

Issue Four 2009

SPORTALOOSA

Quarterly

Real jumping
talent...

Cayuse Mighty Cooperit



Bondleigh Lodge proudly presents a talented individual at stud for 2009 only.

Mighty Cooperit combines spectacular jumping bloodlines with the cool head of the Appaloosa and is proving to have real jumping talent.

He began jumping at D Grade EFA in 2008 and won his first unofficial dressage test at Lucindale Show in 2009. He is super rideable and moves very much like a warmblood with a naturally round frame.

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Outside mares accepted in the 2009 season only - don't delay! Stud fee \$880 plus collection and shipping.

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www.sportaloosa.com/BondleighLodge



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			Bo Mitze
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	Wiley's Mt Baker Flicka	Morgans Jaguar	
		Bonnie Ann R	
Ara Awa Delta Ace	Sunspots Goin To Be An Ace	Plaudit Flash Fox	Plaudit Silver Fox
			Saguaro Quick Step
	Deck O Lisa	Deck Bar	
		Tacos Moana Lisa	
	Ara Awa Apuski Dusky	Plaudit Silver Fox	Hollywood Plaudit
			Jacobs Sunset Princess
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Double A Appaloosas

David & Lynne Adkins Amberley, New Zealand Phone 03 314 8412 Mobile 0274 325 889 Email dadkins@scorch.co.nz

www.doubleaappaloosas.co.nz



Incentives, rewards and thanks

We've said it before but thank you again to all of our members for joining Sportaloosa International, for supporting the spotted horse and for your confidence in us.

In the last few months we've been so proud to present Australia and New Zealand with one of the best quality line ups of Appaloosa stallions in the business, owned and handled by some of the best quality people around. We wish you all a very successful breeding and foaling season. Please send us up to date foal photos to promote for you and plan to enter our \$1,000 Video Futurity... more on that later.

We've also been busy planning incentives for ridden horses and we're thrilled to be able to offer you a \$2,000 prize pool for Sportaloosa High Achiever Awards for 2010. That's thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous sponsor, who also has our sincere thanks. There's \$500 awarded to the highest achiever every quarter and a special prize at year end for the highest achiever picked from the top 4.

Entry into the High Achiever Awards and the Video Futurity is free for members and registered horses so there's no excuse - please make sure you're in the running! If you have any questions about how our incentives work, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks to Equine Trader and Silverline Media in New Zealand we are thrilled to present the first of what we hope will be several virtual videos promoting spotted horses. Our first video promotes Sportaloosa International itself as well as spectacular quality Appaloosa horses. It's part of our drive to get quality spots seen by as many people as possible and it's on a pile of well visited sites as well as at www.sportaloosa.com... please take a look.

Finally, take advantage of all the benefits of owning, breeding and riding a spotted horse, both from Appaloosa and Knabstrupper breed registries and from Sportaloosa International. We're here to give you more reasons to own, breed and ride spotted horses, so dual register your horses and make the most of every opportunity you have!

Until next time

Petra and Samantha

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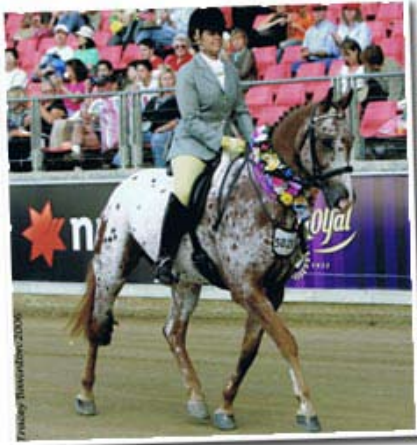


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SPORTALOOSA INCENTIVES

Sportaloosa High Achiever Awards - \$2,000 prize pool



We are proud (and very privileged) to announce the ultimate incentive to compete on a spotted horse in 2010.

The \$500 Sportaloosa High Achiever will be awarded to the registered Sportaloosa who achieves the highest result in any open performance event. There will be one High Achiever in each quarter of 2010 (Jan - Mar, Apr - Jun, Jul - Sept, Oct - Dec), plus a special award for the Highest Achiever of the 4 winners.

The High Achiever need not be the winner of an event but they will have put

in the best performance against all the odds. Second in a big 3 day event from 300 entries, fifth in the national dressage finals, third in calf roping at nationals finals, first at the Pony Club bending race finals etc.

To qualify, you must:

- be a member of Sportaloosa International
- ride a registered Sportaloosa (we run 3 studbooks and an open registry, so almost any spotted horse is eligible)
- have your points form signed by a show official, who sights your Sportaloosa's registration certificate (see our points section for full details)
- send us a photo of you out competing!

If you've not yet registered your spotted athlete with Sportaloosa International, there's no time to lose!

We are extremely grateful to our sponsor for their generosity and dedication to promoting spotted horse excellence in open competition - thank you.

\$1,000 Video Futurity - entries open!



