



Boschendal Captain Rider Matthys Streicher. Photo H2 Photography

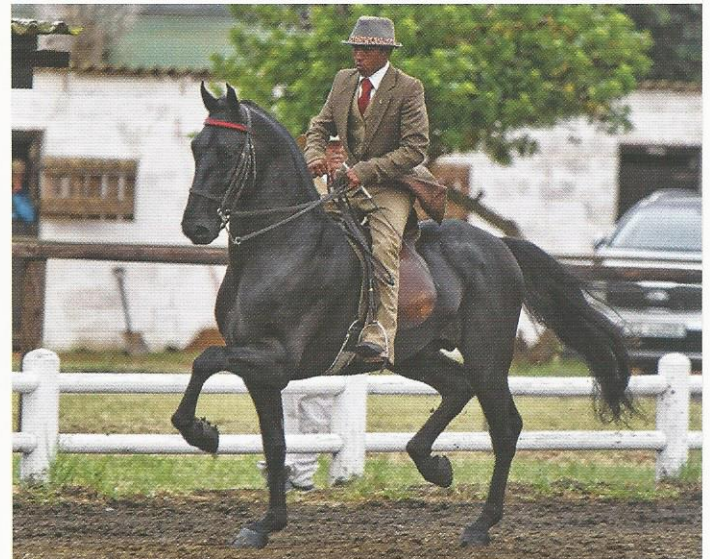
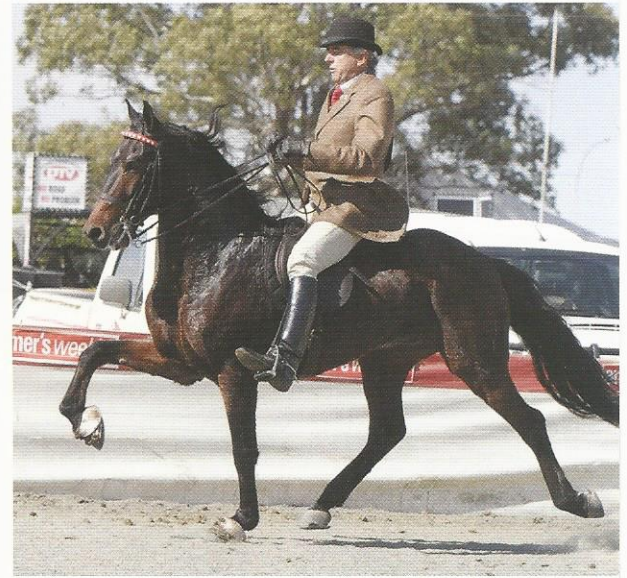
By Dr Petro Grové

SA BOERPERD - MODERN TRENDS

MUCH MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Vlampies Cha-Cha with Diededrik Cloete. Photo Fotojan

