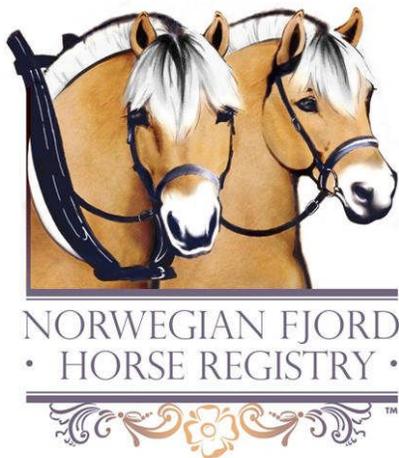


FJORD HORSE EVALUATION HANDBOOK

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY
and
CANADIAN FJORD HORSE ASSOCIATION



APRIL 2010

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

EVALUATION PROGRAM

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NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

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EVALUATION PROGRAM

I. Evaluation Program Description

PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that the Evaluation Committee (EC) of the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry (NFHR) presents this Handbook. It is still a “work in progress” and your feedback is welcome!

The EC wishes to thank all of the people that have been involved in the development of this program. Special thanks go out to the Board of Directors, past and present, the Evaluation Committees, past and present, to the evaluators, both European and American, that have helped in its development and presentation, and to all of the participants of the past that have contributed feedback to the system. No individual names are listed, because the list would be too great to complete and the accidental omission of a particular person would be an injustice. Suffice to say that the efforts of all of the people that have contributed to the American Evaluation Program from its inception in 1984 are deeply appreciated by those of us who love the Fjord horse.

INTRODUCTION

The American Evaluation system has been developed as an educational tool for the North American Fjord horse owner, to promote the thoughtful breeding of quality Fjords and to educate the public about the versatility and temperament that draws people to this remarkable breed. The purpose of this handbook is to provide a source of information for Fjord horse enthusiasts, be they individuals with an interest in Fjords, or breeders that need the evaluation process to help educate themselves about the strengths and weaknesses of the horses that they own and breed. This handbook will clarify the roles and responsibilities of all those that are involved with the evaluation process, from the participant to the evaluator, and will help to simplify the process for those that wish to participate.

Because the American Evaluation system is a voluntary program, its ultimate success depends upon its acceptance and use by Fjord owners nationwide. It is a carefully controlled system that scores the Fjord horse against our NFHR Breed Standard which is modeled after the Breed Standard in Norway, the “Mother” country. Each horse evaluated is scored against the Standard and not against another participant. It is NOT a “horse show” and is not judged as such. There are two parts to the evaluation; the conformation/movement section for horses of all ages and performance testing for horses three and older in English or Western riding, driving and draft. Our program has evolved from the programs in Norway and Holland and has been tailored to the specific ways we use the Fjord horse in North America.

This program is overseen by the Evaluation Committee of the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry. The committee’s function is to continue the development of the evaluation process, making modifications as needed to ensure an equitable, user friendly system for the Fjord owner, present and future.

WHY SHOULD HORSES BE EVALUATED?

Our Norwegian predecessors have taken the breeding of the Fjord Horse very seriously. It has been their careful selection of breeding stock and strict culling of inferior animals that has given us the versatile, hardy, even tempered Fjord that we enjoy today. Through the use of our Evaluation System, we hope to encourage the North American breeder/owner to continue this process of careful selection, using only the best quality Fjords for breeding. Our system is designed to evaluate horses with a variety of body styles from heavier to lighter, rewarding correct “Fjord Breed Type”, movement, athletic ability, temperament and character.

To further enhance the meaning of the evaluation process, the following interpretation of scores is suggested as a rating system for the horses that participate in conformation/movement:

Point scale for horses 3 years or older:

| | |
|--------|------------------------|
| 0-59 | Unsatisfactory |
| 60-69 | Below Average |
| 70-79 | Average to Good |
| 80-100 | Very Good to Excellent |

It should be understood that the components that make up the individual scores are important. For example, having a 9 or 10 as a head score is excellent, but if accompanied by a 4 on the leg score, there would be cause for concern about choosing this for a breeding animal. Scores can also be used to compare the strengths and weaknesses of two individuals (see scoring in the Breed Standard) so that stallions and mares can be better “matched” as breeding combinations.

Look upon the American Evaluation System as an important “tool”, designed to help preserve the wonderful characteristics that have drawn all of us to the Fjord horse. It is the hope of the NFHR and the Evaluation Committee that the owner/breeder will find this tool to be very helpful and use it often!

NFHR Evaluations will be scored by two Evaluators. To ensure that our approved Evaluators are given equal opportunity and experience, the EC will select the Evaluators for the event. This will also help to offset any bias that could be developed by having one Evaluator doing all of the Evaluations in a particular region. In the event that the Evaluator is also a Fjord owner, he/she will not be allowed to evaluate horses that they own, have owned in the past 12 months prior to the evaluation, or of his/hers own breeding. “Own breeding” means first-generation offspring of a mare or stallion currently owned by the evaluator, either in whole or in part.

The EC may at their discretion allow student Evaluators to observe and participate in the Evaluation process. The scores written by the students will not be used in the official scoring, but will be reviewed by the Evaluators as part of the training process. Student Evaluators will provide for their own expenses.