Your 2009/10 Sportaloosa foal has FREE entry into the very first \$1,000 Sportaloosa video futurity and you can enter any time from now.

Make sure your foal is looking shiny and sleek, then video it at walk, trot and canter from the side and from the front, so our judge can see its movement from every angle.

For the best results, film a play time session so have no trouble getting enough footage! You can add music and special effects or make your video as plain as you like.

Length 5-10 minutes per foal
Formats VHS tape, DVD or CD
Entries close 30 April 2010

Prize pool \$1,000
Sportaloosa jacket for the best made video
All entrants get a Sportaloosa goody

Fine print

You must be a member of Sportaloosa International and foal and either the sire or the dam (or both) must be registered with us; applications for their registration can be received any time before 30 April 2010.

More www.sportaloosa.com/videofuturity.shtml



NZ's ultimate working bred Appaloosa comes of age...

ENRICHED Imp in utero

Ric O'Lena x Cayuse Mighty Enchanting



Now at stud in Wairoa, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Contact - Sheena Martin

Phone - 06 838 6949

Email - sheenamartin@xtra.co.nz

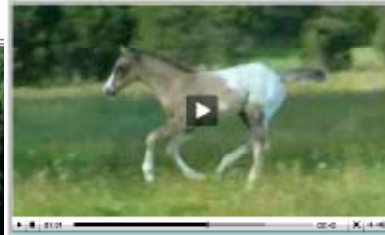
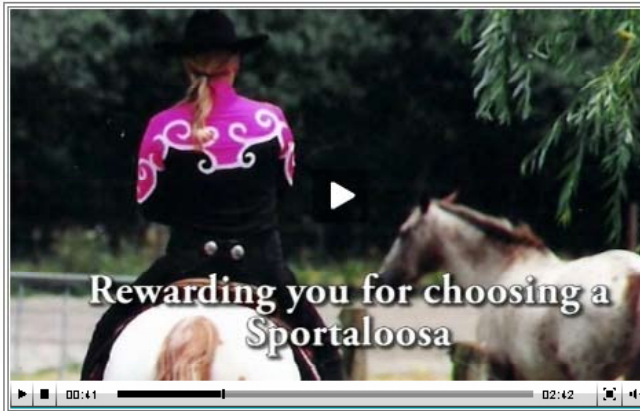
www.arawood.co.nz





Sportaloosa video

Got 3 minutes? Let us tell you all about Sportaloosa International



Our first virtual video, which you can see at www.sportaloosa.com, has opened our eyes to just how effective video is at telling a story.

We were incredibly fortunate to have our video created courtesy of www.equinetrader.co.nz and we're so rapt with it we want to do more.

The company behind our video, Silverline Media, creates virtual videos using your photos and video clips where available. They mix them into a video, provide a professional voice over, publish and help to promote your video. We found them great to deal with; they worked fast and delivered an excellent product.

Next video - the Sportaloosa stallion showcase

We can see what an amazing tool this is, particularly for our stallion owners so we'd like to make our next video a Sportaloosa stallion showcase. The cost, split among participating stallion owners, is negligible so even though it's late in the season, we'd love you to take part. We'll be in touch with you separately with more details.

Foal showcase - next issue

Please keep your beautiful foal photos rolling in... they're published on our web site foal gallery straight away and we'll run a huge foal showcase in our first issue of the Quarterly for 2010.

That'll give you plenty of time to get a great shot of your foal looking rounded and shiny.



Find us on Facebook

Sometimes, it's easy to believe that people just don't talk any more...! Facebook is an online community web site that makes it super easy for people to share news and photos with the world.

So many people use it, we figured it would be a great way to help to spread the Sportaloosa word. So, we finally took the plunge set up an 'official' Sportaloosa Facebook page, which we update as often as our web site.

Find our official fan page, plus join the Sportaloosa group run by Rebecca McDonald, at www.facebook.com - just search for 'sportaloosa'

by Rebecca McDonald, at www.facebook.com - just search for 'sportaloosa'

\$2,000
High Achiever Awards
for spotted horses

The ultimate incentive to compete on a spotted horse in 2010... **GO**

McDreamy

Pedigree.....colour.....conformation and movement.....



Dual Registered Sportaloosa and Appaloosa Buckskin Blanket Stallion

2009 Stud Fee \$750.00 plus gst - Contact us for a contract

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Sportaloosa snippets

We're up to number 88!

Jason and Natalie Wilkinson's 2 year old gelding Shoshoni Kitchi is the 88th Sportaloosa to enter the registry. We've been thrilled with the response to this new venture and membership and registrations have far exceeded our expectations. Thanks again to everyone for your support.



Want to enter the video futurity but don't have a camera?



Please let us know if you'd like to enter your Sportaloosa foal in the video futurity but have no way of filming. We won't make any promises but if it's possible, we'll match you up with a willing member with a video camera so you can get your entry in.

We'll be making a huge splash of the futurity placegetters and all videos will be online for the world to see so please, do your very best to get an entry in.



