HANNOVERANER
A breeder’s guide
The Hannoveraner is one of the leading sport horse breeds in the world. With about 16,000 registered broodmares and 400 stallions, Hannover takes a leading position in the breeding of horses worldwide, influences many other warmblood breeds considerably, and is recognized as one of the foundation breeds of the modern sport horse.

Horses with a Hannoveraner brand create quite a stir in the competition arenas worldwide. Hannoveraners are Olympic winners, World- and European champions in dressage, show jumping and eventing and demonstrate their quality and performance ability day by day. In the area of recreational riding as well as in the Hunter sport, Hannoveraners consistently gain in popularity. The Verden auctions are the breed’s showcase.
The Hannoveraner Verband has been in charge of the breed Rheinisches Reitpferd (Rhenish riding horse) since 2015. Genetically the Rhenish riding horse has been closely related to Hannover from the beginning. The Rhenish studbook was started in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in the 1950’s mainly using Trakehner, Westphalian (who again are based on Hannoveraner genes) and Hannoveraner bloodlines.

Famous stallions like Florestan and Belissimo M were/are Rhenish riding horses land bred with a high percentage of Hannoveraner blood.

As mentioned above, the Hannoveraner Verband is in charge of two studbooks. One for the breed Hannoveraner and one for the breed Rheinisches Reitpferd (Rhenish riding horse).

The regulations of the Rhenish studbook differ from the Hannoveraner studbook rules with regard to the requirements for mares and stallions to be entered in the respective studbook. The Rhenish studbook is more liberal and accepts mares and stallions of most major studbooks whereas the Hannoveraner studbook as one of the world’s leading studbooks is more selective. Therefore, cases will occur where it will be possible to register foals with the Rhenish studbook, which are by stallions, who are not approved for the Hannoveraner breeding programme.
The office of the Hannoveraner Verband is situated in the riders’ town of Verden on the river Aller, in the heart of Lower-Saxony, between the cities of Hanover and Bremen. In Verden diverse events are offered for members of the Verband and visitors interested in horses.

- Mare shows, mare performance tests and stallion licensings/approvals as part of the implementation of the breeding programme
- Keeping of the studbook: processing of all data related to the breeds of the Hannoveraner and of the Rhenish riding horse including the issuing of horse passports
- Verden auctions: The world-famous Verden auctions have been held in the Niedersachsenhalle since 1949
- Organising horse shows on the grounds of the Hannoveraner Verband (Verden International in August, Verdiana, Vaulting). Cooperation with the equestrian federation Hanover/Bremen

Warmblood breeding in the Rhineland region was started after World War II based on bloodlines from Hanover, Westphalia and Trakehner. Geographically the Rhineland is in the very western part of Germany in direct neighbourhood to The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. The biggest equestrian event in the region is the world famous Aachen horse show.

Our History

The roots of the Hannoveran breed are found on the breeding farms in Lower Saxony. Mares and foals at the farm Ehlers in Esch near Freiburg/Elbe. The beginning of the 20th century, Hannoveraners were successful from the beginning (f.i. Draufgänger), Link Sportlegenden.

After World War II, the Hannoveran breed shifted to breeding a riding horse only. Especially through the introduction of Trakehners and Thoroughbreds to the breed, the Hannoveraner became more refined and the race developed into what it is today: A noble, correct sport horse with good rideability, large lines, appreciated as a partner in competition and recreational riding worldwide.

Until 2005, the Hannoveraner was mainly bred in Lower Saxony and in Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein. In 2005, the Hannoveraner Verband merged with the warmblood branch of the Verband hessischer Pferdezüchter (Association of Hessian Horse Breeders). In 2007, a national recognition took place and the international expansion was continued. While keeping the focal point of the breed in Lower Saxony, the activities of the Verband have been extended all over Germany and many other countries. The Hannoveraner Verband has a big fan base all over the world.

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Our Tasks and Activities

The office of the Hannoveraner Verband is situated in the riders’ town of Verden on the river Aller, in the heart of Lower-Saxony, between the cities of Hanover and Bremen. In Verden diverse events are offered for members of the Verband and visitors interested in horses.