Each horse will be scored by the Evaluators independently, and these scores will then be averaged by the TD to compute the official score for each test. Conversation between the Evaluators and the Student Evaluators is appropriate and recommended.

The duties of the Evaluators include but are not limited to scoring the evaluation tests based on the Fjord Horse Standard and not on personal preference or bias. They will also be asked to share observations and ideas at the end of each Evaluation which may be of use in future Evaluations.

TRAINING OF NEW EVALUATORS

To enter the training program, one must apply to the EC. Acceptance into training is based upon a number of factors, including personal experience with Fjords and other breeds, past equine related training, and availability of space in the program. The program consists of classroom work, slides and videos, hands-on training, and a trip to Norway to observe and work with their Evaluators. Students must also participate in a learner capacity for a number of American Evaluations. Students will be tested on each phase of the training and must pass the test in order to move on to the next segment. Final approval is granted by the Board of Directors, based upon the recommendation of the EC. Evaluators (present and future) are obligated to continue their education by periodic participation in seminars and training programs as they become available in Norway, Holland, or North America.

The Evaluators must agree that they will work as Fjord Horse Evaluators only within the NFHR Evaluation System or other NFHR sanctioned events. The Evaluators will not participate in private evaluations on farms or at horse shows. Doing so will cause the Evaluator will forfeit his/her approval as an NFHR Evaluator.

NFHR Evaluation Ethics

ETHICS ARE IMPORTANT

Ethical principles which are practiced and adhered to by individuals and evaluators associated with the NFHR Evaluation Program are very important to the overall success of the program. These ethical principles must be understood by all individuals involved, and be transparent to the membership at large.

Official NFHR evaluators may – and do – own, breed, train, buy, and sell Fjords. They may also offer private clinics and consultation to Fjord owners. The NFHR governing body determined that it was in the best interest of our organization as well as our Fjord horse to involve people in the evaluation process who have knowledge and experience in breeding, training, and even selling Fjords. Official NFHR evaluators are encouraged to share their valuable knowledge of Fjord horses through appropriate channels outside the evaluation process.

Ethical problems, either perceived or real, have the potential to arise within the system we have adopted. By outlining a set of ethical standards, the NFHR governing body wishes to make members as well as evaluators aware of the minimum ethical standard we expect. In every situation the evaluators should attempt to act and behave with the highest ethical standards in mind. Not every procedure or incident can be covered by a rule.

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Since the NFHR does not officially license breeding stock, as do Fjord horse organizations in other countries, our service is primarily educational. Evaluators have a compelling responsibility to fairly and independently evaluate each horse and to provide the horse owner with information and guidance which is clear and useful. The evaluator should be aware that often the owners and breeders are novices and care should be taken to make explanations understandable.

Owners, breeders, and handlers who take part in an Evaluation have an obligation to respect the weighted view of the evaluator. Care must be taken not to misquote evaluators, take their quotes out of context, or disparage an evaluator due to a score not well taken.

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

The breed standard and a personal inner picture of the breed are the standards by which evaluators will be guided in evaluating the Fjord horse. Within this standard a certain level of subjectivity is inevitable. This can be accepted if the evaluator shows great understanding and knowledge of the Fjord horse and if the evaluator gives understandable reasons for the assessment. Evaluators are expected to be willing to explain their assessments in addition to the written scores. Brief explanations can be given in the ring and evaluators should be available to make explanations to horse owners outside the ring and after the evaluation is finished. Time should be allowed for this.

The NFHR is committed to preserving all recognized colors of modern Fjord horses as well as the major body style from draft to light driving and riding.

The evaluator must attempt to present a positive and professional image. The evaluator should be willing to offer helpful information, suggestions and even physical assistance if needed. Further, the verbal manners (tone) of an evaluator and his personal behavior are very important. The evaluator shall be friendly and respectful while evaluating and educating. Evaluators should dress in a respectful manner and should be prompt and on-time, balancing the evaluation timetable while taking enough time to sufficiently evaluate each horse. The evaluator must never disparage a horse or its breeder or owner in any way. Evaluators must be respectful of other countries' Evaluation Programs and/or Breeding Programs, whether at an evaluation or in a clinic/consultation forum.

Evaluators are representatives of the NFHR Evaluation Program and should bear that in mind when addressing comments to NFHR members and the public. Evaluators should remain respectful when receiving members feedback on the Evaluation Program, and uphold the NFHR philosophy that the Evaluation Program is an evolving one which welcomes member's feedback to further the goal of continuous improvement. Through their work in the NFHR Evaluation Program, Evaluators will have access to documents, email messages, and information which is not available to the general membership and they have a responsibility to avoid the unauthorized disclosure of this confidential information of the Registry.

Specific rules

The following specific rules are numbered for convenience in reading and discussion. This numbering is by no means a ranking of importance of the rules. They are all considered to be of equal importance.

1. The evaluator must judge a horse objectively as it is presented before them on that day. The evaluator must reject any information previously received through a breed organization or any group or person regarding a particular

horse. If an evaluator has prior knowledge of a possible fault or positive trait in an animal presented, the evaluator must only proceed by finding visible evidence of this trait.

