

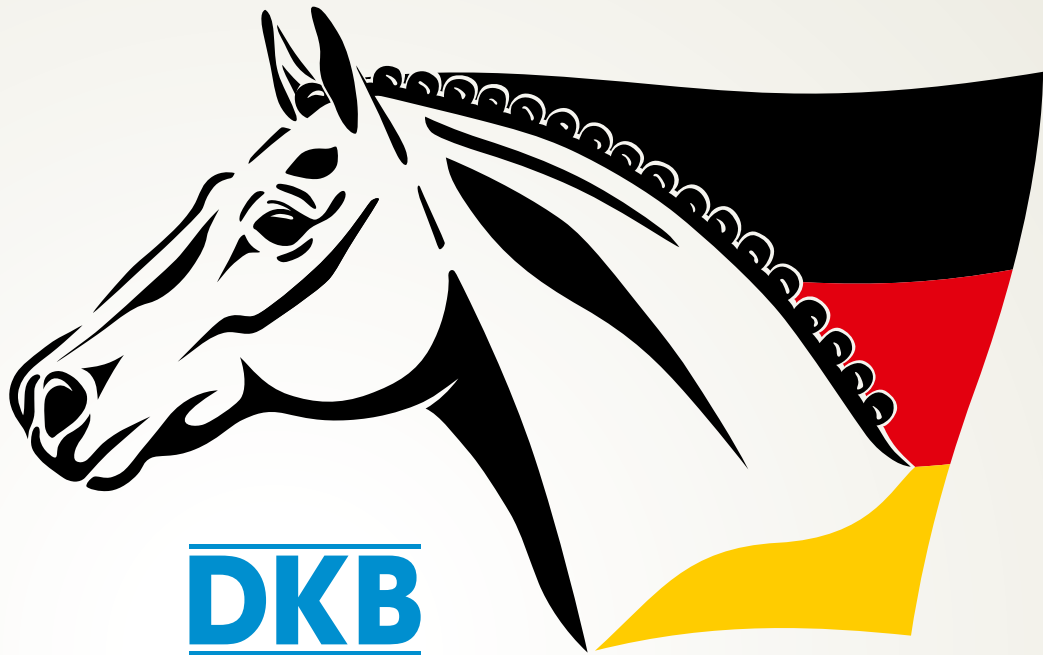


A Guide through the German Equestrian World



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One of the world's most famous show-jumping riders: Ludger Beerbaum.



Foto: Jacques Toffi

Introduction

Germany has long been an attractive destination for anyone affiliated with the equestrian sport. It features a diverse and vivid number of opportunities in the equestrian world.

Germany is globally renowned for its high-quality standards in the areas of breeding, selling, training and competition. Yet, despite these indisputable advantages, one

challenge remains: the lack of accessibility to the immense number of equestrian opportunities available to non-German nationals.

Therefore, this brochure aims to provide an overview and an informative synopsis of the German equestrian world and what it has to offer.

This brochure aims to provide an overview of the German equestrian world.



Foto: Kiki Beelitz

*For riding you need horses.
For good riding you need good horses.
If you have a lot of good horses, you
have the opportunity for a lot of good riding.
These three simple sentences describe
the breeding situation in Germany
in a nutshell.*



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Foto: Marc Rühl

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Foto: Julia Wentscher

Presently, around 1,200,000 people partake actively in equestrian activities.

I. Important Facts and Figures of Equestrian Sports in Germany

1. People and Horses

The statistics speak for themselves in the demonstration of the significance of equestrian activities in Germany. Presently, around 1,200,000 people, age fourteen and older, participate actively in equestrian activities. The number soars to 1,700,000 people when those under the age of fourteen are added into the calculation. Furthermore, extensive research of the German Equestrian Federation (Fédération Equestre Nationale/Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung, FN) determines that another 1,000,000 Germans hold an interest to take up equestrian sports, while yet another 11,000,000 generally claim a keen interest in horses.

Synonymous to the large number of people associated with equestrian activities, the population of horses and ponies in Germany amounts to approximately 1,200,000. This

substantial number is especially notable, as the horse and pony population has increased fourfold over the course of the last 40 years. Currently, of these horses and ponies, more than 100,000 are registered with the FN for breeding purposes and another 500,000 for sport purposes.

2. The Organization of Equestrian Sports in Germany

(All subsequent figures refer to the year 2012)

The German Equestrian Federation is the umbrella organization of approximately 7,700 commercial riding and driving schools and clubs and 4,000 commercial equestrian centres. These account for 720,000 members in total. The FN is the largest national

The German Equestrian Federation is the umbrella organization of approximately 7,700 commercial riding and driving schools and clubs and 4,000 commercial equestrian centres. These account for 720,000 members in total.

equestrian federation in the world. Moreover, within the German Olympic Sports Association (DOSB), it ranks as Germany's 9th largest sports association.

The equestrian sport is practiced with particular enthusiasm by women. They amount to 75% (more than 544,000) of the membership of the FN, leaving the male representation at around 170,000 members or 25%. The high share of young riders is also noticeable. DOSB statistics reveal that, in the group of females aged 15 to 26, equestrian sports rank third in the popularity of sports. It is therefore not surprising that nearly half of the FN's membership (335,000) includes people aged 26 and younger. Nonetheless, and despite statistical age and gender variations, the equestrian sport is popular amongst the old and the young alike.

3. Competitive Equestrian Sports

In 2012, approximately 3,600 equestrian events were held in Germany. These included 69,000 different competitions and 1,480,000 starts. In order to compete in these shows, each rider has to obtain an FN annual horse show licence. 80,000 of these were issued to German nationals in 2012, while 1,350 were issued to non-national riders competing in German national events. Additionally, the FN issued over 137,000 horse licences for their participation in competitions, as well as over 2,400 FEI horse passports needed for participation in international events. 25,000 horses were newly registered for competition purposes.

However, in order to do so, the riders must have obtained an FN riding qualification (called "German Riding Badge" or "Performance Medal"), granting them the permission to participate in classes of a certain performance category. These qualification tests consist of a dressage, jumping and theory test, ascending in the degree of difficulty at each level. In 2012, around 53,000 German Riding Badge tests were done, and a further 35,000 tests for leisure riding were passed.

4. Success in Olympic Games and International Championships

Germany has a long track record of grand success at Olympic Games and various international championships. The history of the Olympic Games records numerous German victories; from 1912 to 2012, Germany has



Foto: K. H. Frieler

garnered a staggering total of 85 medals: 39 gold, 21 silver and 25 bronze medals.

German riders were no less successful during World Equestrian Games (WEG). To date they have won a total of 180 medals in all of the official disciplines, including 73 gold, 52 silver and 55 bronze medals. The latest additions were another 14 medals at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010, where Germany won five gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

In line with these international successes, Germany also holds a leading position in the European- and Young Riders Championships, in total winning 403 gold, 313 silver and 239 bronze medals.

Therefore, Germany counts as one of the most successful equestrian nations, if not the most successful equestrian nation in the world. Most certainly, equestrian sports have been and will remain an exceptionally successful element in Germany's professional and amateur sporting activities, in which it excels as in no other sports sector.

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In 2012, around 53,000 German Riding Badge tests were done, and a further 35,000 tests for leisure riding were passed.

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5. Success of German Bred Horses

German horse breeding plays a distinguished and central role in the preservation of the high standard of German success in equestrian sports. Germany has a significant population of breeding horses. In 2012, 3,500 sport-horse sires and 60,000 broodmares with 28,000 sport-horse foals were registered with the FN. Another 3,800 pony and small-horse sires, 23,000 pony and small-horse broodmares with 9,000 foals were registered in the same year. In total, the FN recorded 8,600 sires, 92,000 broodmares and more than 39,000 foals across the boards of all German studs.

At the Olympic Games in London, 65 out of 219 competing horses (30%) were of German breed. Specifically, 26 of the 90 horses (29%) participating in the show-jumping competitions, 22 of 54 horses (41%) participating in dressage and 17 of the 75 horses (23%) participating in eventing were of German breed. Overall, horses of German bloodlines won 12 of the 45 possible medals, five of which were gold, four silver and three were bronze medals.

At the Olympic Equestrian Games in Hong Kong in 2008, 52 out of 194 participating horses were German-bred. They won 18 of the 45 possible medals: eight gold, four silver and five bronze medals. Specifically, 19 of the 47 dressage horses in Hong Kong were of German origin. The jumping competitions were open to 77 horses, of which 29 were German-bred.

Another example of the competition success of German bred horses are World Equestrian Games. In Aachen in 2006, almost 25% of the horses competing in all seven official equestrian disciplines were of German breeding. They won a total of 37 medals. At the WEG in Lexington in 2010, 54 of the possible 183 medals were won by German bred horses. It is evident that German horses are of distinguishable competitive talent and rank among the most successful bloodlines in the world.

6. Horses as an Economic Factor

The magnitude of the economic impact of equestrian activities is often underestimated. Germany best illustrates how equestrian activities can wield an ever increasing economic influence. Studies have shown that every three to four horses create one



Foto: Kiki Beelitz

It is evident that German horses are of distinguishable competitive talent and rank among the most successful bloodlines in the world. This photo shows the Hanovarian stallion Dancier.

At the Olympic Equestrian Games in Hong Kong in 2008, 52 out of 194 participating horses were German-bred.

job. This means that approximately 300,000 German workplaces have been created as a result of equestrian activity. Of these, around 10,000 people earn their living as professional instructors or coaches. Around 10,000 companies exist which specialize in the production of equestrian merchandise or provision of equestrian services. Additionally, horse feed production benefits from the increase in equestrian activities, as horses and ponies in Germany consume more than 1,600,000 metric tonnes of grain and 1,800,000 metric tonnes of hay and straw per year. Overall, German horse riders and owners spend about 2.6 billion Euro a year for the recurring costs that come with standard horse maintenance. The entire turnover of the equestrian industry is estimated to range between five to six billion Euro per year.

The equestrian sport and horses also have an indirect economic impact. Over 5,000 books on equestrian topics are currently on sale in Germany. Moreover, around 60 periodicals and magazines are available on the German-speaking market. Together with a broad representation in publications, the equestrian sport also holds a steadfast place in the television industry, where more than 230 hours of equestrian sport reports were broadcasted on different national TV channels in 2012.



Foto: Thoms Lehmann

Headquarters of the German FN, Warendorf.

II. The Organizational Structures of the German Equestrian Federation (FN)

1. The Structure

After a short overview of the German equestrian world, this brochure will now turn to the introduction of the organizational structures of the FN, German competition sports and breeding.

The last 100 years have seen an intense evolution and development of the structure of German equestrian activities. Germany now features an exemplary format of innovative and conducive conditions in the quest for excellence in equestrian performance and national organizational structures.

In 1968, a general overhaul of all preexisting German equestrian associations brought the current structure of German equestrian activities into existence. The majority of these associations and organizations were merged into the German Equestrian Federation (FN).

The FN is the umbrella organization for nearly all equestrian sports and breeding associations in Germany. The FN consists of 17 federal organizations which again comprise 403 regional associations. In this way, a total of 7,700 riding and driving clubs are members of the FN. In addition, around 58,000 Personal Members and 4,000 commercial or private horse centres are directly affiliated with the FN or its associated organizations. Moreover, 25 different breeding organizations are member associations of the FN.

Important member associations of the FN include:

- The German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sports (Deutsches Olympiade-Komitee für Reiterei, DOKR) – which manages all matters concerned with high performance sport.
- The German Riders' and Drivers' Association (Deutscher Reiter- und Fahr-)

Germany features an exemplary format of innovative and conducive conditions in the quest for excellence in equestrian performance and national organizational structures.

erverband, DRFV) – which is an important association of professional and amateur riding instructors and includes the Federal Association for Professional Riders (Bundesvereinigung der Berufsreiter, BBR) as a member.

- The German Judges Association (Deutsche Richter Vereinigung, DRV) – which manages matters concerning the 5,000 German horse-show judges and course designers.

