

FINNHORSE BREEDING PROGRAMME

Definitions of the terminology used:

Studbook	<i>Former basic register of horses. The horse shall be reported for entry in the studbook within 1 month of birth and will be entered in the studbook after identification, no later than by the end of March of the year following the year of birth.</i>
Breeding inspection	<i>Former registration in the studbook. In the breeding inspection, the quality of mares and stallions as breeding stock is assessed according to their section of breeding, and they are entered in a breeding category. The breeding inspection is carried out on the basis of individual results or those of the horse's progeny.</i>
Identification document	<i>Horse passport (equine passport) or registration certificate that includes the horse's identification data.</i>

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1 Finnhorse

Suomen Hippos ry is the breed society, approved in accordance with the European Union’s regulations on horse breeding, responsible for maintaining the studbook of the Finnhorse.

Together with its member organisations, horse breed associations in Finland, Suomen Hippos is in charge of managing Finnhorses’ identification and registration in the studbook, and organising shows for the purposes of carrying out breeding inspections for horses, and their approval for breeding purposes.

The Finnhorse is the only original horse breed bred in Finland. The Finnhorse has been bred as a pure breed since 1907. Owing to its versatile characteristics and unique disposition, the Finnhorse is suitable for diverse horse sports and recreational purposes, and for use in tourism and well-being services in the equine industry. In quantitative terms, harness racing is the most significant use of the Finnhorse.

In the early stages, Finnhorses were selected for breeding based on the individual horse's conformation, but as early as in the 1920s, there was a shift to selection based on performance tests. Since then, the qualities sought in the breeding of Finnhorses have included good performance ability, disposition, movements and conformation. In 1924, Finnhorses were divided into two types, a heavier working horse, and a lighter all-round horse. The universal horse studbook was abolished in 1965 and replaced by a studbook for trotters. Since 1971, the Finnhorse stud book has included four sections of breeding: trotter

type, riding horse, pony type and a working horse. In 2021, the working section of the Finnhorse was changed into the working and utility section. The description and requirements of the working and utility section were expanded to correspond to the characteristics of a versatile pleasure horse. The working and utility section includes horses of both the original, traditional working horse section and multi-purpose pleasure horses for the whole family.

2 Breeding objectives and breed description of the Finnhorse

The objective is to breed versatile horses that meet the requirements of the breed standard and have high performance ability, are easy to handle, have good movements and endurance, and are healthy. The breed's breeding objectives take into account both further development of the breed and maintenance of its vitality. Finnhorses are pure-bred to be trotters, riding horses, pony-type horses and working and utility horses.

The Finnhorse is of average height, has well-proportioned conformation and good posture. The body is round and muscular. The gender type is clear. The movements are regular with good mechanics of motion. By disposition, the Finnhorse is eager to co-operate, energetic, willing to work, and humble. As to performance ability, the Finnhorse is versatile and has endurance.

Trotter:

In accordance with the breeding objective, a trotter Finnhorse is sporty, muscular and has good performance ability. A Finnhorse trotter has a well-proportioned head and a high neck set. The body is round and the horse has a strong loin and hindquarters. A Finnhorse trotter has endurance and the ability to trot at a fast pace. The movements of a Finnhorse trotter are rhythmic and regular. By disposition, it is willing to win and ambitious.

Riding horse:

In accordance with the breeding objective, the riding horse is sporty and has good performance ability. It has a well-proportioned head, high neck set and long neck, sound topline, round body, strong loin and hindquarters. The Finnhorse riding horse has rhythmic, elastic and ground-covering gaits. When ridden, the horse has the ability to shorten and lengthen the stride in all types of gait. When jumping, the horse has good capacity and jumping technique. It has courage but it is also careful. Finnhorse riding horses have an innate ability to carry themselves with a good balance, and by disposition, they are ambitious and willing to co-operate.

