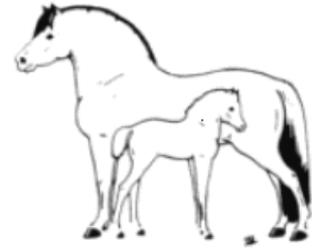




Het Nederlandse Fjordenpaarden Stamboek



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THE DUTCH EVALUATION SYSTEM OF THE NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE HOW DOES THE DUTCH EVALUATION WORK?

The Dutch word "Keuring" means inspection. The keuring portion of the evaluation process is the heart of any evaluation system, for it provides a method of intelligently selecting breeding stock. It also provides the means of positively identifying each horse utilizing blood typing, branding and/or micro chipping.

Judging a horse gives the judge a responsibility because he has to be honest and the owner of the horse has to get an independent and competent, complete judgement about the horse. Every judgement that is given must be explainable into the technical terms that are used on the result note. As a judge will look from the standard fjord horse and besides that his own ideal fjord horse, so there will be no use of information from breeders, owners, offspring and breeding lines.

There are two sets of premiums in the Dutch Evaluation system.

- If your horse is under three years old, the horse will receive an A-, B-, or C-rating premium.
- If your horse is three years or older, it will receive a first, second or third rating premium.
- **Model Mare or Gelding;**
A "Model" horse must have received a first premium and must complete the ABOP-test of your choice with AA/A or B rating.
- **Ster Mare or Gelding;**
To become a "Ster" horse your horse must receive a "first class Model horse" and complete the ABOP-test of your choice with an AA/A-rating.
- **Model or Ster Aspirant Mare or Gelding;**
Aspirant means "aspiring". This predicate means that your horse has received a 1st premium (Aspirant Model) or a first class (Aspirant Ster) but didn't complete the ABOP-test (Or didn't complete it with an AA/A- or B-rating.)
You have a time span of two years to complete or to improve the result of the ABOP-test of your choice.

- **Approval stallion;**
A proven stallion is a stallion with at least 35 points for conformation and that has completed the ABOP-test with an AA/A-rating.
Foreign stallions:
Horse-passport (with a note from authorities for exporting the horse)
Certificate notes of stallion show.
Certificate DNA-test from certified laboratory.
Veterinarian-report as written in the FHI-handbook.
Certificate performance test with positive result
- **Model Stallion;**
A "Model" stallion is a stallion with a second premium, that has received at least one extra predicate (Keur, Preferent or Prestatie)
- **Ster Stallion;**
A "Ster" stallion is a stallion with a 1st-premium, that has received at least two predicates (Keur, Preferent or Prestatie)

✓ **Prestatie (Mares, Geldings and Stallions)**

The Prestatie predicate is a performance achievement. Any horse may achieve prestatie. The horse achieves points based on the ABOP-tests and also in competition classes. The horse must achieve "A" certification on one of the two driving tests and the riding test.

✓ **Keur (Mares and Stallions)**

A "Keur" mare / stallion must have a certain number of offspring. This predicate shows the horse to be a good producer. The minimum rate for the mares is 6 foals in 7 breeding seasons. The stallions must have a minimum of 65% foals within 3 years with a minimum of 25 foals a year. If that is not possible the stallion must have over a minimum of a 100 coverings counted at least 3 years with a maximum of 70% of foals.

✓ **Preferent (Mares and Stallions)**

The mare must have a minimum of three foals offspring which have attained the level of "model". The stallion must have a minimum of 30% of his offspring which have attained the level of "model", with a minimum of ten horses. Preferent shows the mare and stallion to be a high quality producer.

✓ **Elite (Mares and Stallions)**

This horse has attained all the levels of "Model", "Ster", "Prestatie", "Keur" and "Preferent".

In summary, the following list shows the total achievements possible for each gender of horse;
Stallions - Mares: First, second or third premium; model (first and second class); ster; prestatie; keur; preferent; elite.

Geldings: First, second or third premium; model (first and second class); ster; prestatie.

Evaluation Judges form

When you bring your horse in for evaluation in halter, the judges or inspectors will fill in a chart indicating their conclusions on the conformation and movement of the horse. You will receive a copy of this chart, so that you can read their comments and understand their evaluation.

