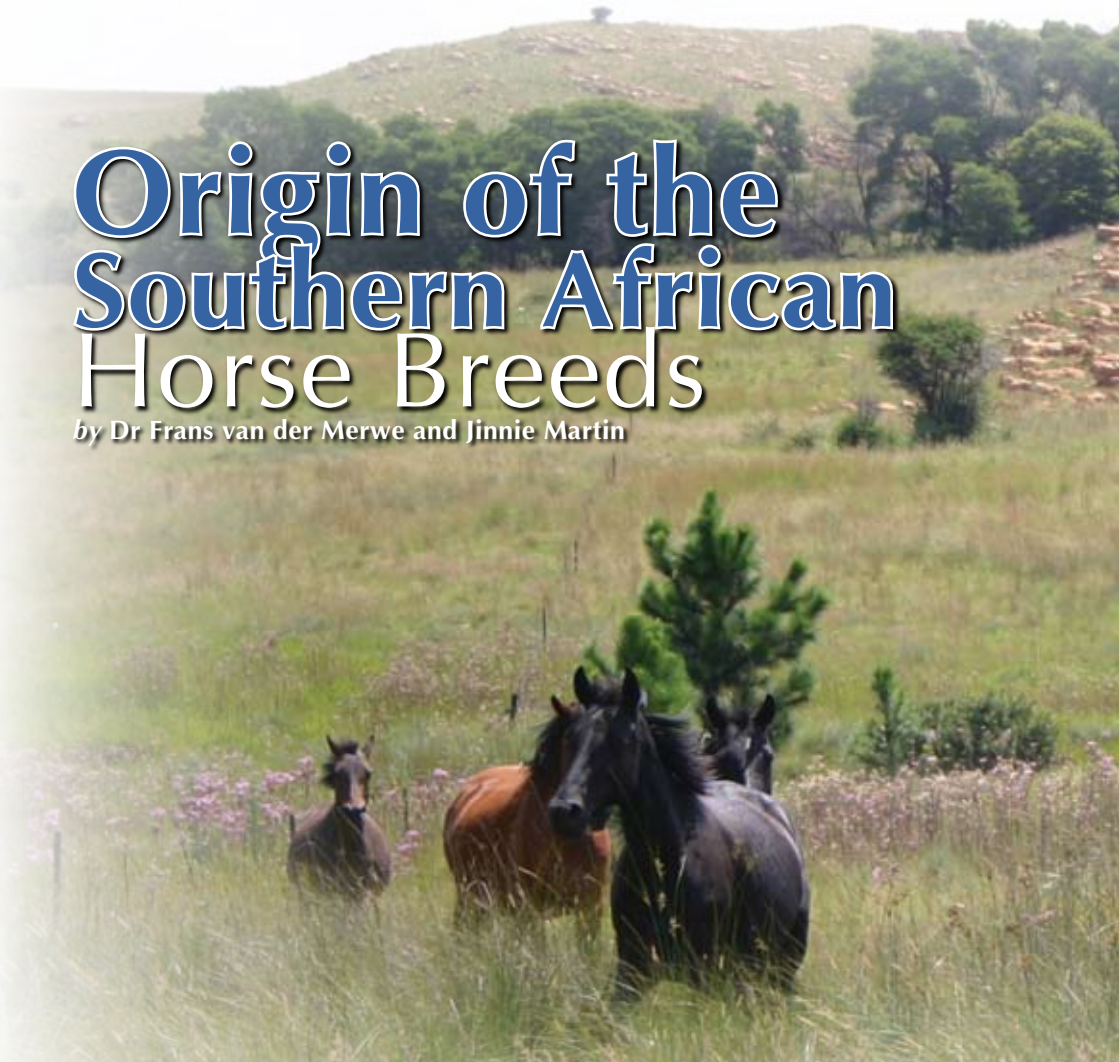
Origin of the Southern African Horse Breeds

by Dr Frans van der Merwe and Jinnie Martin



Although the name has long ago fallen into disuse, the lineages of the present day SA Boerperd, Cape Boerperd, Nooitgedacht Horse and Basutho Pony can all be traced back to the Cape Horse.

The Cape Horse gained worldwide recognition in the 18th and 19th centuries when horses from the Cape colony proved themselves as outstanding remounts in India and other parts of the British Empire of the time.

The first horses imported into southern Africa were brought to the Cape of Good Hope in 1652 from Java in a Dutch East India Company vessel returning to Holland via the newly established halfway station at the foot of Table Mountain. They were called Javanese ponies. Despite some accounts that the Javanese pony was a mixture of Barb and Arab, authorities in that country are now of the opinion that the Java horses descended directly from Mongolian stock later crossed to oriental horses from Persia.

For almost one and a half centuries the descendants of Javanese ponies, strengthened in size and constitution in 1689 with a very significant importation of good quality Persian horses by Dutch governor Simon van der Stel, formed the foundation stock for large herds of small but exceptionally hardy farm horses. They played an enormously important role in the economy of the colony and in the lives of the settlers as well as the indigenous peoples.

In 1778 a shipment of South American horses, highly esteemed for their gentleness, beauty and good service, was landed at the Cape. Another introduction of horses of Spanish origin followed in 1807 when, during the Napoleonic wars, two vessels carrying Andalusian horses to Buenos Aires were captured and brought to the Cape. They were eagerly taken up by the local breeders and it is believed that the later famous Melck greys derived from these. It is also assumed that the Barb ancestry of the South American and Spanish horses was responsible for the unmistakable traces of Barb conformation that is still today to be seen in the Nooitgedachter and SA Boerperd.

Compare the pair of Nooitgedachters (top) with the group of SA Boerperde (bottom)

In 1782 the first English National Horses (later called Thoroughbred) were introduced. During the first British occupation of the Cape (1795-1803) more English horses as well as horses from Boston were imported. These and subsequent importations of Arabian stallions, brought about great improvement in horse stock of the districts where they were standing. In 1803 Lichtenstein *(Travels in Southern Africa)* commented very favourably on the Van Rheenen stud at Groote Toren near the present-day Calvinia in the Hantam, where he found 300 mares with a number of imported stallions.

Lord Charles Somerset, the English governor at the Cape from 1814 to 1827, perhaps did more than any other single individual to promote the horse industry in the South Africa of that time. He personally imported thirty-four Thoroughbred stallions for racing and the improvement of racing stock. Some of these stallions and their offspring found their way to the inland studs of the western-, southwestern- and northern Cape and as far away as Graaff-Reinet and Albany in the eastern Cape.

Through Somerset's endeavours the export trade to India and other parts of the British Empire was greatly increased. It was then that the Cape Horse gained world renown as a cavalry horse, being reported by the Indian army officers and those who later fought in the Crimean War, to have no equal. It was able to stand the extremities of climate and terrain from the arid, dusty heat of India to the bitter cold of the Crimea. It was hardy, docile, willing and surefooted, needing no special care and able to forage for itself on the scantiest of food. It was also in Somerset's time that Cape Horses were taken by ship to Australia where they formed the basis for the development of the famous Waler, of New South Wales, which eventually took over the Indian and Middle Eastern markets for cavalry horses.