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Ca. 13,000 members form the basis of the Hannoveraner Verband. The organisational form is that of an association. Members are organised in 88 regional breeders’ clubs. Nine of these clubs – in Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Russia, Sweden and South Africa – are international. In cooperation with the Hannoveraner Verband, these breeders’ clubs organise all breeding events, which take place in the respective country.

Breeders in Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand and the USA are organised in daughter associations in their respective country. These associations keep their own studbooks in close cooperation with the Hannoveraner Verband. Together with the nine breeders’ clubs, they form the district association Hannoveraner International. The president of Hannoveraner International is a member of the board of the Hannoveraner Verband. Depending on size, each association and club is entitled to send delegates to the delegates’ assembly of the German Hannoveraner Verband.
**TODAY’S BREEDING GOAL**

The breeding philosophy of the Hannoveraner Verband is to belong to the top studbooks of the world for dressage, show jumping and eventing. Our horses should be suitable for the professional and the amateur rider. Therefore, a key element of our breeding programme is rideability. We are open to new bloodlines but want to keep the identity of the Hannoveraner.

**BREEDING GOAL FOR THE HANNOVERANER:**

1. The Hannoveraner is to be bred as a horse which is particularly suitable for riding. The aim is to produce horses which, on account of their inner qualities, rideability, external appearance, sequence of movement, natural jumping ability and health, are suitable as performance as well as leisure horses.

2. On this basis it is aimed to breed horses with particular ability for the discipline either of dressage, jumping or eventing.

3. With the qualities mentioned in paragraph 1, it is also aimed to breed horses, which are suitable for driving sport (addition in the American Hanoverian Society: and show hunters).

The Rhenish studbook aims at the same breeding goal, but is more open with regard to accepted genetics and colours.

**THE BREEDING PROGRAMME**

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**DRESSAGE**

Mount St. John Freestyle by Fidermark/Donnerhall under Charlotte Dujardin won the Individual Bronze Medal at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon 2018.

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**SHOW JUMPING**

Fine Lady by Forsyth/Drosselklang II winner of the Bronze Medal at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro with Canadian rider Eric Lamaze.

**MARES**

**Mare selection**

Is my mare eligible for the Hannoveraner or Rhenish studbook? In order to be accepted into one of the studbook divisions, a mare must meet certain criteria as regards her pedigree, her conformation and her basic gaits.

**Requirements for the Hannoveraner studbook:**

There are two different divisions of the studbook:

- **Main studbook (symbol H)**
  - The mare’s pedigree must include four recognized generations, which means that her sire as well as the sires of her dam, her granddam and her great granddam on the dam’s side (four generations) must have been registered either in the studbook of Hannoveraner Verband or in the studbook of a recognized breed population.
  - Hannoveraner, Hessian, Rhenish or Westphalian mares must have obtained at least a score of 6.0 at their studbook inspection. The score traits, which are relevant for the acceptance, may not be below 5.0. For mares of all other breeds/populations the requirements in the final score increase to 7.0.

- **Stud Book (symbol S)**
  - The pedigree of the mare must include three recognized generations.
  - Hannoveraner, Hessian, Rhenish or Westphalian mares will be entered into this section if they do not meet the quality standard for main studbook or for pedigree reasons.

The Rhenish studbook has the same requirements concerning the evaluation traits for main studbook and studbook mares, but accepts more breeds/populations in their breeding programme.

If you should own a non-Hannoveraner or Rhenish mare, make sure to check the eligibility of your mare for acceptance into the Hannoveraner studbook.

**Schedule of a studbook inspection**

A foal can only be registered, if its dam is accepted into one of the studbooks in the year of birth of her foal at the latest.

The mares are presented to the judges in-hand while standing (conformation), on the triangle in the trot (evaluation of trot and correctness of gaits) and in small groups while walking (evaluation of walk). The registration result is announced after the walking ring.

**Evaluation**

The Hannoveraner Verband uses two evaluation systems: the scoring system - an assessment by giving scores for individual traits — and the linear profiling, which means that traits are not assessed but their quality is described on a scale from -3 to +3.