CONFORMATION

The 5 point system:

1. Breed character and type
2. Conformation (the body) and muscular development
3. Bone quality and leg position
4. Movement at the walk and trot
5. Overall impression

THE AGRICULTURAL DRAFT PERFORMANCE ABOP

The Agricultural draft test will use a test wagon on a flat surface with different weights used for different commands. Walk, stop, rest and trot command patterns will make up the test. There are 8 categories that will be judged, with each category given a valuation of between 1 and 10, 10 being the best score. The total possible score is 80.

1. Four times the horse has to pull in a walk a distance of 50 m, the first time 65 kg (487.5 kg) second time 100 kg (750 kg), third time 135 kg (1012.5 kg) and last time 175 kg (1312.5.) (One horsepower is about 0.75)
 2. For a distance of 300 meter, without hesitation go in a walk to pull 35 kg less than the maximum of the last time.
 3. For a distance of 375 m without hesitation in a trot while the pull is 65 kg.
- The horse has to be unhitched during the test and put in front of the stone bat again.

This is the usability test during which eight qualities are tested.

A. Behaviour during harnessing and hitching

B. Manner of starting to pull, urging forward.

The way of pulling forwards.

Pulling forwards: the first move to go forward with the load.

C. Willingness to work.

The willingness and ability to do the work quietly and in a balanced way.

D. Posture during pulling: How the body stands while working.

E. Stability during pulling: The input, without doubt, to do the work that is asked, in an overall tempo, while not seeing the outdoor effects.

F. Extension, flowing/smooth/energetic style and regularity of paces.

Extension: the length of the strides.

Flowing/smooth/energetic: the easiness, energetic/elasticity and flowed movement and balanced without any pressure. Regularity: the movement goes in the rhythm and cadence.

G. Temperament: The natural behaviour of the mind of the horse.

H. Behaviour during the performance: The way of doing, acting and reaction of the asked tasks.

According to the results, the examined horse will be assigned to one of the following quality classes.:

- AA Total points minimum of 72; 8 points is only given once, all other points higher than 8.
- A Total points minimum of 64, 7 points is only given once, all other points higher than 7.
- B 6 Points is only given once, all other points higher than 6.
- C 5 points is only given once, all other points higher than 5.

DRIVING PERFORMANCE ABOP

Conditions

Measurement driving corridor: at least 25 x 50 metres with a maximum of 30 x 60 metres.

Harness of the horse: collar or breast harness. Using a tail strap with normal culeron / crupper is required. The use of appliances such as heavy or adapted irons, over check reins, tail lifters, ear covers, ginger, etc. are not allowed.

There must be driven with a four wheel carriage (preferably a show carriage)

At the draft test an agricultural wagon which has a ballast of 500 kg will be used.

The driving performance will use the same or a slightly larger arena than the Recreation Horse Exam, with the same letters as in a dressage arena. The total possible score is 110.

Here is a list of the categories:

- A. Behaviour during harnessing and hitching
- B. Way of going at walk
- C. Way of going at trot
- D. Manoeuvrability and elasticity
- E. Body posture, position and manoeuvrability
- F. Willingness and stability
- G. Temperament
- H. Transitions and being in hand.
- I. Obedience
- J. Character and temperament
- K. General impression

The examination of the driving horse exists of three items, marked with 1, 2 and 3 and is examined on notes A till K.

1. Harness and unharness the horse

The examination will be outside.

The jury is during the test required to let you unhitch and unharness your horse. After that you need to reharNESS your horse and put him back in front of the carriage. This whole process needs to be done by one person; meanwhile one other person holds the horse by the head.

When the whole process can be done without any help, the grade will be the highest.

A. Behaviour: the way the horse is acting.

Harnessing: the horse is put into the harness.

Hitching: to put the horse in front of the carriage.

2. The driving test

A dressage test in which the following can be judged: the walk, the trot, stretched out trot and shortened trot, transitions, holds and appliance of the horse.

B. Way of going in a walk.

C. Way of going in a trot.

Extension, flowing/smooth/energetic style and regularity of paces.

Flowing/smooth/energetic: the easiness, energetic/elasticity and flowed movement and balance without any pressure.

Regularity: the movement goes in the rhythm and cadence.

D. Manoeuvrability and elasticity

The “durchlassigkeit”/ “free ability” must be light, acceptance of the bridles and lightness of the forehead. The horse must have desire to move forward, elasticity in the steps, elasticity in the back and engagement in the hind quarters. Bending of the horse is there to get the horse elastic and more athletic and against stiffness.

