



There is a huge painting (1,80 x 1,30 m) in the entrance area of the headquarter in Verden with a text on a plate placed aside of it:

The shown personalities are (from left): Dr. Walter Hartwig (1925 – 1994), Breeding and Business Manager 1965 – 1983; Dr. Christian Freiherr v. Stenglin (1914 – 2002), State Stud Manager 1958 – 1979; Burchard Müller (1908 – 2001), first president 1963 – 1981.

History of the painting: The journalist and caricaturist Carl-Heinz Dömken, born in 1929, expressed his impression about the

Louis-Wiegels-Show in 1975 on Dobrock. When addressing questions to the committee and feeling misunderstood, he gave his friend Dr. Walter Hartwig this oil painting as subtle present. The boy in the middle of the painting seems to be the symbol of a "fault finder". When the headquarter moved from the Chamber of Agriculture in Hanover to Verden in 1986, the painting also changed location.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HANOVERIAN HORSE SOCIETY AND THE RISE OF THE HANOVERIAN TO A MODERN RIDING HORSE SINCE THE EARLY 1960S

THE ORGANISATION OF THE HANOVERIAN SOCIETY (1960 TO 2005)

The Verband was founded in 1922 and from 1935 to 2007 was named “**Verband hannoverscher Warmblutzüchter e.V.**” (Society of Hanoverian Warmblood Breeders). At a members’ meeting in April 2007, it was agreed to change the name to **Hannoveraner Verband e.V.**

Since December 30, 1996, the Verband has been recognized as the **breeding origin of the Hanoverian horse**, in line with EU policy 90/427, by the minister of agriculture of Lower Saxony. The Verband’s logo is the legally registered **Hanoverian stud-book brand**. **The ultimate goal of the breeders’ work is the Hanoverian horse.**

The Hanoverian breeding area – The primary breeding region

With the founding of the provincial Society of Hanoverian Warmblood Breeders in 1922, the breeding area was subdivided into four regional district associations, which correlated to the government districts of Stade, Hanover, Lüneburg and Osnabrück. In 1942, the latter was split into Osnabrück and Emsland and then reunited in 1993.

Following the Verband’s reorganization in 1946 after World War II, the districts of Braunschweig, Hamburg and Bremen were added to these initial associations. Together, these districts are considered the **primary breeding region of the Hanoverian horse**.

The traditional mare show on the river island Krautsand in Kehdingen was of great importance for the District Association of Stade until 2000. >

In 1951, the Verband’s constitution defined the region of breeding to be the area of Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Bremen “as well as some small regions adjacent to these areas”. Within Lower Saxony, the Verband did not have regional subdivisions in East Frisia and the Oldenburg region. This changed in the mid 1960s.

The area around Stade, along with the Elbe and Weser river marshland, is considered the initial stronghold of Hanoverian breeding in the 18th century. The District Association of Stade totaled 8,006 members in 1946 and with 25 committee members accounted for half the delegates at the Verband’s general assembly.





Verband's office building and Niedersachsenhalle entrance after reconstruction in 2011

THE HANOVERIAN BREED AND HANNOVERANER VERBAND TODAY

CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

The description of the historical development of the Hanoverian studbook, that is to say the Verband hannoverscher Warmblutzüchter, from its founding in 1888 until the beginning of this century has shown that the Hannoveraner Verband has been continuously evolving, according to the general conditions for breeding horses. (see chapters 1 and 2, until the end of Breeding and Business Manager Dr. Wilkens' term of office of in 2006). This particularly applies to all areas of official organizational structure, breeding program and auctions.

Structural changes in horse breeding and member's farms

There have been considerable structural changes in horse breeding in Germany (and in the European neighboring countries) since the end of last and the beginning of this century. One of the major reasons is changes in agriculture. The lasting process of concentration was accompanied by a drastic decline in the number of agricultural farms. This led, at the same time, to a decline in horse breeding, which had a home on the disappearing farms. Breeders also gave up breeding horses in many traditional core regions of the Hanoverian breeding area. The District Association Stade is an example of the considerable decline in members, particularly when considering its historical importance (see also page 40, 55 and 231).

