



03|2025

# DER HANNOVERANER

## Sport

Florinio wins  
Dressage Derby

## Breeding

Gold for  
Golden Moment M

## Breeding

Between tradition  
and change





## GOLD FOR GOLDEN MOMENT M

*Three mares were the best in free jumping competition and in the suitability test of the Hannoveraner Jumper Breeding Program. Golden Moment M won the three-year-olds. The Celle State Stud stallion Grey Top is not only the sire of the dark bay mare, but also the grandsire of the winner of the second division, Crushed Ice PJ. Cobra Mad Jo prevailed in the suitability test for four-year-olds – her full brother won last year.*

*By Britta Züngel*

The Grey Top/Comte daughter Golden Moment M (breeder and owner: Peter Mahler, Neuhaus/Oste) was the third starter out of 40 participants and set a top score that stood until the end. "A striking horse with great overview and fantastic reflexes at the jump," praised Tim Rieskamp-Göedeking. The internationally successful jumping rider judged the talented young horses together with Thomas Schöning from the Hannoveraner Verband. He knows Hannover's show jumpers very well: IB Qualita is currently one of his best show jumpers, Corvin carried him from success to success, and Olympic participant Ventago also belonged to his competition stable. Golden Moment M confidently secured the gold ribbon, impressing with a score of 8.7 for style. With a score of 8.8 for scope and jumping intelligence, she left nothing to

be desired. Her dam, Hann.Pr.St. Coco M, is none other than the Champion jumping mare of the Herwart von der Decken Show – exactly ten years ago. In the same year, she placed third in the free jumping competition, and one year later, the expressive liver chestnut mare also won the Friedrich Jahncke Show in Sandbostel. Her hereditary ability is remarkable. She has given birth to six Grey Top foals. Her first foal was licensed in Verden, changed to Belgian ownership at the stallion sales and bears the name G-Top. With Czech rider Sara Vingralkova, he took part in the World Championships for six-year-old show jumpers in Lanaken/BEL. His full brother, two years younger, was placed in the Hannoveraner Show Jumping Championships last year with Tim-Uwe Hoffmann and qualified for the Bundeschampionat. This was fol-

lowed by the two fillies Gina M and Golden Hour M. Both demonstrated their talents in the Niedersachsenhalle, were awarded the Hannoveraner Premium candidacy and represented the Regional Society of Stade at the Herwart von der Decken Show. There is no question that Golden Moment M will also bring the Mahler family many golden moments. The honorary prize of the Celle State Stud was a free covering of the thoroughbred stallion Jack the Robin xx.

The 2022 crop was divided according to performance, with five horses placed in each class. Kurt-Heinrich Böttcher from Brünigshorst is a breeder who has been involved in the free jumping competition since its beginning in 1997 with great commitment and passion. He and his son Carsten





The winners among the three-year-olds: age-group championess Golden Moment M by Grey Top/Comte (left) and Crushed Ice PJ by Carridam/Grey Top. Photos: Beelitz/Gerstenkorn

have sent around 40 rough diamonds to the Niedersachsenhalle, with countless victories and placings. He celebrated his first and perhaps most impressive success in 2000 with the Dinard L/ Sandro daughter St.Pr.St. Desiree. They all go back to the foundation mare Jolante, who made a name for herself with Katharine Burdsall's World Cup winner and Team World Champion The Natural by Diskus/Gotthard. He was also born in Brünninghorstedt. This year, another chapter was added to the success story. Both horses from Böttcher's breeding program were among the best. In the first class, the Kannan/Perigueux son Kanduro took second place. The grandson of the winning mare Desiree completed the program with great ease, improving from jump to jump (25.9). Chakira by Chacoon Blue/Salito was almost as impressive, finishing fourth in the second class with 25.1 points. The pedigrees of both horses meet in the 1972-born St.Pr.St. Goldbanner, the dam of The Natural.

Third place in the first class went to Corline KHR, a daughter of Cornet's Quaprice/Gibraleon. Her breeder, Karl-Henning Rollwage, is also regularly found at the top of the results lists of the free jumping competition of the Hannoveraner Jumper Breeding program. The dark bay mare presented herself athletically and with playful ease in the

free jumping series (25.4). Over 40 years ago, show jumping horse breeding began in Bockenem with a Hessen mare by Loetzen/Ursurpator xx, which has produced numerous top athletes. Among them is Stephanie KHR by Stolzenberg, a half-sister of Corline KHR, who has been placed up to 1.40 metres.

There was a sense of déjà vu in the second class: just like 13 months ago, the highly successful horse breeding of Dr. Jacobs GbR from Bierbergen celebrated a double victory. The snow-white, incredibly athletic Crushed Ice PJ by Carridam/Grey Top delivered a superior performance that was only rated one tenth lower than that of the champion Golden Moment M. She received the day's best score of 8.8 for her flawless technique. "An incredibly great performance with superior jumping and a superb style," was Tim Rieskamp-Goedeking's verdict. Her dam line has also proven itself many times in Verden: granddam Hann.Pr.St. Daisy Dee PJ by Diarado/Loredo jumped to fifth place in 2019 and has already placed in the 1.40 metre course with Luisa Försterling in the still young green season. Her half-sister Ginny PJ by Grey Top was second in the Niedersachsenhalle in 2016 and is also placed at advanced (S) level. The silver ribbon went to Crushed Ice's stable mate For Candy PJ by Forlee/Cassus with 25.8 points. She

“Looking at the pedigrees, it was very interesting to see that there were sires that are well known worldwide and were bred to proven Hannoveraner dam lines. That is good and makes sense. Hannover's show jumping horse breeding has not stood still, but has continued to develop. That was clearly noticeable today.

Tim Rieskamp-Goedeking

also impressed with her great composure and routine. Her pedigree is a guarantee for success: her granddam, St.Pr.St. Emmy Jo, is the full sister of the stallions Embassy I to III and herself highly placed in advanced tests. This earned her two stars in the Jumper Breeding Program and the title of "Performance Mare Jumping." Added to this is her sire Forlee, a combination of Olympic team champion For Pleasure and the Bundeschampioness and World Champion of Young Jumping Horses,



*Wearing the winner's sash for four-year-olds, Cobra Mad Jo by Cabo Verde/Stakkato took the lap of honour in the four-year-old class. The previous year, her full brother had won the premiere event. Photo: Beelitz/Gerstenkorn*

Chao Lee. Her sire Comme il faut NRW is a son of Olympic champion Ratina Z – you can't get any better than that! Third in the second class was the self-confident Casino Berlin/Acolito daughter Casina Sahne with 25.3 points. She comes from the Holstein dam line, which also includes the Celle State Stud stallion Grey Top. For Otto Krone from Hoheneggelsen, it was his first appearance in the Niedersachsenhalle in Verden. His greatest breeding success is the Salito/Silvio son Super Sox, who not only competed twice in the World Championships for Young Jumping Horses, but also competed in the Global Champions Tour with US rider Lillie Keenan.

Compared to last year, the number of starters in the three-year-old class remained the same, with the top horses impressing with their quality. The situation was different for the four-year-olds: only ten participants competed in the suitability test under saddle – last year there were 25. Praised by riders, it is a great challenge, especially for the

breeders, most of whom still own the horses. The four jumps in the course were friendly and set out in large lines. After a first round to get used to the course, the jumps were made higher.

Once again, it was Jochen Meyer, Allwörden, who took the victory. Last year, rider Hergen Forkert had already presented the Cabo Verde/Stakkato son Cabo Mad Jo with great skill and rode him to bronze at the Hannoveraner Spring Horse Championships in August. This year, it was his full sister Cobra Mad Jo who took the victory with a total score of 24.5. She impressed above all with her rideability, which clearly showed her good training. Her successful sons and daughters, led by the internationally successful Lucato Mad Jo by Ludwigs As, have helped her dam, St.Pr.St. Schnappi Mad Jo, to three stars in the Jumper Breeding Program. She herself won the free jumping competition in 2008 before going into breeding. The winner was delighted to receive a stud fee voucher from the Dirk Ahlmann stud in Reher.

Calicos PJ by Calido/Silvio was awarded silver, bringing Dr. Karl-Otto Jacobs and his daughter Dr. Bonny-Jasmin Jacobs their third ribbon of the day. This was a harbinger of things to come, with Annika Ebert riding Calicos PJ to victory and third place in show jumping competitions at the beginning of March. His dam, Sweet Salü, was also among the best of her crop in Verden at the age of three, finishing third, and is proving herself in breeding: She produced the premium stallion Calvio PJ, who is in the service of the Celle State Stud, and, in addition to six State and Hannoveraner premium mares, three successful show jumpers at advanced (S) level. These include St.Pr./Performance mare show jumping Cashmere PJ, who won the free jumping competition in 2013. After qualifying for the Bundeschampionat, the grey mare achieved placings up to 1.40 metres with Jan Junker.

With a tenth of a point behind, Highlight B by Highway M TN/Canstakko (breeder and owner: Wilfried Berg, Burgdorf) made it onto the podium in third place (24.0). Kilian Römmer presented the bay mare with great overview. She is a half-sister to the licensed stallion Cascalan by Carridam, who was placed in the Hannoveraner Show Jumping Championship in Elmlohe and passed his Sport Test Part II in Münster-Handorf in March this year as the best Hannoveraner.

The highest score among the five-year-old eventing horses was achieved by Granne by Gentleman/Avagon (breeder: Dr. Korinna Lemke, Aerzen) with breeder's daughter Lotta Lemke in the saddle (23.1). The second participant, Dorffjunge by Dialo/Cardenio (breeder: Annica Lange, Walsrode, owner: Anna Dralle, Buchholz) with Josephine Tuchscheerer, achieved a score of 22.6.

"We recognize the situation," summarized Hergen Forkert, Board Member Show Jumping: "The test for the four-year-olds is very early, but we will stick to this system. Some of the participating horses have already performed well in competitions since then." ✂

### Three-years of age

#### 1. class

1. **Golden Moment M** by Grey Top/Comte  
B. a. o.: Peter Mahler, Neuhaus/Oste (26,3)
2. **Kanduro** by Kannan/Perigueux  
B.: Kurt-Heinrich Böttcher, Brüninghorstedt  
Owner: Carsten Böttcher, Brüninghorstedt (25,9)
3. **Corline KRH** by Cornet's Quaprice/Gibraleon  
B. a. o.: Karl-Henning Rollwage, Bockenem (25,4)
4. **Cielo LW** by Comme il faut NRW/Graf Grannus  
Breeder and owner: Sportpferdezucht Lardin & Westphal, Isernhagen (25,2)
5. **Dua Lipa** by Diamant de Semilly/Toulon  
Breeder and owner: Susanne Fricke, Uetze (24,9)

#### 2. Abteilung

1. **Crushed Ice PJ** by Carridam/Grey Top

Breeder and owner: Pferdezucht Dr. Jacobs GbR, Bierbergen (26,2)

2. **For Candy PJ** by Forlee/Cassus  
B. a. o.: Dr. Jacobs GbR, Bierbergen (25,8)
3. **Casina Sahne** by Casino Berlin/Acolito  
Breeder and owner: Otto Krone, Söhlde (25,3)
4. **Jallah** by Jasper/Contendro  
Breeder and owner: Deborah Johannhardt, Bruchhausen-Vilsen (25,1)
4. **Chakira** by Chaccoon Blue/Salito  
Breeder: Kurt-Heinrich Böttcher, Brüninghorstedt  
Owner: Carsten Böttcher, Brüninghorstedt (25,1)

#### Five-years of age (eventers)

1. **Granne** by Gentleman/Avagon  
Breeder: Dr. Korinna Lemke, Aerzen  
Owner: Lotta Lemke, Aerzen (23,1)

2. **Dorffjunge** by Dialo/Cardenio  
Breeder: Annica Lange, Walsrode  
Owner: Anna Dralle, Buchholz (22,6)

#### Four-years of age (suitability class)

1. **Cobra Mad Jo** by Cabo Verde/Stakkato  
Breeder and owner: Jochen Meyer, Allwörden (24,5)
2. **Calicos PJ** by Calido/Silvio  
B. a. o.: Dr. Jacobs GbR, Bierbergen (24,1)
3. **Highlight B** by Highway M TN/Canstakko  
Breeder and owner: Wilfried Berg, Burgdorf (24,0)
4. **Ermakova** by Emerald van het Ruytershof/Cormint  
Breeder: Christopher Dittmann, Nienhagen  
Owner: Andre Apelt, Adelheidsdorf (23,9)
5. **Caydence CG** by Cornet's Quaprice/Cascadello  
B. a. o.: Dr. Cord Gaus, Adelheidsdorf (23,8)





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# BIG GUNS IN WINDSOR AND MADRID

*While Commissar Pezi and Martin Fuchs won the King's Cup in Windsor, Chao Lee and Katrin Eckermann took victory in the Spanish equivalent, the Copa S.M. El Rey, in Madrid on the same weekend.*

*By Britta Züngel*

## SHOW JUMPING



### HANN.PR.ST. BALOUBETS ROSE DREE BOEKEN

On the last day of the CSI3\* Nancy/FRA, Hann. Pr.St. Baloubets Rose Dree Boeken, born in 2015, by Baloubet du Rouet/Darco/Stakkato Gold (dam line of Algave, breeder: Arend Kamphorst, Prieros) and Marcus Ehning won the gold ribbon in the accumulator competition.

