Linear Description
Challenges for users

Inge Workel
Oldenburger Pferdezuchtverband
Practical use

Evaluation of conformation and performance traits is done at:

- Foal shows
- Studbook registrations
- Mare performance tests
- (pre-)Licensings for stallions

Development

Start with 120 traits in 2011, with only registering deviations from the average!

Testing phase at official breeding events

Increasing of no. of traits to 160 in 2012
### General remarks

- **REGISTRATION OF CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS ONLY!**
- **DON'T FOCUS ON THE TRAITS**
- **FOCUS ON THE HORSE**

### General remarks

- **LEFT IS NOT** - NEGATIVE/UNDESIRABLE
- **RIGHT IS NOT** - POSITIVE/DESIRABLE

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Image: Diagram showing linear profile format and front, fest & legs, and free movement with grading scales for each category.
Training of judges

- TRAIT DEFINITION:
  1. KNOW WHAT TRAITS ARE AVAILABLE
  2. KNOW WHAT’S MEANT WITH WHICH TRAIT
  3. HAVE A WELL SCHOoled JUDGE-EYE
  4. TRAIN THE REPEATABILITY
  5. FAVORITE TRAITS, TRY TO BE OBJECTIVE

Data collection

- KEEP THE POPULATION AVERAGE (0) IN MIND

- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUMPING AND DRESSAGE HORSES?
Tablet handling

- **SELF SERVICE BY THE JUDGE:**
  + KNOWN WHAT’S DOCUMENTED
  + NO BIAS
- **STRESSFULL TO JUDGE, COMMENT, TYPE AND WRITE**

Tablet handling

- **USE OF ASSISTANTS:**
  + JUDGE CAN CONCENTRATE ON THE HORSE
  + NO TABLET KNOWLEDGE NEEDED FOR THE JUDGE
- **BIAS, DOCUMENTATION GAPS**
- **REQUIRES MORE, QUALIFIED STAFF**
Tablet handling

- ASSISTANT HAS TO:
  - BE ABLE TO JUDGE A HORSE AS WELL
  - KNOW ALL THE TRAITS AND WHERE TO FIND ON THE TABLET
  - BE ABLE TO TRANSFER THE JUDGES „LANGUAGE“ TO LD
  - ASK TO CONFIRM

When linear description?

- CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE SIMILAR
- DIFFICULT TO COLLECT DATA ON YARD INSPECTIONS:
  - ONLY ONE JUDGE (PRESSURE)
  - NO IDEAL SHOWING CONDITIONS
  - CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER A LOT FROM YARD TO YARD
When linear discription?

- CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE SIMILAR
- DIFFICULT TO COLLECT DATA ON YARD INSPECTIONS:
  - ...
  - AGE/SHOWING CONDITION OF THE HORSE?

Data publication

- NOW: ONLY TO BREEDER (FOALS, MARES)
- OPEN DATABASE?
- PUBLISH STALLION DATA?
Thank you!

Oldenburger Pferde Zentrum Vechta