

2022 Studbook Committee Year End Report

Chair - Janice Tyndall, Elected - Jennette Coote, Janine Olson,

Appointed - Sarah King, Chris Gould

This overview of activities needs to go back over the last three years. Covid 19 forced us to change how we offer the services of the association. Some of these changes were positive and should remain in place in the future, even with the lifting of Covid restrictions. Three members of the committee have been very busy helping to ensure the installation of the new procedures, recording of pedigrees and ownership, utilizing the new Equis program. We now have a full year of using the program; details of that will be discussed in the office report.

Among the changes made, is using video to support evaluations of the stallions applying for licenses. This allowed us to put one committee together to discuss and evaluate all the stallions via zoom. Consequently, we were able to engage more international inspectors in the process as well as a large collection of national senior judges to participate. The 2022 committee consisted of Jan-Ove Olson from Sweden, Håkan Wahlman from Finland, Julie Cantin from Quebec, Chris Gould from Alberta, Marilyn Powell from BC and Christian Poschang from Ontario. Jennette Coote acted as coordinator. Inspections were held in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and BC.

Without the use of video in these inspections this much expertise could not have been utilized. This doesn't say that all went well. It appears that despite a detailed set of instructions on the video, the tapes submitted came in a variety of levels of quality. We had tapes submitted that were excellent and very easy to evaluate from, and others that were not easy. This was mitigated somewhat by following a policy that required one senior inspector at each stop, as an in-person reference.

Unfortunately, the process takes time. So, the rules will change a bit regarding the videos, such that all videos must be uploaded to a designated YouTube site and a timeline for submitting will be assigned to each inspection site. Nevertheless, this process has many advantages for stallion owners and organizing chapters. Previously our international judge, at best, could give us a week to ten days of their time. This made it difficult for chapters with stallions to present, to organize within a narrow time frame. It is also much less expensive than having to fly up to three or four people across Canada on a licensing tour. In addition, we are investigating utilizing these videos for inspector and Young Breeder training tools.

In 2022 there were 15 stallions presented for Licensing with the Champion being Catherston Tick Tock owned by Rose Red Farm in Ontario.

We are continuing to linear profile all inspections as we transition to that system. For the 2022 Stallion Performance Test held at Old Gate Farm in Olds Alberta, we tried a revised process incorporating discipline specific evaluations, a set of linear profiling

charts and a new normative scoring system. We were pleased with the results and will continue with the new format for further consideration.

The 2022 SPT, conducted under this format, had two jumper, two hunter and one dressage nominated stallion presented. All passed and two premiums were awarded to My Pleasure owned by Lorrie Jamieson and reserve Champion HVL Con Air owned by Ashleigh Charity. (On a sad note HVL Con Air passed away suddenly this February while in California to show). A test is run in 2023 it will again be under the revised process. Details of that are below with sample score sheets.

Looking forward to 2023, the Studbook committee will, in addition to managing the licensing, SPT and coordinating national mare inspections, look closely at the current Studbook Regulations to ensure they are consistent with any new procedures due to our move to the Equis system and our revised SPT format. We are always open to and considering ways to enhance the Canadian Warmblood breeding program.

Modified SPT 2022 -23

In response to issues raised by members and to follow up on the Stallion Approval consultation process, that was interrupted by covid 19, an interim model of the SPT has been developed with several changes in how the SPT is run and judged. It was run in 2022 and will be tested again in 2023. This is the new process.

- To qualify stallions must have competed in 1 show in the discipline their owner has declared to be considered in. These can be schooling shows, but they must have secretary's or stewards' signature that they have been judged in this division. (For stallions three years of age, video evidence of their level of training may be submitted in lieu of show experience. It is important that young stallions be able to perform in an environment with other horses and not only their home).
- The test is shorter (three days) more like the short form of the test as presented at the NA stallion tests. Objective is to view the stallions' ability to perform in its declared discipline for rideability, character and athletic suitability.
- There is no test master, but there is a steward to oversee following the rules regarding tack and behavior during the test.

Disciplines to be evaluated

- **Jumper** - minimum height 1 meter, judges will expect older horses to achieve closer to young horse specs in height and course requirements. The first day of testing will include a gaits evaluation in a material class type format, performance through a grid, schooling specific fences and lines as requested by judges. The second day of testing will include jumping a course with possible increase in height, and complexity.
- **Dressage** - minimum is level one, older horses can be expected to perform level two movements to be successful in the test. Day one will be a gait evaluation in a material type of format with the judges asking for more specific movements appropriate to age and training level. Day two of testing will require the stallion performing a level 1 test as requested by judges.
- **Hunters** - minimum is .9 meters, older horses should expect at least first year green heights and a course of greater complexity. Day one will include a gaits evaluation in a material class format. As well they will be asked to school a grid and specific lines. Day two of testing will involve jumping a course with possibility of repeat on a different course.
- **Three Day Event** - minimum .9 meters jumping and level one dressage test. Increases in heights and degree of difficulty will be necessary for older horses. Day one of testing, a gaits evaluation as for other disciplines and evaluation as

described for jumpers. Day two will require both a level 1 dressage test and a jumper course.

Schedule

- Arrival Licensing Day. Non licensed SPT stallions will show on the triangle. All SPT nominees are allowed free warm up at the facility, later in the day.
- Day one - Test as per discipline. An appointed member of the commission will communicate instructions to the rider. Scoring is on specific areas as decided by the Studbook Committee.
- Day two – As per discipline. If jumping, judges will have the ability to determine the height of jumps according to age and ability of rider and horse. Dressage horses will be required to perform a test from Level 1. Depending on the horse's age and current schooling level, a test will be assigned on the first day, to allow riders to learn the test.
- Day three - Invited experienced guest riders (one per discipline) will ride the stallions to evaluate rideability and in consultation with the commission, internal characteristics such as temperament.