The number of breeders in the District Association Stade declined by nearly 1,000, or 38%, from 1995 to 2014. This tendency even intensified as of 2008. However, 1,579 active breeders were still registered with the District Association Stade in 2014.

The number of breeding farms had been declining on the association level to a lesser extent over a long period but was compensated by new members in the 1990s. The declining tendency was almost offset in 2005 with the fusion with the breeding association in Hessen. But the decline became clearly obvious in the second half of the same century.

This fact prompted the Hannoveraner Verband to conduct a survey among members in 2007 to find out about the development of the farms and to draw conclusions in regards to future perspectives. This survey confirmed the trend already seen. The number of agricultural enterprises dropped from 58 to 42% in favour of non-agricultural enterprises. This shift in horse breeding to non-agricultural enterprises is still continuing with increasing tendency and is accompanied by a demographic impact as Hanoverian breeders averaged 53 years old in 2007.

Giving up horse breeding takes place comparatively fast and goes unnoticed compared to other agricultural branches. This is easy to understand when taking into consideration that almost half of all Hanoverian breeders only breed with one mare.

The development of the District Association Stade

Year	Number of breeders	Number of registered mares	Number of covered mares
2002	2,281	4,877	3,330
2004	2,256	4,701	3,250
2006	2,202	4,696	3,322
2008	2,104	4,595	3,326
2010	1,923	4,163	2,464
2012	1,750	3,476	2,051
2014	1,579	3,208	2,028



Sustainability in order to stay abreast of changes: Awarded breeding and raising farms such as Hof Kleemeyer show impressively how to provide perfect conditions in order to supply appropriately raised, healthy horses.

Market development

Another factor that further influences the member farms' structural changes is the development of equestrian sport. The restrained buying interest has, of course, great impact on the market situation. And it also, of course, influences breeders' structure as became clearly obvious in the years since 2008. The demand for horses in Germany and abroad considerably declined as a result of the global financial and economic crisis in 2008 and 2009. This fact led to a decline in breeding numbers, accompanied in the following years by a decline in mare and member numbers. The number of breedings registered with the Hannoveraner Verband declined by 40% between 2008 and 2012. This development affected all horse breeds in Europe. The number of breedings declined correspondingly in Germany. The reduced number of foals has meanwhile reached the level of selectable horses offered for sale.

Increasing numbers of Hanoverian breeders in other German federal states.

The increasing number of Hanoverian breeders outside the original breeding area since the 1980s is another development in the membership structure. Over the years, the desire to breed Hanoverian horses resulted in the fact that regular members in almost all other German federal states were registered with the Hannoveraner Verband. The system to register with a "second residence" in the official core breeding area, and the administrative assistance by the regional breeding association was not satisfactory in the long run. The breeders were looking for direct support by the Hannoveraner Verband. The Scheffold family from Aulendorf in Baden-Württemberg is an excellent example. For al-

most 20 years, they had to load mares and foals and drive 700 km north, to the Osnabrück area. As members of the horse-breeding club Artland, they presented their mares at the mare show in Badbergen in order to be awarded state premium awards. The same applied to the foals in order to have them registered as Hanoverian horses. All these efforts that many breeders outside the core breeding area made over decades can only be explained by their great enthusiasm and they certainly deserve great respect. The administrative assistance granted by the horse-breeding club Baden-Württemberg in 2001 was certainly a first relief. However, the foals were still registered for the Hannoveraner Verband by employees of another breeding association. But finally in 2007 the time had come. An employee of the Hannoveraner Verband visited the Scheffold family in Aulendorf for the first time during his first nationwide registration trip. Today the Scheffold family presents their foals and mares at events of the horse-breeding club Baden-Württemberg in Langenau, (only) approximately 100 km away.



