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Renner, Edbsch. Celle
br., 163/172 cm, geb. Hannover 1907, v. Melusko u. Dorfschöne, v. Donner u. Jehuba,
v. Julianus u. Roldchen, v. Nord-Zampa-Mag,
deckt seit 1910, Sieger der Aktionprüfungen für inländ. Zuchtmateriel in Berlin 1920 u. 1922.
Züchter: Hofbes. Rudolph Pieper, Königswisch, Kr. Neubaus a. d. Oste.
Aufzüchter: Amtsrat Stamer-Mechow.

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(Probenummer)



On a word

Dear Hannoveraner Breeders,

The Verband is celebrating its 100th birthday. If we were a single person, we would be old; but as an association, we are an organization of breeders that, over the years, changed, developed and modernized. Taking into account the different demands of the breeders, this usually happens in slow steps in comparison to the economic life. The general conditions and the meaning of breeding horses 100 years ago, as fascinating as the history may be, do not have much in common with today's modern horse breeding.

Nevertheless, we benefit from the foundation, which our forefathers laid. Without the old mare lines, we would not be where we are now. It helps today's Hannoveraner breeders to be aware of this tradition. But what does all this mean for us in our anniversary year? In this magazine, we have tried to retrace the 100-year old history of our association – also to explain to younger people where we have come from. How did our breeding system, our organization, our structures develop? Only if we know where our origins are, we can identify the tasks of the present.

For our horse breeding association, the challenges will be big. Over the past decades, the development towards a service association has begun. In everyday life, it mainly is about being an important support for its breeders. However, the fast pace in today's time is not only evident politically and economically. Horse breeding is also becoming more and more demanding in many areas. Completely independent of the number of mares, our members push on their breeding program ahead with passion, love for horses, intuition and individual ideas. Among them, the group of breeders, who focus on breeding for performance, is developing rapidly with the help of medicine, genetics and technology and ever more special breeding methods. We have not yet reached the end of this development. Will, at some point, it only be a matter of creating medically and genetically determined breeding products in order to keep up with international performance breeding? Or do we have to maintain an awareness of the fact that the different facets of the "performance concept" are inherent in a broad gene pool, which we must preserve? The important thing is: The Hannoveraner Verband accepts the personal and ethical outlooks of its members towards the breeding of horses and supports them within the framework of the breeding program.

100 years after the foundation of our Hannoveraner Verband, there are many issues about the future, which must be decided in the next few years. However, we are aware of the responsibilities we bear to lead our association into a successful future. Every breeder – the ambitious, the passionate, but also the modern, the success-oriented, the individual – should feel comfortable with us. Internal and external organizational questions have influenced almost all of the past twenty years including the question whether or not to reduce the landscape of the German breed associations. It turned out that not only the question about the number of breed associations is essential, but also the question of the cooperation between the breed associations for implementing major projects. Let us be aware that we will only have long-term success, if we work together in one direction.

The Hannoveraner Verband as a service provided is ready

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hinni Lührs-Behnke".

Dr. Hinni Lührs-Behnke
(Chairman of the Hannoveraner Verband)



The breeding goal
In a change of times



The selection of stallions
Licensings and tests

4

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» The Regional Association of Hannoveraner Warmblood Breeders is founded. It is divided into four district associations: Stade, Hannover, Lüneburg, and Osnabrück, which correspond with the administrative districts. There are about 5,400 members and 60 horse breeding clubs

1922

In the "Rules for the Administration and Management of the Hannoveraner Studbook for the Noble Warmblood", the breeding goal of the studbook from 1922 was changed. "Heavy halfbred horse" was replaced with "strong warmblood horse".

1923



The Verden Auctions
The best to Verden



Legendary sport horses
Victories for eternity

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After the breeders' magazine "Hannoversches Pferd" was stopped in 1922 after being in existence for only one year, the first edition of the second volume was published on April 1. Every month it reports about mare shows, stallion licensings, auctions, performance tests and horse shows.

1924



Due to the overcrowded State Stud Celle, the Prussian parliament decides to open a second Hannoveraner state stud in the administrative district of Osnabrück on September 8. State stud manager Komdorff is in charge of 102 stallions

1925

The Identity

The modern sporthorse

Ideal conditions in terms of climate and landscape, the know-how and close ties of the rural breeders to their horses, competent breeding and training facilities, an early link between breeding and sport, the work of the State Stud Celle, and the centre of Verden with its world-famous auctions – all this has ensured that the Hannoveraner horse became a prototype of the modern sporthorse.

By Dr. Ludwig Christmann

In the book "Hannovers edles Warmblut" (Hannover's noble warmblood), published in 1949, Jürgen Hahn-Butry very vividly describes the main breeding area of the Hannoveraner horse and the close connection between the horses and their breeders. It becomes clear that the Hannoveraner was not the product of large estates and stud farms. The horse was created by the farmers in the area of today's state of Lower Saxony, who lived and worked together with their horses. Until the 1950s, a versatile horse was bred, whereby versatility had a different meaning than today. It was about "doing the hardest farm work every day and then winning a prize with the same horse in a versatile performance class on the show grounds on Sundays." This was only possible with the appropriate attitude and the best temperament. There was no room on the farms for horses that did not want to work.

The use as a riding horse therefore already played a role early on, which is proven in the interesting article "Der Halbblutspport auf dem Lande in Hannover" ("The sport of half-bred horses in the countryside of Hannover") from the first issue of the members' magazine "Hannoversches Pferd" (The Hannoveraner Horse): "In no other part of the German Empire, the sport of halfbred horses is as popular and widespread in the countryside as it is in Hannover. Here the breeder himself, his sons or employees ride and drive home-bred horses. Thus the sport directly influences the breed.... The rapid and tremendous development of the sport on halfbred horses in the countryside was only possible because all

horse breeding, racing, riding and driving clubs put themselves in the service of the State Horse Breed and fulfilled their task with great understanding and zeal... The number of these clubs, which had joined the department of halfbred horses at the Chamber of Agriculture to work collaboratively, amounted to about 130. The clubs were not content with holding just one event per year, but for the most part they tried throughout the year to promote the education of their members in riding and driving." In addition to competitions in dressage, jumping and eventing, halfbred races and trotter races for domestic half-bred horses were very popular. So it probably is no coincidence that the oldest rural riding club in Germany was founded in the area of Cuxhaven. The Hadler Riding Club was founded in Otterndorf in 1834. The versatile orientation of the Hannoveraner led to outstanding sporting successes early on. Already at the first Olympic Equestrian Games in Stockholm in 1912, Lieutenant Rabod von Kröcher won the silver medal in the individual steeplechase jumping-class aboard the Hannoveraner Dohna. So the aptitude for riding at the highest level in all three Olympic disciplines has been part of Hannover's DNA for more than 100 years."

Climate, landscape, breeders Stutenschauen

The plains of northern Germany with its large grassland areas offer ideal conditions for the breeding of horses in terms of climate and landscape. However, the soil conditions are quite different, from heavy fenland to moorland to the light sandy uplands. Different ty-

pes of horses were the result, the horses from the sandy uplands were often more blood-influenced and lighter than those from the fenlands. Jürgen Hahn-Butry emphasises the know-how that is passed on from generation to generation. This passion for the Hannoveraner horse is still lived in the breeders' families today – from time immemorial in Kehdingen, in the region of Hadeln, Lüneburg, Verden, Celle, South Hannover or Osna-brück, by now also in many other regions of Germany and in many other countries worldwide. Even though many families have discontinued breeding horses over the past decades, a lot of expertise has been preserved by entirely converting agricultural farms to solely benefit horses. They offer services related to breeding, raising and training of Hannoveraner horses. These services are gladly accepted by many breed-interested people, and are a quality feature of the original area of the Hannoveraner breed.

The State Stud Celle is an essential part of Hannover's identity, because without the activities of the State Stud, the Hannoveraner breed would not exist as we know it. The State Stud was founded by King George II in 1735. The State Stud not only provided stallions of above-average quality at a reasonable fee, but also documented coverings and registered foals. Dr. Arnold Schlie, the managing director of the Hannoveraner Verband for many years, wrote in the book "Hannovers edles Warmblut" (Hannover's noble warmblood) that "since the foundation of the State Stud Celle, the first task of every breed association, namely the registration of

The black gelding Apoll won the seventh German Jumping Derby with Graf Hohenau. The ten-year old son of Defilant/Honorat was born on the farm of Carl Heinrich Meyer in Achim-Baden; he was the first Hannoveraner to finish the Derby course in Klein-Flottbek as the winner.

1926



At the stallion testing station on Westercelle, three-year old stallions are trained and tested from April until September. The walk and the trot are scored in front of a trotter cart, the canter on a track with seven fences. In addition, they have to complete a distance of 70 kilometres.

1927



Ferdinand BB FRH and Jessica von Bredow-Werndl Photo: Lafrentz



Hannoveraner are excellent partners for leisure. Photo: Fellner



Baloutinue and Laura Kraut Photo: Lafrentz

Madeleine Winter-Schulze

Equestrian patron and breeder

»Satchmo, Goldfever, Gaylord, Gigolo FRH – to name just a few – are Hannoveraner horses with an extraordinarily successful equestrian history. Willingness to perform paired with foundation and spirit is the key to success. My "jockeys" and I gladly celebrate these successes and look forward to further victories and placings in dressage and show jumping.

My husband Dieter also was very convinced of the quality of the Hannoveraner horses. In this spirit we continue breeding with Hannoveraner stallions in Mellendorf after his passing.

I express my congratulations to the 100th anniversary of the Verband with gratitude and conviction.«



Mehmed and Dr. Reiner Klimke Photo: Menzendorf



Prinzess and Hasso Wagner Photo: Menzendorf



Hannoveraner were always valued as riding horses. Photo: Sting



Gladstone and Hugo Simon Photo: Archive



fischerChipmunk FRH and Michael Jung Photo: Lafrentz

Upon the order of Prussian Financial Minister, the former Royal Hanoverian Stud Herrenhausen was closed. Feiner Kerl, one of Hannover's foundation sires, was raised at the park-like facility.

The "rider's Olympic Games" in Amsterdam in 1928 celebrated great successes for German breeds. Baron von Langen and his legendary gelding Draufgänger by Aldech/Nordgraf won individual and team gold.

An auction of Hannoveraner horses in Cologne celebrates a big success. 61 horses sold in an arena for 64,000 Reichsmark. An additional eight horses found new owners afterwards for a total of 13,000 Marks.



The Celle State Stud, founded in 1735, had a decisive influence on the development of the Hannoveraner horse. Photo: Loveley Moments



At the beginning of the 20th century, horses were mainly used in agriculture. Photo: Tiedemann

»»» The main breeding area «««

The Ems, Weser and Elbe are the three large German rivers flowing into the North Sea. The noble Hannoveraner warmblood horse mainly lives in these areas. On the banks of these rivers, the main breeding areas with its old breeding farms are located, where the Hannoveraner horse has developed into its present outstanding type. The area of the rivers also includes their tributaries, whose landscapes usually have almost the same character as the main river valleys.

The rich river marshes with their natural pastures and meadows are the actual cradle of breeding ... This is also where the old farms of the breeders are located, which traditionally form the backbone of the breed. They are home to breeder personalities who have extensive and deep-rooted knowledge of horses. They are not only familiar with the laws of heredity, but also became masters in raising foals.

Every new generation coming up learns how to handle horses from childhood. The sons on these farms used to serve in the cavalry if possible.... The few cavalry regiments of the last war were also recruited – in no small part – from the sons of such old Lower Saxony farms.

In the development of the last 50 years, however, horse breeding has also conquered the landscapes of the moors and the sandy uplands ...

In the diversity of the landscapes and their soil conditions lies one of the great sources of strength of Hannoveraner breeding ... Whenever a Hannoveraner warmblood horse is stabled in this main breeding area, which is so diverse in terms of the landscape, it has always been expected to perform to the same standards, which it willingly fulfills everywhere. Whether the breeder breeds the Hannoveraner horse on a farm at the mouth of the Elbe River or in Lüneburg's Heath, both horses are capable of performing the heaviest farm work in the day-to-day life and also win a prize in a versatile performance class on the show grounds on Sundays.

The home of the noble Hannoveraner warmblood horse is one of the oldest German cultural landscapes. Almost everywhere, breeders and horses have lived under one roof for centuries. Even today, the old green, mossy-thatched roof, which two crossed horse heads decorate, predominates in the main breeding area. At the same time, they are the emblem of a breed that is deeply attached to its native soil.

Jürgen Hahn-Butry, Hannovers edles Warmblut 1949



Artillery captain Hamann puts in horse show-grounds in Verden. The competitions of the Racing Club in the small town along the Aller River holds first place in hosting horse shows compared to all other show grounds. The events last up to ten days and are true spectator magnets.

1930

There are more warmbloods than cold-blooded horses in Germany: 1,813,053 cold-blooded horses versus 1,895,881 warmbloods. The German warmblood breed is the only German agricultural branch with an active trade balance; 1,700 Warmblood horses are exported into almost all countries of the world.

1931



Niedersachsen's farms with their inhabitants, climate and landscape – factors that shaped the Hannoveraner horse. Photos: Archive, Fellner



all breeding procedures, was done in a way and with an accuracy that met all demands". The employees of the State Stud also advised the breeders and helped with marketing horses. The origin and quality of the state stud stallions determined the direction of the Hannoveraner breed. Farsightedness was also shown in periods of strengthening by not using cold-blooded stallions, which certainly took place in other breeding areas and caused damage. Many horse breeding clubs were formed around the state-run breeding facilities. One of the great innovations of the State Stud was the introduction of the stallion performance test in Westercelle in 1928. It was modeled after the stallion performance test in Zwion, East Prussia, which had been introduced two years earlier for the Trakehner breed. Westercelle, later Adelheidsdorf, was to become the model for the stallion performance tests in Germany. It is therefore proven that a selection process exists in the Hannoveraner breed that has been taking riding horse criteria into account for almost 100 years! After the loss of East Prussia, the Hannoveraner warmblood breed became the largest breed of a noble warmblood horse. Its greatness combined with the orientation of the Hannoveraner breeders for selling horses and the basic suitability of the Hannoveraner

for riding gave Hannoveraner a head start over other breeding areas when the breeding objective changed to producing a pure riding- and sporthorse after World War II. The popularity of the Hannoveraner was based primarily on qualities such as temperament, willingness to perform and rideability.

Another ingenious innovation in Hannover contributed significantly to the worldwide triumphal procession: Verden's auctions were brought to life by the great Hans Joachim Köhler in 1949 in view of the surplus of horses in breeders' stables after World War II. At

that time, the auctions still took place on a small scale and in the open. Verden's auctions made buying a horse an adventure and attracted customers from all over the world. They became the model for all association-run and private auctions in Germany; and Verden became the Mecca of the Hannoveraner world. Thus the Hannoveraner became the prototype of the modern sporthorse. Not only riding horses were exported but also stallions and mares, which helped to establish breeding programs in other countries. The Hannoveraner is one of the founding breeds of modern sporthorses.

Heike Kemmer

Dressage rider and member of the licensing commission

»Since I was a child, I travelled with my father through the Hannoveraner breeding area to foal and mare shows and, of course, to the annual highlight, the stallion licensing. Thus I am deeply connected with the Hannoveraner horse, which of course also accompanied my sporting career with several great dressage horses – up to Olympic gold with my Bon Bonaparte-son Bonaparte. As sport and breeding have always been strongly connected in our family, I feel very honored to be on the licensing commission and am proud as a member of said committee to lead the Hannoveraner breed into a successful future.«

The well-designed Hannoveraner brand is introduced. It is a result of a continued development of brands, which were used until then. It is a registered trademark since 1953.

1932



A racetrack for halfbred horses was added to Verden's horse show terrain after two years of construction. The experts call Verden "Hannover's Insterburg". It filled an important gap in Hannover's performance tests.

1933

A conversation with Ulrich Hahne and Wilken Treu

Constant further development

Nothing is as constant as change. The Hannoveraner Verband succeeded in preserving traditions, while considering changing conditions and constantly further developing the breed. For decades the reputation of the modern sport horse has preceded the Hannoveraner.

The 100th anniversary of the Hannoveraner Verband also raises the question of whether there has been a fundamental difference in the composition of the breeders' community over time and whether significant changes are to be expected?

The common thread running through this anniversary edition is that German horse breeding has undergone significant changes. The composition of the breeders' community has moved away from an agricultural background; new circles of breeders have fortunately been added. The Hannoveraner member survey of 2021 has painted a clear picture of this. The requirements and expectations of different breeder groups towards their breed association have become more complex. Performance breeding continues to be an important goal; but individual ideas from breeders also want to be looked after. This is to be done in an easier and more flexible way, digitally and personally, on the other hand with different expectations on the selection and the advice. The Hannoveraner Verband will have to serve these new many-layered demands and will be measured against the expected flexibility.

At first glance, the Hannoveraner Verband has opened up a lot regarding the selection of stallions. Is this impression deceptive or is it correct?

In terms of the history of the past 100 years, this is certainly true, and it simply is the consequence of social development. At the time of natural cover, the breeder was limited to a certain radius, when considering a stallion.

With the introduction of fresh semen transfer, the restrictions on distance were gradually lifted, and finally completely abolished with the effective transfer of frozen semen. New media options make it possible for breeders to obtain information about stallions all over the world; the desire for individuality makes the use of these stallions interesting. An association that closes itself off to this spirit of the age is, on one hand, gambling away an opportunity for breeding progress and, on the other hand, excluding breeders who are particularly innovative in their thinking process. After all, it is not without reason that certain stallions have become the focus of interest, which then made individual solutions or a more flexible breeding program necessary.

The mare show system has remained almost unchanged over the past ten decades. Will it continue to exist for the next 100 years?

That is not quite correct. In the past 20 years in particular, there have been many innovations, especially for jumping mares, and currently some horse breeding clubs are making great efforts to increase the attractiveness of mare shows, for example by adding free-

running. Nevertheless, for at least two decades there has been a declining interest in presenting mares at shows. We seldom see new faces at mare shows, even though the active membership changes by about ten percent each year. For quite some time, this development has also been apparent in other animal species, and it seems to be society-related. It therefore deems necessary for the Hannoveraner Verband to develop complementary alternative events together with the horse breeding clubs. Show mergers do not have the sustainability that was expected of them. Keeping the smallest shows artificially alive does not promise sustainability either. If we do not change something, we will not stop the declining trend. We have to be creative.

The breeders are changing, how does that change the responsibilities of the Verband?

The breeders are changing mainly in two ways. Firstly, structurally – the proportion of breeders with an agricultural or family-farming background is declining. On the other hand, the breeding community is also changing socially, as described above in the example of the stallion selection. Submitting to

»We will remain a strong breeding association if only because of our tradition and our horse-loving breeders. In addition, we have solid and well-bred dam lines.«

Jochen Meyer, Allwörden, successful breeder and raiser of horses

According to the order of the Reichsbauernführer, the provincial association is affiliated to the Reichsnährstand.

The Regional Association is renamed to Association for Hannoveraner Warmblood Breeders e.V.

1934

A new law regulating the use of stallions is published in the Prussian statutes..

1935



rigid regulations is no longer accepted. The Hannoveraner Verband must therefore grant a lot more freedom today than in the past. On the other hand, it is not only new breeders who find it difficult, for example, to correctly interpret the flood of information on stallions and the mass of offers. The Verband has to support them and provide good, comprehensive and highly secured information. There is still room for improvement, but the first steps have been taken. This also includes the advisory service, which has been expanded in the past two years to include web seminars.

What is the breeder's perception of the services of the Hannoveraner Verband?

At the very least, every member demands that the necessary tasks around the bureaucratic breed requirements, e.g. maintaining the stud book, are competently offered. However, this alone cannot set us apart from others. Time-appropriate selection must be offered where it is in demand. The Hannoveraner Verband already supports the service concept with the uncomplicated "on the farm-support" regarding foal registrations but also studbook recordings - however, this calls for further expansion.

In summary: All familiar services as well as the new ones should meet the following requirements: They should be reliable, transparent, of short response times, flexible, simple and, if possible, offering a digital alternative. At the same time, we believe it is necessary to link the brand Hannoveraner with a feel-good character – this has been lacking in recent years and was regularly destroyed by internal disputes, which were brought out into the open.

So there is a need for understanding, recognition and professionalization among the actors of the Hannoveraner Verband so that the external presentation is also part of the service and has the feel-good character. In the next few years, it will be possible to stand out from other institutions by offering up-to-date horse evaluations. This includes applying newer systems such as the linear description,



Managing director Wilken Treu (left) and breeding manager Ulrich Hahne. Photo: Züngel

but also offering support to breeders with their specialized breeding program. An example of this is the necessary new edition of the Hannoveraner Program for breeding jumping horses.

There are many horse breeding associations; especially in Germany, we are far away from installing a central association. Which direction is the trend going?

For the most part, horse breeding is no longer regionally oriented, but worldwide. This applies to the breed as well as to the marketing of the breeding products. The Hannoveraner Verband is fully aware of the competition, especially from alternative, European breed associations, and takes it into account. There are many different opinions on the subject of a "Central German Association". On one hand, the argument of administrative costs is pending. On the other hand, the breeders have so far attached great importance to regional support through their "own brand" – although there are also concepts for this in

the context of further mergers. It is also certain that competition stimulates business, and various breeders use the opportunity to request the services of one or the other association, depending on the situation. In the medium term, the current system of breed associations seems to have established itself in federally operating Germany, and these are solid institutions. They often include marketing centres, which also contribute their share to wanting to remain independent. The need for selection is a completely different matter. Outside the question of a sensible selection in the system of competing associations is the fact that work is done jointly on superordinate topics because the animal numbers would be too small for rapid, data-based findings in just one individual breed association. The example of the development of genomic selection shows that the cooperation of individual breed associations, which compete with each other on many levels, goes so far that joint companies are founded for special sub-areas.



The Niedersachsenshalle Verden GmbH is founded. In 1949, the Hannoveraner Verband joins the association as an associate member. The "Bullenhalle" is built on the Loensweg, which, later on, becomes the site for Verden's auctions and Hannover's Riding and Driving School as the "old Niedersachsenshalle".

The law supporting animal breeding, which was enacted on March 17, dictates the state-run stallion licensing. Even state stud-stallions have to undergo the state-run licensing.

In Berlin, Alchemist by Amalfi/Colonus and rider Heinz Brand win Olympic team gold in show jumping.

A Conversation with Dr Jochen Wilkens

The goal is breeding progress

From 1982 until 2006, Dr. Jochen Wilkens played an important role in the development of the Hannoveraner Verband as the breeding manager and the managing director. Far-reaching decisions were made during this time. Even after his term in office, he remains closely connected to the Hannoveraner Verband and its breeders.

By Kira Kaschek

How did the Hannoveraner Verband develop during your term in office?

When I took over the position of breeding manager in 1982 and managing director in 1983, the office was still located in the building of the Chamber of Agriculture in Hannover. The merging of the office with the administration and auction department in Verden proved to be very expedient. In 1990, the executive board was anchored in the statutes. By providing information on all important business processes, the honorary board was integrated and gave the main board the necessary support in the day-to-day business. In 2005, the Hannoveraner Verband was recognized for Saxony-Anhalt. After preliminary discussions, the merger with the Association of Hessian Horse Breeders took place.

In your opinion, which were the most important changes in the area of breeding?

There was a fundamental change in the breeding goal in 1990. Due to a negative genetic relationship between the predisposition for dressage and for jumping, the breeding goal of the Hannoveraner Verband was changed. Since then we aim to breed horses with a main predisposition for the disciplines dressage, jumping or eventing. In 1985, the mares were tested in accordance with the "Hannoveraner mare performance test", in which the rideability and free-jumping were now also evaluated in addition to the basic gaits. In 1993, the "Hannoveraner program for breeding jumpers" was introduced.

