



Treat Yourself to a Free
Educational Opportunity –

The American Hanoverian Society

INSPECTION PROCESS

By Kate Palmquist

The Hanoverian inspection process isn't just for breeders—it has much to offer any sport horse enthusiast. There is an energy and brilliance to young breeding stock that is truly compelling for any horse lover as it spans breeds and equestrian disciplines. At Hanoverian inspections, the judges freely give in-depth commentary to everyone in attendance on gaits, type and conformation.

Education is a priority for the American Hanoverian Society (AHS), not just for the breeders who attend, but for all who would like to learn. Inspections take place throughout the United States and Canada. This article will explain these events and why you should consider attending. Spectators are welcome at all AHS inspections, and the AHS very much hopes to see you at one of their inspections in the near future.

One Rider's Appreciation of the Hanoverian Inspection Process

In 1999, Dennis Moore, an adult amateur rider in the Washington, DC area acquired his first Hanoverian, the young mare Antera by Anhaltiner E out of Flavia (Wertherson/Eminenz) directly from her breeder. Antera's breeder suggested to Moore that he have the mare "inspected." That way, he was advised, the mare might someday be able to produce registered Hanoverian offspring in addition to being his prospective dressage horse.

"I'd never been to an inspection before I took my new mare. The inspection was held at a large, beautiful breeding farm, and I'd never been to one of those either. After decades of riding and being around normal assortments of pleasure horses, I was awestruck by how gorgeous all the Hanoverian horses were," says Moore. "I'd been informed that I'd have to walk and trot my mare in hand, and I'd practiced a bit before we went. I also made sure that my mare was turned out nicely. Beyond that, I really had very little idea about what would happen. I was pleased to discover that the judges and other exhibitors were both helpful and patient with me. I was impressed that one of the judges had flown in from Germany and was one of the top officials of the Hanove-

rian Verband. I was impressed at how carefully the judges considered each horse. I was impressed at how passionate everyone was about developing athletic sport horses. And, I was blown away by the detailed explanations the judges gave for each and every score given. You'll never hear that at any ordinary horse show."

Though Moore presented the mare to the best of his ability, Antera did not achieve the scores necessary to reach the first step of eligibility to attain the title Elite Mare. "I was a bit disappointed," he recounts. "But, now that I've trained her up to Fourth Level dressage, I realize that the few aspects of her conformation that received somewhat lower scores are directly related to the training challenges that I've experienced with her. So, even though I wasn't happy to hear that my beautiful new mare wasn't as perfect in the judges' eyes as she was in my eyes, I've come to appreciate that the judges were right." For Dennis Moore, truth was the daughter of time.

Over the next decade, he purchased other Hanoverians, and was attentive to the inspection process. "Now that I've been attending Hanoverian inspections for years, I can more reliably pick out good conformation and equine athletic talent. Horse show judges pick winners, but don't tell the spectators why. Hanoverian inspection judges publicly explain their scoring in great detail for each aspect of conformation and movement," he continues. "As a result of learning from that instruction, I'm now able to recognize what attributes are associated with some bloodlines and to identify which ones best suit my riding and sport aspirations. Perhaps even better than the joy of seeing beautiful and talented Hanoverian horses and cute foals at the inspections has been that many of the wonderful Hanoverian breeders, owners and enthusiasts have become good friends. In addition, all of this has been very helpful to me and to my friends when we've been horse shopping."

But what are the inspection judges looking for, and what, exactly, is expected for inspections of foals, mares and stallions, and what can one learn from being a spectator at an inspection?

History of Hanoverian Inspections

The horse inspection process has long been a part of the breeding of Hanoverian horses, improving marketability and moving the breed forward toward sport horse breeding types and goals. Though horses have been selectively bred in the Hanover region of Germany for over four centuries, the year 1735 was the date of a watershed event. In that year King George II, ruler of England and Hanover, established the German National State Stud, Celle, in the province of Hanover (now Germany). This stallion station would provide quality stallions for reduced fees to the local farmers with an eye towards producing a versatile horse useful for the army, for farming and for export. Celle is still a preeminent stallion station, providing excellent breeding stallions for sport horse breeders in Germany and all over the world.