### BELLA PS

Bella PS by Messenger/Contendros/Conterno Grande (breeder: Gestüt Lewitz, Mühlen) and Antonia Andersson had never won a Grand Prix before.

re. In Martofte/DEN, the moment finally arrived: the 11-year-old and her Swedish rider emerged victorious in a 1.55-metre class.

### BALOUTINA HB

In the first week of the Easter Tour at Sentower Park in Opglabbeek/BEL, Baloutina HB by Balou du Rouet/Stakkato/Grannus (dam line of Nokadere, breeder: Heinrich Bremer, Nöpke) and Katharina Offel led the lap of honor in the final for seven- and eight-year-olds.

### VHS BASTION

Born in Ukraine, VHS Bastion by Ballybo/Valentino/Conteur (dam line of Jenny, breeder: Brech, Brech/UKR), celebrated victory in a two-phase jumping competition at the CSI2\* Glinik Zaborowski/POL with Tomasz Miskiewicz.

### CALEYA (RHLD.)

At the CSI2\* Lier/BEL, Jordy van Massenhove rode his Calido/Lancer II/Renoir daughter Caley (dam line of Erlenklette, breeder: Sjaak Bindels, Siebengewald/NED) to victory.

### CARRACIO

18-year-old Mafalda Schröder celebrated a victory in the EY Cup Grand Prix qualifier at the CSIU25-A Stadl Paura/AUT with her three-year-younger Carracio by Calido/For Pleasure/Wittelsbach (dam line of Jabita, breeder: Dr. Ernst Grimmelmänn, Bücken).

### CASH ROYAL

In week II of the Toscana Tour II, Cash Royal by Carrico/Uccello/Contendro (dam line of Blenna,



*"The King's Cup" in Windsor for Commissar Pezi by Commissario/Lord Pezi and Martin Fuchs. Photo: PM*



breeder: Karl Döring, Schlitz-Queck) and Francesca Cieresi secured the gold ribbon in a two-phase show jumping competition.

## CARACOLES

The Chacco-Blue/Lifestyle/Acordplus son Caracoles (breeder: Heinrich Aarnink, Nordhorn) was anything but slow in the first qualifier (1.50 metres) for the Grand Prix of the CSI4\* Gorla Minore/ITA. The bay, whose name is the Spanish word for "snails", won the competition with Swiss rider Jean-Maurice Brahier in the saddle by more than a second.

## CASPER DE LUXE (VA)

With a flawless performance, Casper de Luxe by Cassus/Conteur/Werther (dam line of Naliza, breeder: ZG Zwingmann and Richwien, Dingelstädt) with Álvaro González de Zarate Fernandez won the Grand Prix qualifier at the CSI3\* Oliva/ESP. On Easter Sunday, he added the victory in the two-phase jumping competition.

## CATO BOY

Cato Boy by Commissario/Lord Pezi/Fly High (dam line of Ambella, breeder: Johannes zur Lage, Bersenbrück), full brother to Martin Fuchs' Commissar Pezi, and Shane Breen had reason to celebrate at Hamburg's Derby Park. The pair took victory in the ranking show jumping (1.50 metres) on Thursday evening.

## CASIO HE

Right at their first start at the CSI25 in Lier/BEL, Casio HE by Canstakko/Beg xx/Ramiro (breeder: Karl-Werner and Heike Heimrich, Hünfeld-Nüst) and Charlotte Höing crowned their performance with a victory in the two-phase special jumping competition of the Medium Tour.

## MERLLYN'S CHACCO B

In week two of the Spring Mediterranean Equestrian Tour IV in Oliva/ESP, the big moment arrived for Merlyn's Chacco B (dam line of Weissa, breeder: Bernhard Wendelken, Brundorf), son of Chacco-Blue/Contendro/Espri. The 16-year-old won a speed jumping class in the Gold Tour with Iwan Carpenter.

*In Madrid, Chao Lee by Comme il faut/Chacco-Blue and Katrin Eckermann won the "Copa S.M. El Rey".*

*Photo: LGCT*







The German team secured the "home victory" at the Nations Cup in Mannheim. Among them: Toys by Toulon/Quidam de Revel and Jörne Sprehe. Photo: Lafrentz

## CHAO LEE (RHLD.)

"She is an incredible horse, we couldn't be prouder as a family to be her breeders – she gives her all in every course," said Katrin Eckermann happily. She won the prestigious "Copa S.M. El Rey" (1.50 metres) at the CSI5\* GCT/GCL Madrid/ESP with her Chao Lee by Comme il faut/Chacco-Blue/Kannan (dam line of Schliesserin, breeder: Otmar Eckermann, Kranenburg).

## CHUCK BERRY

Chuck Berry by Chacco-Blue/Watzmann/Arsenik (dam line of Steinreiche, breeder: Wiebke Borchers, Sulingen) and Olivia Chowdry were among the winners of a 1.40-metre jumping competition in the Big Tour of the CSI1\* Kessel/NED.

## COMMISSAR PEZI

Only one pair remained clear in "The King's Cup" (1.55 metres) in Windsor/GBR: the Commissario/Lord Pezi/Fly High son Commissar Pezi (dam line of Ambella, breeder: Johannes zur Lage, Bersenbrück) and Martin Fuchs. With this magnificent performance, they led the high-class field of starters.

## COUNT ME IN

After a two-month break from competition, Count Me In by Count Grannus/Sherlock Holmes/Mahon (dam line of Maritim, breeder: Friedrich Lüßmann, Neustadt) returned to action in mid-May at the

CSI4\* Vancouver-Langley/CAN and won the opening show jumping competition with Conor Swail.

## CUBI CUBELLS

The fastest in the second qualifier (1.50 metres) for the Grand Prix of Mannheim/GER were Cubi Cubells by Comme il faut NRW/Julio Mariner xx/Wanderer (Alferate, breeder: Uta Rosemann, Münster) and Richard Vogel.

## CORNETS IBERIO

A two-tenths lead was enough for Cornets Iberio by Cornet Obolensky/Iberio/Acorado (dam line of Steingilde, breeder: Heinrich Ramsbrock, Bottorf) and Denis Lynch to win the Grand Prix of the CSI2\* Kronenberg/NED.

## C-WILLIE

C-Willie was among the winners at the CSI4\* Arezzo/ITA. The Cardento/Stakkato/Calypso II son (dam line of Schutzsiegel, breeder: Claudio Acerbi, Gavazzana/ITA) won a class on faults and time with Filippo Marco Bologni.

## IRON DAMES CYDELLO

New name, new rider: Until now, Cydello by Cascadello/Forsyth/Espri (dam line of Arma, breeder: Christof Schörnig, Dreieich) had been highly successful with Richard Vogel. The chestnut horse ce-

lebrated an impressive seven Grand Prix victories in the past two years. Now the nine-year-old is called Iron Dames Cydello and is ridden by Katrin Eckermann. And with great success: the pair won a 1.55-metre class at the CSIO5\* Rome/ITA.

## DILLINGER NE (BHHS)

Dillinger NE by Diarado/Carismo/Grafenstein (dam line of Jabita, breeder: Roslyn Palmer, Littleton-Upon-Severn/GBR) and Mark Edwards jumped to victory in a class against the clock at the CSI2\* Chard/GBR.

## GOLDENEYE

In Martofte/DEN, the Danes won the Nations Cup (1.50 metres). GoldenEye by Goldfever/Stakkato Gold/Vulkano (dam line of Algave, breeder: Arend Kamphorst, Prieros) and Caro Rehoff Pedersen contributed significantly to the triumph in front of their home crowd with two clear rounds.

## KOMET

Last year, the Kannan/Quidam/Werther son Komet (dam line of Irmela, breeder: Marius Rittstieg, Seeburg) was still competing with Italian rider Stefano Nogara, but now Sophie Hinner has taken over the nine-year-old. The young rider, who is currently riding a wave of success, celebrated her first victory in a two-phase special jumping competition at the Peelbergen Equestrian Center in Kronenberg/NED.

## LET'S GO FZ (VA)

Let's Go FZ by Lord Fauntleroy/Stakkato/Escudo (dam line of Schneiderin, breeder: Manfred Schäfer, Köchingen) led the field in a 1.40 metre class at the CSI4\* Arezzo/ITA on the first weekend in April with Giacomo Casadei. Just one week later, she won a jumping competition on faults and time at the two-star CSI.

## MESBALOU PS

One of the best seven-year-olds at the CSIYH 1\* Montefalco/ITA was Mesbalou PS by Messenger/Balou du Rouet/Widolan (dam line of Lucille, breeder: Gestüt Lewitz, Mühlen). He triumphed with Christian Marini in the second qualifier of the Youngster Tour.

## PALINA KEEPS ZL

In the jumping competition with a winning round at the CSI2\* Busto Arsizio/ITA, Palina Keeps ZL by



Plot Blue/Chacco-Blue/For Keeps (dam line of Suddette, breeder: Dr. Jürgen Lehner, Müggendorf) and Francesco Turturiello took the honors. They stopped the clock just under three seconds ahead of the competition.

## PALINA DE L'ESCAUT

The results of the CSI3\* Temecula/USA report the victory of the Perigueux/Gardeulan/Lemon xx daughter Palina de l'Escaut (Aguna, breeder: Rolf Knüppel, Jork) and Kaitlin Campbell in a jumping competition on faults and time.

## PLOT GREEN

With a lead of over a second, Plot Green by Plot Blue/Graf Top/Pablo (dam line of Nab, breeder: Susanne Brinkmeyer, Bad Zwischenahn) and Germany's Leonie Pander won the U25 Grand Prix in Lier/BEL.

## SANCHEZ K

It was Easter for Sanchez K in Compiègne/FRA. The son of Stolzenberg/Ludwig von Bayern/Landadel (dam line of Allerweltsfrau, breeder: Martin Klintworth, Ohrensen) won the two-phase special jumping competition on Easter Saturday with Magnus Schmidt in the saddle.

## SOLIDAT

Solidat by Semper Fi/Chacco-Blue/Grannus (breeder: Wilhelm Ovelhey, Isernhagen) and Rodrigo Giesteira Almeida from Portugal won a jumping competition on faults and time at the CSI03\* Lier/BEL with a lead of over five seconds.

## QUAID CASIO

The fourth winner with a Hannoveraner foal branding at the CSI4\* Arezzo/ITA at the beginning of April was Quaid Casio (breeder: Staj Mustang, Lucina/CZE), a son of Quaid/Cassini II/Stakkato. He won a two-phase special jumping competition with Marek Lewicki. Next stop: the CSI2\* Busto Arsizio/ITA. There, too, the ten-year-old won a gold ribbon. Quaid Casio's breeder, the renowned Staj Mustang stud, secured the bay's dam at a foal auction almost 20 years ago.

