

The Koninklijke Vereniging 'Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek'

The Koninklijke Vereniging 'Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek' (KFPS) has been registering Friesian horses since 1879. Today, more than 40,000 horses are registered and the studbook has 13,000 members. Outside of the Netherlands, these members are organized into their own national associations that maintain close ties with the KFPS. Most of the Dutch members are affiliated with breeding associations that organize many activities every year, including their own regional breeders' events.

The Friesch Paarden-Stamboek serves as an organization for registering and inspecting Friesian horses and also provides answers to general breeding questions such as those concerning breeding objectives. Much of this information is published in the colorful and informative monthly magazine, *Phryso*, which all Dutch members receive after subscribing, and at the website (www.kfps.nl). This site can also provide a wealth of information about the member's own horse or any other horses or studbook stallions.

The Friesian horse

Powerful beauty

The Friesian horse is the only breed of horse native to the Netherlands; even during the 13th century, horses of the Friesian type were being described. By applying a consistent policy of breeding, Friesian horses as we know them today still share the specific breed characteristics and therefore similarities with their ancient ancestors. Typical of these "black pearls" are their beautiful front, thick hair on mane, tail and fetlocks, black color and their extended powerful lofty gaits. The well-proportioned structure of the noble head placed on a slightly arched neck is a perfect expression of this breed's elegant appearance and proud bearing. Its friendly character is the key to a fine horse that can be used for many purposes.

A horse for many uses

Its beautiful self-carriage, willingness to work and eagerness to learn make today's Friesian a highly favored dressage horse; in days gone by, these

horses were used as war horses, trotters, coach horses and on farms as draft horses. The Friesian horse is still driven with the traditional Frisian gig, show carts, etc. Driven alone, as a pair, in tandem or in a *klavertje-drie* (a team of three with one horse in front followed by two side by side), these horses compete against each other in their own sports events. Friesians are also measuring up well when competing against other breeds in combined driving events and other disciplines.

Purchasing a Friesian horse

When you want to buy a Friesian horse, the KFPS can provide you with a list of addresses of all the stallion managers from which you can make a choice. The KFPS does not play an intermediary role in these purchases.

In buying a horse, there are several important factors. The most important is the purpose for which you are buying the horse. After all, the criteria for a broodmare are not the same as those for a horse to be used in competitive equine sports.

Always make sure that a horse has a valid passport and studbook document. The chip number on both documents must agree with the number of the microchip inserted into the surface on the left side of the neck around 4 inches below the mane.

The studbook documents for the main class (the KFPS book) are printed on paper in tints of green, yellow-green and light gray. The paper used in making the registration document in the KFPS D book are tinted yellow, pinkish red and light gray. The papers for Bijboek I are tinted orange, reddish brown and light gray. The colors for Bijboek II are red, blue and light gray.

The proof of registration is laminated and is certified by means of a palpable relief stamp of the Koninklijke Vereniging "Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek".

When you have bought a Friesian horse, the person who sold it to you will send the proof of registration to the KFPS with your name and address (the name and address of the new owner) on the reverse side. At the studbook office in Drachten, the horse will be transferred to the name of the new owner who will automatically become a member of the KFPS.

After paying membership dues and administration costs, the new owner will get the valid proof of registration sent to his/her home address.

Registration process

Stallion →	KFPS studbook	Approved stallions of KFPS daughter studbook	Foalbook with breeding permit	Foalbook/ Bb I/ Bb II
Mare ↓				
KFPS-stb/mc/fb	KFPS-stb/fb	KFPS-D-stb/fb	Bb I	Bb II
KFPS-D-stb/fb	KFPS-stb/fb	KFPS-D-stb/fb	Bb I	Bb II
Bb I	Bb I	Bb I	Bb I	Bb II
Bb II	Bb II	Bb I	Bb I	Bb II

Table showing registration procedures

Registration of foals

Every breeding of a Friesian mare with a Friesian stallion has to be registered with the KFPS. The KFPS will then provide the stallion manager with a birth notification that he will send on to the owner of the mare.

The birth notification has to be sent to the KFPS within two weeks after the birth of the foal. The owner then gets a confirmation of the birth sent to his/her home address. Later, when the foal gets its microchip implanted, this birth confirmation, accompanied by the barcode on the chip, can be sent to the KFPS. Once this information is processed, the owner gets the accompanying proof of registration and a horse passport sent to his/her home address.