Pony-type horse:

In accordance with the breeding objective, the pony-type horse is small and well proportioned in all respects. A pony-type horse's height at withers and croup is 148 cm or less. It has a well-proportioned head, high neck set and long neck, sound topline, round body, strong loin and hindquarters. The pony-type horse's gaits are elastic, rhythmic and ground-covering. When ridden and harnessed, the horse has the

ability to shorten and lengthen its stride in various types of gait. The horse has an innate ability to carry itself with good balance. It is versatile and has good performance ability. By disposition, it is ambitious, eager to serve, and humble.

Working and utility horse:

In accordance with the breeding objective, horses of the working and utility section are suitable for the purpose, both in terms of disposition and conformation. The purpose of use is indicated in the performance test of the breeding inspection. An individual approved in the pulling and driveability test for working and utility horses has strong conformation. It has a long and deep body, upright shoulder and good point of shoulder. This type of horse also has wide breast and croup, strong loin and hindquarters. The movements are regular and ground-covering, and by disposition the horse is tenacious, eager to serve, courageous and calm.

An individual approved in the working test for a working and utility horse is well-proportioned by conformation and has a strong loin and hindquarters. By disposition, a horse approved in the working test for the working and utility section is humble, eager to serve, courageous and even-tempered.

3 Geographical territory of the breeding programme

Finnhorses born in this geographical territory can be entered in the Finnhorse studbook by application of the breeder, provided that the horses meet the requirements of the studbook. In addition, breeding inspections for entry in the Finnhorse studbook can be organised in this geographical territory. The geographical territory of Finnhorse breeding programme includes Finland, Sweden, France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Latvia and Estonia.

4 Identification of horses and identification document

The breeding and competitive use of Finnhorses require a reliable register that verifies the correctness of the horse's lineage and its identification data, and the rights of ownership and possession. Provisions on the standard identification document (equine passport/horse passport) are laid down in the European Commission's Regulation.

A horse passport is issued to a foal, based on the information provided, no later than one year after birth. If the information provided is not sufficient to meet the requirements for entry in the studbook, mentioned in paragraph 6, an identification document for a non-registered equine animal will be issued to the foal. If the foal has not been identified within one year of birth, a duplicate identification document shall be issued to it.

Notification of the birth of a foal must be submitted within one month of the date of birth. If the notification is submitted later, a higher registration fee will be charged.

The foal must be identified for the purpose of issuing a horse passport. Persons authorised by Suomen Hippos are responsible for identifying the foal. Identification duties have been delegated to horse breed associations in accordance with the cooperation agreement. The contact information of the persons authorised to conduct identification is available at www.hevosjalostusliitot.fi.

The identification document must always accompany the horse. To replace a lost or destroyed identification document, Suomen Hippos will issue a duplicate upon application, after a reliable explanation of the disappearance of the original identification document has been provided and the original identification document has been invalidated. The issuing of a duplicate identification document will exclude the horse from slaughter in accordance with the Commission Regulation.

5 Finnhorse studbook

The Finnhorse studbook is a closed studbook in which only individuals descended from purebred Finnhorses can be registered. The studbook consists of a main section, which is divided into basic class and breeding class. Purebred Finnhorses are registered in the basic class of the main section of Finnhorse Studbook. More detailed definitions of the conditions for registration in the studbook are listed in paragraph 6 of the Finnhorse breeding regulations.

Provisions on the right of individuals entered in the Finnhorse studbook to participate in trotting competitions and the right to breeding subsidies are laid down in section 6.2.

Basic class

All purebred Finnhorses that meet the requirements for entry in the studbook, given in chapter 6, may be entered in the basic class of the Finnhorse studbook.

Breeding class

On the basis of a breeding inspection, horses entered in the basic class of the Finnhorse studbook may be registered in the breeding class. Horses are entered in the breeding class based on their performance and health characteristics. More detailed requirements are given in chapter 8 of the Finnhorse breeding regulations. Finnhorse studbook breeding category includes four breeding sections: trotter, riding horse, pony-type horse, and working and utility horse.

6 Entry in the studbook

The Finnhorse studbook provides a reliable basis for breeding and competition activities to safeguard the rights of breeders and horse owners.

An individual entered in the Finnhorse studbook must meet the statutory requirements of identification, in accordance with paragraph 4, and the criteria for entry in the studbook, listed in paragraph 6.1. An

individual, to whom an identification document for a non-registered equine animal has been issued, can be registered in the studbook later on the basis of information on its breed and lineage, provided that the animal meets the requirements for entry in the studbook.