"Sportaloosa...putting the spots back into sport"

Thanks to Jess Alexander, this is our fabulous new slogan for Sportaloosa International. Jess won our August online competition and her slogan has been appearing ever since.

Jess won \$100 for her great idea. Thanks to everyone who entered.

We're nearly a year old

Sportaloosa International turns one on 22 November - where has the time gone?! We're so proud to have made a big impact in the spotted horse world and you can expect us to keep spreading the spotted horse word.

To celebrate, our current online competition offers a free lifetime membership. If you know someone who's been thinking of joining but hasn't quite got there, or who could use a break financially, please prompt them to enter.

We have two memberships to give away; one drawn at the end of October and one at the end of November.



horsetalk.co.nz

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Sportaloosa video futurity

Contact Tammy Basham
Phone + 61 3 588 71335

www.yallawa-appaloosas.com

Deniliquin, NSW
yallawa@dragnet.com.au



New – Sportaloosa Ponies

We're delighted to announce the introduction of Sportaloosa studbooks for ponies. Sportaloosa pony studbooks work exactly the same as Sportaloosa studbooks but cater for ponies up to 14hh.

Sportaloosa pony spotted blood can come from any horse eligible for Sportaloosa horse studbooks plus registered Palouse Ponies and miniature Appaloosas.

Eligible non-spotted blood for Sportaloosa ponies includes individuals from all pony breeds that are no higher than 14hh. Grey, Paint, classic roan and pinto ponies are ineligible as outcrosses.

We've created a Sportaloosa Pony Studbook One (for ponies with 75% or more spotted, documented blood), Studbook Two (for coloured ponies with less than 75% spotted blood), a Solid Studbook and an Open Registry for ponies without documented parentage.

We're catering for spotted ponies from miniature horses to Appaloosas or Knabstruppers who just didn't grow tall enough to be considered a horse.

Sportaloosa ponies qualify for all the same benefits and awards as their taller counterparts... we just want you out there on spots!

We're looking forward to welcoming spotted ponies to the Sportaloosa ranks and to encouraging the riders of our future, so please pass the word on!

For full details, please visit www.sportaloosa.com/ponyregistry.shtml.

Pictured - spots in action at the recent Springston Trophy in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Above: Bonnie Farrant and Montana Boy

Above right: Tara Taylor and Comanche

Below right: Kimberley Bird and Bucc-a-Boo

See the full story and results at www.horsetalk.co.nz/news/2009/10/032.shtml



The Ultimate Dream (imp Aust)

Mega Dream (USA) x Sirrahvale Rock'n Robin

Any way you look at him, he's a champion sire. National Supreme Champion and sire of multiple National Supreme Champions. 6 times winner National Get of Sire. 2009 Leading Sire of Point-Earning Halter Horses. 2009 sire of Hi Point Junior Western Performance Horse and National Supreme Champion.

Stud fee \$1,000 + GST (LFG), AI available



Sheila Dandy - 07 322 8222 - Whakatane, New Zealand
www.clearviewstud.co.nz

Sportaloosa successes

Sportaloosas have been shining brightly in the dressage arena lately, with some outstanding performances from young horses.



Harry Hotspur has started his dressage career with a bang, by winning his very first dressage test at Laidley and taking out champion pre-horse as well.

Harry is owned by Ben O'Sullivan and Leane Williams and is trained by Ben.

Harry's brother Cayuse Global Warrior came through again for owner Rebecca McDonald at the Warringah Dressage Championships, taking out Reserve Champion Prelim Horse.

'Earl' was 3rd in his first test (55.9%) and won his second test with an exciting 71.35%.

Champion went to another Appaloosa - Double Jay Ice Dancer and Mel Gough.



Send us your news!

Whether it's a competition success, a new horse or just a general update, we'd love to hear about it. Email petra@sportaloosa.com with stories and pictures.



Savannah Stud cleaned up at Katherine Show, the second biggest show in the N.T.

Valmai Jones' Cayuse Mighty Windstorm won 1st Appaloosa Stallion or colt, with his son Savannah Midnight Storm 2nd.

Storm then won Champion Appaloosa Stallion and went on to be judged Reserve Supreme Stallion of the show, while Storm's son won N.T bred colt or stallion.

Etched In Time (pictured left) turned heads on debut in D Grade Open showjumping at Benalla, Vic.

He's teamed with Peter Stevens and Vikki Smith from Booroora Dressage & Showjump Stables.

Zippers Dynasty and Lisa Oswald scored 81% for second in prelim dressage at Eastern Bay Dressage Group's Winter Dressage Day.

Cayuse Sign Of A Storm won champion prep class at the Namoi Associate Championships and Cayuse A Grand Illusion took out second in his Novice test, both piloted by Samantha McAuliffe.

SPARKLING ACRES APPALOOSAS

Brighten your life and put a cool head on your next foal... breed a Sportaloosa!

