

**Rules and Guidelines
for
Foal Registration & Breeding Approval for Mares and
Stallions**

German Oldenburg Verband (GOV)

**The Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society
A Division of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V.**



The German Oldenburg Verband – GOV-
A division of the Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society
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The German Oldenburg Verband – GOV -.is the official North American Division of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. (also known as the Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society).

The Society is the Verband's only authorized representative in North America. No other organization or individual is authorized to act or speak on behalf of the GOV, and only the GOV can issue official Oldenburg papers to horses bred in North America. The Society maintains a permanent office in Vechta, Germany. The GOV studbook also represents the Weser-Ems Studbook.

All the administration and breeder services are managed by the German Office, Grafenhorststrasse 5, 49377 Vechta, Germany.

The GOV is supported by the North American Office which is at 80 Pine Street, Floor 24, New York, NY 10005, USA, Phone 212-752-2477.

This office is forwarding every request and mailing directly to the German Office.

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1. Membership

In order to register a foal, approve a mare or stallion for breeding, or qualify for the German Oldenburg Verband (GOV) Year End Awards, you must become an active member of GOV before August, 1st of the current year. Please fill out the Online-Membership Application Form which is on our website, www.oldenburghorse.net. The membership fee is €100, however, if you complete the Online-Membership Application Form before 30th, November of the previous year you will save €35. For example, if you wish to become a member for the next year and you send in your completed form before 30th November, you only need to pay €65. However, if your membership application is received after November, 30th the membership fee will be the full amount of €100.

2. Applications and Forms

The most important Applications and Forms you will find on the webpage www.oldenburghorse.net. Please select there the topic "BREEDING" and then "FORMS". There you will find all the important Application Forms you need to register your foal or send in the documents for a Transfer of Ownership.

For example, if you have purchased an GOV registered horse, and are transferring the papers to your name, you will need to complete the Transfer of Ownership form which you can find on the website www.oldenburghorse.net, select the topic "BREEDING" - "FORMS" - "TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP" or obtain the form from the German Office. You then need to send it along with the appropriate fee, Passport and the Certificate of Ownership of the horse to the German Office. Feel free to choose between the address of the Office in New York or the Office in Germany. All the administration is managed in the German Office. Any paperwork, Inspection requests or any other issue or concern you may have should be directed to the German Office.

3. Linear Profiling

To align with the German Standards, the GOV has been evaluating all the horses since 2017 in the USA and Canada by the "Linear Profiling". Every foal, mare or stallion presented to the judging committee is getting a hand-out describing the most significant traits the judges observed during the evaluation with the registration documents. Every mare is getting also a linear profile about the observations made by the judges. We are also offering as a Special Service the Re-Inspection of your mare. In effect your mare will be inspected and linear description will be added to her profile. The scoring she got during her first Mare-Book Inspection won't be changed. There is a service fee of €50. The same is done for the stallions when they are presented for their Licensing or even when they are presented in their Stallion-Performance Test. For any kind of further question about the Linear Profiling and the Re-Inspection of your mare, please get in touch with the German Office.

4. Foal Inspection, Registration, & Awards

4.1. Guidelines and Rules

Active members can register foals in the year of its birth with the GOV, if the foals are taken to an inspection and presented to the inspection committee and the dams are entered into the Marebook and all dues are paid.

The GOV is a division of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. (the German Oldenburg Verband), as such, we must follow the rules of German Breeding Law and we are now enforcing these rules with one addition. Because of the tremendous size of North America and the fact that many of our breeders usually do not have easy access to several different inspection sites in a given year, we have

received approval from the governing body to make the following exception to the rules:

If your foal and/or its dam cannot attend an inspection because of illness, we will extend the timeframe for inspection of the foal for one year only. Progenies not inspected the year of their birth can still be inspected and papered as yearlings, as long as they are presented with a vet's certificate explaining why they could not attend an inspection the previous year. Mare and foal owners are reminded that in order to receive GOV papers for their foals, both the sire and dam must be approved for breeding by the GOV. The sire must be officially activated with the GOV for the year of breeding. Using a non-activated or non-approved stallion may result in additional fees to the breeder for registration papers, or getting a Certificate of Birth (white papers), depending on the stallion's status. Also, stallions approved with other registries are not automatically licensed and accepted by the GOV.

