



Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark

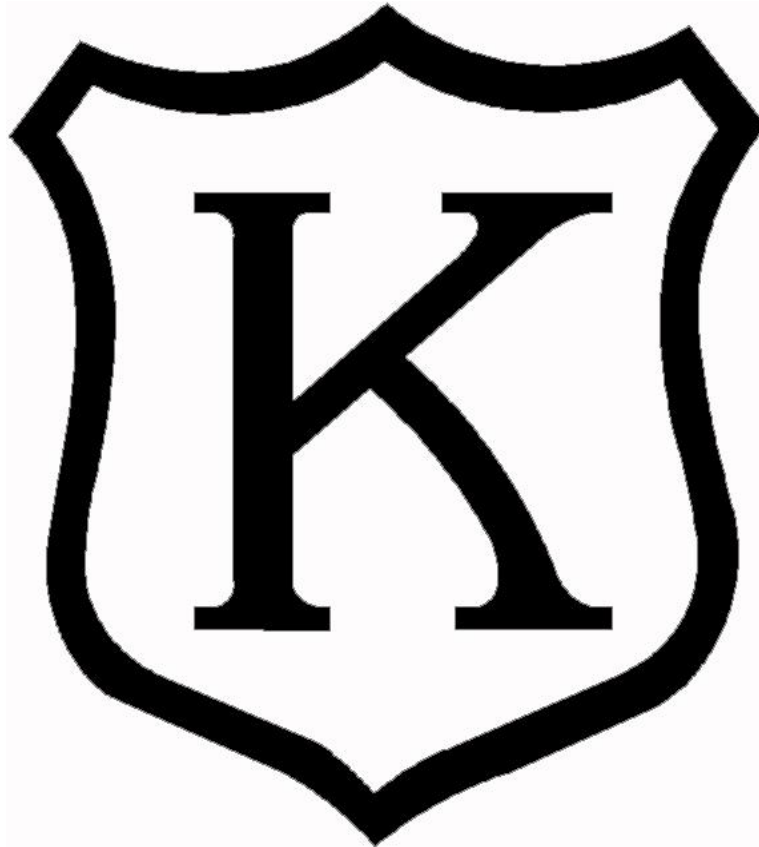
***BREEDING PROGRAM FOR:**

***PUREBRED KNABSTRUPPER HORSE**

***KNABSTRUPPER HORSE**

***PUREBRED KNABSTRUPPER OF CLASSIC TYPE**

***KNABSTRUPPER OF CLASSIC TYPE**



BREEDING PROGRAM FOR:


***PUREBRED KNABSTRUPPER PONY**

***KNABSTRUPPER PONY**

***PUREBRED KNABSTRUPPER MINIATURE PONY**

***KNABSTRUPPER MINIATURE PONY**

BREEDING PROGRAMS 2026



Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's Breeding Programs have been prepared by Ena Sparre in collaboration with the Breeding Management and the Board. The basis is Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's 'Rules and Standards', which at the request of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and on a mandate from the general meeting in 2017 is divided into 8 breeding programs.

The breeding programs are continuously updated with the latest decisions.

The Breeding Programs have been translated by Theresa Vimmerslev, Kathrine Grothe Nielsen and Ena Sparre and proofread by Heidi Wilkin.

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I. NAME AND ORIGIN OF THE BREED

The Knabstrupper is an old Danish cultural breed that has its origin at Knabstrup Hovedgård (Knabstrup Manor). The village Knabstrup, which has also given the Knabstrupper Horse its name, is located near Mørkøv in northwest Zealand. The ancestress, called Flæbehoppen (the Flæbe mare) or Flæbe I, was a mare that the Spanish troops brought to Denmark during the Napoleonic Wars. The first Knabstrupper foal was born in 1813, and the stallion Thor born in 1847 is considered the actual progenitor of the breed.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's Breeding Programs is to preserve and promote the breeding of the Knabstrupper horse in accordance with the standards adopted at the general meetings.

III. HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION/STUDBOOK

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark is a democratic, non-profit organization that is the mother association for the Knabstrupper breed. The association's highest authority is the general meeting, which is held each year before the end of March.

Knabstrupperhestevalsforeningen for Holbæk Amt was founded November 21st 1947, and on March 20th 1971 the association became nationwide under the name Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark.

On June 26th 1972, a cooperation agreement was made with Landsudvalget for Heste (the National Committee for Horses). The agreement included issuing of papers/passports for Knabstruppers, which SEGES|Horses has since conducted.

September 24th 1998 Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark was EU-approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark is EU-approved as maintainer of the studbook of the origin of the Knabstrupper breed cf. letter of April 18th 2002 from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

The Standards/Breeding Programs

The standard, today called the Knabstrupper Horse¹, is the original description of the Knabstrupper from the start of the association. Thus, it is from these Knabstruppers that all other Knabstrupper horses and breeding programs originate - also on a global level.