After the amendment of the Animal Breeding Act in 1990, the licensing of young stallions

took place as a Verband's licensing. From 1986 onward, free-running and free-jumping and, from 2003 onward, lunging of the stallions were added to the licensing. Until 2000, ten stallions were automatically reserved for Celle's State Stud with the licensing of the stallion raisers. At the request of the private stallion owners' association, the Federal Cartel Office prohibited the Hannoveraner Verband from reserving stallions any longer because of market influence. A well-known, private stallion owner once told me that he would have viewed reserving the best stallions for the Hannoveraner breed as very positive. As of 2001, the sale of the licensed and unlicensed stallions took place at auction. The testing of the stallions in the 100-day test with the presentation of the results as an index had proven itself.

The "revolution of breeding through artificial insemination" at the end of the 1980s was of great importance for the achievement of higher breeding progress. It allowed breeders to breed their mares to stallions of their choice. In addition, more mares could be bred to positive sires.

How did the Hannoveraner change?

The Thoroughbred horse was of special significance during the time when the breeding goal changed from breeding a carriage horse to producing a horse strictly for riding purposes. Lauries Crusador xx, Prince Thatch xx and Sunlight xx as well as Matcho AA had a lasting positive influence. Through the use of stallions that had proven themselves in sport and through testing many broodmares, the riding aptitude of our horses improved

significantly. The horses have become more noble, elegant and light-footed.

What were the most important events for you?

Highlights were the stallion licensing with the stallion sales and the Herwart von der Decken-Show. The evaluation and commentary of the best young mares and stallions gave an overview of the quality of the "vintage of the year." At the mare shows in the country we gained an overview of the respective breedings, the heredity of the stallions. These shows also served as contact opportunities with the breeding community. Of course, the auctions were very important, especially the elite riding horse auctions and the elite foal auction.

How did your position change?

In the first years, the work as the breeding manager was clearly in the foreground. I got to know many breeders and volunteers through my judging responsibilities at mare inspections, mare shows and mare performance tests as well as at the stallion licencing. After the concentration of the Verband's work in Verden, the reorganization of the Verband with the studbook, the administration, the training and sales centre and the riding school, the management took on a broader scope.

Which responsibilities did you enjoy most?

I enjoyed judging at shows and maintaining contact with our breeders. For example, it was a pleasure for me to talk to the breeders after a show. I have special memories of the very positive impressions of the first vintages

An Animal Welfare Act is created. The term "moving thing" for a living creature was changed. Up to this time, the law saw animals as objects without feelings, which need not be protected against abuse.

1937



"50 years of Hannoveraner Studbook" was celebrated at the city hall of Hannover. The Chamber of Agriculture is the Verband's place of business.

The pulling power of mares is tested all over the entire breeding area.

1938

Congratulations to a big, round birthday

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Hannoveraner Verband, we, the Association of Pony- and small horse breeders Hannover, congratulate you and wish you all the best for the future. At the same time, our sincere thanks go to the Hannoveraner Verband, because we entertain an extremely good and fruitful cooperation for almost 75 years. In earlier years, the offices of both associations were on the same floor in the building of Hannover's Chamber of Agriculture on Johannsenstraße and the deputy breeding manager of the Hannoveraner Verband was also the breeding manager of the Pony- and small horse breeders association, which is a sign for the good cooperation.

For almost 50 years, the pony and small horse-section has been a consistent component of the official publication of the Verband, DER HANNOVERANER. In more recent years, the good cooperation also stands out due to the fact that both associations are members of the advisory board and the breeding board of the German Equestrian Federation in Warendorf and are represented as shareholders in the association called Pferdland Niedersachsen GmbH.

The Pony Association has been a guest at the impressive Niedersachsenhalle in Verden for over three decades with its young stallion-licensing. The pony association organizes the State Pony Show – this year on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Pony Verband – on the magnificent outdoor grounds for the second time.

Within the framework of the Hannoveraner Championships, the qualifying class for three- and four-year-old riding ponies has been taking place for several years. Perhaps further opportunities for cooperation will open up in the future.

We wish the Hannoveraner Verband a moving and impressive ceremony and a successful anniversary year.



Joachim Völksen
(Chairman)

of the state stud stallion Bolero in Freiburg, of Matcho AA on the Dobrock or of Weltmeyer at the shows in the Osnabrück/Emsland area. Those were joyous moments. Of course, this is especially true for the stallion approvals. From 1983 until 2000, I conducted the sale of the licensed stallions in sales negotiations between the stallion raisers and the prospective buyers. The negotiations took place in the offices of the Verband. Due to the closeness of the persons involved in the negotiations, there was a special climate with corresponding price results.

Which possible activities could be of importance for breeders in the future?

Firstly, I encourage the possibility of implementing a program, in which elite mares are bred to top stallions. The goal of the breeding program is to achieve optimal breeding progress in the population. On the mare side, the Verband largely leaves the selection to the breeders. The breeding management, however, sends a clear signal by awarding the Hannoveraner premium candidate-status. Furthermore, the following should apply:

Only the very best Hannoveraner premium mares are good enough for a targeted use in the breed. The breeding management could select and identify these best mares as "star mares" with the help of the computer. On the stallion side, in addition to the usual selection process (licensing and stallion performance test), I think there still is a lot of room to filter out the best out of the good stallions. Within the framework of a special breeding program, the highly positive sires, which the computer generated, could specifically be used for breeding to star mares. Perhaps such a program could be researched in more detail within the framework of a master's thesis.

The fact alone that currently about 50 percent of the mares in our association are covered by young stallions (e.g. with a 14-day test), means that a great deal of breed progress is wasted. Of course, selected young stallions should be used so that their heredity performance can be recognized. But a quarter of the broodmares should be sufficient for this. Perhaps the stallion owners

could offer a "cheaper stud fee" for these selected sires, and the Verband could assist with the training and/or marketing of the offspring. Secondly, "the bond with the breeders" according to the new statutes of the Hannoveraner Verband is a welcome goal. Among other things, this bond could also be promoted through the reactivated training program for young horses at the Training and Sales Centre (AAZ) through the contact with the breeding representatives of the horse breeding clubs about the rising generation of horses of club members.

The possibility of completing the mare performance test and the option of presenting horses for auctions could help breeders and the Verband. These two suggestions offer the possibility of strengthening the communication between the staff of the Verband and the breeders in the country. In the end, this could lead to doing more "good!" for breeders and for their horses. I wish the breeders and the staff of the Hannoveraner Verband a successful cooperation that leads to the continued/renewed bond with breeders. ✂



38 horses are sold at auction in Dresden. The average price amounts to 1,083 Reichsmark. Almost all horses are sold to people, who never before bought a Hannoveraner. "There is no question that this event is an advertisement for our horse," Dr. Schlie writes in the breeders' magazine "Hannoversches Pferd".

An auction of foals and yearlings takes place in Osnabrück. The date is September 20. It turns out that this date was too late. At this time, foal auctions already take place regularly in Dannenberg, Hohnstorf, Winsen and Lathen.



Pferde aus Hannover waren in der Kavallerie in ganz Europa hoch angesehen. Die Schlacht bei Königgrätz wurde 1866 zu einem der triumphalsten Siege in der deutschen Geschichte. Gemälde von Georg Bleibtreu, Wikimedia



Georg II August (1683 bis 1760), König von Großbritannien und Irland, Kurfürst von Hannover.

The history *A look back*

How did the founding of the Hannoveraner Verband, which is now active worldwide, come about in 1922? Where do its roots lie and has the breeding of horses always played a central role? A look into the past is definitely worthwhile. It shows how closely the Hannoveraner horse is linked to the history and foundation of Germany.

By Sina Stahlmeier

During the 18th century, the first national and state studs were established in Germany to manage the prevailing, uncontrollable copulation in the wild with the goal of building up a quality breed. In the region of Hannover, Elector George I of Hannover was a decisive, driving force in this system. With establishing the State Stud Celle on July 27, 1735, which King George II decreed, Lower Saxony had its first major stallion depot. He aimed his breeding efforts towards covering the increased demand for horses in farming and in the cavalry with self-bred horses. At best, breeding the prestigious horses from Hannover should also bring in money through sales to other royalty. At least as far as the reputation was concerned, the king's plan was a complete success, for the horses from the Hannoveraner breed were highly respected in the cavalry throughout Europe until the dethronement in 1866.

The first 13 state stud stallions still came from Holstein, as its state stud enjoyed a high reputation at that time. From 1743 until

about 1763, there were about 40 stallions stabled at the state stud; the numbers fluctuated over the years, for example, at the beginning of the Seven Year War in 1756, there were still 55 stallions at the location, which had to be decimated to 34 through sales due to the effects of the war.

It was not until around 1816 that the state stud was able to leave behind the difficult war times and the resulting low number of stallions and, at the same time, start the most important era and lay the foundation for the Hannoveraner breed. On one hand, the state stud manager at the time, August Baron von Spörcken, continuously increased the stock of state stud stallions, and on the other hand, he introduced clear instructions regarding the tracking of breedings in writing. Mare certificates, foal certificates and forms for stud registries supplemented the already existing breeding and foaling registers. All the efforts of August Spörcken and his successor, his brother Friedrich, were aimed at breeding a fundamental quality into the Han-

noveraner breed. In doing so, not only the stallions, which were repeatedly purchased from Holstein even in later times, were and still are crucial, but above all also the mare lines. A precise procedure was followed to find suitable mares to secure the gene pool.

Employees of the state stud, which were distributed throughout the breeding area, had to exactly know the mares in their district as well as those from private breeders and submit monthly reports on the horses. Afterwards, the state stud manager inspected them and the best were selected according to previously determined points to form a healthy and hereditary-strong mare line. This principle is followed in a similar way to this day, when exceptionally good mares are awarded the Hannoveraner premium status. While the sale of particularly good fillies, which met all the requirements of the then state stud manager, was to be expressly discouraged, August Spörcken specifically pushed the sale of colts. By 1839, von Spörcken thus managed to shape and initiate the pri-



The first central stallion licensing for Hannoveraner stallions took place in the barracks of the artillery in Verden. Before, districts organized regional licensings for Hannoveraner colts.

The district association of Osnabrück is divided into Osnabrück and Emsland. With the goal of merging both associations, the East Frisian Studbook and the Association of Breeders of Oldenburg Horses decide on mutual recognition.

1941

1942



Vor Gründung der Hannoverschen Stutbuchgesellschaft 1888 wurden Bedeckungs- und Fohlenscheine vom Königlich Preussischen Landgestüt Celle ausgestellt.



Das Hofgestüt Herrenhausen entstand 1844. Lange Zeit davor war es bereits bekannt für seine "Weißgeborenen". 1928 wurde es aufgelöst

vate as well as royally supported breed that it still pursues today. In the same year, the number of stallions stabilized at 200, 30 percent of which were Thoroughbreds.

Regarding private stallion husbandry, it took implementing the licensing regulations in 1844 before a clear increase in quality became visible. Nevertheless, already at that time the organization in private breeding stations was a first step towards the later Verband. The most obvious difference was that the private stallion facilities focused on breeding horses for their own needs in farming, while horses were available for sale to the army through the state stud. With the annexation of the Hanoverian Kingdom through Prussia in 1866, the horse breed suffered a severe setback. Traditional producer lines were taken out of the breeding program due to Prussia's financial savings program and were no longer available. With the end of Friedrich von Spörcken's term in office as state stud manager, the most important era of the Hannoveraner breed to date also came to an end in that same year. One had come to the realization that agricultural use was far more important in the harsh post-war and war years, which began after the Napoleonic Wars until 1815 and culminated in the German War with the Battle at Königgrätz on July 3, 1866.

Around 1888, which went down in history as the Year of the Three Emperors, clubs and associations were formed, all with the goal of securing and improving the breeding of the Hannoveraner. In 1834, for example, the "Hannover-Braunschweig-Oldenburg Associ-

ation for the Improvement of Domestic Horse Breeding" was founded. The refinement with English Thoroughbreds was also in the foreground of the association's idea. After its dissolution in 1863 due to a lack of funds, the "Verein zur Förderung der hannoverschen Landesperdezucht" (Association for the Promotion of Hannoveraner State Horse Breeding) took its place in 1867 – it was the first association with the words "Hannoversch" and "Pferd" in its name. Around this time, in 1871, after the foundation of the German Empire, Wilhelm I became the first German Emperor. The members of the association pursued the implicit goal of supporting Hannoveraner horse breeding with financial means while also involving the authorities through organizing shows and an award's system. Within the framework of the association's activities, the committed members recorded a breeding objective on paper: "The preservation of a strong, large, powerful horse, a capable carriage horse and, in addition, a useful military horse." Although this formulation corresponded with what state stud manager Friedrich von Spörcken had already been striving for earlier, it was nevertheless new at his time how the versatile use of the Hannoveraner horse had become most important in the breed.

Commission for Horse Breeding

In 1834, at the same time as the first horse breeding associations were founded, King George III established the Agricultural Society. As the forerunner of the later Chamber of Agriculture, its aim was to look after and advise farmers. As a superior institution, its

members kept a close eye on breeding successes within the country. With establishing a central committee in 1851, the society became even more important. The committee now united the existing main societies from the various provinces of the country. 23 representatives from all regions formed the central committee, which in turn united various "commissions" – including a commission for horse breeding.

The second supporting pillar of the later Hannoveraner Verband was the studbook. November 21, 1888 is the official founding date of the Hannoveraner studbook, which, according to its statutes, was to fulfill the purpose of "creating a public document which officially proves the origin of all first-rate broodmares and their offspring, which are presently available, without hereditary defects, suitable for breeding, produced by homogeneous ancestors and which closely resemble the type of the Hannoveraner halfbred horses. With the help of the records from the by then 150-year long history of the State Stud Celle, it was possible to determine pedigree requirements for the acceptance into the studbook at the time of its founding. Reports from back then show that the responsibility of the Chamber of Agriculture on behalf of the studbook society was merely the registration of mares. Nobody was yet striving to unite the mare owners in associations. In 1921, the horse breeding committee of the Chamber of Agriculture decided to establish an administrative committee in addition to the studbook commission. The course for the Hannoveraner Verband was now set.

In view of the World War II conditions, no mare shows are organized. The regional associations run inspections and award premiums as well as bind fillies and colts.

1943

The central licensings take place on the Dobrock for three years. As of 1948, they move permanently to Verden.

The issuing of Hannoveraner foal certificates was newly regulated. The conditions for red, blue and white foal certificates is defined.

1944

After the end of World War II, the Hannoveraner Verband and the studbook are newly defined. A committee with 50 people is formed, which are to represent the interests of the breeders; a meeting of the delegates is established. The districts of Braunschweig, Hamburg and Bremen are added to the Verband.

1947

The dam lines

The foundation

They are the most valuable possession of the Hannoveraner Verband; they are truly Hannoveraner and remain a source of identity even though the genetics are currently interchangeable between the breeding associations: They are the Hannoveraner dam lines.

By Ulrich Hahne

There are traditions about the Hannoveraner horse breed going back to the 17th century. Records about a systematic horse breed from the 15th and 16th century exist in the Earldom Hoya. With the founding of the State Stud Celle in 1735, pedigree papers were issued, which included the paternal lineage. With the founding of the Hannoveraner studbook in 1888, the dam side of the pedigree was finally examined, registered and selected. For the first time, the identity of the mares was documented and names were issued.

Since the mares had already been issued pedigree papers, higher demands could be applied to registering than in other breeds. Hannover has always remained loyal to this principle. The studbook, which was founded in 1888 with 1,415 registered mares, became the basis for the system of dam lines, which was introduced only a little over 100 years later. A special situation resulted with the merger of the Hannoveraner Verband and the

East Frisian Studbook in 1975. The dam lines, which go back to the foundation mares of the East Frisian studbook with the registration beginning in 1897, are combined in the region East Friesland.

The importance of the dam lines was never in question. The knowledge about their value was passed on from one generation to the next on the breeding farms. There still are dam lines today, which remained on the same breeding farm from the time of its origin until now. At the latest with the structural change within the community of breeders, it became necessary to establish a dam line-system to be able to securely preserve this knowledge in the community of breeders. Unlike the Holstein Association or the Trakehner Association, the Hannoveraner Verband is not provided with an old system of recording dam lines by numbers, which in part had grown over a period of more than 100 years. In addition to painstakingly identifying the origins of today's dam lines, the biggest challenge was to work

out a retainable system. Wilken Treu, who today is the managing director of the Hannoveraner Verband, dealt with these questions in 2007 within the framework of his master thesis "Identifying foundation mares and their families in the Hannoveraner Warmblood breed" during his time at the University of Göttingen. Based on this thesis, the Hannoveraner system of dam lines was introduced in 2010. Wilken Treu was able to identify a total of 1,533 dam lines with Hannoveraner origins. Due to permanently or temporarily unused lines and newly activated lines, there currently are 1,858. It appears that the region of Stade has a special significance for the origins of the Hannoveraner breed. With 924 lines, about half of all dam lines originated in this region, which reaches from Lower Saxony's western coast of the North Sea to Verden. Today these lines are spread all over the world. With the nomenclature of the dam lines, the Hannoveraner Verband tried portraying the regional association with the origins.

To be able to better remember more than 1,000 newly introduced dam lines all at once, it was decided not to use a numeric system but to consider the registration name of the first mare, when naming the descendants. With dam lines, which trace back to a main studbook mare, the name of such mare was used. In the very rare event of the same name, with the younger line, the name of the oldest daughter was used as the line's name. With dam lines, which go back to studbook and pre-studbook mares without names, the dam line was named after the first main studbook

The foundation mare

The Hannoveraner dam lines were named after the first registered mare. The oldest dam line is the dam line of Note from 1872, followed by dam lines with such sonorous names as Willkür, Denkerin, Schlingpflanze, Schlupfwespe, Flügelhaube, Jagdspinne, Jugendgespielin, Schaumwooge, Haubenlerche, Namenlose, Fahnenfest, Flintenkugel, Danksagung, Schwofkönigin, Abwicklung, Nachfrage, Sonntagsruhe, Arztkunde, Jüngerlein, Forscherleid, Grubenfahrt, Alltagsmuse, Schleifmühle, Täuschung, Festungszeit, Schikane, Notlage, Grubenfest, Fliegenauge, Kanonenfutter, Fruchternte, Alpenschnepe, Champagnerlicht, Schußzeit, Denkerherz, Senderlaune, Unterpand, Sportwiese, Funkausstellung, Dulderkresse, Rente, Speerspitze, Gerüst or Zukunft.

The Hannoveraner riding and driving school was set up in Verden in the barracks at the Brunnenweg. Sons and daughters of breeders obtain the opportunity to learn how to ride. This develops into a great opportunity for training, which finds approval far beyond the borders of Hannover.

After the currency reform and the increasing motorization in farming, the breeding goal is adjusted: "A correct, noble warmblood, which is just as much suitable for farming as it is suitable for riding of any kind."

1948





She bears the name of her ancestor: Finnländerin by Fidertanz/Donnerhall is on the road to success in the international arena with Madeleine Vrees-Witte.



One of the most successful representatives of the dam line of Norm, it was the 1947 born mare Feldblümchen by Feldhahn/Allwieder. Breeding her to Hannover's stallion of the century Gotthard caused the athletic rise of this line.



At the beginning of the pedigree of Bundeschampion and World Champion So Unique by Sezuan/Donnerhall is the foundation mare Noria. Photos: Lafrentz

mare. In the event that a branch that is still active today, led via a younger mare, then her name was used. The breeding farm, its name, town and district at the time of the registration of the first mare of a particular dam line is added to the name of the line. This is a deliberate effort to remember those families of breeders, which over centuries made the Hannoveraner horse great. The descriptions gain in value especially then when a dam line resides at the same breeding farm from its origin until today, for instance the line of Norm, Habermann, Hänigsen (Hannover), and the line of Noria, Klausung, St. Hülfe (Diepholz). Both lines celebrated the 100-year relationship with their breeder family. The line of Note, Lohmann, Rieda (Verden) is one of the oldest dam lines of all. Since 140 years, this line has been maintained by the same breeder. And then there is the line of Jugendgepielin, which is deeply rooted with Family Bösch in Bülkau (Neuhaus) since 1891. This is what we call Hannoveraner breeder tradition.

The road to success are often different for different dam lines. As already mentioned, some dam lines resided at the breeding farm of their origin and blossomed there. Other dam lines changed breeding farms and continued developing before they made a breakthrough. Almost all very successful dam lines have one thing in common though: At some point there is the one mare, which initiates success. A key mare, to which most successful horses out of

a line go back to. For the above mentioned dam line of Norm, it was the 1947 born mare Feldblümchen by Feldhahn/Allwieder. Breeding her to Hannover's stallion of the century Gotthard caused the athletic rise of this line.

»Also in the future it will be easier to breed a good horse out of a significant dam line than to breed a good horse from a dam line with little importance.«

Ulrich Hahne

In some dam lines, the key mare already imprinted her family, before the dam line-system was introduced, and the line was then named after her. The dam line of Algave was already known by the name Alsterröschen. This 1961-born daughter of Agram/Agram out of the breeding program of Franz Lüth, Dannenberg, still today is a symbolic representative of the jumping horse breeding program in Dannenberg. Since the eighties, this mare family delivers time and again first-rate jumpers.

What Alsterröschen means to the breeding of jumpers, Finnländerin is to the breeding of dressage horses. She also strongly influenced the dam line, which was later named after her mare of origin Juromette, beyond the borders of the breeding area. Finnländerin by Flirt/Kirkland, born in 1930, first lived in Westphalia and became part of the breeding program of Vornholz. She is an ancestress of stallions like Radetzky, Don Schufro, Fürst Toto and Escanto PS. She influenced the breed for more than 70 years.

The Hannoveraner dam lines will remain the identity of the Hannoveraner breed. They will develop differently. The successful lines will continue to be predominantly successful, because success-oriented breeders made them the basis of their work and will continue to do so. New successful lines may develop, if patience, luck and an aptitude for breeding horses lead to the creation of a key mare in a – so far – less successful dam line. A modern selection method like the genomic selection might very well support this in the future. This selection method will, however, not turn upside down the basic breeding work of the past more than 100 years, nor will it change the foundation, which generations of Hannoveraner breeders laid. It will remain easier – also in the future – to breed a good horse out of a significant line than to breed a good horse out of a line with little importance. ✂



The first riding horse auction takes place in Verden under the management of Hans Joachim Köhler. The breeders observe, what happens at the Holzmarkt-Barracks, and see which horses are in demand. This accelerates the development from breeding a work horse to breeding a riding horse.

The first Otto Ohmstedt-Show at a district level takes place. Later the name of the show changes to Louis Wiegels- and then to Friedrich Jahncke-Show. It takes place in irregular intervals.



Das Verbandsgebäude an der Lindhooper Straße in Verden Photo:Lafrenz

The structure of the Verband

Structure on three levels

Since its foundation, the Hannoveraner Verband has been divided into three levels. There is the entire Verband; then there are national district associations and beneath those are local horse breeding clubs.

By Dr. Henrik von der Ahe

The district associations of Braunschweig, Hanover, Hesse/South Germany, Lüneburg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Osnabrück/Emsland, East Frisia/Oldenburg, Stade and International form the regional middle level between the Verband's headquarters and the horse breeding clubs. As an authority in the region, it is their responsibility to accompany and develop the activities in the horse breeding clubs in an advisory capacity, to take up and examine the opinions of their breeders and, if necessary, to represent them in front

of the Hannoveraner Verband. In addition, they are responsible for organizing the Friedrich Jahncke-Shows (formerly Louis Wiegels- and Otto Ohmstedt-Shows).

It is, for example, the responsibility of the horse breeding clubs to inform the breeders about Verband's activities, to form opinions at the basis and to represent them in the district association or in front of the entire Verband; they also organize local events (mare shows, mare performance tests and foal

shows). Mainly due to restructuring farming, which often resulted in terminating the horse breeding programs on many farms, the number of club members developed very differently. In order to put club activities on a broader basis, neighboring clubs often merged. Study groups were also formed to fulfill tasks.

Mergers and expansions

An important topic in the history of the Verband was undoubtedly the merger of the tra-

"Breed the good mares! Every well-bred mare with an impeccable temperament should be sent to a stallion!" While the number of coverings in the previous year had become less by 60 in comparison to 1948, on May 1 of this year, the coverings had reached only 50 percent of the coverings on May 1, 1949.

1950



The first autumn auction takes place in October in the newly built Niedersachsenhalle. The Hannoveraner riding and driving school also moves into the stables on the Lönsweg.

