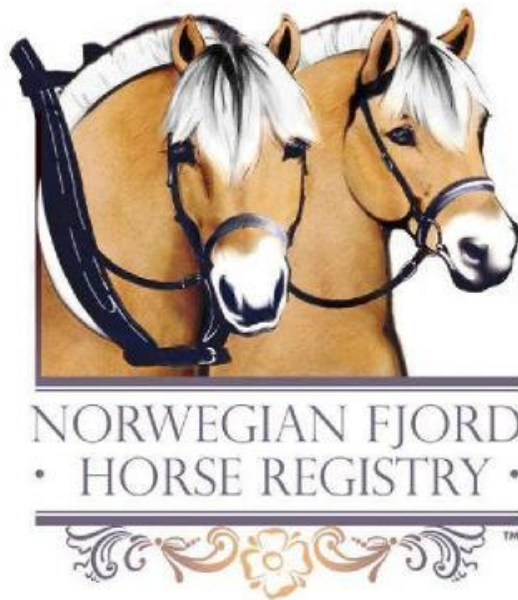


NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY EVALUATION HANDBOOK

SECTION 2



2019

Table of Contents

Section 1 - Evaluation Program Description

Section 2 - Conformation/Movement Evaluation

Section 3 - Breed Standard

Section 4 - Performance Tests

Section 5 - Holding an Evaluation

Section 6 - Evaluator Information and Continuing Education

SECTION 2

CONFORMATION/MOVEMENT EVALUATION

CONFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Required Grooming

1. Mane: Upright, clipped even or with the dark stripe standing 1/4" to 1/2" above the lighter crest and tapering into poll and withers. Long manes are allowed but not traditional.
2. Forelock: Left long.
3. Tail: Long and full, may be banded.
4. Hooves: Only clear hoof polish is allowed. Unpolished hooves are permitted.

Preferred Grooming

5. Ears: Pony clip.
6. Head: Goat hairs may be clipped to define head.
7. Facial Whiskers: Whiskers may be left long at eyes and muzzle.
8. Legs and Fetlocks: May be neatened. Shaved fetlocks are permitted, but not preferred.
9. Body: Horses presented fully clipped will not be penalized.

Tack

Horses shall be presented to the judges in a halter or bridle depending on personal preference and regional style. Handlers may choose reins, chain shank or lead rope to control their horses. Tack should be clean, safe, and in good condition.

Attire

Handlers shall be dressed to complement the occasion in traditional informal attire appropriate to how they use their horses. Comfortable, neat, conservative, safe attire is suggested.

Measurement

Horses aged three and over shall be measured for height and circumference of cannon bone by the TD or the TD's representative and the measurements recorded.

Identification

Each horse entering the ring for purposes of measurement or evaluation will be positively identified by the TD or the TD's representative by microchip scan.

LINEAR SCALE SCORING

Explanation of Characteristics for Conformation and Performance

The characteristics will be evaluated on a nine-point scale consisting of five categories and four subcategories. Characteristics range from full expression in the one extreme (A) to full expression in the other extreme (I). The Evaluator will denote the category that best describes the observation of the horse with regard to the breed standard. The characteristics are divided into three main groups A-C, D-F, and G-I. As the horse is evaluated the Evaluator will decide which of the three main groups the horse belongs in. After that, the placement of the horse within the main group will be refined.

Manageability (manageable-unmanageable)

- A: The horse is very easy to manage.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: The horse is easy to manage.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: The horse is reasonable to manage.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: The horse is not easy to manage.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: The horse is difficult to manage.

A horse that is very easy to manage is calm and relaxed. It is focused and is willing to take direction to do the job. For example, a horse that is not manageable is not attentive to its handler, doesn't listen or obey, and will often jump forward when hitching.

Level of Excitement (relaxed-excited)

- A: The horse shows no sign of stress.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: The horse shows some or weak signs of stress.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: The horse shows moments of stronger signs of stress.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: The horse shows frequent and strong signs of stress and/or fright.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: The horse expresses ongoing strong signs of stress and/or fright.