As early as 1972, however, a size division was made, so a distinction was made between Knabstrupper horse over 147 cm at withers and Knabstrupper ponies of max. 147 cm at withers.

In 1992, an actual standard for the Knabstrupper pony was adopted.

In 1998, the standard for the Knabstrupper Miniature Pony was adopted.

¹ Between 2005 and 2023 this standard was called 'Knabstrupper Sports Horse'; but this name has caused a lot of confusion, which is why in 2023 it was decided to go back to the original name 'Knabstrupper Horse'.

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The standard for the Knabstrupper of Classic type was adopted in 2005.

In 2017, it was decided that 'Rules and Standards' were divided into 8 breeding programs, as the previous 4 standards were also divided into Purebred and not purebred. The 8 breeding programs are as follows:

- Purebred Knabstrupper Horse
- Knabstrupper Horse
- Purebred Knabstrupper of Classic Type
- Knabstrupper of Classic Type
- Purebred Knabstrupper Pony
- Knabstrupper Pony
- Purebred Knabstrupper Miniature Pony
- Knabstrupper Miniature Pony

The Pure Breeding and preservation work

The Knabstrupper is recognized nationally as well as internationally as an endangered breed worthy of preservation.

In 1994 the definition of pure breeding was adopted.

In 1998 rules for stallions of rare bloodlines worthy of preservation was adopted.

In 2001 the Purebred Program was adopted.

April 29th 2002 Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark entered into the first contract with the Genetic Resources Committee²

November 12th 2005 Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark entered into a cooperation agreement with the Genetic Resources Committee, now the Preservation Committee.

In 2017 the labeling scheme for Historic Bloodlines was adopted.

Registration

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark has entered into a cooperation agreement with Landsudvalget for Heste (the National Committee for Horses) regarding registration etc. The practical work with passport issuance, database etc. is outsourced to SEGES | Horses, Agro Food Park 15, Skejby, DK-8200 Århus N. This is done in accordance with Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules, the National Committee for Horses' general rules for registration and other applicable legislation in the field.

Studbook

In 1977, the first Knabstrupper studbook was published under the name 'Kåringsregister for Knabstrupperheste Kåret i årene 1970-71-72-73-74-75-76'. Since then, Knabstrupper studbooks have been published on a regular basis for Knabstruppers, which have been presented for grading, license, performance test etc.

IV. GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark has emerged as a Danish national association for a Danish national horse breed. The Knabstrupper horse has been exported widely, so as the need for registration and inspections has arisen around the world, the association has become global. Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark operates in Denmark, throughout the EU and everywhere in the rest of the world, where members require the association's services and this is practically possible and legal.

² The advisory Preservation Committee for Danish Animal Genetic Resources for original Danish livestock breeds has been set up by the Ministry of the Environment and Food. The Preservation Committee is to advise the Ministry of the Environment and Food on issues concerning the preservation of genetic resources in native Danish livestock. The committee must also assist the Ministry of the Environment and Food in promoting the joint Danish preservation efforts for native Danish livestock breeds and thereby ensure the future preservation of genetic resources.

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V. BREEDING PRINCIPLES

Breeding goals

The Knabstrupper is a versatile horse, suitable for many purposes also at a high level. Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark emphasizes that the Knabstrupper horse retains its good temperament, great durability and characteristic colour, for which it is historically known.

Knabstrupper colour

The Knabstrupper breed is known for its very characteristic, highly varied colour, which Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark wants to maintain.

This means that colour patterns that are destructive to the Knabstrupper colour, such as gray and pinto, are undesirable and impermissible.

Genetically, the Knabstrupper colour is dominant, which means that solid-coloured horses that do not have the Knabstrupper colour themselves must be crossed with an individual who has the Knabstrupper colour, so the offspring has the opportunity to inherit the characteristic colour. Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules do not allow crossing between two individuals, where neither party has Knabstrupper colour.

Otherwise, the horses are not judged for their colour, and grading results depend on conformation and movement only without any consideration to the colour of the horse.

Breed standards

The Knabstrupper breed is judged according to 4 standards. The standard, a horse is judged by, is i.a. determined by the size and conformation of the horse.

The four standards:

- Knabstrupper Horse
- Knabstrupper of Classic type
- Knabstrupper Pony
- Knabstrupper Miniature Pony

is described in detail in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's Breeding Programs, which is further divided into a section for purebred /non-purebred resulting in a total of 8 breeding programs.

Mobility between the breeding programs

Knabstrupper from the different breeding programs can to a certain extent be included in the other Knabstrupper breeding programs in accordance with the guidelines in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.

Pedigree requirements

The studbook is divided into a main section and 3 supplementary sections. Both the main sections and the supplementary sections are further subdivided and show placement options and requirements. See 2.2 in the Breeding Programs

Purebred criteria

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's minimum criteria for when a Knabstrupper can be considered purebred is 7/8 blood purity in the 3rd generation or 12/16 blood purity for in the 4th generation.