1951

ditional East Frisian Studbook with that of the Association of Hannoveraner Warmblood Breeders (1964 to 1975). The implementation of this affiliation had a profound significance and had to be approached cautiously. The merger of these two associations, which took eleven years, was carried out in three steps: A working agreement between both associations (1964), the transfer of the studbook- management of the East Frisian Studbook from the north to Hannover (1967) and the merger of the East Frisian Studbook with the Association of Hannoveraner Warmblood Breeders (1975). The recognition of the Hannoveraner Verband in Schleswig-Holstein followed in 1982 and in Saxony-Anhalt and Hesse in 2005.

As a result of the announcement of plans to expand the breeding area to Hesse at the beginning of 2005, confidential discussions took place between the leaders of both associations about a possible merger. After an extensive factual examination of the interrelations, the board of the Hannoveraner Verband came out in favor of a merger. On the general meeting at the beginning of April in 2005, the concept of both associations was approved with only a few dissenting votes. Since not all Hessian mares and stallions fulfilled the pedigree requirements for registration in the Hannoveraner main studbook or the stallion book I, the Hannoveraner Verband agreed to continue the previous Hessian studbook "Zuchtbuch für Hessisches Warmblut" for a transitional period of four years and to continue applying the Hessian brand to the corresponding foals. This concession contributed to the fact that on June 1, 2005, the Meeting of the Delegates of the Hessian Association voted unanimously in favor of the merger. On June 6, 2005, an extraordinary delegates' meeting of the Hannoveraner Verband also approved the merger agreement. This also resulted in the takeover of the horse centre in Alsfeld. The former Hessian Association was incorporated into the Hannoveraner Verband as a new district association.

At the beginning of 2000, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture pointed out to the

Hannoveraner Verband that in order for the Verband to look after breeders locally in their states, the corresponding state recognition of the Hannoveraner Verband in these states was a requirement. This procedure applied to all states, which until then did not belong to the recognized breeding area.

On the basis of the background described above, in April 2007 the Delegates' Meeting of the Association decided that the Hannoveraner Verband should become recognized nationwide. This changed strategy, which includes leaving behind the traditional, region-based allocation of riding horse breeding areas, ended with the nationwide extension of the breeding area. These decisions are among the most fundamental and far-reaching in the history of the Verband: At one stroke, there no longer were any limits to the activities of the Hannoveraner Verband.

Separating Division A (riding horses) of the Rheinisch Horse Studbook to become part of the Hannoveraner Verband was decided by both associations at their respective delegates' meetings in December of 2014. Thus, about 1,100 members of the Rheinisch Studbook became members of the Hannoveraner Verband. Since then the Rheinisch Studbook is continued in the Hannoveraner Verband. Due to the merger with the Hessian Association as well as the inclusion of Division A of the Rheinisch Association and the new formation of district associations and horse breeding clubs also in other German states, the number of breeders there has increased considerably and almost compensated for the decline in the home state. Lower Saxony, however, remains the "core breeding area" of the Hannoveraner horse and its fundamental basis.

Prospects and opportunities:

The mergers with the horse breeding associations from Hesse and the Rhineland have shown that the care of an entire breeding area on a national basis is only possible if it is built on the existing structures and if existing resources can be used. Accordingly, a structural change can only succeed if bridges are built between the existing and the new structures.

It is difficult to say what the future holds for the horse breeding association-landscape in Germany. Possible scenarios for the future could be:

- » Reduction in the number of associations through mergers
- » Cooperations between associations on individual performance levels while retaining their own association's sovereignty and identity (e.g. joint marketing)
- » Services offered by one federation to other federations (e. g. administrative tasks of managing the studbook).
- » New ways of cooperation between sport and breed associations.

In the future it will be important to ensure efficiency and offer an array of services to the breeders through economic strength. The Hannoveraner Verband has prepared itself for this development and already confirmed with two mergers that it will be able to meet future requirements. »

»In the future it will be important to ensure efficiency and offer an array of services to the breeders through economic strength.«

Dr. Henrik von der Ahe

In the statutes, the state of Lower Saxony, the city states of Hamburg and Bremen as well as smaller, bordering areas are named as the breeding area. East Frisia and the area of Oldenburg have no regional subdivisions.

1951



At the Olympic Games in Helsinki, Hannover provides three horses for the German military team, which wins the silver medal: Klaus Wagner's Dachs by Freddy II/Gleitflug, Dr. W. Basin's Hubertus by Goldfisch/Alt-könig and Otto Rothe's Trux von Kamax by Faulkner II/Goldfisch.

1952

The international breeding program

Success all over the world

Breeders all over the world are dedicated to the Hannoveraner horse. In addition to four daughter societies, there are numerous horse breeding clubs.

By Juliana Küspert

After World War II, there was an increase in the export of Hannoveraner breeding horses – initiatives for breeding original Hannoveraner were formed in various countries. Daughter societies of the Hannoveraner Verband were established because of the desire to register the offspring of imported Hannoveraner as Hannoveraner. This project was mostly driven by emigrant breeders or enthusiastic supporters of the Hannoveraner horse. In addition to the daughter societies, horse breeding clubs were formed in some countries from 2007 onward due to the structural changes in the core breeding area of the Hannoveraner Verband. The daughter societies

and horse breeding clubs are represented by the district association called "Hannoveraner International", which was founded in Verden in 2011.

Daughter societies

The "American Hanoverian Society", AHS for short, with its headquarters in Lexington, was founded as early as 1978 with 40 members. At the same time, the Hannoveraner Verband was also active in Northamerica. This led intermittently to confusion among breeders and members. In 1995, the AHS was accepted as a daughter society and

from then on was solely responsible for managing the Hannoveraner breed in the USA. The "strong bond and mutually beneficial relationship", as the AHS writes on its homepage, continues to this day. With the support from Verden, the AHS was able to develop very well. Hundreds of foals are registered every year, the annual "Inspection Tour" is both a challenge and a highlight.

The Hannoveraner Verband supports the breeders since the 1970s. The "British Hanoverian Horse Society" (BHHS) was founded in 1992 and since then maintains its own studbook. For decades, breeders in Great

20

Roger Ballmann

Breeder and representative in Belgium

»Belgian sport horse breeding is mainly focused on show jumping, with dressage breeding still developing. The proximity to Germany gives breeders access to top stallions that are not present in Belgium, and the supervision by the Hannoveraner Verband supports Belgian breeding.«



Successfully competing internationally with rider Donaat Brondeel, Breemersen Adorado is a much sought-after stallion in Belgium. Photo: Archive

Inga Hamilton

President "Eastern Canada Hanoverian Breeders Club"

»In any case, the Hannoveraner is a piece of home for me! I grew up near Verden and learned to vault on a Hannoveraner. After my time in Canada, I was asked if I could take over the management of the club, so I stayed in Canada.«



Inga Hamilton is successful in North America in the saddle of the stallion Fabregas. Photo: Private

A lack of space in the Niedersachsenhalle. Due to the high demand for tickets to the autumn auction, the entire collection was presented in a so-called dress rehearsal one day prior to the auction. Both top sellers sold to Belgium.

1953



A new animal breeding act requires a performance test for the dams of stallions as a prerequisite for a colt to be admitted to the licensing.

1954

Britain had the choice of being a member of the BHHS and/or the Hannoveraner Verband, which emphasized the high level of friendly cooperation – it was never a matter of competition. Since June 30, 2021, the Hannoveraner Verband is no longer active in Great Britain due to Brexit, which did not, however, diminish the cooperation. Every year, representatives from the Verband travel to the Hannoveraner Show and licensing, where the best British Hannoveraner of every age group are determined.

With the idea of advancing sport horse breeding in New Zealand through selectively breeding Hannoveraner sires to native Thoroughbred mares, breeders came together in 1977 to form the "Hanoverian Society of New Zealand". In 1987 the name changed to "Hanoverian Society of New Zealand and Australia", before today's daughter society "New Zealand Hanoverian Society" (NZHS) was founded in 1993.

By importing Hannoveraner stallions and by using frozen semen of proven sires, a Hannoveraner breed developed in New Zealand, which is strongly influenced by Thoroughbred blood.

In Australia, Hannoveraner sires have also been increasingly bred to Thoroughbred mares since the 1970s. One or the other emigrant had brought his original Hannoveraner mares to Australia and developed his breeding program without the use of Thoroughbreds. Due to the separation from New Zealand, the "Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia" (HNSA) was founded in 1993. A good mare base has been built up in Australia over decades, and through the use of frozen semen, imported or locally bred stallions by Australian breeders, this mare base continues to expand.

Horse Breeding Clubs

Despite its proximity to the USA, the Hannoveraner breed in Canada has developed in a different direction. While in the USA an independent association was founded quite early, it was important to the Canadian breeders to remain direct members of the Hannoveraner Verband. Still today, the headquarters of the Verband look after the breeders in Canada – with great support from the horse breeding clubs "Canada East" and "Canada West", the oldest horse breeding clubs outside Ger-

many. These were established as early as the 1990s and merged in 2008 with the name Canadian Hanoverian Society, which, however, is not an independent breed society. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which uses almost exclusively black Hannoveraner, must also be mentioned here. Representatives of the RCMP regularly come to Verden to look for more horses for their breeding program. The RCMP's exhibitions in 2012 in the Niedersachsenhalle in Verden and on the occasion of the 60th crown jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in England remain unforgettable.

The Hannoveraner breed in France has put more focus on dressage lines. Because of the rather jumping-oriented Selle Français, breeders in France wanted an alternative for breeding a dressage horse and so the horse breeding club "Association Française des Eleveurs et des Amis du Cheval Hanoverian" was founded in 2007. If you look at the success lists of young horses, you will find more and more French and German Hannoveraner.

Numerous internationally successful Hannoveraner come from Italy; especially in the early days, Hannoveraner with a lot of jumping

Ashley Racette
Breeder with the AHS

»I think it's very important to support our North American Stallion owners. The amount of time, effort, and money they put into bringing wonderful stallions over for us to use is significant. I happily support our North American Stallion owners every year. Without great fresh semen options, breeding would be very difficult.«



Highly decorated Hannoveraner celebrate successes at shows and in competition in the US. Photo: AHS

Mag. Dr. Susanna Kleindienst
Breeder from Austria

»I consider my greatest success in breeding to be the fact that I have succeeded in bringing outstanding horses into the sport in the three main disciplines. These include Vally K, five-year old Vice Bundeschampionesse, Dia Divina FRH by Diacontinus/Ryon d'Anzex, Hannoveraner Championesse, and Sohn der Erde FRH by Salz der Erde/Contender, finalist of the World Championships of young show jumpers.«



Vally K competes internationally with Nadine Marz. after second Place at the Bundeschampiona. Photo: Lafrentz

For the first time, a German state stud travels to a foreign country for an exhibition during a horse show. 40 stallions from Celle were presented at the CHIO in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. the exhibit included a dressage and a jumping quadrille as well as the presentation of two stallions in long lines.

1955

In the spring, the top selling price on Verden's auction has five-digits for the first time. Firlfanz by Friesenkoenig sold for 10,000 German Marks and became a highly successful jumper.

1956



ability were specifically purchased and then used for breeding. Over decades, the interest in dressage horses increased and thus the breeding of dressage-oriented Hannoveraner increased as well. The country, which has many equestrian enthusiasts but only a small targeted breeding program, has made a name for itself with its top Hannoveraner horses. The Italian horse breeding club "Allevatori Hannoveraner Italia" exists since 2009.

Due to the geographical proximity of Denmark to Germany, the influence of the Hannoveraner in Denmark's breeding program is clearly visible. Nevertheless, the acceptance of stallions and mares differs from the system in Germany, which brings always new members to the local Hannoveraner horse breeding club and thus to the Verband. The horse breeding club "Hannoveraner Avlsforeningen i Danmark" exists since 2008. The beginnings of the Hannoveraner breed in Sweden go back to 1924. In addition to importing Hannoveraner for the sport and for breeding, which, in the beginning, the State Stud Flyinge mainly carried out, imported

Hannoveraner were used as a base for the breeding program. The horse breeding club "Svenska Hannoveranerklubben" was founded in 2011. The annual highlight is the Hannoveraner Day in Laholm with a mare performance test, a mare and foal show. The Hannoveraner breeding program in Finland is still in its infancy. However, thanks to the commitment of the Finnish breeders, the breed is constantly growing and the "Finish Hanoverian Society" and the "European Breeding Event Finland" were established. At this event, several breeding associations organize their shows and performance tests under the auspices of the Finnish Hannoveraner breeders.

Breeding with imported Hannoveraner started in Russia already in the early 1960s, initially in a separately administered studbook. Thanks to the initiative of very committed friends of the Hannoveraner horse, the Hannoveraner breed is becoming more and more active. Since 2007, the breeders have been looked after by the horse breeding club "Hanoverian Club Russia". The breeding of sport horses in South Africa is very popular; the

basis for this was essentially the Hannoveraner horse. As early as 1985, there was a kind of local horse breeding club. Since 2011, the Hannoveraner breeders from South Africa belong to the "South Africa Hannoveraner Breeders Association".

The Hannoveraner Verband is active in many other countries without being represented by a daughter societies or horse breeding club. The development of the Hannoveraner breed in the individual countries is mostly due to the initiative of enthusiastic breeders or breeding farms or the broad mass of Hannoveraner breeders. Countries with a large active breeding community include Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, the Czech Republic and the Ukraine. The list can be continued with Croatia, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary. Thus, the breeding program for the Hannoveraner and for the Rheinisch Riding Horse is recognized in a total of 23 countries in its anniversary year 2022, and in four other countries, daughter societies represent the Hannoveraner Verband. ✂

Peta J. Bradley
Breeder from Australia

»Australian Hannoveraner are predominantly bred for dressage as a competition sport. The Hannoveraner with a significant percentage of the right thoroughbred blood was preferred, as they have the 'go' button and sensitivity needed for excellence in sporting performance.«



Peta Bradley with Chateau Marmot. Photo: Crockett

Marjorie Haus
Breeder and president "Canadian Hanoverian Society"

»I find it impressive that, year after year, Canadian Hannoveraner breeders consistently produce top quality horses. Although our country is vast geographically, the Hannoveraner community is tight-knit. I am fortunate to be a part of that group!«

Ann-Kathrin Winter
Breeder and president "Svenska Hannoveranerklubben"

»It was in 1999 when we started with Hannoveraner breeding here. The first one was a jumping stallion by Drosselklang II/Zeus bred by the Olthoff family. Before that, the Hannoveraner here in Sweden were imported.«



Annual Highlight: the Hannoveraner Day in Laholm. Photo: Privat

In Hamburg, Hannoveraner win the German Jumping and the Dressage Derby. While Bachus and Alwin Schockemöhle win over fences, Verden's auction participant Doublet and Willi Schultheis win gold in the dressage ring.

1957



The State Studs Osnabrück and Harzburg are dissolved. Even though it was discussed many times, the end came as a surprise. Osnabrück was considered to be one of the most efficiently run state studs.

1958

The legal framework

Europe and its laws

The legal framework is a factor, which significantly influenced the breeding of horses. It changed tremendously over the past decades. Looking at the year 1984 in comparison to today gives you a good indication of the changes.

By Dr. Ludwig Christmann

The situation in 1984:

»»»

The licensing was state-run by the Chamber of Agriculture.

»»»

A state commission supervised the stallion performance tests.

»»»

At the stallion licensing, the state by means of the State Stud Celle had the right of first refusal on the best stallions.

»»»

The imperial decree applied to horse sales

»»»

The field of activities for horse breeding associations was relatively small. The regional associations had sort of a monopoly there.

»Europe was far away.«

»Today EU-laws and regulations are in effect for all significant areas.«

The result

»»»

The breeding programs have become more liberal.

»»»

Instead of protecting territories, there is more competition.

»»»

Consumer protection increases in importance.

»»»

The issue of breeding for performance does not play much of a role within the legal framework; the focus on the wellbeing of the animals, on the other hand, has increased a lot.

There are good reasons for many measures. Not everything what was thought to be good, was well executed. A well-known example is the set of rules regarding the sale of horses. The missing uniformity in the interpretation of the EU-specifications in the various countries is also problematic. This becomes evident when you operate in many countries like the Hannoveraner Verband does. It is at times

adventurous how different some EU-regulations are interpreted in some countries. Instead of legal assurance, this leads to uncertainty and inequality.

Hence it will continue to be important that the German Equestrian Federation (FN), the riding and breeding clubs and associations maintain a close connection to politics in or-

der to also for the future guarantee the breeding of horses and its competitive and animal-friendly use in a reasonable legal framework.

The breed management cautions for a downright scary increase in the use of Thoroughbreds. It is decided not to increase the number of Thoroughbred stallions – except for the breeding of halfbred racehorses – and to no longer accept horses in auctions that are bred for racing.

1959



The new decade takes a disappointing start. The numbers of horses have never before been so bad. It applies to all German breeding areas.

The stallion Absatz by Abglanz/Landeck is born on the farm of Willi Brunkhorst in Buxtehude. He becomes a foundation sire in the Hannoveraner breed.

1960

The selection of stallions

Licensing and testing

For more than 150 years, stallions are strictly selected for the Hannoveraner breed. Time and again the stallion licensings were adapted to the breeding objective and the requirements. In the beginning, the future sires had to mainly meet pedigree and health requirements; in the 20th century performance tests were added. In the beginning, the focus was on characteristics that were important for working and draft-horses; later aspects regarding riding and sport horses were added.

By Ulrich Hahne



Since 1948, the licensing of the Hannoveraner Verband has taken place in Verden. The triangular track at the old Niedersachsenhalle on Lönsweg was a centre of attraction for breeders from near and far. Photo: Menzendorff

The first selection instrument that was introduced for stallions, was the licensing. When the Hannoveraner Verband was founded, the first licensing regulations were already 78 years old and had been revised several times. At that time, a four-generation pedigree was required. there were demands on the health of the horse; no hereditary defects were accepted. The licensing as a necessary selection step for being allowed to breed only applied to private stallions, however. It was not until the state licensing was introduced in 1936 that the licensing requirements also applied to state stud stallions.

Verden was the venue of a central licensing for the first time in 1941. While this licensing for the entire Hannoveraner Verband was

held on the Dobrock from 1944 to 1947, the equestrian town has been and still is the venue for the Hannoveraner licensing without interruption since 1948. Since 1949, there is a pre-selection in place.

Until 1990, the licensing as the first selection step for stallions was the responsibility of the state, and only after 1990, the final responsibility was transferred to the associations. Until the mid 1980s, the requirements for the licensing regarding the presentation of the stallions remained almost unchanged. The walk and trot as well as the conformation were evaluated in hand. Almost 150 years after the first licensing regulations were issued, the presentation of the stallions was extended to include free-running and

free-jumping on a voluntary basis in Verden in 1985.

Compared to the first 150 years, the further development of the licensing in the following period was fast-paced. Already one year later, in 1986, free-running and free-jumping were obligatory. In 2003, the stallions were presented on the lunge-line for the first time. In the beginning, this was only done at the stallion sales and initially had no influence on the stallion licensing. This changed in 2016 and since then lunging has been an integral part of the licensing. the procedures regarding free-jumping and free-running were repeatedly adapted and changed. The specialization of the breed in the disciplines of dressage and jumping finally led to diffe-

For the first time, a German rider wins the Grand Prix at the CHIO in Aachen. Josef Neckermann makes Asbach by Anilin/Spinck dance through the ring.



The 25th anniversary auction in Verden ends with a record result. Seven horses sell for more than 10,000 German Marks; the average price amounts to 7,233 German Marks.

1961

1961

Licensing champions 2007: Soliman de Hus by Sandro Hit/Donnerhall (left) and Cosinhus de Hus by Cornet Obolensky/Gambler's Cup xx. Photo: Beelitz



»The specialisation of the breeding in the disciplines of dressage and show jumping has led to different demands on the stallions.«

Ulrich Hahne

Finally a considerable increase in breedings again. Compared to last year, about one-third more mares are brought to stallions to be bred. Sales through the Verband, however, reflect a decrease.

1962



Gogol by Gote/Flügelmann is the first young stallion to be rewarded as the best stallion of his vintage after the approval and the completion of his stallion performance test. From 1985 until 2007, this award is called the Burchard Müller-Prize.

1963

rent requirements for the stallions in more recent times. The weighting of the scores for jumping stallions changed in 2020. In addition, separate, discipline-related licensing commissions go about their work, and since 2021 there even are separate licensing events for dressage and jumping stallions. Today, jumping stallions are no longer shown on the lunge-line and in 2021, dressage stallions had to jump for the last time at Verden's licensing.

In Hannover, the licensing of young stallions is inseparably linked to the stallion sales. Even today, the young stallions are not yet in the hands of the stallion owners at the time of this first selection stage, but are in the possession of breeders or, in part, very professionally operating horse people who raise youngsters especially colts. In order to make the best stallions of a year available to the Hannoveraner breeders, in 1969, the State Stud Celle was granted a right of first refusal for five stallions. In 1976, Celle's first lot was established, a preemptive right to purchase ten stallions at more or less fixed prices. This so-called Celle's lot was also the premium lot from which the winning stallion was selected. The Association of Private Hannoveraner Stallion Owners contested this competitive advantage of the State Stud before the Federal Cartel Office, which led to the abolition of this privilege in 2001. Since then, the forces of the free market determine the prices and future stationing of the young stallions.

A champion stallion at Verden's licensing was last proclaimed in 2007. Since 2008, the best of a vintage are presented together in a group of premium stallions. Many years later, the KWPN followed this Hannoveraner example for the same reasons, namely not to focus on one single stallion after the very first selection stage.

Many changes of the past 20 years primarily served the improvement of the presentation of the stallions and with that also the marketing and not necessarily the selection. Only the changes of the past years (specialization of the commissions, changes in the weighting of the scores for jumping stallions in fa-

vor of jumping) also influenced the selection. In addition, the linear description, which was introduced to the licensing in 2021, provides breeders with more detailed information on the stallions.

Today, the licensing of young stallions is criticized in connection with the guideline of Animal Welfare in the Equestrian Sport regarding the early timing of the selection and the intensity of the preparation for it. If the existing system and its basic features are to be maintained, for its further development, aspects

Arend Kamphorst

Breeding farm Dree Boeken, Prieros

»Comparing the international performances of all breeds, Hannoveraner horses perform at a good level in dressage, as well as in jumping and in eventing. Specializing the licensing commission – which in my opinion came much too late – will contribute to this.

If you want to compete at the top, the pre-disposition and the health play a significant role. It is not a matter of filtering out the most beautiful stallion; instead we must find the performance horses. We cannot forget the exterior, but it is not the first priority. The demands at the highest level are not to be underestimated; the approval commission must apply very strict standards. Therefore we need people on the licensing commission, who gained experience on international show grounds and who can also assess a young horse.

Way too many horses drop out because of health problems. Therefore, since decades, I count on stallions which perform or have performed well and a lot and I fare well with it.«

of horse welfare must be taken into account in addition to the aspects of selection and marketing. This can only succeed if all German breed associations as well as licensing commissions, stallion owners, trainers and buyers are prepared to adapt to the necessary changes and accept a more youthful horse in a more youthful presentation.

The development of the stallion performance test as a second selection step shows clear parallels to the licensing in some essential points. Once in the hands of the state and characterized by great continuity, it is currently in the hands of the breed associations and is subject to great change, which did not always lead to an improvement of the selection. The history of the stallion performance test is not as old as the history of licensing. In accordance with an order of the Prussian stud administration, the first stallion testing centres started operating in Zwion/Georgenburg in 1926 and in Westercelle in 1927. In accordance with the use of the horses at that time, steadfast performance and versatility, including the test in front of the sled, were in the foreground of the performance test. There was a general training and schooling plan that left little room for individual care of stallions, which is more common today. Only gradually, requirements for the competition sport found greater consideration. Until 1975, minimum performances were required, for example, for the length of the stride or for the completion of a certain distance in a certain time. Penalty points were given for negative deviations. The result of the stallion performance test was therefore shown in penalty points.