The identification data and lineage of horses are stored in a database maintained by Suomen Hippos. Horses are entered in the studbook with a unique UELN number.

Suomen Hippos is not responsible for any mistakes committed by other parties in the identification or lineage of horses entered in the studbook.

6.1 Requirements for entry in the studbook

Individuals that meet the following requirements can be entered in the Finnhorse studbook upon application:

- the horse is descended from parents in the main section of Finnhorse studbook, and
- the horse has been identified in accordance with the rules of the studbook (paragraph 4.), and
- the horse's pedigree has been established, and
- the stallion license of the horse's father has been redeemed for the year of mating, and
- the horse's birth certificate has been redeemed from the keeper of the stallion.

Reporting of mating and foaling

The matings of Finnhorses must be recorded by 15 September of the mating year. Matings can be reported after the annual stallion licence has been activated for the stallion. A fee will be charged for the processing of matings reported later. If the keeper of the stallion has not activated the stallion licence, it can be done when registering the foal.

A Finnhorse foal must be reported for registration in the studbook within one month of the date of birth. If the notification is submitted later, a higher registration fee will be charged. The owner of the mare at the time of foaling, or the entity to which the transfer of the mare's right of possession has been entered in the breeder register at the time of the foaling, shall be recorded as the foal's breeder. The transfer of the right of possession in the breeder register will not be done after the foal has been born.

Foal born abroad

If a Finnhorse is born abroad, it must be entered in the studbook maintained by Suomen Hippos in accordance with the studbook requirements. If a foal is identified for the purpose of issuing a horse passport (equine passport) abroad (outside Finland), it can be entered in the Finnhorse studbook without the right to compete in trotting races. Identification performed abroad is subject to separate agreement with Suomen Hippos. The right to compete in trotting races may be granted to a foal born abroad as defined in section 6.2.

Parentage verification

The parentage of an individual entered in the studbook must be verified with a DNA analysis to both the sire and dam. Persons authorised by Suomen Hippos are entitled to take a DNA sample for the purpose of parentage verification. A confirmed fee will be charged for the parentage verification. The DNA sample taken for parentage verification may be used for research purposes with the permission of Suomen Hippos.

Naming a foal

Horse names which are inappropriate, cause confusion with names already entered in the studbook, or names that are officially protected breeder names, will not be entered in the studbook. More detailed requirements for naming a Finnhorse are set out in the separate name code of Suomen Hippos. If no acceptable name proposal is provided for the horse, Suomen Hippos has the right to name the horse. The name of the horse entered in the studbook may be changed with the consent of the breeder before the horse's first participation in events organised or supervised by Suomen Hippos.

6.2 The right of a Finnhorse, entered in the studbook, to compete in trotting races

A Finnhorse registered in the studbook can be entered in the competition register of Suomen Hippos if it has the right to compete in trotting races.

The right to compete in trotting races can be applied for a foal

- that meets the requirements of the Finnhorse studbook in accordance with section 6.1, and
- whose father is entered in the breeding class of the studbook at the time of the mare's mating, and
- that has a birth certificate redeemed from the stallion keeper by the last day of December of the year of birth at the latest, and
- that has been identified / whose identity has been verified in Finland at the latest by the last day of March in the year following the year of birth

By way of derogation from the above, the right to compete in trotting races will also be granted to the progeny of stallions not entered in the breeding class of the studbook (= without breeding inspection) that are born to mares owned by the owner of the stallion in question from the time of mating until the time of foaling. The owner or owners of the stallion and the owner or owners of the mare shall be the same person or persons. The stallion and mare must be in the ownership and possession of the same person or entity or the same persons in all registers from the time of mating to the time of foaling. The ownership rights of the horses must be 100% identical. Family members are also considered as the same owner in the following cases: married spouses, cohabiting couples living in the same household, joint ownership of parents and children, and joint ownership of underage siblings. It must be possible to verify the family relationship.

