

Breed of the Month: Knabstrupper

This rare and colorful warmblood breed will get you noticed

The Knabstrupper is an ancient and rare warmblood breed, originating in Denmark but based on the ancient Spanish spotted horses found in cave drawings all over Europe. Its best-known trait is its loud, colorful spots, much like those of its distant cousin, the Appaloosa. But unlike the Appaloosa, which was developed along stock-horse lines, the Knabstrupper has long been bred to excel in the Olympic sports of dressage, jumping, and eventing.

The Knabstrupper is an athletic horse bred to European warmblood standards. Its kind temperament makes it particularly suitable for amateurs and juniors, and its loud coloring makes quite the splash in the show ring. The Knabstrupper is a quick learner that likes people, likes to work, and is very willing to please.

Knabstruppers you might

know: Perhaps the best-known modern Knabstrupper was the black-and-white leopard-spotted stallion **Apollon**, who became the foundation stallion for the American Knabstrupper Association. Born in Denmark, sold to Germany, and then imported to the US, Apollon had an enormous impact on the modern Knabstrupper breed, producing many approved stallion sons all over the world. One approved son, **Hamlet Frydenlund**, is based in the UK but has become well known in the international dressage world.

The organization: The American Knabstrupper Association is dedicated to the advancement, study, protection, exhibition, and promotion of the Knabstrupper horse in North America. Its members are owners, breeders and admirers of this rare breed. The association strives to educate the North American equine

community about this wonderful, versatile sport horse and to represent and promote the Knabstrupper as a top sport-horse choice for dressage, jumping, and eventing.

All-Breeds awards offered:

Open, adult amateur, USEF Four-Year-Old, FEI Five- and Six-Year-Old, dressage sport-horse breeding, and Materiale.

How to

participate:

Horses must be registered with



COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN KNABSTRUPPER ASSOCIATION

ON THE SPOTS: The Knabstrupper gelding Frej (Conetti Lynghog – Karina, by Don Ibrahim), owned by Skye Johnson, competes in both dressage and jumping in Florida

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.

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.