A horse that does not show signs of stress is relaxed. It has normal head carriage and shows no adverse reaction to equipment or its surroundings. For example, a horse that shows stress or fright can, but may not, express this through unwillingness to stand still, tensioned body position, or showing strong reaction to equipment and its surroundings.

Impulsion (big-small)

- A: Very good impulsion.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: Good impulsion.

- D: Between C and E.
- E: Moderate impulsion.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: Little impulsion.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: Lacks impulsion.

A horse with very good impulsion moves forward well by itself. It keeps the gait it is asked for with fresh crisp steps and forward movement. A horse lacking impulsion must often be driven forward and has no “engine.”

Willingness to cooperate (good-poor):

- A: The horse is very concentrated, has full focus on the handler, and obeys very quickly.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: The horse is concentrating, has good focus on the handler and obeys fairly quickly.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: The horse is focused satisfactorily on the handler and obeys fairly quickly.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: The horse shows little concentration, has little focus on the handler, and shows little willingness to cooperate.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: The horse shows no ability to concentrate and is not focused on the handler at all and does not obey.

A horse that is very willing to cooperate is very concentrated, has full focus on the handler and obeys very quickly. The horse tries to accomplish what it has been asked to do. A horse that is unwilling to cooperate and is unable to concentrate cannot focus on the handler and often does not obey. The horse must be asked over and over and often does not react positively.

Stride length (long-short)

- A: Extremely long and ground covering (long over-stride.)
- B: Between A and C.
- C: Ground covering (pronounced over-stride.)
- D: Between C and E.
- E: Moderate over-stride, minimal imprint in the same track.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: Limited over-stride.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: Short and unengaged (without over-stride.)

A horse with an extremely long and ground covering stride covers lots of ground and is effective in its leg position. A horse with a short stride appears as if it is stumbling and has an ineffective stride; it doesn't seem to get anywhere.

Joints (active -stiff)

- A: Extreme use of joints. Pronounced high knee lift.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: Big and active use of joints.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: Active use of joints.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: Somewhat stiff use of joints. Slightly effective.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: Stiff and locked joints. Ineffective.

A horse with extreme use of its joints often uses both knee and hock joints so much that they are exaggerated. A horse with stiff or locked joints seems extremely inflexible and ineffective in its leg positioning and on the edge of seeming lame.

Top-line (free–stiff)

- A: Fully engaged sweeping movement. Active top-line with good swing.
- B: Between A and C.
- C: Free movement, good use of top-line.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: Satisfactory use of top-line.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: Somewhat quiet top-line. Little movement or activity.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: Quiet top-line. Stiff, no movement.

A horse with a fully engaged and sweeping active top-line uses its entire body in its leg positioning. A horse with a stiff top-line showing no movement seems stiff and inflexible in its leg positioning and use of its body.

Self-carriage (self-carriage – on the forehand)

- A: Carries itself well on the backend. It is up over its back with good shoulder freedom (up under itself in the backend, up over itself in the front with good shoulder freedom.)
- B: Between A and C.
- C: Up under itself in the back, tendency to be up-over in the front part.
- D: Between C and E.
- E: In balance, somewhat flat but not falling on the forehand.
- F: Between E and G.
- G: Somewhat on the forehand.
- H: Between G and I.
- I: On the forehand, unbalanced, (without rhythm) running.

A horse that carries itself through the back is in balance, with weight on the backend. It is light on the forehand and is on the bit. A horse that is falling on the forehand often lacks rhythm, seems unbalanced and often has a lot of weight in the hand.

CONFORMATION/MOVEMENT TEST PROCEDURES

The Conformation/Movement Test occurs over 3 separate sections during an evaluation event:

1. Initial Parade
2. Triangle/Liberty
3. Final Parade and Results

Each Fjord being tested will participate in every section. The sections are grouped by sex so that mares and stallions are not in the arena at the same time. There should be separate groups for stallions, mares, geldings and youngstock; but groups, except stallions and mares, can be combined at the discretion of the TD and Evaluators.

