



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

October 2020

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

The Mare's Head

**A short fable by Alexi Tolstoy,
translated from the Russian by Evgina
Schimanskaya.**

Once upon a time there lived an old man and an old woman. They had two daughters. The old man had a daughter and the old woman had a daughter.

The old woman took a dislike to her stepdaughter and she said to her husband, "Take her away, wherever you like."

There was no help for it, so the peasant drove his daughter into the forest where he saw a little hut with no one in it so he took his daughter inside and said, "You stay here and I will go and chop some wood."

When she was inside he fastened the branch of a birch tree to the door, and as the wind blew the branch tapped on the door and the girl thought that her father was chopping wood. But her father had gone home long since.

Whether the time was long or short no one knows, but out of the forest came a mare's head with no legs and no tail,

went to the hut and said, "Little girl, little girl, open the gate for me."

The girl ran out and opened the gate. The mare's head entered the hut and said, "Little girl, little girl, lift me from the threshold on to the bench."

The girl took it up and lifted it from the threshold on to the bench.

Then the mare's head said, "Little girl, little girl, make the bed for me and put me to bed."

The little girl made the bed and put the mare's head into it, and the mare's head said to her, "Climb into my right ear and out of my left ear".

So the girl got into its right ear and came out through its left ear and at once became very beautiful indeed. Then a carriage with horses stopped before the little hut and the little girl was taken back to her father's house.

Everybody was amazed. The girl gave presents to them all, to her father, the old woman and the old woman's daughter. Then the old woman said to her husband, "Take my daughter to where you took yours."

The peasant did not say no. He drove the old woman's daughter to the little hut in the forest. He took her inside and said,

"You stay here while I go and chop wood."

And again he tried a branch of a birch tree to the door. It tapped against the door and the old woman's daughter thought: "My stepfather is chopping wood."

Whether the time was long or short no one knows, but a mare's head without legs or a tail came to the hut and said: "Little girl, little girl, open the gate for me."

And the old woman's daughter answered it: "You are not a lady, you can open it for yourself." The mare's head entered the hut.

"Little girl, little girl, lift me up from the threshold, make the bed and put me to sleep on it."

And the old woman's daughter said to it, "Even at home I do not make the bed and I am not going to begin to do it for you."

"Little girl, little girl", said the mare's head, "Climb into my left ear and out of my right."

The old woman's daughter got into its left ear and came out through its right, not a beauty but a toothless old crone.

Aleksey Nikolayevich Tolstoy was a Russian and Soviet writer who lived from 1883 -1945 and specialized in Science Fiction and Historical novels.

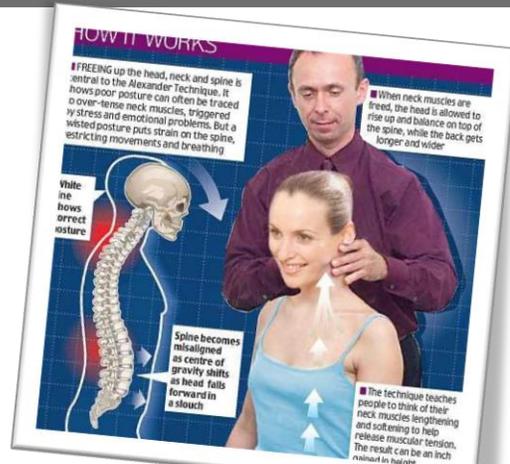
Alexander technique

Alternative therapy for riders

This technique is strictly a therapy for the rider rather than the horse, but as posture is central to correct riding which is in turn of physical benefit to the horse, it is considered an alternative therapy.

Although the technique has only recently gained popularity among riders, it has been continually practiced since around the year 1900. It was first described by F. Mathias Alexander who developed a system which involved maximizing the potential for health and well-being, through paying attention to the way in which we move our bodies. Alexander trained as an actor and developed a liking for recitals and singing. At a crucial time in his career he developed a problem with his voice which could not be cured by conventional medicine. He set about trying to devise a cure for himself, following his discover that he could change the way his voice sounded by changing his posture. He was so successful at this that he passed his knowledge on to others, and his theories were extended to benefit many areas of health.

