

„Bundeschampionat für Freizeitpferde“, a very good opportunity for Fjord horses in Germany to show their abilities as true all-rounders.

In Germany we have an old, very well established and accepted system of comparing sport horses on our yearly “Bundeschampionate”, championships where every state sends young promising sport horses and riding ponies to measure their abilities in dressage, 3-day eventing, jumping and driving. A couple of years ago a new kind of championship was installed especially for leisure horses:

Ponies and horses at the age of 4 to seven years compete here. Every horse/pony has to pass the following tests, all on the same day:

1. “ride ability test”, a small dressage pattern.
2. ride ability test ridden by a professional test rider
3. a small cross country course including three obstacles, one of which involves water
4. a ride outside in a group of about four riders, where behavior in the group is challenged and judged
5. a trail course involving standing still when rider is mounting /dismounting and also involving obstacles likely to frighten a nervous horse.

The ranking of the participants is done by a system of collecting points for each discipline.

During the last years Fjord Horses have participated very successfully in these championships, their success by far exceeding the proportion in numbers of starters and also numbers of Fjord Horses existing in Germany.

The Championship 2016 was a pure triumph for the Fjord Horses:

Of 17 starters in the group eight were Fjord Horses. Of these eight the weakest landed on rank 11! And the first place was taken by a Fjord, same as last year and the year before!!

One reason for the popularity of this championship is the new rule that passing it with a total of 65 points, which is similar to a score of 6,5 , is now accepted by the breeding associations as a performance test for Fjord mares and –since 2016- also Fjord stallions.

As this combination truly tests the all-round abilities so typical for our breed, the IGF has been fighting for the installment of these rules during a couple of years and the results the Fjord Horses achieve in comparison with other breeds show that this is the right way !

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