



Westphalian Licensing of Australian German Riding Ponies

Gerd Kust has been involved with the Oldenburger, Holsteiner Verband and the ZfdP in Germany for the past 30 years and being an International Breeding Assessor with his vast breeding and equestrian sport knowledge and excellent English skills, the ACE Group is very fortunate that he returned to Australia for the 2014 Tour.

Gerd himself is also a very successful breeder and owner of many successful German Bundeschampionat horses and ponies and has himself judged in countless competitions including the prestigious German Bundeschampionat.

Below are comments from Gerd on the ACE and Westphalian Breeders Association's licensing of the two imported Westphalian and ACE registered

German Riding Pony Stallions owned and presented by Dynamik Stallions in Western Australia.

With the import of the two German Riding Pony stallions Trussardi D and Golden Rock, Dynamik Stallions have steered the Australian German Riding Pony industry into a bright future of international calibre. These two stallions had, prior to import, successfully competed in Germany.

The German Riding Pony breeding industry in Germany however have certainly lost valuable bloodlines. Fortunately, both stallions had produced some outstanding progeny before they left the country, which may be able to fill the hole.

Both Golden Rock and Trussardi D are stallions of international format that have progressed well since being exported to Australia.

Westphalian Ponies are in high demand world wide and with the decision of the Westphalian Breeding Association, in cooperation with the Australian Continental Equestrian Group (ACE Group) to fully license and recognise these two outstanding stallions, another step has been achieved on the journey to improve outstanding performance ponies in Australia.

The licensing process here in Australia was a tough assessment for both stallions, including not only the presentation in hand and under saddle by their riders but were also put through their paces by the test rider Deon Stokes in the dressage Arena as well as in showjumping. Independent scores were given by Gerd and Deon to arrive at the final licensing result.

For Deon to be accepted as a test rider, he had to undergo scrutiny by both the Westphalian Breeders Association as well as the ACE Group and has subsequently been endorsed.

Deon Stokes is an established FEI rider in both dressage and eventing and is very much committed to both disciplines. He is currently a member of the Dressage National A squad with Royal Oak II and has two horses on the National Futures Squad as well as being on the State Senior Squad for both dressage and eventing. He has won numerous national championships including National Young Horse champions, National Medium champion and National Advanced Freestyle champion. He has also competed up to 3 star level in eventing.

As fully licensed stallions with the ACE Group as well as the Westphalian Breeders Association, future Germany Riding Pony bred progeny of both stallions are now eligible to compete in the prestigious Bundeschampionat in Germany, a great opportunity for all Australian bred German Riding Ponies.

Gerd Kust

Pictured is Deon Stokes test riding both Trussardi D and Golden Rock during the comprehensive Westphalian Breeders Association licensing held in conjunction with the ACE Group assessment tour.