## QUANTA FORTUNA

Only eight years old and already a Grand Prix winner: At the CSI2\* Lisbon/POR, the Qualito/Carismo/Wagner daughter Quanta Fortuna (breeder: Barbara Biel, Klein-Gusborn) and Ricardo Gil San-



*Diallo by Dancier/Floriscourt son and Jessica von Bredow-Werndl celebrated their first international victory at the highest level in Hagen. Five weeks later, their first double victory followed in Munich-Riem. Photo: Lafrentz*

tos won the Grand Prix – and that in their first international 1.45 metre start. The bay mare's career began as an eventing horse with Elmar Lesch in the saddle.

## ST.PR.ST. QUI RIT PJ

The results of the Grand Prix qualifiers in the second week of the CSIO Youth Tour in Opglabbeek/BEL saw a victory for 15-years old St.Pr.St. Qui Rit PJ by Quintender/Escudo/Calypso II (Schwersella, breeder: Pferdezucht Dr. Jacobs GbR, Bierbergen) and two years older rider Leon Hänni from Switzerland in the two-phase special jumping competition of the Big Tour.

## TOYS (VA)

To the cheers of the crowd, the German team won the Nations Cup in Mannheim/GER after an exciting jump-off. Also taking part were privately owned stallion Toys by Toulon/Quidam de Revel/Argentinus (breeder: Heinrich Wecke, Stadthagen) and Jörne Sprehe.

## HANN.PR.ST. ZASOU VOM CLAASHOF

For the first time, Hann.Pr.St. Zasou vom Claashof by Zinedine/Lord Z/Weinberg (breeder: Dr. Stephan Hinrichs, Kampen) and Abdel Saïd/BEL led the field of participants in an international competition. The venue for this success was the CSI4\* Montefalco/ITA in Umbria.

## DRESSAGE



## BELLENA

There was no getting past her at the CDI4\* Ocala/USA: Bellena by Belissimo M/Welser/Diadem (breeder: Hans Richelshagen, Brockel) won the Grand Prix and freestyle with Benjamin Ebeling. Five weeks later, at the same venue, with one star less, the pair once again topped the Grand Prix and freestyle winners' lists.

## BENICIA

The victory of the Benicio/St. Moritz/His Highness daughter Benicia (dam line of Majorin, breeder: Fun-Dressage-GbR, Bad Homburg) and Suraya Hendriks in the Prix St. George was followed by a victory in the freestyle at the CDI1\* Aachen/GER.

## BODYGUARD (VA)

The best in the FEI team test for young riders in Stadl Paura/AUT were Bodyguard by Burlington/Pik L./Grande (dam line of Nigretti, breeder: ZG Frieling, Balge) and Florentina Jöbstl.

## GRACE DI FONTEABETI

Unbeatable in the junior team competition at the CDIJ St. Margarethen/AUT were Grace Di Fonteabeti by Franklin/Royal Classic/Stedinger (dam line



Just like three years ago, fischerChipmunk FRH by Contendro/Heraldik xx and Michael Jung won the five-star event in Kentucky with a record score. Photo: Lafrentz/Archive

of Idria, breeder: Società Agricola Allevamento Fonteabete, Sansepolcro Arezzo/ITA) and Mina Felicitas Simeone, who only entered the international arena in January this year. Grace's dam was discovered by Italian breeders at the Verden Foal Auction.

## DESTACADO FRH (VA)

At the CDI05\* Compiègne/FRA, the brilliant performance of Destacado FRH by Desperados/Londonderry/Falkland (dam line of Sadea, breeder: Heinrich Gießelmann, Barver) and Matthias Alexander Rath in the Grand Prix Special was rewarded with the gold ribbon. This laid the foundation for Germany's victory in the Nations Cup standings.

## DANCELLI

Dancelli by Dante Weltino/Baroncelli/Grand Cru (dam line of Jumga, breeder: Hubertus Hufendiek, Bad Salzuflen) and Beatrice Hoffrogge won the Prix St. George and Inter I in Aachen/GER.

## DANCIERO (VA)

His list of achievements is impressive: premium stallion, Weltmeyer Prize winner and World Champion of seven-year-old dressage horses: at the CDI2\* Tolbert/NED, the Dancier/Floriscourt/Ras-

calino son Danciero (breeder: ZG Boers und Weber, Aurich) won the Inter II with Anna Toosbuy Rasch.

## DENEUVE (RHLD.)

In Isabell Werth's stable, Deneuve by Den Haag/Rocketstar/Pilot (breeder: Peter Schweimanns, Nettetel) has reached the highest level of training. In her first international start, the eleven-year-old won her first Grand Prix Special in her young career at the CDI3\* Lier/BEL.

## DIALLO (VA)

Diallo by Dancier/Floriscourt/Warkant (dam line of Jucking, breeder: Margret and Hermann Hasseler, Hollen) and Jessica von Bredow-Wernd crowned their international debut at the CDI3\* Hagen/GER with victory in the Grand Prix Special. They then went on to Munich-Riem/GER, where the pair celebrated their first double victory to the cheers of the crowd. The ten-year-old has been trained and presented by Jasmin Schaudt and Uta Gräf.

## DON VITO MH (NZHS)

Three starts – three victories: it couldn't be better. The Don Frederico/Anamour/Weltmeyer son Don Vito MH (dam line of Delfina, breeder: Matthews Hanoverians, Awanui/NZL) won the Grand Prix,

Special and Freestyle at the CDI3\* Sydney/AUS with Wendi Williamson.

## DJANGO

The Desperados/Fürst Heinrich/Warkant son Django (dam line of Afenda, breeder: Ilse-Luise Moormann-Kreit, Lastrup) competed for Slovakia at the CDIY St. Margarethen/AUT. With Zoya Leddecka, the bay achieved the highest score in the individual test.

## FIRST CHOICE B (RHLD.)

Victory in the Prix St. George in Gössendorf/AUT went to the Fidertanz/Rubiloh/Ehrentusch son First Choice B (breeder: ZG Butkus, Overath) and Spaniard Victor Alfonso Pomares.

## FLYNN FRH (VA)

After his Olympic appearance in Paris with the Belgian rider Flore de Winne, the Fahrenheit/Sir Oldenburg/Davignon son Flynn FRH (breeder: Anton Muhr, Bad Rappenau) was sold to Switzerland. He is now competing with the 22-year-old Tallulah Lynn Nater, who already has an FRH horse in her stable in Quando Unico. In Stadl-Paura/AUT, the young combination was unbeatable in the U25 Grand Prix. Five weeks later, the pair celebrated a triple victory in all three U25 rider competitions at the CDI0U25 in Lier/BEL with personal bests.

## QUARTAR (VA)

For Spain, the Quantensprung/Laurentio/Weltmeyer son Quartar (breeder: Ralf Zierke, Braunschweig) competed at the CDI3\* Tolbert/NED and danced his way to victory in the Grand Prix freestyle with Juan Antonio Jimenez Cobo.

## QUIZMASTER FRH (VA)

In Hagen/GER, Quizmaster FRH by Quasar de Charry/Velten Third/Argument (dam line of Favora, breeder: Klaus Küver, Wohlenbeck) and Frederic Wandres danced to a double victory in Prix St. George and Inter I.

## SIESTA KEY

A new name on the international sport pages: Siesta Key. The Scuderia/Scolari/Davignon daughter (dam line of Claudia, breeder: Ingo Pape, Hemmoor) won the FEI team competition at the CDIY St. Margarethen/AUT with Austrian rider Oskar Ochsenhofer.



## JETSET FRH

Jetset FRH by Johnson/Beltoni/Dacaprio (breeder: Nina Sixtensson, Köping/SWE) and Mia Sanna Walser from Switzerland won the individual test for juniors in Stadl Paura/AUT with confidence.

## VICOMTE DE REYVES

At the CDI1\* in Aachen/GER, Vicomte de Reyves by Viscount/Don Juan/Elimal xx (dam line of Flottwina, breeder: Werner Strohsahl, Neuenkirchen) entered the winners' lists. The dark bay achieved the best score in the Inter I with Jorinde Verwimp.

## VITA DI LUSO (RHLD.)

Selina Söder competed internationally for the first time with Vita di Lusso by Vitalis/Weltano/Archipel (dam line of Magadis, breeder: Yeguda De Ymas, Madrid/ESP) and crowned her debut with a victory in the Inter II class at the CDI25 Stadl Paura/AUT. Vita di Lusso's dam, Valencia, was once sold at the Elite Auction as a riding horse to Spain. Vita di Lusso has been presented by Dinja van Liere and has been a member of the Dutch Nations Cup

team several times – most recently in Aachen/GER, where he achieved the best result for Oranje.

## ZONIK PLUS (RHLD.)

At the CDIO4\* in Lier, Belgium, Zonik Plus by Zonik/Hohenstein/Donnerhall (dam line of Annmarie, breeder: Dressage Plus, Amadora/POR) was the horse to beat. The nine-year-old and his rider Justin Verboomen not only secured Belgium's victory in the Nations' Cup ahead of the German quartet with first place in the Grand Prix, but also danced their way to gold in the freestyle.

## EVENTING



## FISCHERCHIPMUNK FRH

The reigning Olympic champions fischerChipmunk FRH by Contendro/Heraldik xx/Ramiro (dam line of Farina, breeder: Dr. Hilmer Meyer-Kulenkampff, Behlmer) and Michael Jung have won the prestigious five-star competition in Lexington, USA, for the second time. This victory – Michael Jung's 13<sup>th</sup> five-star victory, only William Fox-Pitt has won more – was achieved with the lowest score ever recorded in Kentucky and was worth US\$130,000.

## CALLFIELD

The Canstakko/Heraldik xx/Kronenkränich xx-son Callfield (dam line of Ordalie, breeder: Claudia Hacker, Hamburg) added no further penalty points to his dressage score in the cross-country and show jumping, cantering to victory with Malin Hansen-Hotopp from Germany in the CCI3\* Strzegom/POL.

## MIGHTY SPRING FRH

At the top of the podium at the CSI4\*-S Sopot/POL were Mighty Spring FRH by Mighty Magic/Landclassic/Cashman (dam line of Stange, breeder: Jörg Bätje, Kranenburg) and Dr. Heike Jahncke.

## VERY SPECIAL

The Viscount/Nobre xx/Fabiano daughter Very Special (breeder: Ulrike Edel-Heidhues, Bad Harzburg) took advantage of a trip to Italy in Spring to claim victory. She won the CCI3\*-S Rome Tor die Quinto/ITA with Germany's Brandon Schäfer-Gehrau. 🐾

## FLORINIO: FROM AUCTION FOAL TO DERBY WINNER



Best rider – best horse: Florinio by Floriscount/Don Vino and Anna-Lena Kracht took the lap of honour in Hamburg wearing the coveted Blue Ribbon of the Derby winner. Photo: Hellmann

The Floriscount/Don Vino son Florinio (breeder: Bernhard and Johannes Achter, Haren) and Anna-Lena Kracht sensationally won the German Dres-

sage Derby in Hamburg. Both the horse and the rider were the best in the final with horse change and achieved the highest score. The pair had made

their way to the final as winners of the Grand Prix. "Being in the final was a great success for me. It's indescribable to emerge as the winner here," said the rider.

Florinio's career began in 2010 at the Elite Foals and Broodmares Auction in Verden. At the age of four, he came to Anna-Lena Kracht, who trained him from riding horse tests to Grand Prix level. Eleven years ago, the 34-year-old from Groß-Steinrade stood on the podium of the German Dressage Derby in the U25 age group. At that time, she took second place with Hendrix, a son of His Highness/Regazzoni (breeder: Jörg Reyer, Nordleda).

