

Spotlight: Friesian Heritage Horse & Sporthorse International

Not just basic black!

The Friesian tends to be an intelligent, gentle, people-oriented horse. Typically, Friesians are crossed with a lighter horse to create a riding horse with the gentle nature of the Friesian combined with the stamina and increased athleticism of the lighter breed. The Friesian adds a bit of baroque charisma and an elegant topline. The Friesian also adds flair to the movement, making many of these horses expressive and flashy dressage mounts or driving horses. Their gentle nature and excellent ridability make them suitable mounts for amateurs and juniors, while trainability and elastic movement result in a horse that is suitable for the advanced rider.

The organization: The Friesian Heritage Horse & Sporthorse International (HH) supports all horses of 25 to 100 percent verifiable Friesian heritage. For crossbred registration as a Friesian Heritage Horse, a minimum of 25 percent Friesian blood is required. The secondary breed(s) may be any breed or breed combination.

The HH has separate books for purebred Friesians and Friesian crossbreds as well as specialty books for some specific crosses, such as the Gypsy Heritage Horse (Friesian/Gypsy), Imperial Heritage Horse (Friesian/Appaloosa or Knabstrupper), Turbo Friesian (Friesian/Arabian), Warlander Heritage Horse (Friesian/Andalusian or Lusitano), and Heritage Pony (under fifteen hands).

While the purebred Friesians are limited in color to black (with an occasional rare chestnut), the Friesian Heritage Horse comes in a wide range of colors, including all solids and patterns.

Unlike many other registries, the HH employs DNA parent verification to ensure proof of Friesian heritage.

Optional inspection and award programs place an emphasis on recognizing quality and correctly identifying suitability of type.

Based on the suitability a horse displays—through the optional inspections offered, through competition, or both—HH-registered horses may earn designations of Sporthorse, Utility, or Park/Carriage. The HH supports the concept that a horse's suitability type should be based on the individual horse's ability, not on generic and arbitrary breeding guidelines that specify that only certain breed mixtures are allowed or considered to be a "sport type."

Friesian Heritage Horses you might know: In 2012 **Orca** (pictured), a pinto Friesian/Spotted Draft stallion, was the Great American/USDF Region 6 Training Level adult amateur champion and is now showing Second Level. **Custom Design**, a Friesian/Appaloosa cross, won the 2012 Region 4 First Level adult



HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR: The 2003 HH-registered Friesian/Spotted Draft cross stallion *Orca* (Uko-Bossy), ridden by Sharon Katanik (WA) and owned by Lori Stewart (WA)

amateur title and was in the top five at Second Level in his division.

All-Breeds awards offered: All categories, including DSHB and musical freestyle, with separate divisions for purebreds, crossbreds, and ponies.

How to participate: The HH registers any horse that can be verified as 25 to 100 percent Friesian heritage. We must be able to verify Friesian heritage through DNA. Horses that are registered elsewhere are eligible for participation in our registry but must declare under Friesian HH with USDF.

Organization contact info: Friesian Heritage Horse & Sporthorse International: friesianheritage.com or (877) 653-1341. ▲

For the Breeds, by the Breeds

Each month, "All-Breeds Connection" spotlights a USDF All-Breeds awards program participating organization and the breed it represents. Information and photos that appear in this column are furnished by the breed registries. USDF does not endorse or promote any breed or registry over another.

The All-Breeds program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage. All participating organizations offer "open" year-end awards from Training Level through Grand Prix, and some offer awards in additional categories, such as adult amateur, junior/young rider, and dressage sport-horse breeding. Registry representatives are usually on hand to help bestow awards at the banquet held during each year's USDF convention.

All-Breeds award eligibility requirements include memberships and horse registrations with both USDF and the participating organization. For details and a list of current participating organizations, visit usdf.org. For more information about All-Breeds awards program participation, send e-mail to allbreeds@usdf.org.