

How to present your horse at the FHS Inspection

From the FHS BBR (Breeding Book Regulations)

5.6. PRESENTATION OF HORSES FOR INSPECTION

5.6.1. Inspection Format - It shall be left to the discretion of the judges as to the final sequence and format for the inspection. In general, horses are presented individually in hand by category (foals, yearling fillies, 2 year old fillies, 3 year old mares, 4-6 year old mares, older mares, geldings and so forth); then, in classes of several horses, all horses within the category return to be placed in class order. Identification coding, taking genetic samples for parentage verification and measuring horses entering the studbooks is done prior to inspection activities.

5.6.2. Presentation of Horses- All horses are to be presented in hand. The handler may have an assistant who encourages the horse to be attentive while standing and to move forward. Unhurried at the walk and vigorously at the trot. Presentation will require that the horse stand squarely for evaluation of conformation and then walk and trot a triangular pattern for evaluation of movement. Foals should be presented with their dams and may be turned loose during the evaluation of their movement. Emphasis is placed on uninhibited forward movement; handlers should walk and trot their horses in an unrestrictive manner, as steadily and quickly as possible, to demonstrate the best movement of the horse.

5.6.3. Equipment for Presentation - Foals and yearlings should be presented in a halter and lead, with or without a chain. Horses 2 years and older should be presented in a bridle with a jointed snaffle bit. The reins should be removed and a chain is run through the rings of the bit then attached to the link where the lead begins. Black halters, bridles and leads are preferred but are not necessary. The assistant may carry a whip and/or a noisemaker to encourage the horse to move forward. Nothing should be used that scares the horse. Scared horses will not exhibit good natural movement.

5.6.4. Grooming for Presentation - Horses are to be clean and well groomed with full and unbraided manes and tails. Additional grooming, such as clipping a small bridle path, polishing hooves or removing superfluous hair on the muzzle or ears, is optional.

5.6.5. Dress of the Handler - It is traditional for the handler to wear white trousers and a white shirt, either with or without a necktie. Shoes must be suitable for running. The assistant traditionally dresses in white also. While white clothing is not required, it is respectful and helps distinguish the movement of the horse from the movement of the handler.

5.6.6. Presentation in the Triangular Arena - Horses are to be judged in a triangular arena. The far side of the triangle is to be approximately 40 meters (131 feet), if possible, and the other two sides are to be approximately 45 meters (148 feet). The horse will be judged first at the halt and then at the walk. Only half the length of the arena's long sides is used for the walk. After the walk, the horse will proceed to the trot. The trot will use the entire triangular arena. The horse will then be presented again at the halt.

5.7. INSPECTION STANDARDS – Inspections are a subjective attempt to evaluate a horse against the standards for the ideal Friesian, which are listed in Section 2.1. Movement is 60% of the evaluation and conformation is 40%.

5.7.1. Linear Scores – Mares and geldings entering the adult studbooks are evaluated on a number of points that include various aspects of conformation, breed characteristics and movement. The horses are scored on each point based on their positive or negative deviation from the average for the Friesian horse population. The linear scores are used to inform the horses' owners of their animals' strong and weak points and to obtain data on the stallions' influence on their offspring. Horse owners receive a copy of the linear score sheet along with the studbook registration certificate. The linear score sheet should be given to the buyer when a horse is sold.