

## VISION

Maintaining and developing the Fjord Horse breed internationally requires a universal definition of the breeding goal as well as a mutual understanding of the evaluation process.

The Fjord Horse breed has found supporters and enthusiasts around the world. This handbook can promote closer contact between persons and organisations, provide better education and training and assist in establishing international standards.

Through the Fjord Horse International's Judges' Commission, organisations and persons involved in evaluating, judging and breeding Fjords, have co-operated and contributed to this book, as all member countries realise there must be a common system of procedures and rules for evaluations.

This "Official Handbook for Fjord Horse Judges" shall serve as a guide in the training and education of Fjord Horse judges and breeders. The handbook will provide a basis for the training of judges, from learner judges to certified international judges, including mandatory further education of certified judges. And for those previously trained in the breeding and judging of Fjord Horses, it shall serve as a reference handbook.

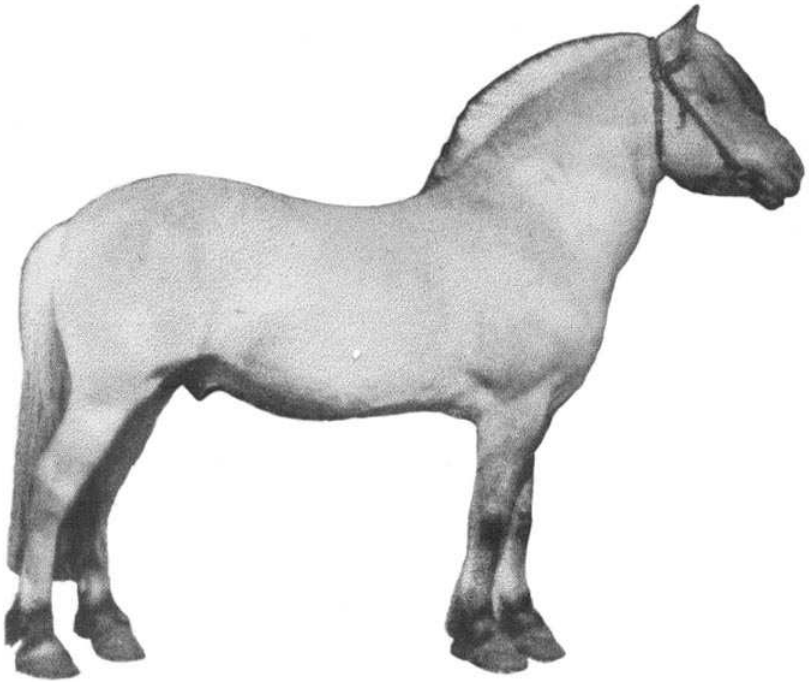
The member associations of FHI shall implement a system of training and examining Fjord horse judges based upon the guidelines laid down in this handbook.

The sections of this handbook describe different aspects of breeding and judging/evaluating Fjord Horses - from the general history of the breed to the details of judges' scorecards and general information about the international organisations.

While the Norwegian organisations play the predominant role in defining standards, care was taken to include aspects of the systems already in place in different countries. Therefore this handbook includes compatible 5- and 10-figure systems. It is very important to note that original Norwegian literature, not readily available in any other language, served as an important source of information.

The members of the FHI Judges' Commission who collected and edited the contents of this handbook have contributed their services to Norges Fjordhestlag and all members of FHI, for the sole purpose of promoting the Fjord Horse. We must recognise that breeding and judging horses is a dynamic process with the potential for change over a period of time yet the core standards for the Fjord Horse breed must always be maintained and used as a guide to further development.

The Fjord Horse is to be found all over the world. Norges Fjordhestlag is in charge of the Mother Studbook and has overall responsibility for the breed. Due to its global distribution Norges Fjordhestlag, Norsk Hestesenter and Fjord Horse International are increasingly responsible for keeping the balance between preserving the breed and improving the procedures for the breeding and judging/ evaluation of Fjord Horses. An overall goal will be closed Stud Books for Fjord Horses in all countries.



**Håkon Jarl**