The technique is centered around helping the patient to realize the effect that bad posture and carriage has on the body and mind. Often these habits have been developed over a life-time and the patient is barely aware of them, only being aware perhaps of the



Resulting problem. Once these have been highlighted, the therapist seeks to change the posture of the patient by gently moving the body so that the correct positions may be experienced in the muscles. It is by no means an easy task, for it is very easy to lapse into former bad behavior. It is usually over a long period than an overall pattern of improved co-ordination is achieved which greatly enhances the riding technique. Through this the horse can become more supple, thereby avoiding musculo-skeletal problems such as back pain.

Alexander's book *The Use of the Self* which gave an account of the Alexander technique was published in 1932. Many famous people including notable medical men became convinced of the benefits of the system.

For more information on this form of alternative therapy please visit www.alexandertechnique.com



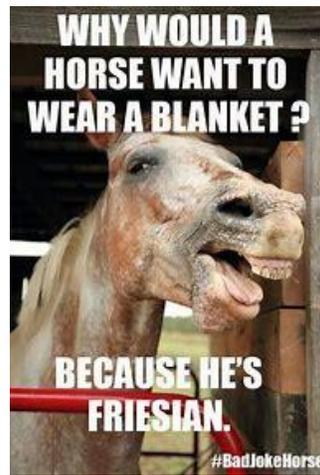
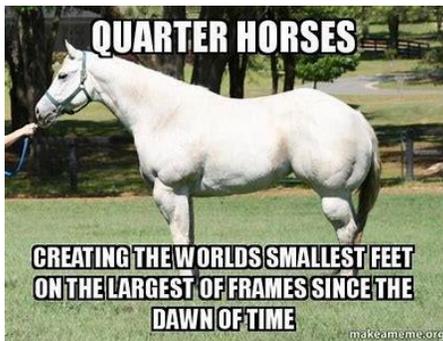
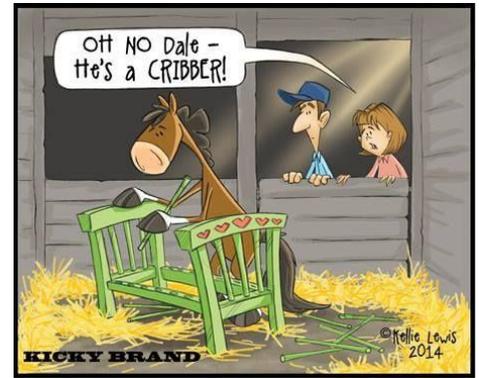
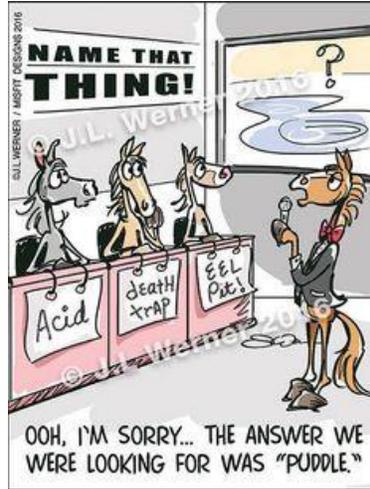
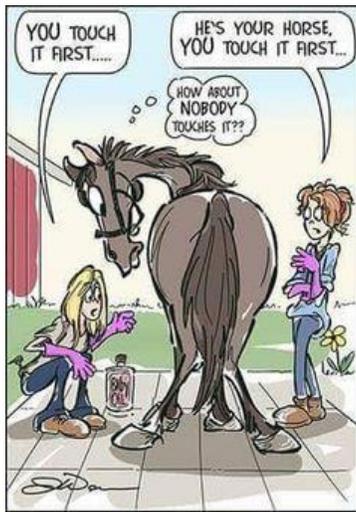
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New Items for October





- My parents are going out tonight 😊😊😊
- We can wash saddle pads in the washing machine

WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



A lone Journalist
*Discovered the poetry in nature,
learned that horses are the oldest
souls – and in the foggy silence of
morning learned to breathe again*

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY**

Nutrition Corner

MANAGING THE INCREASED RISK OF COLIC IN THE WINTER

Winter is coming and most horse owners can agree, we dread this time of the year. Winter poses many unique challenges for us to keep farms in working order through the colder months. Being well-prepared includes maintaining machinery, having a game plan for chores and farm work – and making sure the essentials for horses are met. This includes fresh, warm water sources, sufficient forage and feed, appropriate shelter and ensuring horses are in good body condition.

