **Prior to Presentation Days**

Stallions can only participate in the Presentation Days if they have been appointed by the Stallion Inspection Committee. The following studies, radiographs, clinical assessment, roaring, and semen testing must be completed prior to Presentation Days.

#### **Radiographs**

Before Presentation Days the stallion owner is responsible for obtaining specific radiographs as required by the KFPS. The completed digital x-rays are sent electronically to the KFPS and are reviewed by the University of Utrecht, which produces a report. A decision is then made based on this report in accordance with standardization Article 14 of the Stallion Selection Regulations. If secondary findings arise that are not specifically covered by the regulations, these are addressed with the veterinarians. The report is subsequently discussed with both the veterinarians and the Hengstenkeuringscommissie (HKC), also known as the Stallion Inspection Committee, before the Presentation Days. The HKC determines whether the stallion will proceed further in the selection process. Expert assessment is used to make decisions regarding the x-ray report. These discussions can occur virtually (for example, via Microsoft Teams), allowing owners to be informed earlier if the evaluation is negative, potentially even before the First Inspection if needed.

#### **Clinical Assessment and Roaring Examination**

Before Presentation Days, stallions must also undergo a clinical inspection focusing on the mane crest and signs of a fallen crest. This assessment is done while stationary. The owner receives and signs the examination report along with the veterinarian. If not already completed that year, a roaring (cornage) examination is conducted. If any issues arise, the HKC and Manager Inspection Affairs will review and decide on further action.

#### **Semen Testing**

Prior to First Presentation Day, all stallions must pass a semen examination, with reports valid for up to 12 months. For stallions continuing in the selection process into the following year, a new report is required within 10 days after designation CE, meeting standards for stallions aged four years and older.

Before the Central Examination, the KFPS holds three Presentation Days to prepare the horses and select candidates. On the third day, the HKC decides if a stallion will proceed to the CE.

During the three Presentation Days, which will be viewed by the HKC through ZOOM, Skype or



FaceTime, riders will be clearly instructed by the Performance Judge. The Jury return to North America to perform the assessment after the video process is completed.

- Stallions should be ridden lightly and respond well to aids. Training focuses on smooth transitions between gaits—including some extension and yielding for 5-6 year olds. Neck stretching is included, encouraging the stallion to follow the hand forward and down. Key priorities are forward movement, correct body use, pure gaits, and strong hind leg carriage.
- During Presentation Days, stallions aged 3 to 6 years are eligible for evaluation. The variance in age necessitates distinct presentation standards; for example, a 6-year-old stallion is generally expected to demonstrate greater agility, carrying capacity, and balance. This level of development is reflected by executing multiple transitions consecutively and exhibiting more advanced shifts within the same gait. Conversely, lower expectations are set for 3-year-old stallions. In order to accurately evaluate each stallion's innate abilities, it is essential to consider both their age and corresponding training level, and to tailor 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 of Presentation 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 Presentation Days the following year.

\* After the 3rd Presentation 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 action item.

### **Central Examination (CE) - 70-Day Test**

The purpose of the Central Examination or CE 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 CE 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**

At the CE check-in, stallions are assessed under saddle, undergo a veterinary inspection, and receive an exterior evaluation. If the stallion passes these assessments, it is admitted to the stable for the CE.

In the event the stallion cannot be accepted for veterinary reasons, or for other reasons it 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 the 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, roaring examination). Manager of Inspection Affairs will ensure that these conditions are met.

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

### **Clinical Inspection**

Arrange for stallions to be judged calmly, keeping visitors at a distance. Place HKC and veterinarians so they can confer privately, out of earshot from presenters or owners. Set up a table behind straw bales for storing materials.

During clinical exams, stallions are evaluated in-hand on a straight line and circle on hard surfaces without sand. Any defects or irregularities are recorded in writing, and a signed copy of the report is given to the owner.

### **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 report card 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 from the second examination and the content of the report are communicated orally to the owner by the HKC. The owner receives the report along with the marks. Subsequently, all stallion grades are publicly 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 comprehensive written report will be produced for each approved stallion. This document is to be prepared collaboratively with the consultation and endorsement of the HKC. The responsibility for drafting the report rests with the HKC, working in conjunction with the Manager of Inspection Affairs. At the time of final examination or approval, the completed report shall be presented to the owner, accompanied by an explanatory verbal briefing. The report must be prepared and published within one week after approval or disapproval.

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

The KFPS prioritizes animal welfare. Stallions are trained and cared for humanely under the Training Leader's supervision. During the CE, they work on the lunge, in harness, and under saddle, with both dressage and harness training. Reports cover performance and stable behavior, as directed by staff and overseen by the Jury, and the stable master keeps a log.

At the start of the CE, a fitness test (lactate and heart rate) is conducted by the veterinarian and stable master, with results provided to the training director and HKC.

During the first week, veterinarians conduct both manure analysis and dental examinations. Any abnormal findings are reported to the HKC and the owners.

If a stallion is shod, the training leader will consult beforehand, inspect the shoes afterward, and ensure photos or a video are taken. The stallion must be properly shod.

## **Short Test**

### **KFPS Criteria**

Per the KFPS “Regulations Stallion Selection” the Short Test provides a possibility for stallions with exceptional results in one of the sport disciplines to become eligible for registration in the Studbook register, without the necessity for these stallions to complete the entire Central Examination program. Stallions who apply and are accepted for the Short Test are evaluated at the Central Examination.

**Criteria:** To be eligible for participation in the Short Test the stallions have to perform at a high level in the sport. This requirement is the same as for the Sport Elite predicate, whereby the requirement for dressage Prix St. George or higher is different and concerns at least three times a minimum score of 65%. Similar performances are required in the foreign countries, which is at the discretion of the Stallion Inspection Committee. Similar performances are required for other disciplines, which is at the discretion of the Stallion Inspection Committee.

The Short Test is open to stallions aged seven and older. Before the start of the Short Test the stallion's lineage is verified by means of a DNA test and carrier status of hereditary disorders is also determined. If the lineage proves to be incorrect the referral lapses unless the Stallion Inspection Committee upholds the referral. Before entering, the requirements for X-ray examination (Article 14) and the Analysis Semen Quality (Article 15) must be met. After entering, the Stallion Inspection Committee assesses whether a stallion is eligible for an assessment based on, among other things, his sport results. Based on the other criteria as laid down in Article 1 (Breeding Goal and Breeding Program), the Stallion Inspection Committee has the authority not to consider stallions that have met the sport requirements for an assessment.

## ATTACHMENT A – Advancing Through the KFPS Stallion Selection Process