Jurust 86 Fire with Piet Uys. Photo Fotojan



Burgerstrots Katryn with Johannes Langenhoven. Photo Fotojan

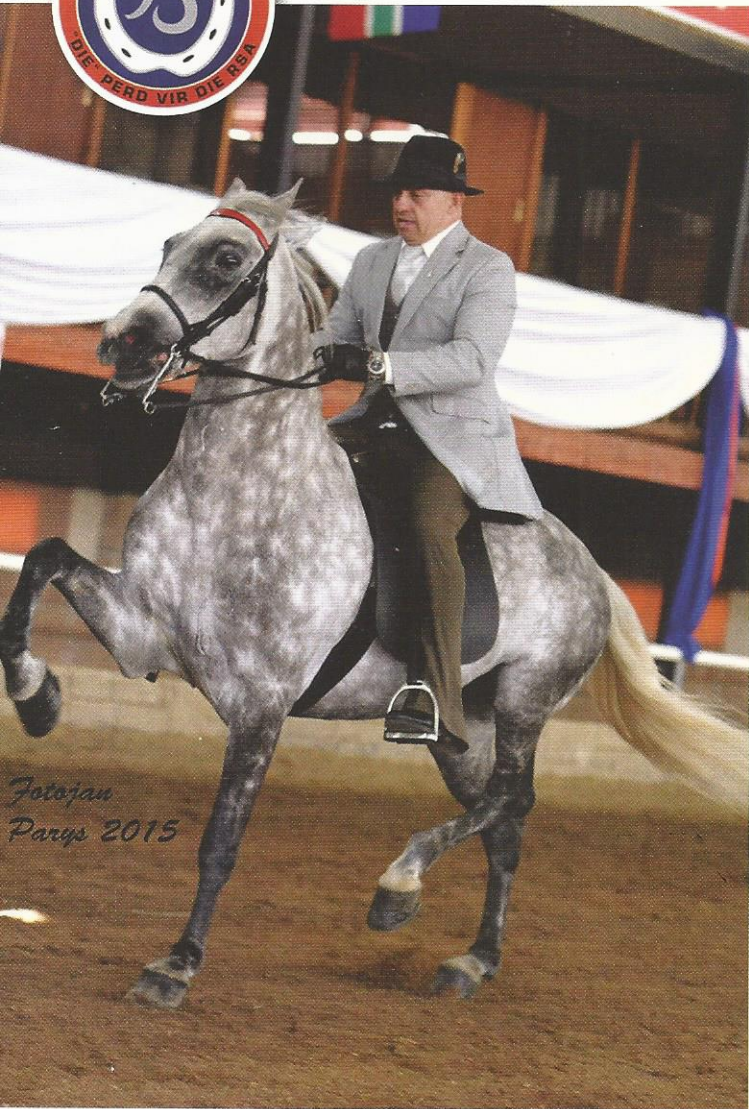
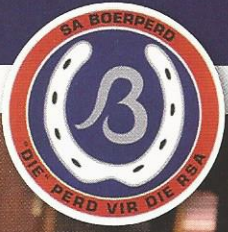
Voorslag Mandoza with Wilfred Gelderblom. Photo Fotojan

Not many people know that the SA Boerperd has a natural ability to high knee action, i.e. 90° and higher. This natural ability on its own, is a magnificent sight. Enhancing this natural ability, with responsible training and schooling, results in a spectacular athletic display in the show arena. SA Boerperd Shows make provision for both highly trained horses in SHOW HORSE classes, as well as horses with more natural movement, in Traditional Classes, where a stunning extended trot is frequently shown off. All horses are expected to execute a flatfooted walk, trot and canter with long elevated strides showing off ample cadence. Beginning in 2017, Saddle Seat Equitation will form part of the SA Boerperd International Championships.

classes, as well as eventing, equitation, Western- and English mounted games, dressage and eventing, to name but a few. Within SA Boerperd Shows, provision is made for the Universal horse with its schooling that leans more toward the classical riding style, as well as the Traditional horse with its specific training to enhance high knee action that resembles the action, and in some cases training, similar to that of Saddlebreds. Single Harness Classes, as well as Fine Harness classes are presented in shows with spectacular movement and style. Five gaited classes are the highlight of the action with horses racking away, immaculately turned out with their natural tail, mane and standard shoes. In this milieu, size does not count. The spectators are closely involved in the action by supporting horse and rider from the stands.

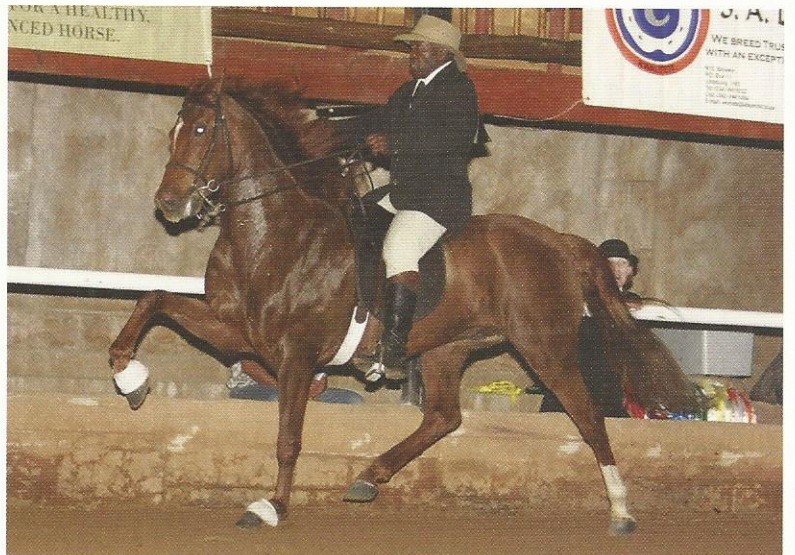
SA Boerperd are equally suited to a wide variety of disciplines including showing, single harness and private drive