The Stallion Performance Test has changed completely. Every Stallion needs to be Performance tested, to get Stallionbook I status and the fully Breeding Permission. For further information regarding the Licensing please see chapter 6. Be cautioned that there are some stallions advertised as approved for Oldenburg Breeding, but they are not activated or not performance tested yet. All Stallions listed in the Stallion Directory have Stallionbook I status. Please check with the German Office to see if the stallion qualifies for a Single-Breeding-Permission. Be aware the mare owner will be responsible for an extra fee at inspection time for such a permit. **Please remember that if you have any questions about a stallion's status, you should contact the German Office BEFORE making any breeding arrangements.**

4.2. Naming Rules

When naming your GOV foal you have the option to choose a name. If you do so, it has to follow the rules of the GOV. Those rules state that a filly intended for breeding, must be named with a name starting with the first letter of the dam's name. If the filly is not intended for breeding then the name can start either with the first letter of the dam's name or with the first letter of the sire's name. A colt's name must start with the first letter of the sire's name.

4.3. Foal Awards

4.3.1. Premium Foal Award

Only foals from Marebook I-dams may receive a Premium Foal Award. This Award can only be given at an official inspection, and the foals must be determined to have clearly above average quality in conformation and movement by the inspection committee.

4.3.2. Elite-Foal Award

The award of an "Elite Foal" can be given to Foals only out of Marebook I-dams who exhibit extraordinary movement and conformation.

4.3.3. Foal of Distinction Award

This award is **only** for foals who are **not** eligible for a Premium. That means that the dam of foals is **not in the Main-Mare-Book aka Marebook I**. Foals that shows clearly above average quality in conformation and movement as evaluated by the Inspection Committee will get the note "Foal of Distinction" into their passport.

4.3.4. Champion Foal of the Day

At each Inspection site with a minimum of 5 foals presented there will be one "Champion Foal of the Day" across gender and intended discipline. The awarded foal will be given a special sash.

4.4. Foal Registration per Mail-in

Foals out of mares already in the GOV Studbook, and owned by a breeder who is a current member with GOV can be registered without an Inspection. The following items must be received by the German Office in order to complete the registration:

1. the foal registration application
2. the Breeding Certificate
3. a hair sample PULLED out of mane or tail of the foal
4. payment. Please see the fees on the foal application.

Please send these items directly to the German Office, see the address on page 2.

After checking all your papers and applications and the payment you will get a diagram, a Microchip and the Microchip Implantation Form by mail, which you need to give to your vet, who will fill these papers out and will implant the microchip. When we are having these original papers back in the German Office, we will issue the documents of your horse. Please keep in your mind, that your foal is NOT eligible for any Premium-Foal-Award, if you are registering this way.

5. Microchip Implantation Instructions and Form

We would appreciate that every foal already got a microchip from your Veterinarian before they will come to the GOV-Inspection. Please provide the inspectors with the microchip implantation form from your Vet. If the implantation before inspection will not be possible, Microchips and the Microchip Implantation Form will be issued for each foal at the GOV inspections and given to the owners or their representatives. Please make sure to send the signed Microchip Implantation Form back to the German office by email. If a vet is doing the Microchipping on the day of the Inspection, the signed Microchip Implantation Form may be returned to the Inspection Committee. Until the German Office receives not this Certificate, the papers of the foal will not be issued. The numbers that are recorded in the microchip will be placed in your foal's passport and should the occasion arise, these microchips will provide the necessary identification through scanning. Therefore, we require that you have your veterinarian insert the microchip in your foal as soon as possible. The microchip should be inserted into the left side of the neck, about halfway between the poll and the withers, and about two inches below the crest of the neck. The chip should be inserted into the top layer of muscle at an angle of approximately 15 degrees. It is not to be inserted as a sub-cutaneous injection. We recommend that you have this procedure performed by a qualified veterinarian. It is usually not necessary to shave the implantation site, or to administer a local anesthetic or general sedative to the horse. However, because of the fractiousness of some young horses and size of the needle through which the microchip is inserted, many people will choose to block the area. If you have any further questions or concerns about this process, please contact the German Office.

6. Mare Inspection & Breeding Approval

6.1. Guidelines and Rules

Once you have become an active member, your mare can be inspected for breeding approval with the GOV, if the following criteria are met, and the mare is taken to an official inspection, and presented to the Inspection Committee for their judgment.