One of the biggest concerns as the weather gets colder is the increased risk of colic. Abundant water intake and a routine feed plan are especially important because if horses can't access water and drink regularly, the risk of colic can dramatically increase. Here are some management tips for warding off colic.

WATER ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL

1. For horses staying outside, investing in a tank heater will assure they have access to unfrozen water even on the coldest nights. Be sure and install keeping all safety precautions in mind.
2. Be sure and keep tanks clean, full and accessible. Horses prefer water 45 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, and may not drink if the tanks are dirty or low.

PROVIDE FREE CHOICE SALT

Salt increases thirst and keeps horses drinking. You can provide plain white salt blocks, but check to make sure they are being used. If not you can top dress feed with salt. A good recommendation is to provide 2 TBS per day to the average 1100 lb horse.

FEED SUFFICIENT LEVELS OF HAY

Horses require more calories to stay warm in the winter and the process of digesting hay helps to warm up their body temperature.

FEEDING SHOULD BE CONSISTENT

Stick with your feed program and keep it as consistent as possible. Any changes that you must do should be transitioned slowly, and if you must add calories the best source is forage, followed by higher fat.

WATCH THE WEATHER

Sudden weather changes including storms or extreme changes in temperature are notorious for causing colic and we don't really know why but get prepared. Allowing horses to have access to exercise outside and move is essential to gut health, but there may be times that horses are subject to indoors or they may spend time huddling in a shelter to keep away from the elements. When possible try and get them back outside for daily exercise.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

MEET GIANT & DANCER!

Giant and Dancer are the oldest horses on the farm, and have been here the longest. Both of them are miniature horses, although it is believed Dancer may have some POA bloodlines.

They came to live with us in 2003 through an acquaintance who was looking to re-home them after they were rescued from an abusive home. At the time they were a little wild and unruly, and both already in their teens! Their first home here on the farm was just outside the owner's barn in the dry paddock under the trees with the walk-in stall. They were quite mischievous and liked to escape for gallops around the farm – and they were quick! Giant (smaller, chestnut) was broke to ride as well as drive, and had a very social personality. Dancer was a bit more shy but with Giant as the boss it is understandable!

Giant was born in 1986 which makes him 34 years old this year, and Dancer is just 2 years behind him at age 32. Although they are no longer taken off the farm for birthday parties, they offer plenty of charm for visitors to the farm young and old and children of all ages enjoy petting, grooming and giving them treats. They are the ambassadors to our farm.



Miniature Horses are horses defined by their small height. They can be found in many nations, particularly in Europe and the Americas, and are the result of centuries of selective breeding. Depending on the particular breed registry involved, the height of these horses is usually less than 34-38 inches at the withers. While miniature horses fit a height-based definition to be considered a very small pony, many retain horse characteristics, particularly in the jaw and teeth, and are considered "horses" by their respective registries. They have various coat colors and patterns and are generally bred to be friendly and interact well with people. They are often used as therapy and companion animals.

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID & SALLY LAMB OF OAKLAND HEIGHTS FARM

Located in the heart of central Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Oakland Heights Farm is dedicated to the preservation of the art and sport of horseback riding. Started in 1979 by David and Sally Lamb the farm located in Orange Virginia has grown to be one of Virginia's most recognized horse farms. They are a short, scenic hour and a half drive from Washington D.C. and offer trail riding packages with some of the area's B&Bs and hotels. This interview was given in March, 2009 during the height of the recession.

What businesses do you run?

DAVID: We do lessons, trail riding, raise cows, hay, buy & sell horses, and sell other people's horses on commission. We work as an agent.

SALLY: Agritourism is what we do

How has business been affected since the recession began?

DAVID: The tourist business dropped off 25% a year and a half ago. That's when we really realized this recession was real. We noticed the wealthy people stopped spending their money. Horse sales have been reduced at 40%. Riding lessons have been about the same.

SALLY: I think parents are more willing to spend on their kids than on themselves. Hay has gone down. It takes people longer to pay us. Whereas they used to take 30 days, it now takes 60.

