

## Regulations for the General Aptitude and Utility Test for Friesian Horses (ABFP)



### Location and responsibility

The General Aptitude and Utility Test for Friesian Horses (ABFP) shall be conducted at a testing station determined by the Governing Board of the KFPS and shall take place under the responsibility of the KFPS.

### Goal

The objective of the ABFP test is to provide an objective way to establish aptitude as a dressage and/or driving and/or show driving horse. Willingness to work and stable behavior will be assessed as well. The ABFP test is primarily intended to test **three, four and five-year-old mares, geldings and stallions** so that the best possible estimate of their aptitude for dressage and/or harness competition can be made at a young age. If the horse passes this test, the owner shall be issued a certificate. The results of the test are published in *Phryso* and at the KFPS website. The total score is not recorded in the studbook papers. Participating in an ABFP test can be included as a prerequisite for obtaining the Star, Crown or Model predicate (see the KFPS registration regulations).

### Time period for the testing

The testing shall be conducted over a period of 5 weeks. It is also possible to have the horse undergo a 2-week preparation for the ABFP test. This 2-week preparation is required in the case of offspring testing, so in this case, the total period will be 7 weeks.

### Basic condition

To be able to compare the mares, geldings and stallions, environmental factors must be as uniform as possible. It would thus be desirable to deliver the horses in a starting condition that is as uniform as possible. It is therefore recommended that the horses be delivered lightly ridden. In any case, the horses will need to have an adequate basic condition to be able to complete the testing. This can be achieved by lunging. It is advisable (required for horses undergoing offspring testing) to have the horses complete the seven weeks of testing. The five-week course of testing would be sufficient only for (older) horses that have been ridden more extensively.

### Training

The horses are trained five times per week. Targeted work is done five times a week, becoming progressively more intensive over the course of the test; the horses are turned out once a week. There is also one rest day each week. The horses receive a varied training, and the training is adapted to the needs of the individual horses. Training is made up of the following components:

- dressage under the saddle;
- driving work;

- lunging.

Testing reveals the horse's willingness to work, including instances when it is asked to make more of an effort. The assessment of willingness to work, which is in fact of key importance, is therefore well substantiated. The test is, after all, about talent as a utility-/sport horse. The head of training and the riders may receive no tokens of appreciation during the evaluation, nor should they be encouraged in that direction.

### Assessment

The horses will be assessed a maximum of four times. The progress made in performance will be considered when arriving at the final score. These scores are then the final scores for the assessment of aptitude as a driving horse and/or riding mount. The scoring of each element will be expressed in half and whole points. In the assessment, attention is devoted explicitly to the aptitude of the horse.

For each horse, two series of assessment scores will be made up. One for suitability as a riding mount, one for suitability as a driving horse. A separate score will be given for suitability as a show driving horse.

### Elements to be assessed

The following characteristics will be assessed: riding test, driving test and suitability as a show driving horse. The suitability as a show driving horse will be expressed by means of a separate score that will not be included in the total for the headings.

Willingness to work and ease of handling are assessed by the training supervisor.

The scores range from 0 to 10, with 10 being the maximum number of points that can be earned. At any sign of stable vices (including weaving and cribbing) a notation will be made.

The following components will be assessed:

#### Riding test:

- walk
- trot
- canter
- carriage & balance
- agility
- transitions
- impulsion

Walk	Trot	Canter	Carriage & balance	Agility	Transitions	Impulsion	Total
2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	1x	1x	

**Driving test:**

- a. walk
- b. trot
- c. carriage & balance
- d. agility
- e. transitions
- f. impulsion

Walk	Trot	Carriage & balance	Agility	Transitions	Impulsion	Total
2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	2x	

The suitability as a show driving horse will be expressed by means of a separate score that will not be included in the total for the headings.

**Willingness to work:** behavior towards people in which key aspects are the horse's disposition (attentive, phlegmatic, playful, nervous), its temperament and its manners/reliability.

Here, the following definitions apply:

Temperament: extent and speed of reacting to stimuli.

Manners/reliability: reacting to the same stimulus in the same positive manner and responding in a trustworthy fashion to people and to other horses.

**Ease of handling:** behavior in the stable, while being fed and groomed. Any sign of stable vices (e.g. weaving and cribbing) will automatically lead to a rating of "unsatisfactory" for the stable behavior component.

**Stabling**

The horses will be stabled in box stalls. If the training supervisor decides that certain animals should be moved, this person will take action accordingly. The bedding used in the stalls is straw. Only in exceptional cases will the stall floor be covered with a material other than straw. This will be done only if it becomes apparent during testing that bedding other than straw is needed or if the owner requests this in advance by submitting a veterinary statement.

**Feeding schedule**

The horses will be fed according to the schedule normally used at the station. If it becomes evident during testing that an animal needs more or less feed, the ration will be duly adjusted.

**Hoof care**

The horses' feet must be well tended at the start of the ABFP. Horses must be shod all-round with standard 8 mm. shoes. Animals that have untended feet or are not correctly shod on delivery and those requiring farrier attention during the ABFP test will be cared for at the owner's expense by a qualified farrier

appointed by the testing station. It is recommended that the horses be shod 6 weeks prior and re-shod 1 week prior to the start of the test.