We have much to improve in our broodmares and this is critical. The reason, the European registries are so successful, is that there is predictability in the progeny produced by well-documented lines. We rely not only on statistics, but also on personal feedback of riders at the Sales in Vechta, GER on the young horses with respect to rideability and temperament. With mares of untraceable pedigree, you are never quite sure what you will get.

We have five parts of the Marebook, the highest being the Marebook I. Mares with original or reissued registration papers from a registry acknowledged by the GOV can be entered in the Marebook I. The German office verify that the mare's pedigree is acceptable. Mares with less verification can be entered into the additional sections of the Marebook. The registries with reciprocity are those warmblood horse breeding associations with a full selection system. This means they have a licensing program that requires a performance test for the stallions that is generally in line with that of the GOV. Exceptions to this are Thoroughbreds who are accepted as long as the mare has the original registry papers by the Jockey Club, and Arabians who are accepted only in special cases. For Arabians the owners must file a special request, and be aware that because of the lack of performance tests for the Arabian stallions, very few of these requests are accepted. If the registry of the mare is in question at all then the owner is responsible for verifying the licensing standards of the registry and should contact the German Office for confirmation that the registry will be acknowledged.

6.2. Subdivision of the Studbook/ Marebook

The Studbook for stallions is divided into a main section and a supplementary section. The main section of the Studbook for stallions is divided into the following classes:

1. Stallion Book I,
2. Stallion Book II,
3. Annex and
4. Foal Book.

A supplementary section of the Studbook for Stallions is the Pre-Studbook.

The Marebook is divided into a main section and a supplementary section.

The main section of the Studbook for mares is divided into the following classes

1. Studbook I,
2. Studbook II,
3. Annex and
4. Foal Book.

The supplementary section of the Studbook for mares is the Pre-Marebook.

Section	Gender	
	Stallions	Mares
Main Section (HA)	Stallion Book I (HB I)	Marebook I (S I)
	Stallion Book II (HB II)	Marebook II (S II)
	Annex (A)	Annex (A)
	Foal Book	Foal Book
Supplementary Section (ZA)	Pre-Studbook (V)	Pre-Studbook (V)

6.3. Marebooks

A mare must be at least three years of age to be inspected and evaluated for the Marebook-acceptance. There is no maximum age. **All the mares have to be presented with the original passport or any comparable certificate of pedigree.**

6.3.1. Marebook I (main section of the Studbook)

Mares are eligible, if

1. the **parents** of which are registered in the main section (except Foal Book or Annex) of the GOV or one of the approved Breeding Registries,
2. they are presented for identity verification,
3. they meet the criteria evaluated in the assessment of the exterior appearance,
4. they meet the requirements for breeding aptitude and health and do not exhibit any characteristics detrimental to health.
5. their sires, damsires, granddams and great-granddams (four generations in all) are registered in the Stallion Book I or in a studbook of the (approved) breed corresponding to the Stallion Book I.
6. their dams are registered in the main section (except Annex or Foal Book) or a section corresponding to the main section of a studbook of (approved) breeds.
7. A mare can only be registered in Marebook I if she achieves an overall mark of at least 6.0 in the assessment
8. Mares, who's sire and/or damsire and/or dam's damsire does not correspond to the Stallionbook I Performance Test criteria also meet the requirements for registration if they achieve an overall score of at least of 7.0 in their exterior assessment.

6.3.2. Marebook II (main section of the Studbook)

Mares are eligible, if

1. their **sires** are registered in the main section (except Foal Book or Annex) of the (approved) breed and the dams of which are registered in the Studbook of the (approved) breed,
2. their identity has been verified,
3. they do not have any characteristics detrimental to health

In addition, mares are eligible if their parents are registered in the Annex or in the Pre-Studbook, if

1. these ancestors registered in the Annex or the Pre-Studbook were paired with breeding horses of (approved) breeds from the main section (except Foal Book and Annex),
2. they are presented for identity verification,
3. they achieved an overall grade of at least 6.0 in the assessment of the exterior,
4. they do not have any characteristics detrimental to health.

6.3.3. Annex (main section of the Studbook)

Mares are eligible, if

1. their parents are registered in the Studbook, including at least one parent in the main section of the (approved) breed, and
2. they do not meet the requirements for registration in Studbook I or II.