**Scoring system:**

- The commissions for studbook registrations assign whole marks. The judges assess the following conformation traits of your mare:

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**EVENTING**

FRH Corrida by Contendro/Esprí successfully competed with Andreas Dibowski for the German eventing team at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

We recommend practising all parts of the presentation in-hand. Your mare should be able to present her abilities in both gaits as perfectly as possible and should move as independently from the presenter as possible. It is only logical that the presenter has to run at high speed from time to time to achieve this goal. It goes without saying that the mare has to be in a perfect feeding condition with shiny coat which reveals an excellent general condition and state of health, as well as well-maintained hooves. It is also common practice to have the mare’s mane braided. Before presenting your mare, please contact the officials at the registration venue who are responsible for the schedule. Most venues have a registration office where you can deposit the horse passport of your mare.

**EVALUATION**

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**Scoring system:**

- The commissions for studbook registrations assign whole marks. The judges assess the following conformation traits of your mare:
head  
nick  
saddle position  
frame  
front limbs  
hind limbs

These traits are combined in the mark for "quality of conformation". However, it is not necessarily the mathematical average of the above-mentioned individual marks as individual marks may be weighted differently.

By averaging the marks for

- breed and sex type
- quality of conformation
- correctness of gaits
- elasticity and impulsion (trot)
- walk
- overall impression and development

the “overall mark” is derived, representing the mathematical average of all assessed features. This score is rounded up or down.

Linear profiling:
Linear profiling is done during the studbook inspection by means of a special App on the mobile phone. The judge describes the same traits as shown above on a scale between -3 and +3. The individual traits are described more precisely. For example, the trait "neck" is described as follows:

- Head-neck connection: light – thick
- Shape: pronounced underneck – pronounced top line of neck
- Length: short – long

Linear profiling should help the breeder to understand the marks.

An English version of linear profiling is not available yet but will be presented in the near future.

Mare’s Age
Three-year-old and older mares can be presented for studbook inspection. There is no upper age limit.

Mare’s Name
At the mare inspection, the mare receives her official name. It must begin with the same initial letter as the name of her sire, and cannot be changed later. Please note the desired name for your mare on the registration form. The names of mares, which were registered with other breed associations before, remain unchanged.

Dam lines
How can I find out more about the family of my mare?

The dam lines are the treasure of the Hannoveraner breed. They have been developed and selected for generations. Mares out of well-bred foundation lines with secured hereditary qualities are the horse breeder’s most supreme good. The Hannoveraner breed offers a particularly wide range of first-class dam lines that regularly deliver excellent competition horses for the different disciplines, licensed stallions and valuable broodmares.

The first edition of the “Hannoveraner Stutbuch/ Hanoverian Studbook”, founded in 1888, served as the basis. Earlier family relations have not been considered.

All those foundation lines of mares with a Hannoveraner or East-Friesian background have been processed that were active broodmares with the Hannoveraner Verband in 2006. Foundation lines that have proven to originate in a foundation mare of another approved breed (for example English thoroughbred, Trakehner, Holsteiner etc.) have not yet been finally worked on.

Our „Hannoveraner Dam Line system“ offers every breeder the possibility to obtain detailed information about each registered Hannoveraner dam line. There is information available about

- the origin of the individual line (foundation mare, breeding site)
- its distribution (overall quantity and number of currently registered broodmares)
- number of state/Hannoveraner premium mares
- number of stallions licensed in Hannover including their names and pedigree links
- number of auction horses
- successes in sport including the names of exceptional Hannoveraner competition horses

The access to the dam line system is included for members of the Hannoveraner Verband. You can get access to the dam line system through the membership tool MEINHANNOVERANER (see page 21).

Dates and Sites
The dates for foal shows, foal registrations, studbook inspections, mare shows and mare performance tests in Germany and abroad are published on the homepage of the Hannoveraner Verband.

Fees
The Hannoveraner Verband e.V. will inform the breeder about the fees prior to the inspection. The fee schedule is published on www.hannoveraner.com In addition to these fees an extra fee might be charged to cover travel expenses. Make sure to bring your credit card information. After sending you the invoice, we will charge the fees – via credit card preferably. Bank transfer is possible as well.