The decision to participate in the Dressage Derby in Hamburg end of May was only made at the beginning of the year. "It's a very special experience," beamed dressage rider Anna-Lena Kracht. "Participating in the big derby and making it straight to the final was already a huge success for me. And now to come out as the happy winner is indescribable." Felix Kneese and San Simeon took second place in the derby final. Kristin Biermann completed the podium with Queensland. "The opportunity to ride two other Grand Prix horses in the final was very exciting and eventful. Both horses were great to ride," said the new winner of the coveted and prestigious Blue Ribbon. 🐾

# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSES ARE COMING HOME

*Verden will once again be the hub of the dressage world from 4 to 10 August. The FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for young horses return to its place of origin – where it all began in 1997 with a pilot project. Verden has already hosted this championship, which brings together the best five, six and seven-year-old dressage horses in the world, 17 times. And the World Championships are here to stay: Verden will also be the venue in 2026 and 2027.*

*By Britta Züngel*

“For the city Verden, but also for the horse region of northern Germany, it is a wonderful opportunity to showcase itself as the host of this important international championship,” says show director Ulrike Kubelke. „And of course for the Hannoveraner Verband as well. So many international horse owners, breeders, and riders never come together in one place. It’s a highlight for everyone!” More than 150 talented young riders from all over the world will be accommodated on the park-like show grounds. The main stadium with around 2,000 seats and numerous standing places will provide an atmospheric backdrop. Between the competitions, the exhibition area invites visitors to stroll around and enjoy a wide range of culinary delights.

The competition program is clearly focused: everything revolves around the World Championships. “We want to concentrate 100 percent on the World Championships,” explains Ulrike Kubelke. “No Grand Prix tour, no series – the young horses are the centre of attention.” All World Championship competitions – from the qualifiers to the finals – will be held in the main stadium. The event kicks off on Monday with the Herwart von der Decken Show, featuring the impressive family competition, which is only held every four years. The World Championship titles will then be awarded from Wednesday to Sunday. The program will be rounded off by the Hannoveraner Championships for three- and four-year-old riding horses. The champions will be crowned in the main stadium on Sunday morning, just before the big World Championship finals. A real showcase for Hannoveraner breeding.

For Monica Theodorescu, head trainer of the German dressage riders, the return of the World Championships to Verden is a real bonus: “I think it’s great that the World Championships are back in Verden for another three years, in the heart of German breeding,” she explains. “The World Championships are a special showcase – both in terms of sport and breeding.” Henning Lehrmann, international Grand Prix judge and World Championships judge in Verden, also emphasizes the importance of the championships: “Of course, you pay attention to whether a horse has the potential for competition at the highest level – whether it can carry weight, settle, and how its hind legs work. The perspective is crucial.” Judging at a World Championships for young horses requires a great deal of tact and sensitivity. “The biggest challenge is the score for suppleness. You have to decide in a short space of time whether a mistake was just a misunderstanding or indicates fundamental problems.” The comments after each ride are also a valuable aid for riders and spectators: “It helps immensely when the reasons for a horse’s score are explained.” Interestingly, according to Henning Lehrmann, judging an international Grand Prix is sometimes easier: “In the Grand Prix, there are specific lessons with clear evaluation points. At the World Championships for Young Horses, it’s often about the overall impression and

the development prospects – that requires a more nuanced approach.”

Verden is becoming a global platform – while remaining firmly rooted in regional breeding. The combination of international excellence and local pride gives the World Championships a special character. The Hannoveraner Verband’s hopes rest not only on strong hosting qualities, but also on possible medal winners from its own ranks.

For spectators, breeders, and horse lovers, a visit to the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses is a unique experience: top athletic performances, breeding prospects, and an atmosphere that is second to none. Between flying changes and judges’ comments, between foal parades and final rides, visitors to Verden will experience the future of dressage – already in impressive form today.

## ***Tickets and information***

The FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses will take place from August 6 to 10, 2025, at the show grounds on Lindhooper Straße in Verden. Tickets are now available on Ticketmaster. Early booking is recommended – because if you want to experience the world stars of tomorrow live, you should secure your place in the stadium. ✂







FEI™



# FEI WBFSH DRESSAGE WORLD BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG HORSES

**AUGUST 6 TO 10, 2025  
VERDEN**

Wednesday to Friday:

**WORLD BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

Qualifiers and Small Finals

5- to 7-year-old dressage horses

Friday to Sunday:

**HANNOVERANER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Riding horse classes for 3- and 4-year-old horses

Saturday to Sunday:

**WORLD BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

Finals of 5- to 7-year-old dressage horses

**Get your tickets now:**



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# PAESSENS'S PASSION

***Breeding an acclaimed premium stallion, becoming German amateur dressage champion in the saddle of a horse you bred and trained yourself, successfully riding up to Grand Prix level or receiving the Golden Riding Badge. Each and every one of these equestrian milestones is difficult to achieve and a dream come true for any horse lover.***

***Paul Paessens from Weeze has achieved not just one, but all of these successes!***

*By Juliane Koerner and Britta Züngel*

And yet the Rhinelander did not start riding particularly early or under particularly favorable circumstances. Paul Paessens was eleven years old when he discovered equestrian sports at the Weeze riding club in the Lower Rhine region. He started out in the traditional way, on the back of school horses. "But when I was 15, I stopped riding to concentrate on my apprenticeship as a farmer," he recalls. While still in training, he also started working on his parents' farm. „At that time, the farm was focused on pig breeding. I then gradually switched to boarding horses." His love for horses was already deeply rooted in him. So it was only natural that Paul Paessens got back in the saddle as soon as possible. "I bought a school master and a four-year-old gelding. I later competed successfully up to Inter I with Calvados. I quickly realized that if you want to ride successfully, you need to have good horses at your disposal. However, I didn't have the necessary funds to buy

such horses. So I started breeding myself!" To tackle the "breeding project," Paul Paessens bought the mare Dinova in 2003. The then seven-year-old Dinard L/Report daughter had already proven her sporting abilities two years earlier with Heiner Schiergen in the saddle, qualifying for the Bundeschampionat. Matched with the Rhineland stallion Fidermark, Dinova gave birth to the Rhineland-registered St.Pr.St. Forever Sunshine in 2004. One year later, Sir Sirius Black P by Sir Bedo was born at Paul Paessens's stud. The breeder was victorious with him up to Inter I in the arena. „Forever Sunshine, on the other hand, went straight into breeding. I had her covered by Dramatic when she was three years old. Her first foal, Don de Marco P, was born from this breeding in 2008," Paul Paessens explains proudly. It was Don de Marco who carried Paul Paessens to the German Amateur Championship title in 2018. As the winner of the qualifiers in Langenfeld, he traveled to Dagoberts-

hausen. "Despite the qualifying victory, my expectations weren't too high. To win a title like this, everything has to be just right." The victory at the German Amateur Championships has a very special meaning for Paul Paessens. This is because it meant that he had achieved all the necessary successes to be awarded the Golden Riding Badge! "However, I think my family and friends were almost more excited about this event than I was," reveals the passionate rider and breeder with a laugh. "I always say that you have to die even without a Golden Riding Badge. But of course I was happy and I'm also a little proud of this achievement." After winning ten S-level dressage competitions and achieving over 71 percent in his first and only Grand Prix freestyle, Don Marco earned his retirement at the age of 16. "His job now is to supervise and look after the young horses in the pasture," says Paul Paessens.

Paul Paessens' pride and joy: Don de Marco P with his dam St.Pr.St. Forever Sunshine.  
Photo: PEMAG



Paul Paessens runs his farm entirely on his own. In other words, he not only manages the entire boarding stable and everything that goes with it, but also cultivates his own fields and produces hay and straw. "When you have to haul 700 bales of straw, there's no time left for training or competitions," explains the farmer. And that's why he didn't defend his championship title. "In competition, you only have a good chance if you compete as much as possible. Apart from the fact that I don't want to expect my horses to compete every weekend, I simply don't have the time." Because his business comes first for Paul Paessens, that's very clear to him. "The boarding stable and breeding always come first. It's incredibly important to me to run my farm on my own. Because only then can I be sure that everything is really running the way I think it should. That starts with producing our own hay and straw and ends with grooming the dressage arena." Competitive riding, on the other hand, is a beloved hobby that he indulges in from time to time when he knows that everything else is perfectly taken care of.

But Paul Paessens has not only attracted attention as a rider with his home-bred and trained horses. He has also made a name for himself in the breeding scene, at least since the stallion licensing in Verden in 2018. That's where Vendôme, the son of Veneno/Fidertanz, made a name for himself. Paul





*The Veneno/Fidertanz son Vendôme was a premium stallion at the 2018 licensing. I St.Pr.St. Felina Salentin's Escaneno son was sold for 46,000 euros at the foal auction in Wickrath in 2023 (photo right). This year, her granddaughter India P by Iowa Gold/Escamillo was the winner of the dressage fillies at the VTV Foal Championships and was spontaneously sold at the subsequent auction for 16,000 euros. Photos: Bischoff, Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch*

Paessens bred him from his own St.Pr.St. Felina Salentin. Even as a foal, Vendôme impressed and aroused the interest of the Schult stud farm with his appealing type and powerful movements at the foal show. They made Paul Paessens an offer he couldn't refuse. Vendôme was sold to Helgstrand Dressage and finally presented at the licensing in Verden. The dark bay with powerful trot dynamics became a premium stallion in the Niedersachsenshalle. „It was never my ultimate goal to breed licensed stallions. But when one comes along and can really contribute to improving the breed, it's something special. The licensing decision and later the award were indescribably beautiful emotional moments that I have deeply rooted in my heart. Vendôme, who was named Valentino as a foal, showed signs of his correctness, elasticity, and gait from the very first day after his birth. He has never disappointed me,” says Paul Paessens. Two years after his licensing, Vendôme was awarded the Weltmeyer Prize after passing the 35-day test in Denmark. „Breeding a stallion like this is probably as rare as winning the lottery. Unfortunately, according to information from Team Helgstrand, he has already passed away,” says Paul Paessens. „Of course, I hope that I can achieve similar success with another colt, but not at any price. Personally, I would not resort to methods such as embryo transfer.”

In Paul Paessens' eyes, the key to success in horse breeding lies primarily with the mare. Vendôme's dam, St.Pr.St. Felina Salentin, was bred by Paul Paessens from St.Pr.St. Salice Salentin (breeder: ZG Mölko, Bedburg-Hau), who was made available to him by a fellow breeder. She is a represen-

tative of the Hollandine line, which also produced the Warendorf state stud horses Damenstolz and Parademarsch. „By breeding with a borrowed mare, I was able to broaden my own breeding program,” he explains. Once again, his choice of the right stallion fell on the coveted F bloodline. This breeding with Fidertanz produced St.Pr.St. Felina Salentin, who has already given her breeder twelve more foals in addition to Vendôme. „Both Felina Salentin and Forever Sunshine pass on a lot of spirit and a good gait and impress with their impeccable character. They are very people-oriented and uncomplicated. And on top of that, they are also beautiful,” enthuses Paul Paessens. The two are also the dams of his two current competition horses. Felina Salentin's son Falcao P by Fürst Romancier, born in 2018, is characterized by high rideability, excellent character, and very good basic gaits. The dam of Fire Fly P by Feedback, born in 2013, is St.Pr.St. Forever Sunshine. Although he has only been shown a few times, as Paul Paessens was unable to ride for a long time due to two serious accidents, he is placed up to S\* level and is currently being ridden by Carmen Elbers. She helps with the training of young horses in Weeze.

„The stallion I choose for my mares has to appeal to me overall. I always ask myself whether I would enjoy riding the stallion myself. As with Veneno, I often tend towards young stallions who have not yet proven themselves in competition. However, it is important to me that I have seen the stallion in person. Only then can I decide whether the breeding could be a good match,” says Paul Paessens. „I believe that many breeders are impressed by

spectacular movement mechanics and perhaps do not always recognize the correct aids, or do not question a stiff back or a fixed neck.” Since the merger of the Hannoveraner Verband and the riding horses of the Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch in 2015, Paul Paessens has had his foals registered as Hannoveraner: „As a Rhineland breeder, it is important to have a strong partner at your side!” His breeding goal is a very rideable dressage horse that can be ridden by anyone. „Nevertheless, I don't want to breed yes-men. My horses should be self-confident, but still have a good work ethic. Like Sir Sirius Black and Don de Marco, for example!”

