



LINEAR PROFILING OF FINNHORSES

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HIPPOS

Introduction of Finnhorses

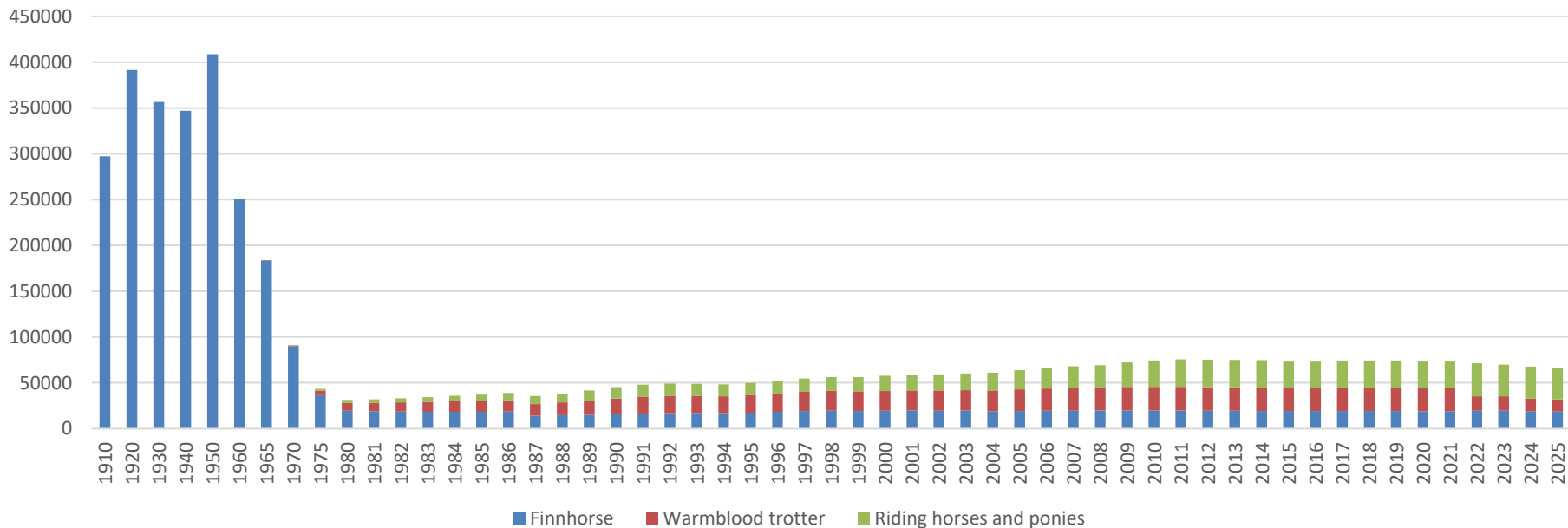
The Finnhorse is the only native breed in Finland and has been used in many roles throughout history.

- Horses in Finland since prehistoric times
- Influences from east and west, local breeding shaped the type
- Systematic breeding in 19th–20th century, Studbook founded in 1907
- Key role in WWII



Horse population in Finland 1980-2025

Total amount of horses in Finland



Breeding Goals

Breeding focuses on maintaining a balanced, healthy and versatile horse.

- Good health and durability
- Calm and cooperative temperament
- Versatility
- Breed type consistency



Types of finnhorse

The breed is divided into four types based on use.

- Trotter type
- Riding horse type
- Draft horse type
- Pony-sized type



Trotter Type

The trotter is the most popular type, used mainly in racing.

- Harness racing
- Speed and stamina



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Date	2/19/2026
Grading Place	Juoksijaoripäivät
Type	Individual assessment
Breeding class	I
Result	Prize awarded
Prize	KTK I

Measurements	
Body condition score	3+
Height	158
Croup height	157
Chest circumtance	188
Front leg circumtance	20.5
Chest width	43
Body lenght	159

Grading points	
Type	9.5
Head, neck and body	8.5
Leg position	7.5
Leg health	9
Movement	9.5
Hooves	8
Character	10

Riding Type

The riding type is versatile and suitable for many equestrian sports.

