

FOREWORD

The main task of Fjord Horse International (FHI) is to connect the international interests related to the Fjord Horse breed. In order to develop this idea, the founders of FHI, Norges Fjordhestlag and Norsk Hestesenter instituted the "Breeders' Conference". The agendas of the first two sessions at the 1998 and 1999 conferences dealt with general information on different aspects of the breeding rules.

During the winter of 1999/2000 a questionnaire, relating to the education of judges, was sent by FHI to the national organisations. An evaluation of the answers received led to a draft being drawn up to be used as a basis for discussion by FHI. At the Breeders' Conference of May 2000 the FHI and the national organisations agreed that a group of experienced judges should be asked to work on this project of setting up common rules for the education of judges. A resolution was drawn up to this effect. Subsequently several countries received a written invitation to name an expert judge as a commission member.

In September 2000 a group of five people started work on the first of four meetings designed to prepare an international judges' educational program. This group became known as the FHI Judges' Commission.

During the commission meetings, the original aim of setting up a "Judges' Educational Program", changed. The commission came to the conclusion that the international breeding organisations first needed acceptable international standards for judging before organised general education could be initiated.

The contents of "The Official Handbook for Fjord Horse Judges" are the result of detailed discussions, where different points of view arose. Answers from the organisations to questions on many different subjects and items of interest, were taken into account throughout the discussions and have been incorporated into the final Handbook.

The contents of the first edition of "The Official Hand Book for Fjord Horse Judges" document and describe the breed standard and establish an accurate record of the history of the breed. In the future, some chapters may be added and/or modified; however it is the strong belief of this FHI Judges' Commission that the breed standard with "The Breeding Goal" and "The Description of The Breed" be established as a guide to the future breeding of the Fjord Horse.

From the summer of 2001 the Norsk Hestesenter was an active participant at the Judges' Commission meetings, and this participation emphasised the importance of the work. Its added support and contributions to this important effort have been gratefully appreciated.

On occasion of the 'Breeders' Conference' in Norway in May 2002, a first print of 'The Official Handbook for Fjord Horse Judges' was presented to the international breeding organizations with the request to read and discuss it and to send in their comments. During the 5th commission meeting in October 2002, which was called in order to finish the Handbook, the contents of the chapters were once more finally discussed. This time Magne Hus, the leader of Norges Fjordhestlag actively took part in the meeting. Three weeks later the board of Norges Fjordhestlag agreed to the intention and the contents of the Handbook, and decided to adapt the chapters "The Breeding Goal" and "The Description of the Breed" into the next revision of the Norwegian Breeding Plan.

The Judges' Commission is convinced that the Official Handbook now presented, is a sound base from which to start work on the general education of judges, breeders and owners of the Fjord Horse. It shall serve as an initial guide and as a base for future discussions. The success of "The Official Hand Book for Fjord Horse Judges" is entirely dependant on its use by all the recognized Fjord Horse Studbooks/breed societies throughout the world.

Together with Norges Fjordhestlag and Norsk Hestesenter the Fjord Horse International Association must maintain an ongoing leadership role by continuing to monitor the value and contribution of this text.

The members of the "Judges Commission";

Arne Presthus - Norges Fjordhestlag, until May 2002

Helen Indrebø – Norges Fjordhestlag

Flemming Strange-Hansen - Fjordhesteavlén i Danmark

Eike Schön-Petersen - Interessengemeinschaft Fjordpferd, Germany

Wayne G. Hipsley - Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry, USA

Oda Münch-Bronk - Vice-President FHI, Switzerland

Susan Hellum - Norsk Hestesenter

Tore Kvam - Norsk Hestesenter

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