Sensational stallions, top class mares, outstanding progeny and very cool heads. Progeny for sale and stallions at stud this season; live cover and transported semen available. Born in September: Sportaloosa foal carrying the world's best dressage & jumping bloodlines: Donnerhall, Rubinstein, Garibaldi II, plus a dose of cool from his Appaloosa Hanovarian dam.

Skip's Supreme Cimp USA

Skip of Stars x Cherry Slip



Dual registered Sportaloosa and Appaloosa stallions

Mighty Luminous Cimp Aust

Mighty Storm Song (USA) x Cayuse Royal Titania (Aust)



Registered Sportaloosa progeny available now

Photos by Ev Lagoon



*Few In The Cru (imp Aust)
x Grand Cru (Garibaldi II)*



*Just An Illusion (imp Aust)
x A Grand Illusion (Grand Cru)*

Stud fees **\$1,125**
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Contact: Petra Davidson, Wellsford, New Zealand
Phone 09 423 9552 Email petra@sparklingacres.co.nz
For sales list, progeny, pedigrees & more, visit

www.sparklingacres.co.nz



Sportaloosa successes

An enormous congratulations to Karen Fischer, whose young Sportaloosa mare Kerrinna Sie My Affair has just been awarded AAA Hi Point Yearling Versatility of Australia!

We're looking forward to seeing this filly out under saddle over the next year. Sie My Affair is by Ultimate Affair out of Kerrinna Sierra Sioux.



Photos: Ev Lagoon

Cayuse Robin James took out the top spot in the Sportaloosa and Appaloosa sections of the popular annual online Warrumbungle foal show.

Congratulations to owner Janette Taylor!



The Sportaloosa-sponsored Elementary 3D test at the NSW Dressage Championships was won by Lauries As (an imported Hanovarian stallion), with 70.5% ridden by Tor Van Den Berge from Qld.

2nd was Dante (also imported by De Niro) 69.3% ridden by Nicole Tough and 3rd was Reverence F 63.8% ridden by Anne Catherine Krups.

The Sportaloosa stand was on show, featuring the all-new Sportaloosa banner (complete with new slogan "Putting the spots back into sport".)

There were 3 appaloosa horses competing: Double Jay Ice Dancer a fewspot gelding ridden by Melissa Gough, Colonial Hot and Handsome (solid) ridden by Vanessa Midwinter and Colonial Pure Majic (blanket) ridden by Karen Lever.



Wapiti



Wild Affair



Ultimate Affair (imp USA)



Wapiti - the legend lives on...



Ultimate Hustler



Ultimate Allure

“Speak to me softly, o’ fine spotted steed,
On past days of glory, and valiant deed.
Come, speak to me softly of all that you’ve seen,
For, how can I know where you’ll take me
If I don’t understand where you’ve been.”

- Frank Holmes



Waps A Daisy



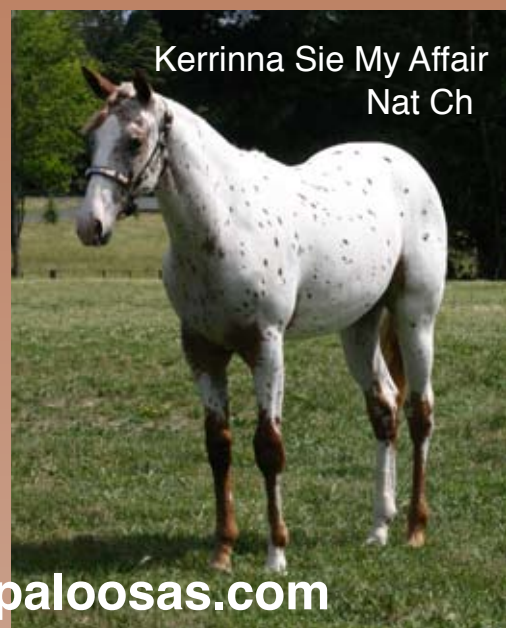
Original Sin

**Oregon Park
Appaloosas**

03 5427 4680

Woodend, Victoria

Fee \$1,100. AI avail.



Kerrinna Sie My Affair
Nat Ch

www.oregonparkappaloosas.com

2010 Appaloosa foals calendar



It's created a heck of a stir in Appaloosa circles and there are still a few copies left. This beautiful 13 month calendar is A3 size full colour and a perfect Christmas gift... one for you and one for them!

Price - \$20 AUD plus postage in Australia
- \$25 NZD plus postage in NZ

Order from Karen Leoncelli (Australia) - kleoncelli@hotmail.com
In NZ, order from Petra Davidson - petra@sportaloosa.com

New trophy coming your way for 2010

Jason and Natalie Wilkinson of Shoshoni Appaloosas have been kind enough to sponsor the first ever Sportaloosa leadline trophy for 2010. Thanks so much for your generosity!

We'll record points for any youth member of Sportaloosa International, competing in leadline classes on a registered Sportaloosa - just make sure you send in those points forms.

