



### ❧ Carriage Driving ❧

The Norwegian Fjord horse is a breed which is exceptionally well suited for carriage driving. Unlike a rider, a driver lacks the benefit of seat and legs to physically communicate with the horse. The carriage driver possesses only three aids: the lines, the whip, and the voice. The driving horse must therefore be very obedient and attentive to his handler. The driving horse must also possess a calm temperament and not overreact to all the stimuli encountered during even a quiet drive.

These are exactly the attributes which endear the Norwegian Fjord Horse to the carriage driver. Fjords have demonstrated their natural abilities as driving horses for work, pleasure driving, and even Combined Driving Events; a rigorous sport based on three-day eventing, only with a carriage! Unlike large drafts and warmbloods, the compact size of the Fjord horse appeals to many horse owners. The Norwegian Fjord horse encapsulates all the strength, stamina, and temperament of a great driving horse, only in a smaller package!

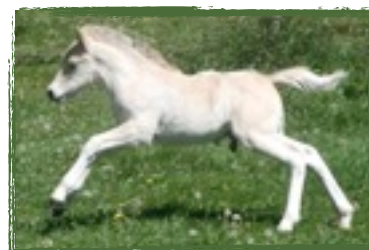
Written by Michael Sabatini



### ❧ YOUR NEXT BEST FRIEND IS JUST A CLICK AWAY ❧

Visit these sites for local breeders & events in your area.

Pacific Northwest Fjord Promotional Group  
<http://pnfpg.org/>



United States  
 Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry

<http://www.nfhr.com/catalog/index.php>

Canada

Canadian Fjord Horse Association

<http://www.cfha.org/>

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this publication.

# THE NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE



### ❧ YOUR NEXT BEST FRIEND ❧





## ❖ Dressage ❖

The Fjord horse has proven itself a respectable competitor. They have pure gaits and steady rhythm with reach and scope, more like a horse than a pony. While they may not have the extravagant movement seen in breeds bred for dressage their good work ethic and steadiness will often put them in the ribbons. The heavier front end of the fjord makes the collected work of upper level dressage, more of a challenge but good work ethic has led some to succeed at



While Fjords were once a rarity in the dressage show ring they are showing up more and more in some of the top venues around the country and are earning coveted national and regional awards each year.

Written by Anne Appleby

## ❖ Farming ❖

The Fjord horse is very well suited to all aspects of farming. The breed is by nature very sedate and not prone to "blow ups" or over reacting to outside stimuli. There is no better feeling than sitting on a piece of farm equipment with 2, 3, or 4 Fjords in front of you. Fjords are strong, steady & calm, making them the perfect breed for working in the fields. In the winter, Fjords paw through the snow looking for food as their ancestors did, but are more than willing to help empty that barn of hay, and provide you with more manure for the fields. The Fjord breed is ever-willing to please and they are always up to whatever is put before them. They are quick studies and will work hard.

Written by Dick Renfro



# The Versatile Breed

The Norwegian Fjord horse is one of the world's oldest and purest breeds. The original Fjord horse was domesticated over 4,000 years ago. They are a relatively small but very strong and agile breed from the mountains of Western Norway. All Fjord horses are dun in color, with five variations. 90% of all Fjords are brown dun; the other 10% are either red, gray, white, or yellow dun. The Fjord horse has primitive zebra stripes on the legs and a dark dorsal stripe that runs down the neck and into the tail. The Fjord mane is cut short in a crescent shape to emphasize the graceful curve of the neck. The Fjord horse ranges in size from 13.1 – 14.3 hands and weighs between 900 and 1,200 pounds.



The Fjord horse is an intelligent and willing companion. They have a charming and gentle disposition. The strong body and extraordinary power allows them to be used for most any discipline. Their docile nature makes them an excellent schooling horse for children and a friend to therapeutic riders. Fjords possess a presence about them that charms all who see them. They maintain the hardiness and stamina of their wild ancestors with strong bones and hooves. These horses are extremely "easy keepers", maintaining excellent body condition on grass alone due to their efficient digestion. They are so efficient, it is often difficult to keep weight OFF of them! The Fjord horse grows a thick, protective winter coat and can endure cold climates, but are equally adaptive to handle hot climates. The movement of a well-conditioned Fjord horse is forward and well balanced with natural rhythm, moving freely in all three gaits.



## ❖ Riding the Rugged Trail ❖

Fjord horses are naturals at mountain trails and "off trail" riding. In all types of terrain... from rocky high desert or dense forests to a narrow path at 9,500 feet in high mountain wilderness, they seem to adapt to any element. Fjord horses may be the most sure-footed, solid feeling, thinking horses to be ridden in extreme riding conditions. Fjords love to partner up with their humans and will give you all their heart and strength and trust when you are a fair and confident leader to them. They have incredible endurance and will move steadily along for several hours, stand quietly on the high line at camp, then go out just as enthusiastically the next day for several more hours. And oh yes, they are short enough to clear those low-hanging branches!

Written by Kathi Thompson