A Finnhorse foal born outside of Finland must be microchipped in the country of birth with a country-coded microchip from that country, and an identification form must be completed for the horse. Identification performed abroad is subject to separate agreement with Suomen Hippos. Abroad, the microchip must be implanted and the identification form completed by an authorised operator in that country. The identification form shall be delivered to Suomen Hippos, where an identification document will be prepared

for the horse based on the information. In order to be entered in the Finnhorse trotting competition register, the horse must be imported to Finland by the last day of December of the year of birth. The identity of the horse must be verified and a DNA sample taken for parentage verification purposes in Finland by the end of March following the year of birth. If the foal is not imported to Finland by the end of the year of birth and its identity is not verified by the end of March following the year of birth, the horse will not be granted the right to compete in trotting races.

The breeder applies for the right to compete in trotting races for his/her foal when entering the foal in the studbook and at the same time, undertakes to comply with the breeding regulations of the Finnhorse and Suomen Hippos rules for trotting races, available at www.hippos.fi. If the breeder does not apply for the right to compete in trotting races for his/her foal at the time of registration in the studbook, or the owner of the horse removes the horse's right to compete in trotting races after registration in the studbook, the right to compete cannot be applied for afterwards.

The offspring of the first 120 mares on the mating list of a Finnhorse stallion are entitled to have the right to compete in trotting races, taking all methods of fertilization into account. The offspring of mares mated after the 120th mating are not entitled to have the right to compete in trotting races, regardless of how many foals have been born to the first 120 mares mated. Starting from mares mated in 2022, the offspring of the first 100 mares on the mating list of a Finnhorse stallion are correspondingly entitled to have the right to compete in trotting races, taking into account all methods of fertilization.

7 Collection and usage of result data

For the purposes of breeding inspections, data collected on the characteristics of horses in breeding inspection events organised by Suomen Hippos will be utilised. The data on competition results and progeny of horses is available in the database of Suomen Hippos, and in other domestic competition databases.

In addition, the BLUP breeding index, calculated for Finnhorses on the basis of trotting race results, is used in Finland. The index describes the genetic standard of horses. The BLUP index stands for Best Linear Unbiased Prediction.

All available information on the bloodlines, performance and offspring of the horse is taken into account in the calculation of the indices. In addition, environmental factors that have been verified by research as having an impact on the results are taken into account in the calculation. The environmental factors taken into account in the calculation of the indices include gender, age, driver, starting racetrack and method of starting, and individual start.

The Finnish BLUP index consists of sub-indices that make up the total index. In the total index, the weights are 40% time difference, 25% amount of winnings, 25% arrival at start and 10% best time of the year.

In addition to the indices, the reliability of breeding value is given in the result. It indicates how reliably the prediction describes the actual breeding value of the horse. The highest possible reliability of breeding value is 1, or 100%. The number of results of the horse itself and its offspring influence the reliability of breeding value.

8 Finnhorse breeding inspection

A horse entered in the basic class of the Finnhorse studbook may be transferred to the breeding class, provided that it meets the requirements specified for breeding class. The performance ability and other characteristics of a horse to be recorded in the breeding class are assessed at a breeding inspection event. If the horse meets the requirements set, it can be approved in the breeding inspection. If the horse meets the requirements set for awarding, it can be awarded in the breeding inspection.

A mare or stallion can be entered for the breeding section whose requirements it meets. When a horse is entered in a breeding class, the horse's breeding section will be indicated with a letter code in the horse's data: J – trotter horse section, R – riding horse section, P – pony-size section and T – working and utility section. In addition, the individuals to be judged for the working and utility section are separated according to the method of conducting the performance test: T – working and utility horse section with a pulling test, Ta – working and utility horse section with a driveability test, and Tk – working and utility horse section with a working test, either riding or driving.

Breeding inspection criteria

The breeding value of a horse is assessed on the basis of individual judging and progeny data. The breeding inspection takes place at a show, based on individual performance or the progeny data of a mare. A horse entered in breeding class on the basis of individual judging, or a mare inspected for conformation, can be awarded later on the basis of the progeny.

General requirements for breeding inspection

Horses aged 4 years and older, registered in the Finnhorse studbook, are entitled to participate in the breeding inspection.