Dressage has come under criticism worldwide. One fundamental problem is that many people have lost touch with reality. „On the one hand, there are 'unfair' training methods and, on the other, the desire to use measuring templates to judge whether a horse is being ridden correctly,” says Paul Paessens. „Every rider makes mistakes and has to make mistakes in order to learn. And to learn and feel what is wrong and what is right in the correct training of a horse. But now, no one is allowed to make mistakes anymore because everything is torn apart thanks to social media. Twenty years ago, it was still a challenge in a positive sense to ride a good test and place with a horse that was rather difficult in terms of character or moderate basic gaits. Today, that would be unthinkable given the hateful comments and denunciations on social media. My tip: stick to the classic training method and use your own judgement to assess the horse's suppleness and contentment!” ㄹ

## AUSTRALIA: SECRET ALSO INSPIRES "DOWN UNDER"

The registration trip of the Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia took place in February. The overall impression: breeding is carried out at a high level. The breeders are very committed and, in addition to interesting stallions based in Australia, they also like to use top sires from Europe. Ultimately, the same stallions prevail as in Europe. This was particularly noticeable in the case of Secret, who had already caused a hype in Australia in 2017 when a video of him went viral. One of his daughters was awarded the title of best horse of the registration trip this year, regardless of age and gender. This was the three-year-old Remi Scandalous by Secret/Lauries As, who was anything but scandalous. She was the best three-year-old in the studbook inspection and the mare with the highest scores in the mare performance test. Her highlights under the saddle were an outstanding canter and the highest rideability scores. The black mare, who had only been under saddle for two months, also impressed with her composure and confidence. The mare is bred and owned by Cheryl O'Brien. Her Remi Stud in Queensland has been shaping Hanoveraner breeding in Australia for decades.

At the stud's foal show, which takes place every year as part of an open house and attracts numerous visitors, 23 foals were presented. Among them were the highest-rated Hanoveraner foals of the tour: The best colt was by Remi Braveheart out of the outstanding Borsalino/Locksley II daughter Remi Bodacious, who was the best mare of the 2024 registration tour. The full sister of this colt won the filly class and was among a group of three fillies with the highest scores of the tour. The other two fillies were SF Diorissimo

by Franklin/Don Schufro (breeder and owner: Sable Farm) and Black Sterling Donvier by Donnier/Vitalis (breeder and owner: Silvana Di Teodoro). Both class winners were from the first foal crop of Remi Braveheart, a stallion by Bon Coeur/De Niro, who was bred by Cheryl O'Brien herself and whose foals impressed with their outstanding movements. It is remarkable that another home-bred stallion is active at Remi Stud and is performing convincingly in competition as a dressage horse at advanced (S) level: Remy Vigneron by Viscount/Lanthan, whose second dam is a Thoroughbred mare. Remi Stud also presented the highest-rated mare family, three daughters of the De Niro daughter Remi's Destiny Child: Remi Quintessence by Quaterback, Remi Fidertanzerin by Fidertanz and Remi Borsalina by Borsalino, bred and owned by Cheryl O'Brien.

The best four-year-olds were Springside Santa Rita by Sir Donnerhall/Londonderry (owner: Daniel Ash) and Victoria Total Wymys by Wynton/Vitalis (owner: Gemma Leef, Western Australia). Jazdan Totally Decadent by Total Hope/Ferro (owner: Kylie Strain, Victoria) and Embrook Lotus by Lauries As/Lanthan (owner: Emily Bradley, Queensland) received the highest ratings among the five-year-olds. There was a separate classification for the Rhineland foals. The best colt was Bellaire Inferno by Iron/Fürst Wilhelm (breeder: Georgina Foot, Victoria). Among the fillies, the Escaneno/Fidertanz daughter Borderview Evanesce (breeder: Gina Duggan, New South Wales) was particularly impressive. The five-year-old Total Secrecy by Secret/Zonik (breeder: Michelle Williams, owner: Deborah Carr, Victoria) was selected as the best Rhineland mare.

At a licensing event at Salisbury Equestrian Farm near Melbourne, the four-year-old Vittorio III by Vitalis/Ampere, full brother to the six-year-licensed Vittorio I, impressed the judges. Like so many Vitalis offspring, Vittorio III impressed with three good basic gaits, among which his canter stood out, very good rideability, and an excellent work attitude. The owner and breeder is David Shoobridge, who recently became the chairperson of the Australian Hanoveraner Verband.

In Australia, only stallions that are presented under saddle can be presented for licensing. The assessment is confirmed by a test rider. Also presented at this event was the four-year-old Oldenburg First Edition by For Romance/Spielberg (owner: Justine Greer), who was sold to Australia as a two-year-old at the 2023 Verden Stallion Sales. He was not presented for licensing, but rather to confirm the results of his licensing in Verden by participating in a performance test. He impressed with his good rideability.

### Gold foal

A total of 163 horses were registered as Hanoveraner or Rhineland. The coveted "Gold Foal" title was awarded 33 times, and 44 foals received a silver medal. The criteria for awarding the medals – which vary considerably between dressage and show jumping foals – are clearly defined. The introduction of an additional category for eventing foals is being discussed in Australia. This is certainly justified, as eventing is very popular in Australia and the percentage of thoroughbreds among Hanoveraner and Rhineland foals is higher than in Germany. Several foals were presented that would have been very well suited to an eventing category.

The Hanoveraner Horse Society of Australia is making great efforts to register show jumping foals, but is encountering a certain indifference among show jumping breeders regarding the registration process. Borderview Boomerang by Bentley van de Heffinck/Vivant van de Heffinck (breeder and owner: Gina Duggan, New South Wales) was awarded a gold medal. Among the registered mares, the 23-year-old Fieldbrook Corunia by Contendro/Landfürst (breeder: Günter Grove, Engelschoff), who competed in the World Cup in Australia with Jeff Evans, was particularly impressive at an event in South Australia. A total of 61 mares were accepted into the Hanoveraner and Rhineland studbooks.

In addition to Dr. Ludwig Christmann, the judges included Meg Williams, who flew in from the USA and was a member of the licensing commission, as well as Kaitlin Colless and Kevin Lewis from Australia. ✂



"Horse of the tour": Remi Scandalous by Secret/Lauries As. Photo: Private



## NEW ZEALAND: IMPRESSIVE COMMITMENT

In February, Bo Eitenmüller made his first trip as a guest judge to the registration tour of the New Zealand daughter society. This year, only the North Island of New Zealand was visited. Around 60 foals and 30 mares were registered at various farms. New Zealand is a special country where horses can be kept outdoors all year round. Most of the foals are descended from European stallions thanks to the use of deep-frozen semen. Breeders in New Zealand go to great lengths to breed Hanoverian horses. The commitment of those responsible for the daughter society is also very impressive.

Four mares received special awards for sport performance. Leading the way was EM Fanfare by Fürstenball/Dancier (breeder and owner: Matthews Hannoverians), who was herself successful at Prix St. George level. With her sister Felize MH by Fürstenball and her daughter Trintiy by Totilas, she was named best dressage family. Just a few weeks later, EM Fanfare passed away. Other sport performance mares included LA Fonteyn by Littorio/Golden Elder xx (owner: Paxton Conder), who was successful in 1.30 metre show jumping, and the Holstein eventing mare Amy Lee by Favoritas/Latino (owner: Jenna Cann-Chloe Reese Sport Horses) and Kinnordy Golda by Gymnastik Star/Daktylus (breeder: David and Julie Brougham, owner: Lynley and Madison Schollum), who was successful in M-level show jumping.

It was particularly pleasing that seven mare families were presented, four dressage and three show jumping families. The best dressage family was the aforementioned EM Fanfare family (breeder and owner: Judith Matthews). The best jumping family was the Hazel NZPH family by Kannan/Quintus with her daughters Nutmeg NZPH by Comme Fu



*Glamour Doll by Glamourdale/Wolkentanz II was awarded the "Patricia Dalrymple Trophy". Photo: Eitenmüller*

and Peanut NZPH by Petrus de Brandegem. The number of jumping breeders and registered jumping foals has increased significantly compared to previous years. The best jumping mare of the tour was Gladstone ECPH by Grand Slam/Picarla (breeder and owner: East Coast Performance), and the best dressage mare was dJV Fürstin Desire by Fürstenball/Dacaprio (owner: Lynley Schollum). The winner of the "Patricia Dalrymple Trophy" and thus the best foal of the tour was the foal KP Glamour Doll by Glamourdale/Wolkentanz (breeder and owner: Darcy Morgan and Hurae White), whose dam Wenke was imported. Best colt: SF Global Sensation by Global Hope/Ibiza (breeder: Nikita O'Donnell), best Hanoverianer filly: KP Glamour

Doll by Glamourdale/Wolkentanz (breeder: Darcy Morgan), best Rhineland colt: Evolution DW by Elastic/Revolution (breeder: David Woolley), best Rhineland filly: Iconic DW by Ibiza/Johnson (breeder: David Woolley), best Hanoverian jumping filly: Balmoral Sophia by Solid Gold/Elias van de Heffinck (breeder: Anna Stokes and Sim Kann), best Hanoverian jumping colt: Picasso NZPH by Contendro/Kannan (breeder: NZ Performance Horses), best Rhineland jumping filly: Balmoral Eloise by Ermitage Kalone/Lordanos (breeder: Anna Stokes and Sim Kann) and best Rhineland jumping colt: Glastonbury CSH by Diarado/Numero Uno (breeder: Kellie Penny). ✂

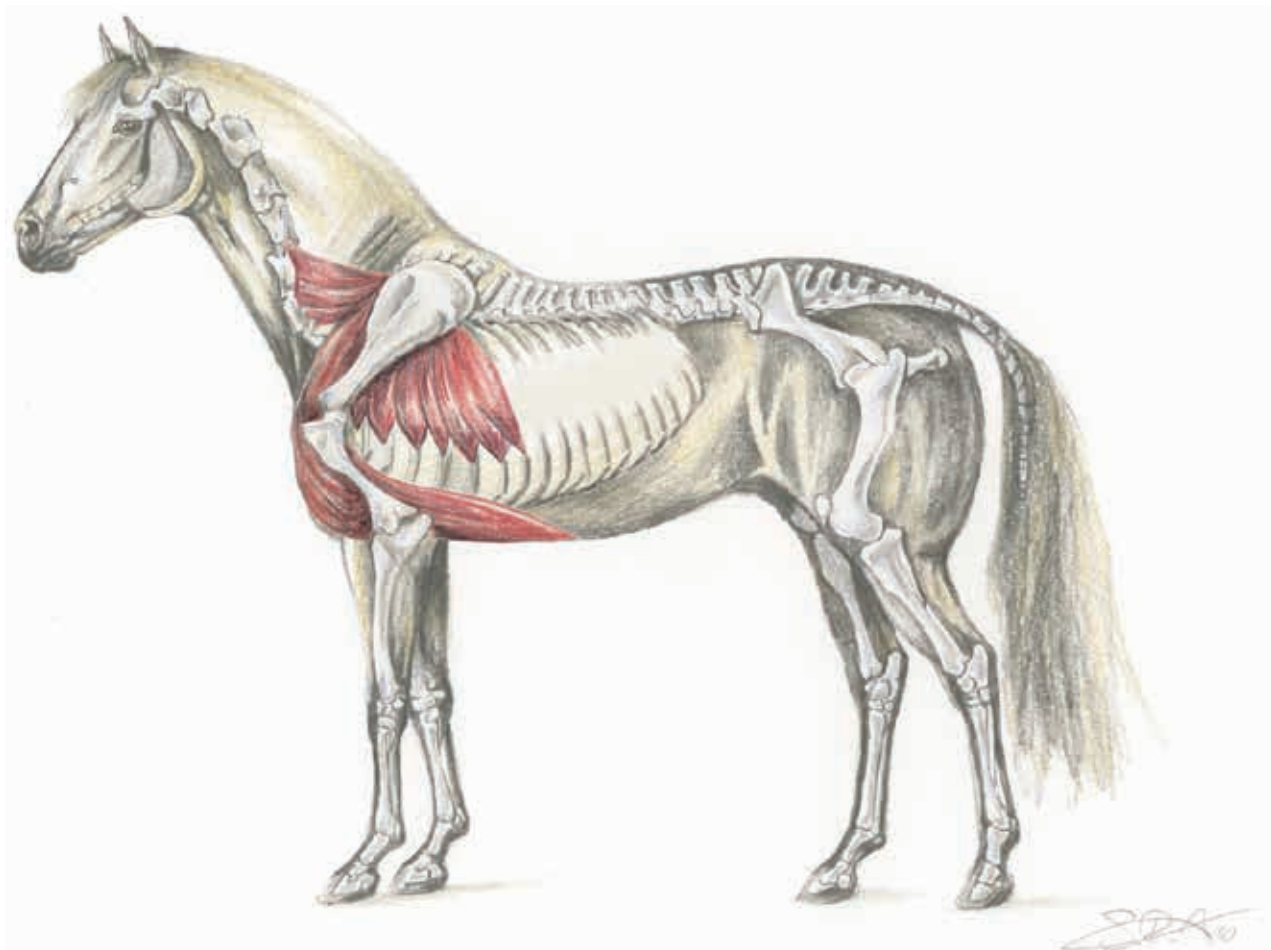
## CANADA: FAREWELL TO SPÖRCKEN



*Spörcken performed with Ole Köhler at the stallion show on the occasion of the international dressage and show jumping horse show in Verden. Photo: Lafrentz*