Between 1835 and the early 1840's Cape Horses, in large numbers, went along on the Great Trek, the mass emigration of farmers with their families and livestock from the Cape districts to the lands north of the Orange- and Vaal rivers and east of the Drakensberg. Eventually they laid the foundation for large studs, some of them with hundreds of mares kept virtually free-roaming on new farms in what later became the republics of Orange Free State, the Transvaal and the British colony of Natal. Also at that time, actually from 1826 onwards, Cape Horses were taken into Basutholand as war booty and as trade goods. In that mountain kingdom, with its extremely harsh climate, sheep and rocky mountain foot paths and scantiest of food, especially in winter, the famous Basutho Pony developed virtually through natural selection as a descendant of the Cape Horse. The present-day Nooitgedacht are direct descendants of the Basutho ponies, which were, strictly speaking, not ponies but small horses with remarkable weight carrying capacities.

The Cape Horse derived from Javanese ponies, Persian Arabs, South American and Spanish Andalusians strengthened with later large infusions of English Thoroughbred and some Arabian blood, developed as a well-adapted, distinct type in South Africa over a period of 200 years.

(This is an excerpt from an article in the 2002 FAO publication *Animal Genetic Resources Information Bulletin* No 32) SAH

A gymkhana display

SA Boerperd flying high

by **Theresa Odendaal**

The South African Boerperd is fast becoming one of the most popular and versatile breeds in South Africa. This is not a mere accident, but the result of careful planning by both the breeders and selectors, who are forever raising the standards for this unique breed, giving the riding public exactly what they are looking for.

Originally, bred from descendants of those brave horses who served in the Anglo Boer War, the Boerperd was intended as the name implies – a horse for the farmer. They were meant to be tough, hardy, strong, clever, willing as well as infinitely gentle in order to work on the farms in harness and under saddle. This was a tough call, but from selective breeding, this was made possible and the Boerperd as breed was founded.

It did, however, not stop there. During the last ten years or so, the general riding public increasingly noticed the breed. First as safe horses for children, then as safe horses for nervous riders, then as very capable all-rounders for more competitive and competent riders. This started a revolution.

With most other breeds, it is enough merely for the parents of a foal to be registered as a specific breed, for the foal to be considered registered as well. Not so with the Boerperd, which has to be inspected by a group of selectors at age two, before they are allowed to be branded as a Boerperd. These selectors are very critical of the animals that they pass, thus ensuring a high standard in the breed. They have also succeeded in preserving those original qualities as well as adding many new ones. It is one of the only breeds that is 100% suitable for children, juniors, adults and even senior citizens. It is also suitable for almost every discipline imaginable as was proven to more than just the South African riding public a while ago.

In 2004 a unique event occurred – actually two. The International Group for Equestrian Qualifications (IGEQ), an international association with 33 member countries of which South Africa is one, had their annual general meeting in South Africa – a first for the country

A side-saddle display was one of the items on the programme

Vyfhoek Encore lying down at his trainer's feet

as well as the southern hemisphere. Of course these international representatives were treated to everything of the best that our country could offer, including all things equestrian.

Included in this programme was the second unique event. On 21 November 2004, the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society presented a tattoo, a display of a magnitude never seen in this country before. With absolute military precision, 30 horses performed 18 items of no more than two minutes each to demonstrate to these international representatives the incredible versatility of this breed.

Almost every discipline was covered, namely:

- Western Pleasure Horse
- Western Reining
- Western Workhorse
- Children's Riding Horse
- Adult Show Hunter
- 3-Gaited Universal Riding Horse
- 3-Gaited Traditional Riding Horse
- 5-Gaited Traditional Riding Horse
- Dressage
- Show Riding Horse
- Side-saddle Display
- Saddle-seat Display
- Show Jumping
- Tent Pegging
- Barrel Racing
- Single Harness Driving

To end the programme, the organisers added a suitably international flavour to the whole event. The television advertisement for Shell Ultra in which the most beautiful black horse was used, was shot in South Africa, using none other than a Boerperd. It had been screened internationally as well, and this band of visitors knew it as well as any South African.

There were gasps of recognition when the horse from the advert, Vyfhoek Encore, was brought into the arena doing a Spanish walk and then dutifully lying down at his trainer's feet. Loud clapping filled the air and participants, hosts and visitors were all equally amazed – a grand finale to a superb spectacle.

This whole tattoo was a phenomenal feat, a spectacular display and a tribute to the versatility of the South African Boerperd. No other breed in this country, probably even in the world, can boast such a repertoire. The international visitors were immensely impressed and could not stop talking about what they had witnessed. What made it even more remarkable, according to them, was that none of them had previously heard of the South African Boerperd as a breed.

If nothing else, this event has put the SA Boerperd firmly on the international map and from here on there is only one way for the breed to go and that is up! **SAH**

Vyfgangkampioen oor afrigting

***deur* Izak Hofmeyr**

Toe die 7-jarige SA Boerperdreun Klinker Jasper op die 2005 Nasionale SA Boerperd-kampioenskappe uiteindelik as die vyfgang-kampioen aangewys word, was almal dit eens: hierdie was die strafste vyfgangkompetisie in baie jare. Tussen die drie voorperde, Jasper, Lang Carel Juris en Eggo Klinker III was daar deurgaans baie min te kies, maar dit was uiteindelik die junior onder die drie met die 27-jarige Lötter Bekker in die saal, wat met die trofee weggestap het.

Gesels 'n mens met Lötter oor sy perde, is dit gou duidelik dat jy hier met 'n *horseman* te doen het vir wie perde 'n leefwyse is en wat sy standpunte op 'n diep studie grond. Sy Vuurslag-stoet bestaan feitlik heeltemal uit merries vanuit die ou Cloetelyn omdat hy oortuig is dat dit in hierdie lyn is dat hy sy tipe perd sal vind.

"Wat my betref gaan teling oor funksionele doeltreffendheid. Met jou teeldoelwit duidelik vir jouself geformuleer, gaan dit nou daaroor om die beste moontlike hingste vir jou moederlyne te soek wat funksionele korrektheid vir die taak wat jy vir die vul in gedagte het, sal meebring. Dit is baie belangrik dat die produk van so 'n proses 'n atleet is. Dit beteken dat die perd wel doelgerig geteel is, maar dat hy ook in ander dissiplines sal kan presteer indien hy daarvoor geskool word."

Lötter is terdeë bewus daarvan dat die eise wat aan perde gestel word, toenemend verander. Die dae dat die mark 'n algemene gebruiksperd gesoek het, glo hy, is vir eers verby.