The mares shall be transferred from the Foal Book to the Annex if there are offsprings registered and they have not been registered in one of the other classes.

6.3.4. Foal Book (main section of the Studbook)

In the year of their births, all fillies are entered if their parents are registered in the Studbook. At least one parent has to be in the main section of the (approved) breed.

6.3.5. Pre-Marebook (supplementary section of the Studbook)

Mares are eligible, if

1. they cannot be registered in a class of the Marebook, but correspond to the breeding goal for the Oldenburg horse,
2. they are presented for identity verification,
3. they achieved an overall grade of at least 5.0 in the assessment of the exterior

6.4. Identification Certificate/Confirmation of registration

An Identification Certificate for foals is issued in accordance with the basic rules above and the following schedule.

<i>Mares</i>		<i>Main Section</i>			<i>Supplementary Section Pre-Marebook</i>
Stallions		<i>Marebook I</i>	<i>Marebook II</i>	<i>Annex</i>	
<i>Main Section</i>	<i>Stallion Book I</i>	<i>Certificate of origin</i>	<i>Certificate of origin</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>
	<i>Stallion Book II</i>	<i>Certificate of origin</i>	<i>Certificate of origin</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>
	<i>Annex</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Birth certificate</i>
<i>Supplementary Section</i>	<i>Pre-Stallionbook</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	<i>Certificate of birth</i>	X

6.5. Premium-Mare

This title is awarded to 3 to 6 years old mares who meet the award requirements, have not completed the Mare Performance Test, and score a 8 or higher overall score from the Oldenburg Inspection Committee. The score being based on the mare’s conformation, type, and movement as they pertain to the Oldenburg standard.

6.5.1. Verbands-Premium-Mare

A 3 to 6 years old mare can achieve the title of “Verbands-Premium-Mare” if the mare meets the award requirements, has been entered in the Studbook I with above average-scores, completes the Mare Performance Test with an overall score of at least 6.5, and is determined by the Oldenburg Judging Committee in the final ring to be of the correct overall quality to earn the title. The title is not solely based on the scores earned in the MPT.

6.5.2. Special Premium Mare Candidate

This status is awarded to 3 to 6 years old mares who meet the award requirements, have been entered into the Studbook I with clearly above-average scores for type and conformation, have passed the Mare Performance Test with an overall score of at least 7.0, and is determined by the Oldenburg Judging Committee in the final ring to be of the correct overall quality to earn the title. The title is not solely based on the scores earned in the Mare Performance Test.

6.5.3. Special Premium Mare

This status is awarded to mares who have already achieved Special Premium Mare Candidate status and have one registered GOV foal.

6.5.4. Elite Mare

Elite Mares are GOV registered, or from an acceptable registry, when they have collected minimum 10 points by the following criteria. Dressage Mares with placements in Prix St. George or higher, or Jumper Mares with placements in 1.40m classes or higher need minimum one registered GOV foal. All other mares have to have two registered foals with the GOV.

Dressage	Jumping	Points
4 th level or higher (min.2 placings)	1,40m classes or higher (min. 2 placings)	10
3 rd level (min. 3 placings) or 4 th level or higher (1 placement)	1,30m/ 1,35m classes (min. 3 placings) or 1,40m classes or higher (1 placement)	5
2 nd level (3 x 1.-3. Rank)	1,20m classes (3 x 1.-3. Rank)	4
Competitor Worldchampionship YH		8
Competitor German Championship YH		6
Special Premium Mares/ - candidates		5
Premium Mare		3
Points for Progenies, registered with GOV		
Dam of an Approved Stallion (Licensed by a registry, member of WBFSH)		5
Dam of an Elite Mare		5
Dam of a Special Premium Mare/ -candidate		3
Dam of a Premium Mare		2
Dam of Premium foals (max 4 foal are scored)		each 1
Dam of Elite foals (max 4 foals are scored)		each 2
Dam of a 4 th level-/ 1,40m classes successful sporthorse		6
Dam of a 3 rd level-/ 1,30m classes successful sporthorse		4
Dam of a qualified horse for the German Championship of YH/ Worldchampionship of YH		4
Dam of a 2 nd level-/ 1,20m classes successful sporthorse with min. 3 placings		2
For each horse counts the highest score!		

The performance results listed here must be achieved at a show sanctioned by the National Federation of Equestrian Sport of the respective country. Schooling show results are not be accepted!

