ANCCE is the parent PRE association in the world.

The National PRE Horse Breeders’ Association of Spain is the international parent association founded for PREs (Purebred Spanish Horses).

It is officially recognized by Spain’s Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Resources (MARM) as the body that represents breeders and owners the world over and is the administrator of the breed Stud Book, and responsible for carrying out its Improvement Program, with over 80% of the sector being members.

Thus, ANCCE is the official representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Resources, when deciding upon the measures affecting the breed, such as breed improvement and selection, requirements for registration, competitions, etc.

Constituted in 1972, ANCCE currently represents more than 800 breeders world-wide and breeders’ associations from twenty-five (25) countries.

ANCCE represents the PRE in the COPA-COGECA (EU Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations) and the WBFSH (World Breeders Federation of Sports Horses) and it designs annual promotional plans with the Spanish Institute of Foreign commerce (ICEX) and EXTENDA (Andalusian Promotional Agency).

The main ANCCE activities include:

- Management and administration of the Stud Book for the PRE at international level.
- Administration and development of the PRE Genetic Improvement Program.
- Organizer of the Performance Tests for the discipline of Dressage for all breeds (Young Horse Selection Tests or PSCJ).
- The organization of SICAB (International Equestrian Trade Fair) held annually in Sevilla since 1991, during the week leading up to the last Sunday in November.
- Organization of “Madrid Cabalga”, the Equestrian Trade Fair in Madrid, to be held during the first week of June.
- Publication of “El Caballo Español”, a bilingual magazine in Spanish and English that includes PRE-related news and competition results.
- Attending international equestrian trade fairs and editing promotional material.
- It is the principal organizer of the Spanish National Conformation Championships.
- It is the main organizer of the Tribunals for Qualified Breeding Stock (TQB).
The true origin of the PRE is not an exact science; what is known is that in the pre-Roman era, there were already references to horses in what is today known as Spain.

Roman authors such as Plutarch, Pliny the Old and Seneca spoke of the Hispanic horse as a beautiful, docile, arrogant and brave horse, ideal for war and for the sports that were carried out in the circuses at that time.

During the reign of King Philip II, the equine realm of his Kingdom was organized, laying down the final bases so that the PRE was able to reach its peak during subsequent years. This was possible with the creation of the Royal Stables in Cordoba, where he gathered together the best stallions and mares from all the provinces bordering the Guadalquivir River, which at that time, were the most productive in the breeding of horses.

Thus, the Royal Stud Farm was created, which after time became known as the National Stud Farm. A multitude of horses were exported to the American continents; these horses played a decisive role on its exploration, and were the origin and basis for most of the breeds that have subsequently been bred in America.

In Europe, Spain was enjoying its Golden Age. At that time, the most treasured gift from a Spanish monarch was one of the nation’s magnificent horses. Spanish horses soon earned repute and were decisive in the birth of many Central European breeds.

Breeds such as the Lipizzaner, Lusitano, Paso Fino and the Central European Warmbloods all owe their ancestry to the PRE.

There are currently about 170,000 PRE horses throughout the whole world, bred in more than 60 countries.
1. NAME: CABALLO DE PURA RAZA ESPAÑOLA, or by its initials PRE horse.
Other names such as Andalusian or Iberian horse do not represent this breed. These terms are generally used to describe crossbreds that lack the quality controls and purity, as well as the official documentation from the Spanish Stud Book.

Those known as Carthusian horses are a family (or bloodline) within the PRE breed.

2. OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION FOR PRE HORSES: THERE IS A SINGLE PRE STUD BOOK FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.
Only the LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book is authorized, internationally, to issue official documentation for PRE Horses. This is the one and only guarantee for breed purity and it applies the internationally accepted controls for the breed: DNA confirmation of the paternity, completed graphic description and microchip at weaning, assessment as breeding stock as a 3 year-old, assignment of a registration code in the Stud Book, etc.

The passport issued by MARM and ANCCE is the only documentation that guarantees that the horse is a PRE and that it fulfills all the requirements for the identification of equines as established by the European Union.

3. COLORS OF THE PUREBRED SPANISH HORSE:
According to the breed description in the PRE Rules and Regulations, all colors are permitted. Grey and bay are the most common colors of the breed.

4. PRE IDENTIFICATION CONTROLS:
When a PRE Horse is born, it must undergo a series of specifically designed controls carried out by the veterinary personnel from the LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book, to identify it:

- Its parentage is determined by DNA.
- Internationally accepted graphic forms are completed very carefully.
- The horse is given an identification code in the Stud Book.
- An identification microchip is inserted into the horse’s neck.
- It is registered in the Stud Book Birth Register.
5. BREEDING STOCK PERMITTED IN THE PRE:
When a PRE Horse reaches the age of three, the owner requests an assessment as Basic Breeding Stock from the PRE Stud Book.

Basic breeding stock.