"Die Boerperd is tot 'n groot mate oor die jare deur die natuur en inheemse omstandighede geselekteer. Die perde wat nie die pas kon volhou nie, het uitgeval. Wat my betref het ons perde vier uitstaande eienskappe wat tot hulle oorleving bygedra het. Dit is uitstekende hoewe, 'n uitstekende spysverteringstelsel en 'n uitstekende konstitusie – hulle vermoë om kondisie te behou onder omstandighede waar ander perde dit

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nie sou maak nie. Voeg daarby 'n uitstekende temperament en jy het 'n baie besonderse perd. Ons teikenmark vra egter nou sekere aanpassings (bv die grootte van ons perde) en die gevaar is dat ons, om kompeterend te bly, daardie aanpassing ten koste van hierdie basiese eienskappe sal maak. Hierdie aanpassings is definitief moontlik en haalbaar, maar die feit is dat hierdie 'n lang genetiese pad is om te loop, en dat enige kortpaaie gaan veroorsaak dat 'n mens van die basiese kwaliteite inboet wat juis ons ras so uitstaande maak."

Lötter se rykuns is in die klassieke dressuurbeginsels geanker. Hy beskou vyfgang as 'n logiese verdere stap nadat die perd deeglik in dressuurbeginsels geskool is. Eens met die grondwet van die SA Boerperdtelersgenootskap glo Lötter geensins aan die gebruik van kunsmatige hulpmiddels (*shackles*, rekke, swaar ysters of *pads*) om aksie van perde te bevorder nie.

"As ek 'n perd in vyfgang begin afrig, is die paadjie presies dieselfde as vir 'n dressuurperd. Ek lê egter baie gou klem op agterkwartaktiwiteit omdat dit later so 'n groot rol speel. Ongeag die gang, die perd moet altyd van agter dryf en lig wees in die voorkwart. Dit moet behoorlik lyk asof die perd op sy hurke gaan sit. Voor dit egter vir die perd moontlik is, moet sy rug eers sterk word, en dit doen 'n mens deur hom lank en laag te werk. Soos die perd se ritme en balans verbeter, kan jy sien wanneer hy reg is om meer met sy agterkwart te gee. Soos sy skoling vorder, skuif die middelpunt van balans na agter sodat hy al ligter voor word en meer en meer aktief met sy agterkwart begin werk."

Omdat kortgang en trippel laterale gange is, is dit vir die perd moeiliker om te buig. Dit is dus baie belangrik dat sy skouers sal los raak, en om dit te help bewerkstellig, is oefeninge soos die *shoulder-in* en fleksies baie handig. Dan is afwisseling tussen bymekaarvat en verleng ook baie doeltreffend vir verbetering van ritme. Die perd maak sy raam kort in kolleksiewerk, en verleng dit dan weer in gestrekte werk. Hierdie wisseling dra baie tot lengte van tree by en veroorsaak dat die perd al ligter in jou hand word.

" 'n Belangrike punt is om nie die term 'op die stang' te verwar met 'n perd wat sy kop in 'n vertikale houding dra nie. 'n Perd wat 'op die stang' ry, werk deur sy rug en set sy kop waar dit sy balans die beste pas vir die spesifieke pas waarin hy ry. As hy byvoorbeeld 'n kortgang of

'n Vyfgangperd se draf behoort nie veel te verskil van 'n Grand Prix dressuurperd se gestrekte draf nie

'n trippel ry, is sy kop nie op die vertikaal nie, maar hy is steeds op die stang, mits hy lig in jou hande is en sy raam nie hol raak nie."

Selfs al is 'n perd so ver gevorderd in sy afrigting soos wat Jasper tans is, gaan Lötter ten minste een keer per week weer terug na die basiese dressuuroefeninge om soepelheid te bevorder. Sirkels, figuur agt en slingerlyne (*serpentines*) word in 'n lang en lae raamwerk gery as opwarming. Soos die perd sy agterlyf aktiveer, verskuif sy balans na agter en word hy al ligter in die hand, totdat hy daardie raamwerk aanneem van 'n hoë kop en lae kruis wat so indrukwekkend lyk.

"Slegs as ek in die laterale passe van trippel en kortgang begin werk, wyk ek af van die tradisionele dressuurstyl. 'n Vyfgangperd se draf behoort na my mening nie veel te verskil van 'n Grand Prix dressuurperd se gestrekte draf nie."

Die vyfgangrystyl, sê hy, dra ongelukkig baie negatiewe konnotasies onder 'n groot deel van die ruiters in die land, omdat algemeen aanvaar word dat almal van wrede en kunsmatige metodes gebruik maak om perde so uit te bring. Dit, voel hy, is 'n saak wat vyfgangruiters ernstig sal moet aanspreek en vir die mark bewys daar is alternatiewe metodes om hierdie rystyl/skoustyl te benader.

"Ek glo persoonlik dat om 'n goeie vyfgangperd te maak, hy eers 'n goeie driegangperd moet wees, en daarmee bedoel ek klassieke dressuuropleiding met die klem op ritme, soepelheid en dan agterkwartaktiwiteit. Verder is ek van mening dat 'n mens nie 'n perd leer trippel voor hy nie ten minste vyf jaar oud is nie.

"Ek dink ook daar is baie bekwame dressuurruiters wat, as hy eers eenkeer op 'n goed afgerigte vyfgangperd was, nie sommer sal wil afklim nie." **SAH**

Vatikaan en Sandra in sysaal. Sandra is deel van 'n groep damesruiters wat daaraan werk om hierdie elegante rystyl vir vroue te laat herleef

Calela Vatikaan

deur **Izak Hofmeyr**

In SA Boerperdgeledere word daar 'n onderskeid getref tussen die tradisionele rystyl, wat onder meer vyfgang insluit, en die universele rystyl, wat op die klassieke Europese rybeginsels geskoei is. Die huidige universele driegangkampioenskapspaar is Calela Vatikaan en sy ruiter Sandra Bosman van die Edel SA Boerperdstoet by Bronkhorstspruit.

'n Seun van Calela Zara by Vyfhoek Formaat, staan Calela Vatikaan as stoethings saam met Li-Juan Eldorado by die Edel-stoet van Sandra en haar man, Paul Bosman.

"Ons het Vatikaan op een van die jaarlikse prestigeveilings as tweejaar-oue hings gekoop. Dis baie min in 'n ruiter se lewe dat mens op 'n perd klim en onmiddellik weet dat hier iets spesiaals tussen jou en die perd gebeur. In my lewe het dit al drie keer gebeur, en Vatikaan was een van daardie kere," vertel Sandra.

Sy het as junior ruiter vir die Natalse span in dressuur meegeding en ook in skouspring gekompeteer – uitsluitlik op volbloedperde. Met Vatikaan, het sy hom as jong perd aan skoue blootgestel, maar met beperkte sukses.

"Dis toe dat ek al meer op dressuur met hom begin konsentreer het. Ek het gelukkig by Helen Laros, 'n vorige Suid-Afrikaanse dressuurkampioen, uitgekom en vir 'n paar jaar by haar les gekry. Sy werk met 'n spesifieke plan met 'n perd, wat op fleksie en buigings van sy lyf fokus. Die afgelope jaar werk ek saam met Jackie Supra en ek is baie tevrede met ons vordering."

