



Australian Friesian Warmblood Horse Society Inc.

BREED GUIDELINES & STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Friesian Warmblood

A Friesian Warmblood is a breed of horse, with a minimum of 25% Friesian bloodlines. The balance of the bloodlines can be any other breed.

By their very nature a Friesian Warmblood is a crossed breed horse that is bred for:

- Even temperament
- Strength
- Stamina
- Versatility

Friesian Warmbloods are the quintessential all-rounder sport horse; they should be athletic, correctly formed and have clean conformation. A Friesian Warmblood can be any colour, including broken coloured. A Friesian Warmblood should have a strong “look at me” presence with lovely movement. A Friesian Warmblood is typically between 15 to 17hh, however any height can be registered due to the variation in in the cross breeding. The build will also vary greatly, depending on the Friesian percentage.

Presenting a Friesian Warmblood

A Friesian Warmblood can be presented several ways for competition, due to the characteristics of the breed and depending on the type of event they are attending. The AFWHS Inc do not tightly regulate the presentation choices of the breed, however it is strongly recommended that however the horse is presented, that it be well executed. In all cases, the horse should be presented:

- Clean, with a shiny coat (clipping of the coat is permitted)
- Weight should be appropriate for the build and percentage of the horse (eg. Horses that are 25% will be lighter in build than horses of 75%)
- Mane and tail should be clean, shiny and free from any knots or tangled (particularly if presenting natural)
- Hooves should be well maintained and appropriate length
- As per recent FEI rules changes, whiskers must remain. While it is permissible to trim and remove all ear hair, it is strongly recommended that internal ear hair is not removed (for those competing in other disciplines, the AFWHS acknowledge that some horses may have these hairs removed and horses should not be penalised if the hairs are removed)
- Handler and rider attire will depend on the discipline of the event. Please see additional notes below for specific disciplines.

The Society does have specific guidelines in place, conforming with the changes made with Equestrian Australia and other national and international bodies, in regards to sensory hairs. Sensory hairs, including whiskers and around the eyes cannot be removed. The only exception would be in the event of equine veterinarian intervention, and the Society would be required to receive veterinarian report(s) to confirm this in order for you to be eligible to compete at any AFWHS Inc organised or associated event. Hair under the jaw line (eg. beard) may be trimmed or clipped as appropriate. External ear hairs may be clipped/trimmed. It is strongly discouraged that internal ear hairs be clipped/trimmed, however no horse is to be penalised should they be. The Society is aware that the Friesian Warmbloods compete across a wide variety of disciplines and therefore appreciate that each have their own guidelines that members must comply with as well.

In Hand/Breed Shows

Friesian Warmbloods competing in led/breed events may present either natural (free flowing mane and tail, feathers intact, etc) or plaited (mane and forelock plaited, feathers trimmed, tails plaited or trimmed). False tails are permitted for Friesian Warmblood classes; however will not be considered in the case of classes such as “Best Mane and Tail”, etc. With either option of presentation, the horse must be presented in good health (coat and weight), clean and tidy, with either option of natural or plaited, being well executed. Horses may be presented with make-up that compliments and highlights the horses features, including eyes, muzzles and legs.

Handlers are permitted to wear traditional led outfits (pant suit, dress or skirt or similar with a millinery, fedora or similar style hat to suit the outfit). Handlers should have their shoulders covered and, should they wear a dress or skirt, it is strongly recommended that it should fall below the knee. Ridden attire, with a riding helmet, is also permissible. Gloves are recommended but not essential.

Ridden breed events, riders must wear current safety standard approved helmets. In the event of costume classes, it is at the discretion of the show organiser if this is a requirement. The AFWHS Inc accept no responsibility for any accident or injury that result from a rider not wearing an approved helmet. AFWHS Inc run events will always require approved helmets be worn, as per the insurance requirements.

Other Ridden Disciplines

Friesian Warmbloods regularly compete in a variety of disciplines. It is strongly encouraged that you present your horse in traditional gear and the rider wear appropriate attire for the discipline attended, unless advised otherwise from the event coordinators/organisers.

Eg. Dressage competition should be attended with the horse plaited and presented in a traditional snaffle or double bridle (depending on level), dressage saddle and white saddle pad, with limited horse make-up, etc and the rider should present in white shirt, jacket, white breeches and appropriate footwear.

Judging a Friesian Warmblood

Friesian Warmbloods have many variations, depending on the percentage of Friesian bloodlines and the combinations of breeding; judges should be aware that the horse can be crossed with any other breed provided there is a minimum of 25% Friesian lineage. Therefore, judging a Friesian Warmblood can be challenging. The main considerations that must be made when judging the Friesian Warmblood as a breed should include:

- A Friesian Warmblood should show traits or characteristics that identify there is some Friesian bloodlines. Judges are permitted to ask entrants what the percentage of Friesian bloodlines the horse has.
- A Friesian Warmblood should have clean, straight legs- the horse may vary in length of leg or amount of bone depending on the percentage of Friesian bloodlines.
- A Friesian Warmblood should demonstrate the qualities and attributes of a sport horse. This means that they should show versatility to be able to undertake a variety of equestrian disciplines.