

Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association

Principles of Breeding for the “Missouri Fox Trotter” Breed according to Decision
KOM 92/353/EWG

Legal Basis

The Original Stud Book for the Breed “Missouri Fox Trotter” (MFT) in Europe is managed by the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, Ava, Missouri, USA. The legal bases of these Principles are all relevant valid Regulations of the European Union and the Official Rule Book of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association (MFTHBA).

The Principles for breeding the Missouri Fox Trotter were created based on the “Official Rulebook of the MFTHBA”. If provisions laid down therein, are not compatible with EU Animal Breeding Legislation, provisos have been made that are as close as possible to the requirements of the “Official Rulebook of the MFTHBA”.

The Principles established in these provisions for the breeding of the “MFT” Breed are mandatory for all Breeders’ Associations, managing a Branch Stud Book. In particular regarding the Breeding Program for the “MFT” Breed. The Breeders’ Associations are required to follow the Principles of the Original Stud Book.

The current valid Principles for Breeding “MFT” horses are published on the homepage www.mfthba.com

1. The System for Recording Pedigrees

Information about the Horse:

Name, UELN, identification according to VO (EG) 504/2008 respectively the successor Regulation DVO (EU) 2015/262 of the KOM from 02-17-2015 (Equine Passport), sex, last breeding date, date of birth, color, markings, breed, section in the Stud Book, name, address and E-mail address of the breeder and owner, marking with a microchip.

Information about the Parents and at least three more previous generations, if existing:

Name, UELN, identification according to VO (EG) 504/2008 respectively the successor Regulation DVO (EU) 2015/262 of the KOM from 02-17-2015 (Equine Passport), sex, date of birth, color, markings, breed, section in the Stud Book, name of the breeder, marking with microchip.

2. The Definition of the Characteristics of the Breed (or Breeds) or the Population covered by the Stud Book

The goal is to breed a light, medium-sized, well-shaped, correct, healthy and fertile warmblood horse, with a predisposition to the Fox Trot, a diagonal, broken 4-beat gait. In Walk and Fox Trot the horse should show a natural rhythm with a head shake in the rhythm of the gait, the ears reflect the gait of the horse. High knee actions are unwanted, and each movement should cover ground smoothly and efficiently. The Missouri Fox Trotter is an ideal trail horse because of its great disposition and good-natured character. Because of its versatility, it is also ideal as a leisure (pleasure) horse, which is suitable for riding as well as for driving.

3. The Definition of its basic Objectives of Selection

Origin	USA, Missouri
Height	14 – 16 hands (Height)
Color	all colors
Head	symmetrically shaped and of moderate length (equal or shorter than 1/3 of body length); distance from outside of one eye to outside of the opposite eye should be equal to one-half the length of the head; jawbones should be prominent with adequate space between jawbones where they join at the throat; head should taper to a refined muzzle
Neck	sufficiently long, approximately 1/3 of the body length
Body	balanced format; long, sloping shoulder with an angle of 45 – 50 degrees; a short (to moderate length) back, reaching into the withers; adequate length croup with a slight downward tilt; wide deep chest; moderate, not too long legs and moderate muscling.
Foundation	correctly formed limbs with adequate size joints; hooves adequate for the size of the horse, well-shaped and hard; the toe direction of the hind legs may be slightly pointed outward (as long as the outward turn comes from the hips and not the hocks or below).
Movement	pure rhythm, harmony, flat, with an active stride; every movement is meant to cover ground; the forehand is to reach out far forward and the hindquarters reach under to at least cap the front hoofprints; any knee action is undesirable
A.	<i>FOX TROT</i> is a diagonal 4-beat gait. The Fox Trot is a stylish gait; the horse walks in an elegant manner with the front legs and trots with the

hind legs. This rhythmic motion travels through the whole body from nose to tail. The front legs should not show any high knee action. The hind legs should perform a sliding movement, during which the hind hoof steps into or over the track of the front hoof. The head should be slightly elevated and convey the rhythmic motion of the hind legs. The tail is to be carried in a naturally elevated manner and should also move in rhythm with the gait. The gait should be flat, in good rhythm and must be consistent over distance.

