

**LÄMMINVERISTEN RATSUHEVOSTEN, PONIEN, ISLANNINHEVOSTEN JA
VUONOHEVOSTEN JALOSTUSOHJESÄÄNTÖ**

**AVELSREGLEMENTE FÖR VARMBLODIGA RIDHÄSTAR, PONNYER,
ISLANDSHÄSTAR OCH FJORDHÄSTAR**

**BREEDING REGULATIONS FOR WARMBLOODED RIDING HORSES, PONIES,
ICELANDIC HORSES AND FJORD HORSES**

The regulations were approved by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on
1 February 2006.

Suomen Hippos ry

Finlands Hippos rf

Finland's Hippos

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Finland's Hippos

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I INTRODUCTION

The goal of breeding is to select a mare and a stallion with the best possible genes to produce the next generation of animals. Breeding goals for riding horses, ponies, Icelandic horses and Fjord horses are based on breed standards.

The starting point for breeding is to identify and register horses in a basic register using an individual registration number. Ratings relevant to breeding are also entered in the register. Both individual and offspring evaluation are carried out for breeding selection. Individual evaluation comprises an assessment of the horse or pony on the basis of its individual ratings while offspring evaluation assesses the ratings of the offspring. Individual evaluation is sufficient for describing the animal's breeding value if a strong hereditary feature is present. Offspring evaluation is the most reliable selection method, and is recommended in cases of weak hereditary features.

Individual evaluation of horses and ponies takes place at breeding shows, where young horses are assessed in foal evaluations, and 4-year-olds and above at studbook inspections. Evaluation at studbook inspections also works as breeding selection in that individuals are selected for a register of breeding horses. Individual evaluation of young horses and ponies includes an inspection of conformation and movement. In addition to these, individual evaluation of mares to be registered for studbook as well as pony and Fjord horse stallions includes a rideability and/or driving test. Riding horse stallions undergo performance tests. All horses and ponies must be healthy and without genetic faults that could affect breeding. Breeding evaluation of stallions also includes a health inspection.

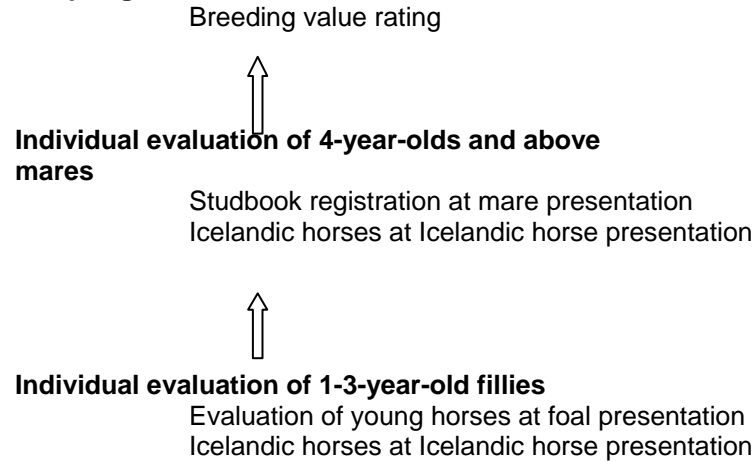
Performance in competitions is also taken into consideration in individual evaluation, and may entitle the horse or pony to be given an entry in its performance class.

Evaluation of the stallion's offspring takes place at a reinspection at least every five years, and the stallion or mare can be awarded a breeding value rating on the basis of his or her offspring.

Offspring evaluation of a mare and stallion is based on the offspring's ratings at breeding shows and competitions.