A mare who is demonstrably pregnant from a mating carried out at least 120 days previously, has foaled a live foal no more than 150 days previously, or whose foal has died no more than 90 days before, if the pregnancy has lasted at least 120 days, is not entitled to take part in the breeding inspection. However, a mare to be judged on the basis of progeny data, or to be judged for conformation, can be shown in the breeding inspection without respecting the aforementioned time limits.

The prerequisite for approving a horse is that it is suitable for breeding in terms of its performance, disposition, movement, conformation and health. In order to combat hereditary defects and illnesses, the horse must meet the specified requirements for conformation and health. A further precondition for approving a horse is that the horse receives at least 5 points for each point of the conformation judging, and meets the performance requirements specified for each breeding section. If a horse's score is 5 or 5.5, or it has been awarded the grade 6 or 6.5 several times, a lower award than its performance would require may be given. On the basis of weakened characteristics of conformation or health, the prize for the horse can be lowered or no prize given to the horse.

In the breeding inspection for stallions, the horses' performances, state of health, disposition, movements and conformation are judged, and the horses' bloodlines are described. In the breeding inspection for mares, the horses' performances, general state of health, disposition, movements and conformation are judged.

Welfare as the starting point for breeding inspection

The basis for the breeding inspection event of horses is the welfare of horses (Animal Welfare Act). A sick horse is not entitled to participate in a breeding inspection. At the breeding inspection event, the attending veterinarian or the chairman of the board may interrupt the performance of a horse on the basis of issues related to the horse's welfare. If an adverse hereditary defect or illness is detected in the progeny of a horse registered in the breeding class, the Breeding Committee of Suomen Hippos may exclude the horse from use in breeding. In some cases, a stallion may be declared free from genes that cause hereditary defects on the basis of a progeny evaluation or a genetic test.

8.1 Implementation of the breeding inspection

8.1.1 Implementation of the individual judging

The breeding inspection includes the following parts:

- measurement
- judging of conformation
- performance tests according to the breeding section
- judging of disposition

and for stallions, a veterinary inspection and analysis by a statement group on the stallion's lineage and performance.

The individual judging of Finnhorse stallions includes a written genealogy report by the Finnhorse statement group, which pays special attention to the genetic diversity of the lineage and includes a verbal statement on the stallion's competitive career. The evaluation of lineage does not affect the entry of the stallion in a breeding class.

A horse that has passed or failed the breeding inspection can be shown again for breeding inspection. The number of inspections is not limited. At the breeding inspection event, a horse can only be shown for one breeding section at a time with one performance test.

The judging scale for points given for the disposition, performance tests, conformation and state of health of the horse is from 4 to 10. Half points can be used in the judging. In the judging, 10 means commendable, 9 very good, 8 good, 7 rather good, 6 satisfactory, 5 passable and 4 disqualified.

8.1.1.1. Measurement and assessment of fitness classification

In the breeding inspection, the following measurements of the horse will be taken: height at withers, height at croup, body length, chest width, chest circumference and cannon bone circumference. In addition, croup width is measured for all horses except trotters. The horse's bite is also inspected. Mares are manually checked for possible ossification of (collateral) cartilages of the distal/third phalanx and foot health. For the T section, the estimated weight of the horse shown with the pulling test will be determined.

In the breeding inspection, the horse must be presented without insoles or shoes that cover the sole of the hoof. According to measurement, heel caulks and shoes will be deducted from the result of the height measurement.

The fitness class is determined for all horses inspected for breeding by awarding points from one to five (1–5) based on the fat layer on the ribs as follows: 1 = very skinny, 2 = skinny, 3 = normal, 4 = slightly fat and 5 = fat.

In addition, a + or - sign may be used to specify the score.

8.1.1.2. Judging of conformation

The judging of conformation of a horse comprises the type (quality type, breed type and gender type), body, positions of feet and legs and the regularity of movement, feet and leg health and endurance, as well as hooves. The points for conformation range from four to ten (4–10).

