



RPSI Breeding Program For German Riding Ponies

The following general breeding guidelines pertain to the breeding of the German Riding Pony:

Breed: German Riding Pony

Origin: Germany

Size: about 13.2 hh – 14.2 hh (138 cm - 148 cm)

Colors: All

Appearance:

Type

Desirable: An elegant, big-framed and harmonical appearance; more like a riding pony type than other pony breeds, with a small, well-defined and noble head, with large keen eyes, well-sized ears, big nostrils, a well-proportioned neck, well muscled, correct and lean limbs, with pony-typical marks.

Undesirable: plain and rough types, a big head, poorly marked outline, weak joints, no sex type.

Conformation

Desirable: a harmonic conformation, suitable for all kinds of riding purposes, i.e.: a well developed neck, growing smaller towards the head being good through the jaw; a broad sloping shoulder; pronounced long withers; a strong back being long enough; a chest being deep enough; a long slightly sloping croup, a tail being set not too high; harmonic proportions of the conformation into forehand, middle-piece and hindquarters. A lean caliber; lean and well-muscled foreleg; well-defined, strong joints; elastic and medium long pastern, angle between ground surface and pastern approx. 45 to 50°, strong, even-sized and even-angled hoofs proportionate to the size of the horse, angle between ground surface and the anterior line approx. 45 to 50°, the hind legs should show lean, well-defined joints, strong, well-defined hocks angled at approx. 150°, elastic and medium sized pastern.

Undesirable: a bad-proportioned conformation, a short and bad-developed neck, a small upright shoulder, short and bad-pronounced withers, a weak back being too short or too long, tight or hollow loins, a short or straight croup with high set tail, narrow and tight chest, poor flanks, bad joints (i.e. small joints with weak cannon bones and weak pastern), being too short or too long, small hoofs with heels pointing inwards, abnormal formation of the limbs such as outwards straight, wide or narrow at the knees, calf-kneed, sagging knees, bow-legged, narrow or wide at the hocks, cow-hocked, sickle-shaped.

Movements

Basic paces

Desirable: Energetic, rhythm and ground covering basic paces (walk 4-beat, trot 2-beat, canter 3-beat). The walk should be rhythmical, ground covering, energetic and elastic, well-balanced and elevated. The basic trot is to start with a clear two-beated cadence, a high level of impulsion, elasticity, ground cover and balance, uphill-moving forehand with a freely moving shoulder. The canter should also show impulsion, elasticity, ground cover and balance, clearly uphill and every canter stride should be powerful push with well bent hind legs. Some high knee action is desired.

Undesirable: short, flat and inelastic movements without impulsion and lacking cadence, clumsy moving on the forehand with uneven rhythm, all faults as winging, dishing paces, loose joints and extreme high knee action.

Free jumping

Desirable: agile, full of ability and scope; pronounced coolness and intelligence; clear pickup, well-developed quick legs and take-off (almost horizontal lower front arm over the jump); well-rounded back with clear marked withers, downward rounded neck and hind legs opening slightly (bascule); the flow and rhythm of the canter should be maintained.

Undesirable: uncontrolled or hesitant jumping; hanging legs, high head carriage, hollow back, loss of action.

Mental qualities/willingness to work/health

Desirable: an uncomplicated and friendly pony being eager to work and reliable, with strong nerves, intelligent, showing good temper and character.

Undesirable: difficult to handle, nervous or fiery ponies.

Desirable: good rideability, suitable for various riding purposes, willing to work, suitable for kids; robust health, good physical and psychological capacity, natural fertility, without any hereditary defects.

Breeding method

The studbook of the German Riding Pony is open. The breeding aim is the improvement of the breeding.

The German Riding Pony is the result of the mating of different pony breeds or offspring of registered breeding stock of the registered breeds, provided that these breeding stock is registered in the studbook of the German Riding Pony.

The following breeds are registered: Anglo-Arabian, Arabian, Arabian Partbred, Arabian Purebred, Bavarian, Belgium Sport Pony, Brandenburg, British Riding Pony (N.P.S.), Connemara, Dansk Sportspony, Dartmoor, German Riding Horse, English Thoroughbred, Hannoverian, Hesse, Holsteiner, Italian Riding Pony, German Small Riding Horse, Le Poney Français de Selle (franz. Reitpony), Lewitzer, Mecklenburger, Nederlands Pony met Arabisch Bloed (N.P.A.), New Forest, Austrian Riding Pony, Oldenburger, Palomino Pony, Pinto Pony, Rheinländer, Sachse, Sachsen-Anhaltiner, Swedish Riding Pony, Swiss Riding Pony, Shagya-Arabian, Thüringer, Trakehner, Welsh Section K (Netherlands), Welsh Section B, Welsh Section C, Welsh Section D, Westphalian, Württemberger, Zweibrücker.

