

FPZV KEURINGS

INSPECTIONS

In the Fall of each year, an inspection tour is organized at various sites in the United States. The judging team consists of the Breeding Director and another FN qualified judge affiliated with the FPZV. The members present their horses in hand and at liberty at the site that is most convenient to the member.

Under the principle of transparency, the judging is open to the public and each horse presented receives a numerical score based on the illustrated score sheet. On the front of the score sheet there is one score for conformation and another score for movement- walk, trot and canter- then a total score that is more heavily weighted toward the judged movement. The back of the score sheet details all of the conformation characteristics that are taken into consideration. Each horse's qualities are described in



detail so that, for example, if a mare is being bred, the owner has the opportunity to offset some weak char-

acteristics with the defined strengths of a given stallion. This detailed written inspection is invaluable to any breeding program. In addition to the score sheet, the judges will provide commentary about each horse. Members are encouraged to ask any and all questions of the judge and Breeding Director because the underlying purpose of the inspection is education.

The numerical grade the horse receives translates to a Premium award as follows:

- Premium 1- Over 8.0
- Premium 2- 7.0 - 7.9
- Premium 3- 6.0 - 6.9

Occasionally a horse will receive less than 6.0 and consequently earns no Premium.



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FOALS

When a foal is born a birth announcement is sent to the FPZV, along with hair samples for DNA recording and matching. This ensures that the foal is out of the stated mare and by the stated stallion on the report. However the foal is not registered until it has been inspected.

FOALS "cont. d"

After the foal is inspected, it will receive its appropriate registration papers. The vast majority of foals will receive full registration papers. Some foals however, because of a problem with their lineage, such as a non-approved sire in the past four generations, will receive a different color registration paper. On rare occasions, when the foal does not meet the minimum standards of the breed, it will receive only a Birth Certificate and not be registered.

MARES

Typically, when a mare is between 3 and 5 years old, she is presented as an adult. The judging is the same as it was for the foals. The mares will be presented for their second set of Premium awards and will be registered in the Studbook. The mare must be properly registered in the Studbook prior to producing a registered foal.

Additionally, mares can be recommended for Star or Model status. If the mare is so recommended, she must also pass the Star Performance Test to earn the award. The Star Performance Test is administered at the inspection site and it includes a defined ridden and/or driven dressage test that is scored by the judges.



Typically, 25% of all Studbook mares will earn their Star status. Model mares are very rare and account for less than 2% of all Studbook mares.

GELDINGS

It is the option of the owner to present their geldings for the award of Star Gelding. To earn this status, the horse must receive a score of 7.0 (Premium 2) or better and then pass the Star Performance Test.

STALLIONS

Stallions are Keured rather than simply inspected. Keuring is an in-depth inspection procedure based on conformation and movement.

Like the Breeding Director, FPZV judges are highly qualified equine experts who can discern the slightest differences in gaits and conformation. The inspection score sheets reflect this attention to detail.

The Keuring process also requires comprehensive leg x-rays and other medical testing. It is conducted over a 2- or 3-day period. The Keuring is held bi-annually during the Stallion Performance Test (SPT).

To be Approved as a Studbook breeding stallion he must pass both the Keuring and the SPT. Only then will the stallion be entered into the Studbook. FPZV has an approved facility in the United States for the purposes of administering the SPT and Keuring. Approximately 15% of all stallions will earn this valuable status. All other stallions are eligible to earn their Star status under the same criteria as geldings.

Because of the geographical size of the United States, it may not be practical to ship a stallion a long distance just for a Keuring. Members are given the option of presenting their stallion for a Pre-Keuring review at sites around the country. The results will be stated as *highly recommended*, *recommended* or *not recommended* for the stallion to enter the Keuring. There will be no score received based on this service; it is strictly an accommodation by the FPZV. A designation of "highly recommended" or "recommended" is not a guarantee that the stallion will pass the Keuring, but this service does give the stallion owner an initial indication of the horse's quality.

If the owner decides to pursue the Approval process after a Pre-Keuring review, the next step is to submit the x-rays and medical testing for approval by FPZV prior to the final step of sending the horse to the Keuring and Stallion Performance Test.