- Riding and competitions
- Dressage, jumping, trail riding
- Good temperament

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Date	4/12/2024
Grading Place	Ypāja, suomenhevuset
Type	Individual assessment
Result	Approved

Measurements	
Body condition score	4-
Height	169
Croup height	167
Chest circumference	194
Front leg circumference	23
Chest width	47
Croup width	56
Body length	175

Grading points	
Type	9
Head, neck and body	7
Leg position	6
Leg health	8
Movement	7.5
Conformation points	36
Hooves	6
Technique	6.5
Scope	7
Jumping test	6.8
Rideability	7
Character	7.5
Temperament	7

Draft Type

The draft type preserves the traditional working horse role.

- Forestry and farm work
- Strength and calmness
- Traditional use



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Date	4/16/2021
Grading Place	Ypäjä, suomenhevoset
Type	Individual assessment
Result	Prize awarded
Prize	KTK II

Measurements	
Body condition score	4+
Height	157
Croup height	156
Chest circumference	186
Front leg circumference	21
Chest width	46
Croup width	55
Body length	169
Weight	550

Grading points	
Type	8
Head, neck and body	7.5
Leg position	7
Leg health	9
Walk	8
Movement	8.5
Conformation points	38.5
Hooves	7
Driveability	16
Character	8.5

Pony-sized Type

Smaller Finnhorses are ideal for younger riders and hobby use.

- Under 148 cm
- Suitable for youth riders
- Versatile



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Date	3/26/2026
Grading Place	Ratsuoripäivät, suomenhevokset
Type	Individual assessment
Result	Prize awarded
Prize	KTK I

Measurements	
Body condition score	4-
Height	138
Croup height	139
Chest circumference	166
Front leg circumference	19
Chest width	40
Croup width	47
Body length	139

Grading points	
Type	9
Head, neck and body	9
Leg position	7.5
Leg health	9
Movement	8
Conformation points	42.5
Hooves	8
Driveability	18
Character	10

Summary

In summary, the Finnhorse is a unique and culturally important breed.

- National horse of Finland
- Long history
- Carefully bred
- Versatile and unique



Development of linear scoring

The development of the linear scoring of finnhorses started in 2024 by Carl-Harry Frey by completing his thesis titled "Implementation of Linear Profiling in the Evaluation of Finnhorses."

The result of the work was the development of evaluation protocols for the linear profiling of conformation for all breeding directions of the Finnhorse, as well as performance forms for the Riding and Pony-size breeding type. These forms will be utilized in breeding evaluations, foal shows, quality assessments, and foal identification.

The evaluation protocols were based on existing Finnish Warmblood linear profiling forms, which themselves derive from KWPN-developed forms. In Finland, we have added assessment criteria describing overall impression, character traits, and rideability. We need good-natured, easy-to-handle, and rideable horses. Although the heritability of these traits is relatively low, in a small population the information obtained at the individual level is considered valuable by both breeders and horse owners.

When developing the linear protocols for the Finnhorse, breed experts, judges, and the central organization Suomen Hippos were consulted.

The forms have been updated to include items mentioned in the Finnhorse breed standard as well as aspects that experts have highlighted as important for the breed. Checkboxes have been added to the forms for recording observations.

The breeding program indicates that different breeding goals need different aspects of type and conformation. For example, riding horses are selected for athleticism, a good topline and a long neck. Working horses are expected to have a robust build, upright shoulders, and good hindquarter conformation.

Performance requirements also vary by breeding types. Horses bred for the Riding and Pony-size types must have rhythmic, supple gaits and be capable of carrying themselves in balance; the horse must also be a brave jumper.

All breeding types emphasize forward impulsion, while the Riding, Pony-sized and Working types additionally need willingness to cooperate. In breeding evaluations, serious behavioral disorders are taken into account when assessing temperament.

Conformation traits were compiled under six headings in the linear forms. These headings correspond to the components scored in Finnhorse breeding evaluations: type, body, legs and regularity of movement, hooves, walk, and trot.

In the gait characteristic form, the headings were walk, trot, and gallop, as well as temperament traits and rideability.

In the jumping characteristics form, the headings were jumping technique, capacity and gallop. Temperament traits and rideability were also included in the jumping schemes.

Challenges

A small number of horses are shown

A finnhorse can be evaluated for many different types: When making an assessment, the judges must always be able to compare the evaluation to an average finnhorse regardless of the type: the profiling must be the same each time even if the quality classification of the same horse differs greatly in different types.

All finnhorse judge need education during 2026 as the goal is that 2027 all finnhorse evaluation will be done by linear scoring

A close-up photograph of three horses' heads, with the text "THANK YOU!" overlaid in white. The horses are brown with white markings on their faces and manes. The image has a dark, blue-tinted background.

THANK YOU!

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