The offspring of the following mating belongs to the breed of the German Riding Pony (see chart below).

Subdivision of the Studbooks

The breed studbook for stallions is subdivided into a Main Division and a Special Division.

The Main Division of the breed studbook for stallions is subdivided into:
Stallion Book I and
Stallion Book II.

The Special Division of the breed studbook for stallions is the Pre-Stallion Book

The breed studbook for mares is subdivided into a Main Division and a Special Division.

The Main Division of the breed studbook for mares is subdivided into:
Main Studbook (Main-Mare Book) and
Studbook II (Mare-Book).

The Special Division of the breed studbook for mares is the
Pre-Studbook (Pre Mare Book)

Requirements for the entering into the Studbooks

For the registration into the studbooks the following marks of the appearance with special regard to the movements are judged:

Registration marks:

1. Type (breed and sex type)
2. Conformation
3. Correctness of the paces
4. Walk
5. Trot
6. Canter (if recorded at the registration into the breeding stud book)
7. Free jumping (if recorded at the registration into the breeding stud book)
8. Overall impression (with regard to suitability as riding pony).

The total score results from adding together the points awarded.

(1) Breed studbook for stallions

(1.1) Stallion book I (Main division of the studbook)

Stallions are not licensed before the age of three years. Only those stallions will be licensed whose sires and sires of dam, grand dam and great-grand dam are registered in the main studbook or a similar studbook of a breeding association and whose dams are registered in the main studbook or a similar studbook of a breeding association. In order to be eligible stallions must:

- reach a total score of 7.0 points at an event of the breeding Association; however, in each of the main criteria it has to come up to a minimum of 5.0 points.
- fulfill the fertility and health requirements acc. to § 4 (8) ZVO within a vet-check.
- at least reach a total score of 6.5 points or better at a stallion test acc. to § 508f ZVO, showing at least 5.0 points in each of the main criteria, unless they provide the required competition successes in dressage, jumping or eventing;
- fulfill the additional criteria for the registration into the stallion book I fixed in the breeding program for the German Riding Pony

- Stallions of the registered breeds also meet the requirements of the individual performance test for the breeding aim "riding" if they passed a 30-days-test acc. to § 508f ZVO (German Riding Pony) or if they got an equal result acc. to § 508f ZVO (German Riding Pony). Ponies of the registered breeds which are smaller than 137 cm are allowed to pass this performance test in driving acc. to § 505f ZVO (Dartmoor), § 524f ZVO (Welsh A und B) after having passed a 14-days-station test.

- Stallions of racing breeds even fulfill the requirements for the performance test "riding for ponies and small horses" if:

- they reached a GAG of at least 80 kg on fl at race or at least 85 kg on steeple-chase or if
- they reached a GAG of at least 75 kg on fl at race, 80 kg on steeple-chase at minimum 20 starts in total three racing periods.

Stallions which serve for the improvement of certain breeds can only be registered in stallion book I. Stallions who haven't yet passed a performance test can be registered with the proviso that they will pass the test until attaining the age of 5 years. Under certain circumstances and in individual cases the responsible breeding association can give 15 more months.

(1.2) Stallion book II (Main division of the studbook)

On request all stallions can be licensed in the age of 3 at the earliest

- who fulfill the requirements concerning origin and veterinary requirements concerning fertility and health but who don't fulfill the requirements concerning performance test and who were identified by the breeding association but who cannot be registered into stallion book I.

They need to reach a total score of at least 6.0 points for their appearance acc. to § 14 ZVO; however, in each of the main criteria it must come up to a minimum of 5.0 points.

In case stallions have to be registered because of decision 96/78 EWG, these stallions have to be presented at the next possible date for licensing/registration in order to judge them for their breeding usability.

(1.3) Pre-studbook (Special division of the breeding studbook)

Eligible for licensing are stallions being at least three years old who cannot be registered in one of the a.m. breeding studbooks for stallions but who were identified by the breeding associations and who conform with the breeding aim of the German Riding Pony.

(2) Studbook for mares

(2.1) Studbook I (Main division of the breeding studbook)

Registration of mares being at least 3 years old in the year of registration,

- whose dams are registered in the main division of a breeding association
- whose sires and dam's sires are registered in the main division of a breeding association,
- who at least reached a total score of 6.0 points for their appearance acc. To § 14 ZVO; however, in each of the main criteria it must come up to a minimum of 5.0 points.

(2.2) Studbook II (Main division of the breeding studbook)

Registration of mares being at least 3 years old in the year of registration,

- whose sires and dam's sires are registered at least in stallion book II of a breeding association or in a breeding studbook similar to stallion book II,
- whose dams and grand dams are registered at least in the pre-studbook of a breeding association.
- who at least reached a total score of 5.0 points for their appearance acc. to § 14 ZVO; however, in each of the main criteria it must come up to a minimum of 4.0 points.