To receive the Elite-Mare status, the owner must apply by sending a letter or email to the German Office with the mare's registration and pedigree information as well as a list of the fulfilled requirements.

6.6. Mare Performance Test

Open to mares already entered in the Studbook I or II of the GOV with registration papers from the GOV or **other Warmblood Horse Registries**. All mares participating in the test **MUST** present their original registration papers or passports. The Mare Performance Test consists of three parts:

1. Presentation in Liberty (Free Trot 5%, Free Canter 5%).
2. Three gaits presented under saddle/ under rider (Walk 25%, Trot 25%, Canter 25%).

The mares will be asked to show the three gaits (working and medium tempo) in groups of three to four horses following the command of the judges. The horse should be ridden well forward, it is not judged as if in a dressage test. Accuracy isn't judged in this test.

3. Rideability (10%)
4. Final ring (Walk in Hand 5%)

After the riding test is completed, all mares must enter the ring in the order of their bridle number. They will be shown in hand in their bridles and without their saddle for conformation judging. They will follow the directives given by the judges. Mares can get the title "Verbands-Premium-Mare" or "Special-Premium-Mare-Candidate" if the Mare Performance Test is successfully passed with an appropriate overall score **and** if the conformation is judged to be good enough by the judges. These designations will be permanently stamped by the German Office on the registration papers.

7. Presenting Mares and Foals

7.1.1. Attire

Handlers should appear clean and of a professional appearance, we recommend that the handler and any assistance wear solid colored shirts with collars and long pants. Polo or golf shirts in red or navy (the traditional colors of GOV) usually look best, although white or farm colors are also acceptable. Pants should ideally be white or khaki. Shoes should be appropriate for running in sand and on uneven surfaces.

7.1.2. Braiding, Clipping, etc.

If you are presenting a mare for inspection, treat her as though she were going to a show. Bathe, clip, braid, etc. Braid only her mane though, not the tail. Some sites provide a professional braider, check with the inspection host about this service beforehand. For mares that have already been inspected, braiding is optional. However, you should make sure she is clean and well groomed. Most breeders also braid their foal's manes. This is especially good advice if your foal has a good neck. If your foal's mane is too wispy to braid neatly, leave it unbraided, but make sure you brush out any dirt or shavings. Many breeders also like to bang the tail on their foals. Foals should not be body-clipped. Don't worry if they are fuzzy or are starting to shed their foal coat and look a bit "moth-eaten", the judges easily see through that. Your mare must be presented in a plain snaffle bridle. Make sure it is well fitting, clean and in good condition. If your bridle has a flash, you can remove it if you wish. Foals and yearlings should be presented in a leather halter. If the foal is very young, you can use a foal slip halter, but the grab strap is sometimes a bit distracting.

7.1.3. The process of the Presentation

After verification of papers is complete, the Inspection Committee will begin the actual evaluation of the horses. The usual sequence is mares without foals, then mares with foals (where both need to be inspected), followed by foals whose dams have already been inspected and approved. Each mare, or mare and foal combination or foal enters the ring one at a time. If presenting a foal, you should have one handler lead the mare and another one lead the foal. If the mare has not yet been inspected and approved, the inspectors will evaluate her first. Walk the mare to the point of the triangle in front of the inspection jury and pose her in an open stance with her left side toward the jury. You should stand directly in front of the mare and attempt to keep her standing quietly while the inspectors evaluate her conformation. When the inspectors step in front of the mare to see her front, move slightly toward the horse's far side, then step back in front of her again when appropriate. The foal can stand nearby, but should not get in the way of the inspectors as they evaluate the mare.

If the mare has already been inspected, her handler should hold her slightly off to the side while the foal is stood up at the point of the triangle. After evaluating the horse's conformation, the inspection jury will want to see its movement. For mares, the handler should walk the horse directly away from the inspectors and back again (back and forth).

When so directed by the inspectors, the handler should trot the mare forward around the triangle in a clockwise direction. The horse will then need to be walked clockwise around the triangle and halt finally in front of the inspectors, once more putting the horse in an open stance. When walking and trotting away and back again, the handler should try to keep the horse straight and moving directly away from or toward the inspectors so they can evaluate the correctness of gaits.