Index and sport results

In 1975, the index was introduced. This index showed the result of the stallion performance test on the basis of scores in a relative number to the quality of the test group. Stallions with an index of more than 100 points were above the average of the test group, stallions with an index under 100 points were below the average. In 2002, the principle of the station test was partially abandoned. In addition to the 70-day test, which was still offered, a combination of different test parts over a pe-

The Hannoveraner Verband and the East Frisian Studbook come to a labor agreement with the goal of merging.

The sales of both Verden auctions crack the million-mark: The sales amount to 1,011,000 German Marks.

1964

The Otto Ohmstedt-Show takes place in Bremervörde. The sought-after prize for the best family is awarded to Schatznome by Shaggy XXII/Allemeist and her daughters St.Pr.St. Duscha, St.Pr.St. Duschatz and St.Pr.St. Duschätzchen by Duellant.

1965





In Adelheidsdorf, the canter over hunting jumps was part of the stallion performance test Photo: Tiedemann



Stallions can pass their performance test in the two-part sport test or in competition. Photo: Hartwig

riod of three years was offered for the first time. A shortened 30-day pre-disposition test at a station was followed by a required placement in a young horse-class with a minimum score of 7.5 as a four-year-old, and finally the qualification for the Bundeschampionat for German dressage, show jumping or eventing horses. The stallion's registrations were provisional until the qualification for the Bundeschampionat.

After the state had already withdrawn from the licensing procedure in 1990 and placed the responsibility in the hands of the breed associations, it cancelled its participation in the stallion performance test in 2006. Stallion performance test-reforms followed in high frequency. The reform backlog, perhaps caused by the state, led to changes, initially in a five-year cycle, with always shorter intervals. 2011 (70-/30-day test, the results were

portrayed in scores and breeding values), 2016 (50-/14-day test combined with sport tests for four- and five-year-old stallions, presentation of results in scores only), 2020 (abolition of the minimum score) and 2022 pilot project, the short test. The stallion performance test-system has become rather confusing in the meantime and the requirements for breeding mares have been visibly reduced. The significance at least with regard to stamina and health is clearly reduced. On the other hand, stallions today have to prove themselves in competitions to remain of interest with breeders. This is even more true for show jumping stallions than for dressage stallions.

Jonny Hilberath

Dressage rider, trainer and coach

»For me, the stallion sales in its current format is absolutely interesting and improved for my personal interests. At the dressage licensing, the focus is on the dressage horse and accordingly many riders and trainers meet in Verden to look at good, young horses for the future and, possibly, buy them. The positive development of the stallions also obviously speaks for this. An improvement of the supporting back and of the foundation is noticeable, but still needs to be further developed. I am looking forward to the next vintages.«

The breed is in motion

The former stallion performance test-system, which was not very flexible and was influenced by the state, is now facing an extremely adapted system, which, last but not least, the stallion owners influenced. Until 1926/27, the licensing was the only selection step for stallions when used for breeding. One could get the feeling that the breed might be moving in this direction again. ✂

At the DLG-exhibition in Frankfurt, the mare collection of Manfred Reinstorf from Bütlingen was awarded the Golden Plaque. He presented Falkenburg by Farouk with her two daughters by Abhang II called Almona and Angelina II.

The determination of the blood type in foals is introduced for those foals, which – according to the breeding certificate – could have different sires. Broodmares are integrated in the various sales events.

For the first time, the average price of an auction in Verden reaches the five-digit area. 11,353 German Marks are realized on the fall auction. The top price of 55,000 German Marks for Kadillac by Kursus also was a sensation.



Mare shows have a long tradition. Pride of every breeder is the participation in the family class. Photo: Bewersdorff



Every year the best three-year-old mares meet at the Herwart von der Decken Show in Verden. Photo: Fellner



The system of the mare performance test have always been further developed.

Tested and rewarded with premiums

Testing and rewarding mares has a long standing tradition in Hannover. While it first were only the dams of stallions, which had to prove their performance abilities, a testing system was slowly but steadily developed for all broodmares. In addition to tests in the field, mares could also prove their quality in sport tests on horse shows. The mare shows are the highlight. Leading the way is the Herwart von der Decken-Show for all three-year olds from the entire breeding area.



Nicht nur die Grundgangarten werden beurteilt, auch das Exterieur wird genau begutachtet. Photo: Christmann



In the past, stallion dams had to pass a pulling performance test. Photo: Tiedemann



Mare performance tests are held throughout the breeding area and abroad.

Before the beginning of the stallion sales, five stallions are reserved for the State Stud Celle. This becomes the so-called Celler Lot, for which Celle holds the right of first refusal. The Federal Cartel Office abolishes this regulation in 2000.

The first breeders in the USA start with a Hannoveraner breeding program. The American Hanoverian Society is founded in 1978; in 1995, it is recognized as a daughter association.

Verden's auctions report on a new record: Aquamarin by Absatz/Valentino xx sold for 90,000 German Marks

The selection of mares

Strict requirements

To be accepted into a section of the Hannoveraner Studbook, strict requirements had to be met regarding the pedigree. The best mares were awarded a premium. The mare performance tests, which are so important for breeding sporthorses, have reached a high level of importance. Now a mare can also prove her qualities in competitions.

By Ulrich Hahne

The beginning of the selection of mares coincides with the foundation of the Hannoveraner Studbook in 1888. At that time, it was still called the "Hannoveraner Studbook for Noble Warmbloods" and there were strict requirements for the inclusion of a mare in the studbook. The pedigrees, which the State Stud Celle recorded since 1790 and which were entered on the foal certificates, were the basis for this. At that time, the studbook was kept by the Hannoversche Stutbuchgesellschaft (Hannoveraner Studbook Association).

The criteria at that time have not fundamentally changed compared to today: "To be accepted into the studbook, a mare must be free of hereditary defects. In addition, it must be proven that not only the mare's own sire, but also the sire of the dam and the sire of the grandam descend from a homogeneous line." At that time already, the health and the pedigree were important; and, in another guideline, the exterior was mentioned in the following wording: The origin should be portrayed through as many generations as possible; their exterior appearance must come very close to the perfect type of the Hannoveraner horse, for the province of Hannover."

To ensure uniformity in the evaluation and registration of mares, there was a studbook commission, which was solely responsible for the registration of mares. This did not change until the foundation of the Verband in 1922, however, the studbook was closed only seven years after it was founded. This meant that from 1926 onward, only mares whose pa-

rents were already in the studbook, were registered.

Studbook registration

With the foundation of the Hannoveraner Verband 100 years ago, the first changes in the selection of mares took place. The so-called "mare licensing" (later studbook inspection) was introduced, at which point the official evaluation was recorded in the studbook. For mares whose dams were not registered, a second section was introduced and added in an appendix. The system of a stud-

Mare shows

Specialisation leads to changes.

book inspection continues to this day, always in a somewhat adapted form over the years, depending on the interpretation of the breeding objective.

With the introduction of the studbook regulations at the end of the 1970s, the entry criteria were stated more precisely and additional divisions were introduced: Main studbook, studbook, pre-book I and II. The pre-books no longer exist in the Hannoveraner breeding program today, instead the appendix for mares with a birth certificate was reintroduced. The studbook is still "closed", in other words it is not possible to register

mares without a pedigree. The majority of mares are registered in the main studbook. Ten years ago, it was 98 percent of all mares. Nowadays, the selection is breeder-oriented, which means that the breeder himself decides whether or not he wants to breed with a mare, which received a low evaluation. The type of evaluation has also changed. In addition to the scores, since 2017 the breeder receives a linear profile of the evaluation characteristics for the studbook admission and for the mare performance test. It describes the evaluated characteristics and how prominent they are. It represents an added value of information for the breeder.

With the major structural reform of the committees in 2020, some changes have occurred regarding the possibilities of studbook entries. After a pilot study, the increased specialization in the breed led in 2021 to a change in the evaluation system of the studbook inspection for mares, which are bred for jumping. To give more importance to the jumping characteristics and less to the movement in the trot and walk, the studbook inspection for jumper mares now also includes free jumping and the characteristics manner, ability and jumping intelligence are evaluated. Furthermore, it is possible to register mares on the basis of a video inspection - a measure that was particularly popular during the Corona pandemic.

Another breeder-friendly measure was implemented with the changes to the breeding program. The option of accepting the registration results of mares from other, recognized

At the beginning of October, construction of the Niedersachsenhalle on Lindhooper Straße begins. The construction time is one year.

The stallion raising stud Hunnesrück has been operated by the Celle State Stud since 50 years.

1971



"Uniform and full of quality as never before", this is how Prof. Dr. Löwe describes the Hannoveraner DLG mares. At the exhibition in Cologne, they celebrated several division victories and high awards.

1971

breed associations represents a facilitation of the studbook entry for breeders. With all the changes, however, the registration of mares is still based on the evaluation of the exterior.

Mare shows

In former times, one of the most important promotion measures for the breed were the mare shows in the entire breeding area, at which the mares were entered into the studbook and received premiums. The first mare show in the modern sense took place in Otterndorf in the district of Land Hadeln on the North Sea in 1846. To promote the breed, the state premium was linked to obligations, which also included a breeding commitment. In return, the breeder was paid a premium. The obligation to breed the mare no longer exists today; also the title "State's Premium" may no longer be awarded due to the nationwide expansion of the Hannoveraner Verband. It was replaced by the Hannoveraner Premium in 2014. A promotion premium for mares that are bred is still paid out. Highlights were regional and national shows. The Herwart von der Decken-Show has not lost any of its attraction to this day.

The division of the classes has not changed, but the participation has. A decline in the number of mares, which are presented at the show, has been observed for many years. Some of the horse breeding clubs have reacted to this development and combined their shows. In 2020, the Corona pandemic brought the traditional system to a halt for the first time. The strict requirements of the policy to contain the pandemic made it impossible to hold mare shows. In the anniversary year, the first mare shows will take place again as planned. It remains to be seen how the number of presented mares will develop, which will also be put to the test due to the structural changes in the breeding community and the resulting zeitgeist.

Broodmare inspection

Contrary to mare shows, organizing mare performance tests was allowed under strict conditions during the Corona pandemic. In order to enable the awarding of premiums,

after each tested group, those mares eligible for premiums were judged and awarded the premiums on the walk ring, but not ranked. This new system, which was born out of necessity, allowed the breeder to have his mare inspected, tested and awarded a premium in one day. A lot of positive feedback led to a discussion about continuing with this system in the responsible committees, the Breeders' Liaison and the Breeding Committee. They came to the conclusion that it will be decided in the respective district association whether premiums should continue to be awarded at mare tests.

From a historical standpoint, there have also been some changes in the mare tests. A studbook inspection in connection with a test

Fritz von Blottnitz


Breeder and judge of mare and stallion performance tests.

»For me, as a breeder and judge of the Hannoveraner Verband, it has always been a great pleasure and life fulfilment to breed and judge Hannoveraner horses.«

was decided in 1992, jumping under a rider was abolished at the same time. In 2014, riding in a group was changed to the individual test for mares. The mare tests underwent the greatest changes in the years following the founding of the Verband. The daily use of mares in farming was a good indicator of will power and stamina. From stories, which were told by long-time breeders and which we still hear today, we know that a farmer would never breed a mare, which did not exhibit a positive working attitude, because she was useless.

A behavior that is sometimes reversed nowadays: Mares that do not ride well are more likely to be used in breeding so that they can

continue to be used. In the 1930s, it was possible for the first time to complete voluntary pulling tests, but these were hardly accepted. It was not until the 1950s that the Hannoveraner Verband decided to link awarding a state premium to a pulling performance test. A sled for one horse with a weight of 2,500 kilograms had to be pulled for 12.5 minutes with a single stop and restart. This test was obligatory for stallion dams. It was not until 1972 that an alternative test under rider could be taken. The requirements consisted of 300 meters in walk, 750 meters in trot and 1,500 meters in canter, which had to be completed in three minutes. Since 1987, the Hannoveraner mare performance tests are held according to the format, which is still valid today, with the assessment of basic gaits, rideability and free jumping. In the station tests, which were first held at the Hannoveraner Riding and Driving School in Verden, later at the State Riding School in Hoya as well as at the Alsfeld Horse Centre and in Wickrath, the training's leader in addition gave scores for temperament, character and willingness to perform.

A lot has changed in 100 years of mare selection. Since the breeding goal changed to creating a riding horse, the selection is now based on the evaluation of the conformation and the riding qualities for the disciplines dressage, jumping and eventing. Special attention is paid to the working attitude of the mares. In the future, health traits will be increasingly added as well as the genomic selection, which will take these aspects into account. The form of the selection events is also subject to change; it will become more dynamic in the future. The fact that mares continue to be the supporting pillars of a breeding program is made clear by the Dietschmonument of a broodmare with foal in front of the Verband's headquarters in Verden. The inscription reads "To the Hannoveraner horse – its breeders". At its inauguration in 1981, Herwart von Decken, the Chairman of the Hannoveraner Verband at that time, said: "There is no pathos in this inscription, but there is a binding obligation to remain loyal to the Hannoveraner horse for generations to come." 

30



Verden's auctions move to the Niedersachsenhalle. The large-scale facility with its spacious outdoor terrain is viewed as a modern marketing centre. Hans Joachim Köhler develops the concept of a training and marketing centre (AAZ).

The State Stud Celle builds a central horse insemination station in Lower Saxony, and, in close cooperation with the Veterinary University Hannover, develops a system for using frozen semen.

1972

1973

The chairmen and managing directors

In good hands

Many influential chairmen have shaped the Hannoveraner Verband with their work together with the managing directors and breeding directors.

By Kira Kaschek

Chairmen:

1922 to 1930:

Exzellenz Carl-Ludwig von der Decken was first chairman of Hannoveraner Verband. Since 1915 he had already been chairman of the stubook commission.

1930 to 1936:

Major a. D. Theodor v. Plate, Altenwisch, during whose term of office the Provincial Association was affiliated to the Reichsnährstand.

1936 to 1945:

Kreisbauernführer Albert Reiners, Uthlede, had been appointed by the Reichsnährstand

1945 to 1963:

Landschaftsrat Fritz von der Decken, Deckenhausen, in cooperation with Dr. Arnold Dr. Arnold Schlie, not only paved the way for the Verband in the difficult years after World War II but also set the course for the Hannoveraner in direction of the riding horse.

1963 to 1981:

Farmer Burchard Müller, Süderwarden. Burchard Müller and the then managing director Dr. Walter Hartwig worked hand in hand. They ensured the construction of the new Niedersachsenhalle on Lindhooper Straße.

1981 to 1993:

Landschaftsrat Herwart von der Decken, Rutenstein, founded the Hannoveraner Förderverein FRH in 1995. He also initiated the mare performance tests and the Hannoveraner Jumping Breeding Program.

1993 to 2005:

Farmer Friedrich Jahnke, Bückau, was involved in the acquisition of the barracks area on Lindhooper Straße in 1996 and the relocation of the riding and driving school. Controlled growth of the breeding area and good contact with other breeding associations were important to him.

2005 to 2018:

During the term of office of farmer Manfred Schäfer, Köchingen, saw the mergers with the Hesse Horse Breeders' Association and the Rhineland Horse Breeders' Association. In addition, the facility at the Niedersachsenhalle was modernised in a two-year construction period.

2018 to 2020:

Hans Henning von der Decken, Brocklosenborstel, initiated the structural reform of the Hannoveraner Verband

From 2020:

The agronomist Dr. Hinni Lührs-Behnke, Verden-Borstel, has grown up with the Hannoveraner Verband. For many years he was involved with the young breeders before he took over the highest office as President.

Managing and breeding directors:

1922 to 1923:

Major a. D. Theodor Korndorff.

1924 to 1930:

Major a. D. Wolfgang Briegleb

1930 to 1935:

Dipl.-Landwirt Konrad Bresges was involved in the introduction of the Hannoveraner Brand.

1935:

Dipl.-Landwirt Hans Stapenhorst

1935 to 1938:

Dipl.-Landwirt Dr. Georg Steinkopff

1938 – 1965:

Under direction of Dipl.-Landwirt Dr. Arnold Schlie, not only the riding and driving school was founded, but he also ensured that Hans Joachim Köhler held the first Verden riding horse auction in 1949.

1965 to 1983:

Dipl.-Landwirt Dr. Walter Hartwig was not only managing director between 1976 and 1977, but also acted as breeding director.

1977 to 1982:

Dipl.-Landwirt Dr. Lutz Kather

1982 to 2006:

Agricultural scientist Dr. Jochen Wilkens was initially breeding manager, and from 1983 also managing director. In 1995, based on a company analysis of the internal organisation, the tasks of breeding manager and managing director emerged.

2006 to 2019:

Dipl.-Ing.agr. Dr. Werner Schade, together with Chairman Manfred Schäfer, drove forward the nationwide expansion as well as the mergers with Hesse and the Rhineland.

Ab 2019:

Managing director: M.Sc. Agrarwissenschaften Wilken Treu
Breeding director: Dipl.-Ing.agr. Ulrich Hahne

The life-number is introduced as an essential requirement for computer-technical data processing. The nine-digit life-number, which today has 15 digits and is called UELN, provides information on the breeding station, the current number of the breed register as well as the foal's birth year.

1974



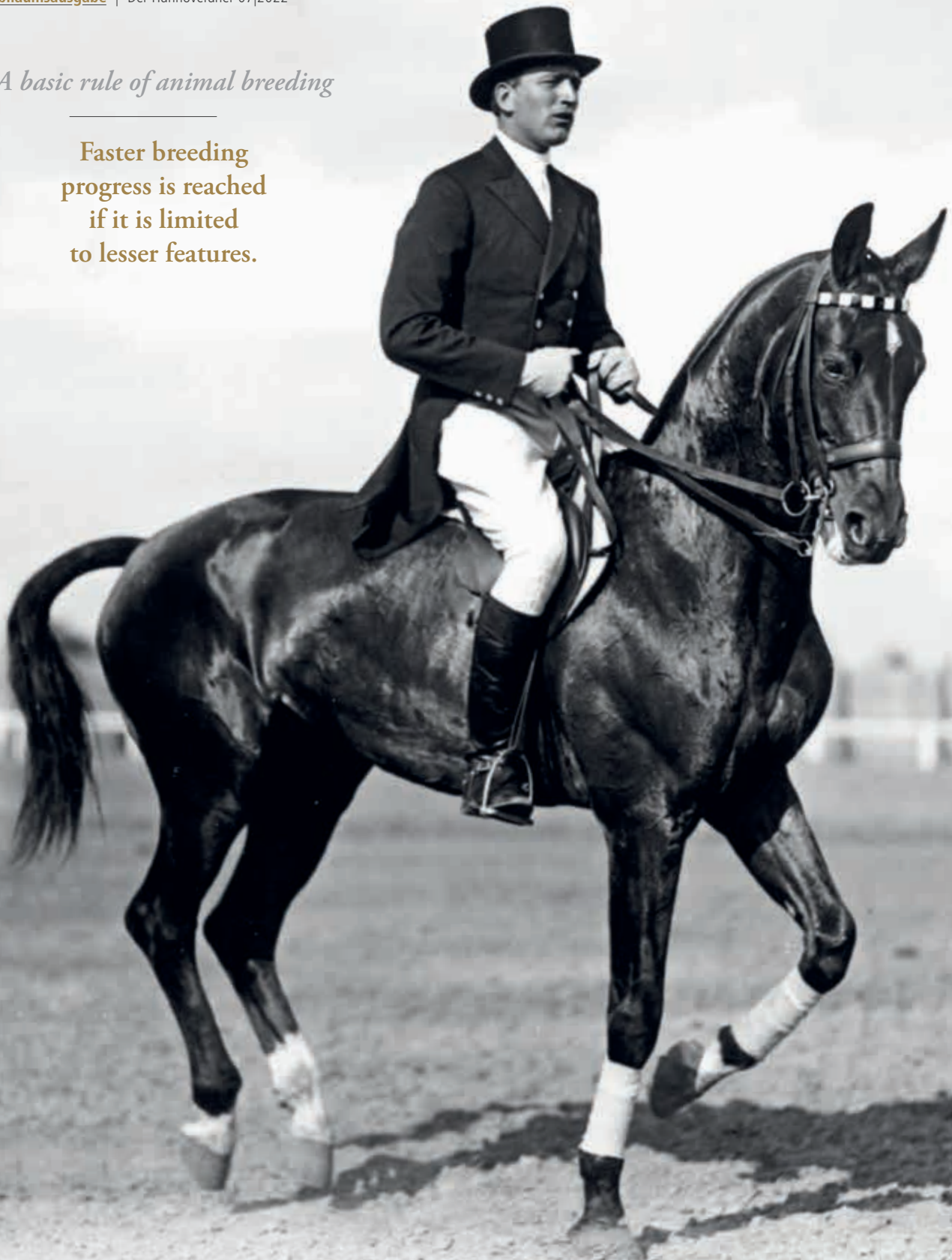
The first 100,000 German Mark-horse sold in the Niedersachsenhalle. In the spring, Wallburg by Wohlklang sold for 112,000 German Marks.

The East Frisian Studbook merges with the Verband of Warmblood Breeders, and the Regional Association East Friesland is founded.

1975

A basic rule of animal breeding

Faster breeding progress is reached if it is limited to lesser features.



Already 100 years ago, there were horses in Hannover which were influenced by Thoroughbred stallions like Draufgänger by Aldech/Nordgraf, with whom Freiherr v. Langen won Olympic gold in Amsterdam in 1928..

In Munich, Dieta by Diskant/Kurier becomes the Champion-DLG Mare for the second time.

The animal husbandry law plans a stallion test lasting at least 100 days. After a pre-tests, a final performance test takes place.

1976



The Hanoverian Society of New Zealand is founded as a daughter society. A syndicate purchased the stallion Winnebago, who is to improve the breeding of sport horses. Until 1993, breeders in New Zealand are looked after, before the New Zealand Hanoverian Society originates after the separation.

1977

The breeding goal

In the change of times

Over the past 100 years, the breeding objective changed time and again. Just as the demands on the horse changed. In addition to working horses, riding horses always played a role in Hannover.

By Dr. Ludwig Christmann



Foundation and Matthias-Alexander Rath



Coby and Philipp Weishaupt



FRH Corrida und Andreas Dibowski Photos: Lafrentz

The demand for the Hannoveraner, which already exceeds the supply, will become even greater. Such a large breeding area cannot exclusively produce the exact same type of horse, nor deliver the exact same grade of blood. In Hannover, it is possible and necessary to specialize and, through a smart selection and direction produce what is particularly sought after: i. e. the strongest horse with a lower grade of blood for breeding the roughest, boniest half-bred and the heaviest pulling horse; then also nobler horses for riding and for shows, occasionally also for half-bred races, furthermore carriage horses with particularly striking gaits.

It is the responsibility of the breeding management of the province to always have the

necessary stallions available and to place them where the desire and the wish of the breeders as well as the relevant conditions make the breeding of the various specialities appear appropriate. One can advise every Hannoveraner breeder to breed as many horses as he can combine with his agricultural business. "By re-establishing the sale of remounts and above all through shows, there will be sufficient opportunities for selling three-year-olds," Gustav Rau said on July 9, 1923 in a lecture to the main Agricultural Association Stade in Himmelpforten.

This quotation from Gustav Rau, one of the most important horsemen that ever existed in Germany, shows several interesting aspects regarding the development of the

breeding goal in Hannover: It actually never was a uniform horse that was bred in Hannover. As different as the mentality of the breeders and the nature of the soil in the Hannoveraner breeding area are, as different is the type of horses ranging in its extremes from the "roughest, bony half-bred" to the light, Thoroughbred racehorse. Versatility was always most important, which enabled Hannover to meet the most diverse demands, which for centuries were primarily determined by the military and by farming. Naturally, there were shifts in the emphasis over such a long period of time; the overall tendency sometimes was towards the heavier, and sometimes towards the lighter horse, whereby the question of Thoroughbred blood was always hotly debated.

Due to an ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, a studbook rule is worked out. It defines the entry of stallions and mares as well as the management of the studbook, the marking of the horses and the issuing of pedigree papers.

1978



The first mare show of the Verband takes place in Verden, the Ratje Niebuhr-Show. On this show, a very valuable prize is awarded for the first time: The Ratje Niebuhr-Prize for the best mare family, which is a "Dieta-Statue".