Has your cost of keeping the horses changed?

DAVID: Yes, it did, but it wasn't because of the recession, but Government supporting biodiesel. It increased feed \$100 per ton. We use 6 ton a month so you see now we pay \$600 more than we used to. The reevaluation of taxation that the Government did during the boom sent up our appraisal, but when the Real Estate boom went down they never lowered the taxes. Hay prices have increased. Everything we've done with energy involved increased 30%.

What type of customers do you usually provide for?

DAVID: We are very diversified.

SALLY: We will take anybody's money that will walk up that driveway.

DAVID: 65% of horses sold in Virginia are for recreation and trail riding. The tourists are wealthy in general, and are international travelers. Sally sells a lot of hunters and jumpers that are upper level \$25,000 plus. Most of our customers are horse-buying people.

SALLY: Interesting enough, most of the horses we sell are not in Virginia. It's sad too.



What foundation do you run?

DAVID: The Four Horseshoes Youth Foundation. It's a non-profit educational organization. Our farm isn't supposed to be non-profit but it turns out that way. We put a lot of money into

Has it been affected due to the economy?

DAVID: No, not really, no.

SALLY: Yes it has. What's happening is more people are wanting to donate horses and we just can't do it anymore. We have to be extremely picky now. There's a lot of people with...

DAVID: Unwanted horses.

SALLY: No. They just can't pay for them.

Have you had to change your prices?

DAVID: We need to but are not. But we won't 'cause then people can't afford to come. It's all about supply & demand.

SALLY: We haven't lowered our prices but we were already really low.

Who and where do you believe are being effected the most?

SALLY: I think it goes right straight across the board. Daily we have people looking for a job here. People buying horses and people operating farms are cautious.

DAVID: Geographical area-wise, I think the people in the north are just being slammed.

SALLY: Oh, yeah. I can't think of a better place to be than Virginia.

DAVID: What effected the horse industry the most near the car industry area is that they don't have the recreation area to put into horse, boats, etc. The labor unions need to be broke.

How is Foxhunting Fairing?

SALLY: The money has been tight when considering we run on a budget like any other business. We do control the dues, but even though the wealthy can afford it, we like to make it so everyone can hunt. Even the wealthy are weary of spending right now. They are careful not to throw it away.

How have local horse shows been effected?

DAVID: In Florida the horse shows are 50% off.

SALLY: Not much locally, so far. For the rated shows, once again, the wealthy are getting hit worse than the working class. At least in Virginia.

Is it hard to turn away donated horses?

SALLY: I have people crying on the phone, "Please take them." But like I said, we have to be picky. There's such an overflow of horses and nowhere for them to go.



The Ballad of Lucille Mulhall, America's Original Cowgirl

As a 14-year old, she roped steers in front of President Roosevelt.

BY [ELIZA MCGRAW](#) SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

AT A ROUGH RIDERS REUNION in Oklahoma City in 1900, Theodore Roosevelt watched as the 14-year-old girl galloped her horse, swinging a lasso overhead. When she roped around a running steer, she beat sun-weathered cowboys for first prize. Afterward, Roosevelt bowed to the girl and told her that none of his troops could have done a better job. The girl's father, Zach Mulhall, later said that Roosevelt urged him to take her on the road. The country needed to see Lucille.



Lucille Mulhall was known as the first—or original—cowgirl. She introduced countless audiences to the idea that a woman could rope and ride better than men. “Although she weighs only 90 pounds she can break a bronco, lasso and brand a steer and shoot a coyote at 500 yards,” wrote one reporter. Mulhall became a symbol of the Old West as it ebbed away with the turn of the century. With her ranching background and daring rodeo performances, Mulhall linked herself to open spaces and the freedom found riding astride in a divided skirt and Western saddle.

In one routine, Mulhall roped eight galloping horses; in another, she lassoed a “horse thief,” and then cowboys pretended to hang him. Lucille’s trick horse, Governor, could kneel, play dead, ring a bell, take off Lucille’s hat, and sit back while crossing his forelegs, like a bored spectator. Mulhall’s company performed in New York City, and with their time off they thundered through Central Park in full Western regalia. A young Will Rogers, Mulhall’s early co-star who went on to enormous fame as a performer and humorist, performed rope tricks alongside her, and Tom Mix, who would become a leading movie cowboy, rode with the Mulhalls, too.