Approval

- Linear profiling will be used to characterize the stallions as accurately as possible.
- Taking the specific discipline into account the judges will award points in eight categories for dressage and nine for all others, using a simplified 4-point system as follows: S=superior, 4 points, AA= above average, 3 points, A= average, 2 points, BA= below average, 1 point. A pass is an average of 2.5 and a premium 3.5. See examples below.
- Within a year of the test the horse must compete in at least 1 EC rated or equivalent show and results sent to our office.

Rational

The linear profiling is designed to, as accurately as possible, reflect the horses' characteristics (gaits, ability etc.). The old system of scoring 1 -10 tried to do two things, neither of which it did perfectly. For example, a score of 6 or 6.5 was supposed to be distinguishable from a score of 7, but was this scoring against an ideal and what was that ideal? A dressage horse, a jumper? Ranking according to an arbitrary number for pass or fail with no real supporting information was also of limited value. Ultimately trying to rank and describe the horse with one number was not very satisfactory.

By having a linear profile, the breeder has a description of the horses characteristics (long stride – short stride etc.) from which to consider suitability by discipline. The ranking system then simply tells breeders what they really need to know, that is, which stallion is superior or above average for what discipline and what set of characteristics.

In its first trial the commission members easily adapted to the new system and gave it a positive review.

Below is the score sheet that is used, with an example of what a score calculation looks like. The linear profile chart is attached.

For Hunter, Jumper, Eventer and All Round, a minimum of five above average and four average scores, out of nine categories, is required to pass. For Dressage a minimum of four above average and four average scores, out of eight categories is required to pass. The goal is to ensure that approved stallions are, on balance, above average with reasonable expectation therefore that they can improve the population.

		Jumper, Hunter, Eventer, All Round			
		S	AA	A	BA
Superior (S) = 4					
Above Average (AA) = 3	Walk		3		
Average (A) = 2	Trot		3		
Below Average (BA) = 1	Gallop			2	
	Rideability			2	
	Jumping			2	
	Internal Characteristics			2	
	Discipline Suitability		3		
	Test Riders		3		
	General Impression		3		
Pass is 2.5 premium 3.5	Total score	0	15	8	0
	Result	2.56			

Dressage				
	S	AA	A	BA
Walk		3		
Trot		3		
Gallop			2	
Rideability			2	
Internal Characteristics			2	
Discipline Suitability			2	
Test Riders		3		
General Impression		3		
Total score	0	12	8	0
Result	2.50			

SPT Linear Profile Sheet

Stallion Performance Test Linear Profile and Scoring System									
Gaits:		A	B	C	D	E			
Walk:	Cadence	Even					Uneven	<input type="checkbox"/> Lateral	
	Suppleness	Stiff					Swinging		
	Stride Length	Short					Long		
	Reach of Hind Limbs (Overstepping)	Under-tracking					Over-tracking		
	Freedom of Shoulders	Short					Long		
Trot:	Elasticity	Elastic					Stiff		
	Action	High					Flat		
	Hind Leg Activity	Active					Inactive		
	Hindleg Position	Out behind					Under the body		
	Length of Stride	Short					Long		
Gallop:	Direction of Movement	Uphill					Downhill		
	Action	High					Flat		
	Balance	Well-balanced					Unbalanced		
	Elasticity	Elastic					Stiff		
	Rhythm	Even					Uneven		
JUMPING:			A	B	C	D	E		
Technique:	Direction of Takeoff	Upward					Forward		
	Front Legs Position	Knee Above Shoulder					Knee Below Shoulder		
	Front Legs Proximity	Tight to Barrel					Cannon		
	Hind Legs Position	Open with Retroflexion					Closed Under Body		
	Use of Back	Rounded					Hollow Back/Belly Dropped		
	Reflexes	Quick					Slow		
	Scope:	Takeoff	Powerful					Weak	
Elasticity		Elastic					Stiff		
Speed		Measured					Rushing		
Capacity		Much					Little		
Carefulness		Very					Lacking		
Rideability Judges:			A	B	C	D	E		
Character	Character	Bold					Shy		
	Temperament	Hot					Cold		
	Willingness	energetic					placid		
	Trot	comfortable					rough		
	Gallop	round					flat		
	Walk	long					short		
	Jumping	positive					reluctant		
	Suppleness	elastic					stiff		
	Acceptance	behind					resistant	Contact with the bridle and acceptance of the aids	
Rideability Jumping Rider:			A	B	C	D	E		
Character	Character	Bold					Shy	Bold - brave to rammy	Shy - sensitive to timid
	Temperament	Hot					Cold	Hot - reactive to spooky	Cold - calm to dull
	Willingness	energetic					placid	Energetic - ambitious to over keen	Placid - relaxed to lazy
	Trot	Easy to sit					Hard to sit	Comfortable -	
	Gallop	round					flat		
	Walk	long					short		
	Jumping	positive					reluctant		
	Suppleness	elastic					stiff		
	Acceptance	behind					resistant	Contact with the bridle and acceptance of the aids	
Rideability Dressage Rider:			A	B	C	D	E		
Character	Character	Bold					Shy	Bold - brave to rammy	Shy - sensitive to timid
	Temperament	Hot					Cold	Hot - reactive to spooky	Cold - calm to dull
	Willingness	energetic					placid	Energetic - ambitious to over keen	Placid - relaxed to lazy
	Trot	Easy to sit					Hard to sit	Comfortable	
	Gallop	round					flat		
	Walk	long					short		
	Suppleness	elastic					stiff		
	Acceptance	behind					resistant	Contact with the bridle and acceptance of the aids	