2. An evaluator cannot evaluate a horse currently owned by the evaluator, or having been owned in the past 12 months prior to the evaluation, or of his own breeding. "Own breeding" means first-generation offspring of a mare or stallion currently owned by the evaluator, either in whole or in part
3. An evaluator must not evaluate a horse owned, or handled by, any member of the evaluator's immediate family or household.
4. An evaluator cannot evaluate a horse which the evaluator has owned or leased within the previous year, or in which the evaluator has had a commercial interest for the previous year.
5. When an evaluator has trained or handled a certain horse, a waiting period of 90 days shall elapse before that evaluator can evaluate that horse.
6. There shall be no waiting period regarding lessons given to horse owners or handlers who show horses to an evaluator, providing the evaluator does not board or directly handle the horse.
7. If a horse is presented to an evaluation that an evaluator cannot evaluate due to these conflicts of interest, the owner may either withdraw the horse from the evaluation or choose to have the horse evaluated by only one evaluator. In the case of withdrawal, a refund of entry fees paid will be made.
8. An evaluator evaluates a horse only by comparison to the breed standard and his own inner picture of the breed, not by the pedigree, the bloodline, or the breeder/owner/handler.
9. Evaluators must never assign scores to animals outside an official evaluation.
10. The evaluator must avoid public or private companionship with breeders, owners, and handlers immediately before and during an evaluation. This rules out private accommodation, shared traveling arrangements, and social dining with breeders, owners, handlers, or trainers before or during an evaluation.

EVALUATOR STUDENTS

The above listed rules of conduct apply to evaluator students who are working inside the evaluators ring at a show or evaluation.

When a breeder/owner contributes part or all of the costs involved in an evaluator student's education, the breeder /owner is considered a sponsor of that evaluator student. On the date the student becomes an official NFHR evaluator there will be a two-year waiting period before that evaluator can evaluate horses owned by the sponsoring breeder/owner.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event that an NFHR member perceives that an evaluator or evaluator student has acted in an unethical manner, the following procedure should be followed.

1. The incident should be reported to the Technical Delegate immediately. Whenever possible, it is preferable to raise the matter at the evaluation site. If it is not possible for a matter to be raised on-site, the Technical Delegate who was officiating at the evaluation should be contacted as soon as possible thereafter. There is a time limit of 30 days to raise concerns for matters involving the score or permanent record of the horse.
2. The Technical Delegate will make every effort to protect the personal dignity of all parties.
3. The ground jury will consider the issue and make a ruling.
4. If the matter was not resolved on-site it will be taken up with the evaluation committee, which may refer the problem to an Evaluation Committee Review Board.
5. The ECRB is responsible for making recommendations to the BOD regarding disputes referred by the evaluation committee or the BOD.
6. The NFHR BOD following recommendations from the Evaluation Committee Review Board will make final decisions in all disputes.

EVALUATION RULES

Eligibility:

1. The Fjord Horse must be NFHR or CFHA registered, DNA tested, and microchipped.
2. The owner of the fjord must be a member in good standing with the NFHR or CFHA.

Equine Health and Fitness:

1. All Fjords on the grounds must provide a negative Coggins (EIA) test form from their State Veterinarian Office. The Coggins test date must be; whichever is shorter:
 - a. Within 12 months of the evaluation
 - b. In accordance with the regulations for the state or country in which the evaluation is held
 - c. In accordance with the requirements of the facility.
2. Fjords traveling across state lines or country borders must comply with Health Certificate requirements for the state or country where the evaluation is located.
3. The evaluation host committee will contact a local veterinarian or the state Veterinary Office when there is an outbreak of equine contagious diseases in the local area, state, or region where the evaluation is held. It is important to convey Veterinary recommendations to all exhibitors or possible exhibitors.
4. Veterinarian and farrier on call for each evaluation.
5. If a horse is deemed unfit to perform by a licensed veterinarian, the decision is final.
6. Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at an evaluation is forbidden.
7. No horse shall be misrepresented through the use of drugs, surgery, or medications. The Ground Jury may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal presented for evaluation. Veterinary inspection will be done at the owner's expense. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.
8. The NFHR, The Evaluation Committee, and the Host of the evaluation will not be responsible for any accident, damage, injury, or illness to any horse, handler, owner, spectator or other persons or property.
9. All harness, tack, and vehicles must be well fitted, safe, and in good working condition.

Entries:

1. A completed entry form and appropriate fees must be sent to the Evaluation Coordinator and postmarked between the opening date for entries and closing date for entries. Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis. As part of the evaluation approval process, the Evaluation Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors the minimum number of entries needed to cover the costs and the maximum number of entries that can be handled by the evaluation. As such, the Entry Form shall be used to register horses for evaluation tests, determine if there are sufficient entries to cover the costs of the evaluation, and provide an itemization of all related fees. Entry forms may be used to limit the number of entries if more than the maximum number of entries is received, reserve stalls, camping, pay for extra bedding, etc.
2. Post-entries will be accepted on a space available basis and with an additional assessment of \$50 per horse until a date that is two weeks after the closing date for entries. If not enough entries are received by the closing date, the evaluation will be cancelled and all entry fees will be refunded. Though every attempt will be made to do so, horses that are post-entered may not be listed in the official evaluation catalogue and may be requested to perform tests out of the order listed in the evaluation catalogue.