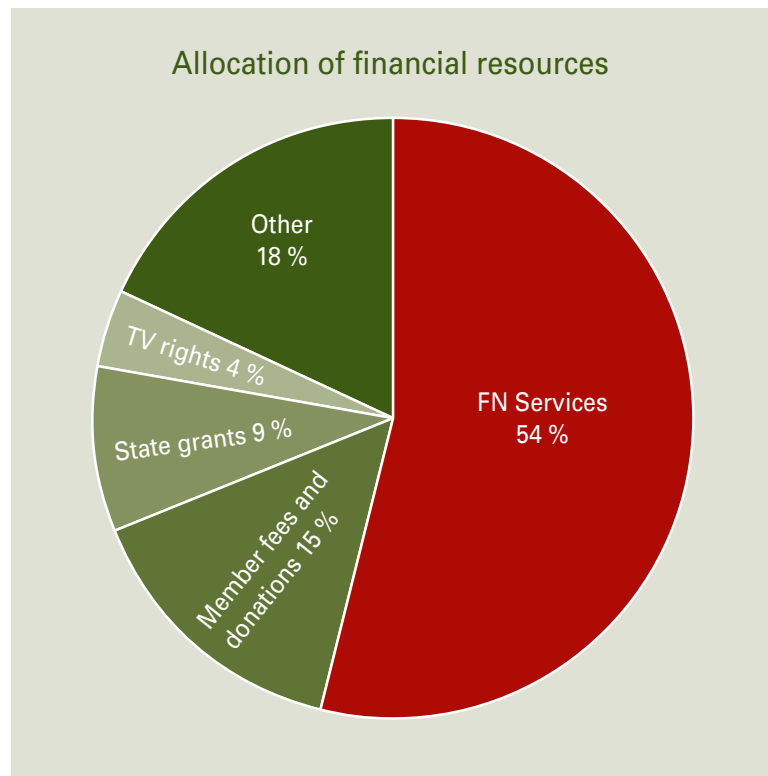
Seven other affiliated associations are:

- The First Western Riding Union of Germany (Erste Westernreiter Union Deutschland, EWU) – which organizes the majority of western riding in Germany and has a membership of nearly 30,000 members.
- The Icelandic Horse Rider and Breeding Association (Islandpferde-, Reiter- und Züchterverband, IPZV) – with approximately 22,000 members.
- The German Endurance Rider and Driver Association (Verein Deutscher Distanzreiter und -fahrer, VDD) which has more than 2,000 members.
- The German Association for Therapeutic Riding (Deutsches Kuratorium für Therapeutisches Reiten, DKThR) – which has more than 3,000 members and includes 200 therapeutic riding centres.
- The German Academic Riding Club (Deutscher Akademischer Reiterverband, DAR) – with nearly 1,200 members (mainly students, including alumni).
- The International Association for Pace Horses (Internationale Gangpferdevereinigung, IGV) – with about 1,500 members.
- The Federal Association for Classical Riding Germany (Bundesverband für klassisch-barocke Reiterei Deutschland, BfkbR) – which has about 2,000 members.

Additionally, the FN has about 210 special members including clubs, companies and legal bodies.

2. Departments, Mission and Tasks of the FN

The headquarters of the FN are situated in Warendorf, a small town in the North-West of Germany. The FN shares this location with the German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sports (DOKR) as well as with the National Equestrian Performance



Centre (Bundesleistungszentrum, BLZ). Warendorf is considered a hub of the German equestrian world, as it is also host to the Sports College of the German Armed Forces (Sportschule der Bundeswehr), the National German Riding School (Deutsche Reitschule, the riding school which accredits all professional riding instructors after their examinations), as well as the second largest State stud in Germany, the North Rhine-Westphalia Stud Warendorf. More than 10 % of all workplaces in Warendorf depend on the equine industry. The FN, DOKR and BLZ alone employ around 160 people in their different departments.

The FN/DOKR has an annual budget of 21,000,000 Euro. Sources of funding include:

- FN Services (e.g. issuing of licences for riders and horses, horse passports, online entries): ca. 54 %
- Member fees and donations: ca. 15 %
- State grants: ca. 9 %
- Marketing of TV rights: ca. 4 %
- Other: ca. 18 %

The FN's tasks are divided among three separate departments: sports, breeding and services. Within the sports category, in collaboration with the German Association for Therapeutic Riding and the Para-Equestrian Association, the FN deals with the following disciplines: dressage, show-jumping, eventing, driving, endurance, vaulting and reining.

The FN's tasks are divided among three separate departments: sports, breeding and services



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The mission of the FN is:

- The promotion of the equestrian sport and horse breeding
- The provision of guidance and services
- The preservation of the historic relationship between man and horse

Responsibilities and objectives of the FN are:

- The promotion of health and joie de vivre (joy of living) to all people – especially the younger generation – by encouraging participation in equestrian sports
- The promotion of training and education for riders, drivers, vaulters and horses to perfect the art of riding, driving and vaulting
- The promotion of the sport for pleasure and performance in all disciplines
- The promotion of German horses and breeding
- The promotion of horse keeping
- The promotion of animal welfare
- The promotion of environmental responsibility and care for the environment
- The promotion of responsible horse care that will strengthen the preservation of the historic relationship between man and horse

In summary, the FN is charged with all matters revolving around horses, competitions and recreational sports. It aims to represent the interests of all riders, drivers, vaulters, horse owners/keepers and horse breeders. This representational capacity for

its members is also directed towards legislative bodies, environmental and animal welfare as well as other sport and recreational organizations.

What is truly outstanding and unique about the structure of the FN is its interconnected, collaborative and cooperative nature which connects all equestrian aspects. This is the key to its success. All equestrian elements remain on equal footing and are allocated equal importance, working towards the achievement of one common goal: perpetual improvement. The FN, in comparison to most other national federations, is outstanding in this integrated organization and structure.

For young mares, the mare performance test at the age of three or four is very important.

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Education Centre of the German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sports

Foto: U. Helkenberg



In the decades following the First World War, Dr. Rau, a former journalist of the racing magazine "Sportwelt" and the equestrian magazine "St. Georg", became the driving force of organized horse sport and breeding in Germany.



The dressage team at the CHIO in Aachen.

III. A Short History of the Development of Equestrian Sports and Breeding in Germany

1905 The foundation of the organization known as FN today – an association of breeders and riders with the goal to promote German bred horses – was laid.

1910 Horse shows started to become increasingly popular in Germany.

1913 The German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sports (DOKR) was founded, with Dr. Gustav Rau as its General Secretary, as a reaction to the unsuccessful results of the German riders at the Olympic Games 1912 in Stockholm and in view of the Olympic Games 1916 being hosted by Germany in Berlin.

1914 The First World War prevented the Olympic Games 1916 to be held in Berlin.

Over the following decades, Dr. Rau, a former journalist of the racing magazine "Sportwelt" and the equestrian magazine "St. Georg", became the driving force of organized horse sport and breeding in Germany. After the end of the First World War, an increasing number of commercial riding clubs were founded. This initially occurred in the more rural parts of Germany since riding was a sport for the sons of farmers and breeders. Only later riding became more popular in towns and cities.

Initially, riding was a sport reserved solely for males, however, this trend changed at the beginning of the 1920s with the first female participation in equestrian activities.

1927 The foundation of the International Federation of Equestrian Sports (Fédération Equestre Internationale, FEI) with headquarters in Geneva/SUI – later moving to Lausanne/SUI – was laid.

From 1920 until 1939, the cavalry training school in Hanover (Lower Saxony) became the focal point of equestrian

Vaulting in the 1950s.



Foto: Menzendorf, Leihgabe Niedersächsische Sparkassenstiftung und Kreisparkasse Verden im Deutschen Pferdemuseum



The famous show-jumping rider Hans Günter Winkler with the legendary mare Halla.



Foto: K. H. Frieler

Count Dieter von Landsberg-Velen led the FN as its President for 33 years.

education for top riders and horses. Riders and instructors, who were trained in Hanover, continued their success in the national and international equestrian sport after the war.

From the mid-sixties onwards, this campaign was increasingly successful, and many Germans came to view equestrian sports as an ideal hobby and sporting activity.

1936 At the Olympic Games in Berlin, German riders won all six gold medals. This was a record that, throughout the history of the Olympic Games, had never been achieved before. After the end of the Second World War, Dr. Gustav Rau rebuilt the structural organization for horse sports and breeding.

1968 Count Dieter von Landsberg-Velen was elected President of the FN. He adopted many structural reforms and developed the FN significantly. This great horseman influenced and led the FN as its President for 33 years.

1950 The new headquarters of the German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sports were opened in Warendorf. Over the subsequent years, numerous high performance riders, such as the renowned jumper Hans Günter Winkler, settled in Warendorf. They contributed significantly to the transformation of the small town into the German "capital of the horse". With the increasing use of motorized vehicles in agriculture and the military, the number of horses in Germany decreased rapidly (from 1,700,000 in 1949 to 252,000 in 1959/BRD, West Germany).

1972 As a reaction to the increasing number of recreational riders, the FN established a new department representing this group.

1990 With the reunification of West and East Germany, the equestrian sports and breeding associations in the eastern part of Germany were reorganized to become part of the German FN.

1963 The equestrian sports and breeding organizations started a concerted effort to prevent this trend and to revitalize the popularity of equestrian sports in Germany.

1996 Due to the increasing number of commercial and private equestrian centres, the FN opened membership to these facilities and established a department dealing with their administration. This resulted in 4,000 commercial and private yards becoming members of the FN.

2001 After a complete restructuring of the management structures for the FN, Count Landsberg-Velen ended his presidency.



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In the past, horses played an important role in all parts of traffic, agriculture and the military.

IV. The Position of the Horse in German Law and the Role of the German Government in Equestrian Sports and Breeding

The position of the horse in German legislation and the role of the government is of great significance for the development of equestrian sports and breeding. Over the past few years however, these aspects of the German equestrian world have been subject to drastic reforms. Moreover, they differ quite fundamentally from the rules, regulations and the legislation in other countries.

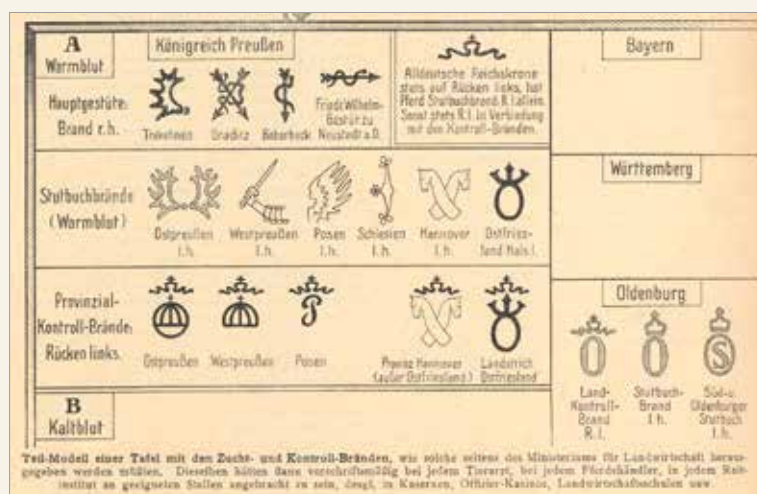
Historically, horses were predominantly used as means of transport – for agricultural, military or industrial purposes. Their importance necessitated governmental influence on the equine sector. With the advent of the transformation of the economic value of horses, namely from work animals to leisure and sport animals, governmental influence decreased. Today, the government retains influence only on horse welfare issues and on horse breeding, with the intention to further reduce control. Presently, government influence on the equestrian sector takes form in the support of about a dozen State studs by annually granting them several million Euro in funding.

Horses once shared the same status as livestock, e.g. cows, pigs and sheep. This status has changed over time. At present,

horses are defined in the German civil law code as personal possessions which leads to legislative implications for horse owners and the equestrian sport at large. Further legislation has decreed that, despite their multiple purposes in breeding and competition, horses hold the status of domestic animals.

German law decrees that all horses, which are transported, must have a valid passport ensuring the unique identification of the animal. This passport must also contain whether the horse is intended for

Old table of German brand-marks.





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slaughter purposes at the end of its life. In case of illness, a horse intended for slaughter will then receive medical substances in accordance with human meat-consumption laws.

Although the government intends to limit its control over the equestrian sector, numerous governmental efforts have significantly influenced the sport, breeding and handling of horses, especially in the legal spheres of animal rights, breeding, animal epidemic diseases, meat consumption, nature conservation and veterinary drug laws.

Moreover, the government provides important assistance to the FN's annual budget through its 9 % contribution. This funding is invaluable, for it presents the FN with the opportunity to continuously innovate its structure, apply reforms to perfect the training systems and provide quality support services.

The role of the government in the equine sector is rather complex. On the one hand, the government actively supports the equestrian sport, while on the other, a conundrum of restrictive governmental regulations and legislations exists. An explanation can be found in Germany's history. Germany is a federal republic which comprises 16 federal states. The German system is a de-centralized one, in which the governments of the

federal states retain a certain degree of independence from the German State. The latter is mainly concerned with foreign affairs, national politics and security questions, while the former has sovereignty in all topics concerning their federal politics. This essentially means that certain rules are subject to variation in the different federal states. This decentralized system is an inheritance from the 19th century, where Germany existed only as a consortium of small independent kingdoms and principalities.

The unification of Germany in 1871 is a relatively recent development, and Germany's geographical history is still mirrored in today's social and political life. This is also seen in the organizational structure of other sports, political parties and religious or social organizations. In the equine sector, many questions related to breeding, animal welfare and the equestrian sport are regulated separately in the different federal states. An example are the rules governing the use of forests and the countryside for leisure horse riding purposes. These differ greatly between both, the central German Government and the federal governments, imposing over 60 different rules. The same variations also exist in the areas of breeding, transportation and animal welfare regulations.

