

Spotlight: North American Sportpony Registry

Small performers with big talent, these ponies are perfect for young riders

A North American Sportpony is a pony, usually 13.2 to 14.2 hands, that looks and moves like a small horse. He is capable of competing in the disciplines of jumping, dressage, eventing, and driving; and he also excels as a hunter. He is not the traditional “Thelwell” type of pony but rather is much more athletic and horse-like in appearance and ability.

Many pony breeds and small horses can be registered as North American Sportponies, with the exception of ponies with draft blood.

Because the riders of North American Sportponies are usually children, temperament is paramount. The North American Sportpony is the ideal and safe companion for any young rider. Equally important is movement, and it should have great suspension, articulation, impulsion, and elasticity.

The North American Sportpony is a gentle, bold, willing companion with exceptional gaits and an inherent desire to win. It is a reliable friend who is equally at home on the trail and in the show arena.

North American Sportponies you might know: In USDF’s junior/young-rider year-end standings, **Makuba** was second at Training Level in 2001, second at Third Level in 2002, and third at Intermediate I in 2003, competing against horses as well as ponies. Makuba is also the sire of the American Warmblood gelding Montgomery, the 2009 Adequan/USDF First Level Horse of the Year.

In 2004, **Mushu** (pictured) won Jr/YR Great American/USDF Regional Championship titles at First and Second Levels. In 2006, he earned an individual thirteenth place at the NAJYRC.

FoxCry Nicodemus was eleventh

in the 2008 Materiale Adequan/USDF Horse of the Year standings, four- and five-year-old stallions and geldings—the only nationally ranked pony in that category.

The organization: The North American Sportpony Registry (NASPR) was established in 1997 as a division of the American Warmblood Registry. The concept of sport ponies had been growing in popularity in the US, but there was not a registry in place to provide the necessary structure for their continued improvement and promotion. Since the NASPR’s founding, the registry grew to such a degree that it was spun off as a stand-alone registry in 2003.

The NASPR accepts ponies of unknown heritage based solely on the individual’s conformation, movement, temperament, and athletic ability. These undocumented ponies are entered into a preliminary studbook section of the database and are creating a history for



LITTLE BIG MAN: *The NASPR stallion Mushu, ridden by Elaine Wagner*

future generations. All ponies accepted for registry must undergo an inspection and be DNA-typed. Stallions accepted into the NASPR undergo rigorous testing plus additional performance and progeny requirements.

All-Breeds awards offered: USDF open performance and dressage sport-horse breeding categories.

How to participate: The horse must be registered with the North American Sportpony Registry, and the owner must be a NASPR member in good standing.

Organization contact info: *North American Sportpony Registry:* americansportpony.com or (406) 734-5499. ▲

For the Breeds, by the Breeds

Each month, “All-Breeds Connection” spotlights a USDF All-Breeds awards program participating organization and the breed it represents. Information and photos that appear in this column are furnished by the breed registries. USDF does not endorse or promote any breed or registry over another.

The All-Breeds program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage. All participating organizations offer “open” year-end awards from Training Level through Grand Prix, and some offer awards in additional categories, such as adult amateur, junior/young rider, and dressage sport-horse breeding. Registry representatives are usually on hand to help bestow awards at the banquet held during each year’s USDF convention.

All-Breeds award eligibility requirements include memberships and horse registrations with both USDF and the participating organization. For details and a list of current participating organizations, visit usdf.org. For more information about All-Breeds awards program participation, send e-mail to allbreeds@usdf.org.