

# Equestrian life

Australia's Premier Magazine, Website and Live TV

## WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN YOUR STALLIONS WHEN DECIDING WHICH ARE THE BEST TO REPRESENT YOUR STUD ?

A very important component in the development of the German Riding Pony breed is that the pony has the athletic ability for national and international competition and that they can be easily ridden by a child or small adult in the performance arena. Therefore, rideability and athleticism has to be a top priority in the selection of any stallion that I import to Australia.

I really look for a stallion that has elastic and expressive paces and that gives a great feeling when I ride him. I like proud stallions that have a real willingness to perform and work. They also have to have the strength of body to allow collection and spring when jumping.

Great conformation is of course an important factor when offering stallions at public stud. I only import stallions that have at the very least undergone their Preliminary German Licensing successfully. The German licensing system is strict and very competitive which ensures that the quality of stallions stays at a high level. For example at the pre-selection for my stallion Golden Rock for Westphalia, there were 450 stallions vying to go through to the licensing.

I have spent many hours talking with some of Germany's top breeders about the traits that are prevalent in various GRP pedigrees. I try to select pedigrees that are positive for performance and temperament.

All of my stallions that I have imported to Australia to date have had at least one crop of foals in Germany. Testing their fertility and motility is of course a very important factor when expecting people to pay money for a service. All of my stallions have also had success in competition in Germany before being imported.

## WHO HAVE BEEN THE MOST INFLUENTIAL STALLIONS AT YOUR STUD AND WHY ?

We have four breeding stallions currently available in Australia and they are all influential in their own way. Don Philino was the first licensed GRP to stand at public stud in Australia, so I am sure that he has had a huge influence on the breed becoming recognised in Australia. Don Philino was the start of my pony quest that is now known as Dynamik Stallions. Because he has been such a wonderful stallion and sports pony, he created quite an addiction for me. We now have four imported stallions standing in Australia as well as four stars of the future in Germany. Don Philino is the ultimate all round sports pony and still has one of the highest 30 day test scores on record for a GRP pony scoring 87.7%. He scored 9.13 in the cross country phase of his 30 day test and an 8.25 for free jump. He has a Silver Medal at the Bundeschampionate as well as two finalist placings in Dressage. He also won a Gold Medal for carriage driving ponies at the Bundeschampionate.

In Australia he has had a lot of success competing in open dressage against warmbloods, he had a place on the development squad and has wins and places up to Advanced level Dressage. He has a great piaffe and passage and will be starting in open FEI in the near future. He is the ultimate Sports Pony and has helped me to really get to know what I was looking for when selecting more GRP's on my travels to Germany. Without him I would not be where I am today promoting these sports ponies in Australia. I hope that the introduction of the GRP breed will give our young riders a fantastic start in their dressage careers. With their athletic ability and dynamic movement, the transition from a pony to a big moving warmblood will be a much smoother one.



## WHAT SORT OF MARE IS BEST SUITED TO YOUR STALLIONS ?

Using the same principles as Warmblood horses, the German Riding Pony Breeding Program began with imported English and Welsh ponies to be used with the European bred ponies. They were infused over time with Arabian and Thoroughbred blood. Hanoverian and Trakehner sires were also used to improve the breed type.

Given the GRP type, our stallions have been successfully crossed with different pony breeds as well as Warmblood and Thoroughbred mares. Ultimately the breeding goal for the German Riding Pony is to produce a pony that is under 149cm with shoes but of course like any pony breed they can grow over pony height. Our four stallions have all grown slightly over pony height but genetically they have smaller pony lines within

their pedigrees. Crossed with a pony mare that also has some smaller genetics they can still produce a top quality pony sized mount. Our stallions are also suitable to use with Warmblood mares for those people wanting to breed a smaller riding horse of top quality but still keeping the athleticism and dynamic movement.

I am always willing to discuss with mare owners which stallion would be the best match for their mare. I am lucky to be friends with some of Germany's top GRP breeders who are always willing to help give advice on the best cross for client's mares. Ultimately, as far as the GRP pony type is concerned we don't want to reinvent the wheel. As more first crosses are bred back to European pony stallions that are available in Australia we can start to keep more to the breed type that the Germans have been developing for over 45 years. Of course in Germany, our stallions were only bred to GRP mares. I am sure in time, with the quality stallions and mares that have been imported to date, there is a super future ahead for sports ponies in Australia.