A warm welcome to new members

Wayne Buckley
Max Schofer
Jessica Voss
John Twaddle
Robyn Twaddle
Pat Simpson
Allison Alderton
Michelle Beer
Lisa Massmann
Katrina Lewis
Sheila Dandy
Ron Preson
Bronwyn Preston
Mell McDonald
Janet Carter
Laura Harris
Ben Paterson
Gillian Robertson
Beatrice Foster
Tracy Allender

Registered stud prefixes

Ascot - John D Noble
AP - AP Performance Horses

Arawood - Arawood Appaloosas
Avenlee - Heather Lee & Joachim Blatchly
BL - Max Schofer
Blacklaw - Jon Firmin
Blackwatch - Lisa Bell
CA - Debra Bawden
Cayuse - Cayuse Appaloosas
Centennial - John & Robyn Twaddle
Clearview - Sheila Dandy
DayDream - Dave Gundry & Dianne Udy
Double A - David & Lynne Adkins
Double S - Pat Simpson
Frog Rock - Kirily Rimmer
GAB Horses - Allison Alderton
Geralee - Tracy Allender
JCJ - D & S Lindley
Kerrinna - Karen Fischer
LV - Warren & Ann Lewis
Mc - Flying Horse Stud
Mighty - Sparkling Acres Appaloosas
OPH - Outrageous Performance Horses
Oregon Park - Ev Lagoon
Savannah - Valmai Jones
Shawin - Shawin Appaloosas
Shoshoni - Jason & Natalie Wilkinson
Rocking M Stud - Amanda McHugh
Urban - Nancy Shallcrass
Yallawa - Tammy Basham
Yukon Farm - Janet Carter

Cayuse Bradford

15.1 hh
Dun with lace blanket

Sire Mighty Storm Song (imp - dec)

Dam Cayuse Mighty McJames (x Mr Jessie James)

2009 stud fee \$800 plus vet fees



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Progeny for sale



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They're completely waterproof and should be hard wearing to look good on your vehicle for some time to come.

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- Studbook One Sportaloosa stallion
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Location Whangarei, New Zealand
Contact Allison Alderton
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Web www.freewebs.com/gabhorses



Vale James

"JayMops Mater Copy"

30/10/1990 - 27/07/2009

PPP Mr Jimmy Mop x Kemal Kopy's Love

On the 27th of July I said goodbye to the love of my life and my best mate James, a truly beautiful Sportaloosa whose character and heart endeared him to all who were blessed by his company.

Our story began on 7th of July 1994, when he was a very opinionated 3 1/2 year old.

He has been a wonderful partner to me over the 15 years I was lucky enough to know him, and in that time he taught me many lessons in life and horsemanship.

James shared with me a love of dressage and we trained up to FEI level dressage, but I unfortunately had health issues that have prevented us from doing much in the way of competing. We did manage a few competitions over the years and even won an unofficial advanced test!

He was not quite the AAA halter type but has a bag full of ag show champion ribbons from halter classes and rarely went home from the few dressage days we managed to get to without a ribbon but at the end of the day, it was the partnership we had that means the most to me.

He was not the easiest horse to train, and the first year or two involved some negotiations, but once we came to an understanding between us, I have to say I can't imagine a better horse to have in your life. He always tried his hardest, and believe it or not, even when he was trying to dodge work he managed to do it in a way that made you love him!



James may not have had the flashiest paces, but he was a stunning horse with a presence that was undeniable, and he loved to show off. His special knack was to do so in a way that made me look bad, while he looked even more amazing.

I remember training with Julie Petersen Smith some years ago, working on half pass - apparently James did not feel so much like bending that day and decided that his evasion would be a 'to die for' passage (this was his 'party trick' and he knew he did it well). The onlookers, all serious dressage people, were Ooohing and Ahhhing on the sidelines at the fabulous Appy, but Julie interrupted the admiration by saying 'Yes, we would all die every day for a passage like that, but we are asking for half pass!'.

Talk about bringing you back to earth! And that episode sums up the tone of my life with James. It was never boring, and everyone he met fell in love.

He was truly a once in a lifetime horse and I count my blessings for every day that I was able to see his head poking out of the stable. My only regret is that there were not many more, I often informed him that he had to live until 30, but sadly it was not meant to be.

For the rest of my days I will miss my lovely James, and remember the lessons about patience and building a relationship with your horse that he taught me.

Rest in Peace Mr James, I will never forget you, my beautiful man.

Louise Mcfeeters





HARRY HOTSPUR

Sire Earl (Hanovarian, Germany by Escudo I) Standing at the Celle State Stud in Germany, Earl was ranked first in his performance test in 2002.
Dam Cayuse Few Moon (National Supreme Champion - Australian Appaloosa National Show)



Stud fee \$2,500 (AUD)

For all breeding details, contact Ben (belambi@bigpond.com) or Leane Williams (outrageoushorses@bigpond.com)

www.australiancolouredperformancehorses.com.au

Night blindness

and the appaloosa-coloured horse



Research published recently by The Appaloosa Project confirmed something that won't come as a surprise to everyone - fewspot leopard and snowcap blanket Appaloosas do not see in the dark.