The fees applied to these processes can be found at the KFPS website.

The foals can be implanted with their microchip at one of the KFPS inspections by a special team. This can also be done at home by the veterinarian or microchip consultant.

Breeding goal KFPS

A functionally and harmoniously built usable horse that has the Friesian breed characteristics, is healthy and vital, and has aptitude to perform in sport.

The breeding goal consists of various components that can be subdivided into: 1) exterior and movement, 2) use, and 3) vitality and health. The subcomponents of these components are reflected in the breeding program by selection criteria.

The breeding goal below needs to be seen as the description of the breed characteristics, as described in decree 92/353/EEG, pint 3, part b), second hyphen of the addendum.

1. Exterior and movement

Breed characteristics

General

A horse that by its characteristic front, abundance of hair, black color, and roomy, elevated gaits (knee action) makes a luxurious and proud impression.

Head

A small, expressive, noble head, in which the eyes are placed far apart. The nose bone is preferably a bit dished. Large nostrils. The jaws are light and the length of the opening of the mouth long. The eyes are large and clear. The small, attentive ears point lightly towards each other.

Neck

The long neck and pole together form a lightly upwardly bent line. The neck shows much elevation.

Hair

The Friesian horse has an abundance of hair in the form of mane, tail, and feathers.

Color

The color of all hair is black. White markings are allowed on the face if they do not exceed 3.2 cm and are not located below the eye line. White markings elsewhere on the body of the horse are not allowed.

Built

General

A harmoniously, functionally, evenly, and upwardly built horse with a long forearm and not too heavy in the body. The horse is placed in a rectangle with a ratio between front end, middle section, and hind end is 1:1:1.

Head/neck connection

a. Pole

The pole is long (hand-width) with a flowing connection to the neck.

b. The throatlatch

The throatlatch has an open underline with room by the throat.

Neck

The neck is long with good upper musculation, which creates a light curvature. The neck comes high out of the chest and has a flowing connection with the withers.

Shoulder

The shoulder is long and sloping (an angle with a horizontal line between 45 and 50 degrees).

The angle of the chest has to be minimally 90 degrees.

Rib cage

The ribs are long and curved.

Withers

The high withers flow into the back.

Back

The back is strong and muscled (not tight or weak). The back has a flowing connection with the withers and loins. The length of the back is proportionate to the length of the front end and hindquarters.

Loins

The loins are strong (not tight or sunken), broad and muscled, and flow into the croup.

Croup

The croup is long (measured between the vertical lines of the point of the hip and seat bone). It is lightly sloping and muscled.

Gaskin muscle

The gaskin muscle is long and developed.

Legs

The front legs are as seen from the front placed perpendicularly with a hoof width in between. As seen from the side the front leg is perpendicular through the fetlock joints. The forearm and the cannon are long. The fetlock joints are oval and dry as seen from the side.

The hind legs are straight (parallel) as seen from behind. As seen from the side the angle of the hock is between 145 and 150 degrees. The gaskin is well muscled. The hock is dry, hard, and well developed (broad and deep). The fetlock joints are oval and dry as seen from the side.

The pasterns are long and flex. The front pasterns have an angle with the ground from 45 to 50 degrees. The hind pasterns have an angle with the ground of 50 to 55 degrees.

The feet are of good size and well formed, even, and befitting the horse. The feet are wider in front than behind.

Movement

Walk

The walk is roomy and a pure 4-beat. The legs are straight in walk as seen from the front and behind.

The hind leg shows bend in the hock and is powerfully and well placed under the body. The hind leg moves the foreleg, which is moved forward with room and lots of freedom in the shoulder.

Trot

The trot is a pure 2-beat. The hind leg is powerfully and well placed under the body and shows with that much bend in the hock.

The front leg shows knee action and is well placed forward.

The trot is characterized by suppleness and a long moment of suspension. The horse shows with that much balance and rises in the front with an elevated neck. As seen from the front and the back the legs need to be straight.

Canter

The canter is a pure 3-beat. The canter is roomy with a front leg that reaches forward and the inside leg carrying. The canter is upward and shows a long moment of suspension, lots of suppleness, and balance.