Vatikaan se sukses, sê Sandra, het nie oornag gebeur nie. Dit is die resultaat van 'n stelselmatige opbou en verbetering. "Hier teen 2004, toe hy tien jaar oud was, het hy begin piek en ek dink hy is nou, op 12, in sy fleur." Vatikaan se skouprestasies lees soos 'n storieboek.

"As ons vir 'n dressuurkompetisie inskryf, is ons altyd ten minste onder die eerte vier. Hy is 'n perd wat altyd konstant presteer. Hy is miskien nie 'n 85%-dressuurperd nie, maar hy lewer konstant bo-gemiddelde prestasies. Ek lewe baie eerder saam met 'n perd wat konstant bogemiddeld presteer, as een wat vandag briljant is en môre weer glad nie saamwerk nie.

Sandra en Vatikaan ontspanne by die huis

"Vatikaan is in alle opsigte 'n bogemiddelde presteerder. Dit geld nie net vir die skouring nie, maar ook vir sy nageslag. Hy teel konstant vullens wat beter as hy is."

In 2003, het Sandra en Vatikaan die THS se Mini Novice-kampioenskap gewen en tans is hulle die SA Boerperd- universele driegangkampioene.

"Dis interessant hoe die rolle omgeruil het tussen 2004 en 2005. In 2004 was ons die in-handhingskampioene en die reserwe-driegangkampioene. In 2005 het die rolle net mooi omgeruil en is ons die reserwe in-handkampioen en die grootkampioen onder saal."

Omdat die SA Boerperd vir so lank vir beweging geselekteer is, glo Sandra, het hulle baie goeie beweging vir dressuur. Verder deug hulle as uitstekende springperde vir juniors, weens hulle uitstekende atletiese vermoëns en ratsheid.

"Wat my betref het die Boerperd die vermoë om op mediumvlak in dressuur te kan deelneem. Hy het die beweging daarvoor, en ook die ligvoetigheid wat van hom 'n baie elegante dressuurperd maak. Wat spring betref, dink ek kyk mense vas teen hoogte. Daar is genoeg perde van onder die sestien hand in die internasionale springarenas om te bewys dat hoogte nie die enigste vereiste is nie. Baie belangriker nog, is die hart en atletiese vermoëns van die perd."

Daarom, sê sy, sou sy graag meer Boerperde in die dressuur- en junior skouspringarenas wou sien. Die produk is daar, dis net 'n kwessie van die regte bemarking. **SAH**

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The Nooitgedachter

Among the best over long distances

by **Hennie Basson**

Julio Cerqueira on Silvretta Logan with his son Tyron following suit during an endurance ride (Photo by Equizone)

About two hundred kilometers south-west from where the story of the Nooitgedachter started with the Basuto Pony in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a member of this breed showed in a modern era that it could survive the most extreme conditions.

During the 2004 National Endurance Championship, held annually at Fauresmith in the Free State, a Nooitgedachter stallion, Silvretta Logan, excelled by ending as one of the front-runners in the division for heavy weights. This emphasises the fact that this sport no longer needs to be dominated by Arabs and part-bred Arabs alone. A Nooitgedachter has the stamina and spirit to keep up with the best over a long distance.

When it comes to endurance racing, it is a family business for the Carqueira family of Durbanville in the Western Cape with not only Julio and Melanie saddling up, but also their son, Tyron, who is still at school.

Melanie has competed in the children's category since she was eleven years old. In 2004, she again started competing in the category for seniors. Husband Julio, with only two seasons of competitive riding experience, achieved Western Province Colours last year and was also on the shortlist for the SA National Team on his chestnut stallion, Silvretta Logan.

While their stud at Joostenbergvlakte, not far from where they are living, concentrates on the breeding of Arab horses, Warmbloods and Nooitgedachters, it was with this outstanding Nooitgedachter stallion that he finished in the eleventh position at the 2004 Nationals at Fauresmith.

This was really a remarkable achievement against the very best horses and riders in the country. The three-day event at Fauresmith covers a mammoth 200 km in severe conditions. Especially the freezing early hours of the day is remembered by each and everyone who has experienced it in the past. During this competition, nine-year-old Silvretta Logan showed all the good qualities that his breed is known for – excellent rideability, hardiness, sure-footedness, intelligence and a kind disposition.

He was bred in Wonderfontein, Mpumalanga,

by Dr Herku van Niekerk from the F4 sire Nooitgedacht Logan out of the F2 mare Silvretta Senora. Nooitgedacht Logan is one of the original stallions bred at the Nooitgedacht experimental farm near Ermelo. Although he never participated in long-distance competitions, he showed tremendous stamina and ability.

He participated in the 1981 commemorative ride from Pietersburg to Durban as part of the 20-year celebrations of the Republic of South Africa. Some of his progeny, notably Univers Gunimed and Univers Karin, did well on the endurance trail in the 1980's.

Silvretta Logan was raised in natural veld conditions in a herd and was left to mature while only being backed at the age of four years. He was then schooled at Joostenbergvlakte, brought on, and competed under saddle in showing classes.

When he turned five, he started with an endurance-training programme. In February 2002, he completed his first endurance ride with Melanie in the saddle. To qualify to ride at Fauresmith the horse and rider combination has to complete three 80 km rides. At Saldanha, Julio and Logan achieved the "Vet's award" in the heavy weight division and the same award in the overall category in Agter-Paarl. They also completed the 80 km at Swellendam.

This was the start of a very impressive endurance record. By May 2005, Logan had completed 1 300 km in competition, including eight 80 km rides, boasting five wins, two seconds and one fourth place, all in the heavy weight category (meaning the rider and saddle weigh in at more than 95 kg). Another significant achievement was that he was runner-up for the Western Province Endurance Horse of the Year in 2005. He was second to Ramona Horn on her horse, Mustang.

Logan has eight known progeny. Although still young, each one has inherited his kind, willing temperament and good, solid conformation, as well as his exceptional free movement. It is obvious that he passes these characteristics on to his get. In addition to Nooitgedacht mares, Logan has also been bred to Arab, Thoroughbred and Warmblood mares, producing quality sport horses and ponies.

Melanie manages their El Bonito Stud. The stud has its own endurance team, consisting of six members, six horses and three crew members. **SAH**

Silvretta Logan, showing all the good qualities for endurance riding

Tornado by die *Horse of the Year*-skou vroeër vanjaar

Tornado waai sterk in perdewêreld

***deur* Izak Hofmeyr**

Die ruiter-en-perd-kombinasie van Claudia Snyckers en Pretman Tornado is besig om alle rekordboeke in Nooitgedachtergeledere te herskryf met die sukses wat hulle in die skouring ervaar. Wat hulle prestasies egter so betekenisvol maak, is dat dit in ope klasse behaal word waar perde van alle rasse deelneem.