German law decrees that all horses, which are transported, must have a valid passport ensuring the unique identification of the animal.

left: With several riders Wotan was one of the most successful horses of the 1930s.



Foto: K. H. Frieler

V. The Organization of German Equestrian Competitions

1. Different Competition- and Performance Classes

The different competition classes are governed by the official rules for the German equestrian sport, laid out in the Leistungs-Prüfungs-Ordnung (LPO), a detailed manual of every applicable standard, rule and legislation.

The “classical” equestrian disciplines, jumping, dressage and eventing, are divided into six different levels of difficulty (basic level, E, A, L, M, S) in Germany. This system is beneficial to all riders, as it allows for a clear distinction between the levels of difficulty and required riding skills. It provides opportunity for competition to all riders, depending on their skill level, and makes it easy to judge whether participation in a certain class is a feasible option. The different classes are governed by the official rules for the German equestrian sport, laid out in the Leistungs-Prüfungs-Ordnung (LPO; transl. “Performance Testing Regulation”), a detailed manual of every applicable standard, rule and legislation. This manual is of great benefit, as it provides a transparent and easy

to understand description of the regulations, accessible to everybody.

At the basic level, designed specifically to accommodate the youngest and/or inexperienced riders, the judges evaluate the stage of training and the harmony between horse and rider. In the jumping and cross-country competitions at this level, the obstacles do not exceed 60 centimetres. This level does not require a licence and is open to every rider, to make competitive sports easily accessible for everyone; a sentiment which is the foundation of the German competition spirit.

The first level of the official five level system is called the “E” class, “E” stands for Einsteiger, meaning beginner. This level requires a licence for participation. In order to apply for a licence, the rider has to com-

plete an examination consisting of a dressage, jumping and theory test. Upon passing these tests, the rider will receive an accredited German Riding Badge, with the corresponding official documentation. These examinations and competition licences are imposed to ensure that competitors are qualified enough to handle the level of difficulty in the respective class.

The dressage competitions of "E" level test the riders' ability to correctly ride the three basic paces, walk, trot and canter, while displaying a competent level of control over the horse. These competitions are usually held in groups of one to four competitors. This small number of competitors aims to ensure that all riders of the beginner level receive a fair and equal chance and are able to gain positive experience. At "E" level, show-jumping competitions include 7 to 9 jumps at 85 centimetres, including one combination of the same height. The cross-country courses at "E" level are 1000 - 2000 metres long, with obstacles of 90 centimetres in height. Generally, the "E" level is intended for riders with a few years of experience and regular training.

The subsequent level of difficulty are the "A" classes – Anfänger, denoting novice. In order to receive the relevant competition license to participate in these classes, the rider is obliged to complete an examination in dressage, show-jumping and theory at the "A" level of difficulty. Passing this test will grant the subsequent German Riding Badge, as well as the corresponding competition licence.

The dressage tests of level "A" are of higher difficulty than the "E" level tests. While the basis of the test remains the competent execution of all gaits, the judgement is stricter and more precise in testing skill and performance. Jumping competitions at "A" level are subdivided into one star and two star competitions. One star competitions are held at a jumping height of ca. 1 metre, while two star jumps stand at not more than 1.10 metres. The time allowed for the completion of the course is approximately 300 metres per minute in indoor arenas and 350 metres per minute in outdoor arenas. Cross-country courses at the "A" level are 1,500 - 3,000 metres long and contain a compulsory water jump. The average travel speed is 500 metres per minute.

"E" and "A" are the basic levels of the German equestrian sport. The subsequent



Foto: Jan Reumann

level, "L" – Leicht (erroneously meaning "easy" in German) – is a transition from the more basic or amateur levels to the professional sport. "L" level dressage competitions include counter canter, simple change of leg, half pirouettes in walk and beginning collection. The double bridle is also introduced at this level. "L" level jumping classes include 8 to 11 jumps with a height and width of 1.15 - 1.20 metres, a triple combination and a water jump. Cross-country courses at "L" level are identical to those of the lowest international cross-country level (CIC*). The length of the courses can be up to 3,200 meters, including 24 to 32 obstacles at a maximum height of 1.10 metres and a maximum width of 2.10 metres. The average speed is 520 metres per minute.

The second highest level is the "M" level. "M" stands for Mittelschwer, meaning medium. This level is orientated towards accommodating advanced amateurs and professionals alike. The "M" level is also subdivided into one and two star levels of difficulty. The "M" dressage tests demand

The performance class of a rider is calculated from his/her success of the last two years, and remains valid for the successive two years.



Kristina Sprehe with Desperados, silver medal at the European Championships 2013.

The system of the different competition and performance classes was developed in order to ensure that only those horses and riders with comparable performance results participate in the same classes.

flying changes, half passes in trot and increased collection. The show-jumping competitions at "M" level are composed of jumps at a height of 1.25 - 1.40 metres, as well as a compulsory water jump with a width of up to 4.0 metres. "M" level cross-country courses have a length of up to 3,600 metres to be completed within a timeframe of 550 metres per minute. They include up to 36 obstacles, with a height of up to 1.15 metres and a width of up to 2.40 metres. Drops can be as deep as 1.80 metres.

The highest German competition class is the "S" level, meaning *Schwer* – advanced or difficult. The "S" level is further subdivided into four categories of difficulty: one, two, three or four star competitions. At "S" level, dressage competitions include one tempi changes, canter pirouettes, half pass, piaffe as well as passage. "S" level show-jumping classes are held at a height of 1.40 - 1.60 metres with water jumps up to 4.50 metres wide. "S" cross-country courses cover a distance of up to 4,000 metres, with up to 40 obstacles at a height of 1.20 metres and a width of 2.70 metres. Drops are at a maximum depth of 2.00 metres. The average speed is 570 metres per minute.

At most levels, show-jumping offers a variety of competition classes such as equitation, baton relay, rescue relay, fault-and-out, accumulator, take-your-own-line, two horse relay, knockout, puissance, six bar and record jumping. Since the late 1970s, Germany has also offered dressage, jumping and eventing

competitions specifically for young horses. These classes give horses aged 4 to 6 the opportunity to gain experience in the competition circuit without the added pressure of competing against the clock or older, more experienced horses. Instead, scores are primarily based on an equitation system. The shows' judges evaluate the horses' gaits, general agility and rideability, as well as their jumping ability in show-jumping and eventing. This structure has proven to be of great benefit to the competition training and career of young horses, as it allows them to gain valuable experience in an unhurried pace over the course of two or three years.

2. Classification and Structure of Amateur and Professional Sport

The German equestrian competition system has no specific separation between amateur and professional riders. Most of the different competition categories are open to every rider. Their eligibility is dependent on their skill level and competition result history. In order to make this system accessible and fair, the FN has developed a ranking system, together with different performance categories, with which to classify all riders.

The performance categories consist of six different classes from 6 to 1, where 1 represents the highest level. The performance class of a rider is calculated from his/her success of the last two years, and remains valid for the successive two years. Additionally, all riders and horses get ranking points, derived from their successes of last year's competition season. These remain valid for one year.

This system was developed in order to ensure that only those horses and riders with comparable performance results participate in the same classes. It also guarantees that only riders with the appropriate experience and skill are able to compete in the more challenging competitions. Although complex, this system has consistently proven to be effective, enforceable and fair.

3. The Licensing System for Riders and Horses

One might query why it is necessary for a rider, who only wants to compete in dressage, to also pass a show-jumping test, and why a rider, who only wants to compete in show-jumping, would need to pass a dressage test before gaining the competence to participate in their preferred discipline. The explanation is found in the German horsemanship tradition. This philosophy considers that every horse and rider should be able to perform satisfactorily in any of the three traditional disciplines. This versatility, flexibility and adaptability are qualities which guarantee competence, skill, performance ability and well-roundedness.

German horsemanship builds on a philosophy originating in the historic evolution of the German equestrian sport. Until the early 20th century, horse riding was a predominantly military activity. A great number of horses and riders formed the German cavalry. The cavalry had a complex task, where it was necessary that all riders always kept their horses under control, regardless of the situation they faced. Riders were expected to have courage, skills and a gentle riding manner so that their horses would not get exhausted unnecessarily. They had to possess of good rideability, fitness and endurance levels, as well as being sure-footed, able to take on any kind of terrain and clear any obstacles obstructing their paths. They were trained to be fearless of impediments such as trenches, hedges or water. Both, the soldiers and the horses were expected to have undergone a versatile and thorough training for these purposes. The traditional equestrian disciplines dressage, jumping and cross-country were developed from these training methods and it was quickly proven that, the more versatile horses and riders were, the more successful and secure their performance was at competitions. Versatile training for horses increased their endurance, as well as durability, under physically challenging conditions.

Thus, the principles of German horsemanship developed and, over time, became entrenched in tandem with the refinement of the German equestrian sport. From the 1930s until the early 1980s, it was seen as the norm that all competitors in horse shows would compete in all three disciplines at the lower levels. Specialization in one discipline was only expected at higher levels. This horsemanship was exemplified by many of



Foto: Dirk Caremans

The photo shows Carsten-Otto Nagel with Corradina (world champion-team 2010).

Germany's greatest riders, including Hans Günter Winkler and Dr. Reiner Klimke. Both entered at competitions in all three disciplines – up to the highest level.

This riding and training philosophy has been the essence of the German equestrian sport structure for decades. This is why, presently, the passing of a performance test is required for participation in competitions. Nearly every riding club in Germany organizes German Riding Badge examinations on an annual or biannual basis. Around 20,000 riders participate in the German Riding Badge examinations annually.

This riding and training philosophy has been the essence of the German equestrian sport structure for decades.

4. Age Divisions for Competition Horses

Participation in German competitions also depends on the age of the horse. Young horses are only admitted in two basic kinds of competitions. The so called "riding-horse" competitions and the "young horse" competitions. These are open to 3 to 4-year-old horses. 4 to 6-year olds are also privy to dressage, show-jumping and cross-country competitions designed specifically for young horses. Dependent on the age of the horse, these competitions can be held at the levels "A", "L", "M". However, horses 4 years and older are allowed to participate in normal competitions (outside of the young horse competitions) at the "E" and "A" level. Competing at level "L" is allowed only for horses from the age of 5 years onwards, while level "M" is only open to horses age 6

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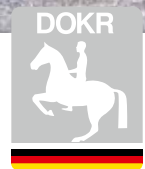
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Foto: Ronald Hogrebe

and older. "S" level classes are only open to horses 7 years and older.

This system is also applicable to jumping and eventing, with the exception that "E" and "A" level classes are open only to horses of the age of 5 and up.

5. Entries, Fees and Prize Money

The entry fees of the German equestrian sport circuit are relatively moderate. As there are nearly 3,600 shows, 68,000 different competitions, 1,450,000 entries, 80,000 competitors and 138,000 competition horses a year, the FN is able to keep the entry costs for competitions at a reasonably low level compared to other European countries.

In higher class national and international competitions (at three or four star level), the prize money is not pre-set. In 2012, the most renowned German jumping competition, the Grand Prix at the CHIO in Aachen, awarded a total of 350,000 Euro in prize money. Overall, prize money in German horse shows in 2011 amounted to a total of 30,000,000 Euro. It is important to note that only riding clubs, which are official members of the FN, are allowed to host officially recognized horse shows.

The cost of participation in FN equestrian competitions includes three different expenses. The annual fee for a rider's license ranges between 15.00 and 153.00 Euro, depending on the age and the performance class of the rider. The one-time registration of a horse as a competition horse costs 61.00 Euro. The annual license for competition horses costs 20.00 Euro.

Prize money in German horse shows in 2011 amounted to a total of 30,000,000 Euro.

As there are nearly 3,600 shows, 68,000 different competitions, 1,450,000 entries, 80,000 competitors and 138,000 competition horses a year, the entry fees of the German equestrian sport circuit are relatively moderate.

Entries, Fees and Total Prize Money (TPM)

Class	E	A	L	M
Entry	6.00 €	7.50 €	9.00 to 10.50 €	12.00 to 18.00 €
TPM	100.00 €	150.00 €	200.00 to 250.00 €	300.00 to 500.00 €

In the different competitions at "S" level (one to three star) the entry and prize money allocations are as following:

Entries, Fees and Total Prize Money (TPM)

Class	S		
Entry	20.50 €	23.00 €	28.00 €
TPM	750.00 €	1,000.00 €	1,500.00 €



Equestrian Globe Ltd.

China's leading professional service provider and consultant in the equestrian industry

Equestrian Globe is the official representative of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) for Greater China. The founders have more than fifteen years' experience in the horse industry and in the organization of equestrian events.

We are passionate about horses and our mission is to share our knowledge and experience, to support the professional development of the equestrian industry and to increase the popularity of equestrian sports in China.

