

The role of Interstallion in supporting international sport horse breeding by improved transparency

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Interstallion (IntS) is the permanent working group of the EAAP Horse Commission focused on breeding aspects. Aims are to improve understanding and use of information in sport horse breeding and to support decision making and selection on an international level. To achieve transparency across countries, practices of studbooks regarding data recording and evaluations in the breeding programs are compiled and published. IntS has actively supported research initiatives on across country genetic evaluations and comparisons between nationally available genetic proofs for traditional and new traits. Warmblood studbooks from around the world have been surveyed in 2002 and again in 2015 to provide an update overview of status and development of sport horse breeding. Continued engagement of IntS in promoting and harmonizing the use of linear traits in sport horse breeding has started in 2011. Base work included information collection for scientific review and online publication of comprehensive material which enables overviewing and comparing available applications. To further support knowledge transfer and allow regular exchange between science and practice and across studbooks, a series of international workshops has been established. Activities related to linear profiling and refined data recording are particularly important in connection with introducing new genomic applications in sport horse breeding and accordingly highly appreciated by the studbooks. The coordinative and bridging role of IntS has already benefitted collaborative research which is expected to grow further in importance with increasing interest in using new traits and new modern technologies to strengthen the breeding programs for sport horses worldwide.