Outcrossing

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark allows outcrossing with horses from a number of breeding associations. These associations achieve Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's conformation and grading requirements, which of course reflect KNN's own grading rules.

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As KNN also operates outside Denmark's borders, the list of corresponding permitted foreign associations for outcrossing is expanded continuously as the need arises.

Outcrossing is only permitted for Knabstrupper mares in the main section of the studbook and in the appendix F3. Mares in Appendix F1 and F2 must be bred by a Knabstrupper stallion in order for the offspring to be registered as Knabstrupper.

Other spotted breeds

Horse section:

In the Breeding Programs in the horse section, Purebred Knabstrupper Horse, Knabstrupper Horse, Purebred Knabstrupper of Classic Type and Knabstrupper of Classic Type outcrossing with or grading of horses from other spotted breeds than those mentioned on the outcross list is not permitted. This means that for instance Appaloosa is not regarded as being of approved descent.

Mares of Knabstrupper colour of not approved descent can however under certain conditions be graded into the lowest section of the supplementary section of the studbook, F1.

Pony section:

In the Breeding Program Knabstrupper Pony you could until 2026 apply for permission to present ponies from other spotted breeds than mentioned on the outcross list for grading and breeding license. This means that ponies from for instance British Spotted Pony Society or Nederlandse Appaloosa Stamboek in more cases have been graded in KNN.

Horses from the pony section with such lineage are not regarded as of approved descent and cannot be accepted directly into the Breeding Programs in the horse section.

For Knabstrupper Miniature Pony you can still apply for permission to present ponies from other spotted breeds than mentioned on the outcross list for grading and breeding license.

Grading system

Stallions

- Only stallions from the studbook's main section E, and which meet Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's other requirements, can be approved for breeding in accordance with the rules of the association.
- Before a stallion may be used for breeding, it must be judged and approved in accordance with the guidelines in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.
- Before a stallion can obtain a final grading/grading for life, it must have conducted and passed a performance test. This has been mandatory since 1974.
Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark organizes a 1-day performance test for home-trained horses; but recognizes other performance tests. For other performance tests the Breeding Management decides in each individual case whether the test can be approved.
- A stallion can have a breeding license for a maximum of 2 years, after which it must enter and pass a performance test and be finally graded before being further used for breeding.
- Purebred stallions that do not meet all other quality requirements in order to be granted an ordinary breeding license have an extraordinary opportunity to be included in the breeding to a limited extent. The stallion can be granted a limited breeding permit according to the Purebred Program and have the opportunity to produce up to 10 offspring.
- Stallions can obtain a medal for offspring. A group of the stallion's offspring must be presented in accordance with the guidelines in the Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.
- Stallions can achieve elite status in accordance with the guidelines in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.

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Mares

- Mares from both the main section of the studbook and the appendix and which meet Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's other requirements, can be presented for grading in accordance with the rules of the association.
- In order to obtain a grading, mares must be subjected to a conformation assessment in accordance with the guidelines in the Knabstrupperforeningen for Denmark's rules.
- As a sign of rideability, mares can have an "R" added to the studbook prefix, for example by passing a performance test approved by the Knabstrupperforeningen for Denmark in accordance with the guidelines in the association's rules. Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark organizes a 1-day performance test for home-trained horses; but recognizes other performance tests. For other performance tests the Breeding Management decides in each individual case whether the test can be approved.
- Mares can obtain a medal for offspring. A group of the mare's offspring must be presented in accordance with the guidelines in the Knabstrupperforeningen for Denmark's rules.
- Mares can achieve elite status in accordance with the guidelines in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.

Geldings

- Geldings can be presented for conformation grading in accordance with Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.
- As a sign of rideability, graded geldings can have an "R" designation, for example by passing a performance test approved by the Knabstrupperforeningen for Denmark in accordance with the guidelines in the association's rules. Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark organizes a 1-day performance test for home-trained horses; but recognizes other performance tests. For other performance tests the Breeding Management decides in each individual case whether the test can be approved.

Foals and Young Stock

- Foals and Young Stock of approved ancestry can be presented for conformation assessment in accordance with the guidelines in Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's rules.

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark determines each year dates and venues for gradings in accordance with the guidelines in the association's rules.

DNA

Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark request DNA-test for graded mares and DNA-test and parental verification for stallions, which are to be used for breeding.

Veterinary

For all stallions presented for license or grading as well as all horses presented for performance test, it is a requirement that they are subjected to a clinical examination performed by a veterinarian. Only horses approved by the veterinarian can proceed for further evaluation.

Judges

To carry out the assessments, Knabstrupperforeningen for Danmark's Breeding Management appoints a judging team, which must be approved by the Board. Knabstrupperforeningen educates and trains judges from its own ranks according to the principles of apprenticeship. It is possible to supplement the judging team with a consultant, examined rider, showjumping judge, test rider etc.

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