We offer education and professional services to the Chinese riding community to increase quality standards and enable more and more people to participate in this great sport. As the official representative of the German Equestrian Federation (FN), the biggest equestrian association in the world and the only one to combine eight equestrian disciplines under one roof, our connections and support network of industry professionals are unmatched.

This strong network, the top class German equestrian education system and the largest and most successful warmblood breed-

ing programmes in the world result in Germany as the world leader in equestrian sports and enable us to provide holistic services and support for every aspect of equestrianism.

Our services include consultation, conception and management in all equestrian aspects

Conception, management and media services of competitions, horse shows and entertainment events

From big scale events with more than 1,000 participants to small private luxury events, Equestrian Globe will assist as needed or do full service management, including location scouting, stadium setup, light/sound system, data services, show concept and stage-direction, as well as media coverage. In addition, Equestrian Globe offers TV, film, and music services specifically for equestrian events and purposes.

Sponsoring

Equestrian events require substantial funding to ensure the highest quality and safety standards for horses, riders and the audience. Equestrian Globe helps to win sponsorship for equestrian competitions and events and arranges sponsorship agreements for your event within our large network of companies supporting horse sports.

Training and education / Professional stable management

Based on the German classical *Principles of Riding*, Equestrian Globe offers training for riders, horses, coaches, grooms, veterinarians and farriers in China or Germany. We provide guidance and training in all equine matters from the basic to the highest level. Equestrian Globe's affiliated trainers hold the highest German coaching degree. In addition, they have extensive experience in training horses and coaching riders to Olympic-level. Through all training, Equestrian Globe promotes the best standards and practices in training, safety and horse care.



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Horse trading

German breeds are among the most successful in equestrian sports. Equestrian Globe has an extensive network of stud farms and sport stables that raise and train extraordinary horses and ponies for every discipline of the equestrian sport. Of course, we are not limited to German bred horses but can also provide access and consulting to a wide range of other famous breeds. We offer a full service package when buying a horse in Europe, including management of transport and quarantine. Based on our many years of experience in equestrian sports, we are experts in selecting the perfect horse for you.

Equestrian facility design and facility equipment

Equestrian Globe, in cooperation with our affiliated partners and architects, designs and builds your equestrian facility to the highest standards. In addition, Equestrian Globe is the official importer and distributor of leading German facility equipment companies which will provide you with arena footing, horse feed, stable bedding, show-jumping fences etc.

Equestrian products "Made in Germany" and the "German Pavilion"

Next to equestrian facility equipment, Equestrian Globe is the official importer and distributor of leading German saddlery, equipment and tack companies in Asia. To support the professionalization of the equine industry in new markets, we work tirelessly to make the highest quality equine products from leading German vendors accessible in China.

To introduce Germany's long tradition of excellence in every aspect of equine activities, Equestrian Globe organizes the "German Pavilion", a shared platform for German equestrian organizations and brands to present their services and products "Made in Germany", at trade fairs, industry exhibitions and equestrian events.

Breeding consulting and support

Equestrian Globe is keen to pass on the knowledge German breeders have acquired through the nation's long tradition of being on the forefront of horse breeding. Our services are targeted at stable- and stud farm managers as well as private breeders. We provide support in reproduction methods and technology, safety and health standards for mares and foals as well as breeding and sport analysis to find the right bloodlines for a perfect breeding result.

Equestrian Vacations

Equestrian Globe offers individual vacation packages to spend your holidays in Germany, the world's leading equestrian country. We will tailor accommodation, sightseeing and visits to equestrian cultural events to your taste and wishes.



Experiences of Equestrian Globe

- Deputy Chef D'Mission Hong Kong show-jumping team, Olympic Games 2008
- Team management for Hong Kong at the 11th China National Games in Jinan (2009) & at the Asian Games in Guangzhou (2010)
- Management of the German Paralympics Dressage Team (2005-2008)
- Fundraising and management team member for the World Equestrian Games Ceremonies in Aachen 2006
- Show management at the Shanghai International Horse and Culture Festival and LONGINES Celebrity Grand Prix 2013
- Show management at the 2nd Ordos Dalate Intl. Horse Cultural Festival 2012
- Show management at CSI*** Balve Optimum and CSI/CDI**** German Masters in Stuttgart
- Choreography and organization world record in 2007 with several "Dressage Quadrille" performances at top events, including the largest "Stallion Quadrille" with 80 European State studs at the European Championships in Mannheim, Germany
- Backstage direction at Equitana's "Hop Top Show" (1997-2007)
- Stage direction of the "Royal Equestrian and Camel Festival" at the 35th and 40th anniversary of the Sultan of Oman's jubilee

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Similar to the competition sport, horse breeding in Germany is very well organized and structured.

Foto: J. Wentscher

VI. Horse and Pony Breeding in Germany

1. The Structure of Breeding

Federal State studs hold approximately 700 sires, private studs hold approximately 4,000 sires.

Selling horses by auction 100 years ago

The structure and organization of breeding activities in Germany has two very distinctive features. First, as one of the main departments of the FN, the breeding department works in close collaboration with the competitive equestrian sports. Secondly, Germany's breeding structure is uniquely composed of a two track structure of sire keeping. The first track involves the federal state studs, which hold approximately 700 sires. The second track encompasses the private studs, which hold approximately 4,000 sires.



2. Distribution of Responsibilities

The Federal Republic of Germany is structured in a decentralized manner. This is also mirrored in the national breeding structures. There are 25 different official breeding associations, all coordinated by the umbrella organization of the FN.

The distribution of responsibilities is as follows:

■ Breeding associations

Each association is approved by the German State, autonomous and within the limits of the European and German animal legislations.

Their main functions are:

- Keeping of studbooks (identification of breeding animals and issuing of breeding certificates)
- Breeding management (breeding program, selection, performance testing, advice for breeders)
- Marketing (sales, advertising and public relations)

■ FN – breeding department

The FN breeding department is responsible for the coordination of activities of the breeding associations, as well as for representing these associations towards ministries and other national and international organizations:

■ General political tasks of the federation

- Cooperation with the FN member breeding associations and other communities of interests: Comité des organisations professionnelles agricoles (European Farmers Union, COPA), Association of German Animal Breeders (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Tierzüchter, ADT), Association of Pony Breeders (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Pony- und Kleinpferdezüchter, AGP), World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH), European Association of Animal Production (EAAP)
- Contacts to national and international ministries (EU decisions, national animal breeding laws)
- Contacts to breeding associations of other countries
- Conception/revision of the ZVO (Zuchtverbandsordnung, transl. "Breeding Association Legislation")
- Management of the breeds through studbooks
- Data coordination of the breeding organizations and production of the breeding yearbook with estimated breeding values
- System of training and examinations of breeding judges
- Implementation of national breeding shows
- Support of "young breeders"
- Organization of national shows

■ National State Studs

The State supports equestrian breeding through assistance in the maintenance of the ten National State Studs.

3. The Breeding System in Germany

For riding you need horses. For good riding you need good horses. If you have a lot of good horses, you have the opportunity for a lot of good riding. These three simple sentences describe the breeding situation in Germany in a nutshell.

One reason for the great popularity of riding in Germany, and the outstanding international success of the German horse sport, is due to the fact that more excellent sport horses for every discipline cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

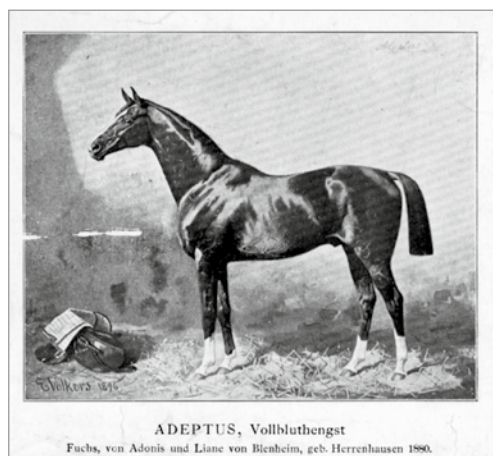
A large part of German equestrian success relies on German horse breeding. The

FN and its member organizations manage many different breeds. The majority of the breeding horses in Germany are "German Riding Horses"; however, different kinds of ponies, gait horses and draught-horses are also represented. In 2012, 3,559 (previous year: 3,642) riding horse sires and 59,886

(previous year: 64,824) riding horse broodmares were registered. A total of 27,843 (previous year: 29,532) riding horse foals were registered in 2012. In addition, in the field of riding ponies and small horses 3,850 (previous year: 4,128) sires, 22,708 (previous year: 24,303) broodmares and 9,152 (previous year: 9,647) foals were recorded.

Of the 219 horses (including reserve horses) registered for the Olympic Games in London 2012, a total of 65 (30%) were of German breeding. Specifically, of the 90 horses registered in the jumping classes, a total of 26 horses (29%) and 22 of the 54 horses registered for the Olympic dressage were of German origin (41%). Eventing in London saw an evident increase in the participation of German bred horses. 17 of the 75 registered horses came from German breeding associations (23%). With five gold, four silver and three bronze medals, German bred horses won a total of 12 out of 45 possible medals at the London Olympic Games (27%). Seven of these 12 medals were won by German horses in eventing. Therefore, German studbooks are the most successful in the world.

Typically, the average breeder in Germany owns one to three broodmares but no stallions. This is due to the difficulty of holding broodmares and stallions together in smaller sized yards. Similar to the equestrian competition sports, horse breeding in Germany is very well organized. The German breeding philosophy states that breeding is the attempt to create a next generation of horses by crossing genetic material with specific abilities and qualities which exceed that of the parental generation. Hence, only the very best stallions and the very best mares should be used for breeding purposes. To ensure this, German breeders developed a complex system of selection and assessment of



Trademark-stallion
Adeptus

One reason for the great popularity of riding in Germany, and the outstanding international success of the German horse sport, is due to the fact that more excellent sport horses for every discipline cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



Foto: Brüning

Germany has the greatest and most successful breeding system for riding horses and sport ponies in the entire world.

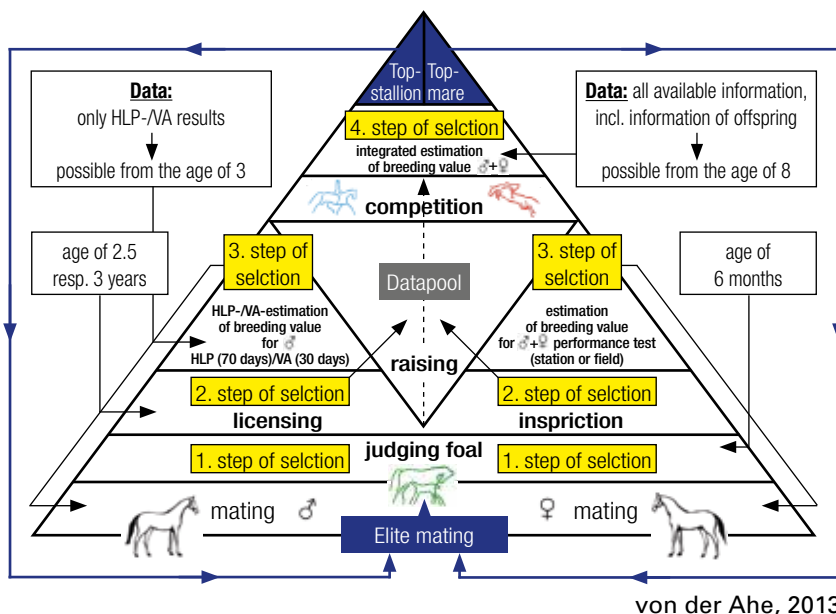
horses to evaluate the breeding value of a stallion or mare.

4. Breeding Program of the "German Riding Horse"

German animal breeding laws prescribe that any accredited breeding association must have a breeding program. This is imperative, as it ensures preparatory and forward thinking breeding objectives. The breeding objectives are inspired by the preferences and requirements indicated by buy-

ers. While every breeding association has its own breeding objective, all breeding associations that are members of the FN further conscribe to a uniform breeding objective from 1975: „Breeding is aimed at producing a noble, large-framed and correct horse with dynamic, spacious and elastic motions – well suited for any riding purpose because of its temperament, its character and its ability to provide an easy ride.“ This breeding objective, together with the rules for horse breeding in Germany, is noted in the ZVO, the breeding association regulations (Zuchtverbandsordnung), and updated regularly.

Model of Breeding for the German Riding Horse



The basis of the modern horse breeding programs is a process of different selection stages. The diagram to the left shows the interplay of judging the exterior and performance in this selection process.

Foals:

The first step of the breeding selection in Germany begins at the foal shows. In the summertime, when most foals are born, nearly every German riding horse, pony and heavy horse foal participates in a foal show. At these shows, experienced judges from various breeding associations evaluate the foals' exterior and their paces. The best foals are awarded. This preliminary selection allows the breeding associations to gain a good overview of the quality of the foals born that year. Furthermore, the breeder gains an objective assessment of the quality of the foals.



