

PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH RULES REGARDING RADIOGRAPHS FOR BONE SPAVIN

FIZO states in Section 111 under the heading Additional Rules for organizers of International Breeding Shows, the following requirement:

“Radiographic examination of the distal tarsus is required for stallions before entering the first breeding show from the age of five (5) years.

A complete radiographic examination is requested including four different projections of each hock. The radiographs are sent for central interpretation (by the same radiologist) in each country.

Information about the radiographic diagnosis will be recorded in World Fengur for information for the breeders.”

Further specifics for compliance with this requirement are contained in the document “Rules Aimed to Reduce the Prevalence of Bone Spavin in Icelandic Horses” which may be found at the FEIF website (feif.org)

All stallions appearing for evaluation at our breeding shows must comply with this rule, including the specifics contained in the second document. The required radiographs are:

1. Lateromedial (LM)
2. Dorsolateral-plantaromedial oblique (DL-PIMO)
3. Plantarolateral-dorsomedial oblique (PIL-DMO)
4. Dorsoplantar (DPI)

These may be analog films or digital files [high quality prints or CD-ROM]; digital files should be DICOM format for full fidelity; JPEG format is not acceptable for diagnostic evaluation; digital images are not accepted as e-mail attachments.

The procedure in the U.S. for compliance with the above rule is as follows:

1. The owner of the stallion must have the above x-rays of each hock obtained by a licensed veterinarian of his or her choosing.

2. At the time the x-rays are taken, the veterinarian shall be provided with the name and registration number of the stallion being x-rayed and will confirm the identify of the stallion by freeze-brand or by scanning the stallion's micro-chip I.D.

3. The radiographs shall be permanently identified with the name of the owner, the name, registration number, ID chip number (or freeze-brand) of the horse, the date of the study, and the name of the veterinarian making the radiograph, as well as the name and location of the veterinary hospital. This information shall be exposed into the emulsion of the film or included in the DICOM header (and thus visible on the digital image). The left and right tarsus shall e clearly identified with appropriate radiographic markers. Radiographs supplied with this information on materials that can be removed from the film are unacceptable. Radiographs inadequately labeled will not be evaluated and will be returned to the veterinarian.

4. The veterinarian will forward the radiographs to the Section of Veterinary Imaging, Cornell University Hospital for Animals, Box 36, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853 with a letter including the following:

- (1) The name of the owner and the horse and the method of identification;
- (2) The date of the x-rays;
- (3) A check for \$50 made payable to Cornell University;
- (4) A request that a spavin determination be made for the USIHC.

4. Within 30 days of the receipt of the x-rays, Dr. Nathan L. Dykes of the Section of Veterinary Imaging of Cornell University Hospital for Animals, or another board-certified radiologist designated by him, shall evaluate the radiographs to determine if the horse should be diagnosed as having or not having spavin. This determination shall be communicated by letter from Dr. Dykes to the USIHC Registrar (Ásta Covert, P.O. Box 1724, Santa Ynez, Calif. 93460) and the veterinarian who took the x-rays. The Registrar shall mail notification to the stallion owner within 14 days of receiving this letter.

5. The owner of the stallion will have 30 days from the date of the Registrar's letter to object, in writing, to the determination. In the event of such objection, the x-rays will be reviewed by Dr. Sigridur Bjornsdottir at Hólar, Iceland, whose determination shall be final. All costs associated with Sigridur Bjornsdottir's review of the x-rays will be the responsibility of the stallion owner.

6. The final diagnosis of spavin or its absence will be entered by the USIHC Registrar as part of the horse's record in World Fengur.