A verbal statement is prepared on the conformation characteristics and, in addition, the separately mentioned points will be scored. Stallions are scored for quality type, body, positions of feet and legs and the regularity of movement, feet and leg health and hooves. Mares are scored for quality type, body, positions of feet and legs and the regularity of movement, and hooves.

When assessing the regularity of movement, faults that impair the working value of the horse are taken into account, including toe-in motion, dishing, brushing and closeness of gait.

8.1.1.3. Performance tests and judging of movements and gait

In the breeding inspection, the horse judged individually must pass the performance tests according to the breeding section. Implementation of the performance tests is described below for each breeding section. A stallion may be exempted from the performance test for a very weighty reason on the basis of a veterinary certificate, provided that it has the competition performances that qualify for the prize categories.

For all sections, the horse's movements are judged when walking and trotting. For the riding horse and pony-size sections, gallop is also evaluated. When movements are judged, attention is paid to the horse's mechanics of motion and coordination of movement, and in the case of trotters, to the ability to keep gait when trotting. The movements are judged both verbally and with scores from four to ten (4–10).

Finnhorses of the J section only receive a verbal assessment of the movements when walking. Horses judged by the working and utility section working test only receive a verbal assessment of the movements.

Trotter section (J)

For section J, both stallions and mares perform the driveability test. For mares judged on the basis of their

progeny, the driveability test is optional.

Riding horse section (R)

A horse approved for the riding horse section must pass the riding tests that include a gait test, a jumping test and a test ride. A mare can be accepted for section R with a rideability test only. For mares judged on the basis of their progeny, the riding and rideability test is optional.

Pony-size section (P)

A horse judged for the pony-size section must pass either a driveability test or a riding test. The riding test includes a gait test, a test ride and for stallions, also a jumping test. For mares judged on the basis of their progeny, the driveability or rideability test is optional..

Working and utility section (T)

For the working and utility section, a horse can be judged with a pulling test, a driveability test or a working test. The working test can be performed by driving or riding. For mares judged on the basis of their progeny, the pulling, driveability and working tests are optional.

8.1.1.4 Judging of disposition

To judge the disposition, board members observe the horse throughout the breeding inspection event. The disposition of the horse is judged both verbally and with scores from four to ten (4–10). The disposition of a horse that is judged with a working test for the working and utility section is judged only verbally. Aggressiveness, restlessness and timidity may cause the horse to be disqualified. The horse will be disqualified if it cannot be judged due to its disposition. The conformation judging board, the recipients of the performance tests, the persons measuring the horse and, in the case of stallions, the veterinarian, each assign a disposition score based on which the overall score for disposition will be awarded to the horse in the breeding inspection. For the overall score for disposition, emphasis is placed on the horse's disposition in the context of the performance test.

8.1.1.5 Veterinary inspection of stallions

In connection with the show entry, the owner or holder of the stallion to be inspected for breeding, will complete, and verify with his/ her signature, an entry form that includes a report on the surgeries performed on the stallion and any illnesses or behavioural disorders. The issues notified can be recorded in the critique issued to the stallion. When entering the stallion, the owner or holder at the same time agrees to that the veterinarian who treated the stallion may, upon request, disclose to Suomen Hippos any medical and treatment information concerning diseases and injuries that should be taken into account in the breeding inspection.

In the inspection of stallions, attention is paid to the overall condition and behaviour of the horse. In particular, the state of health of the musculoskeletal system, genitals, skin and teeth is examined. The stallion will not be sedated for the inspection. The neurological condition is also taken into account. If

necessary, the horse may be referred to further examinations, such as an endoscopy, rectal or eye examination.

The veterinary inspection includes checking of both overall health and orthopaedic health. At the same time, the horse's movements are inspected on a hard surface in a straight line, when walking and trotting, and the movements of horses of sections R and P, also in a circle when running on the longe-line on a soft surface. The veterinarian gives a verbal statement of the health status of the stallion and scores the health of feet and legs on a scale of 4 to 10.

