

With Curly horses, we often hear about their wonderful easy going temperaments. They often do not spook as much and are interested in their surroundings and like to check things out. If they do spook they often spook in place or just blow or snort and get over scary things quickly, rather than taking an hour to calm down or stress over the small stuff, it may take them a minute or so and they are back to calm zone. We also hear of owner accounts of Curlies being trapped in or under fences and they wait patiently until rescued. These horses have a very low fear response and do not panic. This most likely has to do with the genetics of the horses that are found in their backgrounds and low fear reaction temperaments being bred together. Curlies are mix of many breeds, modern and old world breeds and many a mix of hot and cold bloods, plus the breeding choices based on natural temperament and personality shaped the Curly of today.

Research has shown that when breeding non aggressive temperaments to non aggressive, other genetics tag along. This was found to be true in breeding wolves and also foxes. (*Please read the links for fascinating discoveries.*) <http://www.suite101.com/content/domesticating-the-silver-fox-a68305> As non aggressive temperaments were bred together in the wolf and also the fox, they changed including new color traits appearing; bigger bone and the ability to bark emerged. We could also be experiencing this in horses, as we breed less fearful and less aggressive temperaments together, other tag along genes become part of the horse as well. Does it also affect horse color? <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30628354/> We don't know, but some studies seem to point that way. Through the years, horse color has been linked with temperament types. <http://www.ratbehavior.org/ExperimentalCoatTempmt.htm> .Other things like hair whorls (hair growth patterns) have been attributed to being able to determine a horses' temperament. Could curl growth patterns also relate to temperament? We don't know. It is an interesting read about hair whorls, <http://www.horsesciencenews.com/97/hair-reveals-horse-temperament> and some equine studies back up the claims that whorls affect temperament. <http://www.grandin.com/references/horse.genetics.html>

Some other ways of determining a horses' temperament relate to a Chinese technique of identifying the 5 temperament types, Wood, Metal, Water, Earth and Fire. It is also a fun read. You can type yourself and your horse online. <http://www.horseharmonytest.com/> Whether it is accurate or not, you can be the judge.

Other's that work with cattle and horses give a "chute" grade as to temperament type while they are in a squeeze chute. They grade the animal by its reaction to being confined in the chute, the more agitated, the more fearful the animal is. Other animal handlers make note of how an animal first reacts to any new stimuli, a loud noise, or new visual object like an umbrella opened. By learning our horses natural reaction gives us insight into their natural temperament and how we can work with it rather than against it.

When dealing with horses we also have to be aware of pain responses. Some of the best natured horses can go totally uncooperative, grouchy and even aggressive when they are in pain. We may not always be aware of how the horse is feeling or where the pain is, so any changes to their personalities should be noted and check for pain responses to find out what is wrong. Sometimes the bad attitude is pain and not a bad temperament.

The best way to know a horses' natural temperament is visit the horse in person before buying. It also gives you an idea of what personality the horse has developed and how it was handled through his or her life. It can mean the difference from buying a nervous Nelly, pushy Pete, nasty Ned or steady Eddy. Know what type of temperament you are looking for as well. Do you like a challenge or do you need and want a Steady Eddy? Check into the horses' parentage and what type of temperament the parents had as well. This will give you an idea of what the horse has inherited. A horse that is handled and used to people will always be easier to be around if he or she was handled properly and gently. If mishandled or rough handled, they can be full of fear memories and unpleasant human experiences and maybe worse than a horse with no human handling at all. It is best to take the time to rate the horses' natural temperament and reaction to fear so you know what to expect from the horse you are seeking. High reactions to fear make a sensitive, flighty horse that gets frustrated easily if under stress and may react unpredictably. Low fear reactions and you will find a non spooky horse that likes to figure things out before reacting. These horses can take more stress without losing their cool. Find the right temperament for the job you want your horse to be doing as well. Temperament must match the job being asked of the horse for the best outcome.



ICHO has a new webpage!

See our new look here- <http://ichocurlyhorses.org>

Let us know what you think!

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MOON SHINE FARM



JT's Lobodacious

Hero's Chocolate Kiss



JT's Lobodacious aka Bo,
Standing Stud at Moon Shine Farm.

