

# Guidelines for Approval of Mares and Stallions

We have received many, many questions over the last months regarding the acceptance of mares and stallions for breeding. Even though many of you have our rulebook, we would like to clarify a few issues pertaining to the Oldenburg Breeding requirements.

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 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. Progeny 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. We will however no longer issue registration papers under any circumstances to horses over one year of age.

## **Stallions**

Stallions must be inspected between two and four years of age (by calendar year). We will no longer inspect stallions five years of age or older unless they have completed their 100 day test with appropriate qualification scores, or they have met other performance requirements.

Stallion candidates must be out of Main Mare Book mares or a mare eligible for Main Mare Book. In addition, the stallion must come from and be registered by an approved registry. Please check beforehand to verify that the Oldenburg Verband recognizes the stallion's registry, as not all European and North American registries qualify for recognition. We will need to see a copy of the stallion's registration papers before inspection, and must see his ORIGINAL registration papers at the inspection.

At their inspection, young stallions must be shown in hand and at liberty in an arena to illustrate their athletic ability. They will also be required to free jump a series of three jumps. If the stallion is from jumping lines, the final oxer can be over four feet in height. The stallion will be expected to jump this height easily and confidently and in an athletic manner, as well as display three good gaits. Stallions that are from dressage lines are not always expected to jump higher than four feet unless they show a great deal of aptitude, but the gaits must be very good, rhythmical and expansive.

Please be aware that if a stallion is not considered by our Breeding Director Dr. Schulze-Schleppinghoff (or his appointed commission) to be advantageous for the Oldenburg breeding program, we will not approve him (remember that all breed registries have their own unique vision). A stallion that does not fit into the German Oldenburg Verband breeding program has the possibility of creating havoc within the registry. It is for this reason that we will endeavor to keep our stallion roster trim. We are highly successful in Germany, and the reputation of the Oldenburg Verband in North America is extremely important to us.

If you are planning to import a stallion from Europe and wish it to stand for German Oldenburg breeding, please check with the breeding director Dr. Schulze-Schleppinghoff or Vice-Breeding Director Dr. Evelin Vollstedt before assuming that the stallion is qualified to breed in North America. If he is not already approved in Europe by the Oldenburg Verband, you should attempt to have him approved before you purchase him. We must also stress that just because a stallion is approved with another registry does NOT mean that he will be approved for Oldenburg breeding, so please check with the office before proceeding with your plans.

### **Mares**

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 an accepted breed registry can be entered in the Main Mare Book. This may also entail checking to verify that the mare's second, third and fourth generation pedigree is in order. Quality mares with less verification can enter the lower books depending on their pedigree. TB mares without proper Jockey Club papers, or 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 and good gaits and conformation as governed by the German Breeding Act.

### **Premium Awards**

Only foals from Main Mare Book mares may receive a premium foal award, and only Main Mare Book mares out of Main Mare Book mares are eligible for Premium Mare awards. In addition, like other German registries, we only reward mares of our own breed with Premium titles - mares originating from registries other the German Oldenburg Verband (or its licensees before the end of 1997, when these licensees were dissolved), cannot eligible for Premium Mare status.

Also, Staatspraemienstute (or State Premium Mare) is a title only awarded in Germany. As stated earlier, we do award the title Premium Mare in the US as well as Canada-this corresponds to the Verband's Premium Prize awarded in Germany.

### **Breeders Note**

Mare owners are reminded that in order to receive German Oldenburg papers for their foals, both the sire and dam must be approved for breeding by the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes (Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society). In addition, the stallion must be officially activated with the Verband 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 no registration papers at all, depending on the stallion's status. Also, please do not assume that all stallions approved with other registries will automatically be accepted for Oldenburg breeding.

We would also like to caution our mare owners that there are some stallions being advertised as approved for Oldenburg breeding, or that display the traditional Oldenburg logo (the O and the Crown) in their ads, that are NOT approved by the Verband. If the stallion has not appeared in our official stallion roster, please check with our office to see if the stallion qualifies for a one-time breeding permit. Be aware that there will be an extra fee assessed to the mare owner at inspection time for such a permit

Lastly, remember that if you have any questions about a stallion's status, you should contact either the Florida or German office BEFORE making any breeding arrangements.

Thank you