Checklist
Preparation

- Select a date
- Register the mare in writing in due time
- For non-Hannoveraner or Rhenish mares check eligibility
- Prepare the mare, braid her, practise to present her

On the day of the inspection

- Do not forget the mare’s passport and a check or credit card information to pay the fees
- Arrive at the inspection site in ample time
- Visit the secretary’s office first
Mare Performance Test

Mare Performance tests are a very important part of the Hannoveraner breeding programme. They not only offer information about the suitability of a mare as a sport horse, but also hold valuable information about the quality of inheritable traits of the dam’s sire.

Mares are tested and assessed on one day, starting with the free jumping in the indoor arena. Jumping style and scope of the mare are evaluated over three jumps. After free jumping, the basic gaits and rideability are tested under saddle with three mares performing in the arena at the same time. Relaxed, elastic and regular basic gaits as well as a nice steady contact are important. Riders are requested to wear tournament clothes. An experienced test rider will finally ride your mare for a short while to assess her rideability.

The test is open for three-year-old and older main studbook or studbook mares. A studbook inspection may be done during the mare performance test if the mare has not been inspected before. Link einfügen

Video MPT Homepage

Mare Shows

Especially in Germany, mare shows are showcases of our breed. Eligible for participation are Hannoveraner and Rhenish mares exclusively.

Three-, four- and five-year-old high-quality mares are distinguished as Hannoveraner Premium Candidates at mare shows. The mare show is often the highlight of the breeding season. The best three-year-old Hannoveraner and Rhenish dressage and jumping mares gather in Verden in the first week of August to crown the best of their age-group. The free jumping under the open sky is the specialty of this show event.

The high-class mares competing at the Herwart von der Decken-Show attract visitors from home and abroad. The show was named after Herwart von der Decken, who served as president of the Hannoveraner Verband for many years.

Premium Mare

The title of Hannoveraner premium mare is a quality seal for Hannoveraner and Rhenish broodmares. At mare shows only, three-, four- and five-year-old mares can be awarded a la prize and be distinguished as Hannoveraner Premium Candidates. In order to keep this candidacy, the mares have to meet two conditions:

1. Dressage mares: Average marks for basic gaits and rideability of at least 7.25 and of at least 5 for free jumping are required.
2. Jumping mares: Average marks for free jumping and rideability of at least 7.25 and of at least 6 for basic gaits are required.
3. Dual talent: Marks for basic gaits, rideability and free jumping of at least 7 are required.

Hannoveraner premium candidates must not show any signs of roaring. If the above-mentioned requirements have been fulfilled within the stipulated deadline, the mare’s premium candidacy remains unchanged until the Hannoveraner Verband has registered her first live foal. The title of a state premium mare is only awarded when, will be mentioned as name supplement and entered into the horse passport. Under defined conditions, even a small premium is paid to the mare owner.

Alternative sport

Instead of completing a mare performance test, a premium candidate can prove her performance ability through successes in sport. Required are three placements on first to third position at least five times in dressage or in jumping at the M/A-level or higher. In eventing, the mare must have placed at the M-level at least once in first to fifth position and have two additional placings.

The title is awarded upon a written application of the mare owner, once a live foal is registered with the Hannoveraner Verband after the mare’s performance employment. According to the discipline, in which the mare was successful, the letter “D” for dressage, “-” for jumping, “-” for eventing, and “-” for driving. Just like the state’s premium award, the Hannoveraner Verband records the performance award in the horse’s passport. It becomes a component of the name.

Proud breeders showing their mare family on a local mare show.
STALLIONS

**Stallion selection**
The selection of stallions is a two-stage process with the Hannoveraner Verband: Stallion licensing and stallion performance test. Only those stallions who have accomplished the two selection stages are allowed to become active sires.

**Stallion licensing**
The stallions are either licensed in-hand at the age of two-and-a-half or under saddle at the age of three or older. Evaluation criteria are conformation, basic gaits and jumping capabilities.