Foto: M. Schwöbel

Following the primary assessment of the foals, a selection process of the mares and stallions, via the grading and accreditation as indicated through the studbooks, takes place.

Stallions:

The next step in the career of a young stallion is the licensing during fall or winter. On average, only five percent of the stallions born in a year are granted the permission to take part in the licensing process. Less than 50 % of the participating stallions are awarded the official licence as a breeding stallion upon completion of the three day selection period. This licence, however, only grants a limited breeding permission. The testing period adjudicates the quality of the young stallions' exterior, the paces, the free-jumping competence and the general behaviour. Stallions aged 3 to 6 are required to pass a 30-day ability test (VA – Veranlagungsprüfung). A stallion can obtain a breeding permission only upon successful completion of this test. For obtaining an unlimited breeding permission, the stallion has to pass the 70-day stallion performance test (HLP – Hengstleistungsprüfung) successfully or succeed in competition sports. Over the following years, the young stallions are expected to gain experience in competition sports.

Mares:

Young mares undertake a performance test at the age of 3 or 4-years old. Their results at these evaluations are critical for their

breeding career. The criteria judged at these tests are similar to the stallions' 30-day ability test: interior, gaits and movement, competence in free-jumping and general behaviour. Although broodmares usually do not have a competitive career before breeding, a trend has developed over the course of the last 20 years that young mares participate in one or two competition seasons to gain more information about their ability and performance before going into breeding.

The last selection step for all horses in the breeding program of the "German Riding Horse" is the integrated breeding value evaluation, which combines the performance results of both, breeding and sports perspectives.

The horses' results in various tests at the breeding station or at stallion performance and ability tests, as well as broodmare tests, are recorded. The data about the success in competitions, as well as in the breeding tests and different steps of selection, are continuously sampled from all horses. Combining these results with the breeding and competitive lineage of the horses' ancestors enables one to calculate the horses' breeding value in terms of their conformation, interior, movement, show-jumping and dressage suitability.

4.1 Performance tests

Performance tests have a long tradition in horse breeding. Through a change in breeding objectives, which have moved

*Stallion parade:
Quadrille riders in
the State stud Celle,
Lower Saxony.*

*The last selection step
for all horses in the
breeding program of the
"German Riding Horse"
is the integrated breeding
value evaluation, which
combines the performance
results of both, breeding
and sports perspectives.*



Foto: Archiv FN

Heavy horse sires are an integral part of the stallion parade in Warendorf – State stud of North Rhine Westphalia.

Performance tests have a long tradition in horse breeding. Through a change in breeding objectives, which have moved more towards breeding a riding horse rather than a work animal, the demand for a horse's performance value has increased dramatically.

more towards breeding a riding horse rather than a work animal, the demand for a horse's performance value has increased dramatically. The importance of horses in the military and their performance in warfare ensured the advance of performance tests amongst warmbloods. The strongly differing priorities in agriculture further modified and narrowed the testing priorities gearing these more towards riding horses. As competitive sports advanced, a further element of breeding evaluations was distinguished. Today, performance tests are principally regulated by the animal breeding legislations, together with the individual regulations per breed. In current "Riding Horse" breeding, there are many performance tests which will be explained below.

One of the central aims of the new animal breeding legislation of 2007 was to give the breeding organizations full competence and responsibility for the planning and enactment of their breeding programs. Therefore, the regulation of the performance tests and breeding value assessments are no longer State issues, but have been carried out by the breeding organizations since 2011. The responsibility of the evaluation of breeding stallions has already been granted to the breeding associations since 1989.

All breeds have regulations for the performance tests and their evaluation of horses' breeding values. The framework rules for the individual performance tests specific to each breed are derived from these regulations. The broodmare performance tests include evaluations at the breeding station or

field tests. These tests are coordinated and matched to the specifications and regulations of the different breeds.

4.1.1 Stallion performance test

After the licensing, the young stallions are required to complete a stallion performance test. In 2011, a new regulation on performance tests and breeding evaluations was enacted which created new ways for "Riding Horse" stallions to take performance tests.

The following options are available for stallions 3 to 6 years of age: a stallion performance test (70 days), which can be preceded by a 30-day ability test, a combination of a 30-day ability test and a competition sport test (national championship qualification in the tests for young horses). Lastly, stallions, 7 years and older, can attain the required performance evaluation by successful participation in a dressage or jumping test at "S" or in eventing at "M" or "S" level.

4.1.1a 30-day Ability Test (VA – Veranlagungsprüfung)

The VA consists of a 30-day long training course and a final examination. The ability tests are held according to the regulations published by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in 2003. Training managers, training judges, test riders and examination judges distinguish and evaluate the characteristics of the horse's interior, basic gaits under the rider, rideability, as well as the jumping ability in free-jumping. The stallion owners receive the grade point average of the performances in all different sections.

In a central evaluation, the FN calculates the final results based on a given scheme. It also calculates the final results for all stallions in accordance to the priorities in the disciplines of dressage and jumping, as well as the evaluation of the breeding values of the ability test in dressage and jumping. The 3 and 4-year-old licensed stallions, who have successfully completed an ability test, will then be tentatively entered into the studbooks for breeding purposes (see graphic above). However, this suitability evaluation is not enough for a permanent entry into the studbooks.

4.1.1b 70-day Stallion Performance Test (HLP – Hengstleistungsprüfung)

The stallion performance test consists of a 70-day long training course and a final examination. The training phase before the

final examination covers the character, temperament and work enthusiasm of the horse (the interior), the basic gaits, the rideability and their ability in the free-jumping as well as cross-country.

In their final test, the stallions are tested by expert judges and test riders:

- The training leader and two training judges test the interior, the basic gaits, the rideability, the jumping capability and the cross-country suitability
- Two examination judges at the final examination test the basic gaits, the free-jumping, the cross-country suitability
- The test riders test the rideability and the horse's capability of jumping a course

Upon completion of the evaluations, all results are made available to the breeders. The results are published for all single evaluations, the different sections, the grade point average and the breeding values. The tests are passed when a minimum breeding value and a minimum test grade have been reached. However, the recognition of the value evaluation, taken from the results of the examination, remains the prerogative of the breeding associations, whereby different breeding associations have different qualitative standards in evaluating the results of the performance tests.

These kind of station based performance evaluations for warmblood stallions had already been in place for over 50 years in the Federal Republic of Germany until, in 1974, they were first proscribed by legislation, and, since 1980, have been mandatory for all licensed stallions.

For "Riding Horse" stallions there are stallion testing facilities in Adelheidsdorf (Lower Saxony), Marbach (Baden-Wuerttemberg), Münster-Handorf (North Rhine-Westphalia), Neustadt-Dosse (Berlin-Brandenburg), Prussendorf (Saxony-Anhalt), Redefin (Mecklenburg-Hither Pomerania), Schlieckau (Lower Saxony) and Warendorf (North Rhine-Westphalia). Since 2011, ability tests have also been held in Moritzburg (Saxony), München-Riem (Bavaria) and in Zweibrücken (Rhineland-Palatinate).

In sum, the performance tests at the breeding stations allow for a safe breeding value estimation of stallions through the continuous improvements in the evaluation and execution of these examinations. All dates, results and information about the performance tests are published on the web-

site: www.hengstleistungspruefung.de/en. The registration for the performance evaluations is also done via this website.

4.1.2 Broodmare evaluations

The breeding station performance evaluations for broodmares have been in place for several years. Their precedent was set in Holstein in 1983, and they have since won recognition and importance in all other German breeding areas. These tests are usually held for 3 and 4-year-old mares. Older mares can also participate. The basic gaits, the interior, the rideability and the free-jumping are judged. An alternative to this are the broodmare evaluations "in the fields", which have existed for over 20 years. These, however, do not include an evaluation of the mare's character.

4.2 Integrated breeding value assessment

In earlier years, the competition results were used for breeding decisions. Through breeding value evaluations the predictive capacity of the breeders has been improved as non-genetic influence factors of the horse's performance results are reduced.

In 2001, a newly developed breeding value evaluation, the so called "integrated breeding value assessment", was introduced. The integrated breeding value estimation is a combination of performance results from the following examinations: stallion performance evaluations, suitability evaluations, broodmare examinations, competition sport tests for young horses, as well as the classic competition sport tests. Through this variety of information about the performance of the horse, the integrated breeding value assessment is very precise and genuine. With the help of the animal model breeding value evaluation, the results of these examinations are calculated according to genetic and statistical evaluation methods. Through this, all available pedigree information is linked with the performance and/or the progeny information.

All information about the horses is incorporated into the evaluation of the breeding value. The more information is available, the better the predictive value of the horses' heredity. With these integrated breeding values, the breeders and breeding managements receive more qualitative information, especially for the selection of stallions, which ensures the conditions for targeted breeding performance in the framework of the breeding objectives. The estimated inte-



Foto: Archiv FN

Represents the tradition: The uniform of the State stud of North Rhine Westphalia.

In sum, the performance tests at the breeding stations allow for a safe breeding value estimation of stallions through the continuous improvements in the evaluation and execution of these examinations.



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grated breeding values of the stallions are published in the yearbook of the German Equestrian Federation (please see graphic on page 37).

5. State Studs in Germany – History and Present

Since the beginning of the domestication of the horse, humans have been interested in breeding horses. The first attempts at breeding were similar to an act of nature. A stallion and several mares were brought together, and the stallion was meant to cover the mares. While the stallion was actively chosen, the fact which mare was covered was more a question of chance than a planned act.

Today, only a few wild horses still exist in Europe. Germany's only wild horses, first documented in 1316, are the wild horses of Dülmen in North-Rhine Westphalia. To date, nearly 300 Dülmen horses remain in an area of 350 hectares.

From the end of the Middle Ages to the beginning of the Renaissance, between 1400 and 1600, Europe saw the first forms of studs organized by the State. Many rulers of European countries required more horses for their cavalry and their courts. Simultaneously, these same rulers began to engage more in the organization of their countries. Thus far, horse breeding had been more of a personal matter, and breeders were free from constraints in their breeding activities. Hence, breeding had no uniform standards, and the quality of horses produced varied greatly. During the eras of autocracy, many European rulers recognized that an improvement in horse breeding held numerous advantages for the state, the economy and the breeders. As a result, a lot of State studs were established to give farmers the possibility to use good sires for their mares at an affordable price.

The foundation of State studs in Germany reached its top between the 17th and 19th century. The autocratic kings and rulers of the European countries had the power and motivation to improve horse breeding in their areas, as they needed more horses for their armies, driving, agricultural work and traffic. Horse breeding thus became a major element of the defence industry and economic development. Nearly all German State studs known today had their origin during this time. The State studs were the

centre of horse breeding in the different regions. During covering season, the sires were brought to regional stations, giving every farmer the possibility to use a State owned sire in a manageable distance.

The Great Change

In the last 70 years, the structure of warmblood breeding in Germany has seen great changes. Until the Second World War, it was common that the rulers of the states owned the stallions, and the breeders, mostly farmers, owned the mares. Only a small number of sires was privately owned. This changed in the 1960s, when the breeding of warmbloods and riding horses for sport and leisure increased.

The Present

In Germany today, more than 3,000 of the nearly 4,000 registered warmblood sires are privately owned. This is mainly the result of the reduction of the States' involvement in animal-, especially horse-, breeding. The rapid development of the competitive equestrian sport in the 1970s stimulated the growth of private breeding activities, and, through rising popularity, eradicated the necessity of State support. This development lies in stark contrast to preceding times which saw horse breeding as a part of the defence industry and broader economic development.

In the 70s and 80s, private stud owners did not own more than 10 sires. Most private breeding stations had even less than 10 sires. Contemporarily, some private sire stations own more sires and carry out more coverings in a year than the average small State stud.

In conclusion, it is remarkable that Germany is nearly the only country in Europe with strong State- and private stud activities. Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the strong position of Germany in the international horse breeding scene.

Stallion Parades

Almost all State studs organize stallion parades in the fall. The initial reason for these shows was for the State studs to demonstrate their sires and their skills to the breeders, with the hope that the latter would be incentivized to use them for their mares in the following spring. Contemporarily, these shows are no longer solely interesting for the breeders but also attract thousands of people who have a general interest in horses. The State stud in Warendorf welcomes around 40,000 visitors at their five parades every year.

In Germany today, more than 3,000 of the nearly 4,000 registered warmblood sires are privately owned. This is mainly the result of the reduction of the States' involvement in animal-, especially horse-, breeding.

