



THE DUTCH EQUESTRIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM – PART 1

TAKE A LOOK OVERSEAS

By Carlijn Pontenagel

THE DUTCH EQUESTRIAN SPORT IS KNOWN FOR ITS EXPERTISE. DUTCH RIDERS, CARRIAGE DRIVERS, BREEDERS, TRAINERS, AND HORSES ARE DOMINATING THE WORLD STAGE. OVER THE YEARS, THE DUTCH HAVE GAINED THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN TRAINING, VETERINARY CARE, NUTRITION, BREEDING, AND EQUESTRIAN MANAGEMENT TO PERFORM SUCCESSFULLY AT WORLD-CLASS LEVEL.

BUT THE QUESTION IS; HOW DID THEY GET WHERE THEY ARE RIGHT NOW? AND HOW DO YOU BECOME A (BETTER) RIDER, TRAINER, GROOM, VETERINARIAN, FARRIER OR OTHER HORSE PERSON?

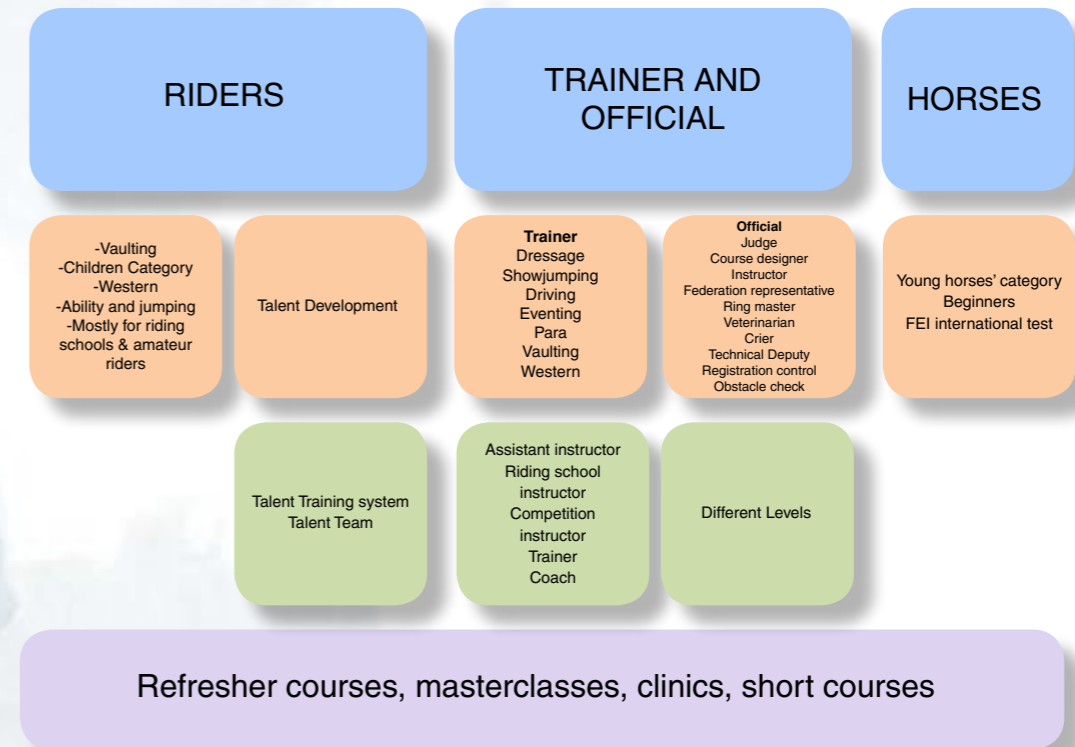
There are tons of ways to gain more knowledge, skills and competences, as long as you have the right attitude and intrinsic motivation.

Riders, for example, take lessons from professionals. Trainers follow courses at the federation. Farriers go to vocational education for 2 years. And ambitious non-professional riders follow a training program, read magazines, or help each other.

Like in any other job, dealing with horses requires skills, knowledge, and the right attitude. If, for example, your intentions and skills are good when putting on a sweat rug after riding in summer, you still miss the knowledge that this is the opposite of what you need to do.

By allowing yourself to learn, you will improve and develop your knowledge and skills in the equestrian world.

In the Netherlands, there are various educational programs where you are able to follow to start a career in the equestrian sector. Get interested and perhaps your equestrian career starts in the Netherlands!



FEDERATION TRAINING MODULES

The KNHS

The Royal Dutch Equestrian Sport Federation was founded in 2002 through a fusion of the three original federations, which can be traced back before the Second World War. The current federation exists of national, regional, and county committees representing wishes and objectives from several levels and providing a link between riders and the head office of the KNHS.

The KNHS wants to make the equestrian sports accessible for all 1.2 million Dutch equestrian followers in a pleasant and responsible manner. As to the diversity of disciplines and involvement in the

equestrian sport, the KNHS confirms itself to be open, respectful, involved and professional towards every person interested in horse sports.

Therefore, they offer a wide range of training modules and courses in different disciplines and expertise at approved centers throughout the Netherlands, including everything from educating horses, first aid, qualified trainer, master classes to riding tests for novice riders.

Whether you are looking for a career as a trainer or working towards a higher level in your riding, KNHS offers it.

Below you find a schematic schedule of the education offered by the KNHS.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE NETHERLANDS

1.2 Million equestrian followers.

400.000 active riders.

450.000 horses.

200.000 federated members, of which 135.000 with more than one horse.

10.000 sports stables.

3000 riding schools and clubs.

7500 competitions per year, with 765.000 people attending.

3.825 big international competitions per year, over 79 countries.

17 million trail riders per year.

80% of all is women.