Two-and-a-half-year-old, pre-selected stallions are presented at the main stallion licensing at the end of October. In September, a pre-selection committee travels throughout the breeding area and chooses approx. 100 stallions at different venues, to show up in front of the licensing commission on the last weekend of October.

No pre-selection is required for any other licensing during the year.

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**Stallions – requirements for licensing**

1) **Pedigree**
   - Six generations of approved populations
   - Mother and mother of dam must be main studbook

2) **Evaluation of type, conformation and gaits**
   - Final score of 7 (non-Hannoveraner or Rhenish stallions 7.5, no subscore below 5.0)
   - Includes free-jumping and canter for stallions before performance testing (2- or 3 year-olds)

3) **Veterinary examination**
   - No hereditary diseases
   - No defects on genitalia (e.g. cryptorchidism, small or unilateral testicals)
   - No abnormalities on teeth
   - No roaring, cribbing, weaving
   - No operations or treatment to correct any defects or deficiencies
   - X-ray status

4) **Performance requirements according to separate chart**

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**Stallion Performance Test**
A necessary prerequisite for a stallion to successfully start his breeding career is the stallion performance test. The system of stallion performance tests was extensively reformed in 2017. There are generally three possibilities to do a stallion performance test: A stationary test (50 days), a combination of stationary tests (14 days) and three-day-competitions or performance results gained in sport.

As an example: An already licensed, three-year-old stallion must at least complete a 14-day-test before he gets a breeding permit as a three-year old. This breeding permit will be extended for one year if he passes a three-day-sport test for stallions at the age of four before the breeding season. He will get his lifetime approval after he passed a second three-day-sport test at the age of five.

Alternatively a stallion can complete a one-time 50-day-performance test (age three to seven) to get his lifetime approval or when is older than seven years gain performance records in high level dressage, jumping or eventing classes.

The stallion performance tests are organized by the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and apply to all German riding horse breeds. You will find detailed information on the website www.hengstleistungspruefung.de

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**How can I find the right stallion for my mare?**

**Stallion Directory**
The online stallion directory includes all current, approved stallions in good standings. Only stallions, which are entered into the Stallion Book I (temporary and lifetime approval) may be used for the Hannoveraner breed: www.hannoveraner.com (Hanoverian breeding – stallions – stallion directory).

With the stallion book Ib you have also the possibility to use stallions which have international successes in dressage, jumping or eventing according to the results in the WBFSH-sire rankings. If you are not sure if a stallion is approved for breeding in the Hannoveraner Verband, contact our office. We will be happy to provide you with the information.

**Breed Value Estimation**
All performances and evaluations of a horse from competitions, mare inspection, mare performance test, stallion performance test and auction selections, are valuable basic information for the breed value estimation. These data are fed into a comprehensive computer programme, which calculates breed values for the respective sires. Environmental influences, as far as they can be grasped, and performances of relatives will also be taken into consideration. These breed values are a tool for the breeder, when he selects a breeding stallion, however, they cannot be the sole foundation for his decision. The breed values are published annually in the “Hannoveraner Jahrbuch Hengste”, which can be purchased at the central office of the association, including an English translation.
FOALS

Foal registration
The breeding certificate
The breeding certificate is the prerequisite for a foal registration.

In the beginning of each year, every Hannoveraner breeder—upon payment of the annual dues—receives by mail a breeding/insemination certificate, which lists the mare’s pertinent data. This form needs to be filled in and signed by the stallion manager or—especially in the case of AI—the person who inseminated the mare. New breeders can request the document at the Hannoveraner Verband. All coverings have to be reported to the Hannoveraner Verband by September 30th of each year, either by the stallion station or by the breeder—especially when frozen semen has been used by the breeder. Upon this information, a foal registration form will be generated.

The registration process
The breeding certificate serves as basis for the registration of the foal. Our international breeders are forwarded a list of matings, registered with the Hannoveraner Verband the year before, as well as a form to announce the birth of a foal. The birth of a foal has to be announced to the Hannoveraner Verband within 28 days by means of this form or with the online foaling notification (Homepage: Hanoverian breeding – Foals – Registration). Exception: The Hannoveraner breeders in Belgium and the Netherlands are forwarded the foal registration form (Abfohlmeldung) by mail—as it is done with the German breeders.