A chart of the breeding programme for warmblooded riding horses, ponies, Icelandic horses and Fjord horses

Mares



Stallions

Individual and offspring evaluation, studbook stallions

Reinspection at a stallion presentation
Breeding value rating

Individual evaluation of 4-year-olds and above, riding horse stallions

Studbook registration at stallion presentation

Individual evaluation of 4-year-olds and above, pony stallions

Breeding evaluation of 4-5-year-olds at stallion presentation
Studbook registration of 6-year-olds and above at stallion presentation

Individual evaluation of 4-year-olds and above, Fjord horse stallions

Breeding evaluation of 4-year-olds and above at stallion presentation
Studbook registration of 5-year-olds and above at stallion presentation

Individual evaluation of 4-year-olds and above, Icelandic horse stallions

Studbook registration at Icelandic horse presentation



Individual evaluation, 3-year-old colts

Breeding evaluation at stallion presentation, Icelandic horse colts at Icelandic horse presentation

Individual evaluation, 1-2-year-old colts

Evaluation of young horses at foal presentation, Icelandic horses at Icelandic horse presentation

II BREEDS AND BREEDING GOALS

Breeding goals define the most important targets for each breed, aimed at by raising horses in accordance with the breeding regulations. Evaluation and selection in accordance with the breeding regulations are based on the defined breeding goals.

Riding horses

Anglo-Arabian Thoroughbred

The goal is to produce balanced, solid and sound sports horses with good rideability and performance in all riding activities.

Arabian Thoroughbred

The goal is to breed horses of a good Arabian type that represent the international breed standard, and are suitable for various equine sporting activities.

English Thoroughbred

The goal is to produce sound thoroughbred horses with well-proportioned conformation, which are suitable for all riding activities.

Finnish Warmblood, FWB

The goal is to produce horses with good performance, which are internationally competitive in type, conformation, movement, character and endurance.

Ponies

Connemara Pony

The goal is to produce purebred ponies that fulfil the breed standard and pedigree requirements of their country of origin, and are suitable for various equine sporting activities and driving. They must be easy to handle, good-natured, healthy, flawless in conformation and suitable for riding by both children and adults.

New Forest Pony

The goal is to produce purebred ponies that fulfil the breed standard and pedigree requirements of their country of origin. They must be suitable for versatile equine sporting activities in conformation, movement and character. Special attention must be given to preserving the original New Forest Pony breed.

Gotland Pony

The goal is to produce ponies that fulfil the breed standard of their country of origin, are strong in conformation, suitable for both children and adults, good-natured and suitable for versatile riding, trotting and driving activities. Ponies used for breeding must also be of good fertility.

Shetland Pony

The goal is to produce healthy ponies that comply with the principles and breed standards of their country of origin. Breeding takes into consideration the breed's versatile use for riding, driving and trotting.

Finnish Riding Pony

The goal is to produce ponies that comply with the riding pony programme endorsed by Finland's Hippos (Finnish trotting and breeding association), and which are close

to the maximum height of 148 cm at the withers and their conformation, movement and character make them suitable for all riding activities.

Welsh Pony

The goal is to produce ponies that comply with the principles and breed standards of their country of origin, and are healthy, faultless in conformation, and their character and features make them suitable for all riding activities and driving.

Icelandic Horse

The goal is to produce horses that comply with the breeding objectives of the umbrella organization, the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations (FEIF). Horses should be purebred, healthy, fertile and of good endurance with a 4 and 5-beat gait, suited for leisure and competition purposes. Their conformation and character must be suitable for gaiting.

Fjord Horse

The goal is to produce horses that comply with the breed standards of their country of origin, have appropriate conformation, can be used for a wide range of activities and are good in character and endurance.

Breed standards, see Attachment 1.

III REGISTRATION

1. Registers

Finland's Hippos maintains a register of riding horses, ponies, Icelandic horses and Fjord horses as well as a database of horses with unreliable pedigree information or that do not comply with the requirements set by the breed's country of origin.

Finland's Hippos registers horses and ponies born in or imported to Finland. Horses born in Finland must be registered during the year of their birth, although those born between October and December can be registered the following year. Imported horses are registered within two months of the date of import. A higher fee is incurred for delayed registration.

See Breed-specific exceptions, Attachment 1.