1979

The wording of the breeding goal over the centuries was rather interesting:

1867: "The upbringing of a strong, big horse, a powerful pulling horse and besides that a useful military horse."

1888, just as listed in paragraph 1 of the by-laws of the Hannoveraner studbook: "A noble Halfbred horse – a medium-sized carriage horse, a powerful riding horse as well as a horse suited for the troops, especially as a cuirassier horse or an artillery horse – with good, rhythmical gaits in the trot and in the canter. Furthermore, the horses must be useful for farming."

Around 1900: Your Excellency V. Troschke worded it similarly just a bit more in depth: "A horse, suitable for the troops, the cuirassiers and as an artillery horse, also of medium size with good, rhythmical and ground-covering gaits in the trot and also in the canter. A good disposition and a good stomach. Blood must be in the right combination with the size. – If a horse is less suitable for the above mentioned functions, it must be useful for farming and be able to make a 30 centimetre deep furrow. The horse must have a pleasing shape, with a good neck and tail onset, a sloped shoulder, well-positioned legs with expressive joints and tendons with good hooves, which have well-developed, healthy frogs. In the walk and in the trot movement, the equilateral feet must

step on the same line. Horses with wide hips are not favored, since it is hard to keep weight on these horses."

For the first time, the military is not mentioned. After the loss of World War I, the troops were reduced in Germany, while farming intensified. The result: The so-called period of reinforcement began and Hannover was not spared.

1922: "A strong warmblood horse, which can fulfill every agricultural task but also has enough blood, nerve, and movement to be used as a powerful riding and driving horse."

1948: "A correct, noble warmblood horse suitable for farming as well as for any type of riding."



Almjäger I by Alpenflug II/Goldschläger I, born 1930, represents the reinforcement efforts between the World Wars.

The use in farming no longer is solely in first place; the mechanization becomes more and more visible, but it is not yet clear, which direction it will go. There is more emphasis on noble, which is also mentioned.

1974: "A noble, correct, large-framed and powerful warmblood horse suitable for all purposes with a good disposition and character."

For the first time, the versatile use is addressed without further mention of far-



Flügelpalme by Flügeladjutant/Flotow, born 1947, highly awarded Hannoveraner mare at several DLG shows, but her overall appearance is already quite modern. Photos: Archive

ming. It was then already obvious that the future of the Hannoveraner horse lies in its ability to be a performance horse.

1978, The breeding goal of all German Warmblood breed associations: "The breeding goal is a noble, correct and strong performance Warmblood horse with large lines and lofty, ground-covering, elastic movement. Because of its temperament, its disposition, and its rideability, it is particularly useful for every type of riding."

The versatile use is included in the term "particularly useful for every type of riding." In the beginning, a sentence of Gustav Ray was quoted. Even though it is not quite the same, the finding still applies that a breeding area of the size of Hannover "cannot exclusively deliver the same type of horse." Matching this is the assessment of the Verband's former managing director, Dr. Walter Hartwig, which he noted in the anniversary document that he had written together with the late state stud manager Dr. Christian Freiherr von Stenglin on the occasion of the 100-year long existence of the Hannoveraner studbook in 1988: "Because of smart, well-balanced breeding measures, and the passion and expert knowledge of the breeders as well as a little bit of luck, the Hannoveraner Warmblood breed successfully advanced to becoming one of the top breeds on the European continent and bey-



Filiza by Fling/Welslicht, born 1923, embodies the model of the clearly defined, versatile warmblood horse.



Verden's auction horses and Celle's stallions open the agricultural exhibition "Green Week" in Berlin. The presentations are highlights in the daily show schedule.

Colorado by Cardinal xx/Agram, once discovered at the auction in Verden, wins the German Dressage Derby with rider Monica Theodorescu.

ond. Undoubtedly, the versatile tests for young stallions but also for broodmares, which were adjusted to the newest findings and eliminated performance-weak types from the start, contributed to this status. The usefulness – i. e. the performance – always had precedence over beauty. Ideal is when both are present.”

In the 1980s, the trend of differentiating in individual riding sport disciplines gained in importance. It became more and more apparent that the demands of jumper riders on their horses are very different to the demands of dressage riders and that these different talents need to be considered in the breeding program. It especially became apparent that breeding areas like Selle Français or Holstein, which had specialized on the discipline of jumping, progressed faster than Hannover. Developing the program for jumping horses and introducing free-jumping at the stallion licensing were results of this understanding. This was first mentioned in a revised version of the breeding goal in 1990.

1990: “The breeding goal is a rideable, noble, correct Warmblood horse with long body lines, which, because of its pre-disposition, its temperament and character, is especially suited as a performance and a recreational horse. On this basis, we strive to breed highly talented sport horses for the disciplines of dressage, jumping, eventing.”

2002: The Hannoveraner is bred as a race, which is especially suited for the sport of riding. We should try breeding horses, which by virtue of its inner attributes, rideability, its appearance, its movement, its jumping ability and its health is well suited as a performance- and recreational horse. On this basis, we must strive breeding horses with a pre-disposition for one of the disciplines dressage, jumping or eventing. For the respective second performance predisposition (dressage/jumping), minimum requirements are required.

With the attributes which are outlined in paragraph one, we also try to breed horses for the sport of driving.”



Born in 2011, Toto Jr. by Totilas/Desperados embodies the modern Hannoveraner dressage horse. Photo: Bronkhorst

In paragraph one, the purpose and the essential selection criteria are addressed. Paragraph two clearly addresses the necessity of specialization. For a long time, this term was frowned upon. Paragraph three makes clear that the Hannoveraner horse in basic has an aptitude for the sport of driving; the wording of the breeding goal, however, clearly gives priority to its purpose as a riding horse. For instance, it is impossible that a stallion can fulfill his performance requirements for becoming a licensed breeding stallion through the sport of driving. Enforcing the minimum criteria for the so-called second performance pre-disposition did not work out as well. Therefore this sentence was deleted without substitution.

In principle, several breeding goals exist for the Hannoveraner – dressage, jumping, eventing. And that is good. The basic rule in breeding animals says that breeding progress is reached faster, if it is limited to lesser features. The relation between two features

were researched in scientific studies. It shows what happens to the second feature, when the selection focuses on feature one. Between a talent for jumping and a talent for dressage, the correlation is not positive, in the best case, it is neutral. In other words, it is difficult to breed horses, which could be successful at the highest level in both disciplines.

It also is difficult to breed horses for top competitions and for recreational riding. On one side, it is the breeding goal to breed top horses in the three olympic disciplines for international competition. On the other side, features like rideability and a temperament, which is easy to handle, are basic virtues of the Hannoveraner, which added considerably to its worldwide desirability. Therefore it is important that the horses we breed can also be used for recreational riding. ✂



The auction office of the Hannoveraner Verband is moved from Hannover to Verden.

For the first time, the Lüneburg District Association awards the Lüneburg Wanderehrenpreis for the best mare family on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

1982





The Pape family has been running a stallion station in Hemmoor for three generations and is a member of the Association of Hannoveraner Private Stallion Owners.
Photos: private

The stallion keeping *For the support of horse breeding*

The State Stud Celle played an outstanding role in the development of the Hannoveraner breed to this day. Just as long as the state stud exists, private stallion owners stand stallions on their stations.

By Maren Schlender

The foundation of the State Stud Celle in 1735 was an important milestone in the development of keeping stallions in the Hannoveraner breed. King George II already formulated with great foresight the goal of the state stud "for the best of our vassals and for the preservation (support) of good horse breeding in his German country." One year later, the state stud-stallions were placed at breeding stations during the breeding season. The stations were located in Kehdingen, Horneburg, Stellenfleth and Neuhaus as well as in Nienburg, Stolzenau and Hoya. Privately owned stallions already were of significant importance at that time and did not just develop in the 20th century, as often assumed. The first ordinance on keeping private stallions existed as early as 1821. The state endeavored supporting the keeping of privately owned stallions and awarded premiums in addition to supporting state-owned stallions. The increase in state stud fees made it possible to also raise the stud fees for privately owned stallions. The demand for work horses in particular was met by private stallions. In 1839, 70 percent of all foals were sired by

private stallions. In 1844, with the introduction of a licensing system for private stallions with the aim of improving the quality of the stallions, the share steadily decreased. In 1863, there still were 73 private stallions in the area of Stade; 20 years later, the number was reduced by half. Contrary to state-owned stallions, which were stabled in the marshland, often only privately-owned stallions were used in the Geest-areas. The horses in these areas were bred for the large demand in farming.

The years from the founding of the Verband until the end of World War II were characterized by the coexistence of keeping state-owned and privately-owned stallions. Horse breeding experienced an upswing from the 1960s onward, and the stallions in particular were in great demand. Even at that time, the State Stud Celle was an important buyer at the stallion licensing with an average of eight stallions, but there also was interest from other state studs and from private stallion owners. To prevent a possible negative development for the breeding area, five stallions

were reserved for the State Stud Celle before the sale for the first time in 1969. This was the start of the "Celler lot", as it was called. It lasted for many years.

Significant turning-points

Discontinuing the Celler lot at the stallion licensing in 2001 was a significant turning-point for the state and its stallion program. The Hannoveraner Association of Private Stallion Owners, founded in 1989, had a considerable influence on this decision, as it viewed the Celler lot as an influence on the free market. The Federal Cartel Office complied with this view and placed the importance of the free market above the requirements of the Animal Breeding Act. When asked about the most significant turning-point in stallion keeping in the past 100 years, state stud manager Dr. Axel Brockmann said: "Discontinuing the Celler lot was undoubtedly a significant turning-point in keeping state-owned stallions, especially since the budget was not adjusted in accordance with the significant increases in the sale prices of stallions over the years. Since we

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The Bundesstutenschau and the Bundeschampionat take place in Verden. St.Pr.St. Arabella by Argentan/Einglas is the champion mare.

To continue organizing large events in Verden, Verden's Horse Show Association (VTG) is founded.

It takes five years for another auction horse to realize more than 100,000 German Marks. Maritim by Matrose sold for record-breaking 170,000 German Marks.



The Lower Saxony State Stud Celle has played a decisive role in Hannoveraner breeding since its foundation.. Photo: Landgestüt Celle

work with taxpayers' money, it is also out of the question to buy extremely expensive stallions by 'putting all eggs in one basket'." Another significant turning point in the history of stallion husbandry was the introduction of artificial insemination. The first central insemination station was established in 1973 at the State Stud Celle – 13 years later for the first time in the countryside with the insemination station Kehdingen. In the 1990s, all larger private stallion owners built insemination stations. The consequences for breeding were enormous. On one hand, it was possible for one stallion to cover more than 100 mares per season, on the other hand, the interaction with breeders and thus the direct exchange about breeding products was lost over the years. The long standing chairman of the Hannoveraner Association of Private Stallion Owners, Norbert Bramlage, also sees this aspect, "For me, the introduction of artificial insemination was, next to the introduction of stallion licensing, the most serious turning point in keeping of stallions. The spatial, but also the personal distance between the breeder and the stallion owner became very large and thus the knowledge especially about the first vintages, which is acquired because of physical presence, becomes less."

Since then, the keeping of stallions has changed faster and more clearly than before. Whereas in the past it was possible to determine the geographical stationing of stallions on the basis of the pedigrees, today these boundaries are fluid. Through the use of frozen semen, there are offspring of stallions all

over the world. "It has also become more difficult for us to really assess the heredity of stallions. In the past, with natural cover and even in the early days of insemination, stallions were used more regionally. The station managers saw a lot of offspring in their region and could assess the heredity of a stallion and for which mares he was a good fit. Today, the stallions are used throughout Germany and Europe, and most of the stallions have foals anywhere," says Dr. Axel Brockmann.

Challenges of the future

After the German reunification, horse breeding experienced an upswing. The number of coverings increased. At the same time, the development of artificial insemination added competition among stallion owners. At the end of the 1980s, Dr. Burchard Bade, former State Stud manager in Celle, already leased the privately owned stallion Calypso II. With this, breeders of the state stud had additional genetics at their disposal, while private stallion owners gained access to another breeders' community, so both sides profited. This was the beginning of a development that is still being pursued today in the form of mergers and cooperation between stallion keepers in order to react to the challenges of the change to a more commercial, no longer solely family-run or state-run stallion keeping.

For the future, Norbert Bramlage sees a need for action: "In the past, stallion keepers and breeders were roughly at eye level. Today, super-professional stallion marketing makes

it difficult to get an objective picture of a stallion. That's where we would have to take countermeasures. Experience has the greatest part in the art of breeding. Since many new breeders have to do without this treasure, it is important that the breed associations fill this gap by passing on knowledge." The changing community of breeders is also a challenge for state-run stallion management: "Customer connections are very important in every business. We see, however, in all economic sectors that customer connection and loyalty no longer exist in the former form and that the effort to keep customers or to win new ones has increased enormously," says Dr. Axel Brockmann.

In the future, the further development of reproduction techniques in stallion husbandry will also play a role. The Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection, ICSI for short, has also arrived in horse breeding. Dutch stallion owner Jeannette Nijhof and her family have been involved in this development since its beginning. Apart from the positive effects, she views controlling the sold sperm as the biggest problem. A mare can get pregnant with only a little sperm, so that often more embryos and thus foals are produced than were agreed upon. "There should be an international database where all registered foals have to be enrolled so that stallion owners get a fair chance at settling up for all foals, which were sired by their stallion," says Jeannette Nijhof. The ICSI technique is, however, quite expensive and will probably remain so for the some time. ✂



Hans-Joachim Köhler retires on the spring auction. 150 former team members visit the Niedersachsenhalle the night of the Gala. Rainer Kiel becomes his successor.

1984



The Verden Auctions

The best to Verden

**Times change, the mission remains the same:
Verden's auctions have always been there to support the Hannoveraner breeders in marketing
their horses in the best possible way.**

By Dr. Katharina Wiegand



From the very beginning, the Verden auctions were popular meeting places for customers from all over the world.



The interest grew steadily: In the old Niedersachsenhalle on Lönsweg, the grandstands were continuously extended and stables expanded. Photo: Sting

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After World War II, when rural competitions had more or less come to a standstill, the horses, which were bred for the army and for farming, needed new fields of activity. At that time Hans Joachim Köhler created Verden's auction program and thus new sales opportunities for the horses of Hannoveraner breeders. In the fall of 1949, 30 horses were offered for sale on an auction in Verden for the first time: 17 of them sold; the average price was 1,705 German Marks, and Hans Joachim Köhler was initially rather disappointed with his idea. This was to change over the course of the next few years – with his idea, Hans Joachim Köhler succeeded in opening up sale channels all over the world for Hannoveraner breeders and created a life task for himself for the next 35 years. Hans Joachim Köhler, the son of a state stud manager just like his successor Rainer Kiel, is still

today regarded as an important hippologist, who always had a vision. He is the author of numerous books and, in 1969, also took over the management of the German Horse Museum, which is located in Verden.

Always new venues

Hans Joachim Köhler constantly developed the auction concept for the Hannoveraner Verband as a freelancer. Among other things, the location changed again and again in the first years, mostly because the conditions became too small. Verden's first auction took place in the barracks at Brunnenweg, the former location of the Hannoveraner Riding and Driving School. The following year, the venue was already moved to the old Niedersachsenhalle at Lönsweg. The horses were initially stabled in former cattle stalls, from where they were ridden two and a half kilometres

each way to the riding hall. An improvement was needed, so the third auction was held at the barracks on Holzmarkt in the centre of Verden. At this time, the horses were not only shown under saddle, but also had to prove their suitability as pulling horses in front of a drag.

After two auctions in the barracks at Holzmarkt, the auction went back to the Lönsweg until the spring of 1972, when alterations were made to the stables and the indoor hall for this purpose; a grandstand for spectators and additional stabling were built. Most of the horses were delivered to be prepared for an auction, which lasted six weeks at that time, by the federal railway; so the close proximity to the railway station was practical. The training of the horses also included testing them in city traffic. In addition, the young



The business building in Verden is being constructed, and the office is moved from Hannover to Verden.

The club for supporting Hannoveraner horses in the sport is founded. The three letters FRH are known worldwide by now.

1985





Superb and Isabell Werth



Mount St John Freestyle and Charlotte Dujardin



Elvis VA and Nadine Capellmann

Isabell Werth

Dressage rider

»During the beginning of my career at the facility of Dr. Schulten-Baumer, the Hannoveraner Verband and Verden's auctions were the basis for searching young horses. At that time the auctions had a unique selling point, and the best young horses came together in Verden. That is the reason for my many successes on Hannoveraner horses.

The market has certainly changed in the meantime, but the connection to the Verband and the auction remains. That kind of thing doesn't get lost«



Hello Shelby and Scott Brash

39



Faustus and Dorothee Schneider



Codex One and Christian Ahlmann Photos: Lafrenz

In Aachen, Mr. T by Wohlan/Pik As xx with Gail Greenough from Canada becomes World Champion. As "Wolkas", Mr. T had participated in Verden's auction program.

The first station test for mares takes place in the Hannoveraner Riding and Driving School. It is added to the system of field tests. During the three-week long training's period, temperament, character and performance willingness are also evaluated.

With the summer auction, another sale event is added to the auction calendar. In the previous year, the winter auction celebrated its successful debut.

horses were regularly ridden to the racetrack terrain for training, which was about two kilometres away and is the site of today's Niedersachsenshalle.

During this time, Verden became more and more the equestrian city, as it is known today. Focusing on continuity and demonstrating reliability to exhibitors and prospective customers – an approach that was taken in the coming auctions. It proved effective. Hans Joachim Köhler succeeded in winning over the most successful riders of the time for his auction team. The names of the horses and buyers, which he successfully brought to Verden, are still known today. For example, Doublette by Duellant, who changed hands for 5,200 German Marks in the spring of 1953 and was successful in dressage with Rosemarie Springer and Willi Schultheis, was awarded for her – at the time – spectacular lifetime earnings of 100,000 German Marks. One year later, Asbach by Anilin was auctioned for 7,600 German Marks. He won Olympic medals with Josef Neckermann. In the spring of 1956, Firlefan by Friesenkönig reached the first five-figure sale price of 10,000 German Marks. Twelve years later, the average price also reached five figures.

Over the years, the seating options in the arena on the Lönsweg were increased as the number of customers and spectators grew steadily. One grandstand was equipped with discarded cinema seats. Finally, the old Niedersachsenshalle offered 900 seats and 300 standing places, all of which were always taken during the auctions. In accordance with that, the riding area became smaller and smaller – in the end it was only 16 by 20 metres – there was no warm-up arena. The warm-up of the horses, if at all, took place on the aisle in the stable. In 1972, the Niedersachsenshalle on the terrain of the racetrack on Lindhooper Straße was erected as an auction hall and inaugurated in the fall with Verden's 47th auction. The move was bumpy, the work lagged behind schedule, and the footing in the new arena initially proved unsuitable and had to be completely reworked in a night-time operation before the auction. The new building had almost three times the ca-

capacity of the old arena. As the breeding of horses developed, the Lindhooper Straße also had to be continually expanded. Starting in 1974, the gala nights on Friday evening were established as the start to the auction. They are still held today.

The equestrian sport boomed in the 1970s; the collections sometimes included almost 200 horses. In 1975, for the first time, a sale

Friedrich-Wilhelm Isernhagen

Former auctioneer

»When the gavel fell for the last horse, I was most pleased when we succeeded in achieving a high sales quota – if possible 100 per cent – and many breeders and buyers went home satisfied. That was the best prerequisite for continued support for the next auction. It certainly was also good to achieve sensational prices. That was important for the media and for public relations, since the competition never sleeps«

price of 100,000 German Marks was realized for Wallburg by Wohlklang. The change in the market situation also brought about a change in the auction business. In addition to the elite auctions in the fall and in the spring, other types of auctions were introduced, which were supposed to broaden the collections and better differentiate according to the quality of and the use for the horses. One of the most famous representatives of the first so-called intermediate auctions is Deister by Diskant/Adlerschild xx, who was sold for 17,000 German Marks in November of 1974 and became European Champion three consecutive times with Paul Schockemöhle. Also E.T. FRH by Espri/Garibaldi II and Dollar Girl by Dynamo/Salem found their way into the big sport via intermediate auctions. The

German eventing team won Olympic gold in Seoul in 1988. Two auction horses from Verden were on the team: Shamrock by Shogun xx/Dominik ridden by Matthias Baumann and Sherry FRH by Sudan xx/Florentiner II with Thies Kaspareit. A true sensation was the sale of Wahajama by Warkant/Acapulco in 1998. The mare, who had already been in the Niedersachsenshalle, when she participated in the foal auction in 1994, sold with head number one for the then record price of 510,000 German Marks. In 1998 and 1999, she became Bundeschampion with Holga Finken and later successfully competed in World Cup-classes with Ann-Kathrin Linsenhoff. The barn of Dr. Schulten-Baumer also regularly bought horses in Verden and trained them producing one Grand Prix-horse after another. For instance, Madras by Monaco/Elegant, who won gold medals at World and European Championships with Dr. Uwe Schulten-Baumer jun., or Weingart by Windhuk/Grande, with whom dressage icon Isabell Werth competed in her first championship at the European Championships in Luxembourg in 1989 and won team gold.

Export boom in the 1980s

In the fall of 1984, Hans Joachim Köhler handed over the gavel of Verden's auctions to Rainer Kiel. "The merchant follows the artist", as Dr. Enno Hempel described it in DER HANNOVERANER. Rainer Kiel created clear boundaries between elite and intermediate auctions and adapted the auction business to the time. The export boom in the 1980s happened during his leadership and brought many customers from all over the world to Verden. The auctioneer of the first hour was Alfred Brüns. At his last auction in the spring of 1975, he broke the magic barrier of 100,000 German Marks before handing over the auction gavel to his pupil Friedrich-Wilhelm Isernhagen. With his knowledge of horses, he ushered in a new phase of the auction business in Verden. He auctioned off more than 1,000 Hannoveraner horses annually in the Niedersachsenshalle, before another generational change took place at the auctioneer's desk. With Bernd Hickert and Frederik De Backer, two auctioneers have been sharing the sales of horses for some

40



The Hannoveraner young breeders are created. The fascination for the horse and the expertise are brought closer to the younger generation through many activities. The Young Breeder-competitions are now organized internationally.

The breeders in the United States of America join together and form the American Hanoverian Society. The main concern is the issuance of papers for the offspring of imported Hannoveraner mares and stallions.



At the elite auction in October 2019, in the modernised Niedersachsenhalle, a magnificent gala evening looked back over the past 70 years.



The desk has left the riding arena. From the short side, the auctioneers have the best overview. fotos: Fellner

years now, although, since the beginning of the Corona pandemic, most of the auctions have been held online. For the 50th anniversary auction in the spring of 1974, colour photographs of the horses were taken for the first time. By now, you can view photos and videos of the various collections on the homepage of the Hannoveraner Verband. Training videos are added after the first week; selected presentations can be followed live on the internet.

Foals take up residence

The foals found their way into Verden via the elite foal auction in 1975. It established itself as a permanent fixture in August. One time, more than 300 foals were offered for sale at "Europe's largest foal auction" under the direction of Rainer Kiel. Verden's foal auctions experienced a price sensation in August of 2017, when Be my Beauty Queen by Bonds/ San Amour was auctioned for a spectacular 160,000 Euros.

Over the past 73 years, Verden's auctions have constantly adapted to changing times and to the needs of the market without losing their roots. The mission has remained the same; the general conditions have changed radically. Whereas 70 years ago breeders in

their rural regions had little or no opportunity to come into contact with international customers, today the internet and modern technology offer this opportunity around the clock and anywhere. In the past, Verden's auctions were the gateway to the international market. Hence it was normal for the breeders to show to the selection committee almost all the horses between three and four years of age, which were for sale: There were selection dates with 40 or more horses, which sometimes lasted until late in the night. Some of these horses were not even broken to saddle and received their basic training during the six-week auction preparation period. Now the horses are pre-selected

at the breeders or at the training facilities and receive solid basic training, so that the auction time could be reduced to ten days. Pretty much half of the horses are still sold to foreign countries, which shows that Hans Joachim Köhler's idea – in a modern version – still holds true today.