Refunds:

1. If the Evaluation does not go forth as planned the Entry fees will be refunded.
2. A full refund will be given if attendance is not possible due to sickness or injury (horse or human) providing that a note signed by a licensed veterinarian or physician accompanies the request.
3. Refunds may be granted due to special or extraordinary circumstances and following a written petition to the Evaluation Committee and approval by the Board of Directors.

Additional regulations:

1. All entrants are responsible for understanding and abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by the Evaluation Committee and published in this handbook.
2. Stallions shown in hand must wear a "stud chain" or a headstall with a bit. When out of the stall, stallions must be attended and under control at all times.
3. Handlers under the age of eighteen must be supervised by an adult, and at the discretion of the Ground Jury, may not be allowed to handle stallions. If handler is under eighteen the Entry form must be signed by a parent or guardian.
4. Substitute runners for running conformation/movement patterns will be permitted.
5. Entrants with special needs are encouraged to participate in the Evaluation Program if safety and supervisory conditions are ensured.
6. If a horse presents a risk to itself, the handler, evaluators, or the viewing public, the Ground Jury may remove it from that portion of the event. The Fjord, if deemed safe, may return to the Evaluation process, after a period of time, with the permission of the Ground Jury. The same code again applies. If excused a second time, the horse will be

disqualified, and will not be allowed to participate in that portion of that evaluation.

7. A mandatory meeting will be held each morning before the start of the tests. The purpose will be to clarify through the Evaluators, the Ground Jury, and the Technical Delegate, any questions that are posed by the participants and to give any special instructions that are deemed necessary.
8. Dogs must be on leash or crated at all times.
9. Removal of a bridle from a horse while hitched or leaving a horse unattended while hitched will result in discharge from the evaluation.
10. Personal Liability Insurance is strongly recommended for all entrants, owners.
11. In the event of a question or problem not covered by these rules, the decision of the Ground Jury is final. This jury consists of the Technical Delegate, a NFHR/CFHA member not exhibiting a Fjord at the evaluation, and a Board of Director or Evaluation Committee member.
12. Once you have shown your horse in conformation or performance you cannot ask to have the score erased. Once the score has been written it stands and will be recorded. A horse can be reevaluated at another evaluation and each score will be recorded in the record book, even if the repeat score is not as good. A horse can withdraw part way through a conformation or performance presentation if the handler deems the animal not fit to continue and the score will not be recorded.

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

CONFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW

An EVALUATION PROGRAM provides owners and breeders with an opportunity to gain information about the strengths and weaknesses of individual horses and to make informed choices when selecting quality breeding stock or verifying the caliber of using stock. There are three parts to the Evaluation Program:

Evaluation of CONFORMATION/MOVEMENT - for horses of all ages.

Evaluation of PERFORMANCE in three disciplines: Riding (English and Western), Driving and Draft. Within each performance discipline there are two levels of tests:

INTRODUCTORY PERFORMANCE TESTS are open to horses three years of age and older.

ADVANCED PERFORMANCE TESTS are open to horses four years of age and older who have first completed an introductory test in the test discipline with a score of 70 or better. Advanced tests are designed to measure skills expected of the mature horse. The Advanced Performance Tests for riding and driving include a Trail segment for riding and a Utility part for driving.

FAMILY FJORD TESTS: There are four Family Fjord Tests: Foundation, Ground Driving, Riding, and Driving. The Riding and Driving tests are currently under development and will be available in 2011. The Foundation and Ground Driving tests are open to horses two years of age and older. The Riding and Driving tests are open to horses three years of age and older.

Horses may be entered into any part of the program in a given year whether it is conformation alone, performance alone, or any combination of tests. Tests may be retaken another year if a higher score is desired. Both Introductory and Advanced tests may be taken at the same Evaluation.

B. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

The decision of the Evaluators is final. Results will be published in the Fjord Herald.

1. Premiums

The following Premiums will be given to horses 2 years of age and older in the Family Fjord foundation and ground driving tests, and horses 3 years of age and over in Conformation/Movement, Performance and Family Fjord riding and driving tests according to their score. Total scores in Conformation and Performance tests correspond to the following Premiums.

| <u>Numerical Score</u> | <u>Premium</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 80 - 100 | First |
| 70 - 79 | Second |
| 60 - 69 | Third |
| 50 - 59 | Fourth |
| Below 50 | No Ribbon |

2. Medallion of Quality

All horses with qualifying scores in both Conformation and Performance and/or both Conformation and Family Fjord Tests will be given a Medallion of Quality: Bronze for completion of the Family Fjord test; Silver for completion of Introductory tests; and Gold for completion of Advanced tests. Qualifying scores are 70 or more in the Conformation/Movement Evaluation with no score in any one category of four or less, and in the Family Fjord/Performance tests, scores totaling 70 or more. Within each of the three Medallions, a horse may progress through different levels as tests with qualifying scores are completed in each of the three disciplines. The highest level Medallion of Quality is attained with qualifying scores in all three advanced tests, riding, driving and draft. The highest Medallion Award received will be noted on pedigrees. Updated pedigrees may be ordered from the NFHR Registrar at current pedigree prices.