2. Identification

An identifier approved by Finland's Hippos classifies the horse for registration. In the case of horses and ponies born in Finland, the original birth certificate is attached to the identification form, while for imported horses and ponies a registration certificate from an official association and identification document or horse passport are attached. Information regarding possible transfers of ownership must always be included.

Imported thoroughbred horses cannot be registered without an export certificate issued by the central association.

The authenticity of the pedigree of horses and ponies born in Finland is checked through parentage verification.

3. Register data

The following data concerning a horse is entered into the register:

1. Name
2. Registration number
3. Sex
4. Date and place (country) of birth
5. Breed
6. Colour, markings and other distinguishing marks
7. Pedigree
8. Original identification code
9. Breeder (owner of the dam at the time of the foal's birth or the person leasing the dam under a contract recognized by Finland's Hippos)
10. Name and address of owner

Name

A name registered in Finland or abroad cannot be changed. An adopted breeder name can be added to the previously registered horse name at a later stage if approved by the owner. A horse cannot be named after a company or product brand. Finland's Hippos has the right to refuse to register a name that offends against public decency, causes confusion with a previously registered name or is a protected breeder name. A code signifying the country of origin is included at the end of the name of an imported horse, but kept clearly distinguished from the name.

Registration certificate / horse passport

A horse passport is issued to the new owner upon registration, and is handed over at the same time as the horse.

A duplicate of a registration certificate or horse passport is issued to the owner by Finland's Hippos if the original has been lost or destroyed, provided that a trustworthy declaration explaining the loss of the original is provided and the document has been declared null and void.

Removal of data

The owner must notify Finland's Hippos immediately in the event of a horse dying or being permanently transferred abroad.

Transfer of ownership

The new owner must notify Finland's Hippos concerning the transfer of ownership in writing within 14 days of the transfer. The notification must be signed by both buyer and seller.

IV INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION

Ratings required for individual evaluation are gathered at breeding shows, where horses and ponies are graded according to their conformation and performance. 1-3-year-old horses and ponies can be inspected at foal presentations.

Horses and ponies can be brought forward for studbook registration when they are 4-6-years old at the earliest, depending on the breed. This takes place at mare, stallion and Icelandic horse presentations.

A gelding of 4 years or above can be presented at a mare and foal presentation once for the purpose of offspring evaluation of the parents.

Icelandic and Fjord horse, see Breed-specific exceptions, Attachment 1.

1. Evaluation of young horses and ponies

1-3-year-old horses and ponies are evaluated at presentations arranged or recognized by Finland's Hippos. Purebred individuals that comply with the riding pony programme and have domestic or foreign sires approved by Finland's Hippos may participate in the evaluation.

Evaluation areas

1- 3-year-old horses and ponies can be awarded with I, II or III premium, and are evaluated in the following areas:

1. type
2. head, neck and body
3. legs and hooves, regularity of movement
4. walk
5. trot

4-10 points are given for each area. Based on total points, a foal can be awarded a I, II or III premium as follows:

Premium classes:

- I premium 40-50 points
- II premium 35-39 points
- III premium 30-34 points

If a foal gains less than 5 points in one of the areas, he or she is not awarded a premium.

Icelandic horses are awarded with a I, II or III premium applying rules set by the FEIF.

The evaluation is included in the registration certificate or horse passport.

Eligibility for breeding of 3-year-old colts

3-year-old horse or pony colts can be eligible for breeding for a fixed period after passing the preliminary inspection. 3-year-old colts are evaluated at stallion presentations.

For stallions, eligibility for breeding is always for a fixed period. A thoroughbred or halfbred 3-year-old colt can be eligible for breeding for the duration of one year, while a pony colt is eligible for three and a Fjord horse for two years.

Conformation, movement, health and character are assessed at the preliminary inspection. 3-year-old riding horse colts also undergo testing in free jumping and gaits. Preliminary inspection of 3-year-old Fjord horses also includes a driving test.

In addition to assessment in the areas mentioned above, stallions must meet the set pedigree requirements, see 2.1, and studbook registration conditions, see 2.2, sections 1, 3 and 4.