If both the mare and foal need to be inspected, the inspectors will finish evaluating and scoring the mare before turning their attention to the foal. When the inspectors indicate, the foal handler should turn the foal loose. It's up to you as to whether you want to remove the foal's halter. If he is hard to catch or you are not in an enclosed arena, you might want to leave the halter on. Some foals hate the halter though and spend the entire time they are in the ring shaking their heads, so if your foal is usually pretty good about being caught and haltered, take the halter off so it won't irritate the foal while it is loose.

Once the foal is free, jog the mare around the triangle again so the foal will follow at a trot. Only the foal is being evaluated at this time. Try to adjust your speed with the mare to get a good trot out of the foal. If it is just sauntering along, speed up a bit and see if you can get it to really trot out (without taking off at a dead run!). Also be sure to keep the foal on the inside of the triangle toward the inspectors. Don't let it run on 'the outside' of the mare where they can't see it. There is a real art of presenting horses in hand, especially foals, so if you are unsure about your own abilities in this area, check with your inspection host about the availability of hiring a professional handler. A professional handler will be able to show your horse to the best of its abilities.

For both mares and foals, the handler should attempt to show the horse's trot to their best ability. Animated and lively is far better than super quiet and dull, your horses will NOT be penalized by the inspectors for showing some spark! If you need to wake your horses up a little bit to get them moving, have someone run behind them and shake a lunge whip. This usually works very well, but be sure you are ready for it and don't get run over. If your mare breaks to a canter or gets really rowdy, give a tug on the reins, but DO NOT stop.

Slow down momentarily until she is back to a nice trot rhythm, then speed up again if you need to. Remember the inspectors are looking for swing, impulsion and elasticity here, so you really want your horses to trot out boldly. If the inspectors feel that the horse has a better trot than it showed they will sometimes allow you to go around again, if time permits.

After the jury has finished evaluating the foal, the mare handler should bring the mare to a halt while the foal handler catches the foal. The handlers should then walk the horses over to stand in front of the inspectors once more as they announce their comments about each horse and advise which mare book the mare has been placed in.

Foals that are named as premium candidates must return later in a group with the other premium candidates (after individual evaluations are over) so the inspectors can name the actual Premium Award winners. Only foals of Studbook I mares are eligible for Premium Awards.

7.2. DNA Testing

The GOV requires parentage verification via DNA analysis before they will issue foal registration papers. The inspectors will pull some mane or tail hairs from your mare and foal at the inspection. These will be sent off to the testing lab to be validated against the stallion's DNA (all approved and activated Oldenburg stallions in the US have their DNA records on file). Once the foal's parentage has been validated by the lab, the registry will issue the foal's registration (pink) papers from the German Office. This entire process may take about 3 months, so don't be worried if you don't have your papers immediately. Our experiences shows that we aren't getting back the Microchip Implantation Forms. Without these Forms there will be no print out of your foal's passport!

If there is any doubt about the status of your foal's papers, please get in touch directly with the German Office!

7.3. Microchipping

The inspectors will issue a microchip and a Microchip Implantation Form to each foal breeder or its representative as it is inspected. The code number embedded in this microchip is recorded on the foal registration form and becomes a permanent part of the horse's registration papers. Microchipping is an important tool for positive identification of the horse throughout its entire life. The chip is the size of a grain of rice and is easily implanted in the foal's neck using a special syringe like device brought to the inspectors or mailed to you at a later date. When administered correctly, there is very little pain or trauma associated with this procedure, and the foal will never notice its presence. See page 6 for more specific instructions.

7.4. Getting Help

Don't be shy about asking the site host for help or advice. Most of our inspection organizers have done this many times and are happy to help as best they can. If you think you would like some assistance presenting your horses, ask the host beforehand if they will have a professional handler available. Also be sure to thank your site host afterwards. Our inspection hosts put a tremendous amount of effort into organizing/hosting inspections, and they will really welcome a few words of appreciation.

8. Stallion Inspection and Breeding Approval

8.1. Guidelines and Rules

Active members can have their stallions inspected for Breeding Licensing and Acceptance with the GOV when presented to the Inspection Committee at an official Inspection. The GOV is a division of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. as such, the rules of German Breeding Law are enforced in North America. Please check beforehand to verify that the GOV accepts the stallion's registry, as not all European and North American Registries are acceptable. GOV will need a copy of the stallion's registration papers before the inspection, and must see his ORIGINAL registration papers at the inspection.

