

C- THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Ethic Principles

The main purpose of an evaluation is to judge horses on their breed qualities. The next importance of this event for the involved exhibitor is the educational effect. Therefore judges have a great responsibility in fairly treating the horses and giving the owners the feeling that they have received independent and competent assessments and useful advice. Every judge, from wherever he may come, has to be sure about his objectivity.

The breed standard and a personal inner picture of his ideal Fjord horse are the standard for the judge. Within this a certain level of subjectivity is inevitable. This can be accepted, if the judge shows recognised knowledge about the Fjord horse and his breeding, and if he gives understandable reasons for his assessments. He will succeed in this if he gives a verbal explanation to back up his assessment in addition to the scoring. (Depending on the general organisation and time) This shall take place in the ring. Outside the ring and after evaluation is finished, a judge should never refuse to answer questions to explain his judgements.

During the evaluation, discussions with breeders/owners are forbidden.

The verbal manners (tone) of a judge and his personal charisma are very important. He shall show friendliness while evaluating and educating, but never should he disparage a horse or his breeder/ owner, in any way that might hurt their dignity.

Before an evaluation/ show the judge must reject any information received through a breed organisation, or any group or person appointed by them, regarding particular horses.

If a judge has knowledge of a possible existing fault in an animal in front of him, he must only proceed by using visible evidence of this fault, to use this knowledge in his evaluation.

The same way a judge may not evaluate and score a horse from positive knowledge.

A judge does not evaluate horses of his own or of his own breeding.

A judge does not evaluate horses in which he has any commercial interest.

A judge evaluates a horse only by comparison with the breed standard and his own inner picture of the breed, not by knowledge of the pedigree, the breed line or the breeder/ owner.

A judge is always aware of his obligation towards the above written neutrality.

A judge always avoids open, familiar companionship with Breeders/ owners before or during an evaluation. This rules out private accommodation for a judge, unless it is really unavoidable.

As in different countries there exist ongoing rules about judges' ethics, this may serve as a basis, which may be individually completed.