At the age of 17, Spörcken by Sir Donnerhall/Lauries Crusador xx, had to be put to sleep. He had broken a leg while running free in the paddock. Bred by Benedicte Meyer from Luxembourg, Spörcken grew up at Gestüt Gerkenhof and was one of the most sought-after dressage stallions at his licensing in 2010. The Lower Saxony State Stud in Celle secured the rough diamond, which was awarded the Weltmeyer Prize two years later. In the 70-day test, Spörcken impressed with an outstanding breeding value for dressage of 165, clearly setting himself apart from the competition. He was trained by Ole Köhler up to M\* level. Among his most successful offspring is the former privately owned stallion Spökenkieker (dam's sire: Rotspan, breeder: Alfred Reimann, Oer-Erkenschwick), who was Hanoverian dressage horse champion in 2019 with Stephanie Leuenberg-Voss.

From 2011 to 2018, Spörcken was available to breeders in Roydorf and Verden before moving to Jennifer Arnold's Dreamscape Farm in Canada. „Spürk meant a lot to me on many levels, he was the sweetest easiest stallion to have around so kind and always happy, He was a gentle soul, but also with a strong inner strength,“ says his owner. ✂



## FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

***While physique is genetically determined, posture can be specifically influenced – with a decisive effect on health, carrying capacity, and performance.***

*By veterinarian Kirstin Becker*

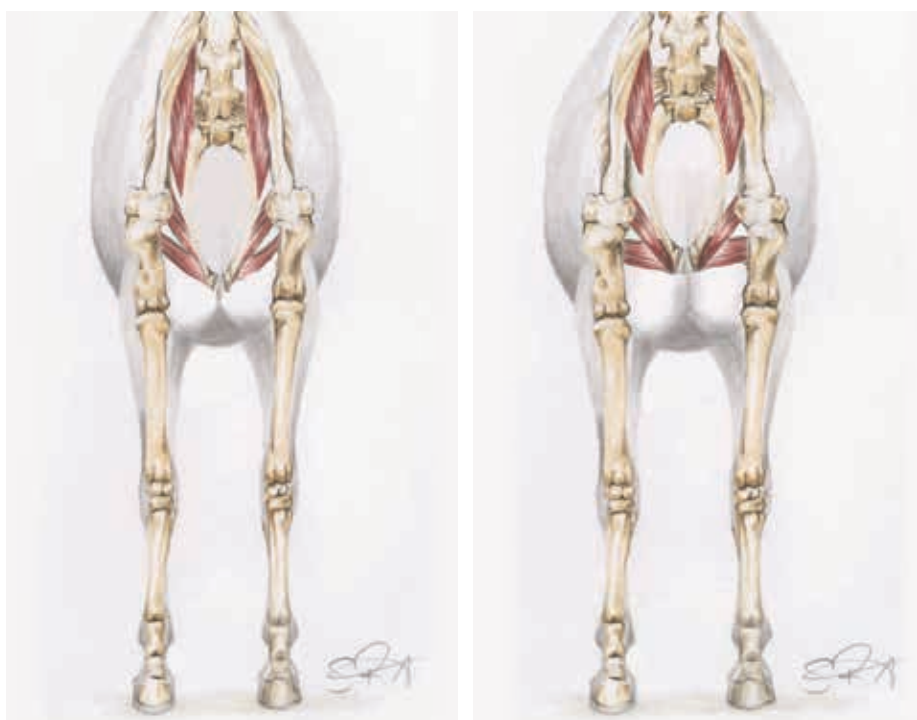
The distinction between conformation and posture in horses is fundamental to a comprehensive understanding of horses as both as living beings and sporting partners. While conformation is genetically determined and can only be influenced to a limited extent through training, posture is a dynamic aspect that can be significantly improved through targeted gymnastic exercises and correct training. This differentiation is crucial for setting training goals and assessing training outcomes. Moreover, it allows cautious prognoses regarding the maintenance of the horse's health within the context of equine management and training.

Conformation, also referred to as exterior or build, describes the innate anatomical structure of the horse. It includes the skeleton, proportions and anatomical features that are genetically determined (genotype) and cannot be changed. This inclu-



*Ewe neck or not? Change in neck shape after manual therapy. Photos: Kirstin Becker*





*The tone of the thoracic sling muscles influences the position of the ribcage between the shoulder blades. The overall functionality of the thoracic sling is crucial, among other things, for the shock absorption and suspension function of the forelimbs. ". Illustrationen: Susanne Retsch-Amschler, Diplom Designerin (FH), Königsbrunn, [www.retsch-amschler.de](http://www.retsch-amschler.de)*

des, for example, to the proportions of the body (square or rectangular). Posture, on the other hand, refers to the manner in which the horse carries and moves its body. It is defined by the spatial alignment of the body segments (head, neck, chest, abdomen, back, pelvic region, and limbs) relative to one another. It is dynamic and changeable. Posture can be improved, but it can also deteriorate, for example, due to insufficient or inappropriate training, a sedentary lifestyle, or illness. In the classic linear assessment of horse breeding, there is overlap between the two areas. The shape and position of the neck, withers, back, and croup, as well as the width of the chest, are strongly influenced by muscle and fascia tension. In contrast, when it comes to humans, discussions focus almost exclusively on poor posture, and rarely reference build or conformation. To internalise the distinction between conformation and posture, it is essential to understand the functional anatomical foundations of the horse.

The bones of the horse have traditionally been viewed from a biomechanical perspective as a supportive skeleton, as levers connected by joints and moved by muscles. Thus, the biomechanics of the horse are often explained through a lever-based physical model. However, in recent years, a more advanced model has become established: the bio-segriety approach. The integrity of a body system is maintained through a balance of tensile and compressive forces. In this model, the bones are relatively rigid components connected by a continuous network of tensile elements (muscles and fascial

tissue). A shift in weight or change in position in the body leads to a redistribution of compressive and tensile forces. The mechanical load is distributed throughout the entire system. Body fluids (blood, lymph, and fluids inside and outside the cells) also play a role in this model, as they influence compressive and tensile forces. This means that any change in the horse's posture affects the pressure and tension dynamics throughout the rest of the body.

### **The importance of conformation**

The conformation of a horse provides an initial indication of its physical resilience and perfor-

mance potential. Different horse breeds show clear differences in conformation that reflect their respective uses: While an traditional Quarter Horse typically has a rather compact physique with a pronounced hindquarters, an Arabian tends to have more delicate and refined features. While a long, sloping shoulder is desirable in a dressage horse, this physical characteristic is less advantageous in a show jumper.

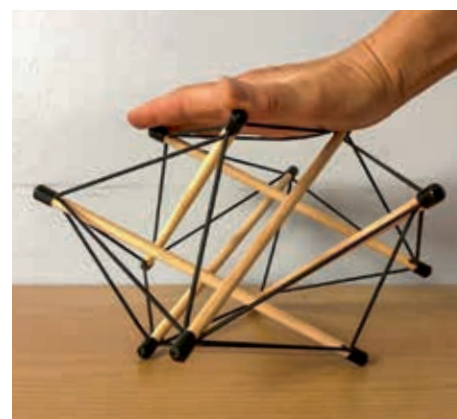
Posture assessment refers to the automatic and unconscious stance of the body. The posture that a horse repeatedly adopts while at rest is used for reference. This corresponds to the way a human stands while waiting for some time. Several factors always influence this posture:

- physical condition (e.g. musculature, muscle tone, coordination),
- mental state (e.g. tension, stress or relaxation), and
- biographical factors (e.g. age, training patterns, pregnancies).

To assess posture, one stands approximately two horse lengths away from the horse and observes the overall impression from both sides in turn. The horse type is evaluated based on its proportions and muscular development. Attention is paid to overall harmony, any muscular tension (hypertonia) and areas where muscles are more developed (hypertrophied) or weaker (hypotrophied). The horse is then assessed from the front and the rear.

Beyond checking for symmetry, particular attention is paid to the alignment of the body segments in relation to each other. The tension and alignment of the skeleton within the body should be visualized. The following points are evaluated:

- Neck and head-neck posture
- Alignment of the cervical spine
- Cervicothoracic junction (transition from cervical to thoracic spine)



*The tensegrity principle of the body describes a dynamic tension network in which bones are integrated as 'floating' pressure elements in a continuous fascial system (tension elements). Mechanical loads are thus redistributed throughout the entire body. Photos: International Academy of Veterinary Chiropractic, Freetz*



**Kirstin Becker** is a vet specialising in chiropractic (A) [www.hoofconnection.org](http://www.hoofconnection.org)

- Position of the ribcage between the shoulder blades
- Position of the sternum (protruding or retracted?)
- Placement of the forelimbs in relation to the trunk
- Top-line
- Belly-line
- Lumbosacral transition (transition from lumbar spine to sacrum)
- Angle of pelvis
- Position of hindlimbs in relation to pelvis
- Tail carriage

The alignment of the transition regions in the body is of particular significance, as pathological changes due to overloading are often first diagnosed there.

A particularly important aspect of posture is the position of the trunk. With correct training, in which the withers are lifted and the horse moves in self-carriage, the thoracic sling muscles lift the trunk and withers between the shoulder blades. With training, these muscles strengthen, and even in skeletally mature horses, the height of the withers may increase. Sustained elevation of the

ribcage allows the horse to activate its abdominal musculature and bring its hindlegs closer to its centre of gravity and keep them there. The horse's ability for collection improves and its movements take on an uphill tendency, which is evident in the horse's trunk (rather than merely in the neck and limbs). This has also been described in studies by Prof. Dr. Hilary Clayton.

Lifting the trunk will widen the horse in the area of the trapezius muscle. The trapezius muscle itself is relatively thin, only about one or two fingers wide. When there is a hollow behind the scapulae and it's talked about trapezius muscle atrophy, this often does not correspond to reality. When the thoracic sling and abdominal muscles (i.e. the lower tension system) are activated, these hollows often fill in. A sagging of the trunk between the shoulder blades and its resulting consequences is a widespread phenomenon, often referred to as „topline syndrome“, „core weakness“ or „postural exhaustion“. In humans, the shoulder blades and shoulder joints are connected to the sternum and ribs by the clavicles and the musculature of the chest and shoulder girdle. In contrast, horses do not have clavicles, so trunk and shoulder blades are connected exclusively by musculature (the „trunk support apparatus“ or „thoracic muscle loop“). The most important trunk carriers include the sawtooth muscles on the ventral side with their cervical and thoracic portions (Mm. serratus ventralis cervicis and thoracis) and the chest muscles with their various portions (Mm. Pectoralis) and the M. subclavius.

Horses today are more mobile and expressive in their movements. This comes at the expense of stability and makes it much more difficult for the horse to stabilise the ribcage compared to horses from 30 years ago. In young, downhill horses, the croup is higher than the withers. This is also the

case in some adult horses with topline syndrome. Sometimes only when standing, but often also when moving; this can even be observed from time to time in the piaffe. These horses thus carry more weight on the forehand. In horses with powerful gaits, this can be concealed by excessive lifting of the limbs and absolute uprightness. However, the trunk remains in relative hyperextension, with numerous negative consequences for the body.