In 1768 a "branding decree" was enacted, allowing foals by Celle stallions to be identified as a genuine product. Beginning in 1844, any stallion standing in Hanover had to be licensed to be able to breed. In 1927 Celle established its stallion performance testing program, and state-owned colts began a 300-day training and evaluation process. By the mid-1970s, the testing process included free jumping, stadium jumping, cross country galloping and jumping, as well as dressage. And, the following aspects of a young stallion's ability were evaluated: temperament, character, gaits, rideability and jumping ability. This 300-day test has been changed to a 70-day format, and Adelheidsdorf, the town where those early tests were held, is still one of the leading testing sites for stallions in Germany.

Mare assessment has had a similar evolution. Mare and foal shows began as early as 1834. When the official studbook was founded in 1888, monetary awards were offered to the best mares, and this inspection practice forms the basis for rules still in place today. In the 1930s mare performance testing began on a voluntary basis in Germany but, reflecting the needs of the time, were draught-based. The Hanoverian Verband took over the testing of Hanoverian mares in the 1950s and by the 1970s a riding test for mares was established to further the evolving breeding goals.

The inspection process to identify excellent sport horses that has been developed over many decades is still in use today and is providing important educational benefits

not only to Hanoverian breeders but also to anyone who attends an AHS inspection.

The Current Inspection Process

The Hanoverian inspection process is one of the most important parts of the mission of the American Hanoverian Society. The society, incorporated in 1978, has a stated breeding goal: The aim is a noble, correctly built Warmblood horse capable of superior performance, a horse with natural impulsion and space-gaining elastic movements—a horse that because of its temperament, character, and willingness is suited principally as an all-around riding horse.

The society seeks to maintain standards and encourage the betterment of the breed. The evaluation standard applied in AHS inspections is an international standard, and officials from the German Hanoverian Verband participate as inspection judges at many AHS inspections, along with the well-established group of AHS inspection judges composed of

individuals who, for example, hold German or USEF judge, training or high performance certifications plus successful long-time Hanoverian breeders. Because the same evaluation standards are used in Germany and North America, stallions and mares approved for breeding in North America also are approved for breeding in Germany, and vice versa.

A Longtime Hanoverian Breeder's Appreciation for the Inspection Process

Since 2009, an agreement with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) now automatically allows all AHS-registered foals to be assigned a Lifetime Horse Recording number, as part of the regular AHS registration process. This latest change has been embraced by Hanoverian breeders.

Maryanna Haymon, a long time and very successful Hanoverian breeder and owner of Marydell Farm in Columbus, North Carolina, comments, "The AHS currently is delivering a service that is essential for breeders today. The USEF lifetime number that is included with our registrations will prove to be invaluable in keeping track of the offspring we produce. Currently, USEF does not have a one horse/one number rule in effect but that is coming. The FEI is now requiring microchipping for all new passports. The USEF life number is the initial step in this process. It will enable breeders to keep track of performance records of stallions and their offspring. In other words, AHS is ahead of the times."



The picturesque new headquarters of the Hannoveraner Verband e.V. located in Verden, Germany.

The AHS President Describes How Inspections Help Improve the Breed

The AHS encourages breeders to physically present their foals at an inspection for registration and optional branding, and to enable the Hanoverian inspection judges to evaluate the offspring of AHS stallions. Edgar Schutte, of Lincoln, California, the current president of the AHS, explains why: "I'm looking at it from the standpoint of the breeder and the standpoint of the registry. With the goals of the registry in mind, there has to be some kind of system to evaluate where we [as a breed] are going, versus where we want to be going. The only way to do that is to look at the horses we are producing and the mares and stallions we are using, so we can be alarmed if we are going in the wrong direction or we can be excited if we are going in the right direction. The registry can point breeders in the right direction if we feel like their breeding results are not as good as they could be. I think for the purposes of our registry, that's pretty important. We will be judged by the public at large as to how our Hanoverians perform. If we head in the wrong direction for an extended period, we are going to have a lot of 'not-so-good' horses out there for everyone to see. If they are poor performers, or not attractive or poorly conformed, they are out there for 15 years sending a message. On the other hand, when we produce good horses, they are out there advertising for us for the same amount of time."

"And it's not just advertising for the breed," he continues. "Each horse a breeder produces 'advertises' that breeder's program. Good or bad. It takes so long to get from planned breeding to riding horse; five years can pass before you really know what you have. Having honest assessment and guidance to help you along the way is important. And then you do that times 100, there is a huge impact. So, I think inspections serve a very strong purpose to guide breeders, to educate them, to allow them to see what other breeders are doing and other matches. If you are operating in a vacuum for five years, it's really hard."