◀ *The riding facility Am Ried in Langenau has been a venue of the Hanoverian foal auction since 2011 and for many years the central address for Hanoverian breeding events in Baden-Württemberg.*

Official approval: German-wide Hanoverian breeding area

Governmental acceptance: Approval in other federal German states required

In mid 2000, the Lower Saxonian Ministry for Agriculture informed the Hannoveraner Verband that the Verband had to be officially accepted by the government of the individual federal states in order to care for the breeders through the regional breeding association. This procedure applied to all federal states that did not belong to the approved breeding area until that time.

The Hanoverian young breeders

The activities for the Hanoverian young breeders were launched in 1987. To effectively implement and further promote the work of the young breeders in a breeding area as large as the Hanoverian breeding area, responsible people were needed in all horse breeders clubs. All clubs were requested to elect a youth speaker at the succeeding winter meeting and to forward the name to the Verband's headquarter. It is no longer normal that young people are involved in horse breeding and, as a result, things that cannot be taken for granted any more have to be particularly fostered. The younger generation on horse breeding farms all too often gives up the breeding business, therefore serious consideration was necessary. Not only the fact that valuable breeding potential might be lost, but also experience, skills and knowledge about horses passed on from generation to generation deserves serious consideration.

Hannover took again the lead in the development of appropriate measures and concepts. The philosophy behind these efforts is meant to implement three main identified priorities:

- ❑ The opportunity to learn, experience and apply expert skills and knowledge
- ❑ To experience the fascination of horses, to combine it with the topic breeding and to develop and spread equestrian passion
- ❑ To enable and facilitate an age-appropriate exchange – also in a social circle – and to establish and foster contacts within ones own breeding area and beyond

A sample constitution was issued to determine the position of the youth speaker within the club.



Dedicated Hanoverian young breeders are passionate, happy and successful

The young breeders competitions include contests featuring challenging programs of theory (answering hippological questions as a team) and practice (individual preparation for shows, evaluation of conformation and presentation on the triangle) on a national and international level.

The Hanoverian Young Breeders' Day, a different kind of horse show, celebrated its debut in 1991 as an independent event for the young breeders and was also open to children with ponies. In addition to the young breeders final, tests such as ring jousting, lead line competitions and combined fun competitions were added to the program.

The activities in the clubs continued to increase. Since 1996, it is impossible to imagine the elite auction gala evening shows and other events without them. As was already the case with some clubs and district associations before, upon proposal of the youth speaker, he participates at meetings of the board with an advisory voice. This also applies for the board of the Verband.

In the meantime, the work of the young breeders is also an important part of the work with other breeding associations. Another important step is the nationwide competition "Federal Young Breeders Championships". The Hannoveraner Verband hosted the contest in 1998, the directive being that the highest-ranked association that had not held the competitions before has to organize the next event. Eleven associations in total have already participated and Hannover has repeated its success and won the team competition twice. All German breeding associations have hosted the Young Breeders Competition since that time.

There are some clubs in which co-operation with the board is still difficult, even after more than 10 years, and there are other clubs where the co-operation is excellent. Several former youth speakers are meanwhile the manager or director of their clubs.

The first international Young Breeders Competition was organized by the Hanoverian young breeders on the occasion of the 2001 European Dressage Championships in Verden.

Participations

Riders Town Verden – always with Hanoverians

It is commonly known that the expression "Riders Town" evolved for Verden in the 1930s when the important 10-day tournaments were held and were considered to be among the most important shows in Germany, along with the events in Berlin and Aachen. The Verden racetrack was built at that time with the integrated stadium. The importance of the Hanoverian breed, with one of its focal points in the Verden area, played an important role. Fol-



◀ The Verden Stadium was built in the 1930s as a riders stadium including a race track. This was the foundation stone for Verden as venue of important national and international tournaments.