Most of the inspection and registration trips are organized in the second half of the year. Corresponding dates are published on the website. The foals have to be enrolled for these inspection dates. The Verband’s official will then inspect and register the foal, which means that date of birth, colour, sex and markings are recorded and the diagram for the horse passport is completed. The foal is then, where allowed, inserted a microchip and, where allowed, branded with the foal brand and the two-figure registration number on the left hindquarter. Hair samples are taken for a DNA-check. All data are then forwarded to the Verband, and a horse passport will be issued as soon as the parentage has been confirmed and the fees have been paid. You will find a video of the whole foal registration process on our website under “Hanoverian breeding – Foals – Registration”.

The Life Number
With processing the foaling certificate, each horse gets a UELN (unique equine life number), a 15-digit reference number, which is an international standard established by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH). This reference number is issued only once to one individual horse. It consists of the following components:

- Year of birth
- Breeding record
- Breeding station
- Association code
- Breeder Association
- Country code (may alternatively be alphabetical, i.e. DE for Germany)

A horse with this life-number is therefore a Hannoveraner, born 2018. The branding number are the two digits before the year of birth, in this case 23. Therefore, the UELN serves as a proof of identification of the horse.

More information on the UELN may be found on www.ueln.net.
There are four types of memberships of the Hannoveraner Verband:

- Regular members called Hannoveraner breeders. A Hannoveraner breeder is an owner of either a mare, which is currently registered in one of the studbook divisions, or a stallion, which is registered in the stallion book I.
- Associate members, called Hannoveraner Partners. This is a supporting membership with the following main services:
  - Subscription to the member magazine DER HANNOVERANER
  - Discounts on Verband’s services like seminars in Verden, dam line-system

The membership option „Hannoveraner breeder“ is mandatory for everybody who wants to breed Han- noveraner or Rhenish foals. A membership application form is available on our homepage “Hanoverian service – Membership”.

With the application, an entry fee of 250 € is due according to the schedule of fees.

An annual fee is due for each registered mare/stallion and for the personal membership. This fee includes a subscription of the association’s magazine DER HANNOVERANER. Please have a look at our schedule of fees for additional information. Homepage “Hanoverian service – Membership – Statutes and fees”

Your membership as Hannoveraner breeder also requires becoming a member of a regional horse breeders’ club - as long as one exists in the region of your residence. The horse breeders’ clubs organize events such as foal and mare shows and are frequently the crucial link between the breeders and the Verband.

Magazine DER HANNOVERANER
The member magazine DER HANNOVERANER is published monthly and is sent to all members of the Hannoveraner-Verband. In the magazine, you will find all relevant information pertaining to the breeding affairs including dates, interesting professional articles around horse breeding and competitions. Foreign members can choose between subscribing to the German or to a pdf-English version.

A special service for our foreign members is our English/German monthly e-mail Newsletter “Members News”. It informs you about current dates, news, and events in Germany and many other countries.

Change of ownership / Cancellation of broodmares
If you purchase a mare, which has already been registered in a division of the studbook by its previous owner and is still current, you only have to notify the association about the change of ownership, and you have to fill out a membership application. The mare’s transfer is subject to a fee.

Right after the sale of a mare or upon her retirement from breeding, the owner should give notice to the association in writing at least six weeks prior to the year’s end not to be charged annual dues.

What do I do if I do not breed my mare to a stallion?
If you do not breed your mare to a stallion, you need not cancel her if you want to have her covered/inseminated in the following year. The fee for reactivating her is higher than the annual mare dues. We recommend to only cancelling your mare after selling her of if you do not intend to have her covered/inseminated again.