BRONZE – Family Fjord Medallion of Quality

| | Ribbon | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Level</u> | <u>Color</u> | <u>Qualifying Requirement</u> |
| 4 | White | One Family Fjord test. |
| 3 | Yellow | Any two Family Fjord tests. |
| 2 | Red | Any three Family Fjord tests. |
| 1 | Blue | All four Family Fjord tests. |

SILVER - Introductory Medallion of Quality

| | Ribbon | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| <u>Level</u> | <u>Color</u> | <u>Qualifying Requirement</u> |
| 4 | White | One introductory test. |
| 3 | Yellow | Any two introductory tests. |
| 2 | Red | Two introductory tests - one under saddle. |
| 1 | Blue | Three introductory tests - in each of the three disciplines. |

GOLD - Advanced Medallion of Quality

| | Ribbon | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| <u>Level</u> | <u>Color</u> | <u>Qualifying Requirement</u> |
| 4 | White | One advanced test. |
| 3 | Yellow | Any two advanced tests. |
| 2 | Red | Two advanced tests - one under saddle. |
| 1 | Blue | Three advanced tests - in each of the three disciplines. |

3. Versatility - Hallmark of the Breed

Horses may be entered into any one or combination of tests and because versatility is one of the important hallmarks of the Fjord breed, all horses are encouraged to enter a variety of performance disciplines. The ultimate horse has good conformation and is a willing partner in Advanced Level Riding, Driving and Draft. At any Evaluation, horses may be tested in any of these disciplines or the testing may be done over a number of years as time, opportunity and the skill of owner and horse develop.

4. Hall of Fame Award

The NFHR Evaluation process also qualifies horses to receive an offspring award for recognition of the quality of a horse's offspring. A Ribbon will be awarded & the award will be noted on the pedigree. To qualify the horse must meet the following requirements:

1. The horse must have offspring that are evaluated in the NFHR evaluation system. These offspring must be evaluated in Conformation/Movement and in Performance and have received a Medallion of Quality. For a Mare or Dam to qualify, a minimum of two (2) offspring must have received Medallions. For a Stallion or Sire to qualify, a minimum of five (5) offspring must have received Medallions.
2. Sires and Dams of this horse are not required to have been evaluated within the NFHR Evaluation system.
3. The qualifying horse's owner must be a member of the NFHR and in good standing with the Registry.
4. The owner of the horse must notify the NFHR Registrar if they have a horse that qualifies for this award.

5. Eligibility

All horses participating in any part of the NFHR Evaluation Program must be NFHR registered, DNA Typed and individually identified by microchip and/or Dutch branded prior to 1994. In addition, a NFHR Veterinarian Certificate is required for horses three years of age or older. Owners of horses participating in NFHR Evaluations must be current NFHR members in good standing as of the date of the Evaluation.

6. Young Stock

A horse that will be three or more on or after January 1 of the year it is evaluated is considered an adult horse. Horses younger than this can be evaluated in the conformation/movement test as young stock and use the young stock evaluation form. Because bone and muscle structure changes in young stock, conformation/movement evaluation scores for young stock are not official. Only conformation/movement scores for horses evaluated as three year olds or older are official NFHR conformation/movement evaluation scores. A participation ribbon will be awarded to all young stock entered in the conformation/movement evaluation. Horses two years of age and older can perform the Family Fjord foundation and ground driving tests, and the results will be recorded.

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

CONFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE

EVALUATION PROGRAM

II. Conformation/Movement Evaluation

II. CONFORMATION AND MOVEMENT EVALUATION

A. SCORING FOR CONFORMATION

There are nine categories of conformation, each worth 1-10 points plus Breed Type which is worth 1-10 points x 2. The maximum possible total score is 100 points.

Numerical values given to each category reflect the following:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 10 - Top Quality | 5 - Sufficient |
| 9 - Very Good | 4 - Non Satisfactory |
| 8 - Good | 3 - Insufficient |
| 7 - Rather Good | 2 - Poor |
| 6 - Satisfactory | 1 - Very Poor |

Should a horse receive a score of four or less in any conformation category, that horse will automatically be dropped one ribbon color and, while able to participate in performance tests and be scored, it will not be eligible for a Medallion of Quality.

B. CONFORMATION SCORING CATEGORIES

HEAD (1-10 Points Total)

Length proportional
Eyes large, expressive
Ears small, truncated
Forehead wide, slightly dished
Jaws strong, wide
Nostrils large
Bite

NECK (1-10 Points Total)

Length proportional
Crest appropriate
Shoulder attachment
Poll, throatlatch

BODY (1-10 Points Total)

Chest wide, developed
Withers defined
Shoulder angle
Girth deep
Back proportional
Coupling proportional
Croup round, tailset
Hip long
Stifle developed
Gaskin developed
Muscling

FORELEGS (1-10 Points Total)

Straight, correct
Joints well defined
Pasterns, length & angle
Hooves full, large
Bone ample, clean
Forearm to cannon

HINDLEGS (1-10 Points Total)

Straight, correct
Joints well defined
Pasterns, length & angle
Bone ample, clean
Hocks correct

MOVEMENT/WALK (1-10 Points Total)

Straight
Freedom
Length of stride
Regularity

MOVEMENT/TROT (1-10 Points Total)