Once the assessment has been requested, the appointed LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book veterinarians perform the said assessment of these horses and issue a certificate of Basic Approval as Breeding Stock.

The requirements for passing this basic assessment are:

Stallions must measure more than 1.52 m. at the withers (1.50 m. in the case of mares).

There must be no sign of a fallen or broken crest, or a Ewe neck.

They must be neither monorchide nor cryptorchide.

They must remain true to the breed pattern.

As of that moment, their descendants will be registered in the Stud Book. If a horse fails to pass this assessment, it retains its original registration papers; it continues to
be registered in the Birth Registry and is considered as PRE Horses, but lacks the right to register their progeny.

If a horse’s registration papers have not been stamped and signed to prove that said horse is approved as Basic Breeding Stock, it means that the horse has not yet passed the assessment legitimizing its use for breeding purposes within the breed’s legal selection scheme.

Any horse that does not pass this assessment may be presented a second time, if the owner should so desire.

Qualified breeding stock

The owner of any horse with the Basic Approval who wishes to include a horse in the LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book Register of Qualified Breeding Stock may present their horses for an additional assessment at one of the Tribunals for Qualified Breeding Stock (TQB), in which their conformation, behavior, movement, functionality and aptitude for riding are analyzed. A veterinary examination is also carried out, to detect any possible hereditary defects and to evaluate reproductive characteristics.

The requirements to pass the assessment as Qualified Breeding Stock are as follows:

The stallions must measure more than 1.55 m. at the withers (1.53 m. for the mares).

They must fulfill the minimum established conformation and functional requirements established in the TQB Rules and Regulations.

Horses must undergo an X-ray examination, which must discard any possibility of osteochondrosis, osteoarthritis and various bone problems.

Horses must undergo an examination of their reproductive apparatus, which must discard any defects that would affect their reproduction or which could be hereditary.

Stallions must pass a Ridden Test in which their aptitude for riding is assessed.

Since the 14th of November of 2003, ANCCE has been responsible for handling the PRE Genetic Improvement Program, as charged by the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs. There are three Breeding Stock categories, in which case the horses have undergone genetic assessment within the Selection Scheme and this is indicated in the registers of the LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book.
These categories are as follows:

**Young Recommended Breeding Stock**

YOUNG RECOMMENDED BREEDING STOCK is any horse that has participated in the performance tests established within the PRE Improvement Program (Dressage, Conformation or Aptitude for riding), has undergone an annual Genetic assessment within the framework of the said Program, has obtained a Global Genetic Index above the average of the population assessed (100) and is between four and six years of age.

From the age of seven years, such a horse could continue to be included in the category of IMPROVER BREEDING STOCK and/or ELITE BREEDING STOCK, provided the horse fulfils the necessary requirements as established in the Improvement Program. Among these is the increase of repeatability (reliability) of the Genetic Index up to a determined threshold, which can be obtained by increasing the number of times the horse itself, or its offspring or other close relatives (siblings, etc), take part in performance tests.

**Improver Breeding Stock**

This is a horse age seven or over that has been genetically assessed within the framework of the Improvement Program, and having obtained a Global Genetic Index above the average of the population assessed (100) and a reliability value equal to or exceeding 0.6, fulfils all the requirements established in the Improvement Program. This level of reliability can be obtained by increasing the number of times the horse itself, or its offspring or other close relatives (siblings, etc), take part in performance tests.

**Elite Breeding Stock**

The LG-PRE-ANCCE Stud Book register for ELITE BREEDING STOCK is open to those breeding horses that have achieved the category of IMPROVER BREEDING STOCK for some of the disciplines contemplated in the PRE Selection Scheme and that fulfil the requirements contemplated in this Program.
CONFORMATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BREED

**Head**
The official definition describes it as “an average sized head, which is rectangular, fine, with a straight or slightly concave profile; mobile ears of a medium size, well placed and parallel; a forehead wide, flat or slightly convex, big bright triangular eyes with an expressive look”.

**Neck**
Of average length and size, lightly arched and muscular (less so, in mares). Well inserted at the head and body. Abundant and silky mane.

**Trunk**
Proportionate and robust. The withers unobtrusively wide and obvious. Solid and muscular back. Wide, short loin, muscular and somewhat rounded, well joined to the back and to the croup.

**Croup**
This should be of average length and width, rounded and lightly sloping. The tail should be low-set and placed between the two buttocks; it should consist of abundant, long and often wavy hair.

**Forehand**
A long muscular, sloping and elastic shoulder. Strong humerus with a good inclination. Potent forearm, of average length. Well developed and lean knee.

**Hindquarters**
Well muscled thigh, lightly rounded and muscular buttock and long leg. Strong, wide and clean hock.
**Movement**

Agile, high, extensive, harmonic and rhythmic. With a particular predisposition for collection and turns on haunches.