The stallion's legs are X-rayed to detect any hereditary growth disorders and other findings. In connection with the X-ray examination, the stallion's teeth and bite are also inspected. The weight of a stallion to be judged for the working section with a pulling test can be measured on the scale during the veterinary inspection, in which case the result obtained will be used as the weight of the stallion in the pulling test. The examinations must be carried out by the deadline set by Suomen Hippos. The show veterinarian of Suomen Hippos will give a statement on the X-rays. The X-ray statement and the oral and dental examination statement shall be attached to the breeding inspection critique.

The veterinary inspection of stallions that are judged with the working and utility section working test, in connection with specially designated mare and foal shows, is carried out before the breeding inspection event, by a veterinarian chosen by the owner and at the owner's expense. The same veterinarian conducts the veterinary inspection, x-ray and oral examination. The inspection form filled in by the veterinarian will be returned to Hippos together with the X-rays and the oral examination form, by the last day of entries for the show. The requirements for the veterinary inspection are equivalent to the inspection at a stallion show, but the inspection also includes a verbal description of the stallion's disposition during the inspection by the veterinarian performing the inspection. Suomen Hippos' veterinarian scores foot health on a scale of 4–10, based on the X-rays and the examination form.

8.1.2 Progeny evaluation

The competition and breeding inspection results of stallions and mares entered in the breeding class, and those of the progeny of mares whose conformation has been inspected, are reviewed annually for the purposes of the progeny evaluation.

A stallion whose progeny will be evaluated must be entered in the breeding class based on the individual judging. In the breeding inspection, a mare can be entered in the breeding class directly on the basis of the results of its offspring. Based on the results of the offspring, a mare that has undergone conformation inspection can be transferred to the breeding class. Also a mare entered in the breeding class on the basis of individual judging can undergo progeny evaluation at a later date on the basis of the results of its offspring.

The stallion or mare itself does not have to be approved in the breeding inspection for the same section for which the progeny evaluation is made. Horses that have passed the working test will not be rewarded in the individual judging, but may be rewarded later in the progeny evaluation.

9 Use of stallions and mares for breeding purposes

An annual stallion licence must be activated for each stallion used for breeding. Activation of the stallion licence is required also for stallions used for breeding who have not undergone a breeding inspection. The inspection of health characteristics for hereditary diseases is also recommended for stallions used for breeding who have not undergone a breeding inspection. Breeding inspection of mares is not mandatory, but an inspection of the mare's health characteristics is also recommended before the mating decision.

9.1 Stallion licence

An annual stallion licence must be activated for each Finnhorse stallion used for breeding. Applications are submitted to the Heppa system of Suomen Hippos. The stallion licence fee according to a separate price list is determined by whether or not the stallion has undergone breeding inspection, and the time when the application can be approved at Hippos, i.e. when all necessary appendices to the application have been submitted. If the licence is not paid by the due date, the price will increase according to separately specified price steps.

Activation of the stallion licence requires that a *Culicoides* hypersensitivity examination form has been submitted for a Finnhorse stallion registered in the breeding class. The electronic mating records will open when the stallion licence is activated. The offspring of a stallion cannot be registered in the studbook if the stallion licence has not been activated. A stallion licence will not be granted to a one-year-old Finnhorse stallion. A stallion's subsequent progeny evaluation will not affect the offspring that have already been born.

9.2 Use of semen from a deceased or castrated stallion

The use of frozen semen from a deceased or castrated stallion, approved in a breeding inspection, may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

9.3 Semen collection and storage centres

An application for a licence for horse semen collection and storage centre must be submitted to the Regional State Administrative Agency. The Finnish Food Authority confirms the licence by issuing a national approval code. Licencing requires the centre to have appropriate semen collection and processing facilities, insemination facilities and adequate stable and paddock facilities. For the licence application, a veterinarian shall be appointed to be responsible for ensuring compliance at the centre with the requirements set. The licencing requirements are defined in the Animal Diseases Act.

9.4 Contagious diseases

In accordance with legislation on artificial insemination legislation, all Finnhorse stallions used for artificial insemination must undergo annual testing for *Taylorella equigenitalis* (CEM) and viral arthritis (EVA). The stallion must be tested negative for CEM before the first insemination of the next breeding season. If the

stallion has not been used for breeding at all after the previous CEM test, the test need not be repeated. If a stallion entered in a breeding class is used at stud only by natural mating, the CEM test shall be taken at least at 5-year intervals. The CEM test requirement does not apply to basic class stallions used at stud only by the natural method.