2. Use

The purpose of use of the Friesian horse varies from recreational use to participation at the highest levels of competition sport. The disciplines in which the Friesian horse is used are:

- Show driving
- Dressage under saddle
- Driving
- Combined driving
- Endurance

The objective is to improve the aptitude for sport in all uses. Condition for this is that the easy character of the Friesian horse is maintained, which will continue to keep the Friesian horse an exceptional horse for recreational use.

The Friesian horse in use is a versatile horse. This does not mean that aptitude for all disciplines has to be present in all horses to the same degree. Within the breeding goal there is room for specialization, without having this lead to breeding different types. The breeding-goal description for exterior and movement are universal for all disciplines of use.

The (added) value of the Friesian horse in sport consists of the combination of the following characteristics:

- Easy to use and work with
- Eager to learn and intelligent
- Impressive and elegant
- versatile

In order to improve the position of the Friesian horse in sport, high demands are placed on the following characteristics, which together determine the aptitude for sport:

- Movement
- Exterior (built)
- Stamina
- Character (willing to work and sociable)
- Durability
- Health

Vitality and health:

With the breeding of Friesian horses high demands are placed on the following characteristics that together determine vitality and health:

- vitality (durable and healthy)
- fertility (stallions and mares)
- no hereditary defects

The inspection

The KFPS collaborates with associations in other countries in organizing inspections during the summer season at which any Friesian horses can be presented. Mares and geldings three years of age and older can be distinguished at these inspections as follows:

Average scores for 5 main characteristics	Result	Title
> 7.5	Included with 1 st premium	Studbook Star (stb star)
~ 7	Included with 2 nd premium	Studbook Star (stb star)
~ 6 – 7	Included with 3 rd premium	Studbook (stb)
~ 6	Included without premium	Studbook (stb)
< 6	Not included	Remains in foal book

Note: In considering the awarding of premiums, the criteria relating to trueness to breed, the walk and the trot carry the most weight. In addition, a horse with a score of 4 or less for one or more criteria will not be registered, and a horse with a score of unsatisfactory (5 or less) for one or more of the main criteria cannot be entered into the star register.

For the stallions three years of age and older being presented at the foal book inspection, there are two possible outcomes: the stallion will remain in the foal book (Fb) or he will be declared star (Fb star). For this he will receive an red/white/blue ribbon.

At the regional breeders' events, foals, yearling mares and two-year-old mares are eligible for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd premium but may also receive no premium. Star mares and geldings inspected at regional breeders' events are eligible for a 1st or 2nd premium but may also receive no premium. The yearling and two-year-old stallions will only get looked at by the jury (no inspection and no premium). Below the ribbons you can receive at the inspection.



Left to right, 1st, 2nd, 3rd



ribbon for star stallion

Judging the Friesian Horse

Why to judge a horse:

1. To get information
2. Selection
3. To keep the good characteristics (very important)
4. to improve the species
5. to enlarge the hobby
6. trading

What do we judge?

- General condition
- The health
- The character
- The conformation
- The durability

Order of rank to judge a horse

- Total image
- The fore hand
- The middle hand
- The back hand
- Quality feet and legs
- The walk
- The trot



Het paard wordt beoordeeld in de volgorde voorhand, middenhand en achterhand waarbij een verhouding van 1:1:1 in het skelet gewenst is.

┆ B ┆ M ┆ F ┆
Back middle fore hand

Conformation

- Use for which the horses are bred
- Riding horse
- Show horse
- Combined driving events Breeding horse
- Recreation horse
- Breeding horse
- Breeding objective

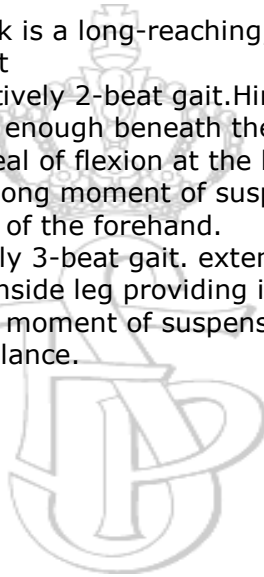
To breed fine horses in regard to their conformation while continuing to reduce the inbreeding with the breed itself