### **Things to bring**

- A well-fitting bridle with a combined or dropped noseband, jumping reins and a well-fitting snaffle or eggbutt snaffle bit with a sufficiently thick mouthpiece.
  - Well-fitting rug with leg straps.
  - A well-fitting summer/winter stable blanket with hind leg straps.
  - A halter.
- This tack should be brought in good condition.

### **Fungal infections**

To prevent fungal infections, every horse will be washed upon arrival and ridden in its own tack during the test.

### **Veterinary matters**

The horses must be in the kind of condition in which participating in the test would not be expected to lead to any problems.

- The horses must be immunized against **influenza**. This means that they must have had a primary vaccination. These are two successive injections in which the second injection is given a number of weeks (a minimum of 3 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks) after the first injection. After the primary vaccination, the horse must have been given a booster injection once every year in which the last vaccination must have taken place no longer than three months and no sooner than 1 week before the start of the test.
- In addition, the delivered horses must be immunized against **rhinopneumonitis**. Two vaccinations must have been given prior to the start of the test, specifically, a first injection given 6 weeks and a second given 2 weeks before the start of the test. These vaccinations must then be repeated according to the vaccination schedule provided by the manufacturer of the vaccine.
- The horses must have been wormed between 4 and no longer than 6 weeks before the start of the test.
- The horses should have been washed to prevent fungal infections before arriving at the testing station.
- Any health problems should be reported so that it can be determined ahead of time whether it would be wise to let the horse participate in the test.
- The horse's teeth should be checked before delivery to the testing station.

Upon the arrival of the mares, geldings and stallions and upon their departure, the animals will be inspected by a veterinarian and the findings recorded in writing. These reports should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner.

**Correctly completed passports must also be submitted.** If this condition is not met, the horses will be denied admittance and the owner will not be allowed to reclaim the financial contribution.

The horses will be attended to by the testing station's veterinarian throughout the entire ABFP test, so that any veterinary problems can be recognized and treated as effectively as possible. Veterinary treatments of the horses will be reported to the owners. The owner will receive a separate bill for any veterinary care.

In case a horse has a health problem, is referred to a veterinary clinic, or is involved in any other kind of disastrous situation, the training supervisor will notify the horse's owner by telephone as quickly as possible.

The veterinarian and the training supervisor may reject horses that constitute a danger to their own health and to that of others from participating in the ABFP test.

### **Microchip requirement**

Your horse must have had a transponder implanted previous to participation. If this is not the case, an exemption for this must have been requested and the DNA procedure must have been conducted.

### **Getting behind in the training schedule**

If a horse gets so far behind in the training schedule that it will not be possible to complete the final examination, the jury will consult with the owner about referring the horse to a later test. Any extra expenses for a possible longer stay at the testing station will be billed to the owner.

Should the horse not be able due to veterinary reasons to complete the ABFP test within the established time period, efforts will be made in accordance with the objective of having the horse complete the ABFP test at a later time if this is possible. If the horse will be unable to continue taking the test at a time to be determined later, the contribution made for feed and stabling costs for the days that the horse did not spend at the station will be refunded.

### **List of questions**

Before the test begins, the owner will receive a list of questions. This list should be completed and returned to the KFPS office no later than one week before the horse arrives at the testing station.

### **Responsibility**

The KFPS and the stations, along with their officials and personnel, cannot be held responsible for any damages either directly or indirectly the result of participating in the ABFP test. The stations are responsible for feeding, accommodating and training, and the stations and/or the KFPS will insure each horse for up to € 6800 for damages caused by fire and breakout. Any other kind of coverage (e.g. theft, health or accidents) will have to be provided by the owner.

### **Jury**

The jury will be composed of qualified jury members who are appointed by the KFPS.

### **Closing activities**

The closing activities take place on the Tuesday and the Thursday of the final week of the test. This practice might be deviated from in some instances, in which case you will be informed in a timely manner. On the Friday after the closing activities, there is an opportunity to present the horses for a studbook inspection and possible star title. Costs for this are incurred by the owner.

### **Departure and checkout examination by the veterinarian**

The checkout examination of the horses by the veterinarian takes place on the final Thursday of the test following the assessment. At this time, the owner or someone representing the owner has to be present.

The horses are to leave the station after the closing activities or directly following the studbook inspection on Friday.

### **Provision of information**

During the ABFP test, no information will be conveyed regarding the behavior and progress of the horses.

### **Complaints or comments**

Comments or complaints about the ABFP test can be submitted in writing to Mr. I. Hellinga of the KFPS.

### **Results**

The jury committee records its findings on a certificate. If necessary, it supplements the scores with a short explanatory note and supplies all information of significance. Finally, the jury committee authenticates the certificate by dating and signing it. At the end of the test, the results will be reported to the parties concerned. On completion of the activities, the certificate will be mailed to those concerned. The results will also be published in *Phryso* and at the KFPS website.

### **Conditions**

By having the horse take part in the ABFP test, the owner declares him/herself in agreement with the above. The Board of the KFPS shall decide on all matters not covered by these general conditions.