To complement all these conformational characteristics, the thing most outstanding about this breed is its versatility. This is due to the union of the following factors: mental balance, harmony, intelligence and will to work.

**Temperament**

The PRE is a well balanced and resistant horse. Energetic, noble and docile, which adapts itself with ease to diverse uses and situations.

It is very responsive to the rider’s aids and has a good mouth, and therefore is obedient, with an easy understanding between it and the rider and is extraordinarily comfortable.
SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
Atlanta ‘96 was the first time that the Spanish dressage team reached an Olympic final. It must be highlighted that this was the first time that PRE horses had participated. Their names: EVENTO, FLAMENCO and INVASOR (the latter as reserve). INVASOR was the youngest horse of all those entered for dressage, which is an example of the breed’s intelligence and will to work.

Sydney 2000 was the next step; the team included INVASOR and DISTINGUIDO, and finished in 7th place.

Spain’s development exploded at the 2002 WEG at JEREZ, where the team won the bronze medal, again with INVASOR and DISTINGUIDO.

The Spanish dressage team won the team silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, only being beaten by Germany.

Two PRE horses were part of this team: INVASOR and OLEAJE, ridden by Rafael Soto and Ignacio Rambla respectively.

In the recent 2008 Beijing Olympics, Fuego XII, ridden by Juan Manuel Muñoz was a member of the Spanish Olympic team.
At the 2010 Kentucky World Equestrian Games, the Spanish Dressage Team included three PRE horses: Fuego XII, Norte and Gnidium. Fuego placed fifth in the overall list.

In Competition Carriage Driving, the Spanish Horse has participated in several world championships, with Juan Robles and Antonio Carrillo being the most outstanding drivers.

Since the setting up of the PRE Improvement Program, handled by ANCCE, the corresponding Breeding Stock Catalogues have been published annually and can be found on the ANCCE web-site: www.ancce.com.

The Spanish Horse was used to create several Central European warm-blooded breeds. Today stallions are being used to improve a large number of sports horse stud farms in this field.

Its mental balance, intelligence, willingness to work and harmony of form, bestow the PRE extraordinary capacity for collection.
SICAB has been held annually since 1991, during the last week of November, at the Exhibitions and Convention Center in Sevilla.

It is the third most important socioeconomic event of the city, following its world-renown Semana Santa (Easter week) and Feria de Abril (April Fair), with more than 240,000 visitors and 1,000 P.R.E. horses.

SICAB is the most important single breed fair in the world. It is exclusively devoted to Purebred Spanish Horses, and offers visitors a week of enjoyment viewing the breed’s incredible versatility.

SICAB is broadcast live on Internet, through a television platform (www.sicab.tv) covering the competitions in the arenas, interviews with riders, breeders etc… with more than 1,000,000 hits.

Coinciding with this annual appointment is the commercial fair, where visitors are able to purchase horse-related items (clothes, tack and harness, feed, medicines, insurance, facilities…).

SICAB hosts a number of activities, including:
Spanish National Conformational Championships Final.
Final of the ANCCE Cup for Dressage.
Final of the ANCCE Cup for Doma Vaquera.
Final of the ANCCE Cup for Carriage Driving.
Final of the ANCCE Cup for Show-jumping.
Final of the ANCCE Cup for Alta Escuela.
Exhibition competition.
The daily Show.

The Show

With a seating capacity for 5,500 people, the Show demonstrates the beauty, nobility and capacity of the PRE and this Show has become one of the most important in the world.
More than 500 horses and 50,000 spectators are expected.

The first edition of the Equestrian Trade Fair, “Madrid Cabalga”, will take place from the 1st to 5th of June at the MADRID FAIRGROUNDS.

The trade fair is a joint initiative between ANCCE, the Spanish National PRE Breeders’ Association, and IFEMA, one of Europe’s main trade fair organizers with renowned professional experience in the organization of major events.

The Equestrian Trade Fair is aimed at professionals, enthusiasts, experts and the general public, and is an event open to the participation of all breeds, from the competitive, financial, cultural and tourist point of view. At this first edition, more than 500 horses are expected, with an expected attendance of some 50,000 visitors.

Thus, in addition to the PRE, the event will play host to breeder exhibitors of any breed, national and international federations; companies that deal in the feeding, care and health of the horse; harness and tack, carriages, crafts, fashion, transport, equestrian art, equestrian tourism centers, clubs, schools of equitation etc.

The Equestrian Trade Fair will be a center for exhibition, services and sales of horses and will constitute an important competitive backdrop for the disciplines of show jumping, dressage, doma vaquero, alta escuela (Spanish high school) and exhibition.

It will also act as a forum for meetings, study, opinion and training about the horse, as a tourist reference, of Spanish equestrian traditions and competitive equestrianism in Spain.

There will also be other actions such as the projection of educational audiovisuals and horse and pony rides for the general public, displays and exhibitions.

An important International Equestrian Show will be performed daily.