Following World War II, the tradition to host large equestrian events in the stadium was continued. The army had organized these events before World War II and now the tradition of these large tournaments was scheduled to be continued, but required a civil organizing committee. The City of Verden finally appointed Curt Troue, manager of the tourist information office, as committed leader. There has always been a close co-operation with the race club, the user of the traditional turf track.

Large competitions were still held. On the occasion of the World Championship qualifier in 1974, a highlight was the unveiling of the Tempelhüter-statue in the stadium before it found its final place in front of the German Horse Museum.

The Verband hannoverscher Warmblutzüchter was not responsible for, but theoretically involved with, competent experts in the organization of these competitions until Verden was appointed to host the Federal Mare Show and the Federal Championships in 1983.

Auction manager Rainer Kiel and the Verband were involved in the organization and economic results of the large tournaments. These successes increased the reputation on the regional and Germany-wide level and required continuous action. The district rider association and its president, Dr. Burkart Fischer initiated a dressage festival in co-operation with Holger Schmezer and Dr. Reiner Klimke to again offer top-class equestrian sport in the stadium. The response among experts was sufficiently positive that the courageous decision was taken to apply for a German dressage and show jumping championship. The **Verdener Turniergesellschaft GmbH** (VTG = Verden Tournament Association) was founded in this respect by the Hannoveraner Verband and the district riders association Verden.

The 1988 German Championships in Verden were also the qualifications for the Olympics in Seoul and were under a lucky star. The German team not only returned with a number of gold medals, but the Verden event was also a great success with favorable weather conditions. This of course encouraged people to

come, and the many guests and officials gave great feedback. The 1988 show encouraged repetition of such an event, and Verden was again at the same level as other venues.

The time had come to set the course for future activities. The Verband as shareholder of VTG decided to consequently continue along the path already started due to their responsibility to emphasize the importance of the Verden venue towards its breeders, international visitors and customers

The Federal Championships were held in Verden in 1983, 1990 and 1992. The German Dressage and Show Jumping Championships in 1988, 1993 and 1999, the Championships of Professional Riders in 2000 and 2002.

Establishing and consolidating an international reputation started with the 1997 and 2001 European Dressage Championships.



The World Championship arena as the setting of top-class competitions. Head of the organizing committee Rainer Kiel (2nd from right) during an award ceremony on the occasion of the FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses.

The FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses followed for another 15 years.

The international competitions for five- and six-year-old dressage horses was a pilot project that was launched in 1997 in cooperation with the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) and the German National Equestrian Federation (FN). Following a short reflection period, the World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses commenced as of 1999. Arnhem/NL had hosted the event two years before the competitions were held in Verden again in 2001 on the occasion of the European Dressage Championships.

The championships owe their development to the Verden Organizing Committee and the international audience returns it with great thanks. Since then, the International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival is a fixed part of the annual tournament calendar, both among German and international competitions, and an economic factor and image carrier for Verden.

The whole range of dressage and show jumping competitions, for all age groups and at the highest level, are shown in Verden, from youngsters to futurity prospects and development classes up to the international level. This is certainly a unique feature and distinguishes Verden from most of the other competition venues.

Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH

In preparation for the World Exhibition along with the work of different work groups before 2000, it became apparent that handling the different interests required the concentration of certain structures. The organizations and groups involved in the horse business sometimes have difficulty handling certain issues that highlight the horse for its economic importance and image support in addition to the day-to-day business due to lack of size and capacity. Contacts with political bodies and media representatives deserve to be mentioned in this respect, as well as handling problematic issues and generating new projects.

A work group called "Expo-Arbeitskreis Die Welt der Pferde" (EXPO work group – the World of Horses) was founded and replaced by "Pferdeland Niedersachsen GmbH". It was a merger of the most important organizations involved in the horse business, including as shareholders the Hannoveraner Verband, the Oldenburger Verband, the equestrian associations Pferdesportverband Hannover, Pferdesportverband Weser-Ems and the pony breed societies Ponyzuchtverband Hannover and Pferdestambuch Weser-Ems.