Typical Friesian characteristics

- Noble head, eyes are set far apart
- Small ears, the tips pointing slightly towards each other
- A long, slightly arched neck
- Long enough, well muscled back and a croup with good length, slightly sloped
- Fluid, elegant and suspended gaits, which are emphasized by rich fetlocks, a fine mane and beautiful long tail.
- Luxuriant, spirited appearance that is willing to work
- Honest character
- Jetblack

Movements (gaits)

- The walk; The walk is a long-reaching, powerful, flexible and distinctively 4-beat
- The trot; a distinctively 2-beat gait. Hind leg is placed powerfully and far enough beneath the horse's body and displays a great deal of flexion at the hock. Knee action, suppleness and a long moment of suspension, high level of balance and a rise of the forehand.
- Canter; distinctively 3-beat gait. extended with long-reaching forelegs with the inside leg providing impulsion. Upward movement, a long moment of suspension, and high levels of suppleness and balance.



Stallion selection

Stallions whose owners want them to be eligible for admission to stud service can present them for inspection by the studbook starting at three years of age. These young stallions will undergo three rounds of judging:

- the first round of judging in November: assessment of conformation and movement both in hand (on a hard surface) and in free movement
- the second round of judging in January on the Friday of the Stallion Inspection: assessment of conformation and free movement
- the third round of judging on the Saturday of the Stallion Inspection: conformation and movement in hand.

The stallions must satisfy strict veterinary requirements including a clinical examination and X-ray testing, and semen testing. When selecting stallions for stud service, other factors such as the quality of their lineage and their degree of relationship to the entire Friesian horse population play a role.

Once they have passed this strict selection process, stallions are eligible to prove themselves in the Central Examination. This is a ten-week testing period in which the stallion is tested for his aptitude for dressage, show driving and harness competition. Upon satisfactorily completing this testing, the stallion is entered in the studbook register.

A young stallion receives a breeding permit for 180 mares a year. Once his oldest offspring reach the age of four, 20 of them are tested in the offspring judging. When the offspring are shown to have a sufficient level of quality in areas such as health, uses, conformation and movement, the stallion is "approved on the basis of his offspring". From that time onward, the stallion may be bred with an unlimited number of mares every year.

KFPS events

Central inspection

Except for foals, the horses awarded a 1st premium during the inspection season will be invited to participate in the studbook's annual Central Inspection. This conclusion to the inspection season is held in October. At the Central Inspection, mares three years of age and older are eligible to receive the provisional crown title or even the provisional model title (the model title being the highest title for conformation available to mares). A mare can also be awarded the provisional crown or provisional model titles at inspections held in countries outside of the Netherlands.

These provisional titles can be made definite titles when the mare accumulates at least 77 points with an average score of 7 for the basic gates in an IBOP or ABFP test, or if she is awarded the sports title. The IBOP can also be held in a country outside of the Netherlands.

Stallion inspection

In addition to the Central Inspection, the KFPS also holds the annual Stallion Inspection. This is held in January in Leeuwarden and is intended primarily for selecting young stallions and for conducting the annual inspection of approved KFPS studbook stallions. The event is held on a Friday and Saturday, the Friday evening also being devoted to shows. On the Thursday afternoon previous to the Stallion Inspection, a clinic open to the public is held. For many lovers of Friesian horses, the Stallion Inspection that attracts more than 10,000 visitors is the event of the year.

KFPS competitions

Young dressage horses can participate in the Competition for Young Friesian Horses with Dressage Aptitude. This competition is open to mares, stallions and geldings 4, 5 and 6 years of age. In the pre-selections that are held in the Netherlands, England and Germany, these horses can qualify to participate in the finale held at the Central Inspection in October.

Young show driving horses can participate in the Competition for Young Friesian Horses with Aptitude for the Sport of Show Driving that is open to mares, stallions and geldings 3, 4 and 5 years of age. The pre-selections are held at the Dutch regional breeders' events, and the finale is held at the Central Inspection.

Tests and the sport title

In the Netherlands, the KFPS offers two tests in which Friesian horses can participate: the IBOP and the ABFP tests. The IBOP test is intended to establish, in the most objective way possible, the suitability of the horse for a certain use. The ABFP test is intended to establish, in the most objective way possible, the horse's aptitude as a dressage and/or harness and/or show driving horse.

