



Approved under EU and Irish law as Ireland's modern and progressive sport horse studbook focused on all three Olympic disciplines

**STUDBOOK OFFICIAL**

Dawn Kelly, Ph.D.  
(Studbook Administrator)

**BREEDING COUNCIL**

Luke Cafolla (Showjumping)  
Louise Doherty (Dressage)  
Mandy Driesch (Eventing)

**LANAKEN REPRESENTATIVE**

Nicole Galbraith

**LION D'ANGERS REPRESENTATIVE**

Mandy Driesch

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**HOMEPAGE**

[www.irish-warmblood.com](http://www.irish-warmblood.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

FB: WarmbloodStudbookOfIreland

Twitter: @irish\_warmblood

**EMAIL**

[admin@irish-warmblood.com](mailto:admin@irish-warmblood.com)

**WBFISH**

WSI is a Full Member of the WBFISH



# Warmblood Studbook of Ireland

International Showjumpers with an Irish Accent

**FREE OSTEOCHONDROSIS TESTING FOR IRISH WARBLOOD FOALS**

In 2020 WSI is offering Irish Warmblood foals free testing for the genes associated with osteochondrosis (OC).

WSI began its genomic testing program in 2016 following the launch of our partnership with the KWPN, which developed the test following decades of phenotype data collection and genetic research. Until now WSI's genomic testing program focused on Approved Stallions, Approved Mares, and Studbook Mares. This year the testing program will focus on foals.

Every foal that passes the genomic test will be awarded the D-OC predicate, and this predicate will be published on the foal's passport, zootechnical certificate, and in databases such as Horsetelex and WSI's online database. The predicate is a sign to purchasers that the foal is less likely than average to carry the genes that cause heritable disease process leading to the development of defective cartilage and bone in foals and young horses. For foals being purchased for breeding, the predicate is important because it is evidence that the animal is less likely than average to produce progeny that suffer from diseases caused by heritable OC. For foals that will become geldings and future sport horses, the predicate is a sign that the foal is less likely than average to develop heritable OC, which may require surgical interventions later in the foal's life.

Funding for the OC testing program for foals is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and WSI under a program certified by the European Commission as being in compliance with EU State Aid legislation.

Please contact WSI for full terms and conditions of the Foal OC Testing Program. Every Irish Warmblood foal will be considered for testing, but the foal must meet technical requirements based on the proximity of its pedigree to KWPN's reference population. The decision about eligibility is made by the KWPN's

geneticist. This means that while most foals bred for the showjumping and dressage directions will meet the technical requirements, some foals bred for the eventing direction may be unable to be tested because of the presence of Thoroughbred, Anglo-Arab, and half-bred stallions and mares in their pedigrees.

**WSI EVENTS AND COVID-19**

Eleven stallions entered WSI's stallion approval process in 2020, which means that once again WSI is the most popular sport horse studbook for Irish stallion owners. But stallion inspections will not be concluded this year, and the stallions owners agree with WSI's decision.

Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, WSI planned to hold Stage 2 and Stage 3 Stallion Inspections and the Irish Warmblood Festival and Foal Championship in October. But on 31 January, following the World Health Organisation's (WHO) announcement that the novel Coronavirus constituted a global health emergency, WSI announced that no events would be held until further notice. On 12 March, following the WSO's designation that COVID-19 had created a pandemic, WSI affirmed its decision that no events would be held until further notice.

After careful consideration WSI has decided that it is in the interest of public health and our members, breeders, horse owners, volunteers, and inspectors that no events be held in 2020. WSI hopes to conduct stallion inspections sometime in the period February – March of 2021. This plan will permit approval decisions to be made before the 2021 breeding season begins.

Stallion inspection applications will be re-opened at the end of this year if public health conditions allow. In the meantime stallions that have entered the process will undergo the required genomic, genetic, and veterinary tests and examinations in the coming months.

WSI hopes to hold the next Irish Warmblood Festival and Foal Championship in the autumn of 2021.

WSI NEWS