How can I manage my membership?
MeinHannoveraner
MeinHannoveraner is the tool for all Hannoveraner breeders. This new feature gives you access to the Hannoveraner database and the possibility to look at your current breeding stock, your homebred foals and your purchases or sales at the Verden auctions. You are able to download studbook excerpts and linear profiles for your mares. It also includes the possibility to view and, if necessary, change your address and contact information. More services will be offered in further steps. Notifications of foaling and breeding certificates will be made available, registrations for mare performance tests and mare shows will be possible and you will be able to register or cancel your broodmares online. In order to improve the presentation of the information, you will have the possibility to upload photos of your horses. You can login by means of your membership number and a password on our homepage under “MeinHannoveraner”
The Verden auctions have been a trendsetter for all other equine auctions in Germany and feature riding and competition horses, foals, stallions and broodmares, accompanied by an extensive service offer.

Everybody looking for the perfect riding horse should come to Verden to attend one of the auctions. They are a market place at which pre-selected riding horses are offered for sale every second month. Meanwhile already 70 years. More than 800 horses are sold every year, matching the demands of customers from all over the globe.

This is no coincidence. The collections are compiled so as to offer horses for the most different requirements. “for all levels and all budgets” – this is the motto. Isabell Werth does it, Charlotte Dujardin, too, and also Christian Ahlmann. Kristina Bröring-Sprehe as well. They are all riding Hannoveraner horses discovered at the Verden auctions. They celebrated their biggest successes with horses such as the Hannoveraner stallion Desperados FRH by De Niro/Wolkenstein II (Kristina Bröring-Sprehe). The stallion descends from the Verden auction. He is well established in the German team at international championships and won, for example, the team gold medal and the individual bronze medal at the Olympics in Rio.

However, the Verden auctions do not only offer horses for professional riders. There are also horses suitable as perfect amateur horse – and all kinds of equestrian disciplines. Whether dressage, show jumping, eventing or pleasure riding. The choice is huge in Verden. Rideability is particularly important, already at the pre-selections for the auctions. Many of the offered horses have gained first experiences and successes at tournaments or have successfully completed their mare performance test or stallion performance test. Rideability is an important element for the results in these tests.

**Auction Types**

The auction year starts with the Verden auction in January, followed by the sales events in March, May and July. Early born foals complete the collections in March, May and July. There is an additional auction for foals and broodmares in August. The Elite Sport Horse Auction and the Stallion Sales in October are the autumn highlights, followed by the Verden auction in November.

**Benefits**

- huge number of pre-selected horses
- big variety for all requirements
- two weeks of training with continuous testing
- high veterinary standards
- x-rays available online

Horses that are meant to be sold at an auction can be trained by the auction team before the auction. Customers who have purchased their desired horse during the auction can leave it with the auction premises for further training purposes — competitions, shows and performance tests inclusive.
Verden is an equestrian hotspot. Guests from Germany and abroad are always welcome in Verden. The many different events, held at the spacious premises of the Hannoveraner Verband, provide best reason to travel to Verden.

The event schedule is full of highlights such as the annual tournament “Verden International”, the pleasure and popular sport festival “Verdiana”, the Hannoveraner Young Breeders Day and vaulting competitions. Verden has been the home of the auctions since 1949.

Breeding highlights are the Herwart von der Decken-Show and the Hannoveraner Stallion Licensing. It is always worthwhile to travel to Verden.

**EVENTS**

**HOTSPOT VERDEN**

The Rider’s Town of Verden lives up to its name – Verden is an equestrian hotspot.

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**BREED ORIENTATION COURSE**

**Breed Orientation Course**

Every year, the so-called “Breed Orientation Course” is offered for English-speaking breeders and friends of the Hannoveraner from all over the world. The course is an in-depth learning experience. It takes place alternately in summer and in the second half of October. Both courses include lectures on bloodlines in Hanover and on the Hannoveraner breeding programme. The judging of horses is part of both courses, too, as well as visits for breeders’ farms, to the state stud at Celle and the stallion performance testing station at Adelheidsdorf. The courses include the highlights of the respective season: Stallion licensing in the fall and visits to mare shows during the summer course.

You will find more information about the course on our website under “Hanoverian Service – Training and Clinics – Breed Orientation”.

The first course was organised in 1986 and in the past it proved to be an excellent opportunity to get friends and breeders of the Hanoverian horse acquainted with our breeding programme and with our method of selection.

Since that time, many participants joined the course – some of them even several times.

