



Horse Breeders' Society

North American Division of Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes
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Mare Inspection and Breeding Approval

Guidelines and Rules

Once you have become an active member you can have your mare inspected for breeding approval with the Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society if, and only if, the following criteria are met, and the mare is taken to an official inspection and presented to the inspection committee for their judgment.

The Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society is a division of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes (the German Oldenburg Verband). As such, we must follow the rules of German Breeding Law and we are now enforcing these rules.

A registry is only as strong as its weakest link. 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 from the FN breeding books, but also on our good auction riders to give us feedback on the young horses with respect to rideability and temperament. With mares of untraceable pedigree and/or by stallions not utilized as sport horses (such as race-bred Thoroughbreds), you are never quite sure what you will get.

Although we will continue to accept TB mares, they must be of high quality, both mentally and conformationally, have very good elastic and flowing gaits, and preferably have competed well in sport horse disciplines. We have four studbooks for mares with the highest being the Main Mare Book. Good quality mares with original or reissued registration papers from a registry acknowledged by the German Oldenburg Verband and the Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society can be entered in the Main Mare Book. This may also entail checking to verify that the mare's second, third, fourth generation pedigree is in order. Quality mares with less verification can enter the lower books depending on their pedigree. TB mares who are not top sport horse quality, will not be accepted into the Main Mare Book, and any mare we accept as being of the quality to produce an Oldenburg Foal must be of very good riding horse type, good gaits, and conformation as governed by the German Breeding Act.

The acknowledged registries are those warmblood horse breeding associations with a full selection system. This means they have a licensing program that requires a performance test (important!) for the stallions that is generally in line with that of the Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society which has a 70 day test, 30 day test plus performance requirements, or higher performance requirements (details are listed on the stallion page). For example, most of the German breeding societies such as the Hanoverian, Westphalian, Holsteiner, etc. fall into this category along with other European breeding societies such as the Swedish, Danish, and KWPN. Exceptions to this are Thoroughbreds who are accepted as long as the mare has the correct registry papers from 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 checking the licensing standards of the registry and should contact the German or North American office for confirmation that the registry will be acknowledged.

Mare Books:

To be inspected for approval and entry into the Mare Books, the mare must be at least three years of age, and there is no maximum age. The following are the rules governing the Mare Books:

Main Mare Book (Main Studbook) The mare's dam must be either in, or eligible for (meaning she has the proper registration, but has not yet been inspected), the Main Mare Book or Mare Book of an acknowledged breeding association. Main Mare Book requires a 4-generation pedigree of approved and licensed stallions - the sire of the mare and all the sires within the past three generations of her dam must be approved and licensed by the Oldenburg Verband or another acknowledged breeding association (See diagram below). In addition, the mare must score at least 6.0 for her overall evaluation, with no single criteria score lower than 5.0. The six criteria are:

- Type (Breed and Sex type)
- Quality of Conformation (made up of scores for head, neck, saddle position, frame, fore limbs and hind limbs)
- Correctness of Gaits
- Impulsion and Elasticity (Trot)
- Walk
- General Impression and Development

Licensed Stallion				
Main Mare Book Mare or Mare Book Mare	Licensed Stallion			
	Main Mare Book Mare or Mare Book Mare	Licensed Stallion		
			Licensed Stallion	

Mare Book (Studbook) The mare's dam must be either in, or eligible for, the Main Mare Book, Mare Book, or Pre-Mare Book I of an acknowledged breeding association. Mare Book requires a 3-generation pedigree of approved and licensed stallions the sire of the mare and all the sires within the past two generations of her dam must be approved and licensed by the Oldenburg Verband or another acknowledged breeding association. In addition, the mare must score at least 5.0 for her overall evaluation, with no single score lower than 4.0.

Pre-Mare Book I (Pre-Studbook I) Requires a 2-generation pedigree of approved stallions. The mare's sire and her dam's sire must both be approved and licensed by the Oldenburg Verband or another acknowledged breeding association. In addition, the mare must score at least 5.0 for her overall evaluation, with no single score lower than 4.0.

Pre-Mare Book II (Pre-Studbook II) Mares that exhibit the type of a German riding horse but that do not meet the criteria for a higher division can be entered into Pre-Mare Book II.

Broodmares must be entered into the Mare Book and "activated" (the owner's membership dues and full mare dues must be paid) with the OHBS or GOV during the entire period from the date she is covered, through the period she is in foal, has foaled, and as long as her foal is at her side.