Stallions are presented at the earliest in the age of 3 years of life, if

1. the parents are registered in the main section (except Annex or Foal Book) of the breed or one of the approved breeds,
2. they were presented for identity verification,
3. the paternal and maternal lineage was confirmed by DNA profile,
4. they have been genetically tested for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS),
5. they received an overall score of at least 7.0 in their evaluation,
6. the stallion meets the requirements for breeding aptitude and health through a veterinary examination in accordance with the statutes, and does not have any characteristics detrimental to health in accordance with the veterinary standards for approvals for German riding horse breeding, and meets the selection criteria.
7. The stallion performance test has been fully passed in which case registration may be either provisional or definitive.

8.2. Health Conditions, Radiographics, clinical Vetcheck

A requirement for admission to the licensing and actual licensing is that the stallion shows no deficiencies in health that could negatively influence his ability to breed and genetic values. This means that the stallion must be free of broken wind, roaring, periodical ophthalmia, wind-sucking, abnormalities of dentition and testicles, surgical procedures with the purpose of physical corrections as well as other illnesses. The veterinary examination must be confirmed by a certificate, available at the German Office. The Stallion Committee is entitled to order subsequent examinations. Every licensed stallion has to present 18 x-rays (lateral views of the front and back toes and special views (Oxspring) of the front feet, hocks from three angles approx.. 45° and 0° and 135°/315° and lateral views of the knee). A report on the x-ray examination will be prepared by the veterinarians of the GOV, Tierklinik Mühlen. Please send the x-rays of your Stallion to the German GOV Office, info@oldenburger-pferde.com who will forward them to our vets. The clinical report will be done by your stable vet. Please use the standard form of the clinical examination of the GOV. To get this form please contact the German Office. If a stallion does not pass the veterinary exam, radiographic exam, or has any health issues causing the GOV to not pass the stallion on health reasons, a Licensing can be withdrawn.

8.3. Licensing, Approval, Breeding Permission

8.3.1. Licensing at the age of three and four years

Generally stallions are inspected at the age of three and four years old at an official Inspection during the annual Inspection Tours between June and September by the

Inspection Committee. For their temporary Approval, we are requesting the following standards:

Part A: Judging of type, conformation and correctness

Part B: Field test: at liberty (obligatory) and free jumping (non-obligatory for Dressage stallions), judging of basic gaits and rideability under saddle and by a guest rider.

Requirements in the Test:

For dressage stallions: Average basic gaits/rideability 7.5.

For jumping stallions: Average free jumping/rideability 7.5, basic gaits 6.0.

After meeting these requirements, a stallion gets a temporary breeding license until his age of four-years-old.

8.3.2. Extending the Breeding Permission

To extend the breeding license to the age of five, the stallion needs to participate in a Three-day Stallion Sport Test in the months of November until March and needs to get a score. Stallions are expected to be trained according to age.

8.3.3. Final approval

For the Final Approval the stallion needs to participate a Three-day Stallion Sport Test one year later between November and March. Stallions are expected to be further trained according to age and to meet the competition requirements for five-years-old horses.

After meeting these requirements, a stallion gets an unlimited breeding license for North America.

8.3.4. Licensing at the age of five or six years

If a stallion is **five or six years** old and not approved yet, he needs to be presented for Licensing at an Official Inspection. If he is licensed, he is allowed to participate in the North American Stallion Performance Test. to get a temporary Breeding Permit when he finishes the Test with a score.

For alternatives to fulfil the requirements for a Performance Test, please contact the German Office directly.

8.3.5. Performance Test by Competition Records

If your stallion meets the following performance requirements in competition, you can have your stallion inspected for Breeding Licensing and Approval with the GOV:

Dressage, placing five times with a minimum score of 64% at 4th level or higher.

Show-Jumping, placing five times at a height of 1.40 meter, or three times in the awarded placings at the height of 1.45 meter or higher.

Hunters, in show hunters, a stallion must either:

Place in the top five, three times in a USHJA International Hunter Derby competition offering prize money of \$20.000 or more, or

Finish as champion three times in a rated hunter division having six or more entries, including at least three over fences classes, and jumping 3'9" feet or above, at USEF "A" rated shows or Equine Canada class "1"shows.

Eventers, for Stallions who are presented in the Eventing-Sport, please contact the German Office directly to get more info about the requested show records.