Die kroon op hulle prestasies, sê Claudia, is sekerlik die 2005 Avis Derby Werksperdkampioenskap. Die Avis Derby is waarskynlik die grootste en strafste perdeskou in die land, met die room van die land se skouperde daar verteenwoordig. Hierdie kampioenskap, in Engels genoem die *Working Riding Championship*, is tevore nog net deur óf 'n Volbloed, óf 'n Warmbloed gewen.

Beide die nasionale en internasionale beoordelaars was dit eens dat Tornado een van die *supreme stallions in the country* is. Dít, van beoordelaars wat al een of twee mooi perde in hulle lewens gesien het, is voorwaar 'n bekvol!

Die twee se jongste sukses is by die onlangse *Horse of the Year*-skou in Kyalami behaal toe hulle, afgesien van die onderskeie Nooitgedachter-klasse, as die opperste werksryperdkampioen gekroon is. Daarbenewens het hulle vierde gestaan in die Opperste Ryperdkampioenskap.

Nou reeds sestien jaar oud, is werksperdkompetisies beslis Tornado se sterkpunt, vertel Claudia. Die rede hiervoor is dat hy al daardie eienskappe waarop die Nooitgedachter roem in veelvoud het, naamlik 'n uitstekende temperament, 'n werkslus en begeerte om te leer, 'n uitstekende geheue en baie goeie atletiese vermoëns.

"Hoewel hy in die ope klasse teen perde kompeteer wat heelwat groter as hy is, voel hy baie groter om te ry as wat hy lyk en het hy so 'n goeie konformasie en balans dat dit meer as

Hoewel hy nooit ernstig in skouspring afgerig is nie, beïndruk Tornado ou gesoute skouspringers met sy springstyl

opmaak vir die feit dat hy kleiner is," sê Claudia. "Hy beweeg ook baie groot, so as hy eers in beweging is, raak sy grootte minder belangrik."

Tornado staan by Claudia se Moya Stoet in die Boskop-omgewing in die ooste van Pretoria. Sy vullens openbaar dieselfde goeie eienskappe as hy en het self reeds verskeie kampioenskappe agter die blad.

Hyself is uit die merrie Ligvoet Toiings by Botanica Karamba, wat 'n seun van die bekende hings, Triggol Sultan, was. Hy is deur wyle oom Dirk Jordaan by die Pretoria Munisipaliteit se Pretman-stoet geteel. Dit is merkwaardig dat Pretman Meester, wat elders in hierdie fokus op die Nooitgedachter behandel word, uit dieselfde stoet onder dieselfde stoetmeester geteel is.

Claudia het reeds as kinderruiter die aandag op haar gevestig met haar en haar merrie, Ons s'n Komma, se vreeslose skouspringrondtes.

Na skool is sy vir 'n jaar Duitsland toe om daar te gaan perdry. Met haar terugkoms het sy diereverpleging op Onderstepoort gestudeer. Sy verdeel tans haar tyd tussen die dierekliniek waar sy soggens werk en haar stalle. **SAH**

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BELANGRIKE DATUMS

AJV
6 Mei 2006

Hingsevaluerings
24 Junie 2006

Pretoriaskou
Augustus 2006

Kontak ons by

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Die Nooitgedachter – Ook ’n drie-fase-wenner

***deur* Hennie Basson**

Die feit dat ’n Nooitgedachter slegs die spreekwoordelike haarbreedte daarvan gekom het om as die nasionale kampioen in die dryfkunssport bekroon te word, is ’n onteenseglike bewys van die veelsydigheid van hierdie ras.

As daar nou ’n perdesportdissipline is waarin die veelsydigheid van die perd tot die uiterste beproef word, is dit juis in *carriage driving* waarin die dier oor eienskappe soos ’n goeie temperament, feitlik kinderlike gehoorsaamheid en uithouvermoë soos min moet beskik.

Carriage driving is ’n vertoning van elegansie en koetsiersvermoë wat uit die jare toet dateer en is gebaseer op die gekombineerde drie-fase-kompetisie. Perd en koetsier word hierin beoordeel in drie uiteenlopende fases, naamlik dressering, die marathon en in ’n hindernisbaan.

Dat ’n perd of ponie wat in so ’n diverse, strawwe kompetisie die boonste sport wil bereik oor veral ’n uitstekende temperament moet beskik, is nie altemit nie. En dit was hoofsaaklik dié eienskap wat meegebring het dat die Nooitgedachterhings, Pretman Meester, vier jaar gelede aangewys is as reserwe SA-kampioen in dié sport.

“Indien ’n perd nie daartoe in staat is om in so ’n uiters veeleisende kompetisie deurgaans en in alle omstandighede kalm te bly nie, is hy byvoorbaat nie vir mededinging op die hoogste vlak geskik nie. Dit was juis Pretman Meester se buitengewone kalmte wat hom deur die drie fases van uiterste konsentrasie so goed laat vaar het.” Só gesels Elna Lategan, eienaar en vertoner van hierdie Nooitgedachter wat een en almal met sy vermoëns tydens dié kompetisie verras het.

Vir Elna, wat sedert kleintyd met hierdie ras vertroud is, was die prestasie nie heeltemal so onverwags nie. Sy het haar reeds op ’n vroeë ouderdom op die rug van ’n Nooitgedachter

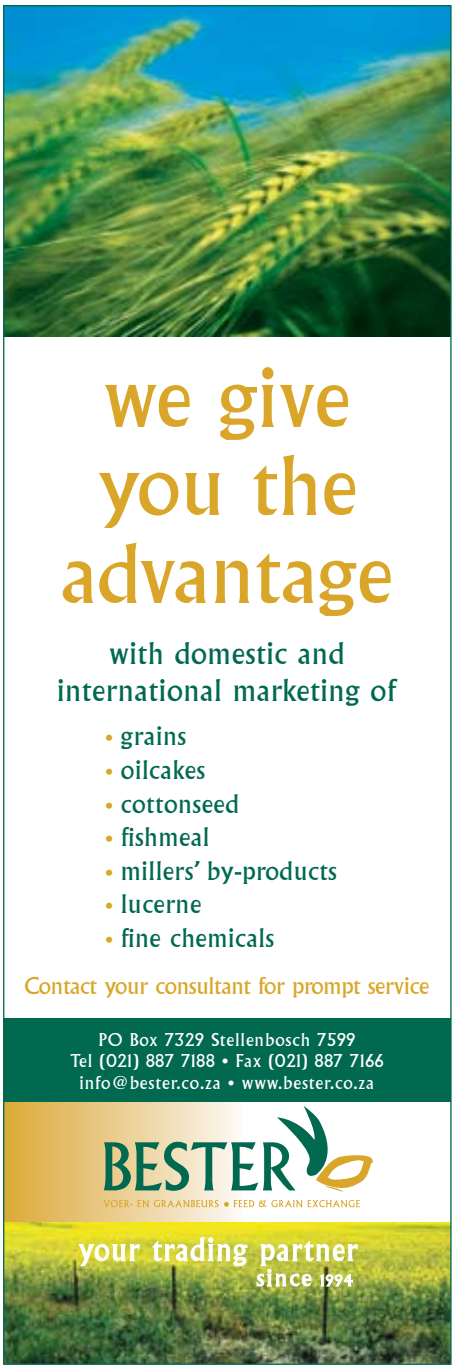
Met Pretman Meester het Elna Lategan reeds hoë louere in die dryfkunssport ingepalm