(2.3) Pre-Studbook (Special division of the breeding studbook)

Registration of mares being at least 3 years old in the year of registration, who cannot be registered in one of the a.m. studbooks for mares but who conform with the breeding aim of the German Riding Pony and who were identified by the breeding association.

Issuing of breeding documents

Each horse whose parents have been registered in the main division of the respective breeding association, gets a breeding document (certificate of origin) acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Each horse whose sire has been registered in the stallion book I of the main division and whose dam has been registered in the pre-studbook of the special division of the respective breeding association gets a breeding document (certificate of origin) acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Each horse whose dam has been registered in studbook I of the main division and whose sire has been registered in the pre-studbook of the special division of the respective breeding association gets a breeding document (birth notification) acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Each horse from which one parent has been registered in stallion book II or studbook II of the main division and one parent has been registered in pre-studbook of the special division of the respective breeding association gets a breeding document (birth notification) acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Each horse whose parents are registered in the special division of the respective breeding association gets a breeding document (birth notification) acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Each horse from which only one parent is registered in the studbook of the respective breeding association gets a horse passport acc. to § 10 ZVO.

Performance tests

The tests are held acc. to the general equestrian regulations. They are regarded as performance tests according to the stockbreeding law and can either be done as a station test or a competition test.

(1) Station test

(1.1) Duration

The test takes at least 30 days and consists of a pre-test and a final performance test.

(1.2) Location

Testing stations chosen by the respective authorities.

(1.3) Requirements

Eligible are three-year-old and older stallions, but the target group are four-year-old stallions. All stallions need to be ridden and vaccinated acc. to the regulations of the official show rules of the German National Federation.

(1.4) Pre-test

During the pre-test (training) the stallions undergo carefully controlled and standardized training by professional riders. Before starting the final performance test the stallions are judged by the chief trainer acc. to the following criteria:

1. Character

- Friendliness
- Willingness to learn and work
- Overall capacity to work

2. Movements

- Walk
- Trot
- Canter

3. Rideability

4. Jumping ability

5. Cross-country test

(1.4) *Final performance test*

The final performance test is judged by at least four experts (two professional riders and two judges). The stallions are judged by the experts acc. to the following criteria:

1. Movements

- Walk
- Trot
- Canter

2. Rideability

3. Jumping ability

- Free jumping
- Course jumping (fences up to 100 cm)
- Cross-country test (1,500 m with 6 fences up to 90 cm)

(1.5) *Criteria*

The criteria are judged acc. to § 14 ZVO:

10 = excellent 5 = sufficient
9 = very good 4 = insufficient
8 = good 3 = fairly bad
7 = fairly good 2 = bad
6 = satisfactory 1 = very bad

This judgement is decisive for the stallion's breeding suitability with regard to the improvement of the population's rideability.

(1.7) *Calculation of the result*

The particular parts of the test are added to an overall score acc. to the following evaluation:

Criteria Chief Trainer Experts Pro Rider

Character

Friendliness 1.0

Willingness to learn and work 1.0

Capacity to work 0.5

Movements

Walk 0.25 0.5

Trot 0.25 0.5

Canter 0.25 0.5

Rideability 1.0 0.5 0.75

Jumping Ability

Free Jumping 0.5 0.5

Course Jumping 0.5 0.5

Cross Country Test 0.5 0.5

Total Score 5.75 3.5 0.75

Evaluation Factor

If the tests were not passed completely an evaluation would only be done if the stallion was judged in more than 3/5 (> 60%) of the a.m. criteria. The average result of the stallion test is calculated with the sum of the a.m. particular parts of the test. In order to get a result for those parts of the test which were not passed the results from the pre-tests are taken. These results taken from the pre-tests must be indicated in the result sheet.

The final result is calculated from the sum of all main criteria divided by 10. The finding of the final result is done by a standard mathematic formula.

Any indications for defects or vices during the test have to be recorded by the chief trainer. The breeding association has to be informed about all these incidents.

(1.8) Publication of the test results

After finishing the final performance test the final results of each stallion are published.

The owner of each stallion gets a certificate which shows the stallion's final result, the judgement of the particular criteria and the average result of the test group. The publication of the individual result concerns to the respective authorities. These individual results consisting of:

Character, i.e.

Friendliness

Willingness to learn and work

Capacity to work

Movements, i.e.

Walk

Trot

Canter

Rideability, i.e.

Rideability / Chief trainer

Rideability / Experts

Rideability / Professional rider

Jumping ability, i.e.

Free jumping

Course jumping

Cross-country test have to be added to the final result.

The test result of all stallions incl. the individual results are sent to the breeding associations.

(1.9) Retake

The performance test can be retaken once. In this case the result of the retake is decisive. If a stallion drops out before having passed half of the pre-test he won't get any results.

