

SWEDISH WARMBLOOD

A proud heritage as one of the oldest breeds of riding horse



COURTESY OF SWANA

SWEDISH SUCCESS: The international GP stallion Briar 899 and rider Jan Brink

The history of the Swedish horse closely follows that of humans in Scandinavia. Archaeological evidence indicates the existence of horses dating to 4000 BC in what is now Sweden.

Unlike most other warmblood breeds, which originally were developed as draft horses for farm work, the Swedish Warmblood has been bred for riding for centuries. The Swedish army owned the stallions and bought suitable offspring of mares owned by local farmers. In order to direct the breeding efforts and to consolidate the various breeds, the Swedish government began an examination system in 1874. This improvement resulted in several excellent saddle breeds, including the Swedish Warmblood.

Avelsföreningen för Svenska Varmblodiga Hästen (the Swedish Warmblood Association, or ASVH) was formed in 1928 by breeders, with the army's blessing, to promote the development of quality mares. The ASVH has controlled the breeding program in Sweden since the 1970s, when the army stopped using horses.

With only 5,000 mares bred yearly, the ASVH still manages top-ten global studbook rankings in dressage and jumping. In the US, Swedish Warmbloods are registered with the Swedish Warmblood Association of North America, or SWANA.

SWEDISH WARMBLOODS YOU MIGHT KNOW: The Grand Prix-level stallion Briar 899 and rider Jan Brink of Sweden have enjoyed many successful years in the show ring. Tip Top 962, owned and ridden by US Equestrian Team veteran Leslie Morse, is currently competing at the international level. Tip Top is by Master, another successful GP horse ridden by Kyra Kyrklund of Finland. Kyrklund is now competing the gelding Max, another son of Master. Chagall sired the famous Gauguin du Lully, competed by Christine Stückelberger of Switzerland; and is sire to today's Mr. G de Lully. Amiral was an international competitor and has sired numerous successful FEI-level horses.

THE ORGANIZATION: SWANA's mission is to support and develop the breeding program of Swedish Warmblood

horses. Our breeding goal is a noble, correct, and sound horse that, through its competitive temperament, its ridability, and its excellent movement, jumping ability, or both, is a horse of international quality.

ALL-BREEDS AWARDS OFFERED: SWANA offers USDF All-Breeds performance awards at all levels.

How to participate: Horse registration with SWANA is required, and the owner listed with USDF must be the current owner of record with SWANA. If the horse was imported from Sweden, a transfer of ownership must be on file with SWANA. A stallion born elsewhere but approved in Sweden and given a Swedish number and licensure, then imported to the US, may compete for SWANA All-Breeds awards if the owner declares SWANA the All-Breeds registry of record.

ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFO: Swedish Warmblood Association of North America: (505) 835-1318 or swanaoffice.org.

CALLING ALL BREEDS

The USDF All-Breeds awards program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage. All participating breed registries offer "open" year-end awards from Training Level through Grand Prix. Many include additional divisions, such as adult amateur, junior/young rider, freestyle, Vintage Cup, 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.

Horses must be eligible to earn awards from participating registries, with the appropriate All-Breeds declaration on file with USDF (for the complete list and details, visit usdf.org). Horses must hold USDF lifetime registration when scores are earned, and horse owners must be USDF participating or business members at the time scores are earned.

For more information about All-Breeds awards program participation, call (859) 971-2277 or email allbreeds@usdf.org.