Straight
Freedom
Length of stride
Regularity

OVERALL IMPRESSION (1-10 Points Total)

Markings – characteristic, uncharacteristic
Balance & Harmony
Condition

BREED TYPE (1-10 Points x 2 = Total)

Presence – attitude, personality
Substance - bone
Masculine or Feminine

III. RULES: CONFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE

A. CONFORMATION PRESENTATION - YOUNG AND MATURE STOCK

1. Required Grooming

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 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. |
| Forelock: | Left long. |
| Tail: | Long and full, may be banded. |

2. Preferred Grooming

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Ears: | Pony clip. |
| Head: | Goat hairs may be clipped to define head. |
| Facial Whiskers: | Whiskers may be left long at eyes and muzzle. |
| Legs and Fetlocks: | May be neatened. |

Horses presented fully clipped will not be penalized.

3. Tack

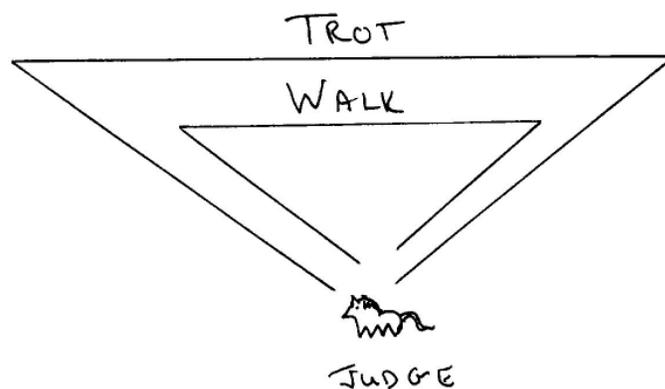
Horses shall be presented to the judges in a halter or bridle depending on personal preference, and regional style. Handlers may choose reins, chain shank or lead rope to control their horses. Tack requirements for the showing of stallions in Conformation is at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

4. Attire

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

5. Presentation Stance

Horse is to stand square in front and open behind, 10 feet in front of the judges. Each horse will be asked to first walk and then trot the triangular pattern below, slowing at the corners so that the legs of the pattern are executed in straight lines. Triangle size is 40 ft minimum per side for the walk and 60 ft minimum per side for the trot.



B. MEASUREMENT

Horses aged three and over shall be measured for height and circumference of cannon bone.

C. IDENTIFICATION

Each horse entering the ring for purposes of measurement, conformation evaluation or performance testing will be positively identified by the NFHR Technical Delegate or his/her representative by NFHR issued microchip and/or Dutch brand made prior to October 1994.

D. PERFORMANCE - INTRODUCTORY AND ADVANCED

Horses may be presented for Conformation Evaluation alone, but to qualify for the Medallion award, they must also be tested in Performance.

1. General Requirements

- Performance PARTICIPANTS may be of any AGE. However, the age of participants showing stallions may be limited to 18 and older at the discretion of the Ground Jury. If participant is under eighteen the Entry form must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- A READER is allowed without penalty for all tests.
- A HEADER is required for mount and dismount, harnessing, hooking and weight loading. While horses are being mounted or hitched in the ring, the HEADER is required to stand 5' to the right of the horse's shoulder ready to assist with control if necessary. Points may be lost if assistance is needed.
- TEST TIMES and PATTERNS will to be posted at least 24 hours in advance.
- Harness, saddles and bridles are to be inspected for SAFETY prior to the beginning of performance tests. This inspection will occur either at the start of each individual test or at an alternate time and place to be announced.
- MOUNTING ASSISTANCE for the physically challenged may be granted by the Technical Delegate. Use of a mounting block is permitted.

2. Attire

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Riding Western: | Western Hat or approved ASTM hard hat with harness, boots and long sleeved shirt required. Chaps and spurs optional. |
| Riding English: | Informal English attire including approved ASTM safety helmet with harness, jodhpurs, breeches and boots required. Jacket and/or whip are recommended. |
| Driving: | Hat, gloves, driving apron recommended. Whip in hand is required. |
| Draft: | Protective shoes, long pants and shirt required. Jacket and hat optional. Whips not allowed. |