According to well-known international Saddlebred,



Rooigras Orkaan with Kobie Smit. Photo Fotojan

Hessequa Flicker with William Gelderblom. Photo Fotojan



Calela Ditto with Shopani Masina.

Hackney and Fresian/Flemish judge, Jaco Jonker (who also judged at the SA Boerperd National Championships 2015 & 2016), the Traditional SA Boerperd displays exceptional stamina in the show arena, riding multiple show horse classes within days of showing. The SA Boerperd is also very versatile and able to compete in various disciplines in the same week, namely show jumping, dressage, carriage driving and showing. He confirms that the breed is growing and improving at a rapid pace, thus a force to be reckoned with. Although SA Boerperd Breed's own judges and inspectors are being thoroughly trained within the SA Boerperd Society in conjunction with the SA Riding Horse Judges' Association, it is always a privilege to engage with international judges, thereby cultivating positive input from other breed judges worldwide.

Being a relatively young breed, the SA Boerperd Society encourage research projects by universities to analyse unique aspects of the breed, as well as compare them

scientifically, to the conformation and movement of other breeds. Currently, the research results of data gathered over the past 5 years by Dawn Mansfield (for her Masters' degree at the University of Tshwane), specifically to investigate and analyse the link between the trot and conformation of the SA Boerperd, is being concluded. This should be fascinating reading and video material. In another more genetically and empirical study undertaken by Nadia Breytenbach at the University of the Free State, an analysis is currently being done to determine the specific genetic DNA markers present in SA Boerperd that might predict the manifestation specifically in aptitude, as well as height.

The SA Boerperd are well known for their intelligence and willingness to serve. They are calm, ambitious, reliable and orderly but alert and make excellent companions. The same horse that gives an excellent performance in the showing arena, can be taken out on a hack in the veld with confidence. Nothing can be further from the truth



than to make the SA Boerperd off as a mere farm horse. The modern SA Boerperd are not to be confused with the Cape Boerperd or Nooitgedacht horses. Although these are now separate developing South African breeds, the SA Boerperd (formerly known as the Historic Boerperd) is an internationally recognised and fully developed South African breed. The huge gene pool within the SA Boerperd Breeders guarantees that the Society is of sufficient strength to ensure prosperous breeding without inbreeding in the future. The increasing popularity of the SA Boerperd in neighbouring countries is evident from extensive exports to neighbouring countries, as well as the establishment of breeders affiliated with the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society, specifically.

Studbook is the national animal and recording system and home to at least 15 horse breeds, as well as dogs, cattle, sheep, etc. used to document the breed. In order to own a SA Boerperd that is fully registered, it must be recorded at

SA Studbook. Parental DNA verification is a prerequisite. To continue the improvement of this relatively young horse breed, all animals are additionally inspected and evaluated by highly trained inspectors prior to full registration and branding. The finest animals that pass this process, continue to improve the quality of the breed in a sustainable way.

As a result, the quality of horses that are being produced throughout Southern Africa currently is rapidly improving. The SA Boerperd is also the fastest growing horse breed in South Africa. With minimum heights of 13.3hh (mares) and 14.2hh (stallions), there are no limits to the maximum height and the modern SA Boerperd are often bred to be 16hh and higher.

The SA Boerperd as an indigenously developed horse breed in South Africa is hardened enough to survive the harsh South African climate. Many horses were part of shipwrecked cargo that swam ashore and were taken in by

SA BOERPERD



*Fotojan
Riversdal 2010*

The Ideal Sporting & Pleasure Horse

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