Sometimes, things got truly wild: at one event, a steer got loose and bolted up some steps, scattering spectators. The steer then tossed an usher who tried to grab his horns, and vanished behind the box seats. Will Rogers headed the steer off and rushed him back down the steps, hooves clattering, to the ring. During all this, people heard Zach Mulhall shouting at his daughter. Why did Lucille not “follow that baby up the stairs and bring him back”?

Mulhall provided some rich fodder for the florid prose of the day. Here’s a reporter describing her background in 1903: “The plucky maid of the mountains was born and brought up, a veritable child of nature, on a ranch in Oklahoma. Instead of a baby’s rattle she heard the tinkle of spurs. Her cradle was the saddle. She cannot recall a time when she could not ride a horse.” Mulhall gave lively quotes, too. “I feel sorry for the girls who never lived on a cattle ranch and have to attend so many teas, and be indoors so much, with never anything but artificiality about them,” she told a St. Louis reporter in 1902



President Roosevelt wanted an Oklahoma wolf, Mullhall said in 1905. But he would only accept in on the condition that she roped it herself. She promised, and sighted the wolf she wanted: A gray one as big as a year-old steer. Mullhall chased the steer through canyons and over prairies, and roped him once only to have him chew through her lariat and escape. Finally, he wore himself out. She captured him, and sent his pelt to a taxidermist in Saint Louis. Next, it was shipped, express, to Oyster Bay, for Roosevelt’s curio room. “I have a letter from Mrs. Roosevelt telling about the arrival of Mr. Wolf,” noted Mullhall. “She said it was amusing to see the way the dogs acted when they saw him come in the house.” Later, Roosevelt gave Mullhall a saddle.

By 1916, Mulhall was producing her own rodeo. Lucille Mulhall’s Big Round-Up showcased bucking horses and roping contests. With the Round-Up, Mulhall could also offer competition and employment for other cowgirls, no longer a novelty.

But for Will Rogers, Mulhall would always be the first cowgirl, he wrote in 1931: “There was no such thing or no such word up to then.” That same year, Mulhall also noted a changing of the guard. “Something has passed with the old life,” she said. “This new day is probably fine, too, but I loved the unfenced range and the open prairie and the boundless friendliness of the cattle country.”

Mulhall’s last public appearance was in September of 1940; she died in a car accident that December. On the day of her funeral, the Oklahoma mud was so slippery that cars were useless, so a neighbor’s plow horse pulled her hearse. “A machine killed Lucille Mulhall,” reported the Daily Oklahoman, “but horses brought her to her final resting place.”



The 5 most FANTASTIC Horse Coat Colors

We all know that horses come in the basic colors of Black, Bay, Chestnut and Grey – with the colors of Palomino, appaloosa, buckskin/dun and pinto/paint thrown in for good measure. But there are some rare colors out there that are truly beautiful to behold and here is a list of the top 5 most gorgeous, unique coat colors:

Brindle



The Brindle pattern consists of a watery or drippy looking striping (sometimes just partial striping) over the body. It is more commonly seen in dogs or cattle. In horses, the pattern is extremely rare. Brindle has occurred in such diverse breeds as Arabians, Thoroughbreds, Mustangs, Quarter Horses, Tennessee Walking Horses, German and Bavarian Warmbloods, Russian Horses, Spanish Horses, and also in Donkeys and Mules. The first record of the Brindle Pattern in Horses seems to be by J.A. Lusia, in the publication *Genetica vol.23, 1942*. In the article on "Striping Patterns in Domestic Horses", he details a Russian cab horse from around the 1800's that was preserved and put in a museum. Reports of Brindle or Brindle Dun patterns from the 1860's to 1870's in the Criollo horses of South America have been documented by writers such as Marrero, Pereyra, Solanet, and Odriozola. Many people confuse the Brindle pattern with Dun Factor markings (stripe down the back, barring on the legs, and occasional regular-spaced striping down the ribs). At one time, it was thought Brindle was just a variation of Dun Factor. Indeed, there have been many examples of horses that were probably carrying both Dun Factor and Brindle. However, as research has now shown, many do not have any Dun Factor markings whatsoever, indicating the two patterns are probably distinct genetically.