Award certificate

I premium horses and ponies receive an award certificate.

2. Studbook registration

Eligibility of a stallion or mare for the studbook indicates eligibility for the breeding register. When a stallion or mare becomes eligible for the studbook, he or she is also eligible for breeding, a stallion for a fixed period. Should a stallion meet the set requirements in individual and offspring evaluation during a reinspection, his eligibility for breeding continues. A breeding stallion has been evaluated in accordance with the breeding regulations and is eligible for breeding, meeting the minimum requirements set by the regulations. The sire in an individual's pedigree is a breeding stallion if he has had breeding privileges at the time of insemination.

Horses and ponies with pedigree in recognized studbooks can be presented for the studbook at 4-6 years of age at the earliest. Studbook inspection of horses and ponies complies with breeding goals and breed standards. Finland's Hippos approves studbooks in conjunction with studbook registration on an annual basis. See Appendix 2, Approved studbooks.

2.1 Studbooks and pedigree requirements

Finland's Hippos maintains the following studbooks of warmblooded riding horse, pony, Icelandic horse and Fjord horse mares and stallions:

- A. Thoroughbred studbook including the studbooks of Anglo-Arabian, Arabian and English thoroughbred horses
- B. Finnish warmblood studbook, which is subdivided into principal studbook, studbook and pre-studbook concerning pedigree.

Pedigree requirements:

1. Principal studbook

The stallion and mare must be registered in an approved foreign principal studbook or they must have four registered generations as well as sires with breeding privileges in four generations.

2. Studbook

The mare must be registered in an approved foreign studbook or the mare must have at least three registered generations as well as sires with breeding privileges in three generations.

3. Pre-studbook

The mare must have at least two registered generations as well as sires with breeding privileges in two generations.

- C. Pony studbook, which is subdivided into studbook and pre-studbook concerning pedigree.

Pedigree requirements:

1. Studbook

The stallion and mare must have at least three registered generations and sires with breeding privileges in at least three generations, or the stallion and mare must be registered in the studbook in their country of origin.

2. Pre-studbook

- a) The mare must have at least two registered generations and sires with breeding privileges in at least two generations.
- b) Concerning specific breeds, approved ponies can be registered in a section corresponding with the pre-studbook of the pony's country of origin.

Connemara	studbook pre-studbook
Newforest	studbook pre-studbook
Gotland	studbook pre-studbook
Shetland	studbook
Finnish Riding Pony	studbook pre-studbook
Welsh (sections A, B, C and D)	studbook pre-studbook

Welsh partbred studbook

D. Icelandic horse studbook

Pedigree requirements see Appendix 1 Breed-specific exceptions.

E. Fjord horse studbook

Pedigree requirements, see Appendix 1, Breed-specific exceptions.

2.2 Conditions for studbook registration

The following requirements are set for horses and ponies to be registered for the studbook:

Stallions and mares

1. Registered.

2. 4 years old or above, a pony stallion 6 years old or above and a Fjord horse stallion 5 years old or above.
3. Healthy, without flaws that would affect breeding.
The stallion's legs must be X-rayed according to instructions in order to eliminate the possibility of genetic defects. See Appendix 3.
4. The authenticity of pedigree is tested through parentage verification.

2.3 Conformation and performance requirements in studbook registration

Measurements

The following measurements are taken during studbook inspection:

1. height at withers
2. height at croup
3. chest width
4. front leg circumference

Evaluation

Conformation and movement of thoroughbred and halfbred horses, ponies and Fjord horses are assessed at studbook inspection in the following areas:

1. type
2. head, neck and body
3. legs and hooves, regularity of movement
4. walk
5. trot

4-10 points are given for each area. The stallion and mare are eligible for studbook based on total points and overall evaluation. The stallion is awarded a I or II premium and the mare is awarded a I, II or III premium.