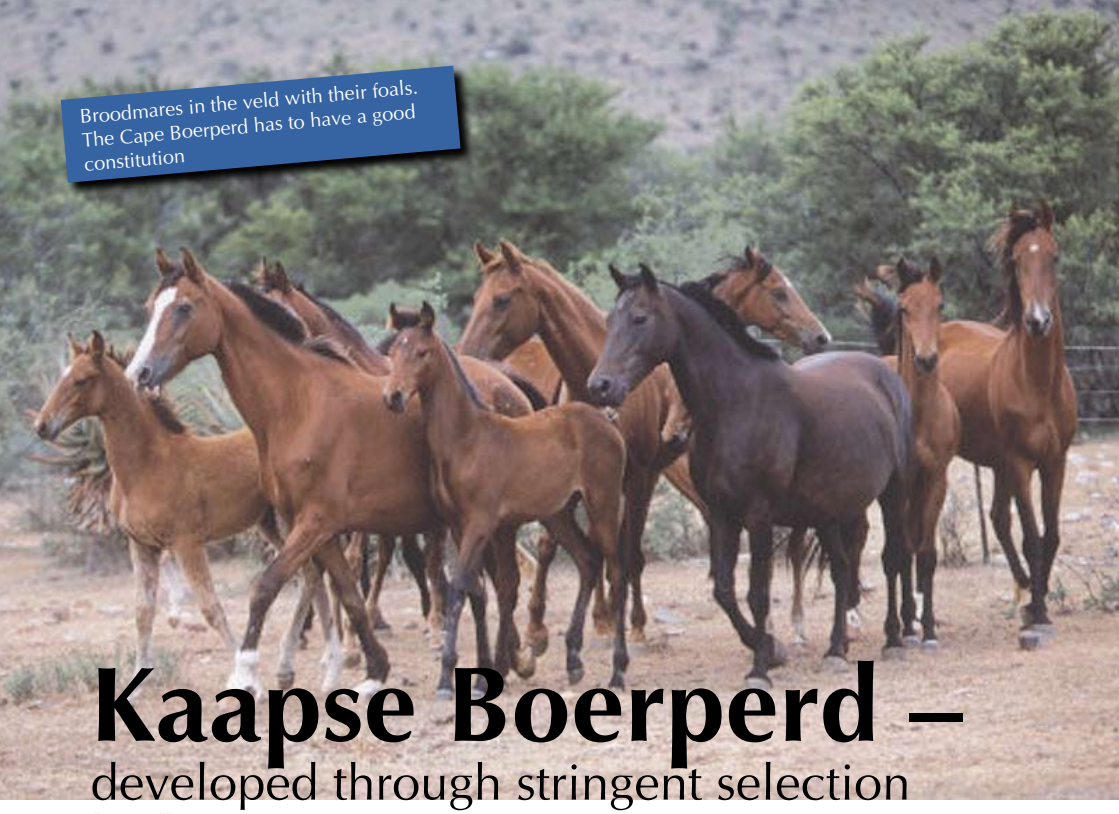
bevind, en sodoende dié perde van naderby leer ken en 'n buitengewone voorliefde vir hul ontwikkel. Haar pa, wyle dr Piet Lategan, was betrokke by die vroeë ontwikkeling van hierdie ras op Ermelo.

Sedert hulle by Koster op 'n plaas gewoon het en gedurende haar skooljare op Vryburg waar dr Lategan 'n veevoerfabriek gehad het, was die Nooitgedachter maar altyd deel van hul gesin. Ná haar pa se dood in 1993, het ma Maggie, haar suster Ilse en dié se man, Joop Lintvelt, die Calabashstoetery op 'n kleinhoewe by Langebaan hervestig. Die meeste van hulle huidige merries stam steeds uit die oorspronklike bloedlyne.

Pretman Meester kom uit die bekende Pretman-stoet wat deur die destydse Pretoriase munisipaliteit bedryf is. In 1999 het hy op die Pretoriaskou aan verskeie klasse vir Nooitgedachters deelgeneem en is hy as wenner vir dressuurperde en die Show Hunter-klas aangewys. Hy is ook onder die topdeelnemers geplaas in die nutsperd- en enkeltuigklasse.

Elna se werkverpligtinge as deeltydse voedingsformuleerder vir Equi-Feeds is ongelukkig van so 'n aard dat sy haar nie voltyds op die dryf-kunssport kan toespits nie. Wanneer sy egter vir Pretman Meester hiervoor benodig, is hy maar al te gewillig om sy kant te bring, sê sy. "Anders as baie ander perderasse het 'n Nooitgedachter nie baie oefening nodig om mededingend te kan wees nie. Dis immers 'n geharde ras wat oor baie uithouvermoë beskik en wat vir sy veelsydigheid bekend is." Gelukkig is daar darem die vooruitsig dat Elna en haar meesterlike hings moontlik later vanjaar 'n terugkeer tot die drie-fase-baan gaan maak tydens die volgende nasionale kampioen-skappe in die Wes-Kaap. **SAH**





Broodmares in the veld with their foals. The Cape Boerperd has to have a good constitution

Kaapse Boerperd – developed through stringent selection

by **Ezelle Marais**

The Kaapse Boerperd (Cape Boerperd) differs significantly from any other horse breed with regard to basic conformation. Although from the same base stock, it is a separate breed from the SA Boerperd.

The early Cape Horse was universally popular and was one of the first horse breeds to be exported to Australia, being renowned for its endurance, as well as the ability to work hard on a meagre diet and still remain in a fairly good condition. The horses had an easy, comfortable gait and could carry a big rider effortlessly over difficult terrain for extended periods.

These and other fine characteristics of the early Cape Horse (Kaapse Perd) prompted breeders to develop a breed with the same features, while at the same time refining the breed to be a pleasurable riding horse with a good temperament. The horse also had to be able to hold its own in the show ring.

In 1948, a group of concerned horse breeders felt that the early Kaapse Perd was facing possible extinction and therefore initiated formal steps to breed and improve this species. As a result of exports, droughts and other disasters, suitable breeding animals were hard to come by. It was then decided to make use of stallions of other breeds that conformed to the basic requirements of the Cape Horse and that could make a positive contribution in terms of establishing the fledgling breed. Breeds considered were the Arab, Hackney and American Saddle Horse.

Eventually the Saddle Horse was selected as the most suitable, as Boerperd mares were used as foundation mares in the local Saddle Horse industry. However, stallions of these breeds were used in conjunction with Boerperd stallions to breed foals conforming to all the breed standards.

It was decided that all horses would be subject to inspection and that those that passed would be entered into a foundation register.

Foals born from foundation parents would then, after passing inspection, be entered into an upgrading programme. A stringent selection policy ensured that only desirable animals were allowed into the upgrading programme.