Riding transitions from passages and speed changes should be good for the elasticity of the horse, and so you can see if the horse stays in hand of the rider.

3. The draft test

At the draft test an agricultural wagon which has a ballast of 500 kg will be used. The horse will be judged on the following points:

Manner of starting to pull, urging forward

The way of pulling forwards.

Pulling forwards: the first move to go forward with the load.

E. Body posture, position and manoeuvrability

Manner of starting to pull, urging forward

The way of pulling forwards.

Pulling forwards: the first move to go forward with the load.

F. Willingness to work and stability.

Willingness to work is the willingness and ability to do the work quietly and in a balanced way.

Posture during pulling

How the body stands while working.

Stability during pulling. The input, without doubt, to do the work that is asked, in an overall tempo, while not seeing the outdoor effects.

G. Temperament

Temperament is the natural behaviour from the mind of the horse.

Behaviour during the whole performance

The behaviour can be seen as the way of doing, acting and reacting of the horse on the asked tasks.

H. Transitions and being in hand

The way the horse is behaving during transitions and is in balance between the two reins, it is letting the asked tasks through.

I. Obedience and how the horse reacts during the whole test

The horse is reacting on the signals of the rider during the whole performance and stays under control of the rider. Does the horse have all the asked qualities which are written, during the dressage test, jumping and riding outside?

J. Character

The horse must be in inner peace of himself.

K. The total impression of the whole performance makes the overall impression.

You must consider that in fact all qualities are being together with another.

To enable the jury to judge the behaviour of the horse during harnessing and hitching, the horse must be introduced without harness and at a halter before the examination.

An introduced horse will be allowed to do the examination when, according to the jury:

- The horse is in sufficient condition
- The horse will be used in a well fitted harness
- The guide of the horse does react proper on the signs of the jury

Classes of quality

Based on the final rapport the jury will classify each horse into one of the classes of quality conform the schedule riding performance.

RIDING PERFORMANCE ABOP

Conditions

Measurement riding corridor: 20 x 40 metre

Harness of the horse: Snaffle bridle with correction noseband, English noseband or combined noseband. A smooth single broken bit, with single or double reins. The use of a straight mouth bit, breaking equipments, brushing boots, bandages and fetlock boots is not allowed.

Using spurs is allowed unless the length of the spurs is not longer than 15 millimetres. A whip with the maximum of 75 centimetres is also allowed.

The rider, which rides the horse, requires wearing a helmet.

The riding performance examination is a test in which there will become a good sight of the horse's walk, trot, canter, elasticity, manoeuvrability, compliance for jumping, diligence and temperament. Also the behaviour and compliance at riding outside the riding corridor will be tested

For each ABOP test there is also an evaluation sheet which you will receive with the judge's specific valuations and remarks on each category and qualities.

For the riding performance, there are three areas of performance; a test on the flat using a rectangular arena with letters, the standard small dressage arena, in which the horse (not the rider) is examined at the walk, trot and canter; a jumping test of 2 jumps, set at a height of two feet, to be jumped in both directions at a trot or canter; and a trail test of approximately 2000 meter, 1000 meters to be done at the walk and 1000 meters to be done at the trot.

There are eleven categories that will be judged, with each category given a valuation of between 1 and 10. The total possible score is 110. Here is a list of the categories;

- A. Behaviour of horse during saddling, mounting, accepting the weight of the rider, dismounting.
- B. Way of going at the walk
- C. Way of going at the trot
- D. Way of going at the canter
- E. Willingness during jumping
- F. Behaviour during trail ride
- G. Body posture and manoeuvrability
- H. Obedience
- I. Diligence and temperament
- J. Character (attitude)
- K. Overall impression

1. A. Saddling, mounting and dismounting

The horse must be showed to the jury on a halter, a bridle must be put on, the horse must get saddled and get mounted by his rider. During this process the horse may be hold on the head by one person. But, the less the help, the higher the grades.

Behaviour of the horse during saddling, mounting, acceptance of the rider's weight and dismounting

Behaviour: the way the horse is acting.

Saddling: putting the harness (saddle and bridle) on the horse.

Mounting: getting on the horse.

Acceptance: that the horse lets his rider on his back.

Dismounting: getting off the horse.