The horses often display an overdeveloped lower neck. Even more common is the pushing up or supporting of the rib case with the chest muscles and by pulling the elbows toward the trunk. The chest appears narrower and the horses display pseudo-belly, akin to a human standing with a hollow back. The sternum protrudes partially between the forelegs, as commonly seen in Friesian horses. The shoulder muscles and the broad back muscle (M. latissimus dorsi) become tense over time. The horses tend to stand back with their hindquarters. The pelvis tends to be pulled forward. The pelvis is pulled forward, the pelvic angle appears flatter, and the buttock muscles (M. semitendinosus and M. semimembranosus) become tense. This tendency can be found in many modern horses to a lesser or greater extent. Nevertheless, there are numerous individual compensation patterns. An unfavorable posture can have a decisive impact on the horse's durability and well-being. It significantly influences the health of the musculoskeletal system as well as the function of internal organs.

Simple tests can be used to feel this effect for oneself: stand in a neutral position and take a few deep breaths in and out. Then move into a hollow back and breathe in and out again. One will notice that deep inhalation and exhalation are more difficult in the hollow back position. The diaphragm



*Championship horses of their era. Modern sport horses have gained tremendous suppleness, but at the expense of connective tissue stability. In 1960, Asbach by Anilin/Spinck and Dr Josef Neckermann won Olympic gold in Rome. Sixty-four years later, Mount St. John Freestyle by Fidermark/Donnerhall and Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour were part of the Danish team that won silver in Paris. Photos: Tiedemann, Lafrentz*



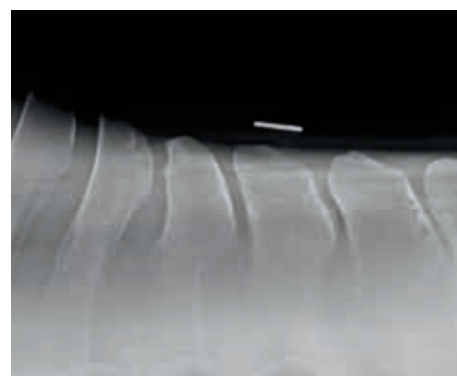
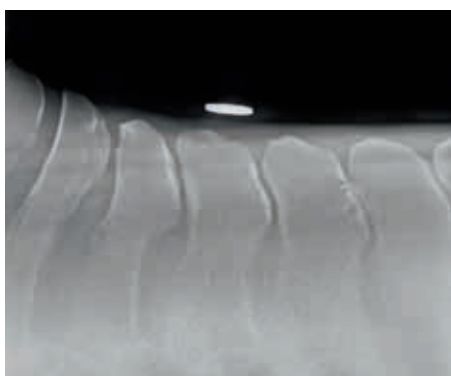
is suboptimally tensioned, making breathing less efficient. How far can you lean sideways in a neutral posture without rotating the upper body? If you perform the same exercise with a hollow back, the movement will be more restricted. Horses experience the same limitations. When the spine is in hyperextension, the small vertebral joints are essentially locked, preventing the horse from bending.

Body posture also reflects the status of the autonomic nervous system: a horse ready to flee stands tense with an active or even shortened topline, always ready to bolt. Experience shows that horses which consistently stand in a hollow-backed position are generally more stressed or at least more stress-prone. The balance between the sympathetic nervous system (flight or fight) and the parasympathetic nervous system (maintenance and restoration) is disturbed and the horses remain predominantly in a sympathetic tone.

### Practical relevance

The distinction between conformation and posture is crucial for training. While conformation must be accepted, posture can be specifically improved: Correct forward-downward riding with a raised ribcage trains the trunk muscles optimally. However, in practice, the opposite is often seen: the horses simply drop the necks, causing the withers to lower. The spring-like effect of the shoulder girdle and the thoracic suspension becomes much less effective. The horse moves with more stomping action instead of elastically absorbing and releasing energy. Shock absorption is then shifted to deeper structures, resulting in an increased sagging of the fetlocks, among other things. If the ribcage between the shoulder blades is not optimally expanded, this connection loses its efficiency as the largest shock absorber of the forelimbs. Poor posture can therefore increase the risk of overload or injury.

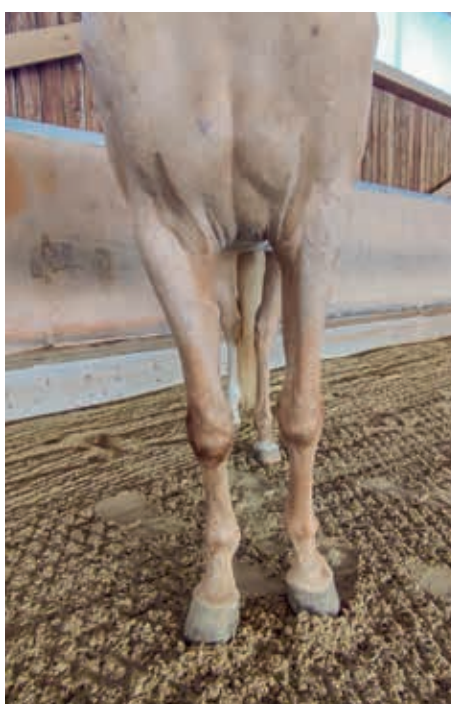
The combination of conformation and posture determines the horse's weight-carrying ability: Strongly built horses are often wrongly assumed to be better "weight-bearers". What is far more important is a horse's ability to stabilise its trunk – and thus its spine – under the rider's weight, against gravity. Just like a human carrying a rucksack, one instinctively leans into the load to support it. Just like a human carrying a backpack, one instinctively leans into the load to support it. Of course, we could also carry the backpack with a hollow back, but pain would soon follow. This is even more critical for horses with their horizontally aligned spine. Although conformation is innate, improved posture through specific training can compensate for certain deficits. An old riding saying holds: "Horses become more beautiful with good training." Muscular problems, such as a pronounced lower neck, can usually be corrected through effective training. Conversely, prob-



*In an extended posture, the spinous processes come closer together. By activating the lower tension chain (especially the thoracic sling and abdominal muscles), the spine returns to a more neutral position, relieving compression of the facet joints and spinous processes. Photos: Dr. Felicia Wehrenpfennig*

lems are often caused by inefficient posture during training. Helpful self-assessment questions include: Is the horse's posture improved or further hyperextended after training? Is musculature de-

veloping harmoniously, or is the topline losing volume? Close observation can detect incorrect developments early on and helps preserve the horse's long-term health. ✂



*Narrow-chested conformation or compensatory posture? With training and manual therapy, the horse can overcome the compensatory posture and no longer needs to support the ribcage by pulling the elbows in towards the body. Photos: Selma Latif*

# BETWEEN TRADITION AND CHANGE

*At the second Delegates' Assembly this year, in addition to honors and elections, the focus was on the current figures of the Hannoveraner Verband and its economic situation – but above all on impetus for change. This aspect was a recurring theme in all the speeches given by the important officials.*

*By Rolf Hillmann*

Dr. Hinni Lühns-Behnke began by addressing the tense market situation, which is particularly worrying for "normal, real horses." The mood in the country is characterized by low euphoria. According to the chairman of the Hannoveraner Verband, our ancestors were already familiar with these ups and downs of the market: "We cannot look into the future, but better times will come again." Good mares, breeding ideas, and enthusiasm are all there, but at present it is a matter of striking a balance between short-term marketability and long-term prospects. Dr. Hinni Lühns-Behnke appealed for vigilance in choosing other ways to "advance our cause." Empty stands at auctions, but influencers filling the indoor arenas: "The enthusiasm is there, but we have to ask ourselves: Are we taking all riders with us?" On the other hand, top-class sport also generates demand. He called for efficiency, flexibility, and new ideas. „It's not always the big ones that swallow the small ones, but often the quick ones that swallow the slow ones. We must be careful that we, as a large ship with old structures, do not stop questioning ourselves." The association must become faster and more efficient without throwing proven practices overboard.

Managing Director Wilken Treu picked up on the keyword "change" and reported on a new type of auction for further trained dressage horses, which was held for the first time in March. Expectations were exceeded and new customer groups were addressed. "We enjoyed this work and will continue to focus on this segment." These "high-level" auctions are intended to replace some of the traditional auction formats and will take place twice a year, in spring and late fall. Instead, the so-called interim auction in November, which is "on the decline," will be canceled for the time being. These competition horse auctions will be separated into dressage and jumping. "We want to try this for two years because we need to adapt our auction formats." Wilken Treu provided further food for thought, which had been agreed with the committees and will be put to the vote at next year's Delegates' Assembly: opening the special auctions to horses from other populations.

Maren Schlender reported on the Verband's activities abroad and described her impressions that the Hannoveraner passport is highly sought after abroad, especially for dressage horses. The Hannoveraner Verband and its affiliated daughter societies

registered approximately 1,500 foals outside Germany last year.

## Intensive exchange

Henning Schmidt, chairman of the Supervisory Board, spoke of a challenging year for the Verband, which had been marked by cost increases, competitive pressure, adjustments to the committee structure, and corporate planning. The Supervisory Board's task is to advise, support, and monitor the Board, for which various conferences and video meetings had been held.

Henning Schmidt spoke of intensive exchanges and discussions, but also of unanimous decisions throughout. To improve sales, he suggested creating more time capacity within or alongside the management.

The Financial Director of the Hannoveraner Verband, Carsten Scherf, presented the annual results with all the key figures. A positive result was achieved thanks to a good Stallion Sales and Elite Auction as well as cost savings. According to a delegate resolution, the surplus of 208,000 Euros



Certificates of honour for many years of voluntary work were awarded to Hermann Jürgen Rump, Frerich de Riese, Uwe Wichers, Jürgen Stuhmann, Fred Schröder and Christoph Reese (from left to right). I Johann Löhden was awarded the Stakkato Prize for the stallion Elton on behalf of his son Jens. I Dr Hinni Lühns-Behnke congratulated Ludger Welling



## EXPERT COMMITTEES: NEW APPOINTMENTS DRESSAGE AND EVENTING



Dr. Frederic Bün-ger and Marco Krüger were elected to the expert committees by a large majority in the regular elections.

**Marco Krüger**, born in 1981, is a master horse trainer specializing in eventing. He completed his training with Claus Erhorn in Luhmühlen and graduated in 2002. He then worked as a rider in Elmar Lesch's competition and training stable until 2006. A one-year stay in England with internationally successful eventers Andrew Nicholson and Julian Trevor-Roper complemented his practical training and provided valuable insights into international training methods and management structures in eventing. In 2009, Marco Krüger and his partner Nadine Marzahl founded K&M Sportpfer-

de GbR, based in Munster. The company specializes in the training and marketing of eventing horses. Both young horses and those already established in competition are trained and prepared for competitions in Germany and abroad. Marco Krüger himself is a successful eventer up to CCI3\* level. Horses from his training program regularly qualify for the Bundeschampionat. The sporting focus is complemented by the own breeding activities. "As we also have two Hannoveraner broodmares ourselves, I know what it's like from a breeder's point of view and I also know what customers expect from a modern eventing horse," he says.