* Foal Inspections

The inspection process starts with the registration of offspring. In order for a foal to be registered, it must be sired by a stallion approved for Hanoverian breeding and out of a dam that has been entered into a section of the AHS studbook. DNA must be on file for both the sire and dam and since 1993 all registered foals are now DNA typed. Samples of mane or tail hair, which must include roots, can be pulled regardless of the foal's age. Foals may be registered by mail (assuming the dam already has been admitted to a section of the studbook).

A foal is presented in hand for an evaluation of its conformation and then is shown free at the side of the dam for an assessment of its gaits. A concerted effort is made by the handler to keep the mare positioned to the outside so that



The stars of any inspection are the foals! This bright and springy fellow, Wolkenmyst (Wolkentanz II) was named Top Colt at the 2011 Delaware Valley College inspection. He is owned by Kris Schuler and was bred by Dennis Moore. His dam, Amethyst Q (Anhaltiner E- Lady L/Leibniz) was bred by Suzanne Quarles, Some Day Soon Farm and is owned by Dennis Moore.

the inspectors have a clear, unobstructed view. An astute handler will take care to regulate the mare's speed to best show the foal's trot movement. The AHS inspectors recognize that foals are presented at various stages of age and development, and no official scores are given, but the inspectors will offer detailed comments on the foal for the breeder and the inspection participants. Inspectors will choose one or two foals at each inspection for the honor of "Top Foal" or "Top Filly" and "Top Colt."

Breeder Jane Buyny of Clayton, California, notes, "I think inspections with a lot of foals are really educational. You can see what they are like in terms of conformation and movement, and you can see what different combinations are producing." And there are other reasons to take your foal to an inspection, she adds. "Inspections are also important for foals to create marketing material—all braided and clean—perfect opportunity for video and pictures. That's worthwhile. What I miss is the social aspect. It was fun to get to know the other breeders, and there is so much to learn just talking with other breeders. When I first started decades ago, it was fun to go even without a foal or mare entered."

Registration alone does not mean that a foal can go straight to the breeding shed once it matures. To enter the Hanoverian breeding program there is an extra level of evaluation required; mares and eligible stallions must be inspected for approval as breeding stock.

* Mare Inspections

Registered mares three years of age or older must be inspected and entered into a section of the studbook before their foals can be registered. The studbook consists of Hanoverian mares registered by the AHS or the German Hanoverian

“There will always be ups and downs [with inspection results]. You have to buy into the process if you want to move the breed forward.”



Owners are encouraged to performance test their mares to determine their rideability and whether their talent lies in jumping or dressage. Bellatessa HTF (Bugatti Hilltop-Em Comtesse/Cordoba) performed admirably under saddle to become an Elite Mare Candidate at her 2013 Mare Performance Test. She is owned by Kris Schuler and was bred by Hilltop Farm, Maryland.

Verband (HV) and its daughter societies, and certain mares from other breeding populations that meet various criteria. Non-Hanoverian mares eligible for inspection are: Jockey Club-registered Thoroughbreds, registered Arabians and registered Anglo-Arabians. Mares from other Warmblood registries may also be eligible for inclusion in the studbook on a case-by-case basis. AHS President Edgar Schutte explains, “Mare inspections give you many more data points than the few foal criteria. An inspection needs to take place while the mare is young, even if you aren’t planning on breeding her for a while.”

Inspection Criteria

The principal criteria for evaluating breeding stock (mares and stallions) include the following:

1. Conformation: The main part of the body from the chest to the buttocks should fit into a rectangular (not square) frame with all parts harmoniously integrated. Also desired is a noble head with expressive eyes sitting on a well-proportioned and well put-on neck; withers that are pronounced and extending well into the back; sloping shoulders with the angle between scapula and humerus large and open; a long, broad forearm on a correspondingly short cannon bone; and straight legs. Also preferred is a strong, but not tight back that is well padded in the area of the kidney; a long, well sprung rib; and a broad and long sloping croup. Careful attention is

paid to the hindquarters—their angulation, proportion and joint formation. The hocks must be broad, clear and well defined; the pasterns of all four legs must be of proper slope and length; and the hooves should be well shaped, strong and sound.

2. Correctness of Gaits: Movement as seen from the front and the rear must be straight with no paddling, winging or crossing over.

3. Impulsion and Elasticity of Gaits: Impulsion must clearly emanate from the hindquarters, traveling through a relaxed back swinging in rhythm with the gait. Movements should be big, yet light and springy.

4. Walk: The walk must be ground covering, relaxed and regular. Strides must be even and footfalls must be correct in their sequence—not lateral or pacing. Freedom of shoulders and haunches and a supple back must be evident.