2. Dressage

B. Way of going at walk

The walk is regular, free and relaxed. It is a marching way, where the legs follow in a four tact movement. The middle walk is a walk where the strides have more length with a descend neck, without getting any faster.

C. Way of going at trot

The trot is a two tact movement where there is a caring between the diagonals movement of the legs. The trot is always active and with a regularity of movement without any doubt. The middle trot is a trot in which the length there strides and with forward engagement of the hind legs without going faster.

D. Way of going at canter

The canter is a three tact movement. The canter should always be regular and with strides in cadence, within lightness in a resolute stride forward. A four tact canter is not desirable, that is not clear. The middle canter is a canter in which the length of the strides is longer and not faster.

General

All the movements must be in cadence that are: powerful, in tact, in rhythm and harmony.

Tact: the exact regularity of the movement: all strides must be the same.

Tempo: the way of moving forward in speed, in all movements.

3. Jumping

E. Jumping test

Conditions:

Two obstacles must be jumped both twice, so that gives a minimum of four jumps.

Obstacle 1: straight obstacle with two bars and a ground bar, height: 60 centimetres.

Obstacle 2: double bar parallels with at the front and at the reverse side both two bars.

Height: 60 centimetres, total width: 75 centimetres.

Three times refusing in one test will be judged by a 0, but the rest of the test may be passed through, so it is still possible to adjudge a total mark.

Willingness and how the horse is reacting during jumping

If the horse likes to jump, if the horse lets the rider ride and stays in hand.

The tempo must be under control, the easiness how the horse jumps over the obstacle, with the right expression on the face of the horse.

4. Riding Outside

The horse and rider must pass a ride outside of approximately 2000 metres. Approximately 1000 metres will be passed walking and approximately 1000 metres trotting.

The ride will take place on a fenced path or pasture. The ride may never take place on a public way.

To be able to judge the reliability of the horse during riding outside the jury is allowed to desire from the rider and horse to pass some artificial obstacles. For example: flickering flags, a garden umbrella or a moving tractor.

F. Behaviour and obedience while riding outside

The behaviour of the horse during riding outside will be judged.

The horse must follow all the signals that are given by the rider. The horses must pass another in different movements. The horses must be put in different situations like going besides people and cattle, beware of an umbrella and traffic. This must be done quiet and without any attempts to take off.

G. Manoeuvrability and elasticity

The "durchlassigkeit"/ "free ability" must be light, acceptance of the bridles and lightness of the forehand. The horse must have desire to move forward, elasticity in the steps, elasticity in the back and engagement in the hind quarters. Bending of the horse is there to get the horse elastic and more athletic and against stiffness.

Riding transitions from passages and speed changes should be good for the elasticity of the horse, and so you can see if the horse stays in hand of the rider.

I. Diligence, temperament and impulse

Diligence and temperament is the natural behaviour of the horse.

The impulse to the movement of the horse is in control of the rider. It is a horse that is willing to move with power and movement impulse. The horse must be good at reacting when the rider gives him a signal and goes easy forward.

The horse must react free, easy and quick to the signals of the rider.

H. Obedience and how the horse reacts during the whole test

The horse is reacting on the signals of the rider during the whole performance and stays under control of the rider. Does the horse have all the asked qualities which are written, during the dressage test, jumping and riding outside?

J. Character

The horse must be in inner peace of himself.

K. Overall impression

The total impression of the whole performance makes the overall impression.

You must consider that in fact all qualities are being together with another.

An introduced horse will be allowed to do the examination when, according to the jury:

- The horse is in sufficient condition
- The horse will be used in a well fitted saddle and bridle.
- The rider of the horse does react proper on the signs of the jury

Classes of quality

Based on the final rapport the jury will classify each horse into one of the classes of quality conform the schedule beneath.

AA: When the sum of the marks is at least 90 and there is no mark beneath an 8.

A: When the sum of the marks is at least 88 and there is no mark beneath a 7 on the following items: character, obedience and temperament.

B: When the sum of the marks is at least 77 and there is no mark beneath a 6 on the following items: character, obedience and temperament.

C: When the sum of the marks is at least 66 and there is no mark beneath a 6 on the following items: character, obedience and temperament.

D: When the sum of the marks is beneath 66 it will be registered.

If the horse does not suffice one of the quality classes as required above, the horse will get no classification.