3. Arena

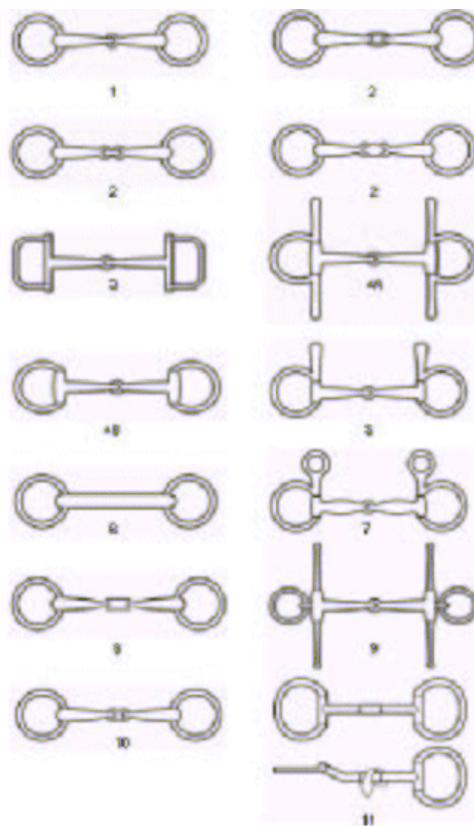
| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Riding Western: | 20m x 60m, (66' x 197'), or approximate proportions. Two markers (traffic cones) to be placed opposite each other on the center of each long side of the arena. For Advanced Test, the Trail arena is a working area larger than 20m x 60m, (66' x 197'). |
| Riding English: | 20m x 60m, (66' x 197'), or approximate proportions with visible dressage letters posted. For Advanced Test, the Trail arena is a working area larger than 20m x 60m, (66' x 197'). |
| Driving: | 40m X 80m, (131' x 262'), or approximate proportions with visible dressage letters posted. For Advanced Test, the Utility arena is a working area larger than 40m x 80m, (131 x 262m). |
| Draft: | Working area approximately 100' X 200'. Five pylons (traffic cones) placed in a row with corresponding boundary lines. See performance tests for exact measurements. |

4. Tack and Harness

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Riding Western: | Snaffle bits (as defined in the English riding section) or rawhide bosel are required for horses doing Introductory test. Curb bits as defined by USAE rules quoted below ** must be used on all horses doing the Advanced Test and are permitted on horses four years or older in Introductory Tests. All bits used must meet standards for legal bits as per USA Equestrian Western guidelines. All horses shown in curb bits must be ridden with one hand on reins. No martingales, tie downs, cavessons, whips or mechanical hackamores permitted. Western and Australian stock saddles permissible. |
| Riding English: | All snaffle bits listed below in Fig. 1 are permitted. All bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted wire & roller bits are not permitted. Bits must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber: flexible rubber bits are not permitted. A cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband is allowed. The use of artificial aides, boots and Bandages will not be allowed. Whips with a maximum length of 48" may be used. Spurs are allowed and must be made of metal and there must be a shank either curved or straight directing back from the center of the spur. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directing downward. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. Dressage, flat, jump and all-purpose saddles are acceptable. |
| Driving: | Single driving harness, leather or synthetic materials. Either breastplate or full collar style. Bits - any kind & type of riding snaffle or other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Burr, gag and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted. Use of the lowest slot on a three slot bit is prohibited. Over check reins and Martingales are not permitted. Side check reins and open bridles are permitted. Whip in hand is required. |
| Draft: | Collar and hame draft harness to be used. Bits - any kind & type of riding snaffle or other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Burr, gag and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted. Over check reins and Martingales are not permitted. Side check reins and open bridles are permitted. Whips are not allowed. |
| Shoes: | Horses may be shod with protective shoes but not with shoes designed to alter its way of going. |

Fig. 1. PERMITTED SNAFFLES*

1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece.
2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece.
3. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
- 4a. Snaffle. with cheeks, with or without keepers.
- 4b without cheeks (Egg-butt).
5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks.
6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen-mouth).
7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6.
8. Dr. Bristol.
9. Fulmer.
10. French snaffle.
11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.



*Any of the above may be covered with rubber or leather. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured above.

The below text is reprinted from the US Equestrian Federation Rules with permission of USEF.

** US Equestrian Federation Article WS105. Western Tack.

2. There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit is prohibited. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance.

4. Bosals are permitted in any class on a junior horse four years old and under. A bosal must be rounded in shape and constructed of flexible braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall with maximum diameter of 3/4" at the cheek. Attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable).

5. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance. Curb chains and leather chin straps may be used but must be flat and at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap, or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. A light lip strap is permissible. Hackamore bits, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited. A judge does not have the authority to add or to remove any of the standard equipment as specified above.

E. FAMILY FJORD TESTS

Horses may be presented for Conformation Evaluation alone, but to qualify for the Bronze Medallion award, they must also be tested in the Family Fjord Program.

1 General Requirements

- Performance PARTICIPANTS may be of any AGE. However, the age of participants showing stallions may be limited to 18 and older at the discretion of the Ground Jury. If participant is under eighteen the Entry form must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- A COACH is allowed without penalty for all tests.
- A HEADER is required for mount and dismount, harnessing, and hooking. While horses are being mounted or hitched in the ring, the HEADER is required to stand 5' to the right of the horse's shoulder ready to assist with control if necessary. Points may be lost if assistance is needed.
- Harness, saddles and bridles are to be inspected for SAFETY prior to the beginning of performance tests. This inspection will occur either at the start of each individual test or at an alternate time and place to be announced.
- MOUNTING ASSISTANCE for the physically challenged may be granted by the Technical Delegate. Use of a mounting block is permitted.

2 Attire

Any safe and reasonable attire is allowed for these tests as long as the clothing does not offend and insult others.

3 Arena

20m x 60m, (66' x 197'), or approximate proportions.

4 Tack and Harness

Any safe and reasonable tack is allowed.

REGIONAL SITE COORDINATION

The NFHR Evaluation is to be organized and conducted by the Regional Coordinator with guidance from the NFHR Evaluation Committee and the NFHR Technical Delegate. In cases of disagreement, a final decision will be made by the NFHR Board of Directors.