- B. *FLAT FOOT WALK* is a 4-beat gait in lateral step sequence. The track of the hind hoof should over stride the track of the front hoof. When executed correctly, one can hear the steady equal four beat cadence of the hooves. The up and down motion of the head in the walk is stronger than during a Fox Trot. The gait should be flat and consistent over distance.
- C. *CANTER/LOPE* is a slightly collected three-beat gait. The Lope shows a rhythmic, easy rolling, three-beat movement. The Lope is not a fast pace and the horse should have a relaxed appearance while being ridden with light contact on the reins. Excessive collection, failure to maintain forward motion, four-beat gallop, excessive speed or excessive pumping in the movement with the reins are not allowed. Every horse should be able to demonstrate a correct lope.
- D. *SHOW CANTER* (required during Performance Classes) is a collected three-beat gait. The Show Canter should be a rhythmic, easy rolling, three-beat movement with more elevation in the front end than the Lope. The Show Canter is not a fast pace and the horse should have a relaxed appearance while being ridden with contact on the reins. Excessive collection or rein contact, failure to maintain forward motion, four beat cadence, excessive speed or excessive pumping in the movement with the reins are not allowed.

Spec. Characteristics good-natured, especially friendly nature; comfortable temperament, with strong nerves and intelligence; hardy constitution and easy maintenance, are the criteria for health and fertility.

Possible Applications equitation, performance, distance (endurance) riding easy use in cattle ranching, therapeutic riding, leisure riding, driving

4. The System for identifying Equidae

4.1 Identification of horses

4.1.1 The identification of foals is carried out with the following methods:

- Identification of a foal by the dam
- Check of the dam's Breeding Certificate
- Gender
- Description of color and markings, creation of a marking diagram
- Identification by inserting a transponder, rule marking left side neck
- Issuing of an UELN number
- Taking of a sample for DNA, hair sample with roots or blood of the horse
- According to ISAG standard.

4.1.2 Identification of mares and stallions for registration into the Stud Book is carried out with the following methods:

- Controlling the Equidae Passport including Breed Certificate
- Controlling the markings and description of horse
- Reading the transponder if available
- DNA typing of the horse, according to ISAG standard by taking hair sample with roots or blood of the horse, if not already available.

4.2 Determination of Ancestry

4.2.1 For each foal to be registered in a Breeding Association, recognized in Europe, it is required to get a DNA typing and a check of ancestry of sire and dam. The ancestry check is done by determination of genomic features based on the results of the DNA micro satellite typing (ISAG standard). As a requirement from the MFTHBA the tests must be done in a laboratory, approved as a member by the ISAG.

4.2.2 An Equidae Passport including Breed Certificate will only be issued to the foal, if no variations are determined during the check of descent. The horse owner will be immediately informed in case of any variation of descent. A variation during the check of descent will be recorded. The recording will be kept for at least 10 years after the date of recording.

4.2.3 If not available at the time of registration the MFTHBA requires a DNA typing (ISAG standard) for each breeding horse for assurance of identity with a central saving of data. For registered horses for breeding a Breeding Association can demand at any time a repeat the check of descent or a check of descent of sire and dam.

4.3 International Life Number (UELN)

4.3.1 In Europe each foal gets an International Life Number (UELN) upon registration. The Life number has 15 digits. The first 3 digits refer to the place of business (country) of the Breeders Association in which the horse was registered and has received an UELN for the first time (for example in Germany DE or 276). The next digit tells whether the horse is born before the year 2000 (3) or after the beginning of 2000 (4). The next 2 digits refer to the Breeders Association, where the horse was registered for the first time. The next 7 digits belong to the Certificate of Registration. The last 2 digits refer to the horse's year of birth. By means of a number comparison, the Association ensures that no duplicate numbers are given.

4.3.2 The international Life Number UELN does not change and remains the same even when the horse is transferred into another breeding territory. International Life Numbers for horses, born in foreign countries will be adopted by registration. An UELN will be issued by the Breed Association in charge, if the horse has not yet received an UELN, or if it is not registered in the MFTHBA Stud Book.

