

FPZV STALLION PERFORMANCE TEST



The cross country jumping test is held on the final day of the SPT, and is well-attended by the general public. Friesians are not known as jumping horses, but they seem to enjoy the challenge.



The ridden dressage test is the equivalent of a combined First and Second Level USDF test. It is ridden by the foreign rider before FEI-lettered judges on the first day of the SPT.



The driving test is held on the second day and requires the horse to pass a Preliminary Level cones obstacle course test as well as a driven dressage test.



The heavy sled pull is conducted after the driving test. It tests the stallion's willingness to pull a heavy load against resistance without the help of wheels.



Part of Keuring the stallion is to judge its natural gaits- walk, trot, and canter- both in hand and at liberty. Here the Breeding Director is judging a trot in hand, made easier by the flat white pavement at the SPT facility. The black bowler hat is the traditional mark of a German FN registry judge.



The final night of the SPT features a formal but fun awards ceremony where the stallions that passed their Performance Test are presented to an audience of owners, FPZV officials, and invited guests.

The 50-day Stallion Performance Test (SPT) takes place bi-annually in Texas, typically in the even numbered years. Most of the 50 testing days are conducted under two trainers who are licensed, certified and selected by Germany's Federation Nationale (FN). One trainer special-

izes in driving, and the other in riding, both dressage and jumping. They traditionally are brought over from Europe.

The first step in the process is to present the stallions to the trainers for admission to the testing. If a horse is judged unsafe, or lacking basic training, it can be rejected on the spot. So it is very important that the stallions have been started under saddle and in harness prior to their arrival.

During the 50 days, the trainers grade the stallions based on 30 separate categories. Good temperament is a key qualification along with their gaits and trainability. Two weeks prior to the end of the test, the FN approves and certifies a qualified 'foreign' rider and driver (usually based in the US, but who have never worked with the stallions) to independently score the gaits and other qualities of the horse.

At the end of the testing period, the stallions must then pass four separate tests that are judged by three FN-qualified judges. These judges' scores are independent of the scores of the trainers and foreign rider and driver. The final tests are in ridden dressage, driven dressage, cross country jumping and the heavy pull. Most stallion owners attend this part of the 50-day test. This final testing is also open to the public and, and like all FPZV USA judging, the scoring is quantified and completely transparent.