This central structure provided proof of its efficiency on the occasion of the organization of shared booths, supported by the



The shared booth "Pferdeland Niedersachsen" (Horse Country Lower Saxony) has been a popular meeting point at the Equitana, the world exhibition of horse industry, since 2011

Lower Saxonian Ministry of Agriculture, at the world exhibition of equestrian sports EQUITANA in 2011, 2013 and 2015, and at the exhibition "Pferd & Jagd" (Horse and Hunting). In addition, the central structure provides efficiency when it comes to dealing with comprehensive issues such as registration of foals by branding and/or micro transponder, horse tax, questions relating to horse and wolf and animal protection plans.

Another project is the first horse country Lower Saxony-Day in September 2016 with Prime Minister Stephan Weil.

Strategic partnerships

The Hannoveraner Verband has been an exclusive member of the German Horse Industry GmbH (GHI) since 2013, an international working network founded by experts from the horse business. The members produce and offer high-quality products from almost all areas of equestrian and concentrate their know-how in this structure. The membership of the Hannoveraner Verband generates synergies, mainly when it comes to international marketing.

Apart from that, members of the Verband benefit from advantageous offers of the GHI-member companies and attractive discounts.

THE MODERN BREEDING PROGRAM

Scheme breeding program

It is the main task of a breeding association to issue a breeding program as part of the studbook and to further advance and adapt it to the current situation. Important changes in the breeding policy require the consent of the Delegate Conference.

The basic system of the breeding program has been maintained. The scheme shown on page 92, updated with the data of the current population, is still valid.

Changes in the breeding program (as of 2006)

The breeding program of the Verband features the basic range of measures to be implemented to achieve the breeding goal. The selection of stallions at the stallion licensing is the most significant example..

It is the task of every breeder to fill the breeding program with life. The aim is the desired breeding progress by choosing appropriate mares, stallions and the corresponding breeding combinations. The results of studbook entries, mare shows, mare performance tests and, if available, first sport results are valuable tools when it comes to deciding on the mares used for breeding. It is the task and duty of every breeder to then fix a breeding goal for each mare and to choose an appropriate stallion, in due consideration of all strengths and weaknesses. Published data (stallion performance tests, sport results and breeding values) in the "Hannoveraner Jahrbuch Hengste" (Hanoverian Yearbook Stallions) are another valuable source of information. Advice by experienced breeders may also be of value. Selecting mares and appropriate stallions is an interesting task with which the breeder sets the course for producing top-class Hanoverian horses to ensure the success of his or her breeding site.



Breeding goal

The breeding goal has changed a couple of times as mentioned before, particularly in chapter 2 (due to the evolving requirements). The reason was and is the constant striving to improve the Hanoverian breed. The latest edition of the breeding goal of the Hannoveraner Verband, fixed in its 2015 constitution, reads as follows:

"It is the goal to breed the Hanoverian horse with a special disposition for riding. Horses that represent the perfect performance and pleasure horse because of their inner qualities, rideability, conformation, movement, jumping abilities and health are desired. Based on this goal, breeding horses with a principal disposition for one of the disciplines of dressage, jumping or eventing is pursued. Minimum performance capabilities are

required for the second discipline (dressage/jumping).

With the before mentioned characteristics in mind, the breeding of horses for driving sports are also strived for."

There is detailed information in the studbook regulations available, describing all criteria on assessment and evaluation and the desired and not desired aspects.



The world studbook rankings were launched in 1988 and the "Best of all Trophy" as overall ranking for all three disciplines was given until 2006 as well as a prize for the breeders of the most successful horses and the most successful breeding areas for dressage, show jumping and eventing. Hannover has won the overall trophy 12 times in total.

Successful Hanoverian horses for decades

The next paragraph of this chapter is dedicated to the many exceptional Hanoverian horses that have contributed to the reputation of this successful breed with top sports performances for decades.