The following scoring requirements are set for studbook registration:

Stallions

I premium, minimum of 40 points

Horse stallions:

II premium, minimum of 37 points

Pony stallions:

II premium, minimum of 38 points

A riding horse stallion must gain a minimum of 37 points for conformation evaluation. None of the evaluated areas may be below 7 points. If a stallion gains the minimum 37 points in conformation evaluation, higher requirements are set for his performance test than for stallions that gain over 37 points.

A pony stallion must gain a minimum of 38 total points for conformation evaluation, and none of the evaluation areas may be below 7 points. Pony stallions must gain at least 8 points for type.

Mares

I premium, minimum of 40 points

II premium, minimum of 35 points

III premium, minimum of 30 points

A mare is not eligible for studbook if she gains less than 5 points for an individual area or her total score is less than 30. A mare that is disqualified for the studbook can be presented once more, but not until the following year.

A mare with 40 points or above receives a diploma. None of the evaluated areas may be below 7 points.

The panel of judges may propose upgrading the studbook class by one if the horse gains 9-10 points for movement or the pony gains 9-10 points for type.

Ponies that have been registered in the studbook in some other EU country, but have not gained enough points to be awarded a premium in Finland are placed in class IV.

Rideability and driving tests

A horse mare, pony mare and pony stallion must pass a rideability test. Alternatively, a pony can take a driving test. A horse or pony can be exempted from the rideability or driving test for an adequate cause, such as being with foal, long-term use for insemination, a health-related reason or a previously passed test (imported animals registered in the studbook).

A driving test is compulsory for a Fjord horse in studbook registration. See Appendix 1.

A mare may retake a rideability or driving test once if she fails. If the test is taken during the same year, her conformation is not reassessed.

The rideability test for a mare can be replaced with a passed quality evaluation or successful performance in a national competition.

Performance test

A thoroughbred, halfbred and riding pony stallion must pass a Finnish or foreign performance test approved by Finland's Hippos in order to be registered for studbook. The number of points required for a pass varies in different countries.

A failed test can be retaken once. Performance test details, see Appendix 5. Horse stallions of 6 years and above do not participate in the performance test. The test can be replaced with exceptional performance in competition. See Appendix 6.

A thoroughbred Arabian stallion is not required to take a performance test if he is presented for Arabian horse breeding. The stallion must, however, pass a rideability test at 4-5-years of age, and gain success in a national competition at 6 years or above.

Pony stallions eligible for studbook registration must pass a performance test that complies with requirements set for each breed in its country of origin. If these requirements are not set, the stallion must pass a rideability or driving test. A pony stallion may also take the performance test for horses.

A 4-year-old thoroughbred, halfbred or riding pony stallion can gain breeding privileges for five years after passing a performance test.

Statement

A statement is issued on the horse, detailing factors relevant for breeding concerning conformation, movement and other qualities of the horse.

Studbook number

A studbook number is issued for horses and ponies registered in the studbook apart from thoroughbreds, which receive a letter code, Finland's thoroughbred horse breeding book (Suomen täysiverihevosten siitoskirja, STS). Information concerning studbook registration is entered in the horse registration certificate or horse passport.

Performance in competitions

A mare or stallion's successful performance in competitions is taken into account, and may entitle it to a performance class entry. See Appendix 4.

Icelandic horses

Icelandic horses are evaluated and awarded in compliance with FEIF rules at Icelandic horse breeding shows. Finland's Hippos confirms the minimum points required for a pass. See Appendix 1.

Special permission

A stallion or mare may be eligible for the studbook by special permission without having to meet minimum requirements. Provided that a stallion or mare fulfils all other criteria at a standard above average, he or she can be eligible even if unable to meet the minimum requirement in one of the following areas: conformation, pedigree, health, performance and offspring (imported stallions)

Reinspection

At a reinspection, Finland's Hippos evaluates the breeding value of a sire according to his ratings or those of his offspring. A reinspection can lead to a sire losing his breeding privileges.

During reinspection, a sire's conformation, movement, health, fertility and character are checked, and his breeding value is assessed according to the breeding show and/or competition success of his offspring. A sufficient number of ratings must be available in relation to the number of offspring.