Successful Hannoveraner sold via Verden's auctions are still the best advertising media for the marketing of young horses through the Hannoveraner Verband. The goal of the auction is still unchanged after 73 years: Helping breeders with marketing their horses and creating a central platform for customers to find the right horse for their individual needs 🐾

Reinhard Baumgart

Former trainer of auction horses

»Serving Verden's auctions for 47 years has shaped important parts of my life. During this time, the horses have become much more rideable, at the same time, however, foundation weaknesses developed in the population. Between the breeding management and the auction management, the views on the importance of the foundation and the "spirit" often differed.«

The 100-year existence of the Hannoveraner Studbook is being celebrated. The Rate Niebuhr-Show with its great anniversary exhibition night is a suitable setting. The German Championships for dressage and jumper riders in Verden's stadium are a selection site for the Olympic Games in Seoul.

1988



The state-run approvals become approvals of the Verband. After converting the EG-guidelines, the breed associations take over the approvals. The Verband's approval is documented in the breeding book-rules as a component of the statute.

1989



Abglanz by Termit/Abendluft Photo: Tiedemann

The influences on Hannover

How he became, what he is

The Hannoveraner is internationally regarded as the prototype of the modern sport horse. But which genetic influences have had an effect on the Hannoveraner, how was the horse created that is so successful today?

By Dr. Ludwig Christmann

Long before the foundation of the State Stud Celle, the nobility in what is now Lower Saxony maintained private studs, including one in Bücken near Hoya, as well as court studs, of which Memsen, founded in 1653 near Hoya, was of particular importance for the development of the Hannoveraner horse. The breeding program from Memsen was later continued at the court stud Herrenhausen. Popular horses at these studs included Spanish stallions and Neapolitans, which enjoyed great prestige at the time. Stallions from these studs also influenced the state's breeding program. Herren-

hausen was later explicitly commissioned to supply stallions for Celle.

Founding of the State Stud Celle

Founding the State Stud Celle in 1735 was a major impulse for the development of the Hannoveraner breed, even though there always also were private stallion farms. From the beginning, the state stud was concerned with supporting rural horse breeding. The first stallions arriving in Celle were twelve Holstein stallions, a breed that already had a very good reputation at that time. Due to the close personal connection between England

and the state stud, it was obvious that English stallions also came to Celle. This happened as early as the 1750s, when George II donated English stallions to the state stud. Around 1764, there was a great diversity of pedigrees at the state stud including English, Spanish, Neapolitan, Prussian (probably predecessors of the Trakehner horse), Danish and Holstein horses, which was by far the largest contingent.

The English stallions at that time were not yet Thoroughbreds. The first studbook for Thoroughbred breeding was published in England

For the first time, the specialization is addressed in the newly defined breeding goal: "The breeding goal is a rideable, noble, correct Warmblood horse with long body lines, which, based on its predisposition, its temperament and its character, is especially well-suited as a performance and recreational horse.

On this basis, breeding highly talented sport horses for the disciplines of dressage, jumping, eventing and driving should be strived for."

Bundeschampion *Weserstar* by *Wenzel/Absatz* will be auctioned off for an even 200,000 DM at the autumn auction.

1990





Semper Idem by Dampfross/Parsival Photo: Tiedemann



Matcho AA by Pancho II x/Karikal IV AA Photo: Landgestüt Celle

in 1793, which marked the beginning of Thoroughbred breeding. The new breed quickly found its way into the Hannoveraner breed. In 1841, 73 out of 207 stallions at the State Stud Celle were Thoroughbreds. With about 35 percent, this is the highest percentage of Thoroughbreds in the history of the State Stud. Other English carriage breeds such as the Yorkshire Coachhorse, Norfolk and Cleveland Bay, which were used in the reinforcement period about 100 years ago, were also influenced by the Thoroughbred.

Close exchange with the East

There always was a close breed exchange with neighboring provinces in eastern Germany, especially with Mecklenburg. Already at the beginning of the 19th century, the Thoroughbred influence was great in Mecklenburg, where the first Thoroughbred races in Germany were held in 1822 in Doberan. In 1838, more than 80 percent of Celle's stallions came from Mecklenburg, including many Thoroughbreds and high-blooded half-bred stallions. Then, however, the roles reversed: Mecklenburg was rebuilt on a Hannoveraner basis, and, in 1895, a Hanno-

veraner-type horse was officially declared the breeding goal. The cooperation remained close even then. Many colts in Hannover were bought by the large Mecklenburg estates and some were sold back to Hannover via the stallion market in Güstrow, Mecklenburg.

There also was a close breed exchange with Pomerania. From Stud Broock in Western Pomerania, the State Stud Celle acquired the Mecklenburg stallions Zernebog by Jupiter xx/Black Comet xx, born in 1845, and Jella-chich by Defensive xx, born in 1884, which, together with Norfolk, are considered the progenitors of the Hannoveraner horse. At the beginning of the 20th century, the breeding goal in Pomerania was a heavy Hannoveraner. In addition to the English Thoroughbred, Trakehners, of which Semper Idem and Abglanz founded important stallion lines after World War II, Anglo-Arabians (for example Ramzes via Holstein and Westphalia as well as Matcho AA) and, to a lesser extent, Arabians (for example the Shagya stallion Amurath born in 1898) always were accepted as refining breeds.

Opening up since the 1990s

The specialization began with the introduction of the Hannoveraner Jumper Breeding Program, the rapid spread of artificial insemination and, last but not least, the triumph of the internet, which led to a genetic opening of the Hannoveraner breed since the 1990s. For a long time, the founding Holsteiner breed had not been part of the recognized populations, which only changed in 1987. The influences of the Selle Français – especially, but not exclusively, in the breeding of show jumpers – and the KWPN-breed, the latter with a focus on dressage, have also become stronger since the 1990s.

The genetics of the Altoldenburger horse can be found in the back of the pedigrees of some Hannoveraner mainly through some stallions, of which Donnerhall by Donnerwetter was the most influential. Closely related to the Oldenburg horse was the East Frisian horse. After the merger of East Frisia and Hannover, the East Frisian mares were initially only included in the pre-studbook, which changed in 1990. ✂

The Hannoveraner Young Breeder-Day, the "slightly different show", celebrates its debut in Verden.

The Association of Private Hannoveraner Stallion Owners presented its breeding stallions in a stallion show in the Niedersachsenhalle for the first time.

The first Hannoveraner Jumper Horse Championships take place on the Dobrock. The first winners were Evita by Eldorado with Gaby Delicat, Glennon by Gletscher with Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst and Ile de Bourbon by Inshallah AA with Gilbert Böckmann. In 2007, the championships were moved to Verden.





Donnerwetter by Disput/Matador Photo: Eylers



Lotse by Lugano/Dwinger Photo: Archive



Lugano van la Roche by Lugano/Ableger Photo: Archive

The influence on other breeds

A role model for other breeds

“The Hannoveraner state horse breed has become more and more important. Most of the German half-bred breeding areas use Hannoveraner blood. Even the neutral foreign countries are clamoring for Hannoveraner breeding material.” These are the first sentences in the first issue of “Hannoversches Pferd” (the Hannoveraner magazine). They prove the high value and the great demand even before the foundation of the Hannoveraner Verband.

By Dr. Ludwig Christmann

In the article “How he became what he is”, the great importance of the Hannoveraner for the warmblood breed in Mecklenburg and Pomerania was already portrayed. A prominent breeding attempt, which was entirely based on the Hannoveraner, took place in Saxony-Anhalt from 1951 onwards at the main stud in Radegast, which was managed and accompanied by the University of Halle under the direction of Prof. Dr. Dr. hc Werner Wussow.

Former state stud manager Schwechten, who was the managing director of the Horse Breeding Association Saxony-Anhalt from 1947 until 1950, explained the reasons for this as follows: “Because of the different type variations, the Hannoveraner horses have a great advantage when being transplanted to

other areas. The Hannoveraner horse from the marshland is different from the Hannoveraner horse, which is raised on the Geest or in southern Hannover. The horses also differ in the amount of Thoroughbred blood that runs through their veins. The Hannoveraner breed management not only accepts these differences with equanimity, but rather recognizes the advantage of its suitability for different needs as well as the great benefit of the Hannoveraner adaptability to the most diverse conditions.”

Hannoveraner genetics also had a significant influence on the warmblood breed in Brandenburg, so that, at the time of the German Democratic Republic, the noble warmblood was very much influenced by Hannover,

along with influences from the Trakehner and the English Thoroughbred.

Another breeding area that based its warmblood breed entirely on Hannoveraner was Westphalia. The Westphalian Pferdestammbuch (Horse Studbook) decided in 1920 to only breed on a Hannoveraner basis in the future. The situation was somewhat different in the neighboring Rhineland. Until World War II, this region was home to the largest cold-blooded breed in Germany. However, after the end of the war, with the beginning of the mechanization, there was hardly a need for cold-blooded horses and many breeders switched to warmbloods. Many fil- lies of good quality were acquired in Hannover, along with Trakehner genetics and Westphalians, which in turn was strongly

Werther by Wendekreis/Marcio xx is the first Hannoveraner Stallion Of The Year, a title which reflects the appreciation for an important producer.

Hannover wins the first Breed World Championship of the World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses.

1992



Both districts Osnabrück and Emsland come together again as the District Association Osnabrück/Emsland. At the other end of the world, the breeders from New Zealand and Australia separate and become independent.

1993



Voltaire by Furioso II/Gotthard Photo: Archive



Rusty by Rebus/Aczens und Ulla Salzgeber Photo: Toffi



Ernö by Astflug/Fermor Photo: Sting

influenced by Hannover. The warmblood breeding in Bavaria was mainly based on Hannoveraner and Westphalian genetics as well. There, no breeding program for the noble warmblood was in place until the 1950s. Only in the Lower Bavarian Rottal, an independent breed existed, which was, however, based on the Oldenburg heavy warmblood. In Hesse, Rhineland-Pfalz and Saarland, the situation at the beginning of the conversion to the sport horse was similar to that in most other federal states: The private and state-owned stallion keepers mainly had Hannoveraner, Trakehner and Thoroughbred stallions and thus had an influence on horse breeding there. The situation in Baden-Württemberg was somewhat more complex. Probably also due to the direct proximity to France, the Anglo-Norman had a great influence on the development of the Württemberg warmblood. After Oldenburg stallions had been used in the reinforcement period about 100 years ago, the breeding period after World War II initially relied on Trakehner horses and - with Marbach as the center - to a lesser extent on Arabian bloodlines. In the following developmental phase, stallions with Hannoveraner and Holstein bloodlines were increasingly used.

In Oldenburg, Hannoveraner genetics did not have a stronger influence until well after World War II, when the heavy warmblood

had to be refined. Stallions like Argentinus and Grannus were important sires not only in Hannover but also in Oldenburg. The sire of the legendary Donnerhall, perhaps the most important Oldenburg sire of the past decades, was the black stallion Donnerwetter, a successful Grand Prix-competitor from the breeding farm Grönwohldhof. The East Frisian horse was related to the Oldenburg in terms of breeding and type, but was independent and in demand worldwide up to World War II. Attempts to refine with the Arabian did not bring the desired results, so that the East Frisian breeders strived for a merger with Hannover, which was completed in 1975.

Apart from the Trakehners, whose breeding had to be completely rebuilt in the West after the war and which very consistently followed the pure-breed rule, only one German breeding area was hardly influenced by Hannover over the past decades and that was Holstein. After all, the Hannoveraner mare Falkenspitze

laid the foundation in Holstein for the so successful line of the Sacramento Song xx-son Sandro. The Hannoveraner apparently played a bigger role in Holstein in the past, however. Hans Joachim Köhler mentions in the book "Hannovers edles Warmblut von 1949" (Hannover's noble Warmblood from 1949) that "312 Hannoveraner stallions were used at the state stud in Holstein from 1907 until today".

The international influence

The quote that was mentioned at the beginning, proves that there was an international demand for the Hannoveraner even 100 years ago. Thus Pistor1922 reports in the magazine "Hannoversches Pferd": "In addition, Sweden has recently been buying a lot of breeding material in Hannover; and, in Norway, the Hannoveraner enjoys great popularity as a show and luxury horse." It is noted that according to the Swedish Studbook of 1921, Hannover provided about a quarter of all stallions registered in Sweden.

»Because of the different type variations, the Hannoveraner horses have a great advantage when being transplanted to other areas«

Landstallmeister a. D. Schwechten,
former state stud manager and managing director of the Horse Breeding Association Saxony-Anhalt

The Program for Hannoveraner Jumper Horse Breeding is launched. Mares and stallions have to fulfill certain requirements in the test or in competitions. Or, the offspring must have proven its above average abilities in show jumping.

1993



Hannover wins the studbook ranking on the Europa-Mare Show in Brussels. Galaxy by Galvano/Derneburg is the celebrated champion mare.

Riding horse auctions in May and November complete Verden's auction system.

1994

Later on, Utrillo by Ernö, born 1962, became a true foundation sire of the Swedish sport horse breed.

International trade played a major role in the introduction of branding horses, which started in 1910 in order to prevent cheating. As Dr. Schlie explained in "Hannovers edles Warmblut" from 1949 (Hannover's noble Warmblood), that an increasing number of allegedly English horses were exported to Germany, which were then identified as Hannoveraner. The demand for Hannoveraner stallions and mares experienced a further boost after World War II, when sport horse breeding was established in many European countries. After the loss of Trakehnen, Hannover was the largest German warmblood breed. Hannover, represented by the former manager of the State Stud Osnabrück Dr. Julius Kiel and by Prof. Dr. Hans Löwe, was the godfather for the founding of the Danish Warmblood Association in 1962.

Coveted in the East...

Especially in Eastern Europe, Hannoveraner genetics were in great demand. Hannover had influenced the development of the national horse breeds in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and Russia. Independently of the mother country, the Soviet Union founded its own Hannoveraner studbook at the beginning of the 1960s, based on four stallions and about 60 mares, which were purchased in Lower Saxony and the German Democratic Republic. The Hannoveraner were mainly bred at Stud Georgenburg near Kaliningrad and at Stud Zagare in Lithuania. From these locations, these studs radiated to the horse breed in the Baltic States. A famous example is the Latvian-born Rusty, who was one of the most successful dressage horses in the world at the turn of the millennium with Ulla Salzgeber. His pedigree is a combination of Hannoveraner, Thoroughbred and Trakehner elements. He descends from the Hannoveraner mare line of Longola and goes back in the fourth generation to Elbrebe by Eljen, born in 1961. In many other European countries where sport horse breeds were established, Hannoveraner genetics were used, for example in Swit-

zerland, Austria, Italy or Luxembourg. In many cases, it was important to breed "genuine" Hannoveraner and to be looked after by the Hannoveraner Verband.

Jozef Brondeel

Stoeterij de Breemeersen
in Aalter/BEL

»Since 1973, when I attended the licensing and mare shows for the first time, the Hannoveraner has developed into a modern sport horse. Even back then, Hannoveraners were known for their rideability, their movement and their correct foundation.

And for the fact that these qualities have been firmly anchored in the mare lines for generations. That is why we still buy young Hannoveraner stallions today.

About 50 years ago, Hannover's influence on the Belgian warmbloods was substantial, the best example being Lugano van La Roche. Imported broodmares helped Belgium to make the leap to the modern sport horse.«

The situation is somewhat different in Spain and Portugal, which have breeds like Pura Raza Española and Lusitanos, which are centuries old and in which very little foreign blood was used. But there too are some sport horse breeders who are looked after by the Hannoveraner Verband.

...and in the West

The Hannoveraner influence was significant in Belgium. Like the Rhineland, the country was once famous for its cold-blood breed. The development of a warmblood breed did not begin until the 1950s with a combination of Hannoveraner, Selle Français and Holsteiner breeds. Important foundation stallions were

Flügel van La Roche by Firnis, Lugano van La Roche by Lugano, the sire of the famous Darco, and Drost by Duft II. Hannoveraner mares were also involved in the development of the Belgian sport horse breed, such as the Grande-daughter Gute Sitte and the Gotthard-daughter Ghana, on which internationally successful jumping lines were built. In the founding years, there was a close connection to the Stud Zangersheide, which was initially a member of the Hannoveraner Verband and produced the famous Hannoveraner Olympic champion Ratina Z by Ramiro/Alme Z. A large number of daughters of Gotthard, which were acquired by the founder of Stud Zangersheide, Leon Melchior, became the foundation for the breeding program in Zangersheide.

The Hannoveraner influence in the Netherlands was not as strong as in Belgium. The Furioso II/Gotthard-son Voltaire must be mentioned. He himself was an internationally successful show jumper and was responsible for founding a worldwide leading show jumper-line for the KWPN, from which, among others, the international top sire Kannan descends. The strengthening of sport horse breeding in the Netherlands has led to a lively breeding exchange over the past 20 years. Numerous Hannoveraner stallions are used in the neighboring country, and vice versa numerous KWPN stallions in Hannover. These are often influenced by Trakehner, Holsteiner or French genetics. Overseas, the Hannoveraner is also one of the founding breeds of sport horse breeding. In the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Hannoveraner is very widespread and there have been Hannoveraner breeders' associations there for almost half a century. Also in Namibia, where many breeders of German origin breed sport horses, and in South Africa, the influence of Hannover is substantial.

Worldwide, the Hannoveraner has had a significant influence on numerous sport horse breeds. He can be considered one of a good handful of original breeds – such as the Holsteiner, Trakehner, Selle Français, English Thoroughbred and Arabian/Anglo-Arabian – for international sport horse breeding. ✂

The Hannoveraner Verband and the American Hanoverian Society sign an agreement, which transferred the full and sole responsibility for handling the Hannoveraner breed in the US to the AHS in conformity with the guidelines of the German Verband.

The Dynamo/Salem-daughter Dollar Girl and Nick Skelton win the World Cup-final in Göteborg. After Aramis, Genius, Gladstone, Ratina Z and The Natural, she is the 6th Hannoveraner obtaining this success. E.T. FRH by Espri/Garibaldi II and Hugo Simon win the German Jumper Derby.



Breeders in transition

Joy in the horse

The purpose of the Hannoveraner horse changed over the course of decades – and with it the motives of the people who breed them.

By Dr. Katharina Wiegand

The Hannoveraner breed has its origins in rural horse breeding. It was neither for personal use nor a hobby; instead it first served the production of draft and driving horses, which were needed in everyday life for farming and for transport, as well as for the military. Just like the farms and the breeding sites, the knowledge of horse breeding was passed down from generation to generation.

Connected with these old breeding sites were – and still are today – the mare lines, which are also known to the breeder families for generations. The knowledge about strengths, weaknesses and ancestors of one's own broodmares was and is almost automatically part of it.

As the role of the horse in society changed, the structure within the breeding community gradually began to become more diverse. The horse was replaced in farming and the military and found a new role predominantly as a riding horse for competitions and also, increasingly, for recreational riding. While many traditional breeder families continued to breed horses and still do so today, new people have also come to horse breeding over the past decades often through the equestrian sport or out of pure interest and joy in horses.

These breeders no longer "automatically" live in the countryside; and it is also in the nature of things that they do not have mature, familiar knowledge and corresponding experience with breeding horses. This circumstance, for example, led – and still leads – to an increasing market demand for the boarding of broodmares as a service. At the same time, the demand for advisory services developed, for example when it comes to evaluating one's own mare, choosing the right stallion and managing a mare and foal during the pregnancy and while raising a youngster.

The survey of breeders of the Hannoveraner Verband in September 2021 revealed that long-time members differ significantly from those who joined the Verband in the recent past in a number of issues.

Long-time members ...

... usually have family ties to the Hannoveraner Verband and are members because they just will never consider another association or because they feel that they belong to the Hannoveraner Verband geographically. In comparison, they value more old mare lines and the suitability of horses for top competitions as well as the temperament and the sensibility. They want to preserve their mare line for generations and sell horses at a profit. They would like the Verband to support them in their marketing endeavors.

Additional characteristic features are that these breeders breed with mares out of their own breeding program, that they comparatively participate more often in mare performance tests, and attend more regularly meetings of horse breeding clubs and district associations.

Breeders in transition

The structure within the breeders' community is more diverse.

The newer members ...

... on the other hand, often come to the Hannoveraner Verband because they own a Hannoveraner mare and want to register the foal. They want the Hannoveraner Verband to impart knowledge, give advice on various topics and advocate age-appropriate and species-appropriate handling of the horse. It is their wish to breed a horse for themselves and their family, and often they

also realize a childhood dream. As a rule, they breed with former riding horses of the family or breeding horses that they purchased. These breeders are more in favor of the possibility of the self-management of their horses online and spend less time at events and meetings than long-time members.

Breeders today also differ in many ways in their personal breeding goals, although this is not necessarily related to how long someone has been breeding horses. Both long-standing and newer members have different motives for breeding. In addition to the specialization in one of the disciplines, there is a focus on performance or amateur and recreational sport. What almost all of them have in common, however, is that the attributes health, rideability, willingness to perform and character are of great importance.

Since December 30th, the Minister of Agriculture in Lower Saxony recognizes the Verband as the original breeding area for the race of the Hannoveraner horse in accordance with the EU-guidelines 90/427. The Verband's trademark is the legally protected Hannoveraner main studbook-brand.

The Hannoveraner riding and driving school moves into the facility on the terrain of the barracks on Lindhooper Straße.

On the breeding station Landesbrück, an insemination station is set up as a pilot program for inseminating mares with fresh semen.

1996



Sport horse legends

Victories for eternity

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Hannoveraner celebrate victories on the renowned show grounds around the globe. It is these very special triumphs that make them true legends. There are great victories and special stories, which make Hannover's dressage, show jumping and eventing horses immortal.

By Britta Züngel

Dressage horses

Brentina Debbie McDonald

*1991 I mare I by Brentano II/Lungau
Breeder: Wilhelm Rethorst, Badbergen
In the USA, she was a superstar: Brentina and Debbie McDonald inspired North America, and Brentina was the figurehead for the sport of dressage. When this pair won the World Cup-final in 2003, they were celebrated as national heroes. At the elite auction in October 1994, Peggy and Parry Thomas, passionate friends of the Hannoveraner horse, bought the top seller. At that time the impressive chestnut mare had already been awarded the 1b-Prize at the Ratje Niebuhr-Show. With dressage rider and trainer Debbie McDonald, the ideal partner had been found.

- » World Championships 2002 I 2006: 1 silver and 1 bronze medal
- » Olympic Games 2004: 1 bronze medal
- » World Cup-Finals 2003: 1 victory

»From the very first moment I knew that Salinero was a very special horse. He was always ready to give everything!«

Anky van Grunsven

Dux Dr. Reiner Klimke

*1952 I gelding I by Duellant/Allerhand
Breeder: Sophie Grothmann, Hollerdeich
With Dux, the great career of the legendary Dr. Reiner Klimke began. In 1960, he competed at the Olympic Games in eventing before switching to dressage. Dux had entered his stable as a young horse. Four years after Rome, Dr. Reiner Klimke won the first of his Olympic gold medals with his Hannoveraner, which carried the best blood from Kehdingen. The elastic but somewhat coarse Dux was followed by Mehmed by Ferdinand/Altried (breeder: H. Pape, Wechtern), with whom Dr. Reiner Klimke won Olympic gold and was double World and European Champion.

- » European Championships 1967 I 1969 I 1971: 4 gold medals
- » World Championships 1966: 1 gold and 1 bronze medal
- » Olympic Games 1964 I 1968: 2 gold and 2 bronze medals

Gigolo FRH Isabell Werth

*1983 I gelding I by Graditz/Busoni xx
Breeder: Horst Klußmann, Parsau
For over a decade, Gigolo FRH was the most successful dressage horse in the world. With champion rider Isabell Werth, the strong-gaited chestnut took his leave from the dressage arena after winning team gold and individual silver at the Olympic Games in Sydney 2000. Discovered and promoted by Dr. Uwe Schulten-Baumer, the dream couple enchanted spectators around the globe with their precision, relaxedness and charisma.

"He has a good character combined with the best basic gaits and excellent rideability," praised the trainer when Gigolo FRH was at the beginning of his fabulous career in 1991 and had just been awarded the Otto-Lörke-Prize.