5. The Division of the Stud Book, if there are different Conditions for entering Equidae, or if there are different Procedures for Classifying Equidae in the Stud Book

The MFTHBA is in charge of the Original Stud Book for the Missouri Fox Trotter in Europe. The Stud Book is closed. No refining breeds are allowed. The Stud Book is managed separately for stallions and mares. The Stud Book for stallions consist of a main section with the following classes: Stallion Book I, Stallion Book II, Appendix for Stallions, Foal Book for Stallions and an additional section: the Pre-Book for Stallions.

The Stud Book for mares consist of a main section with the following classes: Mare Book I, Mare Book II, Appendix for Mares, Foal Book for Mares and a Pre-book for Mares.

For registration of stallions and mares in main sections and special sections of the Stud Book, all requirements as shown below need to be fulfilled by the breeding horse.

5.1 Stallion Book I

Minimum age for registration is three years

- the parents are registered in the highest main section of a Stud Book for the Breed (e.g. EMFTHA Stud Book and/or in the main section of the Stud Book of any other recognized Breeders Association)
- who have a Certificate of Registration
- who are identified according to 4.1
- with proven descent over 3 generations
- with a positive score for conformation according to 6.1
- with a positive Breeding Suitability Test and a negative PSSM Test

- which received for conformation at least a total score of 7.0 at a Breed Show, in which the minimum score being awarded for all partial scores according to 6.1
- with a performance test in riding according to 7.2

Stallions from breeding of stallions /mares, which are registered in the Appendix of the Mare Book I and Stallion Book I, can be registered if they fulfill the above-mentioned conditions of the registration.

5.2 Stallion Book II

Minimum age for registration is three years

- the parents are registered in the highest main section of a Stud Book for the Breed (e.g. EMFTHA Stud Book and/or in the Stud Book of any other recognized Breeders Association)
 - which have a Certificate of Registration
 - which cannot be registered in the Stallion Book I
 - which are identified according to 4.1
 - with a positive judging in conformation according to 6.3
 - with a guided Composure Test passed according to 7.2
 - with a positive Breeding Suitability Test and a negative PSSM Test

Stallions from the breeding of stallions /mares, which are registered in the Appendix of the Mare Book II and Stallions of the Stallion Book II can be registered, if they fulfill the above-mentioned conditions of the registration.

5.3 Appendix for Stallions

Stallions are registered:

- from the breed of Missouri Fox Trotter, which are registered by the MFTHBA
- which are identified by DNA according to 4.1
- which have a negative PSSM Test

5.4 Foal Book for Stallions

In this section all stud colts of the MFT Breed are registered, from any respective Breed Association, on the base of their date of birth notice when,

- the parents are registered in the Stud Book of a respective Breeders Association and/or in the Stud Book of any other recognized Breeders Association

5.5 Pre-Book for Stallions

Stallions are registered:

- MFT stallions, which are registered by the MFTHBA
- which are born in Europe itself and a parent was born in Europe
- stallions which are typical of the Breed
- stallions, which were not crossed with any other Breed

- which were identified according to 4.1
- which have no secured parentage, according to the Original Stud Book, by means of DNA
- which received at least a total score of 6.0 for conformation and no value score below 6.0 in any registration feature.
- with a positive Breeding Suitability Test (Attachment 3a ZTU for stallions) and a negative PSSM Test.

Ascent Control: Offspring from the breeding of Pre-Book Stallions with mares from the Mare Stud Book I can be entered into the classes of the main book, whose conditions for registration they meet.

5.6 Mare Book I

Minimum age for registration is 3 years old

- the parents are registered in the highest main section of the Stud Book for the Breed (e.g. EMFTHA Stud Book and/or in the Stud Book of any other recognized Breeders Association) of the main breeding book class
- who have a Certificate of Registration
- which are identified according to 4.1
- with proven ancestry over 3 generations
- with positive conformation score according to 6.1
- with positive Breeding Suitability Test and a negative PSSM test
- which received at least a total score of 6.0 on a Conformation Performance Test, in which the minimum score being awarded for all partial scores according to 6.1
- with a performance test in riding according to 7.2

Mares from the breeding of stallions /mares, which are registered in the Appendix of the Mare Book I and Stallion Book I, can be registered, if they fulfill the above-mentioned terms of registration.

