

INTERNATIONAL SPORT PONY BREEDERS

Riddersholm New Forest Stud - Denmark

Submitted by Connie Riddersholm, Stud Principal

Our small stud was founded in 1999 when we bought a farm in the central part of Jutland, which is the mainland in Denmark. I already had a Danish warmblood riding mare that I wanted to have with me on the farm and decided she needed a friend. From my earlier days competing in show jumping I remembered the New Forest ponies. They had a charm and expression that appealed to me. So we went looking for a NF mare big enough for me to ride and to be a companion for my warmblood mare.

After some time we found the beautiful 3 year old mare Odbjergs Easy Dream, elected in 1st class with a lovely temperament, good bloodlines and well built. She has now been rewarded with a Bronze medal. She was in foal to a young NF stallion and the foal was expected in the Spring of 2000.

From that point onwards my stud began with the New Forest ponies as its foundation. Easy Dreams first foal arrived; a filly both strong and healthy with the sweetest temperament. This filly scored a 9 for her NF type and she is a very good mover.

Easy Dreams has been covered a total of six times for 6 fillies. She is very easy to breed and delivers well born, healthy foals with super temperaments, good size and lovely expression. This year she foaled a filly out of Offem Minos. This filly is super charming, dark brown and very active with lovely supple movement.

In the Spring of 2000 we also decided to add another brood mare to our stud. It took me quite some time to find a yearling that matched my demands. I ended up with Elmholt's Alinette, a super mover with very long legs! She was shy and skinny and my husband was a little concerned the day she arrived. We could hardly touch her. She had been living in a loose housing system and had not had much contact with people. But I fell in love and I am glad about that I bought her. Alinette certainly developed well; she was elected 1st class as a 3 year old and the best of all 3 year old mares in Denmark. She was scored the best in her region (there are 3 in Denmark) and she also received a Bronze medal. At a horse show selection later that summer she also got the highest score of 24 points and also won the cup of honour.

Elmholt's Alinette



In time, I started riding Alinette. She has a super temperament and moves very much like a warmblood. I feel as though I am on a much bigger horse and she loves to work.

When she was four years old we bred her the first time. We selected the young stallion Sirius Hippios, a big brown boy with lovely expression and good movement. She delivered a black colt, Riddersholm Salem the year after. Riddersholm Salem has been exported to Belgium and is now an approved stallion in the Belgium NF Association. He is one of the best moving New Forest ponies I have ever seen. He has a lot of pony type and a sweet temper that makes him very easy to handle.



Riddersholm Salem (exp. Belgium)

Last year Alinette delivered another black colt foal, Riddersholm Clinton by Firfod Jetset. Clinton has been exported to America as a stallion prospect. He is, as Salem, an excellent mover with a lovely temperament and the sweetest pony head. This year Alinette had another colt, Riddersholm Lansing by Offem Minos, and he looks very promising and is a real eye catcher.



Riddersholm Clinton (exp. USA)

Our third stud mare is Riddersholm Safran out of Easy Dream and by the stallion Mister Malthe. She is the first mare we have kept and showed at the New Forest Election. This proved to be a wise decision as Safran was elected at 3 years old as the best mare in her region and received a bronze medal as well. She is a very big lady at 148 cm; has a fabulous sweet and tender nature and has very nice movement, especially in walk and trot. She has the perfect neck and

head combination as a riding pony and is very well proportioned. Safran has been ridden under saddle and this year 2007 produced her first foal, a brown colt with expression, movement and personality after our own stallion Offem Minos.



Riddersholm Safran

Our stallion Offem Minos is a Dutch bred NF stallion who was all over Champion in 2004 in Holland. We saw some offspring on the internet and contacted the owner who was living in France. Our friends, Lene and Michael, together with Henning and I decided to take the trip to France in February 2006 to take a closer look at some young stock. We were aware that Minos was for sale – but we had only seen pictures of him and wanted to see him in real life.

When we saw him we had no doubts and fell in love with him. Minos has a lovely temperament and personality and on top of that, he is well built with a very elegant head and neck, super paces and has excellent skills as a dressage pony and show jumper. He had been competing in level ZZ in Holland in jumping and M in Dressage. We decided with our friends to buy him in partnership.



Offem Minos - Dutch bred New Forest stallion

Minos has now been in Denmark for a year and he covered 8 mares last season. Six foals have been delivered so far and all are very promising and have their father's lovely head and neck. Offem Minos has his own website www.offem-minos.dk

I register my NF ponies with the Danish New Forest Pony Association and have been a board member with the Danish NF Association for four years. Our NF association only approves pure-bred NF ponies. The European New Forest Association has for several years held bi-annual conferences where a lot of NF issues concerning breeding, stallions, testing of stallions and much more are discussed. This makes for a strong community feeling between the participating countries. I have been a participant in several of those meetings.

The Danish NF breeders also can also present their ponies for registration with the Danish Sports Pony Register. Many of the Danish sports ponies are based on NF breeding mares and there have been a number of very good NF stallions approved with the Register.

I decided last year to resign as a committee member of the Danish NF Pony Association in order to spend more time with my ponies. At that point I also wanted to spend more time on my real passion - to spread the word on the New Forest pony breed world wide.

My friend Lene Thaulow and I started a New Forest web site in March 2007 www.nf-worldwide.com. The web site now has more than 250 members from all over the world. It is a web site for everyone who is interested and dedicated to New Forest ponies. We gather results, articles, photo's and information from every where that we can. We have a forum for discussions about everything NF. The forum also gives advice in presenting your NF pony and provides the opportunity to brag a little.

As a breeder of New Forest ponies I have certain goals that I wish to achieve in order to breed the ultimate pony for riding and show. My aim is to breed New Forest ponies with a height of maximum 148 cm. We endeavour to breed stock that is typical of this sturdy race; elegant riding ponies with a calm temperament and competitive abilities for jumping and dressage. In particular, we aim to produce ponies with excellent movement and expression.

We breed ponies that can and will be ridden by children and adults, preferably for competition and we base our breeding on 1st class mares honoured with medals and carefully selected 1st class stallions.

Our main priority is healthy and sound ponies, and thereby I also mean a healthy temperament. I believe it is vital that the foals are handled from day one. I want them easy to lead when leaving their dams and they are also taught to be calm when tied up.

Another high priority is that our ponies like to work as when ridden by children it is important that the ponies will go forward willingly. There is nothing duller for a child than to be on a pony that they have to push all the time.

Today we have eight NF ponies and one NF stallion. The charm, elegance, calmness and hardiness of the NF ponies are very attractive to us. And the demands for ponies with these qualities is growing.

I hope this small article from Denmark can inspire some Australians to look into the New Forest breed and see what great capabilities these lovely and elegant riding and sports ponies have.

I thank you for having the opportunity to present my stud and tell my story.

www.riddersholm.com