Night blindness has been linked directly to horses that are homozygous for (carry two copies of) the dominant form of the "appaloosa" gene, known as LP (short for Leopard Complex). Horses with two copies of the dominant form of this gene typically do not have pigmented spots but instead have solid white bodies or rumps. Horses with pigmented spots carry only one copy of the dominant form of LP are not affected by night blindness. Take a look at our Keeping the Colour article in Issue Three, 2009 for a visual guide to these horses.

Most horses have excellent vision at night but vision for the night

blind horse begins to fail once it's dark enough that you'd have trouble reading a book. Beyond that point, they rely on their exceptional spatial memory, other horses, hearing, touch and smell to find their way around.

Horses are finely attuned to their surroundings, so this is far from being a hit and miss approach. An amazing ability to remember where obstacles such as fences and logs are mean that the night blind horse often only needs plenty of daylight

in which to explore new surroundings to be totally comfortable in them.

When in unfamiliar surrounds, or when something changes, the horse relies on other senses to find its way around. You're most likely to see this if you feed a night blind horse in the dark... even with a feed bin placed directly in front of them they'll need to both smell and feel for its location.

Night blindness is something that these horses are born with, so by and large they are extremely well adapted to their condition. Appaloosa Project researcher Sheila Archer says that most of the owners of the horses that took part in their study were surprised to find that their horses were night blind because they found their way around confidently at night, often at high speeds, never bumping in to anything.

Today's information, now freely available to Appaloosa owners everywhere, is a far cry from the way things used to be. Samantha McAuliffe shares Cayuse Sportaloosas' first experience with a night blind horse.

"Over thirty years ago sprint and short distance TB racing was all the craze. The Appaloosa was being especially successful between 400-800 distances, some with more TB influence easily winning up to 1000 metres.

We didn't want to outcross and chance a solid foal so after a lot of research we decided a fewspot leopard mare was the only way to go to produce a good spotted racehorse by a top TB sire. Using the old Irish formula of always putting the hot on the top of the pedigree to produce the best athletes. Also around that time there were many good Appaloosa stallions to pick and choose from.

Doing more homework we decided to go for a daughter of Taco Taco (USA) who was producing some very classy types of horses that were blitzing all comers on the racetrack. Not only that, his progeny were winning in the showing with several National titles. Later they proved to be great sporthorses in eventing, dressage and jumping and to this day, this bloodline is sought by those wanting to produce successful sporthorses with size and





ability. Contacting Rebel Stud, the home of Taco Taco, we were thrilled there was one fewspot filly available from an imported mare. So we made the long haul from north Qld down to Ipswich, near Brisbane, fell in love and purchased the filly. On the journey home we had to overnight half way. It was dark when we unloaded and leading the prized filly Rambo to the yards she walked straight into them headfirst! Funny, we thought, she doesn't seem to be seeing too well in the dark!

Well, this was our introduction to the fact, now scientifically proven, that fewspot leopards are night blind. Realising our filly was blind as a bat at night we asked vets and read up on the subject but little or nothing was available to give us any help. Some literature suggested up to one in sixteen horses of any breed could be night blind but this is totally unproven. We even dosed her with high quantities of Vitamin A to see if that would help but to no avail.

Over several years we studied lots of Appaloosas to see if any others were night blind and came to the conclusion every fewspot and true snowcap blanket horse was but interestingly never found a leopard or spotted blanket to be."

Few of us have as many horses to observe, over an extended period of time, as large scale Appaloosa breeders, so it's little wonder it's taken some time for definitive scientific conclusions to be drawn.

In the last couple of years, these conclusions have been verified by the Appaloosa Project, a worldwide scientific research effort into Appaloosa colouring. Their published research into nightblindness is available free at www.appaloosaproject.info.

Your thoughtful management of the night blind horse is usually all that's needed to keep it safe. If changing paddocks, make the change with hours of daylight remaining so the horse has plenty of time to explore and memorise where everything is. Make sure it's not paddocked with horses that will be aggressive towards it, so there's little chance of a night time confrontation resulting in a kick or fence accident.

If handling the horse at night, make sure it's aware of your presence by talking to it, before you touch it. If the ears aren't pointing towards you, listening for your approach, you need to make more effort to be heard, without causing a fright. When handling and leading, keep some physical contact with the horse so it can feel exactly where you are as well as hear you and be predictable.

An important consideration for the night blind show horse is the maintenance of the whiskers around its eyes and nose. These very sensitive whiskers act as feelers that protect the eyes and nose from damage by warning the horse when it's nearing a solid object. Without them, the horse may feel the object too late to avoid injury.

The publication of information about night blindness in Appaloosas has some important ramifications for breeders and owners, when it comes time to sell a night blind horse.

Be honest and open about the condition, even if you suspect it might lose you a sale. You have a responsibility to the horse to ensure its new owner knows how to manage it to prevent injury and of course to the buyer to ensure they're aware of the condition.