The Kaapse Boerperd Herd Book was initially closed in 1964 and no more "foreign" horses were accepted to the breeding programme. In 1970 the Herd Book was re-opened for one year. In 1981 the SA Stud Book and Livestock Improvement Association accepted the affiliation of the Kaapse Boerdperd Breeders' Society and animals with the desired qualities were again accepted into the re-opened Herd Book as F1 animals, after passing inspection.

Twelve years later, however, it became evident that the Kaapse Boerperd was beginning to lose its identity. A decision was taken to nominate specific stallions from other breeds to enhance some of the traits of the Kaapse Boerperd.

"Eventually the Saddle Horse was selected as the most suitable, as Boerperd mares were used as foundation mares in the local Saddle Horse industry"

In 1994 eight stallions were nominated and inspected by a specially appointed inspector. The progeny of these stallions were entered into the Herd Book as F1 animals. The Society followed the normal upgrading programme and no animals were registered without passing inspection. In 1999 the Herd Book was once again closed and no foreign material was permitted. The Cape Boerperd was declared an indigenous developed breed.

The ideal Cape Boerperd must be of medium height (between 14,2 and 16 hands). It is a multi-purpose horse that can be used for work, pleasure and show. The horse must be robust, have good endurance and be fast and surefooted.

It should ride comfortably with enough speed in its various gaits, which will ensure that it can also be used as a pleasure horse. The horse should not tire its rider and it is also important that the horse have enough grace and action to hold its own in the show ring, in breeding and in the riding classes.

The Cape Boerperd National SA five gaited champion, Sixpence, with the author of this article and breed director, Ezelle Marais, in the saddle

Due to its reputation as a very versatile horse, it is the aim of the Breeders Society to show the Cape Boerperd in its diverse forms. We have a "saddle seat" as well as a "standard seat" division at shows. Horses are also exhibited in harness classes and in carriage driving. They are also used for show jumping, dressage, out rides, endurance riding and game viewing. Only about 25% of all registered Cape Boerperd end up in the "saddle seat" show ring. The rest are used for pleasure riding, dressage, jumping, etc.

The Chairman of the Society is Tokkie de Klerk from Graafff-Reinet and the secretary is Adri de Klerk (049 840 0054). Ezelle Marais is the breed director of the Kaapse Boerperd Breeders' Society. Contact her at 042 247 2296 / 082 552 2309. Web page: www.capeboerperd.co.za **SAH**

Vervolg op bladsy 37

Piet Serdyn, hier met twee merries, wys dat die SA Vlaamperde veral tuigperde by uitnemendheid is

SA Vlaamperd – 'n ras in eie reg

deur **Hennie Basson**

Hoewel die Friesperd 'n belangrike rol in die ontwikkeling van die SA Vlaamperd gespeel het, is die Vlaam 'n inheemse ras in eie reg met eiesoortige eienskappe. Die cliché dat dit "net 'n soort Friesperd is", is van alle waarheid ontbloot, sê Piet Serdyn, voorsitter van die SA Vlaamperdtelersgenootskap en 'n teler van die ras.

Piet staan sedert die einde sewentigerjare aan die voorpunt om die SA Vlaam 'n ereplek onder plaaslike perderasse te laat kry. Volgens hom is die SA Vlaamperd veral uitstekend in die tuig en is kultuur-histories tot ons land verbind. "Hierdie ras is beslis nie in Vlaandere nie, maar is hier ter plaatse ontwikkel."

Sedert daardie moeilike jare sewentig, toe die bedryf vir dié gitswart perde 'n groot insinking beleef het, word hulle net meer veredel en gaan die ras van krag tot krag – selfs tans waar daar steeds groot onmin en tweespalt in die geledere van plaaslike swartperdtelers en -liefhebbers is.

"Dit was met die eerste amptelike invoer van swart hingste uit Friesland, ongeveer 'n eeu gelede, dat verwarring oor die benaming van hierdie perde begin het. Hulle is vanaf die Vlaamse hawe in Antwerpen ingevoer en die naam Vlaamperd of Vlaminge is dus in die volksmond gevorm.

"Met verwarring oor die benaming, en veral sedert Friesperde eers weer in 1958 ingevoer is, is selfs die bestaansreg van ons ras mettertyd deur sommige oningeligtes bevraagteken. Die waarheid is dat die eerste Vlaamperde reeds in 1906 in Volume 1 van die destydse SA Stamboekassosiasie geregistreer is," beklemtoon dié kampvegter vir hierdie ras. Ongelukkig het telers egter eers 'n driekwarteeu later weer van hierdie diere by SA Stamboek laat registreer. "Die oorspronklike merriemateriaal van die ras het bestaan uit kruisings tussen Arabierperde, Hackneys en Engelse Volbloedperde. Dus, dieselfde kruising en basismateriaal waaruit die Basoetoepoon en SA Boerperd ontstaan het."

Friesperdtipes was reeds vanaf die einde van die negentiende eeu aan die Kaap te sien. Hulle is deur sogenaamde perdesmouse ingevoer. Hierdie perde, asook die eerste swart Frieshingste wat sowat honderd jaar gelede deur die begrafnisondernemer, JS Hoogendoorn, na Kaapstad ingevoer is (dus die eerste amptelike

invoer van Friesperde), moes uiteraard 'n bydrae tot die verdere verfyning van die Vlaamperd gemaak het. Ook Oldenburgers het moontlik in die begin bygedra tot die ontwikkeling van die Vlaam.

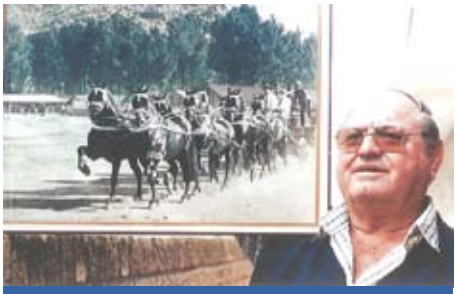
Van hierdie swart perde is ook later in distrikte soos Calvinia, Clanwilliam en Sutherland as teeldiere gebruik. 'n Besonderse hings, Scheepers, is in die dertigerjare deur Carel van der Merwe van die plaas Kwaggasfontein in die distrik Sutherland geteel. Hy is op plaaslike Hantam- en ander merries gebruik en het mettertyd 'n wesenlike invloed op die uitbreiding van die ras oor 'n wye gebied gehad.

"Met bogenoemde bydraes gelewer, waarom dan van die Vlaamperd 'n Friesperd te wil maak? Die verskille tussen die twee rasse is tog vanselfsprekend. Die SA Vlaam, soos hy later geregistreer is, het sy oorspronklikheid behou, soos raseienskappe en eenvormigheid. Kan die ander ras op dieselfde eienskappe aanspraak maak?" vra Piet. Hy glo nie so nie, want daar is, volgens hom, te veel variasie in die Friesperdras – selfs ná 25 jaar van "suiwer" teling.