5. Overall Impression and Development (as related to age): This reflects the collective effect of the individual component scores and harmonious development commensurate with the age of the horse. Horses should be neither excessively large nor too small; as to size sound judgment should prevail.

6. Masculinity/Femininity and Typiness: Stallions must have a distinctly masculine bearing and mares a distinctly feminine expression. A horse’s type must correspond to the society’s breeding goal.

Scoring: Only whole numbers are used in scoring for inspections—no fractions are allowed. Marks are given on a scale of 1 to 10: 10 – Excellent, 9 – Very Good, 8 – good, 7 – Fairly Good, 6 – Satisfactory, 5 – Marginal, 4 – Insufficient, 3 – Fairly Bad, 2 – Bad, 1 – Very Bad.

* Explaining the AHS Studbook

American Hanoverian mares will be placed in one of two sections of the studbook upon completion of their inspection. Non-Hanoverian mares can attend an AHS inspection and be admitted to one of the studbooks if their scores are high enough. It’s a strongly held conviction of the AHS and the German Hanoverian Verband that only the finest non-Hanoverian mares should be accepted—mares that have the greatest chance of enhancing the Hanoverian breed through their progeny. Non-Hanoverian mares that are acceptable by birth registry and pedigree are eligible for AHS inspection. All properly registered Thoroughbred, Arab, and Anglo-Arab mares are eligible for inspection. Other non-Hanoverian

mares that might be eligible to be accepted include mares from established Warmblood registries such as Oldenburg, Dutch and Holstein.

There are two principal sections to the AHS studbook. The Main Studbook is open to Hanoverian mares scoring an overall 6 or higher at inspection, and to non-Hanoverian Warmblood mares that have an overall score of 7 or higher. A Thoroughbred, Arab or Anglo-Arab mare can be accepted into the Studbook and have the opportunity to move up to the Main Studbook book through successful completion of the Mare Performance Test if the mare scores an overall 7 or higher at her inspection. The Studbook is open to Thoroughbred, Arab and Anglo-Arab mares that score acceptably for their breed at a Hanoverian inspection, and to Hanoverian mares scoring less than an overall 6 at inspection.

* Presenting a Hanoverian mare for inspection

Inspection day is one of the most important of a Hanoverian mare's life. The scores that she receives will remain with her for life and will determine her studbook placement. Breeders look forward to presenting their mares with both excitement and trepidation. Kris Schuler, a breeder in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, has presented several mares over the years. "I tend to buy into the fact that the judges see a lot of horses. Even if I don't always agree with what they say about my horse, I still appreciate their feedback," she says. "I feel it helps to keep the quality high and helps to move the entire breed forward. There have definitely been times when I haven't agreed. But on a global level, it really helps to maintain the breed as a whole, and maintain the standards of minimum quality in the breed. There can be



Preparing to inspect a mare on the triangle at the Spirit Equestrian site in Somis, California. Turnout is a key factor in the presentation of a mare. Both horse and handler should be conditioned and well-turned out. The mare shown is Daphne LK (Don Frederico-Wonne/Wolkentanz I) with her filly by Lortzing. Daphne LK was named the Champion Hanoverian mare of the day. Owner/breeder is Louise Koch, California.

philosophical differences such as the inspectors wanting a more refined or leggy horse than what the breeder himself is seeking. But overall the inspectors have done a really good job of moving the breed forward in a relatively short period of time, or number of generations. There will always be ups and downs. You have to buy into the process if you want to move the breed forward."

The inspection consists of an evaluation of the horse's conformation, walk and trot. A mare's trot, and sometimes her walk, is shown using a triangular pattern. Judges stand at the apex of the triangle, allowing a good vantage point without having to move their position. Mares will be posed for the judges to evaluate conformation. The handler stands facing the horse with one rein in each hand, and the mare is asked to assume an open stance so all four legs can be observed clearly.

Once the judges have finished with their conformation notes, the handler will be asked to demonstrate the mare's correctness at the walk, then exhibit her trot on the triangle. When trotting the triangle, straightness and correctness of gaits are evaluated primarily when the horse is moving toward or away from the inspection judges on the short sides of the triangle. The greatest challenge of showing on the triangle is to get the horse to develop its optimum, balanced, ground-gaining trot on the far side. The quality of the walk is typically evaluated using a walk ring, when all of the mares are encouraged to relax, walk a large circular pattern and display their best regular and swinging walks. Purity and quality are best judged when the horse is seen in profile as it travels. Professional handlers who can bring out the horse's best gaits are often employed.