5.7 Mare Book II

Minimum age for registration is 3 years old

- the parents are registered in the highest main section of a Stud Book for the Breed (e.g. EMFTHA Stud Book and/or in the Stud Book of another recognized Breeders Association)
- which have a Certificate of Registration
- which cannot be registered in the Mare Book I
- which are identified according to 4.1
- with a positive conformation score according to 6.2
- with a guided Composure Test passed according to 7.2
- with a positive Breeding Suitability Test and a negative PSSM Test

Mares from the breeding of stallions /mares, which are registered in the Appendix of the Mare Book I and Stallion Book I, can be registered, if they fulfill the above-mentioned terms of registration.

5.8 Appendix for Mares

Mares are registered:

- The breed of Missouri Fox Trotter, which are registered in the Stud Book of the MFTHBA
- which are identified according to 4.1 and by their DNA
- with a negative PSSM Test

5.9 Foal Book for Mares

In this section all mares of the MFT Breed are registered by the EMFTHA, on the base of their date of birth notice when,

- their parents are registered in the EMFTHA Stud Book and/or in the Stud Book of any other recognized Breeders Association

5.10 Pre-Book for mares

Mares are registered:

- MFT mares, which are registered by the MFTHBA, and a parent was born in Europe
- Mares which are typical for the Breed
- Mares, which were not crossed with any other Breed
- which were identified according to 4.1
- which have, according to the Original Stud Book by means of DNA, no secured descent
- which received at least a total score of 6.0 on a conformation performance test, with no score below 6.0 in any registration feature.
- with a positive Breeding Suitability Test (attachment 3b ZTU for stallion) and a negative PSSM test

Ascent Control! Offspring from the breeding of Pre-Book mares with stallions from the Stallion Book I may be entered into the classes of the Main Book Sections whose conditions for registration they meet.

Entry Conditions for horses with PSSM

For reasons of animal protection, animals with the dominant gene defect PSSM in homozygous or heterozygous form should not be bred. Carriers of the PSSM gene defect remain in the Foal Book for stallions or mares and cannot be entered into a higher class of the Stud Book for MFT. They will receive a special marking in their Equidae Passport. Homozygous carriers are excluded from breeding. Mares which show a positive heterozygous PSSM test may not participate in any premium or breeding program

(premium mare, elite mare). They may only be bred with stallions who are not PSSM carriers. The dominant genetic defect is registered in the Equidae Passport and published in the mares' distribution plan. All offspring of carriers are required to submit a PSSM test before registration. If the offspring are PSSM free, they can be registered for the class of the Stud Book for MFT, whose registration conditions they fulfill. If there is a negative PSSM test from both parents, no PSSM test is required to be submitted for the offspring.

- 5.11** The registration of a horse for breeding into the appropriate section of a Stud Book results from an application of the member, who is either owner or manager of the horse, consideration of the breed guidelines and after the identity of horse has been proven according to the criteria outlined in point 4 of these Principles as well as other requirements of the Principles of the Breed having been fulfilled. Breeding Suitability Tests of stallions and mares for the registration in the Stud Book before 2017 are recognized and do not need to be redone.
- 5.12** Horses from other registered Stud Books will be registered under their current name into the sections of their criterions as long as they are admitted into the respective breed.
- 5.13** A stallion for breeding must be registered into a Stallion Book of an recognized breed organization before his first breeding.
- 5.14** The registration of a mare must be completed latest when the first offspring is reported to a recognized breed organization for identification and registration. In case a mare is deceased before the date, at which she was supposed to be presented for registration, a retroactive registration of the mare is possible. This possibility serves only for issuing an Equidae Passport, including Breed Certification for the lastborn foal. It must be documented, that the deceased dam was the mother of the foal.
- 5.15** Equidae Passports including Breed Certificates will be reviewed in writing by the issuing organization.

