

Friesian Sporthorse Breed Standard / Breeding Objective

The goal of breeding a Friesian Sporthorse is to create a quality horse of sporthorse type, building on the qualities of the Friesian. Friesian Sporthorses are bred to excel in the FEI recognized sport disciplines of dressage, combined driving, eventing, and jumping, as well as hunters. Breeding stock should be carefully selected for their sporthorse qualities and potential to create sporthorses, and should meet the pedigree requirements set forth by the FSA. As with any good breeding program, only top quality horses should be used for breeding. The crossbreeding of Friesian, Warmblood, and carefully selected Thoroughbred stock has proven to be the most successful for creating a true Friesian Sporthorse. However, based on the success of crossbreeding the Friesian with a few specific non-traditional sport breeds, allowances have been made to accept limited percentages of blood from these specific non-traditional breeds (more details can be found under "Registration Guidelines" and in our "FAQ's".) Friesian Sporthorses must have a minimum 25% Friesian heritage (exception, the Friesian Warmblood Book.)

Friesian Sporthorses are generally of a middle weight sport or Baroque type, often with the higher and more arched neck set of the Friesian. They frequently have the thicker mane, tail, and feather of the Friesian. The gaits are generally expressive, with a tendency towards a more animated leg action. Although frequently black, all colors and markings are recognized and accepted. (Note: Some colors cannot be achieved without the use of non-approved non-sport breeds, which is not recommended.)

These horses tend to inherit the friendly, people-oriented personalities and level-headed temperaments purebred Friesians are famous for, making them a popular choice for amateurs as well as professionals. It is recommended that only horses with good interior qualities (temperament and trainability) be used for breeding.

Friesian Sporthorses may be presented in the more traditional manner of Friesians, with long manes and feathers; or they may be presented in the more traditional sport manner, with shortened and braided manes and trimmed feathers. It is entirely a matter of preference, as each is equally correct for a Friesian Sporthorse.