* Explaining The Mare Performance Test

Most AHS inspection sites also hold a Mare Performance Test (MPT). The purpose of the MPT is to evaluate a mare's innate athletic aptitudes in three categories: gaits, rideability and free jumping. So, in addition to having a Hanoverian horse inspected, the AHS encourages owners to performance test their mares to determine their overall rideability and whether their talent lies in jumping or dressage. A study conducted in Germany shows a high correlation between the Mare Performance Test results and the ability to predict the talents of a mare's offspring. The test is not required but it can be an invaluable aid in determining the breeding goal for a mare. The high genetic correlation related to jumping and the inheritability of gaits make the Mare Performance Test a very important tool in deciding whether to breed a mare for jumping or dressage offspring.

In the Mare Performance Test, each of the three categories, a mare's rideability, gaits and jumping talent, is weighted one-third of the final score. During the under-saddle portion of the test, a mare's gaits are scored in addition to her rideability,

“A study conducted in Germany shows a high correlation between the Mare Performance Test results and the ability to predict the talents of a mare’s offspring.”



Alicia Frese

Free jumping is always a highlight of the Mare Performance Test (MPT). Scoring perfect 10s for both scope and technique in the jumping component of her test, Radiance HVH (Rotspon-EM Whitney/Welser) scored an overall 8.78, the second highest score ever awarded in the U.S. during the MPT. She is owned and bred by High Valley Hanoverians, Georgia.

which may be influenced by her temperament. Mares must be able to show a lengthened stride in each gait, as well as such simple dressage movements as a three loop serpentine and free walk on a loose rein. The rideability test is somewhat similar to USDF Training Level Test 3. However, accuracy of the required movements is only important to the extent that it reveals the mare’s rideability.

The jumping portion of the test is conducted in a jumping chute without a rider. Most jump chutes are constructed on a 21 foot stride with a cross rail, followed by a smaller oxer or a vertical, then a larger oxer. As the test progresses, the height of the last element will be raised and widened to match the mare’s scope and ability. There are two scores given for the jump chute, one for scope and the other for technique. The two scores are then averaged for a final jumping score.

There are four main reasons for performance testing a mare. One is to obtain a performance record to use as a tool in making breeding decisions; another is to identify the best conformed and most athletic Hanoverian mares through the Elite Mare program. A third reason for testing is to enable certain mares to advance to the Main Studbook. Fourth, a mare with an eligible jumper pedigree that attains an overall score of eight or better on the jumping portion of the performance test may be entered into the AHS Jumper Breeding Program.

Kris Schuler has performance tested many of her mares. “As a breeder who participates in the MPT, I appreciate that

the AHS offers a test at nearly every inspection location in the U.S. I’ve had tests that didn’t result in my three-year-old being able to show herself at her best . . . but that didn’t mean I ditched the entire process. She repeated the test and was co-champion the next year. If you are in this for the long-term, you take your knocks when they come along and possibly learn how to present your horses better in the long run, or how to breed a better horse.” she explains.

Spectators at a MPT have an excellent opportunity to learn how to evaluate jumping form and scope as well as gaits and rideability under saddle from the extensive commentary offered by the inspection judges. It also quickly becomes apparent how certain aspects of equine conformation translate (or not) into desirable gaits under saddle.

Elite Mare Status

The AHS identifies the best prospective breeding mares in its studbooks by designating them as Elite Mares. To be designated as an AHS Elite Mare, the mare must be



In order to become an Elite Mare, a mare must be in the Main Studbook and be out of a Main Studbook mare. She must have scored an absolute overall seven (7.0) upon inspection and then must pass the performance test. The final requirement for Elite Mare status is for the mare to produce an AHS-registered foal. EM Divine Dream MF (Don Principe-Feel the Dream/Falconet), shown above ridden by Andrea Hayden, had the 9th highest MPT score in the nation (7.52) during 2012. The elegant bay mare produced an AHS-registered foal in 2013, thus earning her Elite Mare status. She is owned by Alicia Frese and was bred by Maryanna Haymon, North Carolina.

in the Main Studbook and be out of a Main Studbook mare. She must score overall seven (7.0) upon inspection with no rounding up of marks. Mares must also pass the Mare Performance Test (MPT) with the following result: she must either score an overall seven (7.0) or achieve a score of eight (8) in one of the three MPT categories (riding, gaits, jumping) and at least a six (6) in the other two categories. In addition, to obtain Elite Mare status, the mare must produce an AHS-registered foal. There are performance alternatives to the MPT for mares to achieve Elite Mare status by achieving high performance levels in dressage, jumping or eventing. It's important to note that Elite Mare is not a performance award but rather a breeding award, and that is why the mares must prove that they are reproductively sound by having an AHS-registered foal.