Initial Parade

The goal of the Initial Parade section is to provide the Evaluators a look at each Fjord as part of its group. With a handler for each Fjord, the Fjords enter the arena at a walk and proceed along the rail. At the direction of the Evaluators or TD, the path around the arena may be shortened.

Triangle

The goal of the Triangle section is to perform a detailed inspection of the conformation and movement of each Fjord. The handler walks the Fjord into the arena to a position about 10 feet in front of the Evaluators. A 4x8 foot plywood board may be provided to stand the Fjord for presentation. The handler then stands the Fjord in a square stance with the front legs and an open or square stance with the back legs. When the handler is ready, the Evaluators will closely inspect the conformation of the Fjord. When the Evaluators have finished their inspection, the handler will be asked to first walk and then trot the triangular pattern, slowing or looping at the corners so that the legs of the pattern are executed in straight lines. After completing the final walk leg of the triangle and the final trot leg of the triangle, the Evaluators will instruct the handler if additional walking or trotting is needed.

Liberty

The goal of the Liberty section is to allow each Fjord to show natural gaits without encumbrance of a handler. Two turners with lunge whips will be used to encourage the horse to move in canter, trot, and if possible, walk. The handler may assist the turners. The Evaluators will assess the Fjord's gaits and movements. The handler walks the horse into the arena near the Evaluators. When they are ready, the Evaluators will instruct the handler to release the Fjord by removing the lead line. After the Evaluators have assessed the gaits and movement within an optimum time of five minutes, the handler will be instructed to catch the Fjord. If no additional walking or trotting is needed, the handler will stand the Fjord for the final inspection. During the final inspection, the Evaluators will confer among themselves to determine the comments and section scores and a scribe will record the results. Once the Evaluators are satisfied that they no longer need the horse present in the arena, the handler will be instructed to exit with the horse.

Final Parade and Results

The goal of the Parade section is to provide the Evaluators a look at each Fjord as part of its group. With a handler for each Fjord in the group the Fjords enter the arena at a walk and proceed along the rail. At the direction of the Evaluators or TD, the path around the arena may be shortened.

During this time, the Evaluators will confer and finalize their comments and scores for each Fjord in the group. The Evaluators may pull a horse into the center to take another look. When the Evaluators have completed scoring, the group will be instructed to line up in the center or to relax in place. Once the scores have been recorded and the ribbons brought in, the Evaluators will present a ribbon and their comments for each Fjord. After all the Fjords in that group have been presented their ribbons and comments, the group is excused.

Arena Size

The arena for Conformation/Movement does not need to be rectangular and may be oval. Round pens are not usable for Conformation/Movement sections.

1. The minimum size arena: 40m x 20m, (131' x 66')
2. The ideal size arena: 60m x 20m, (197' x 66')
3. At the discretion of the TD and Evaluators, an arena that is too large may be reduced with barricades.
4. Reducing an arena that is too large will be necessary for the liberty section.

Triangle Size

Triangle size should be 40' minimum per side for the walk and 60' minimum per side for the trot.



Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry

Conformation Score Sheet

Date: _____
 Horse Name: _____
 Location: _____
 Owner: _____

Registration No.: _____
 Microchip No.: _____
 UEHLN#: _____

Exterior	No	Cannon measurement:						Height:			Other Observations		
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I			
Head	1	Noble/refined			0 0 0			0 0 0			Heavy head	<input type="checkbox"/> Coarse neck/head attachment	
	2	Refined/light build			0 0 0			0 0 0			Coarse build	<input type="checkbox"/> Star acceptable in size <input type="checkbox"/> Star too large	
	3	Body - large			0 0 0			0 0 0			Body small	<input type="checkbox"/> Small built <input type="checkbox"/> Over built	
	Character	4	Long legged			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short legged	<input type="checkbox"/> Short front legs
		5	Long built body			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short built body	
		6	Strong gender expression			0 0 0			0 0 0			Little gender expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Gelding
		7	Strong primitive markings			0 0 0			0 0 0			Lacking primitive markings	<input type="checkbox"/> Underbite <input type="checkbox"/> Overbite
Neck/Body	8	Long neck			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short neck	<input type="checkbox"/> Short poll/atlas	
	9	Vertical neck angle			0 0 0			0 0 0			Horizontal neck angle		
	10	Small neck attachment shldr			0 0 0			0 0 0			Wide neck attachment shldr	<input type="checkbox"/> Fat crest of neck (heavy)	
	11	Curved neck line			0 0 0			0 0 0			Straight neck	<input type="checkbox"/> Ewe neck, under-neck	
	12	Long wither			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short wither	<input type="checkbox"/> Low neck attachment	
	13	Well defined tall wither			0 0 0			0 0 0			Undefined wither		
	14	Laid back shoulder			0 0 0			0 0 0			Straight shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/> Short shoulder (includes Humerous)	
	15	Straight back			0 0 0			0 0 0			Low (sway) back		
	16	Long back			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short back	<input type="checkbox"/> Tight top-line	
	17	Long coupling			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short coupling	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak coupling	
	18	Long croup			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short croup	<input type="checkbox"/> Rafter hips	
19	Sloping croup			0 0 0			0 0 0			Flat croup	<input type="checkbox"/> Long gaskin		
Legs General	20	Well defined joints			0 0 0			0 0 0			Small joints	<input type="checkbox"/> Mis-matched front hooves	
	21	Round cannon bone			0 0 0			0 0 0			Flat cannon bone	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-set knees	
	22	Long cannon bone			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short cannon bone	<input type="checkbox"/> Broken axis pastern	
	23	Long pastern			0 0 0			0 0 0			Short pastern	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint edema	
Front Legs	24	Over at the knee			0 0 0			0 0 0			Back at the knee	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-set, bench knees	
	25	Straight front pasterns			0 0 0			0 0 0			Soft front pasterns	<input type="checkbox"/> Knock-kneed	
	26	Toed out			0 0 0			0 0 0			Toed in	<input type="checkbox"/> Splay footed	
	27	Base wide front			0 0 0			0 0 0			Base narrow front	<input type="checkbox"/> Tied in at the knees	
	28	Low heels front hoof			0 0 0			0 0 0			High heels front hoof	<input type="checkbox"/> Undercut heels front hoof	
	29	Legs straight, narrow chest			0 0 0			0 0 0			Legs straight, wide chest	<input type="checkbox"/> Club footed front	
Back Legs	30	Back leg too straight			0 0 0			0 0 0			Sickle hocked	<input type="checkbox"/> Camped out behind	
	31	Cow hocked			0 0 0			0 0 0			Bow legged	<input type="checkbox"/> Stands wide	
	32	Straight back pasterns			0 0 0			0 0 0			Soft backed pasterns	<input type="checkbox"/> Curb in hocks	
	33	Toed out back			0 0 0			0 0 0			Toed-in back	<input type="checkbox"/> Bit under the hock	
	34	Base Wide back			0 0 0			0 0 0			Base narrow back	<input type="checkbox"/> Undershot heels back	
	35	Low heel back			0 0 0			0 0 0			High heel back	<input type="checkbox"/> Mismatched back hooves	
Movement Correctness	36	Paddling front legs			0 0 0			0 0 0			Winging front legs	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope walk front <input type="checkbox"/> Rope walk back	
	37	Narrow at the walk			0 0 0			0 0 0			Wide at the walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Wide front <input type="checkbox"/> Wide back	
	38	Narrow at the trot			0 0 0			0 0 0			Wide at the trot	<input type="checkbox"/> Straddle movements <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable hocks <input type="checkbox"/> Twisting/screwing hocks	