**Feedback from previous participants:**

Just simply it was great! A must for any Hanoverian enthusiast or breeder. There is no other place to be able to see so many different places in such a short period of time. And for such superb value for money. I can’t wait for my next time in Verden. Thank you again.

*With kind regards
Kerstin Bomke, Great-Britain*

I can’t tell you how much I enjoyed the Hanoverian Breeders Orientation Course! It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the history, the bloodlines, and all aspects of breeding Hanoverian horses from mare selection and breeding, to foal raising, stallion selection and preparation, all the way to training of advanced horses. This is an experience I will always remember and treasure!

*Susanne Manz, Maryland, USA*

Viva Medina from Hawaii took the summer course two years ago and wrote an article about it. She describes her impression: “It is not often that reality exceeds one’s dreams. I had long dreamed of a trip to Germany to experience the German horse culture. The week long course with the Hannoveraner Verband far exceeded my dreams and I savored every moment. I didn’t want the days to end and each experience is a memory I replay over and over.”
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HANOVERIAN STUDBOOKS ABROAD

AUSTRALIA
The Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia
Janette Lewis
P. O. Box 2039 - Brisbane, Qld. 4001
Ph.: +61 0407 144403 - www.hanoverian.org.au

GREAT BRITAIN
The British Hanoverian Horse Society
Kate Eaton
PO Box 10740,
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, NG17 0EF
Ph.: +44 7479 366 046
www.hanoverian-gb.org.uk

U.S.A.
The American Hanoverian Society
4067 Iron Works Pkwy (office)
Suite 1 · Lexington, KY 40511
Ph.: 859-255-4141 · Fax: 859-255-8467
www.hanoverian.org

CANADA
Canadian Hanoverian Society
Michael Boyd
12 Country Club Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9A 3J4
www.canadianhanoverians.com

FRANCE
Association Française des Eleveurs et des Amis du Cheval Hanovrien - AFEACH
Edouard Dewez
20 rue des Charbonniers F59610 Fournies
Ph.: +33-6 08 99 91 56 · www.cheval-hanovrien.fr

ITALY
Allevatori Hannoveraner Italia
Birgit Schröppel
Ph.: +39 33 37 16 16 12
www.hannoveraner.it

NEW ZEALAND
The New Zealand Hanoverian Society
Renai Hart - Riverpark Farm
Matua Road RD1 · Kumeu · Ph.: +64 (0) 275-439-794
Internet: www.nzhanoverian.com

Netherlands
SBS Hans Rijnwaard
Oosterpark 36 · 1434 RL Naarden
Ph.: +31 6 10 40 10 10 · e-mail: info@berghofhannoveraner.com

SOUTH AFRICA
South African Hannoveraner Breeders Association
Stafford Robinson · Postnet Suite 188
Fourways North · 2086 Johannesburg
e-mail: info@berghofhannoveraner.com

HANOVERIAN BREEDING CLUBS

Studbook is kept by Hannoveraner Verband e.V. in Germany. Direct membership of Hannoveraner Verband.

DENMARK
Hannoveraner Avlsforeningen i Danmark
Anne Kollberg
Oellerupvej 41-43, Vallensved, 4700 Naestved,
Ph.: +45 202 44 091, stalden@kollberger-hof.dk
www.hannoveraner.dk

FINLAND
Finnish Hanoverian Society
Pia Karhu · Rekiläntie 831, 69100 KANNUUS,
Ph.: +358 45 67 81 299, karhulandia@hotmail.com
www.hannoveraner.fi

SWEDEN
Svenska Hannoveranerklubben
Berit Olthoff, 31292 LAHOLM
Ph.: +46-706 945 490, expara@laholm.com
www.hannoveranerklubben.se

RUSSIA
Hannoveraner Klub Russland
Marina Politova · 143408 Moskauer Gebiet
Krasnogorsk · Uspenskaja, 24-255
www.rushannoveraner.com

SOUTH AFRICA
South African Hannoveraner Breeders Association
Stafford Robinson · Postnet Suite 188
Fourways North · 2086 Johannesburg
e-mail: info@berghofhannoveraner.com

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