

Fjordhorses in Germany

Performance Tests

Susanne Petersen



Stallion testing in Germany

- In order to get licensed for breeding, the stallions have to be evaluated in hand.
- The licensing (= Körung) has to be done before first use for breeding, normally when the stallion is 2 ½ years old.
- The licensing is done once in the stallions lifetime!

Licensing in 4 Parts:

- Trotting on hard ground for correctness of movement,
- Walk and trot in hand,
- Loose walk, trot, canter, free jumping,
- Examination for inheritable diseases by a state vet.

Walk and trot in hand



Loose walk, trot , canter



Free Jumping



Performance Test

- At the age of six years the stallion has to pass a performance test.
- Otherwise he loses his license for breeding

Two Options for Performance Testing

- 30 Days Station Test

Two testing stations are accredited to test Fjord Stallions

- Second option

The 30 Days Station Test

- Stallions are trained under saddle in the arena and over cross country jumps, in harness inside and outside and jumping free
- After the training, scores are given by the trainer for the training period and by judges for a final test

Weighting of Scores

- 55% of points are given by the trainer, 45% of points are given by the judges of the final test.
- Rideability is judged by the trainer and by a riding judge during the final test.
- The results are weighted towards disposition and rideability. The driving is done with a special emphasis on calmness. Behaviour when the harness is put on is part of the test.

Free jumping



Under saddle in the arena walk, trot, canter



Cross country with jumps



In harness outside



In harness outside



Other Option

- Besides the 30 Days Station Test there is the option of doing the performance test by achieving a defined number and rank of placements in accredited shows or long distance rides.
- This option is very rarely used.

Performance Test for Mares I

- The idea behind performance testing of mares is to get the breeders to use and train the mares and know their character better before they use them for breeding.

Performance Tests for Mares II

- For Mares performance tests are optional.
- But in order to get certain premium titles mares have to be tested.
- There are 7 different performance tests for mares, varying from a one - day ridden or driving test, a 14 days station test in driving to a 30 days station test that is similar to the 30 days stallion test.

30 Days Performance Test - Mares



Under saddle in the arena

Walk, trot, canter



Jumping



One Day Driving Test



German Championship for Leisure Horses I

- This championship consists of five parts, all performed on the same day:
- A short rideability test ridden in the arena
- A short rideability test ridden by a test rider
- Riding cross country in a group
- Riding through water and over two jumps
- A trail parcours with flags, umbrellas, a rattle bag and so on.

German Championship for Leisure Horses II

- Maximum age for this championship is 7 years
- Passing this championship with a weighted end result of 65 points or more is accepted as a performance test for mares and probably in future also as a performance test for stallions.

My Personal Thought

Susanne Petersen

- With numbers of Fjord foals born going down everywhere in the world our performance testing has to sort out the UNACCEPTABLE candidates.
- To my mind this focus is much more important than to find out tiny little differences in behaviour.
- One nice looking stallion with unacceptable disposition can spoil the whole breed.

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