

# American Warmblood Registry Stallion Approval Protocol

Statement from the Registry president, Sonja K. Lowenfish:

“The concept of breeding stallion approvals is a fairly new practice in North America and has taken hold with the importation of European Warmblood Sporthorses.

The leadership of the American Warmblood Registry recognized early on that a simple transfer of German practices to America is not in the best interest of American Sporthorse breeders. Having recognized that a uniquely American system of evaluation had to be implemented by taking into consideration the imported European bloodlines, we concentrated on insuring that the most important attributes of both American and European Sporthorses were preserved and complimented.

The methods the American Warmblood Registry has employed are first an evaluation system of character and conformation as well as athletic capacity. We then establish the heritability of positive traits of both sire and dam. Last but not least the AWR strongly believes in our American Sporthorses proving themselves in open competition alongside the best any equestrian sport has to offer and win.

Our approach has given us great confidence that we are on the right track. In modern times a system of stallion testing as it was developed in Germany is no longer effective as a tool of predicting a winner in the show ring. Looking back in history that is quite plausible since we now have to prove our horses in the show ring and not on the battle field. As of this writing we are greatly encouraged in the effectiveness of our system since our European clients truly believe in our horses winning ways and we are no longer overlooked by European buyers.

As to the development of stationary 100 day or 60 day stallion testing in Germany, the trend is clearly away from participating in these exercises if owners can possibly afford to measure their horses ability against all comers in the show ring. It should be mentioned that stationary stallion testing is subsidized in Germany so that all breeders can afford it, and it runs to about \$600.00 per stallion for the entire test.”