



Finnhorse – a multipurpose horse

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FINNHORSE

- The Finnhorse originates mainly from the Northern European domestic horses, but have also blood from east
- The Finnhorse is the only native horse breed in Finland.



- The Finnhorse has been bred as a pure breed since 1907 when the studbook for Finnhorses was founded. The Finnhorse is the national horse breed of Finland.



- The breed has been used in the breeding of cold-blood horses in the Baltic countries and the former Soviet Union (1920's-1950's)
- It has also been crossed with the Nordland horse to decrease the inbreeding of the Nordland horse (1980's)



- The Finnhorse and the Finnish people share a common history – the horse has worked with credit in the wars and also been a great help to the farmers in their work both in the fields and the forests.



- The current number of Finnhorses is about **20 000**; the lowest number was **14 100** in 1987; the largest **409 000** in early 1950's
- About 15 000 of them are trotters – 5000 are in in other purposes (riding, hobby, tourism, logging ...)



- The Finnhorse is a versatile (“multipurpose”) breed
- Since 1971 there are four breeding sections of the Finnhorse: trotter, riding horse, working horse and small pony-sized (< 148 cm) horses



- The Finnhorse plays both today and in the future a part in the equestrian sports, horse assisted therapy, horse-/agritourism and other sectors of new horse-economy



- There are four sire lines left from those 6 main lines, however, the inbreeding rate of the Finnhorse is smaller than that of the other Nordic cold-blooded breeds
- There are about 1200-1500 foals born yearly



- There are three large annual Finnhorse events in Finland: Trotting Championships (Kuninkuusravit) and “Finnhorse Royals” for riding horses, and in addition, one for working horses “Working Championships”



Some facts of the Finnish horse sector

- 75 000 horses
- 35 000 horse owners
- 16 000 horse stables (more than other animal production facilities together)
- 15 – 16 000 persons employed
- Area used for feed production (forage, pastures, oats) 100 000 ha (4-5 % of the field area)

- The income from horse feeds to the Finnish farmers = the purchasing power of food/agricultural product from farmers by 200 000 people (= Turku area)
- The value of services and goods bought from local enterprises is 1200-1400€/horse/year
- The largest enterprises are riding schools and trotting training stables; tourism and others are rather small (but increasing)