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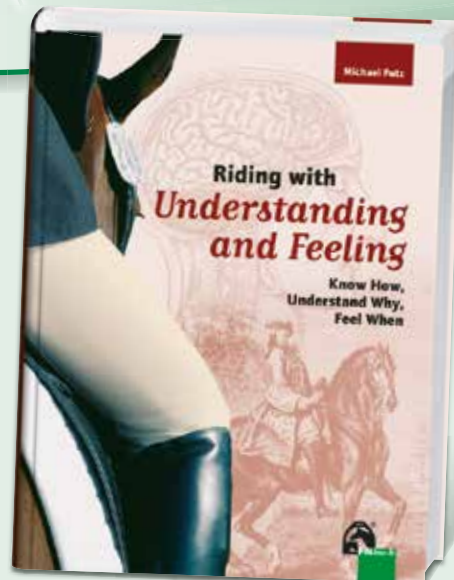
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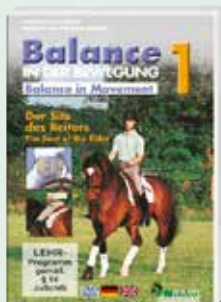
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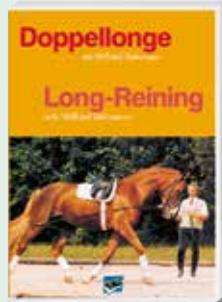
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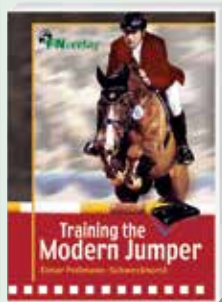
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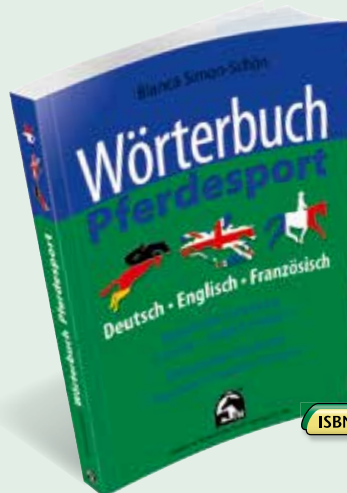
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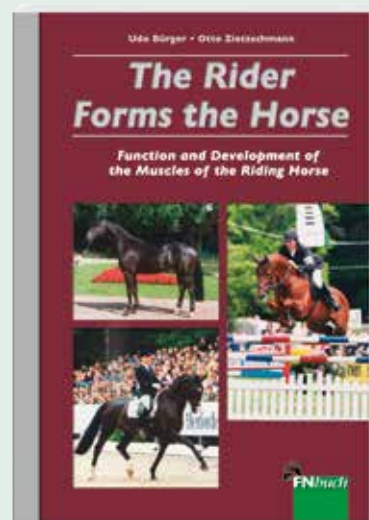
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For more information about the state studs: www.die-deutschen-landgestuete.de/index-en.html.

For more information about privately owned sires and the sires of the State studs: info@deutsche-hengsthalter.de and www.deutsche-hengsthalter.de.

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*The in sport and
breeding equally
successful stallion
Casal, born in
Holstein.*



Foto: Janne Bugtrup



VII. Buying Horses in Germany

Free-jumping is part of the presentation of young talents.

While buying a horse is relatively straightforward, buying the right horse is a more daunting task; and buying the right horse for the right price is almost an art!

The fact that the purchase of a horse is often emotionally driven, rather than rationally informed, increases the risk of making a wrong decision. However, most mistakes in the horse selection process are avoidable if one adheres to some simple guidelines.

The most important question when buying a horse is: "What kind of horse do I need?" Answering this question thoroughly will avoid most mistakes. Important criteria to consider are:

- What kind of horse do I want? For which sport or discipline? Aim to buy the right horse for the job!
- What is my price range?
- Good and appropriate temperament of the horse, which should match the intended discipline and the potential rider.
- General health and constitution of the horse. Problems at the time of purchase may lead to an unhealthy horse years later.
- The right size for the discipline and the rider.

If the horse is bought for a specific rider, an imperative factor is an objective evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of that rider. The horse should be matched to the skills of the rider, not the other way around. Young and inexperienced horses should only be bought by experienced amateur or professional riders, as only riders with a certain level of expertise will be able to correctly train and develop a horse to its full potential.

1. Auctions

Historically, horse auctions were seen in a rather poor light and deemed to be unattractive for those looking for well-bred riding horses. They served as a forum for the sale of cheap, low quality working horses. However, with the end of the First World War, horse auctions began to develop slowly as a new market for the sale of high quality horses. This move was first instigated by the renowned State stud Trakehnen, then belonging to Eastern Prussia, now part of Russia. Their groundbreaking auctions sparked increasing international interest in the newly budding market for high quality bred auction-horses.

Post Second World War, quality horse auctions gained in popularity. A major step in this development came with the greatly suc-

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successful inauguration of the first high quality horse auctions of Hanovarian horses in the town of Verden in Lower Saxony, instigated by the renowned Hans Joachim Köhler. This prompted a keen interest from other German breeding associations to take up their own horse auctions; the domino effect was set in motion, and it gained pace over the following years.

In total, all prominent breeding associations host their own auctions today. The most important ones are located in Verden (Hanovarian horses), Vechta (Oldenburg horses), Münster (Westphalian and Rhineland horses), Elmshorn and Neumünster (Holsteiner horses), Medingen and Neumünster (Trakehner horses), Marbach (Baden-Württemberg horses), Munich (Southern German horses) and Neustadt-Dosse (Brandenburger, Anhalt, Sachsen and Thüringen horses).

Today, Germany hosts over 25 different sport-horse auctions. The horses sold at these auctions are usually between 3 and 4 years old. There are about 25 breeding associations, hosting 100 auctions per year, specialized in the sale of studs, broodmares and foals.

Buying horses at German auctions has significant advantages. The horses presented at auctions are pre-selected by experts and undergo a thorough veterinary check before being eligible for sale. Therefore, they are guaranteed to be in good health and carefully primed for auctioning. The auctions present between 50 and 120 horses, giving the potential buyer a broad range of horses to choose from; all conveniently situated in one location. This magnitude of choice is unique and cannot be found outside of auctions under the same conditions.

Auctions provide a great and easily accessible opportunity for non-German buyers to find young high-performance horses. A useful tactic for the purchase of horses at auctions is to discuss one's price range with the auctioneers who will assemble a group of horses meeting the buyer's specifications before the auction. On the day before, the buyers have the opportunity to test ride their selection of potential horses. It would be wise to pre-select several horses of interest, as this keeps all options open during the somewhat unpredictable course of the auction. Thus, if one of the choices for purchase reaches too high a price, the buyer still has alternative options.



Foto: photec

2. Private Breeders, Sellers and Professional Horse Dealers

Most horse sales in Germany are done by professional or private breeders. There are around 1.000 professional horse dealers throughout Germany. Horse sales are supported by a large private advertisement market. More than 60 periodicals, as well as numerous internet forums, are geared towards the sale of horses.

Horse sales are categorized into four different age groups. The first age group category are foals. Usually, these only attract buyers who have expertise in the judgement of young horses and are open to the risk of misjudgement. If so, they can cut very good deals in the purchase of a good foal.

The second category includes one year old horses. Buying yearlings requires a great deal of experience to make a sound judgement of the value or potential of the horse in question. This is therefore a rather small market.

Most horses are usually sold in the age range of 3 - 4 years old, once they have started their training under saddle. This enables the potential buyer to gain a level of predictability about the future potential of this horse.

The fourth and last market segment is the sale of horses aged 4 years and older. These are usually horses with competition experience.

The Federal Championships of Young Horses and Ponies (DKB-Bundes-championate) is the most important event in German horse breeding.

Buying horses at German auctions has significant advantages. The horses presented at auctions are pre-selected by experts and undergo a thorough veterinary check before being eligible for sale.



To be able to participate in German competitions, every rider has to take the German Riding Badge exam, including a dressage test, a show-jumping test and a theoretical test.

Germany has the most successful breeding system for sport horses and ponies in the world.

VIII. Schooling of Riders and Horses

1. German Horsemanship

A brief glance at the statistics reveals that Germany ranges at the top of the world's most successful nations in the equestrian sports. Why are German riders, drivers and vaulters so successful? The answer comes down to these four facts:

- As described before, with more than 1.7 million people participating in equestrian sports, Germany has a huge pool of riders, drivers and vaulters. Nearly 720,000 of them are organized under the FN, and more than 80,000 of them actively participate in competitions.
- Germany has the most successful breeding system for sport horses and ponies in the world.
- The German Equestrian Federation maintains an interrelated cooperation with a multitude of equestrian forums, from high performance sport to recreational riding and breeding.
- Most important however, is the continued emphasis on the age-old tradition of German horsemanship and the principles of riding, which suggest to

school all riders and horses in a versatile and well-rounded manner.

2. *The Principles of Riding: The Official Training System of the German Equestrian Federation – An Insight to its Success*

Item four in the before paragraph refers to the tradition of German horsemanship: the training principles as advocated in the official training system of the FN. Due to the importance, this will require a more detailed explanation.

The principles of German horsemanship combine the knowledge and experience of over 2,000 years, taken from various fields of scientific study about riding and handling as well as the behaviour of horses. They outline a unified and holistic schooling system for all horses and riders in every equestrian discipline. All instructors, riders and official judges in Germany work with and within this unique system. The uniformity of the Ger-

man horsemanship principles has enabled the development of a singular terminology, forming a distinctive and synchronized language for the German equestrian sport, understood by everybody in the German horse world.

3. A Short History of the Classical Art of Riding

The principles of riding represented in the German horsemanship tradition derive from and form the oldest doctrines of all sports' disciplines in the world. The origin of these principles can be traced as far back as ancient Greece, the cradle of European culture and civilisation. The famous Greek author, philosopher, politician and cavalry officer Xenophon (430 - 354 BC) wrote two influential books: *Peri Hippikes* (transl. "On the Art of Riding") and *Hipparchikos* (transl. "The Cavalry Commander"). Here, he describes many of his observations on the training of horses and riders, which still retain their applicability and accuracy today. One of his most fundamental observations was: "When working with horses, never lose your temper, this is the most important rule for every rider." Xenophon also discovered the central importance of the independent and balanced seat of the rider, the basis and prerequisite for every kind of good and safe riding. These two basic principles have remained applicable, and have become a normative standard in German horsemanship over the course of the last 2,300 years.

The Frenchmen Antoine de Pluvinel (1552 - 1620 AD) and Francois Robinchon de la Guérinière (1688 - 1751 AD) are considered the pioneers of the classical art of riding. In Germany, Gustav, Steinbrecht (1808 - 1885 AD) collected their knowledge and other research on the education of riders and horses in his *Gymnasium des Pferdes* (transl. "High School of the Horse"), published shortly after his death. This book was the foundation for the publication of the *Heeresdienstvorschrift (HDV) 12* (transl. "Army Regulation Number 12") of 1912. The particular merit of the HDV 12 were its simple guidelines for the training of horses and riders, especially for those soldiers without any previous riding experience. This was an important development in the efficient and horse-friendly riding education of army soldiers, as well as in the schooling of young army horses.

It once was a persistently circulated myth that all cavalry soldiers were naturally tal-



Foto: K. H. Friele

ented riders. Indeed, a lot of them did have experience in handling horses, however, not necessarily in riding them. Yet, through the HDV 12 system, nearly everybody was able to learn correct riding. The fundamental principle given utmost importance in the HDV 12 was the well-being of the horse above all other things. Horses in those days were not pets but expensive and valuable military property. Hence, horsemen found that a correctly trained and well treated horse would always perform with a high level of stamina and be of good health. This allowed the horse to be a strong asset over a longer period of time.

After the end of the Second World War, the use of horses became confined to equestrian sports. In 1954, the German Equestrian Federation published the first edition of *The Principles of Riding* as a small compendium. The system of education and training of riders and horses, as developed in the HDV 12, was now modified for a non-military use in equestrian sports and written in a more modern language. This book has been published in 25 editions with more than 300,000 copies, and has been translated into several languages. Over the years, *The Principles of Riding* were expanded and complemented. Today, this series has six volumes. The first

Denario, the champion of the 6-year old dressage horses in 2009.

The principles of riding represented in the German horsemanship tradition derive from and form the oldest doctrines of all sports' disciplines in the world.



Foto: Thoms Lehmann

Only through training can the horse build the necessary muscles and condition for high level performance.

volume deals with the training basics for riders and horses up to the competition level "L", in the disciplines dressage, show-jumping and eventing. The second volume deals with the medium and advanced level training in these three disciplines. Volume three is dedicated to the topic of vaulting. The content of volume four revolves around the maintenance (i.e. keeping, feeding, health care and breeding of horses). Volume number five is a driving manual. Volume six is the standard book on lunging horses.

4. The German "Scale of Training"

The German training system entails that every activity, in all equestrian disciplines, requires an extensive gymnastic training of the horse. It is only with this training that the horse can build the necessary muscles and condition for high level performance. Only through long and systematic work is it possible for the horse to reach the highest levels in schooling and perform well under saddle, as well as maintain health and elasticity for as long as possible.