Prior to semen collection, the veterinarian supervising the semen collection procedure must check that the stallion shows no signs of a contagious disease. In case the semen is frozen, the stallion must also be tested negative for contagious diseases (CEM, EVA). Separate regulations and guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the handling, quality standards and export of equine gametes and embryos to another Member State of the European Union (www.mmm.fi)

Legislation on animal diseases and the related amendments are taken into account in these guidelines. Instructions or regulations may also be issued for other diseases transmitted by mating or artificial insemination, where appropriate. Approved use of Finnhorse for breeding is subject to compliance with the legislation in force.

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a stallion is transmitting a contagious disease in connection with mating, the stallion may, if necessary, be referred to further testing and a temporary ban on its use for breeding can be imposed.

10 Embryo transfer

Embryo transfer complies with the requirements set by the EU and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Licence holders must notify donor mares annually to Suomen Hippos ry before the first embryo collection.

The breeder of a foal born by the embryo transfer method is the owner of the recipient mare at the time of birth of the foal, unless the holder of the recipient mare has been declared as the breeder in the breeder register of Suomen Hippos.

Finnhorse foals born by embryo transfer are entered in the studbook and registered with the right to compete in trotting races, provided that they meet the requirements for registration in the studbook and for obtaining the right to compete in trotting races.

11 Breeding Committee and show judging board

The Breeding Committee appointed by Suomen Hippos comprises at least three representatives of breeders, one of whom has been elected chairman. In addition, the Committee comprises an expert in the science of animal breeding, a veterinary science expert, an official representing the horse breeding associations and an official of Suomen Hippos.

The Board of Directors of Suomen Hippos confirms the composition of the Stallion Board and appoints a Chairman. The Board may be assisted by persons appointed by Suomen Hippos and the relevant horse breeding association. If one of the members of the Stallion Inspection Board is prevented or disqualified, Suomen Hippos will appoint a replacement.

The Chairman of the Mare Inspection Board is a president judge appointed by Suomen Hippos, and board members are two competent and qualified persons selected by the local horse breeding association. The Board may be assisted by persons appointed by the horse breeding association.

A member of the Inspection Board shall be disqualified if:

- the member or his/her close relative is the breeder or owner, part-owner, trainer, driver or rider of the horse to be inspected,
- the member or his/her close relative has been the owner or part-owner of the horse to be inspected,
- the member or his/her close relative is the breeder, owner, part-owner, renter or stallion keeper of the sire or dam of the horse in question,

- another similar disqualification criterion arises which jeopardises confidence in a member's impartiality for any other reason.

The members of the Inspection Board are responsible for reporting the disqualification themselves. Parents, married spouses and cohabiting partners, children and siblings are considered close relatives.

If the votes are tied when the Inspection Board votes, the chairman's vote shall decide.

12 Code of Conduct

All breeders and owners have an equitable right to enter their horses, that meet the requirements of the studbook, for inclusion in the breeding programme. The breeders and owners of horses participating in the breeding programme undertake to comply with the rules of the breeding programme regarding identification, registration and breeding activities.

Breeding inspection results are public. The result of a breeding inspection can be appealed if the inspection event has not been conducted in accordance with the breeding regulations in force for the breed, and other relevant instructions. The complaint may be lodged by the person who owns or controls the individual involved in the complaint in question. The appeal must be submitted in writing. Appeals are processed by the Breeding Committee of Suomen Hippos ry. Complaints related to the inspection site and event must be submitted during the inspection event, no later than half an hour after the event has ended, to the show office. Other complaints related to the inspection event must be submitted within two weeks of the inspection event to Suomen Hippos.

Appeals against the decisions of the Breeding Committee can be lodged with the Board of Directors of Suomen Hippos. Appeals concerning a fine of EUR 1,000 or higher, related to breeding activities and imposed by the Board of Directors of Suomen Hippos, can be submitted to the trotting court within fourteen (14) days of the appellant being informed of the Board's decision.