6. Minimum Requirements for Stud Book Classes

6.1 For registration of a horse into the Stallion Book I/Mare Book I the following minimum scores and the minimum medium score/total scores must be achieved for the conformation evaluation:

	Stallion	Mare
Breed- and gender type	6,00	6,00
Head, neck	6,00	6,00
Body	6,00	6,00
Foundation/legs	6,00	6,00
Gaits	7,00	6,00
Minimum average score/total scores	7,00	6,00

6.2 Mares with overall minimum points of 5.0 can be registered into the mare Stud Book II.

6.3 Stallions with overall minimum points of 5.0 can be registered into the stallion Stud Book II.

7. Performance Tests

The MFTHBA requires Conformation Tests for mares and stallions to evaluate the breed value conformation (exterior appearance) with special consideration of the horse's motion sequence and performance test-riding; this serves the evaluation of the breed value riding for stallions, mares and geldings with special regard to riding and the behavior of the horse. The performance test MFT is performed as a field test according to the determination of the regulation of performance tests. To pass the Performance Test is a requirement for entry into the Stud Book Class I. To pass the Composure Test is a requirement for the entry into the Stud Book Class II.

Scores from 1 – 10 will be given for the Performance Tests in Conformation and Riding. The scores have the following rating:

Score 10	excellent
Score 9	very good
Score 8	good
Score 7	quite good
Score 6	satisfactory
Score 5	sufficient
Score 4	inadequate
Score 3	quite bad

Score 2	bad
Score 1	very bad
Score 0	not executed

7.1. Performance Test Conformation

7.1.1 The assessment is carried out for mares and stallions in the following selection criteria (partial criteria):

a) body and overall impression

- vertical balance
- horizontal balance
- shoulder group
- neck/crest
- forelegs
- hind legs
- muscling
- health

b) breed specific gaits

- Walk
- Flat Foot Walk
- Foxtrot

7.1.2 To pass the performance test all twelve sub criteria must be executed and evaluated. For each of these sub criteria the judges must assign a score 0 – 10. Full or half scores from 1 – 10 are acceptable. To compute the middle scores for the sub criteria the sum of the single scores from each judge will be divided by the number of judges and rounded to the second digit behind the decimal point. This results in an average score for a sub criterion. To compute the overall score the sum of the not rounded average scores of all criterions will be divided by 12 and the result rounded to the second digit behind the decimal point. The computation of the scores is done with the assistance of a chart calculation program. The number zero (0) will be given for a not executed/not evaluated sub criteria in which case no overall score will be given, the performance test was not passed

7.2 Performance Test Riding

The MFTHBA requires performance test-riding for stallions, mares and geldings.

Assessment criteria

The horse's demonstration of the Breed specific gaits Walk, Flat Foot Walk, Fox Trot and Canter will be tested and evaluated. Riding characteristics with special consideration given to the character attributes and temperament, overall performance possibility, performance willingness and tractability. Decisive for the evaluation is the

qualification of the horses concerning an improvement of the riding quality of Breed of MFT. Passing the performance test-riding is a prerequisite for the entry into the Stallion Book I / Mare Book I.

7.2.1 Test Sections

The EMFTHA performance test-riding consists of the following sections:

- Section 1:** evaluation of inner characteristics during the test day for all participating horses

- Section 2:** test of the gaits under saddle in a dressage arena for all participating horses

- Section 3:** horsemanship pattern

- Section 4:**
 - a. Composing test under saddle for all participating horses for entry in Stud Book Classes I
 - b. Guided Composure Test for all participating horses for entry in the Stud Book Classes II

7.2.2 Evaluation

Single scores from 0 to 10 will be issued for the evaluation of the horses. Only full or half scores are acceptable. To pass the test all sub criteria must be executed and evaluated with scores from 1 – 10. The final score is the average of the individual scores for the five assessment characteristics. If sub score 0 is assigned in at least one assessment characteristic, no overall score is determined.

7.2.3 Repetition of the Performance Test Riding

The performance test-riding can be repeated. All partial tests must always be completed. The current test results from all tests passed is valid.

7.2.4 Recognition of Tournament Tests

Horse performance test-riding is also considered to be successful for breeding stallions, broodmares and geldings, if the rules of the tournament are based on the Rule Book of the MFTHBA, published on the homepage www.mfthba.com.

The Principles for Breeding of the MFTHBA Breeding Program came into force on October, 13, 2020