Good riding and successful schooling of horses are the results of effectively applying the knowledge gained from extensive research in biology, anatomy, physics, chemistry, ethology, education, animal behaviour and psychology. The principles guiding German training techniques combine these

areas of knowledge, and apply them to the schooling and training of both, horses and riders. The most important of these building blocks can be described as an analogy to the construction of a building. Laying a solid and correct foundation is vital if one wants to avoid problems with the structure of the building in the future. This foundation in the basic training of horses and riders is essential for all future achievements and success.

5. The "Scale of Training" for Horses

The "Scale of Training" is a system that has developed over hundreds of years to train horses in the most efficient and animal friendly manner. The "Scale" includes six steps. None of these six steps can be seen individually – they are all interdependent, and must be developed in accordance to a systematic plan.

A short description of the six steps is as follows:

The first of the six steps is "rhythm". The term rhythm refers to the regularity of the horse's steps and strides in each gait, which should cover equal distance and be of equal duration. Rhythm is especially essential in the basic training of young horses. The aim of this step is to work towards allowing the horse to find its natural rhythm and balance in all gaits, despite the artificially added weight of the saddle and rider.

The second step is "suppleness" or "relaxation". Attaining suppleness is a prerequisite for all other training, and along with rhythm, it is an essential element of the preliminary training phase. Any movements are only correct if the horse is working through its back, the muscles are free from tension, and if the rhythm is correctly maintained. Only if the horse is free from tension or constraint, can it work 'loosely' and employ its full strength and potential to the task.

The third step is the development of "contact". Contact refers to the soft but steady connection between the rider's hands and the horse's mouth. The horse should go forward rhythmically, driven by the rider's forward aids and seek contact with the rider's hand (over the connection of bit and reins). As they say in Germany, "The horse seeks the contact and the rider provides it".

The German training system entails that every activity, in all equestrian disciplines, requires an extensive gymnastic training of the horse.



The preliminary phase of training has been accomplished once these three steps have been mastered in all gaits and transitions.

“Impulsion” is step number four on the scale. A horse is said to have impulsion and be “engaged” when the energy, created by the hind legs, is conveyed into the forward movement. A horse is working with impulsion when it pushes off the ground energetically with a relaxed back, allowing its hindquarters to come well under its body.

The fifth step is “straightness”. A horse is considered straight when the forehand is in line with the hindquarters, that is, when the longitudinal axis is in line with the straight or curved track it is following. The horse is then said to “cover the track”. Straightness is necessary in order for the horses’ weight to be evenly distributed over the whole body and on all four legs. It is developed through systematic training and equal emphasis on gymnastic exercises. Straightness is very important because most horses naturally travel crooked. Like right- and left-handedness in humans, horses also have a preferred side. Additionally, horses’ shoulders are narrower than their hindquarters. This further encourages a crooked posture and movement.

The sixth and final step is “collection”. When a horse is collected, it shifts its weight and the weight of the rider from the forehand onto the hindquarters, thereby

distributing the weight more evenly between all four legs. As a result, the horse is balanced, the hindquarters are actively engaged and the horse is in an “uphill” frame. This allows the shoulders and forehand to move more freely. Furthermore, collection is essential to maintain soundness in a horse when in training. It also leads to a safer ride as the horse will be better able to maintain its footing and balance.

Only if all six steps are reached, the horse is able to let the aids of the rider “through”, it has achieved “throughness”. This means that the horse is prepared to accept the aids of the rider obediently and without tension. It is only then that the horse can perform at its highest level of potential. This training and schooling system is used in all disciplines.

The Principles of Riding do not only contain the different training stages but also a detailed description of the entire training system for both, horses and riders. Hence, everybody, who might be interested, can, in theory, learn and understand the complex training system. The *Principles* are a valuable and important asset to all riders, at any level of expertise. The FN’s publishing house has *The Principles of Riding* available as books and educational films in several languages. **More information on this can be found on the homepage of the German Equestrian Federations’ publishing house under: www.fnverlag.com**

The Principles of Riding offer a unified and holistic education system for every horse and every rider in every equestrian discipline.

The Principles of Riding do not only contain the different training stages but also a detailed description of the entire training system for both, horses and riders.



Foto: von Korff



Foto: Thoms Lehmann



Foto: Thoms Lehmann

Instructors and coaches are most important in equestrian sports.

IX. The Education System for Instructors and Coaches

One of the most significant elements in the equestrian world are instructors and coaches, also called multipliers. As they are responsible for the education of riders and horses, they have a great impact on the present and future of German equestrian sports. Therefore, the education of the instructors and coaches is an absolute priority.

What is necessary to become a good instructor?

An instructor's riding skills and knowledge about horses must be well above average – in more than just one equestrian discipline. Furthermore, instructors are dual teachers of both, animals and people, and must therefore be apt teachers as well as competent in didactics. They have to have the ability to adapt their lessons in accordance to the

age group, skill level, personal preferences of their students and the situation at hand. After all, teaching children is very different from teaching adults. The same applies to horses. The training of horses incorporates a complex training system of a multitude of variations, which are adapted in accordance to the different character and type of horse being trained as well as the situation. This multitude of character traits of different horses needs for the instructor to be alert, considerable and adaptable, as well as empathic, passionate and patient. Working as a professional instructor or coach in equestrian sports is hardly comparable to other careers. It is both, physically and mentally, challenging, yet remains personally fulfilling, as well as simultaneously invaluable for the progression of the German equestrian sport.

An instructor's riding skills and knowledge about horses must be well above average – in more than just one equestrian discipline.

1. Professional Instructors

In Germany, the vocational education of riding instructors is divided into two categories: professional and amateur. The professional education consists of an apprenticeship of three years at an officially accredited facility and under a "Pferdewirtschaftsmeister", a German master coach and rider, as well as the attendance of a vocational school. Candidates need to have good riding skills before commencing the apprenticeship. Halfway through the apprenticeship an intermediate exam is taken by all candidates. This exam identifies any problems that might have arisen during the course of the training. At the end of the apprenticeship, the candidates participate in a two week degree course at the German Riding School in Warendorf, with a three day final exam. This examination includes practical riding (dressage and show-jumping tests on "L" level) and teaching, as well as theory tests on riding and equine theory, veterinary matters, customer service, etc.

Upon passing, the apprentice becomes an officially accredited "Pferdewirt", a professional rider and coach. Two years later, the vocational master's degree of "Pferdewirtschaftsmeister" can be obtained. The master course is a seven weeks degree course, to be taken in either Warendorf, Münster or Munich. The exam includes practical riding at "M" level (dressage and jumping), theory tests and tests in business management. The master exam is very demanding; nearly 30 % of the candidates fail the test. Upon passing, the candidate gains the status of "Pferdewirtschaftsmeister" and is granted the competency to train apprentices. In 2012, 217 candidates graduated as "Pferdewirte", while 49 candidates graduated as "Pferdewirtschaftsmeister".

Instructors also have the opportunity to participate in further training programs offered by the German Riding School and the federal riding and driving schools, as well as in clinics offered by professional instructors. The highest possible academic step in the professional development of an instructor is to obtain a university degree (Bachelor, Master or PhD) at the German University of Sport in Cologne.

2. Amateur Instructors

The education of amateur instructors is divided into three levels.



German Trainer C: Basic (Level 1)

Successful completion of a three week course and a final exam are required to obtain the Trainer C status. The examination includes practical riding (dressage and jumping at "A" level) and teaching, as well as various oral and written theory tests on equine and riding theory, veterinary matters and sport didactics. The courses for the Trainer C level are organized by the different federal riding schools in Germany's 16 federal states. The main focus of these courses is the development of the instructors' skills. Further possibilities to obtain a Trainer C certificate are offered at private or commercial yards.

German Trainer B: Advanced (Level 2)

To achieve this level, an intensive one-week course, offered to optimize participants' skills in specific fields, such as the traditional disciplines, working with young horses or teaching children, has to be completed.

German Trainer A: Professional (Level 3)

The participant has to complete a three week degree course at a federal state riding school. The exam consists of practical riding (dressage and show-jumping at the "L" and "M" level) and teaching, as well as various oral and written theory test. The final exam to obtain this qualification is highly demanding.

In 2012, 641 candidates obtained Trainer C qualifications, 161 obtained Trainer B and 29 obtained Trainer A qualifications.

In Germany, the vocational education of riding instructors is divided into two categories: professional and amateur.



Foto: privat



Every two years
in March in Essen:
Equitana

The Federal Championships of Young Horses and Ponies (DKB-Bundeschampionate).

X. Events

Annually, up to 5,000 horse shows, breeding events and horse fairs are held in Germany.

Due to the high importance of equestrian sports and breeding in Germany, a large number of equestrian events have taken place over the course of the last few decades. Annually, up to 5,000 horse shows, breeding events and horse fairs are held in Germany. Below is a short list of the most interesting of these events:

1. The Federal Championships of Young Horses and Ponies (DKB-Bundeschampionate)

This show is an inimitable event in the German horse breeding and sports' world. It is unique in gathering Germany's best quality young horses and ponies in one place. It is held on an annual basis in a competitive environment which allows the horses to demonstrate their potential. Each year, this show takes place in the first week of September at the headquarters of the German Equestrian Federation in Warendorf.

The "DKB-Bundeschampionate" are known as the metaphorical "shop window" of the German breeding world and are exemplary of the German training system as described earlier in this booklet. Yearly, it attracts over 35,000 breeders, spectators and potential buyers from all over the world. This

is due to the show featuring the best 1,000 German young horses and ponies between 3 to 6 years. They compete for the title of German champion in the disciplines of jumping, dressage, eventing and driving in their respective age groups. The championships provide a fantastic market for the sale of German horses to both, national and international customers. For many horses, an international career has been set in motion at this show over the course of the last 20 years.

2. CHIO Aachen

The CHIO in Aachen hosts Nation Cups in dressage, jumping, four hand driving, eventing and vaulting, and it is one of the most important horse shows in the world. With more than 300,000 spectators, it is by far the world's largest horse show. In 2006, Aachen hosted the World Equestrian Games, and in 2015, it will be the arena for the European Championships in dressage, jumping, four hand driving, vaulting and reining.

3. Other (Inter)-national Horse Shows and the German Championships

Germany hosts over 100 international horse shows each year. Some of the most



important ones are the five-star show-jumping events at Hamburg and Wiesbaden and the World Cup shows in Leipzig and Stuttgart. The only four-star event in Germany in eventing is held at Luhmühlen, in the South of Hamburg. From 2012 until 2016, the German Championships in dressage and jumping will take place in Balve, a small town in Westphalia.

For more information about German horse shows visit this website: www.pferd-aktuell.de/fn-service/veranstaltungs-kalender/veranstaltungskalender

4. Auctions, Stallion Licensing Events and Stallion Parades

Not only German horse shows attract widespread national and international interest. Breeding events such as auctions, stallion licensing shows, stallion shows and federal or private stallion parades are great attractions.

The stallion licensing usually takes place in the fall. The main riding horse auctions of the breeding associations are held in the fall as well as during the spring. Smaller auctions are held throughout the entire year. In late summer, after the covering season has ended, the largest State studs organize impressive stallion parades for immense crowds of spectators. From May until July, the different breeding associations organize

their foal and mare shows in nearly all of the 400 counties in Germany.

For more information about the breeding events: www.pferd-aktuell.de/pferdezucht/veranstaltungen/terminuebersicht-zuchtveranstaltungen (More information on the events of the breeding associations can also be found in the chapter "Helpful Addresses and Links")

5. Fairs

Numerous fairs are held throughout Germany on a regular basis due to the strong demand and popularity of the equestrian market. The most important of these fairs is the "Equitana" which takes place biannually in March and is held in Essen, North Rhine Westphalia. Developed in the early 1970s by the famous horseman Wolf Kröber, this event grew rapidly to become the most important equestrian fair in the world. Around 850 exhibitors are present and more than 500 horses are presented over nine days. The sale of nearly everything around horses (from clothing to tack, feed, transport, etc.) attracts 200,000 visitors yearly.

For more information about the Equitana: www.equitana.com

Emotional moments at the Federal Championships of Young Horses and Ponies (DKB-Bundeschampionate)

ClipMyHorse.TV offers live broadcasts of important equestrian events.

The most important fair is the "Equitana" which takes place biannually in March and is held in Essen, North Rhine Westphalia.



Foto: Schrom

Foto: TH

XI. Riding Facilities and the Labelling System of the German Equestrian Federation (FN)

1. Many Different Options

The number of riding facilities, riding schools and stables in Germany is extensive. There are over 11,000 commercial riding clubs and stables, however, not all are members of the FN. Approximately 10,000 people work as amateur or professional horse riding instructors. There are over 80,000 breeders and a few thousand dealers who raise and sell horses. In all, there is a very large offer of equestrian facilities to suit everybody's needs. However, due to the vast range of choices, sometimes it might take some time to find a suitable stable, instructor or horse dealer/breeder.