**Dr. Frederic Bün-ger** comes from a family in which breeding Hannoveraner horses has played a central role for many generations. The veterinarian grew up with his father Klaus Bün-ger in Oetzen, where he was involved in the rearing and presentation of successful stallions such as Don Frederico, Hochadel, Salieri, and Scendix. He was awarded the Golden Riding Badge for his successes in

show jumping and dressage and was World Champion of Student Riders. The 54-year-old has been a member of the mare and foal commissions of the Hannoveraner Verband for over 20 years. Dr. Frederic Bün-ger runs a veterinary practice for horses in Harbarnsen in the region of Hildesheim. Another focus is on breeding and training young horses and preparing stallions and young talent for competition. "My deep attachment to Hannoveraner breeding and my professional expertise motivate me to get involved with the Hannoveraner Verband. I would like to contribute my experience and passion to actively shape the Verband's goals and further promote the quality of breeding," he says. ✂



will be allocated to equity. Overall, Carsten Scherf was satisfied with the financial year and spoke of a "very good result." However, he warned against too much optimism, saying that "every fall business can be different." According to its head, the finance department's working methods are characterized by monthly financial statements, timely reporting, and close controlling. These monthly results are checked and approved by the Board and the expert committee. The focus is on smart cost management and savings. The auditing firm

Drangmeister, Scholz & Kollegen attested that the finance department had prepared the annual financial statements very well, with total assets amounting to 8.1 million euros, liquidity available and shortfalls able to be bridged. A balanced budget is expected for the current year. The 2024 annual report received an unconditional audit certificate. The Delegates' Assembly granted the Board, Management, and Supervisory Board full discharge with only a few dissenting votes. In the elections, Achim Schacke was confirmed as a member

of the Supervisory Board for another three years with 97 percent of the delegates' votes. Christina Künneke received 96 percent of the votes in the election for Good Governance Officer. Frederic Bün-ger was elected to the Breeding Committee Dressage with 94 percent of the votes, and Oliver Ross was confirmed as a member of the Breeding Committee Show Jumping with 89 percent. Marco Krüger achieved the best result with 99 percent of the votes and was elected to the Breeding Committee Eventing. ✂

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# ONLINE BEATED PRESENCE

***Voulez-Vous achieved the highest bid at the spring edition of the Verden Auction in April – the final bid was 79,000 euros. This made him the highlight of the colorful spring bouquet, which included two other top-class horses, Völler and Viola Diamont, with a hammer price of 74,000 euros. The first foals of the auction year were also in demand. The top price for the youngest horses was achieved by Megadoria for Fun, which was sold for 13,000 euros.***

*By Wilken Treu and Britta Züngel*

The spring edition of the Verden Auctions has once again shown that good horses are rare – and that their quality continues to attract buyers. The competition to market such horses is noticeable. Auctions can also generate customer interest. This has been repeatedly demonstrated by horses in various price segments. With a hammer price of 79,000 euros, Voulez-Vous, a son of V-Plus/Fürsten-Look, became the top horse at the OnLive auction. The expressive gelding (breeder and exhibitor: Michael Schenk, Römstedt), bronze medal winner at the 2024 Hannoveraner Championship, impressed with his prospects and mechanics. He became the first Verden auction horse in the stable of a dressage rider from Bavaria. The representatives of the first crop of the private stallion V-Plus were highly favored by the buyers. Völler by V-Plus/Rubin-Royal (breeder: Rolf Peters, Jork, ex-

hibitor: Frederik Garrn, Guderhandviertel) left the Niedersachsenhalle for Colombia for 74,000 euros.

One of the last horses in this highly interesting collection also fetched 74,000 euros: Viola Diamont by Valdiviani/Borsalino. Her breeder and exhibitor Gerd Neukäter already had reason to celebrate at the start of this exciting auction day. His Blockbuster/Cascadello son Best Buddy (exhibitor: Ilka Schaaf, Voerde) was the most expensive show jumper at 46,000 euros. A friend of the Verden Auctions from China secured the eight-year-old, who has already impressively proven his performance in the show jumping arena under the saddle of granddaughter Anna Lena Schaaf with top placings. He will be accompanied by three other auction horses: Chica by Clinton's Heart/Stolzenberg (breeder: Heinz-Wilhelm Boldt, Lintig, exhibitor: Ursula Dubbels, Fredenbeck) for 21,500 euros, Gin Blossoms by Grey Top/Quebec (breeder and

exhibitor: ZG Meyer and Aller, Wurster Nordseeküste), which cost 30,000 euros, and Che Guevara Dacora by Central Park/Cornet's Stern (breeder and exhibitor: Dr. Corinna Kröly, Wedemark) for 20,000 euros. The new owner of the quartet had already purchased four show jumpers at the online auction in April last year.

The impressive Fusionist/Fürst Belissaro daughter Felicita (breeder: ZG Meier, Ahlerstedt, exhibitor: Agnieszka Gronowska, Warsaw/POL) opened the auction with head number one. Fernand Wetz, a loyal auction customer and discoverer of so many excellent Hannoveraner dressage horses, secured the Hannoveraner premium candidate with a Vet+ award for 50,000 euros. The Luxembourger, who bought his first auction horse in 1986, has a long friendship with Bernhard Schaeffer. He too is a "veteran" of the Verden Auctions and has discovered countless top horses. For the 86-year-old, this auction was to be his last as an exhibitor. He

*The Verden auction team presented a colourful collection of highly interesting talents at the spring edition (from left to right): Andreas Hohmuth, Thomas Schöning, Frederik De Backer, Lisa von Aspern, Steffen Werner, Wilken Treu and Bernd Hickert. Photo: Fellner*







Jacob Schenk presented Voulez-Vous by V-Plus/Fürsten-Look. The talented gelding achieved the top price of 79,000 euros. Photo: Fellner

had sent the Despacito/Wokenstein II son Da Vincino (breeder: ZG Schlichting, Wingst) to the Niedersachsenshalle, where he found a new owner for 14,500 euros.

On average, the 55 riding horses achieved a price of 23,309 euros – a market-driven result in an environment that is proving economically selective. The integration of the foals into the OnLive auction had no particular effect. Nevertheless, there were some targeted purchases, especially by stallion breeders. Megadoria for Fun by Meganus PS/Cador (breeder and exhibitor: Jan Crome-Sperling), half-sister to Luciana Diniz's Olympic horse Fit for Fun, achieved the top price of 13,000 euros

among the 16 foals, which cost an average of 7,875 euros. Once again, it became clear that customer behavior is changing: not all buyers considered the live experience in the Niedersachsenshalle important enough to come to Verden a second time after trying out the horses. Especially in the jumping sector, the ongoing competition season was a clear reason not to travel to the venue in person. Bidding by telephone and online did not seem to be a particular hurdle. The picture was different in dressage, where distance from home played a greater role. The majority of bids were again placed online, which was also reflected in the modest number of potential customers and test riders present. The wish of many breeders to

Statistics			
Riding horses			
Number of horses		55 horses	
Sold		55 horses	
Net proceeds		1,282,000.00 euros	
Average price		23,309.09 euros	
Top price		79,000.00 euros	
Lowest price		8,000.00 euros	
Price range			
8,000 to 10,999 euros		6 horses	
11,000 to 14,999 euros		8 horses	
15,000 to 24,999 euros		28 horses	
25,000 euros and more		13 horses	
Sales by region			
Germany	31		
Belgium	1	China	4
France	3	Great Britain	1
Canada	1	Columbia	1
Lithuania	2	Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	1	Sweden	4
Spain	2	USA	1
Austria	2		

establish a live auction as a meeting place in the spring was not fulfilled. Many encounters had already taken place at the stallion shows in Verden or other locations. The Hannoveraner Verband was nevertheless happy to make a live event possible – however, the analysis for a repeat will be accompanied critically. The weather also played a role this time: due to the good spring weather, there was a lot of outdoor work to be done, which meant that some exhibitors decided not to travel to the auction. This is a circumstance that the Hannoveraner Verband finds very understandable. The spring edition of the Verden Auctions in April offered a realistic picture of the current marketing situation: quality finds its buyers – increasingly online. 🐾

## STALL ROSENBUSCH: TOP-CLASS HORSE SHOW ATMOSPHERE

The foal auction held as part of the RC Rosenbusch horse show at the Forkert family's stables in Bremen-Oberneuland was once again a complete success. Embedded in a top-class horse show atmosphere, Sunday afternoon offered a combination of sport and future breeding.

The special focus was on Die Diamantin by Diamant van Klapscheut Z/Checkter (breeder: Frank Schlesier, Otterndorf, exhibitor: Felix Schlesier, Otterndorf). The typey filly with a strong canter was



Die Diamantin by Diamant van Klapscheut Z Photo: Kunst

not only convincing in the ring, but also in the price: At 14,000 euros, she was the most expensive foal of the day. A new customer from Bremen secured the young hopeful.

Around 3,000 visitors attended the afternoon event before the Grand Prix – a pleasingly strong turnout that was on a par with the previous year. There was great interest in both the sporting performance of the show jumpers and the quality of the six foals on offer. 🐾

# FOAL AUCTION YOUNGSTARS: RISK REWARDED

***The top price at the YoungSTARS Auction in Verden was €19,500. In a magnificent open-air setting, the black colt Candinsky was auctioned to a buyer from the USA. The 69 representatives of the crop achieved an average hammer price of €7,224 via the internet or bids made on site.***

*By Wilken Treu and Britta Züngel*

At the YoungSTARS auction, necessity became a virtue and the auction was held outdoors at the showground. The atmosphere was attractive, the number of customers and spectators was moderate, and the event and auction were conducted swiftly by Bernd Hickert and Frederik De Backer.

The lot of 78 foals corresponded to the three previous year's online auctions of the Verden Spring Foal Sales. The final bid for the Cornet Obolensky/Contendro son Candinsky (breeder and exhibitor: Deborah Johannhardt, Bruchhausen-Vilsen) came from California. The black colt will now make the journey across the Atlantic. Candinsky is the third foal out of the mare Carlina to find a new owner at a foal auction of the Hannoveraner Verband.

Among the highlights of the collection was Hellfire PJ, a son of the legendary show jumper Heartbreaker. His dam Conny by Contender/Sandro has already produced four sons licensed in Hannover,

including Gunfire PJ and Kandoo PJ, both placed at S level. A regular customer from Bavaria secured this rarity for 15,500 euros. Two foals with top dressage horse pedigrees each cost 17,000 euros.

One of them was Vitus van Scheifele by Venturo/Fürst Jazz. For exhibitor Salome Mari Scheifele, the YoungSTARS auction was a special experience. The 20-year-old Verden native only started breeding last year and took over the mare Freya from renowned breeder Heinrich Behrmann. He also helped her select the stallion. "A great example of the Next-Gen Breeder project of the Hannoveraner Verband," praised auctioneer Bernd Hickert. The bay with the powerful movements will grow up at a large stallion station in South Oldenburg. The second foal with a hammer price of 17,000 euros was Tabaluga by True Hope PS/Dancier Gold (breeder and exhibitor: Bettina Wienkämper, Westerkappeln). The black movement artist will also go to the very best of hands for stallion rearing.

The breeders were open to the hybrid model – bids could be placed online and on site – as it combines all bidding options in a difficult year for foal marketing, even if it meant additional work for the breeders on the day of the auction. As expected, there was a certain reluctance on the part of customers to make purchases.

The combination of live and online led to an auction result with a pleasing number of sales, even if the average price cannot match the level of 2020 to 2023. At this point in time, the jumping foals at the YoungStars Auction were more popular in terms of price and demand than the dressage foals. The foal auction was something of a gamble, as Verden was the first auction venue of the year to offer a large collection and live auction. "The risk paid off," sums up auction manager and managing director Wilken Treu. ✂



Price leader Candinsky by Cornet Obolensky/Contendro with breeder Deborah Johannhardt and customer advisor Steffen Werner. Photo: Fellner

Statistics			
Foals			
Number of horses		69 foals	
Sold		68 foals	
Net proceeds		491,520.00 euros	
Average price		7,224.26 euros	
Top price		19,500.00 euros	
Lowest price		4,000.00 euros	
Preisgestaltung			
4,000 to 4,999 euros		18 foals	
5,000 to 7,999 euros		28 foals	
8,000 to 9,999 euros		12 foals	
10,000 euros and more		10 foals	
Sales by region			
Germany	45		
France	3	Great Britain	1
Italy	1	Netherlands	1
Sweden	10	Slovenia	1
Spain	3	CZE	1
USA	2		



# July 26, 2025 51<sup>st</sup> Elite Foal and Broodmare Auction



**NORTHERN GERMANY'S  
LARGEST FOAL AUCTION**

- OnLive on Juli 26, 2025 in Verden
- Over 100 selected foals in elite format
- Presentation on the outdoor area
- Auction in the Niedersachsenhalle

The collection of the 51<sup>st</sup> Elite Foal and Broodmare Auction  
from July 4, 2025 with photos and videos on [www.verdener-auktion-online.com](http://www.verdener-auktion-online.com)