Remember, night blindness is a condition that Appaloosas are believed to have existed with for centuries, so it's one that they adapt to efficiently.

Night blindness is present at birth and doesn't worsen over time. If your horse is showing signs of deterioration, please have the horse checked out.

For in depth and completely free night blindness information, visit www.appaloosaproject.info



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Breeding tip – handling newborn foals found to be detrimental

Article courtesy horsetalk.co.nz

Prolonged handling of newborn foals may have lasting detrimental effects on their behaviour, research reveals.

Dr Severine Henry and colleagues in the Department of Animal and Human Ethology at the University of Rennes 1 in France, examined the short and long-term effects of prolonged handling of foals just after birth.

They compared two groups of newborn foals. Foals in the experimental group were separated from their mothers - although the mare stayed nearby - and were handled for an hour.

The handling procedure consisted of handling the foals before they stood up. Foals were restrained and kept lying down, while the experimenter stroked them all over their body.

They were also exposed to stimuli such as a white towel, a plastic bag and a spray of water. Each stimulus was repeated until the foal remained immobile during the procedure. Foals struggled when being handled, before lying still but with tense muscles.

Foals in the control group were not handled apart from attention to the navel. They were left undisturbed with their mothers.

Foals that were separated from their mothers and handled for an hour shortly after birth showed short and long-term effects on attachment and social behaviour. Handling significantly delayed the foal standing and sucking. But experimental foals also showed short-term disturbances that were not seen in the controls - namely trembling, fast breathing and abnormal sucking activities.

The time taken from standing to sucking was similar in both groups.

The researchers noticed behavioural differences between the two groups, which were still apparent even up to the 12-month stage.

The handled foals appeared more dependent on their mothers. They tended to stay closer to, and spend more time interacting with, their mothers than with other foals. They also tended to be more aggressive towards other foals than were the unhandled foals. These signs of insecure attachment to their mothers and impaired social competences were present at all ages - at least up to weaning.

“To our knowledge this is the first demonstration showing that interference during the neonatal stage has lasting and profound effects,” the researchers concluded.

“This finding opens new research directions for both human and animal studies.”



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Appaloosas and the Indian Shuffle

In the history of European advance on North America, horses were brought over with the Conquistadors, explorers, and colonists. This was back in a time when the upper class rode smooth gaited mounts, predominately Andalusian, Spanish Arab, Mongolian Leopard and Spanish Barb, which were the forefathers of the Paso Fino and Peruvian Paso, as well as The Tennessee Walking Horse, Missouri Fox Trotter and American Saddlebred. These smooth gaited horses were prized for their ability to go all day at a comfortable 'glide', with good speed, and little or no jarring to the rider.

The Appaloosa is no exception. Many of these smooth gaited horses contributed to the beginning of the breed we love. People have spoken of the "Indian Shuffle" in reference to the Appaloosa for over 200 years. Lewis and Clarke commented on the Nez Perce Horses in their Journal in 1806 "Their horses appear to be of an excellent race: they are lofty, elegantly formed, active and durable: in short many of them look like fine English horses and would make a figure in any country".

However it is not by chance that the Nez Perce "out-ran" General Howard's Army for 2900km some 70 years later. With their 'pasture fed' horse, the Nez Perce eluded the Army for months through some of America's toughest terrain, with women, elderly and children all in tow. Many of these horses carried the "Shuffle" as their secret weapon.