2. The Labelling System of the FN

This was the reason for the FN, in the mid-nineties, to develop a search and labelling system to narrow down the field and to simplify the search for a suitable horse, facility or instructor. This system offers clients an easy to understand and transparent way to recognize the quality level or the main focus of a riding club, stable or riding school. This system consists of a combina-

tion of simple pictograms and quality classifications.

Through this, a potential customer is able to make informed judgements about the quality and offers at hand before making any decisions. For more information: www.vorreiter-deutschland.de/betrieb/kennzeichnung-von-betrieben/kennzeichnung

To find the right commercial riding club in Germany, the FN developed an online search system, accessible under these two links:

www.pferd-aktuell.de/fn-service/pferdebranchenbuch/kategorie-uebersicht/13/FN-Vereine

www.pferd-aktuell.de/fn-service/pferdebranchenbuch/kategorie-uebersicht/12/FN-Betriebe

Additionally, in cooperation with the FN, the International Group for Equestrian Qualifications (IGEIQ) developed a coherent standard for the expertise level of instructors and coaches of participating countries.

For more information: www.igeiq.org/index.php?id=15

To find the right commercial riding club in Germany, the FN developed an online search system, which is accessible under two websites.

XII. The Horse Industry in Germany

Apart from the commercial riding yards, stables or clubs, instructors, breeders and their associations, thousands of production and service companies form part of the horse industry in Germany. These companies export their products and services "Made in Germany" worldwide. Export hits are tack and equipment for riders and horses, con-

struction of stables and equestrian facilities as well as horse feed. The FN has developed special work forces including the largest and most prominent equine-industry companies. According to their field of expertise, these companies strive to continually improve the German equestrian product market.

For more information: fn@fn-dokr.de.



XIII. The Personal Members (PM) of the German FN

Together with the sport and breeding departments, the PM form the third pillar of the FN. There are more than 56,000 PM who promote the statutory tasks of the FN on regional and national levels.

In return for their membership fees, the PM receive a large number of attractive offers such as reduced prices on magazines, tickets for events and shows, insurances, cars, traveling or equipment. Additionally,

the PM organize numerous intensive training events revolving around themes of horse sport and breeding for their members and all horse lovers.

For more information: www.pferd-aktuell.de/pm/persoенliche-mitglieder

XIV. FNverlag: The FN Publishing House

The German FN is the only national federation in the world with an adjoining publishing house. The FNverlag compiles information on all topics of horse sports and breeding in several hundreds of books, DVDs, CD-ROMs and videos. Literature for beginner and advanced riders, literature on the equestrian disciplines, breeding, horse management, training of horses/riders, judging, therapeutic riding, illustrated books, yearbooks and scientific publications are all available.

In the last few years, the availability of literature in English has also grown rapidly. One of the bestsellers of the FNverlag, *The Principles of Riding*, is translated into more than a dozen languages.

For more information: www.fnverlag.de/shop/index.php/language/en/cat/c34_English-titles.html

FNverlag

der Deutschen Reiterlichen Vereinigung

Fachkompetenz rund ums Pferd



*Stallion Imperio won
the gold medall at the
DKB-Bundeschampionate
– and his lucky breeder
Hartmut Keunecke.*



Foto: Julia Wentscher

XV. Helpful Addresses and Links

1. General



Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN)

Bundesverband für Pferdesport
und Pferdezucht
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Internet: www.pferd-aktuell.de
E-Mail: fn@fn-dokr.de



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Internet: www.fnverlag.de
E-Mail: vertrieb-fnverlag@fn-dokr.de



Deutsches Olympiade-Komitee für Reiterei (DOKR)

Freiherr-von-Langen-Strasse 15
D-48231 Warendorf
Phone: +49 (0) 25 81 - 63 62 0
Fax: +49 (0) 25 81 - 62 175



Deutsche Reitschule (German Riding School)

c/o Nordrhein Westfälisches Landgestüt
Gestütsstrasse 17
D-48231 Warendorf
Phone: +49 (0) 25 81 - 63 69 28
Fax: +49 (0) 25 81 - 63 69 25
Internet: www.landgestuet.nrw.de/
[deutsche-reitschule](http://deutsche-reitschule.de)
E-Mail: h.mueller@deutsche-reitschule.de

2. German Breeding Associations with a Membership in the FN



Pferdezuchtverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.

Am Dolderbach 11
D-72532 Gomadingen-Marbach
Phone: +49 (0) 73 85 - 96 90 20
Fax: +49 (0) 73 85 - 96 90 220
Internet: www.pzv-bw.de
E-Mail: poststelle@pzv.bwl.de

Phone: +49 (0) 39 31 - 21 54 90
Fax: +49 (0) 39 31 - 21 54 94
Internet: www.pferde-sachsen-anhalt.de
E-Mail: stendal@pzvba.de



Landesverband Bayerischer Pferdezüchter e.V.

Landshamer Strasse 11
D-81929 München
Phone: +49 (0) 89 - 92 696 72 00
Fax: +49 (0) 89 - 90 74 05
Internet: www.bayerns-pferde.de
E-Mail: info@bayerns-pferde.de



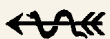
Hannoveraner Verband e.V.

Lindhoooper Strasse 92
D-27283 Verden
Phone: +49 (0) 42 31 - 67 30
Fax: +49 (0) 42 31 - 67 312
Internet: www.hannoveraner.com
E-Mail: hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com



Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes e.V.

Steenbeker Weg 151
D-24106 Kiel
Phone: +49 (0) 431 - 30 59 960
Fax: +49 (0) 431 - 33 61 42
Internet: www.holsteiner-verband.de
E-Mail: hartmann@lkv-sh.de



Pferdezuchtverband Brandenburg-Anhalt e.V.

Geschäftsstelle:
Hauptgestüt 10a
D-16845 Neustadt/Dosse
Phone: +49 (0) 33 970 - 13 201
Fax: +49 (0) 33 970 - 13 949
Internet: www.pferde-brandenburg-anhalt.de
E-Mail: neustadt@pzvba.de



Verband der Pferdezüchter Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V.

Charles-Darwin-Ring 4
D-18059 Rostock
Phone: +49 (0) 381 - 44 03 38 70
Fax: +49 (0) 381 - 44 03 38 77
Internet: www.pferdezuchtverband-mv.de
E-Mail: info@pferdezuchtverband-mv.de

Zuchtleitung:
Uenglinger Strasse 54
D-39576 Stendal





**Verband der Züchter
des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V.**
Grafenhorststrasse 5
D-49377 Vechta
Phone: +49 (0) 44 41 - 93 55 0
Fax: +49 (0) 44 41 - 93 55 99
Internet: www.oldenburger-pferde.com
E-Mail: info@oldenburger-pferde.com



**Zuchtverband für das Ostfriesische
und Alt-Oldenburger Pferd e.V.**
Bahnbreede 25
D-33824 Werther
Phone: +49 (0) 52 03 - 88 40 33
Fax: +49 (0) 52 03 - 88 40 34
Internet: www.ostfriesen-alt-
oldenburger.de
E-Mail: info@ostfriesen-alt-
oldenburger.de



**Springpferdezuchtverband
Oldenburg-International e.V.**
Grafenhorststasse. 5
D-49377 Vechta
Phone: +49 (0) 44 41 - 93 55 0
Fax: +49 (0) 44 41 - 93 55 37
Internet: www.oldenburger-pferde.com
E-Mail: info@oldenburg-international.com



**Verband der Züchter und Freunde
des Arabischen Pferdes e.V.**
Im Kanaleck 10
D-30926 Seelze OT Lohnde
Phone: +49 (0) 51 37 - 93 82 00
Fax: +49 (0) 51 37 - 93 82 010
Internet: www.vzap.org
E-Mail: info@vzap.org



Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch e.V.
Schloß Wickrath 7
D-41189 Mönchengladbach
Phone: +49 (0) 21 66 - 621 91 10
Fax: +49 (0) 21 66 - 621 91 20
Internet: www.Pferdezucht-Rheinland.de
E-Mail: info@Pferdezucht-Rheinland.de



**Zuchtverband für Sportpferde
Arabischer Abstammung e.V. (ZSAA)**
Postfach 1139
D-36209 Alheim
Phone: +49 (0) 56 64 - 77 71
Fax: +49 (0) 56 64 - 77 56
Internet: www.zsaa.org
E-Mail: webmaster@zsaa.de



**Pferdezuchtverband
Rheinland-Pfalz-Saar e.V.**
Am Fohlenhof 1
D-67816 Standenbühl
Phone: +49 (0) 63 57 - 97 50 0
Fax: +49 (0) 63 57 - 97 50 25
Internet: www.pferdezucht-rps.de
E-Mail: zentrale@pferdezucht-rps.de

Zuchtbuchstelle:
Schmidthütte 11
D-35708 Haiger
Phone: +49 (0) 27 73 - 74 17 43
Fax: +49 (0) 27 73 - 74 17 43
E-Mail: webmaster@zsaa.de



**Pferdezuchtverband
Sachsen-Thüringen e.V.**
Käthe-Kollwitz-Platz 2
D-01468 Moritzburg
Phone: +49 (0) 352 07 - 89 630
Fax: +49 (0) 352 07 - 89 640
Internet: www.pzvst.de
E-Mail: info@pzvst.de



Friesenpferde-Zuchtverband e.V.
Burger Hauptstrasse 14 b
D-35745 Herborn-Burg
Phone: +49 (0) 27 72 - 92 42 38
Fax: +49 (0) 27 72 - 92 42 39
Internet: www.Friesenpferde-
Zuchtverband.de
E-Mail: info@friesenpferde-
zuchtverband.de



Trakehner Verband e.V.
Rendsburger Strasse 178a
D-24537 Neumünster
Phone: +49 (0) 43 21 - 90 27 0
Fax: +49 (0) 43 21 - 90 27 19 u. -29
Internet: www.trakehner-verband.de
E-Mail: info@trakehner-verband.de



**Stammbuch für
Kaltblutpferde Niedersachsen e.V.**
Wilhelm-Seedorf-Strasse 3
D-29525 Uelzen
Phone: +49 (0) 581 - 80 73 126
Internet: www.kaltblutpferde-nds.de
E-Mail: info@kaltblutpferde-nds.de



Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch e.V.
Sudmühlenstrasse 33
D-48157 Münster
Phone: +49 (0) 251 - 32 80 90
Fax: +49 (0) 251 - 32 80 924
Internet: www.westfalenpferde.de
E-Mail: info@westfalenpferde.de



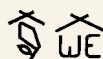
**Pferdestammbuch
Schleswig-Holstein/ Hamburg e.V.**
Steenbeker Weg 151
D-24106 Kiel
Phone: +49 (0) 431 - 33 17 76
Fax: +49 (0) 431 - 33 61 42
Internet: www.pferdestammbuch-sh.de
E-Mail: info@pferdestammbuch-sh.de



**Verband der
Pony- und Pferdezüchter Hessen e.V.**
Pfüthenstrasse 67
D-64347 Griesheim
Phone: +49 (0) 61 55 - 825 69 34
Fax: +49 (0) 61 55 - 825 69 35
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E-Mail: info@ponyverband.de



**Bayerischer Zuchtverband für Klein-
pferde und Spezialpferderassen e.V.**
Landshamer Strasse 11
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Fax: +49 (0) 89 - 926 96 73 55
Internet: www.kleinpferde-und-
spezialpferderassen.de
E-Mail: info@kleinpferde-und-
spezialpferderassen.de



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**Verband der Pony- und
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Fax: +49 (0) 51 36 - 970 45 34
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Phone: +49 (0) 60 21 - 58 45 90
Fax: +49 (0) 60 21 - 58 45 979
Internet: www.dqha.de
E-Mail: info@dqha.de

3. Federal Riding and Driving Schools



Pferdezentrum Franken
Am Reiterzentrum 3
D-91522 Ansbach
Phone: +49 (0) 981 - 46 50 0
Fax: +49 (0) 981 - 46 50 22
Internet: www.pferdezentrum-
franken.de
E-Mail: info@pferdezentrum-franken.de



Haupt- und Landgestüt Marbach
Gestütshof 1
D-72532 Gomadingen
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Fax: +49 (0) 73 85 - 96 95 10
Internet: www.gestuet-marbach.de
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Internet: www.landgestuet-dillenburg.de
E-Mail: info@landgestuet.hessen.de



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Fax: +49 (0) 42 51 - 75 12
Internet: www.landesreitschule-hoya.de
E-Mail: lrs.hoya@t-online.de



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Internet: www.lrfs.de
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Internet: www.saechsische-gestuetsverwaltung.de
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Fax: +49 (0) 3 88 54 - 62 011
Internet: www.landgestuet-redefin.de
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Bayerische Landesreit- und Fahrverbände

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4. Riding Facilities and Five Star Riding Schools



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5. Driving Facilities and Schools



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6. Vaulting Facilities and Schools

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