How Hanoverian Stallions Are Inspected and Approved

AHS president Edgar Schutte, who stands eight Warmblood stallions at his Rainbow Equus Meadows, comments, "Stallion inspections are extremely important. A single stallion can have a very big impact. Some people think that stallion approval and inspection isn't important. But as a stallion owner I can say that I know of no one, really, that stands an unapproved stallion that is economically valuable for the owner, because they just don't sell the breedings. And they aren't getting quality mares. Yes, the selection criteria for the Hanoverians may be tough, but the few that get approved have a much greater chance of being economically rewarding, and a greater chance of being a quality producer."



The 2010 Hanoverian stallion Sternlicht GGF (Soliman de Hus-EM Rhapsody GGF/Rascalino) was licensed in 2013 at Hilltop Farm licensing. He was bred by Rachel Ehrlich of Greengate Farm, Massachusetts, and is owned by Jane MacElree, Hilltop Farm, Inc., Maryland. The striking young stallion was highly praised for his temperament, rideability and three good gaits.



An important part of the stallion licensing is the cross country jumping evaluation. The stallions are evaluated in dressage, show jumping, free jumping, and are further evaluated by guest riders. Here the stallion Dancier happily enters a water obstacle at his licensing in Germany.

Before a Hanoverian stallion can be presented at an official AHS stallion licensing, several things must happen: he must be three years of age or older, his pedigree must be approved by the Hanoverian Verband and he must undergo an extensive veterinary exam, including comprehensive radiographs (including stifle joints) evaluated by a blue-ribbon panel of vets from Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. Should the stallion pass the foregoing criteria, he may be presented at one of our inspection sites. During the stallion inspection, he will be evaluated in free jumping, conformation, gaits, presence and masculinity. The inspection judges are members of the AHS Mare and Stallion Committee and representatives of the Verband. To pass the inspection, a Hanoverian-registered stallion must receive an overall score of seven with no sub score lower than five. If the stallion is successfully licensed, to gain fully approved status the stallion must, within two years of licensing, successfully complete a Stallion Performance Test at an AHS approved test facility or attain required performance scores in dressage, jumping or eventing.

At this testing facility, stallions from many breeds are evaluated in dressage, show jumping and cross country. Until the Stallion Performance Test is completed, the licensed Hanoverian stallion's two-year temporary breeding approval is restricted to a maximum of 20 AHS foals per year. It should be noted that Germany's Hanoverian Verband recognizes all stallions that are licensed and approved by the AHS. As with the MPT, there are performance alternatives to the Stallion Performance Test.

Rewarding the Hanoverian Breeder and Enthusiast

It takes many years to build a successful Hanoverian breeding program. Breeders are constantly evaluating their mares, their offspring, offspring performance and potential sires on a year-round basis. Though inspections are the cornerstone of this evaluation process, the AHS has developed programs to assist and reward their breeders. One of these initiatives is a futurity program for yearlings and two-year-olds held in conjunction with the inspection tour. The Futurity evaluation of young Hanoverian horses is somewhat like a breed show. However, consistent with the educational goals of the AHS inspection process, detailed explanations of the scoring of each horse are provided both to the participants and to spectators. Top-scoring young Hanoverians participating in the futurity process also share \$3,000 in cash awards each year. In addition, the AHS recognizes its most successful competition horses through a year-end awards program for highly placed horses in most disciplines. The AHS also has initiated a New Breeder Mentor program that provides personal, one-on-one assistance for new Hanoverian breeders.

Inspections are a fun-filled spectator sport with friendly horse folk and are hugely educational too. The AHS in-



Edgar Schutte, President of the American Hanoverian Society, and his wife Susan annually host an AHS inspection at their Rainbow Equus Meadows farm in Lincoln, California. Here, Mr. Schutte correctly presents Princess Pei Pei R (Pablito-Knoble Queen R/Kalypso) to the judges using the open stance which enables the judges to see all four legs from the side.

spection tour includes 25-30 sites per year located in all regions of North America. The schedule can be viewed at www.hanoverian.org. Come and learn along with Hanoverian breeders about how to evaluate sport horses. We hope to see you there! 🐾



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