#### *WHAT SORT OF STRENGTHS DOES YOUR STALLION IMPART TO HIS PROGENY?*

Don Philino is an all-round, versatile sports pony and he suits almost any type of mare and produces rideable sports ponies for children and small adults. Don Philino stamps his progeny with his easy character and super pony type.

Top Der Da has amazing power in the hindquarters and excellent hocks, he stamps his progeny with this power. Top Der Da is the most warmblood like of our stallions and finds collection just so easy. He is proving to be a fantastic option to downsize and modernise large warmblood mares. He is particularly suitable for Welsh Cob ponies and similar types and produces a super modern sports pony as he creates a longer leg. Top Der Da stamps his foals with his super pretty head and I am sure his progeny will also become very successful in the show horse world.

Trussardi is great over finer pony mares to give them more bone and athleticism. He has put some exceptional quality foals on the grounds and he stamps his foals with a super uphill front and his powerful paces as well as passing on his laid back, easy character. Trussardi is a great cross with our Australian Riding Pony mares and also Thoroughbred mares and finer warmblood mares.

Golden Rock is a super star with "Barbie" pony looks and his foals have excellent temperaments. He has covered all sorts of mares from warmbloods to Welsh and Australian ponies, he seems to suit them all. Golden Rock also helps create more swing in the back of his progeny and improves their paces. He has a stunning head and a flashy gold coat which is very attractive to prospective breeders.

#### *WHAT IS THE BEST PERFORMING PROGENY TO DATE THAT YOUR STALLION HAS ?*

Don Philino's four year old son Don Peppino (*Don Philino/ Diskus*) became a finalist for the 2011 Bundeschampionate. Not only inheriting his sire's amazing temperament and movement, he scored a 9.5 for his walk in the first round, with a total score of 8.33 to gain himself an equal 7th place in the final. This is a really great tribute to Don Philino as a sire. Don Philino's Australian progeny are also having success in breed shows with many of his youngsters winning Champions and Reserve Champion titles. People are reporting that his progeny have exceptional temperaments and present at their first outing as if they have been out many times before. His first Australian crop are starting to go out under saddle and he has already had Champion progeny in breed show classes and are starting successfully in dressage.

Top Der Da was very popular with the German breeders due to the combination of his bloodlines with FS Don't Worry and Dressman 1. His progeny also had success at foal shows. His first crop of German foals are now just beginning under saddle, the reports are that they have excellent rideability and great power in their paces.

Trussardi's foals in Germany have had success at foal shows also. A filly by him gained a Silver medal in Germany that enabled the dam to complete her State Premium Mare status. The German breeders say that they all share his laid back, bold character and it has become evident that he stamps his foals with this now that he has foals on the ground in Australia.

Golden Rock was extremely popular with the German breeders in the year he stood at stud, the resulting foals were super quality and many of these foals had wins at foal shows around Germany. Four of the 44 foals that were selected for the German Foal Championships held in Lienen were sired by Golden Rock. With the huge success of Golden Rock's foals in Germany we will be very excited when the time comes for his first crop to go under saddle.

All of our stallions have had progeny achieve great scores and comments from the assessors during the annual assessment tour conducted by the ACE Group in conjunction with the Australian Sports Pony Registry.

#### *WHAT SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE / SPORT ARE THE PROGENY FROM YOUR STALLIONS MOST LIKELY TO EXCEL IN ?*

My stallions have been selected for their sport's pony ability. Dressage, showjumping, eventing and driving are the primary disciplines you would be using our stallions for. All of our stallions have super scores for jumping from their licensing results. Don Philino's outstanding performance record and versatility is a prime example of what these ponies can achieve. Golden Rock was undefeated in young horse classes and then placed in the Finals of the Bundeschampionate Dressage. Trussardi has two Bronze Medals at the Bundeschampionate in dressage to his name. Both Golden Rock and Trussardi had wins and places in free jump competitions in Germany. Top Der Da had super scores in his young horse classes in Germany. He was unable to compete in his qualifier for the Bundeschampionate as he grew over pony height quite early, however there is no denying this stallion has the talent and rideability to compete at FEI level dressage in the future.