(2) Test by competition successes

Alternatively to the performance test at a testing station a stallion can also pass his exam by presentation of proven competition successes. This test by competition successes is passed in dressage, jumping and eventing.

The following competition successes are considered:

5 x 1st through 3rd placements in:

- Dressage Class L – Training test (FEI-level) or
- Jumping Class M – Medium test (Cat. B) or
- Eventing Class VA – Novice test

Mare performance tests

The tests are held acc. to the general equestrian regulations. They are regarded as performance tests according to the stockbreeding law and they are either done in the course of a station test or in a so-called field test.

(1) Station test

(1.1) Duration

The test takes at least 14 days and consists of a pre-test and a final test.

(1.2) Location

Testing stations chosen from the respective authorities.

(1.3) Requirements

Eligible are three-year old and older mares.

All mares need to be ridden and vaccinated acc. to the regulations of the official show rules of the German National Federation.

(1.4) Pre-test

From the assessments during the pre-test (training) the mares are judged by the head trainer before starting the final performance test acc. to the following criteria:

1. Character
2. Movements
 - Walk
 - Trot
 - Canter
4. Rideability
5. Jumping ability
 - Free jumping

(1.5) Final performance test

The final station test is judged by at least three experts (at least one professional rider and two judges). The mares are judged by the experts acc. to the following criteria:

1. Movements
 - Walk
 - Trot
 - Canter
2. Rideability
3. Jumping ability
 - Free jumping

1.6) *Criteria*

The criteria are judged acc. to § 14 ZVO:

10 = excellent 5 = sufficient
9 = very good 4 = insufficient
8 = good 3 = fairly bad
7 = fairly good 2 = bad
6 = satisfactory 1 = very bad

This judgement is decisive for the mare's breeding suitability with regard to the improvement of the population's rideability. This judgement is decisive for the mare's breeding suitability with regard to the improvement of the population's rideability.

(1.6) *Calculation of the result*

The particular parts of the test are added to an overall score acc. to the following evaluation:

Criteria

Chief Trainer	Pro Trainer	Expert	Total	
Character	30	30		
Movements	10	15	25	
Rideability	10	7.50	7.50	25
Free Jumping	10	10	20	
Total Score	60	7.50	32.50	100

If the tests were not passed completely an evaluation would only be done if the mare was judged in more than 3/5 (> 60%) of the a.m. criteria. The average result of the test is calculated with the sum of the a.m. particular parts of the test. In order to get a result for those parts of the test which were not passed the results from the pre-tests are taken.

These results taken from the pre-tests must be indicated in the result sheet.

Any indications for defects or vices during the test have to be recorded by the chief trainer.

The breeding association has to be informed about all these incidents.

(1.7) *Publication of the test results*

After finishing the final performance test the final results of the mares are published. The owner of each mare gets a certificate which shows the mare's final result, the judgement of the particular criteria and the average result of the test group.

(1.8) Retake

The stallion test can be retaken once. In this case the result of the retake is decisive. If a mare drops out before having passed half of the pre-test she won't get any result.

(2) Field test

(2.1) Duration

The test takes at least one day.

(2.2) Location

Testing stations chosen by breeding associations joined to the German National Federation.

(2.3) Requirements

Eligible are three-year-old and older mares.

All mares need to be ridden and vaccinated acc. to the regulations of the official show rules of the German National Federation.

(2.4) Field test

The field test is judged by at least three experts (at least one professional rider and two judges). The mares are judged by the experts acc. to the following criteria:

(2.5) Criteria

The criteria are judged acc. to § 14 ZVO:

10 = excellent 5 = sufficient
9 = very good 4 = insufficient
8 = good 3 = fairly bad
7 = fairly good 2 = bad
6 = satisfactory 1 = very bad

This judgement is decisive for the mare's breeding suitability with regard to the improvement of the population's rideability.

(2.6) Calculation of the result

The finding of the mare's final result the following criteria are decisive. In its rules every breeding association fixes the following appropriate main criteria. The final result is calculated from the sum of all main criteria.

Judiciary	Pro Rider	Total
Movements	30	30
Rideability	20	20 40
Free Jumping	30	30
Total Score	80	20 100

Criteria

(2.7) Publication of the test results

After finishing the final performance test the final results of the mares are published. The owner of each mare gets a certificate which shows the mare's final result, the judgement of the particular criteria and the average result of the test group.

(2.8) Retake

The station test can be retaken once. In this case the result of the retake is decisive.

(3) Test by competition successes

Alternatively to the performance test a mare can also pass her exam by presentation of proven competition successes. This test by competition successes is passed in dressage, jumping and eventing. The following competition successes are considered:

5 placements acc. to § 38 (2) LPO (official show rules) in

- Dressage Class L – Training test (FEI-level) or
- Jumping Class L – Elementary test (Cat. B) or
- Eventing Class VA – Novice test