Friesian horses are also eligible for the sports title.

The minimum requirements for being awarded the sports title are:

- Dressage: Z1 +5.
- Show driving: cat. I&II honorary class and cat. III open class, in a single season placed 6 times as prize winner in the "green season" (15 April to 1 October).
- Dressage in harness: Z +10.
- Combined driving: class 3 +10. For either the KFPS or the KNHS, it is necessary to indicate in advance with which Friesian horse(s) one wants to enter. The horse needs to have acquired at least 10 winning points in class 3 from the time at which an application for the horse has been made to the KFPS and the KNHS.

These requirements apply to sports achievements in the Netherlands. Sports achievements outside of the Netherlands will be subject to comparable requirements as assessed by the KFPS inspection team.

Other titles

When a stallion has an excellent record of siring offspring that have inherited his positive characteristics, he can be given the preferent status. Mares, too, can be awarded the preferent status when four of a mare's offspring have received the star title. Having given birth to a studbook stallion also counts toward a mare's preferent status. The title of performance dam is awarded a mare when three of her offspring have earned the sports title.

How can I find a stallion for my mare?

Looking for the right stallion to breed with your mare is a major decision to be made with great care. You have to consider how the foal is to be used in the future: for dressage, show driving or perhaps a horse with an aptitude for various uses. In selecting a stallion, you have to determine which weaker points of your mare you wish to improve and which strong points you wish to

accentuate. Good tools to use in determining the strong and weak points of the horse are the linear scoring forms that are created during the inspection of the mare for inclusion in the studbook. The next step is to look at what characteristics a stallion's offspring have inherited. This data can be accessed at the KFPS website and is also published every year in *Phryso*. Based on this information, you can select the stallion that will provide the greatest improvement.

Yet another important factor to consider is that since the population of Friesian horses is a closed population and was still very small not so long ago, you will have to deal very carefully with the aspect of inbreeding. The KFPS advises a combination with no more than 5% inbreeding. It is also important not to have the same stallion appearing in the foal's first three generations.

Grades for the foals

Last year we did an experiment with the grades for the foals. The experiment was a success and that is why after the judging of the foal we give the owners the grades on paper. We changed a few things to come to an premium. When the foal is judged you will receive an red card with the grades and the sticker from the chipnumber, you can take this card home with you.

Racial	Frame	Development	Walk	Trot	Total	Premium
Comment:						

Premium:

1st premium: Total of the grades min. 36 points and an average of 7 for the movements.

2nd premium: Total of the grades 33 t/m 35.5 points, no insufficient grade (5 of less) and an minimum average 6.5 for the movements.

3rd premium: Total of the grades 29 t/m 32.5 points. Foals with a 4 or two or more 5's get no premium. The average for the movements needs to be an average of 5.5.
There are special cases, for example when the feet & Legs are to bad.

Catre
 Name foal
 Place inspection

Racial	Frame	Develop	Walk	Trot	Premium

Comments
 Sticker chipnummer
 Autograph jury:

At the inspection the owner receive this foal card with the grades to take home.

Rules of presenting a horse for the inspection

The inspection loves to see that a horse will be presented on a quiet and accurate way, at which the horse gets an optimal possibility to complete his walk, to make a carrying trot with suppleness. This is the best way to show the tact, regularity and balance of a horse. The reason why we want to do this, is to minimize the use of a whip.

The inspection of a horse shall be happening by the following protocol:

- a. For the first inspection must the horse been lined up with his side to the judge. The side of the manes must not be on the side of the judges.
- b. The step must be showed in a triangle course, 1 time.
- c. The trot must be showed around the whole arena for 2 rounds:
 - a. little or no whip using.
 - b. rattlebox is allowed.
 - c. horse must go round the course twice.
 - d. horse needs to walk on his own legs (means without help from the runners), at which tact, regularity, balance and suppleness are important elements, beside it stately placing of the hind-leg under the body and it stately placing forward of the front-leg.
 - e. after the trot the horse must be lined up again or the judges say otherwise.

The judges can say that the horse must be showed different then it happens at that moment. We are counting on everybody's assistance. We all have the same objective: to get an optimal assessment of a horse.