The huge number had to be limited for this book. This is the reason why only some special horses from times before IT recording are mentioned, accompanied by earlier prize money lists. Full information is mentioned for those horses that won medals at Olympic Games, World and European Championships (WM and EC) as well as winners at World Cup Finals (WC). Winners at the FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses (WBCYH-D) are also included. The individual championships are mentioned in abbreviated form behind the name of the horses. There is also mentioned (VA) if the horses had been sold at one of the Verden auctions (incl. foal auction and stallion market).

Horses that had been among the six best of their evaluation period in the world studbook rankings, issued in the 1990s, are also considered.

DRESSAGE:

Akazie

EC

born 1984
by Aktuell-Perfekt
B.: Karen and Gerhard Traube, Salzgitter Bleckenstedt
R.: Dominique Brioussel/FRA

Andretti H

born 1995
by Aarking xx-Cavalier
B.: Gunda Hinrichs-Heineman, Lengenbostel
R.: Lara Griffith, Laura Tomlinson/GBR, Anna Paprocka-Campanella/ITA, Hubertus Schmidt, Holga Finken/GER

Angelo (VA)

born 05.05.1979
by Akzent I-Kurier
B.: Heinrich Kruse, Ganderkeseesee
R.: Berit Kraus/GER

Antony FRH (VA)

EC

born 20.03.1986
by Argument/T.-Wenzel I
B.: Hans-Jürgen Eckhoff, Steinkirchen
R.: Isabell Werth/GER



Any How

EC

born 08.04.1986
by Atatürk-Akrobat
B.: Alfred Künzler, Reeßum
R.: Anne van Olst-Koch/DEN

Asbach (VA)



born 1949
by Anilin-Spinck
B.: Bernhard Dresing, Alfhausen
R.: Josef Neckermann/GER



Atachi (VA)

EC

born 31.05.1987
by Akzent II-Wendepunkt
B.: Friedrich Oppermann, Salzgitter-Liebenburg
R.: Nadine Wirths/GER, Jürgen Wirths/GER

Barclay II

EC

born 28.04.1992
by Brentano II-Lungau
B.: Wilhelm Rethorst, Badbergen
R.: Johan Svensson/SWE, Carl Cuypers/BEL, Sven-Günter Rothenberger/NED, Gonnellen Rothenberger-Gordijn/NED, Hubertus Schmidt/GER

Beauvalais (VA)

WC; ; EC

born 27.04.1987
by Bolero-Grande
B.: Friderike Schulz-Stellenfleth, Freiburg
R.: Heike Kemmer/GER, Beatriz Ferrer-Salat/ESP



Biagiotti

born 16.02.1987
by Bismarck-Maat
B.: Manfred Tiemann, Langelsheim
R.: Markus Gribbe/GER, Brigitte Wittig/GER

Blind Date

born 10.05.2002
by Breitling W-Donnerhall
B.: Margarethe Klare, Maasen
R.: Brigitte Wittig/GER, Victoria Max-Theurer/AUT

Blue Hors Cavan (VA)

EC

born 08.02.1990
by Cavalier-Damnatz
B.: Friedrich-Wilhelm Rusch, Belum
R.: Andreas Helgstrand/DEN, Lars Petersen/DEN
photo see page 299

Bonaparte

WC; ; EC

born 19.04.1993
by Bon Bonaparte-Consul/T.
B.: Monika Jacob-Goldeck, Wedemark
R.: Heike Kemmer/GER
photo see page 191

Borsalino

born 1982
by Bolero-Grande
B.: Hermann Meyer, Allwörden
R.: Heike Kemmer/GER

Bouton

born 29.03.1994
by Borneo-Weltmeyer
B.: Gerhard Möller, Suhlendorf
R.: Eva Möller, Fabienne Lütkeemeier/GER, Nadine Capellmann/GER
photo see page 289

Breitling W

born 04.04.1991
by Bismarck-Maat
B.: Hermann Niehus, Rahden
R.: Wolfram Wittig/GER