Chimera



In the equine world, while extremely rare, a chimera is a horse created from two genetically-different DNA types, believed to occur when non-identical twin embryos fuse into one at an early stage of development. While the embryo develops normally, body parts, organs, etc., are made up of different DNA, resulting in a 'genetic mosaic' creature whose body contains a mixture of cells of two different genotypes. Chimerism has also been documented in cats and even humans. Chimeras are often marked by distinctive brindle patterning in the coat. These striking brindle coat patterns are more likely if the twin embryos were bay and chestnut, for example, rather than bay/bay or chestnut/chestnut. While often this unique coat is simply inherited, as is often seen in dogs and cattle, DNA testing of mane and tail hair samples may indicate two distinct individuals, and a blood test can determine if the animal is truly a chimera. Chimeras may also exhibit an unusual bi-colored or splotchy coat. Even if the twin embryos were male and female, the chimera will have the reproductive organs of one or the other and should be capable of living a healthy life and producing normal foals. The typical chimera coat patterns cannot be passed on to offspring, as they are caused by an anomaly in the womb, rather than heredity. It is advisable to know what line of DNA the sperm or egg of a chimeric horse carries, however, to best determine the outcome if you plan to use the animal for breeding.

Silver Buckskin



Buckskin coat colors are the result of a single creme dilution gene acting on a bay horse. Bay horses have a base color of black and an agouti gene which directs the location of black coloring to the points. Since all buckskins have the genetic markers of a bay they also have black points. The creme's influence on the bay horse lightens the bay coat color to tan or golden in most instances but under rare conditions coat is silver. The horses vary in color; some may be yellow, or dark golden, but the primary buckskin color is tan with black points. A silver buckskin horse has light gray hairs intermingled in their coats. Some silvers have a considerable amount of grey to the point they will look like a gray horse and have a shiny overcoat. These are lightest-colored of this color breed. Buckskin horses are not a breed, but they do have common characteristics. Buckskins display soundness, endurance, and surefootedness. These characteristics may not be shown by members of the kind that are a different color. Buckskins were the desired horse of the western cowboy.

Metallic Gold



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

As spectacular as the non-golden variety can be, there's something irresistibly regal about a golden horse. Perhaps, it's the lingering influence of one of history's most notorious horse hoarders, Queen Isabella of Spain - a monarch who banned commoners from owning gold horses. We are referring, of course, to the Akhal-Teke, a breed best known for the natural metallic bloom of their coats. But do you know what is responsible for their signature sheen? The hair structure of Akhal-Tekes is quite fine and rather unusual. Their "glow" is caused by the smallness, or even absence, of the opaque core that is typically at the center of the hair shaft. The transparent part of the hair, or medulla, takes up the extra space and acts much like a fiber optic tube, bending light through one side of the hair and refracting it out the other side. When most people hear "Akhal-Teke," they probably think of the breed's archetypical glittering gold color, featured in the photos above. Buckskin, palomino, cremello and perlino coat colors fall into this category. Akhal-Tekes do, however, come in a variety of colors and not all are metallic.

Spotted Tiger



Knabstrupper horses were bred in Denmark as far back as 1671 when they were called "The Tiger Horses." In 1750, this royal breeding line came to an end. The spotted horse returned in 1812, not as the "Tiger Horses," but with a new bloodline. A mare was purchased of Spanish origin with unusual markings. Her colt was the foundational Sire for the new spotted breed...Seeing spots has never felt so good! It's pretty easy to see how some folks confuse these beauties for Appaloosas, though their markings are often more saturated! While their unusual color patterns make them eye-catching and different to look at, what makes the Knabstrupper really special is their superb temperaments and willing kind natures. Bred as working horse and selected as much for attitude and ability as beauty the Knabstrupper is a true family horse. Ranging in size the Knabstrupper typically stands between 15 and 16 hands, with solid strong legs and well-shaped feet, a neat head and an elegant long neck, short backed and strong the Knabstrupper is a true warmblood horse. They are good movers but not extravagant, and are easy to ride. They jump well and are willing bold horses with good minds and a kind nature.