Thoroughbred stallions can complete their performance requirements for licensing by having raced in a flat race with a handicap weight of 80 kilograms, or raced in a steeplechase race with a weight of 85 kilograms. Thoroughbred Stallions are accepted for inspection at any time as long as the stallion has the correct Original Registry Papers from the Jockey Club and is fulfilling the health requirements (see chapter 6.2).

Arabian Stallions needs to produce Performance requirements like a Warmblood Stallion. Owners of Arabian Stallions must file a special request directly to the German Office.

Please be aware that if a stallion is not considered by our German Breeding Director, (or his appointed commission), to be advantageous for the Oldenburg Breeding Program, we will not license and approve him. Every Breed Registry have their own unique vision.

The GOV is no longer inspecting stallions **seven years of age or older** unless they have already been licensed by an acknowledged breeding registry **or** the stallion fulfils one of the following requirements:

1. Completed a 50 day test with the appropriate qualification scores in Germany
2. Completed a 14 or 30 days-test in Germany with the appropriate qualification scores, **and** having placements in the national Final in the US of the five or six years old Jumpers-/ Dressage competition (comparable to the Bundeschampionate in Germany)
3. Having a placement on 1st to 3rd place in the Final of the National Final of the US (comparable to the Bundeschampionate in Germany) of five or six years old Dressage or Show-jumpers
4. Fulfilled one of the requirements listed above about Dressage, Show-Jumpers, Hunters or Eventers.

Foals by Stallions without a Performance Test can be registered with a Certificate of Birth (White papers).

If there is any question as to the timing and breeding status of a stallion please contact the German Office for verification BEFORE you breed your mare.

8.3.6. Stallion Book II (main section of the Studbook)

A stallion shall be registered in the 3rd year of life at the earliest, if

- the parents are registered in the main section (except Annex or Foal Book) of the breed or one of the approved breeds,
- its identity has been verified,
- the paternal and maternal lineage was confirmed by DNA profile,
- it has been genetically tested for Fragile Foal Syndrome (FFS)
- it meets the requirements for breeding aptitude and health through a veterinary examination

in accordance with B.16 of the statutes, and does not exhibit any characteristics detrimental to health in accordance with the list (Annex 1).

In addition, offspring of breeding horses entered in the Annex and in the Pre-Studbook may be entered,

- if the offspring's ancestors were paired over three generations with breeding horses from the Main Section (except Foal Book and Annex) of the breed or an approved breed,
- it was presented for identity verification,
- the paternal and maternal lineage was confirmed by DNA profile,
- it has been genetically tested for Fragile Foal Syndrome (FFS)
- Its exterior was assessed of the Statutes and achieved an overall grade of at least 7.5,
- it meets the requirements for breeding aptitude and health through a veterinary examination of the statutes, was examined in accordance with the veterinary certificate and does not exhibit any characteristics detrimental to health.

8.3.7. Annex (main section of the Studbook)

On request, stallions may be registered if

- their parents are registered in the Studbook, including at least one parent in the main section of the (approved) breed, and
 - they do not meet the requirements for registration in the Stallion Registers I and II.
- The horses shall be transferred from the Foal Book to the Annex if these offspring are registered and they have not been registered in one of the other classes.

8.3.8. Foal Book (main section of the Studbook)

In the year of their births, all colts may be registered, if

- their parents are registered in the Studbook, including at least one parent in the main section of the (approved) breed.

8.3.9. Pre-Studbook (supplementary section of the Studbook)

Stallions may be registered at the earliest in the 3rd year of life, if

- they cannot be registered in one of the above classes of the studbook for stallions, but which correspond to the breeding objective of the breed,
- they are presented for identity verification,
- they achieved an overall grade of at least 5.0 in the assessment of the exterior
- they meet the requirements for breeding aptitude and health through a veterinary examination and do not exhibit any characteristics detrimental to Health.

8.4. Stallion Importation to North America

If you are planning to import a stallion, who shall be inspected by the GOV, please check with the German Office before assuming that the stallion is qualified to breed in North America. If he is not already licensed and/or approved in Europe by the GOV, you should attempt to have him licensed before you purchase him. We must also stress that just because a stallion is licensed and/or approved with another registry does **NOT** mean that he will be licensed and/or approved for GOV breeding, so please check with the German Office before proceeding with your plans.