Additionally, successful performance in competitions is required from riding horse sires. Competition performance requirements, see Appendix 7.7.

It is not necessary to present a sire of 18 years or above with an AB merit to the panel of judges. Finland's Hippos assesses his breeding value based on the offspring ratings and a veterinarian's certificate.

3. Panels

Panels endorsed by Finland's Hippos manage the evaluation of horses and ponies at breeding shows. A mare and foal panel assesses young horses and ponies and horse and pony mares to be registered for the studbook. A stallion panel evaluates

stallions presented for breeding. Icelandic horse evaluation, see Appendix 1, Breed-specific exceptions.

If there is an equal number of votes between panel members, the chief judge's vote will determine the result.

The board of Finland's Hippos endorses the mare and foal panel for one year at a time and the stallion panel for three years at a time. Finland's Hippos may appoint a foreign judge for a presentation, who must be approved by the breed's international association or the association of the breed's country of origin. Finland's Hippos may also authorize a judge appointed by the breed association, who is approved by the breed's international association or the association of the breed's country of origin.

3.1 Mare and foal panel

The mare and foal panel constitutes a quorum when three judges for conformation are present, one of whom is appointed as chief judge.

3.2 Stallion panel

1) The panel for horses participating in a performance test and for 3-year-old riding horse or pony colts constitutes a quorum when four judges for conformation, one of whom is appointed as chief judge, two judges for gait, judges for jumping and a veterinary surgeon are present.

2) The panel for riding horse and riding pony stallions that have passed a performance test abroad, Arabian stallions presented for Arabian horse breeding, Fjord stallions and pony stallions constitutes a quorum when four judges for conformation, one of whom is appointed as chief judge, and a veterinary surgeon are present.

- The quorum of a panel for a driving test for Fjord horses is endorsed by Finland's Hippos.

3.3 Disqualification

If a judge is disqualified or prevented from attending to his duties, a representative of Finland's Hippos will appoint a replacement. A panel member must immediately notify the rest of the panel concerning possible grounds for disqualification.

Agreement of the possible disqualification of a member is decided by the panel. A panel member will be disqualified if

- the member or his or her next-of-kin is or has been the breeder, owner, co-owner, trainer or importer of the horse
- the member or his or her next-of-kin is the breeder, owner, co-owner, leaser or stallion holder of the sire
- some other similar reason for disqualification emerges, which could influence confidence in the judge's impartiality.

V OFFSPRING EVALUATION

Finland's Hippos riding horse and pony panel evaluates all studbook horses and ponies on the basis of their offspring.

The objective of offspring evaluation is to assess the breeding value of horses according to the ratings of their offspring. Offspring ratings are the most reliable source of information when assessing breeding value. A sufficient number of ratings must be available. The breeding evaluation compares the stallion and mare with the level of the entire population. The intention is to award breeding animals that are above average standard. See Appendix 6, Award criteria in offspring evaluation.

VI SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Breeding service

Breeding privileges are in force when breeding regulations are complied with and other obligations such as due payments, studbook registration and health inspections have been carried out.

The owner of a stallion with breeding privileges must supply information on serving and artificial insemination using forms endorsed by Finland's Hippos, which are returned to Finland's Hippos annually by 31 October. Breeding privileges are discontinued if the required information is not provided.

The owner of a mare that has been covered must provide the stallion owner with a serving and foaling certificate.

Registration and registration in the studbook are accepted only after the necessary payments have been made.

Artificial insemination and embryo transfer

Permission from the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is required for artificial insemination and embryo transfer. The origin of reproductive cells and embryos must be verified using a certificate which is in compliance with European Commission Decision 96/79/EC (respecting the pedigree and zootechnical certificates of semen, ova, and embryos from registered equidae).

Finland's Hippos may allow the use of reproductive cells from foreign stallions if the stallion meets the studbook registration requirements in Finland as well as the above-mentioned pedigree requirements laid down by the European Commission decision.

Contagious diseases

Finland's Hippos may take necessary measures in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases that affect horses.