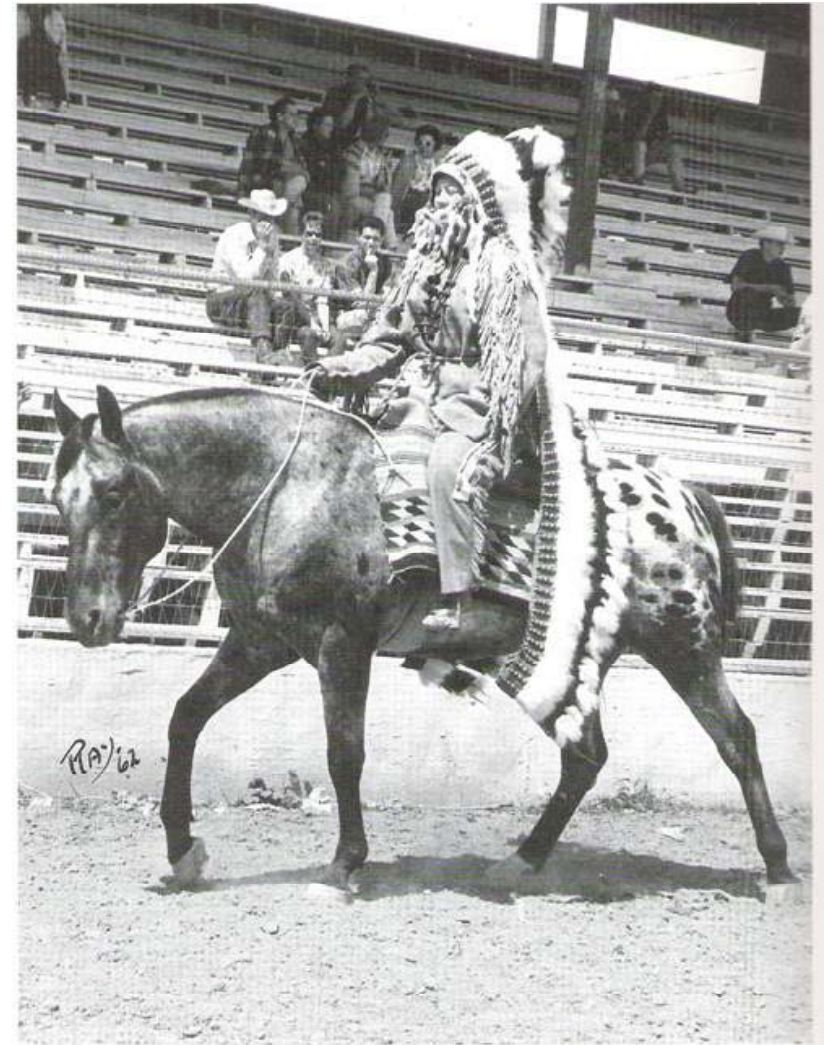
The Indian shuffle, like the pace, is a lateral gait: the legs on the same side of the horse move together. In the shuffle, the pace is broken as each hoof hits the ground a fraction ahead of the other which results in four beats as in the walk. The shuffle is sometimes called the "running walk," but the true walk, like the trot, is a diagonal gait.

The shuffle, as its name implies, does not have much elevation. The horse moves with a rolling motion of the shoulders and hips, the motion of the horse is absorbed in its back and loins giving the rider a smooth, gliding ride. Also, because the pace is broken, it lacks the side-to-side motion of the true pace.

The Nez Perce learned to recognize good horseflesh and, almost from the start, practiced selective breeding. Many of their horses were spotted and many had the enduring, smooth pace so prized by the Spanish. It is not known whether the Nez Perce bred specifically for the gait. It is known that they valued horses that could move out well, and rode with a quirt to urge their horses to take the shuffle gait.

Robert L Peckinpah, in the "Appaloosa Heritage," had this to say: "Rough country cowmen are unanimous, today, in praising the remarkable lack of leg trouble in the colorful, ground-covering

Article courtesy Ev Lagoon



Patchy Jr. and Claire Johnson (now Diers) are seen here competing in the Indian costume class at a show in Spanish Fork, Utah.



horse. They are quick to point out that his natural traveling gait, the Indian shuffle, a seemingly tireless running walk, is a characteristic of this clean legged horse in all but a few animals."

When the breed registry was formed by Claude Thompson and Dr. Francis Haines in 1938, many of the foundation horses came by this gait naturally, as their ancestors had before them. The herd of Sam Fisher is known to possess the shuffle. It has been said that Gene Autry used to show off the gait of his Appaloosa El Morroco F-18 by putting a roping saddle on him, placing a glass of water on the horn and riding off at full speed without spilling a drop.

The closer a breeder stays to foundation stock, the greater the likelihood that a percentage of his herd will have the shuffle. The greatest instance would occur from strict Appaloosa to Appaloosa crosses.

What we do know is that "shufflers" have been reported back to the beginnings of the registry and continue to crop up today in our modern breeding of the Foundation bloodlines. Breeding program choices, personal preference and out-crossing have determined to some extent where we now find the shuffle; but it still crops up, at will, suggesting strong roots. Quite often you'll see a colourful appaloosa foal expressing the 4 beat walk, only to have it 'trained out' as a two year old by a well meaning show trainer. In the show ring the shuffle is not an asset. A horse that deviates from the walk, trot and canter is disqualified. Although a horse with the shuffle can trot, the horse will often insist on shuffling under saddle. Breeders with their eyes on the "blues" would not keep a shuffler for long.

Where does the shuffle belong? At this moment, not in the show ring. Perhaps one day it might be allowed in heritage classes where one strives to be authentic to the Nez Perce tradition. Now-a-days it appears that this gait was made for the endurance enthusiast and pleasure rider. The shuffle requires a minimum effort on the part of the horse, and those who ride it say it is the perfect sure-footed gait for hilly country.

You'll find the Indian Shuffle in many "foundation" Appaloosa bloodlines, Toby 1 and Toby II, Patchy and Patchy Jr, Chief of Fourmile, Siri Sheik, many of the Money Creek horses, Rocking Chair Sundance, Freel's Chico and even Colida was thought to possess the shuffle. There are breeders in the USA selectively line breeding to retain the shuffle, and there are others out crossing to Tennessee Walking Horses, or other gaited breeds, in an effort to 'reclaim' lost ground. Which ever way you look at it, the baby-boomer generation of today would adopt a smooth riding naturally gaited horse if he knew where to find it.

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