- » European Championships 1991 I 1993 I 1995 I 1997: 8 gold medals
- » World Equestrian Games 1994 I 1998: 4 gold medals
- » Olympic Games 1992 I 1996 I 2000: 4 gold and 2 silver medals

Salinero Anky van Grunsven

*1994 I gelding I by Salieri/Lungau
Breeder: Horst Bünger, Essel
At the beginning of the millennium, a Hannoveraner black horse rocked the stage. Salinero was unbeatable in the freestyle with his temperament and expressiveness. He won the World Cup-final four times with the Dutch rider Anky van Grunsven. Salinero celebrated the first victory of his career in a show jumping competition. Olympic history was made in Athens: While Salinero won gold in dressage, his full brother Seven Up competed in show jumping with the Korean rider Jung-Ho Woo.

- » European Championships 2005 I 2007 I 2009: 4 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal
- » World Equestrian Games 2006: 1 gold and 2 silver medals
- » Olympic Games 2004 I 2008 I 2012: 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal
- » World Cup Finals 2004 I 2005 I 2006 I 2008: 4 victories



The Young Breeders of all German associations meet for the first time for a national competition.

The free-jumping competition of the Program for Jumper Horse Breeding is also new. The first winner is Atlantis As FRH, who participated in the World Equestrian Games with Lars Nieberg later in life.

A big event: The European Dressage Championships take place in Verden. The sold-out grandstands in the stadium arouse moments of goosebumps. At the same time, the pilot program of the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses is introduced.



»Gigolo FRH has had a decisive influence on my life, and I look back on the years with him with great gratitude. I am sure: He will not only remain unforgotten for me.«

Isabell Werth about Gigolo FRH *Photo: Toffi*

One for all – The European Union introduces the Equidenpass, a passport for horses. The pedigree is part of the multi-page document, which has a plastic cover.

The Yearbook Stallions is published. The publication with its extensive information developed into an indispensable tool for breeders.

The Verden auctions celebrate its 100th birthday in the spring. The importance of the sale event is honored with a magnificent gala evening in the Niedersachsenhalle. Devina M by Davignon/Raphael is the top selling horse. She finds a new home in the USA for 210,000 German Marks.



Dux and Dr. Reiner Klimke Photo: Archive



Deister and Paul Schockemöhle Photo: Toffi

Jumpers

Deister Paul Schockemöhle

*1971 | gelding | by Diskant/Adlerschild xx
Breeder: Hermann Hahl, Otterndorf
Three consecutive times European Champion – nobody managed to achieve this before or after him. Deister and Paul Schockemöhle kept the world in suspense. He sold as a dressage horse on Verden's auction in November of 1974; his talent for jumping did not remain uncovered for long! The unforgettable Hartwig Steenken obtained his first successes aboard the wiry dark bay. Paul Schockemöh-

le, who was fascinated with his fighting spirit and his jumping ability, turned Deister into a world-class horse. "He has the ability to learn from his mistakes," said the successful jumper rider after winning his third title. "Everything is for sale at my barn except Deister," he once said in an interview, "To me, he is more than a horse!"

- » European Championships
1979 | 1981 | 1983 | 1985 | 1987:
4 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze medals
- » World Championships 1982 | 1986:
1 silver medal
- » Olympic Games 1984:
1 bronze medal

World Cup-debut seventeen years before on Gladstone by Götz/Weingau, also an auction horse from Verden. Unfortunately E.T. FRH was denied a big individual title. "E.T. FRH certainly was the best jumper of all times," Hugo Simon said, when the chestnut gelding had to be put to sleep at the age of 27. "He lived like a king and he deserved it!"

- » European Championships 1997:
1 silver medal
- » Weltcupfinale 1996 | 1997: 2 victories

For Pleasure Lars Nieberg
Marcus Ehning

*1986 | stallion | by Furioso II/Grannus
Breeder: Robert Diestel, Adelheidsdorf
The colorful chestnut stallion fascinated his audience and the experts for more than ten years. With Lars Nieberg, For Pleasure won team gold in Atlanta and became team European champion in Mannheim. In 1999, Marcus Ehning took over his reins and seamlessly linked up to the successes. After

**»For Pleasure
will always be the horse
of my life«**

Marcus Ehning

Herbert Meyer

Former federal coach show jumping

»We were almost obliged, to ride Hannoveraner horses, my father was a breeder, I was in Hannover. My horses Deichgraf, Simona, Salome were all Hannoveraner, of course. Even in Warendorf I kept this too: I, with my quirk of Hannoveraner. I have not given up this quirk.«

E.T. FRH Hugo Simon

*1987 | gelding | by Espri/Garibaldi II
Breeder: Detlev Saul, Bremerhaven
E.T. FRH – a horse from a different world. With rider Hugo Simon, the small chestnut with the striking spot in his broad blaze still today is one of the jumpers with the highest earnings. At 1,62 metres (barely 16 hands), he impressed with his fighting spirit and his ambition. Discovered on the winter auction in January of 1991, he came into the barn of Hugo Simon as a six-year old. He won the World Cup-final in Geneva in 1996 and in Gothenburg in 1997. His rider had won the

Germany's jumper riders win team gold in Sydney. Three Hannoveraner are on the team: For Pleasure with Marcus Ehning, Esprit FRH with Lars Nieberg, and Goldfever with Ludger Beerbaum.

Verden is as "Centre of Animal Breeding" a world-wide respected project at the world exhibition EXPO in Hannover.

2000



Verden will be the host of the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses for 15 years. The first World Championships takes place within the European Dressage Championships, just as the first international Young Breeders Competition did.

2001



FRH Butts Abraxxas and Ingrid Klimke Photo: Lafrentz



Salinero and Anky van Grunsven Photo: Lafrentz



E.T. FRH and Hugo Simon Photo: Rau

team gold at the European Championships in Hickstead, For Pleasure won his second gold medal in Sydney. That year, he was selected as Stallion Of The Year. He finished his grand career with becoming team European champion for the third time in Donaueschingen. Freddy was officially retired from competition in Aachen in 2006 in front of a large audience. "He will forever remain the horse of my life. He made me who I am today," said Marcus Ehning before the pair took their last lap of honor.

- » European Championships 1997 | 1999 | 2003: 3 gold, 1 bronze medal
- » Olympic Games 1996 | 2000: 2 gold medals

Shutterfly Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum

*1993 | gelding | by Silvio/Forrest xx Breeder: Uwe Dreesmann, Hesel With a victory in the European Championships in 2011, the career of one of the most successful jumpers of all times came to an end. "To me, Shutterfly was the most perfect horse in the world!" Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum said goodbye to her "Petey" in Aachen, where she had won Germany's most prestigious Grand Prix six years earlier. As a seven-year old, Shutterfly came to the US-

American rider from Hollywood, who carries a German passport, and a dream career started. In addition to numerous titles and medals, the pair won 3,5 Million Euros and five cars.

- » European Championships 2007: 1 gold, 1 silver medal
- » World Championships 2006: 2 bronze medals
- » World Cup-Finals 2008 | 2009: 2 victories

Event horses

FRH Butts Abraxxas Ingrid Klimke

*1997 | gelding | by Heraldik xx/Kronenranich xx | Breeder: Friedrich Butt, Bülkau He is "Hannover's fastest pony". Bred out of one of the most renowned half-bred race-horse lines, FRH Butts Abraxxas was a reliable member of Germany's championship team with his partner Ingrid Klimke for many years. With top results in the dressage ring and on the cross-country course, the energetic bay often gave away opportunities of winning an individual medal on the stadium course. "I owe the small fighter with his enormous heart countless happy moments," the riding master shared. After his retirement

from international competitions, he became the perfect teacher for Ingrid Klimke's daughter Greta Busacker.

- » European Championships 2007 | 2011: 1 gold medal
- » Olympic Games 2008 | 2012: 2 gold medals

Trux von Kamax Otto Rothe
August Lütke-Westhues
Dr. Wilhelm Büsing

*1943 | gelding | by Falkner III/Goldfisch Breeder: Louis Deelwater, Langen-Welle Trux von Kamax became a true legend in the sport of eventing. His name reflects an early form of sponsorship. Kamax was the name of a company, which Trux had made available to the Olympic committee. The number of his successes, which he obtained with three different riders, is big. In 1956, he won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Helsinki with August Lütke-Westhues. The press calls him the "iron Hannoveraner". In Finland, the German team, which consisted exclusively of Hannoveraner horses, also won team gold.

- » European Championships 1954: 1 silver medal
- » Olympic Games 1952 | 1956: 3 silver medals

The licensing is divided into the licensing and the stallion sales. All stallions, which are for sale, are auctioned off in the Niedersachsenhalle. Until this time, the two-and-a-half year old stallions were sold by private treaty to new owners in the central office.

2001



After being recognized as the breed association for the original studbook of the Hannoveraner race, the breeding goal becomes more differentiated, the breeding of recreational horses is added. In addition, a catalog of criteria is created, which includes the desirable and non-desirable evaluation details.

2002

The young breeders

They are the future

They are the future: The young breeders. It has now been almost 40 years, since the idea was born and filled with life. One person who was instrumental in paving the way for the young breeders, is Dr. Ludwig Christmann. The long-serving deputy breeding manager, who later was responsible for Breeders International as well as numerous scientific projects, was available to answer questions.

By Anna-Lena Lührs and Fiona Koch



In the young breeders' competitions, mares and handlers come out tip-top. Photo: Dr. Christmann



The young breeders set off from Hanover. The first nationwide competition took place in Rastede. In the meantime, the Federal Young Breeders' Competition moves from breeding association to breeding association. Photos: Private

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Where did the idea to found the young breeders come from?

I started at the Hannoveraner Verband in 1984. While traveling through the breeding area or on meetings of the horse breeding clubs, you could already see that the average age of the breeders was quite high and that time and again old breeders gave up breeding because there were no successors. Two years before, I had been in the USA and Canada for several months. There I visited "county fairs", which are roughly comparable to large county livestock shows, where competitions for young breeders took place. Not only for horses, but also for cattle. The cattle breeders in Germany were already further along in this respect. They often had youth

organizations in other sectors. So the thought crossed my mind: Why shouldn't this also be possible for horses?

What was the idea behind founding the Young Breeders?

The idea was to better introduce children and young people from breeders' families, but also other interested parties, to horse breeding.

What was the response of the board on including young people?

Both the Board of Directors and the then managing director Dr. Wilkens fully supported the idea of youth work from the very beginning. They also supported that the youth

spokesperson should be a member of the Board. There may have been reservations of one or the other board member, but these were not voiced aloud. And in the end, the youth spokespersons were always great young people who, in retrospect, also made good life-decisions.

How have the young breeders developed?

There were many things that went well in terms of the development of the young breeders. I was thrilled how well the idea was received and how quickly it developed momentum of its own. Establishing the position of the youth spokesperson in the horse breeding clubs was a decisive factor. At the time, I did not think that the idea would also

De Niro by Donnerhall/Akzent and Dolf-Dietram Keller win the German Dressage-Derby.

Stallions at the licensing are presented on the lunge-line. Soon lunging becomes a permanent part of the approval and is considered in the approval decision.

2003



With Anky van Grunsven from the Netherlands, Salinero by Salieri/Lungau wins the World Cup-final in Dortmund. Five months later, they become Olympic champions.

2004



After its premiere at the World Championships for young dressage horses, the international Young Breeders' Competition travelled from country to country. Even continents were skipped, one competition took place in Calgary.

establish itself so quickly nationwide and internationally and that there would be World Championships for young breeders!

Successful young breeders' stories – who stuck in your mind?

The Hannoveraner Verband is a good example that the work that was done bore fruit. President Dr. Hinni Lührs-Behnke, breeding manager Ulrich Hahne and his deputy Maren Schlender were very committed young breeders, Uli and Maren had also been youth spokespersons. Hartmut Wilking from the old board, Jürgen Stuhmann – they also were active in youth work, then later successful breeders and volunteers in the Verband. Another example is Hannes Brüning, who was a

very successful young breeder, then later prepared the teams for competitions and now runs a real showcase farm. His wife Victoria was also an active and successful young breeder. There are many examples like this. It shows that many young breeders from yesterday have now actively grown into leadership positions in the Verband and/or have become successful breeders.

What can be optimized about the work with young breeders and what do you wish for the young breeders' work in the future?

I think that you always have to ask yourself whether the offers that are made are still up to date and what can be improved. It is also about how we can support young breeders

who have actually started breeding horses. Johann von der Decken had the idea of 'young breeders' many years ago. This should perhaps be reconsidered. What is missing from my point of view is that there is no data available that allows us to retrace the work with the youth and what it accomplished.

Young breeders

There are youth spokespersons in every horse breeding club, who are responsible for the work of the young breeders. They organize with their teams seminars, competitions, trips and excursions. Enjoying the horse is important to all. Everyone can participate, even if you do not have a horse. Highlights are the Young Breeders' Day in Verden as well as the national competition and the World Championships. The young breeders also are sought-after in Verden: Events like foal selections, the Herwart von der Decken-Show or the gala evening would be impossible without the young breeders as runners, presenters and helpers.

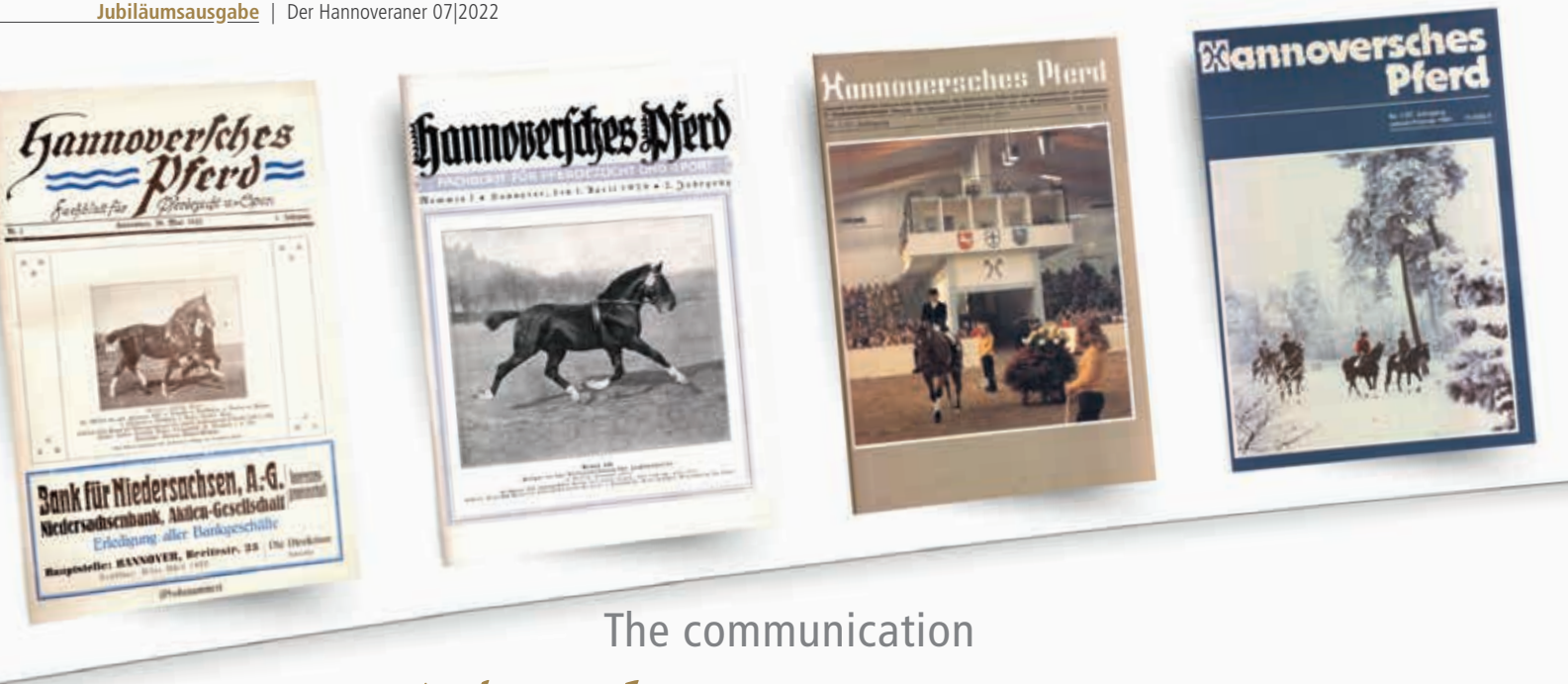
The Hannoveraner Verband and the Association of Hessian Horse Breeders merge. In the beginning, they continue to keep the studbook, until, in 2009, it is closed. Thereupon the Horse Centre Alsfeld becomes a place for training and marketing.

2005

Londontime by Londonderry/Walt Disney becomes the celebrated top seller of the elite auction in October. He sold for 510,000 Euros. Eight years later, the stallion is awarded the Grande-Prize.

2006





The communication *The close connection*

Not only the Hannoveraner Verband celebrates its 100th birthday, but also the members' magazine DER HANNOVERANER then called "Hannoversches Pferd". It was published for the first time in 1922.

By Britta Züngel

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After World War I, the Hannoveraner state horse breed gained in importance more and more. Most of the German half-bred breeding areas breed with Hannoveraner blood. Increased demand requires an increased production without reducing the quality. The Hannoveraner breeder must fulfill this task. All institutions and bodies that serve the purpose of supporting our state horse breed, will help to the best of their ability. It requires an exchange of ideas between breeders, consumers and the authorities, which manage the breed. It also requires informing breeders about all important and decidable questions concerning the breed, as well as further publicizing and disseminating all measures, institutions, organizations and events which serve the support of the noble Hannoveraner state horse breed or those that are connected with it. It is furthermore important to promote sales through advertising and propaganda and publish sales records. The existing journals, which deal with half-bred breeding, serve all breeds and

breed directions in Germany and cannot handle the questions of a specific breed in depth. All the questions, which are of great importance to the breeder and to breeding the noble Hannoveraner horse can only be handled extensively in a magazine, which exists exclusively for the Hannoveraner horse, its breeders, promoters and consumers." The magazine "Hannoversches Pferd" is born. The first issue is published on May 20, 1922 and is available for 3 Marks every fortnight. In the Weimar Republic, money is extremely devaluated and, in November, the magazine already costs 9 Marks.

In the first issue, the State Stud Celle already pledges its active cooperation. "All mare shows, studbook entries and licensings are to be publicized in it. Every issue should include pictures of famous horses and breeding farms", it continues. After only 13 issues, "Hannoversches Pferd" comes to an end. "Because of economic reasons, the publication is discontinued with this issue", the pub-

lisher briefly informs its readers on the last page. Former editor Major Korndorff announces that he will be employed as an assistant at the State Stud Celle. Just one year later, "Hannoversches Pferd" is back. The regional association recognizes an "emerging lack of intellectual connection with the breeders" and, at its general meeting, decides to "get our 'Hannoversches Pferd' going again" and to publish it monthly. With the end of hyperinflation and the introduction of the Renten- and later the Reichsmark, the price for one issue is 50 Pfennigs. In 1931, the editorial board, which Konrad Bresges heads on, the managing director of the regional association, decides to give the magazine a "more modest appearance" for economic reasons and to do without the title page. The intention is to not increase the subscription fee and to compensate for the simpler appearance with a richer content. Thus the issue from December 1932 has only eight pages. Gradually the number of pages increases again, and four years later, the maga-



The first Hannoveraner Mare Of The Year is Famm by Forrest xx/Gardestern, the dam of World Cup-champion Shutterfly, who was one of the most successful jumpers of his time with rider Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum.

The name Association of Hannoveraner Warmblood Breeders is changed to Hannoveraner Verband. The Meeting of the Delegates decides that the Verband seeks recognition on the national level.



zine no longer needs to be subscribed to, but is sent to members free of charge. With the outbreak of World War II, "Hannoversches Pferd" is published only bimonthly. A shortage of paper forces a further reduction in the number of pages. The last issue to appear during the war years is the four-page issue in April/June of 1944. In June 1949, "Hannoversches Pferd" is published again; from now on with the brand in

the name. One year later, the magazine is supplemented by the newsletter of the Lower Saxony State Association of Rural Riding and Driving Clubs. For almost a quarter of a century, the appearance of the magazine remains unchanged. In 1973, "Hannoversches Pferd" gets a completely new look; the basic color changes annually, and the title page becomes four-colored. One year later, the Hannoveraner Association of Pony and Small

Horse Breeders has its permanent place in the now 30-page issue. The Riders' Association Hanover-Bremen publishes its articles under the name "Hannoverscher Reiter". After a slight "facelift" in 1983, a "divorce" follows the next year. The Riders' Association decides to publish its own magazine after 60 years.

After another two years, the Hannoveraner brand is removed from the lettering of the cover and stands by itself together with a globe as the trademark. It does not take quite as long for the next change to occur. The advertising concept of the Hannoveraner Verband is completely redesigned in 1991 – "Success all over the world" is the guiding principle. And the members' magazine receives a new name: Der Hannoveraner (The Hannoveraner). The strongest editions contain around 100 pages of information on breeding, sport and husbandry. The young breeders have their own section, as does the studbook for draught horses. In 1999, Der Hannoveraner finally appears in color. Initially, some of the photos are printed in four colors, shortly thereafter the complete content is in color. From 2002 on, Der Hannoveraner is published monthly and presents itself much more up-to-date on about 70 pages.

The entire communication system of the Hannoveraner Verband is revised and renewed in 2011. The modern layout with the distinctive lettering has since been used in all publications from the auction brochure to "Der Hannoveraner" to all posters and advertising material and strengthens the uniform brand image.

»»»» The Hannoveraner goes online ««««

When the first Hannoveraner webpage on the internet was launched in 1991, a new way of communicating presented itself. In close cooperation with the data center in Verden, all kinds of information was made available to breeders worldwide over the course of the next years. Ten years later, the stallion distribution plan with colored photos was online, videos of auction horses could be viewed. In 2007, the auction presentation was on live-stream for the first time. Over the years, the website has been adapted several times, not only technically but also graphically. Major updates were made in 2001, 2011, 2013 and 2016. Since 2017, the service page MeinHannoveraner has been made available, where breeders can conveniently manage their mare stock online. In the fall of 2019, the Hannoveraner Forum was introduced as a new plat-

form for internal communication between members. Since mid-2021, a monthly newsletter is also sent to members. With the latest launch on May 3rd of this year, the website has once again been given a modern look.

The rapid development of the internet as well as a new kind of user experience ensured the emergence of social media in the first decade of the 21st century: Since 2012, the Hannoveraner Verband has additional communication platforms: Facebook and YouTube. Instagram was added in 2016. More than 73-thousand people follow the Verband on Facebook and 38-thousand on Instagram. More and more, video contents are in the foreground of the social networks.

Juliane Fellner

Numerous, internationally successful sport horses have names that start with the letter G. It stands for Hannover's virtues. With the G-initiative, this bloodline is placed in the center of the breeding interest.

The Canadian Hanoverian Society is founded as an umbrella organization for all of Canada. Hannoveraner horses have a longstanding tradition in Canada. Already since the middle of the 1960s, German-born breeders imported Hannoveraner stallions.





Renowned trainers meet at the training centre. Photo: Fellner



In Verden, the long tradition of the showground is continued. Photo: Rüchel

The areas of activity all around the horse

The offer is rounded off

Managing the studbook, selection, foal registration, advice, provision of data and availability of digital services such as online self-administration for breeders via MeinHannoveraner – these are basic tasks of a horse breed association. In addition, the Hannoveraner Verband developed activities in other areas that round off the range of services for the (potential) breeder.

By Wilken Treu

Verden's Horse Seminars

Since 1996, the aim has been to attract as wide a clientele as possible to Verden's Horse Seminars, from breeders, who just start out, to experienced farm managers. Everyone only gains from further education: Breeders, trainers, facilities and above all the horse. The demand for further education and the transfer of knowledge is increasing, and with the change in the community of breeders, the seminar topics also constantly change.

The quality of the speakers is particularly close to the heart of the Hannoveraner Verband. We look throughout Germany for the best in their field, experts who are just as proficient in theory as they are in practice. The long-standing cooperation with the Hannoverian Equestrian Federation contributes significantly to the success of the seminars,

many of which are also recognized for renewing the license of FN-trainers.