Daar is nog net enkeles in die land, soos dr Ronnie van der Merwe van Fraserburg, kleinseun van wyle Oom Carel, en van die oueres wat nog self met hierdie hings te doen gehad het, naamlik Gys du Toit jr van Ceres en Danie Smuts van Darling, wat met gesag oor Scheepers kan gesels. Dié perd is volgens hulle in die vroeë veertigerjare deur Hennie Serdyn van Riebeek-Wes en in 1946 deur Gys du Toit van die Koue Bokkeveld bekom. Vanaf hierdie telers is sy nageslag oor die Boland en ook na ander dele van die land versprei. Sy seuns, Klein Scheepers en Mussolini, het eweneens 'n reusebydrae tot die ontwikkeling van die Vlaamperdstapel gelewer.

Nie net is dié swart perde as werksperde op wingerd- en graanplase in die Boland gebruik nie, teen die middel van die vorige eeu het die Vlaamperde van vertoners soos die broers Lourens en Daantjie Smith, Lambert Smith en Jan Eksteen, almal van die Agter-Paarl, asook Ben Mostert van Moorreesburg en Ben van der Westhuizen van Durbanville, altyd vir 'n skouspel soos min op Bolandse skoue gesorg. Hul uitsonderlike voorkoms, aksie en mooi temperament het die mense gaande gehad.

Toe Ben Mostert en Piet Slabbert van Petrusburg vir die eerste keer ná meer as 'n half-



Lambert Smith het 'n groot bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van die ras gemaak. Enkele maande vóór sy dood verlede jaar, het Bertus nog met trots 'n foto van hul span van agt hingste gewys wat meer as 30 jaar gelede op Ceres se skou vertoon is

eeu swart perde uit Friesland ingevoer het, wou hulle dit juis doen om hul Vlaamperde te verbeter. Dis toe dat Oom Ben eers besef het dat Hoogendoorn oorspronklik Friesperde ingevoer het en nie Vlaamse perde nie. Die Vlaamperd van België was 'n swaar trekperd. Oom Ben het sy nuwe aankomelinge in kruisings met Hackneys en Boerperde gebruik om nog méér aksie en vertoon by die nageslag te kry. Daar is dus afgewyk van die Friesperdtipe wat in Nederland gesog was tot die plaaslike Vlaamperd, soos Suid-Afrikaners hom geken het.

Die broers Smith van die Agter-Paarl het sedert die vyftigerjare van Piet Slabbert se ingevoerde perde in die Vrystaat aangeskaf en ook van Ben Mostert se ingevoerde aanteelperde bekom. Hulle het dus op hul plaas, Sandrivier, mettertyd die Vlaamperd selfs verder verbeter. Bekende skoumanne soos Lambert Smith het, op sy beurt weer, by hulle hingste gekoop en met sy uitstekende koetsiersvermoë, die beeld van dié ras verder uitgedra.

In 1980 het telers en vertoners besluit om die Friesperdtelersgenootskap van SA in die lewe te roep. Terselfdertyd egter het Lambert se seun, Bertus, en Piet Serdyn besluit om kragte saam te snoer sodat die Vlaamperd weer met doelmatige teling uitgebou kon word. Die erfenis en besondere bloedlyne van Lambert Smith was immers steeds in sy Vondeling-stoet beskikbaar.

'n Aantal van hierdie sogenaamde Vlaamperdgesindes het dan ook in 1983 van die Friesperdtelersgenoostskap weggebreek en die SA Vlaamperdtelersgenootskap tot stand gebring. Ná 'n

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ondersoek deur SA Stamboek, wat deur 'n komitee van drie veekundiges behartig is, is aangetoon dat die SA Vlaamperd wel van die Friesperd verskil.

Serdyn sê Veeverbetering het dit so goedgekeur en geregistreer en die betrokke telers is trots daarop dat eenvormigheid binne die ras bereik is. Tog is die SA Vlaam steeds 'n ontwikkelende ras wat beteken dat van ander rasse gebruik gemaak kan word om hom nog te verbeter. Daarenteen is die plaaslike Friesperd 'n ten volle ontwikkelde ras wat net binne eie geledere mag verbeter. "Die enigste ooreenkoms tussen die SA Vlaam en die Friesperd is dat albei swart van kleur is, maar wat bou, beweging en algemene voorkoms betref, is daar groot verskille."

Diegene wat hul meer omtrent die SA Vlaamperd wil vergewis, kan gerus middel September die nasionale kampioenskappe vir dié ras op Moorreesburg besoek. Kontak Piet Serdyn, voorsitter van die rasgenootskap, by 083 650 0727, of Marina van Blerk, sekretaresse, by 022 481 3614. **SAH**

Meet Virbac's equine vet

Johan Marais qualified as a veterinary surgeon at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort in 1991. Thereafter he spent five years in private practice before joining Medunsa as a senior lecturer for 2½ years. In September 1998, Johan joined the Equine Clinic at Onderstepoort as a senior lecturer in equine surgery. His duties included lameness workups, as well as colic, orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery. Johan later became head of the Equine Clinic as well as chairman of the South African Equine Veterinary Association. He obtained an Honours degree and is presently busy with an MSc degree. His interests include photography and travelling in Africa. **SAH**

Vervolg vanaf bladsy 33

Die 2005 SABAU 3-gang ruiterkunsspan. Die ruiters neem aan streng klub-, streeks-, provinsiale en nasionale proewe deel om vir die span gekies te word. Hierdie span het teen Namibië meegeding en die kompetisie gewen

Genootskap fokus op jeug

Die Kaapse Boerperdteleregenootskap se ingesteldheid op die jeug om by die jongmense 'n liefde vir die perd en die ras te ontwikkel, begin vinnig vrugte afwerp. Al hoe meer kinders word deesdae op skoue op die rug van Kaapse Boerperde gesien.

Die genootskap se jeugprogramme is twee jaar gelede ingestel om die veelsydigheid van die Kaapse Boerperd aan jongmense bekend te stel en om hulle by alle aspekte van die perdebedryf betrokke te probeer kry. Volgens die rasdirekteur, Ezelle Marais, ontwikkel betrokkenheid by hierdie ras 'n gesindheid van sportmanskap en 'n sin vir regverdigheid, asook dissipline en verantwoordelikheid teenoor hulself en hul diere.

Verskeie projekte en kompetisies word vir dié doel in samewerking met die Suid-Afrikaanse Amateur-unie aangebied. Dié unie is in 1990 gestig om die ras as 'n sportperd te bevorder. Die Departement van Sport het amateurstatus aan die genootskap verleen en 'n nasionale span word jaarliks gekies om teen ander lande mee te ding. Provinsiale spanne word gekies en ding jaarliks mee om die Pietie Joubert-trofee op die Suid-Afrikaanse Boerperd Amateur Kampioenskappe.

Vir meer besonderhede, kontak Ezelle by 042 347 220 of 082 552 2309 of e-pos ezelle@capeboerperd.co.za – Hennie Basson SAH