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

Youngstock Conformation/Movement Evaluation

| HEAD (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Length proportional | | |
| Eyes large, expressive | | |
| Ears small, truncated | | |
| Forehead wide, slightly dished | | |
| Jaws strong, wide | | |
| Nostrils large | | |
| Bite | | |
| Subtotal Head Score | | |

| NECK (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Length proportional | | |
| Crest appropriate | | |
| Shoulder attachment | | |
| Poll, throatlatch | | |
| Subtotal Neck Score | | |

| BODY (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Chest wide, developed | | |
| Withers defined | | |
| Shoulder angle | | |
| Girth deep | | |
| Back proportional | | |
| Coupling proportional | | |
| Croup round, tailset | | |
| Hip long | | |
| Stifle developed | | |
| Gaskin developed | | |
| Muscling | | |
| Subtotal Body Score | | |

| FORELEGS (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Straight, correct | | |
| Joints well defined | | |
| Pasterns, length & angle | | |
| Hooves full, large | | |
| Bone ample, clean | | |
| Forearm to cannon | | |
| Subtotal Foreleg Score | | |

| HINDLEGS (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Straight, correct | | |
| Joints well defined | | |
| Pasterns, length & angle | | |
| Hooves full, large | | |
| Bone ample, clean | | |
| Hocks correct | | |
| Subtotal Hindleg Score | | |

| MOVEMENT/WALK (1-10 Points) | + | - |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Straight | | |
| Freedom | | |
| Length of stride | | |
| Regularity | | |
| Subtotal Walk Score | | |

| MOVEMENT/TROT (1-10 Points) | + | - |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Straight | | |
| Freedom | | |
| Length of stride | | |
| Regularity | | |
| Subtotal Trot Score | | |

| OVERALL IMPRESSION (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|--|---|---|
| Markings- characteristic, uncharacteristic | | |
| Balance & Harmony | | |
| Condition | | |
| Subtotal Overall Score | | |

| BREED TYPE (1-10 Points x 2 = Total) | + | - |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|
| Presence – attitude, personality | | |
| Substance – bone | | |
| Masculine or Feminine | | |
| Subtotal Breed Type Score | x 2= | |

TOTAL POINTS: SCORE NOT PERMANENT

PREMIUM: _____ **PARTICIPATION** _____

Re-inspect: YES ___ NO ___ Reasons: _____

Other Comments: _____

Date of Evaluation: _____

Location: _____

Signature of Evaluator #1 _____

Signature of Evaluator #2 _____

Show No.:

Name of Horse: _____
 NFHR Reg. No.: _____
 Microchip No.: _____
 Date of Birth: _____
 Owner: _____

NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

Conformation/Movement Evaluation

| HEAD (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Length proportional | | |
| Eyes large, expressive | | |
| Ears small, truncated | | |
| Forehead wide, slightly dished | | |
| Jaws strong, wide | | |
| Nostrils large | | |
| Bite | | |
| Subtotal Head Score | | |

| NECK (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Length proportional | | |
| Crest appropriate | | |
| Shoulder attachment | | |
| Poll, throatlatch | | |
| Subtotal Neck Score | | |

| BODY (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Chest wide, developed | | |
| Withers defined | | |
| Shoulder angle | | |
| Girth deep | | |
| Back proportional | | |
| Coupling proportional | | |
| Croup round, tailset | | |
| Hip long | | |
| Stifle developed | | |
| Gaskin developed | | |
| Muscling | | |
| Subtotal Body Score | | |

| FORELEGS (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Straight, correct | | |
| Joints well defined | | |
| Pasterns, length & angle | | |
| Hooves full, large | | |
| Bone ample, clean | | |
| Forearm to cannon | | |
| Subtotal Foreleg Score | | |

| HINDLEGS (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Straight, correct | | |
| Joints well defined | | |
| Pasterns, length & angle | | |
| Hooves full, large | | |
| Bone ample, clean | | |
| Hocks correct | | |
| Subtotal Hindleg Score | | |

| MOVEMENT/WALK (1-10 Points) | + | - |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Straight | | |
| Freedom | | |
| Length of stride | | |
| Regularity | | |
| Subtotal Walk Score | | |

| MOVEMENT/TROT (1-10 Points) | + | - |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Straight | | |
| Freedom | | |
| Length of stride | | |
| Regularity | | |
| Subtotal Trot Score | | |

| OVERALL IMPRESSION (1-10 Points Total) | + | - |
|--|---|---|
| Markings- characteristic, uncharacteristic | | |
| Balance & Harmony | | |
| Condition | | |
| Subtotal Overall Score | | |

| BREED TYPE (1-10 Points x 2 = Total) | + | - |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|
| Presence – attitude, personality | | |
| Substance – bone | | |
| Masculine or Feminine | | |
| Subtotal Breed Type Score | x 2= | |

TOTAL POINTS: _____

PREMIUM: _____

Re-inspect: YES ___ NO ___ Reasons: _____

Other Comments: _____

Date of Evaluation: _____

Location: _____

Signature of Evaluator #1

Signature of Evaluator #2

Show No.:

Name of Horse: _____

NFHR Reg. No.: _____

Microchip No.: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Owner: _____

Height in Inches: _____

Cannon Bone Cir: _____