The range of topics includes classical breeding issues, horse evaluations, veterinary areas and criteria of hoof positioning, feeding, legal areas and, on a regular basis, also practical demonstrations of free-jumping training. The pilot year 2021 brought about the variant of web seminars due to the pandemic-related cancellation of events with a live audience. So far, these online seminars have focused mainly on new breeders. The topics "Which stallion suits my mare?" and "I want to breed a foal – what do I have to do?" were well received.

Horse training

The Hannoveraner Verband also offers practical support with the training of horses. For

many years now, the team of riders and grooms based in Verden has dedicated itself to not only the auction events but also to starting and further developing young horses all year round on the grounds of Verden's former Riding and Driving School directly opposite the Niedersachsenhalle – often with the focus on subsequent marketing opportunities, but not necessarily. In principle, this possibility has existed for decades, sometimes in greater and sometimes in lesser quantities. Currently with comparatively few places for starting young horses under saddle, this offer of the Hannoveraner Verband is becoming more important again in the region.

Show ground

The show ground Verden looks back on a history-rich in tradition. The spacious show grounds within Verden's racetrack and the



The newly introduced Grande-Prize for a stallion between the ages of 10 and 13 is awarded to Don Frederico by Donnerhall/Consul. Three years later, Celle's state stud sire becomes "Stallion Of The Year".

In the Horse Centre Alsfeld, the riding horse auction called "Alsfelder Advent" takes place.

The EU-ordinance 504/2008 becomes effective; it is to lead to an unmistakable identification possibility for horses through appropriate marking. The obligation of marking through a transponder follows in the livestock transportation ordinance.



All equestrian sports enthusiasts are welcome guests at the Niedersachsenhalle.



The showgrounds at the racecourse were modernised and passed its acid test.

modern Niedersachsenhalle offer ideal conditions for equestrian events. Verden's competitions have their origins in the establishment of national and international championships since the 1990s. From the Bundeschampionat to German Championships, regular international competitions up to the European Dressage Championships, everything has already taken place in the equestrian city. The World Championships for Young Dressage Horses were also planned and realized in Verden.

Converting the terrain around the racetrack into an equestrian event venue in 2020 gives Verden new opportunities – not necessarily to exclusively focus on international championships, but to regularly host competitions with good general conditions. Since then, the Hannoveraner Verband has seized this opportunity and uses the advantages of the outdoor as well as the indoor grounds to organize competitions all year round.

Training of riders

The spacious facilities allows the Hannoveraner Verband to invite top-class instructors for training courses with different topics, especially during the winter and the spring. This idea was born to repeatedly bring back auction customers and their Hannoveraner horses to Verden for training, but, in the meantime, inquiries of riders go far beyond that. Almost every weekend outside the outdoor show season, the Verband offers training sessions.

The supporting association

FRH – An award for < the best Hannoveraner < sport horses.

It is not unusual for other institutions and instructors to rent additional riding halls in the complex of the Verband at the same time in order to offer their own training courses.


FRH - the supporting association

The three letters stand for the Association for the support of equestrian sport on Hannoveraner horses, which was founded in 1985 and has meanwhile developed into a recognized trademark. The most important goal is to reward and support promising horses and riders, united with breeders, owners and sponsors. Starting with Gigolo FRH and E.T. FRH, such illustrious names as Showtime FRH, fischerChipmunk FRH or FRH Corrida carry Hannover's reputation all over the world. The young talents also make advertisement in competitions: The best Hannoveraner in the Hannoveraner Championships and in the Bundeschampionate are awarded the prestigious suffix.

“Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH”

Strong together for the horses in Lower Saxony – the “Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH”

unites the sectors of the equestrian sport and horse breeding under one roof through its shareholders. The Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH was founded in 2005 due to the realization of many that a joint coordinate office is needed for the various areas, which relate to horse activities. One of the main tasks therefore is the bundling function and joint representation of the interests of equine competence, which is at home throughout Lower Saxony with different centers and focal points. Accordingly, Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH coordinates necessary connections between politics, local authorities, business and professional representatives of horse organizations and the “horse world”. Together with experts from the most diverse fields, information and concepts on the subject horse are developed. In addition, Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH has an important task of spreading information regarding special events and activities.

The Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH thus does on the Lower Saxony-level what the FN does on the national level as a representation of interests. A concrete example of the work of Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH is the wolf issue, which the shareholder associations bundled in Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH for processing and coordinating in the direction of politics. Such topics with the same interest of the shareholder associations receive the necessary, competent focus in Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH. 

The Hannoveraner dam line-system is introduced in 2010. More than 1,500 dam lines are identified, some of whose origin are traceable to more than 150 years ago.

The guidelines “crucial predisposition”, “quality” and “identity” are worked out.

2010

The modification and modernization of the Niedersachsenhalle, which took place in two construction stages, are completed. The Dieta-Statue obtains its spot in front of the Verband's office building.

The absolute top seller is Lemony's Nicket by Londonderry/Weltmeyer, who sold for 900,000 Euros.

2011



The reproduction process

Always new possibilities

In modern horse breeding, all known methods are used to produce offspring. In addition to covering the mare, modern assisted reproduction biotechnologies are used.

By Professor Dr. Harald Sieme and Dr. Gunilla Martinsson

Until 1985, the reproduction in horse breeding took place almost exclusively through live cover. However, as early as the turn of the century, the cornerstones were laid mainly in Eastern Europe for an instrumental semen transfer in horses. The reasons for the rather hesitant development of horse insemination in Western Europe were the changing economic importance of the horse and the initially restrictive attitude of many breed associations.

The hygienic advantages of semen transfer lie in the avoidance of the transmission of genital infections and the optimal sperm use of the stallions. In Lower Saxony, it was necessary for the first time in the early 1950s to successfully counteract mating epidemics that were occurring more frequently in the southern Hanoverian region, through controlled insemination. In 1973, the Central Horse Insemination Station was founded at the State Stud Celle. In cooperation with the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, a method for deep-freezing stallion semen was developed. In 1986, under the technical supervision of Prof. Dr. Erich Klug †, the then state stud manager Dr. Burchard Bade achieved a decisive breakthrough with introducing fresh semen transfer at the Station Landesbrück.

Once the same success rates as with live cover were achieved, all breeding stations from the State Stud Celle were converted. The share of artificially inseminated mares has been over 90 percent since 1993. The advantages of semen transfer are the supra-regional availability of semen, the simultaneous

use of stallions in sport and breeding, and the creation of genetic reserves of valuable sires. The semen can be sent cooled or frozen and is thus available worldwide. Another significant effect is that a stallion can cover a significantly larger number of mares through artificial insemination than through live cover. This results in breeding and economic advantages, which are the main driving force for the rapid spread in the breeding of German riding horses. For decades, the so-called artificial insemination has been and is the dominating method in the breeding of riding horses.

Sperma-sexing

Breeders are very interested in being able to determine the sex of a foal in advance with the help of sex-sorted sperm. The sorting of sperm into X- and Y-chromosome-bearing sperm is carried out using sophisticated and patented flow cytometry equipment. The success rate for the production of foals of the desired sex is well over 90 per cent when sorting by means of flow cytometry.

Embryo transfer

Embryo transfer involves fertilizing the egg in the fallopian tube of the donor mare. After a few days of essential, epigenetic maturation processes in the fallopian tube, the embryo migrates into the uterus and can then be retrieved by flushing the uterus of the donor mare and transferring it into a carrier mare, which must be ready for conception at this time. The path from the first reports of successful transfers of equine embryos in 1972 to the commercial application proved difficult. The management of the donor mare and

especially the selection and synchronization of the recipient animals are associated with increased veterinary efforts due to daily follicle checks. In addition, there is a lack of equipment and technical expertise as well as scepticism of breeders and breeding associations, who, for a long time, only accepted one foal per genetic dam per year.

The possibility of refrigerated transport without a significant drop in the pregnancy rates of the recipient mares make the use of ET accessible to the breeding of horses. For the first time in the early 1990s, embryo transfer was carried out in Lower Saxony at a large private stud and embryo transfer facility in Hasbergen. It was not until 2003, with establishing the embryo transfer facility at the State Stud Celle, which was approved for intra-community trade, and the ET station at a private stud (Lewitzhof), that ET activities in Germany significantly expanded and steadily developed. The demand for ET seems to be steadily increasing despite the slump in breeding numbers in recent years. Thus, in times of more difficult foal sales, mares with high breeding potential can be used as donor mares and those, which are not bred because of the market situation, can be used as recipient mares.

“Ovum Pick-Up“ and ICSI

Follicular puncture “Ovum Pick-Up“ (OPU) and in-vitro production (IVP) of embryos are well developed in humans and cattle and are also gaining importance in the breeding of horses, as a mare can donate a large number of oocytes through OPU. Unfertilized oocytes can be collected from the donor mare

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police creates unforgettable moments with its presentation in Verden.

With the reform of the stallion performance test, the best of the vintage are rewarded. Dressage stallions receive the Weltmeyer-Prize, the jumping stallions the Stakkato-Prize.



Three far-reaching changes are introduced in the breed program: The elimination of the so-called 50 percent-rule, the creation of the Stallion Book Ib for internationally successful competition stallions, as well as the registration of stallions with a completed 30-day-test.

2012

2013

through trans-vaginal, ultrasound-guided ovarian follicular puncture (OPU). The maturation of the ovum starts in the laboratory. The fertilization process (by sperm injection, ICSI) follows and then the subsequent cultivation, before the embryo, which is then about one week old, is first frozen – as it is done with embryo transfers – or it can also be transferred directly to a carrier mare.

Although already tested 30 years ago, IVP has only established itself within the last ten years. Since embryos created in a test tube can be cryopreserved without significant loss of viability, they can be shipped and stored until a suitable recipient mare is available for transfer. The biggest advantage is that OPU can be performed all year round, regardless of the cycle. Since only one sperm is needed for ICSI, the use of scarce or very expensive frozen sperm is also particularly efficient. The disadvantage is the high cost. In addition, OPU is an invasive procedure and serious complications can occur. All in all, the positive factors of the OPU and IVP procedures outweigh the disadvantages, which is why the demand among sport horse breeders has increased rapidly and will continue to increase significantly in the future.

Cryopreservation of oocytes

If the conservation of the mare's genetics is in the foreground or the choice of stallion has not yet been decided, the cryopreservation of the mare's oocytes would be a very good alternative. The success rates in the mare are far behind those in human medicine, so that the cryopreservation of a mare's oocytes is not yet practical.

Cloning in horses

In biology, cloning is an asexual reproduction technique that also occurs in nature. Today, it is mainly understood to mean the artificial creation of a genetically identical individual. In a cell-nucleus transfer, genes (a cell nucleus) are inserted from the donor animal into an egg cell whose cell nucleus has been removed. This egg cell then forms an embryo that is placed in a surrogate mother. In cloning, genetic information is not changed, but copied. Mainly reproductive goals are pur-



New biotechnologies in the field of horse breeding are continuously being developed. Photo: Pfeil

sued. Cloning will probably always be an elaborate, expensive technology. In 2015, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling for a ban on cloning animals for food supply, but this is not yet legally binding. Breed associations caution against the loss of genetic diversity and the lack of breeding progress. I

n Germany, the technique of cloning is not permitted in the breeding program of many breed associations – including the Hannoveraner Verband. At present, the most important reason for caution in tolerating commercial cloning programs for horses is problems with the welfare of animals, which are still discussion-worthy. The problems arise from the technique of cloning. It is likely that these welfare issues will become less important as cloning techniques become more sophisticated. Joint research is essential so that ethical decisions will be based on facts in the future.

Outlook

For decades, artificial insemination and embryo transfer have been considered as firmly established, reproductive techniques in the breeding of modern riding horses, which contribute to breeding progress. Spermasexing will increase.

The demand for OPU and IVP will continue to increase significantly among sport horse breeders in the future. The cryopreservation of oocytes is not yet ready for practical use. In some fields of application - especially cloning and, in the future, genome editing – it is not only a question of what is feasible and safe, but also what is ethically justifiable. This is particularly important when these changes affect future generations. »

The Hannoveraner Verband and the Rheinische Pferdestammbuch merge. It concerns the division A (Rhineland riding horses), which equates with the Hannoveraner Verband. Both studbooks are continued. Breeders from the Rhineland are allowed to market their horses on Verden's auctions.

2014



The title "Hannoveraner Premium" supersedes "State's Premium".

Sensational top price at the stallion sales: Revolution by Rocky Lee/Rouletto was auctioned off to Denmark for 1,200,000 Euros.

2015

The position of the horse in society

Under public observation

Back then, without a horse, you were just a pedestrian. In principle, this is no different today. But society has not only changed in terms of mobility. It also affects horse people. It is time to take a look at the position of the horse in society in these changing times. Then, today and tomorrow.

By Jan Tönjes, Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *St.Georg*



The power of the media. Equestrian sport is hardly ever shown on public TV in Germany any more. Photo: Imago

Everything used to be better. Anyone who says that only needs to look at the fashion of the early 1970s and will quickly realize that it's not that simple. Many things were different, some better, some less good. This is especially evident when you look at the horse and how it is perceived by society in Germany. Don't worry, there is no historical digression to follow, just a quick pass through the joint history of horse and man. The horse gave man mobility. Without hors-

es, long distances could not be covered and work in the fields would have been far less efficient. Without horses, there would have been no Alexander the Great, no wars, no mail, no travel. The horse was an integral part of culture, an object of status. Many horses meant a lot of power and influence. Just as every seven-year-old can explain the difference between a Tesla and a Porsche today, possibly even with reference to its CO₂ footprint, there was a general knowledge

about horses in days gone by. It was part of life. To question it would have brought massive disadvantages for the respective society in Germany.

At first glance, the horses of times gone by had little to do with those of today. Keeping them was not subject to any regulations, handling them was not under the critical observation of some members of society. Those who had no horses or no contact with them had enough to do with themselves. Today it is different. "I believe in the horse, the automobile is a passing phenomenon". A look at government programs and German motorways shows how wrong Kaiser Wilhelm II was with his assessment.

In World War I, thousands of horses were used and lost their lives. Horses were still used in World War II. But the mares from the main stud Trakehnen were already evacuated by train in 1944. Today there are international show jumpers who could actually chew their oats in the Senator Lounge by the amount of miles that they have accumulated. In other words: Times change. Mobility no longer has anything to do with the horse. Society no longer needs the horse. At least not in the area that was the horse's ancestral place for thousands of years. It was indispensable for humans; it ensured its continued existence. And that was, among other things, the reason why first principalities or local rulers, later the Prussian stud administration, paid attention to horse breeding – and thus also provided financial resources. Indispensable! Today the horse is no longer indispensable!

In Rio de Janeiro, Showtime FRH by Sandro Hit/Rotspon and Dorothee Schneider win their first team gold medal. Four years later, the pair repeats the Olympic victory in Tokyo. Desperados FRH by De Niro/Wolkenstein II and Kristine Bröring-Sprehe are on the winning team in Rio de Janeiro.

2016

Hannover celebrates a dual victory at the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Ermelo-NED. Don Martello by Don Juan de Hus-Benetton Dream wins in the division for five-year olds with Ann-Christin Wienkamp, while Lordwood Dancing Diamond by Dancier/Wolkenstein II wins gold in the division for six-year olds with Anne-Kathrin Pohlmeier.

2017

After a transition period, the registration with the Hannoveraner foal brand ends.

Just three years after crossing the Million Euro-mark with the sale of Revolution, the price for the most expensive stallion at the approval skyrockets to 2,010,000 Mill. Euros.

2018

ble. In the 20th century, the position of the horse changed fundamentally. Horse shows developed from the occupation of a few officers to physical exercise for almost everyone. And every woman. More than three quarters of those involved with horses are female. Breed committees and sport federations hardly reflect this. Equestrian sport and breed organizations are not exactly progressive institutions. Yet a lot is happening in the horse sector. For example, the horse has found its way into universities. Hans Joachim Köhler was a "hippologist". No one disputes that, but he was not an academic – which is what everyone else is who has a "-logist" in their job title. He was a horseman. What is needed today, however, are horse people. Young women dominate the equine study courses. In veterinary medicine, there are already voices warning that the profession urgently needs to adapt to modern times. The compatibility of family and career is quite insignificant to a colic at midnight. "This could be his undoing in view of the shortage of young veterinarians willing to work night shifts in clinics," insiders say.

Public perception

Equestrian sport is multifaceted: Different breeds, different approaches to spending one's leisure time together with the horse,

The principle of success applies. The more medals, the more state support.

When the vote is taken every four years on which sports are to be included in the Olympic Games, the officials of the World Federation FEI sweat in their high-rises in Lausanne, Switzerland. And in Warendorf at the German Equestrian Federation (FN), they also break a sweat on this day. The Olympics have an external impact like no other event. But: Riding is expensive in the Olympic program – the horse transports, the supplies, the cross-country course. And it is elitist. Paradoxically, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose commercial interests even lead to manufacturers' names being taped off in toilet bowls on site if they do not have sponsorship contracts, has an aversion to "bought" medals. With the price of top horses, equestrian sport quickly finds itself in need of explanation. But it also has a big plus: Riding is the only sport where women and men compete on equal terms for medals. They compete at European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games. Only the archers perform similarly.

Such a unique position is, however, urgently needed, for criticism of the equestrian sport is increasing. A study, commissioned by the

»I believe in the horse, the automobile is a passing phenomenon.«

Kaiser Wilhelm II.

top competitions – an entire industry lives from this; 6.7 billion Euros in turnover are generated all around the horse in Germany. According to estimates, there are 2.3 to 2.9 million riders, 80,000 of whom have an annual license to compete. So only 80,000 participate in competitions – from level A upwards! There is a reason why organized equestrian sport is of great importance even for those without white breeches: the Ministry of the Interior supports sport associations.

French National Assembly in the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, lists 46 functions that must be fulfilled in order for equestrian sports to be held. Noseband controls are listed, the clearly defined use of the crop (twice when riding off, once in the test, otherwise exclusion). Shockingly, there have only been few reactions internationally to this list so far. It appears that the list from the parliament of the Olympic host has not yet reached the officials' table in the VIP area.



In Rio, Desperados FRH and Kristina Bröring-Sprehe were part of the German gold team. Photo: Lafrentz

Pictures from Tokyo, keyword modern pentathlon, but also bleeding horses and horses that extremely over-jump fences resulting in falling horses on the stadium course, bloody dressage mouths and a dead horse on the cross-country course make the public look more and more critically at the handling of horses in competitions. This cannot be wiped away, even if officials on site including German officials already prefer to do so.

What's next?

1962: Absatz, 1982: Erbherzog, 2002: His Highness. 2022: Show jumping or dressage? Champion? Hasn't been done for a long

At the European Championships on home turf in Luhmühlen, FRH Corrida by Contendro/Espri with Andreas Dibowski and fischerChipmunk FRH by Contendro/Heraldik xx with Michael Jung win gold for Germany. fischerChipmunk FRH also becomes Vice European Champion in the individual competition.



The delegates approve the structure reform by a large majority. It includes a new structure of the committees of the Hannoveraner Verband as well as extensive statutory amendments.

time! A 20-year retrospective view of Hannover's champion stallions of the past 60 years: Things are changing in the breed. There is no doubt that today's horses are more rideable, more beautiful, more "modern" – and more specialized. Dressage and jumping horse-breeding are drifting apart. They adapt to the riders. Even newcomers declare that they are jumper or dressage riders. The breed has reacted to this. The market determines the business.

The horse has gone from being taken for granted in society to being a product. Buying horses has become shopping, riding halls have become boutiques. Marketing is everything, for which all information channels have to be filled, #horsesofinstagram. Anyone who wants to sell has to be present on the digital boulevard of self-promoters. Mostly themselves, but also equipment, services or horses. Ten seconds of a video can change a life. Social media determine the lives of more and more people. If you want to sell, if you want to be present, you need "Insta" and Co. By the way, the IOC also sees it that way, which is why the FEI sends legions of people with smartphones around the world.

And yet there are more and more people asking questions. They indeed dispute the use of animals for sporting purposes. The term "animal welfare" has not been in the dictionary for that long. But in the German Bundestag it is a term that hardly any politician can get around. Why more and more people are no longer enthusiastic about equestrian sport has many reasons. First of all, it hardly takes place on public TV anymore. If you want to watch equestrian sports nowadays, you have ClipMyHorse – but the pay channel doesn't reach new people like Hans-Heinrich Isenbart's sonorously delivered farewell "and don't forget the horses" at the end of an ARD sports broadcast. The latest "horse program" on private television was the RTL-report on touching fences in the stable of Ludger Beerbaum with a result that is well known. While Germany was discussing "the riders", two-and-a-half-year-old stallions were flying over obstacles in giant leaps at licensings. He who thinks badly of this, is a scoundrel.

Not everyone realized yet that the equestrian sport, and thus also the breeding, is under public scrutiny. That is alarming. The branch on which so many are sitting is blithely being sawn off. There are many reasons why there is a change of perspective. One of the most decisive is that there are fewer and fewer riders. Children have many options for leisure activities. Convincing parents to choose expensive and time-consuming horseback riding for their children is not easy. And finding a suitable stable that offers lessons for beginners is even more difficult. The initiative "Horses for our Children" has provided a first impulse. Riding is an expensive hobby, some say elitist. These are arguments that are not easy to refute. There may be social envy involved, but anyone who has nothing to do

Burkhard Wahler

Klosterhof Medingen

»From being a working animal in agriculture, the horse has developed into a sporting partner for humans. A thoroughly positive development!«

with horses knows the name Totilas and the sum of ten million. Whether it's true or not doesn't matter. "Ten million" and "horse" are stuck in people's heads. Interestingly enough, the fact that 20-year-old, tattooed, huge, testosterone machines, which run after a ball, obtain much higher sums of money as an annual salary, doesn't play a role. If the horse sector is more and more under the microscope, it should gradually realize this and for once act instead of always just react. The German Equestrian Federation (FN) has a lobbyist in Berlin. There are hardly any resounding results to report. A little about the wolf, at least. The initiative to preserve the brand had already failed miserably in Berlin at the time. A group photo with the minister, that was it. Since then, you can no longer tell

from a distance what kind of "product" a certain horse is. Marketing strategists would tear their hair out – a noble car without a logo? Unthinkable! Brand awareness is important in sales, especially today. But this ship has sailed. And, to stay with the picture, more ships are about to sail:

- » **Animal welfare** (the discussions on, for example, conducting young stallion approvals in line with guidelines is far from complete as many think),
- » **Animal health** (there are many key words from soft tissue problems such as "pastern carriers" to ECVM, PSSM, PSSM2 and other things that require more intensive discussion, especially on the part of breeders),
- » **Cost** (the current price of raw material, exploding energy costs, feed shortages, etc., together with the ever-increasing demands made by the legislator and consumers on the keeping of horses (paddocks, grazing areas, etc.) will cause problems, especially in urban areas,
- » **"Social license"** (the term used by FN President Hans-Joachim Erbel, among others, which describes society's social acceptance of the equestrian sport, simply put: Will we still be allowed to ride, drive or vault in ten years' time?)
- » **Young talent** (without offers that address a broad spectrum of the society and that carry the interest in horses to a broader group, the sport will increasingly develop into a "closed shop", an activity for just a few; the ever-widening gap between professional and amateur sport shows the direction in which it could go).

What does the horse need in this situation? Many, good conductors. Or even, finally, female conductors. ✂

»... and don't forget the horses.«

Hans-Heinrich Isenbart

Due to the Corona pandemic, Verden's auction in April is cancelled. The riding horses are auctioned off online in May. Fourteen days earlier, 22 foals sold via the internet. So One by So Unique/Diamond Hit is the top seller. He finds a new home in the USA for 51,000 Euros.

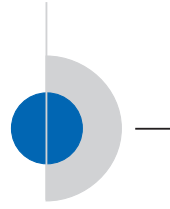
2021



Destacado FRH by Desperados/Londonderry and Matthias Alexander Rath win the final of the Nürnberger-Burg-Pokal. After obtaining the Weltmeyer-Prize, winning the Bundeschampionat, and earning silver at the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses, this was the next grandiose success for the premium stallion.

2021

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