



Lina Jönsson at the WBFSh annual meeting 2013 in Warsaw.



What if you could predict horse talent for sports **ALREADY AT BIRTH?**

Today several years of training is invested in each horse before their talent as a sport horses can be evaluated. Preliminary evaluations are obtained at the age of 3-4 years and results from highest level in the sport at the age of 10 years. If genetic basis for talent could be evaluated at a younger age, breeding progress could be greatly increased due to faster selection.

Thanks to financial support by 'Hoejteknologifonden', private sponsors in the Danish horse sector and Copenhagen University, the search for genetic markers for good performance and health (regarding Osteochondrosis) can begin. The project runs for three years, with start in October 2013. The aim of the project is to produce breeding values for Danish Warmbloods that both include the traditional talent and performance measures of broken-in horses and

their relatives, as well as information of each horse's genetic makeup. Once genetic markers that are associated with performance or health have been detected through comparison with in real life measurements of performance and health, it may be possible to estimate genetic basis for talent or health already at foal age. If successfully implemented, this would not only increase the breeding progress of the Danish Warmblood markedly, but could also serve as an indication of what foals that are worth having in training for the absolute top in the coming years.

The project will be performed as a post doc project at Copenhagen University by Lina Jönsson, in cooperation with associate professor Thomas Mark, and the Danish Warmblood breeding manager Karina Christiansen.