Julie and I got started in curly horses twelve years ago with help from Jimmy and Bonnie Brathovde. We've fed'em, bred'em, trained'em, and ridden'em (but not sold 'em) since then. With Dyan Westvang's help in 2004, we bred our beautiful curly fox trotter mare, Hero's Chocolate Kiss (NACHR 255-D; ABCR T-827(F); AFTHBA 88-7469), who graced the cover of the ICHO 2007 Calendar, to Danney's Pride of Princess S aka Lobo (MFTHBA 91-37996; ICHRA FT1991-0050), a magnificent gold champagne Missouri Fox Trotter owned by Linda Vishino.

Danney's Pride
of Princess S



Chocolate and Lobo produced JT's Lobodacious aka "Bo", a sable champagne curly fox trotter stallion born in May, 2005. Bo has lived with Oh Boy, Shooter, and three other geldings since he was weaned and has the personality and disposition of a gelding together with the positive energy of a stallion.



Since he turned four in 2009, I've worked with him almost daily on the ground and on his back, and he's the easiest horse I've ever trained. Our three-year old grand-daughter, Sydney, rides him in the round pen and leads him from one place to another. Anyone who attended the 2009 ICHO Annual Convention can attest to his puppy dog personality. Bo is 14.3 hands and fox trots barefoot and totally naturally in a leather hackamore, rope halter, neck ring, or completely bridless. He also has a natural rocking chair canter. He is simply the smoothest riding horse I've ever been on. Bo turns six this coming May, and we have decided to stand him to a limited number of mares this Spring to see what he can produce. Because he is heterozygous for curls, we would prefer to breed him to curly mares. If you have any interest in breeding for disposition, conformation, gait, and color, please contact..



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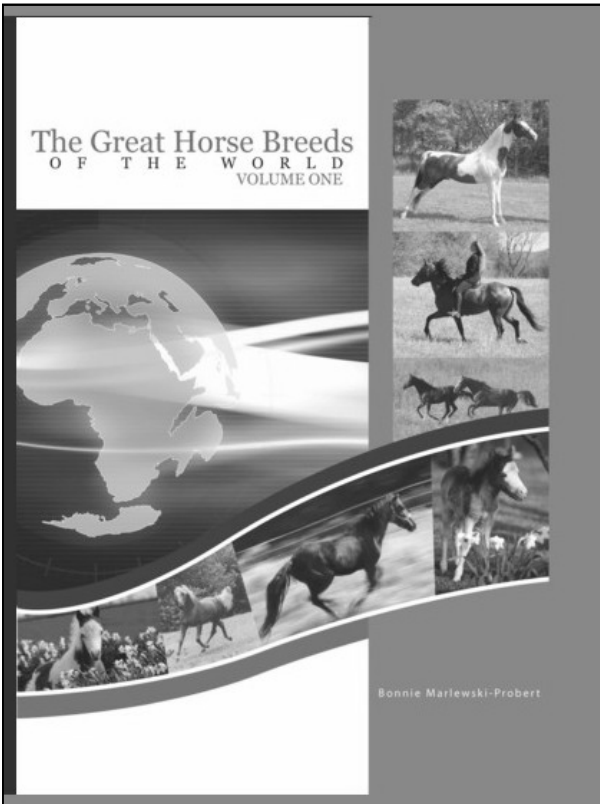
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ICHO NEWS

It's here! The Great Horse Breeds Book! It also features the Curly horse and ICHO Photo contest winners representing the ICHO Curly. This is a very well done book with great color photos and interesting info about many breeds. Will make a great coffee table book and a great Xmas gift. Buy several for gifts.

You can buy the book at a discount through ICHO, there is link right on our home page with PayPal. Or you can send a check to the office. Book with Priority shipping is \$30.00. This is a must have book! Get yours now.



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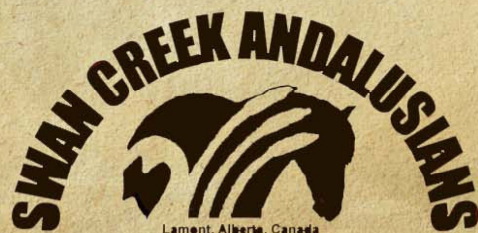
The mares of Swan Creek Buffalo Horses are ABCR, ICHO or eligible in both Registries. They are also Registered with the Buffalo Horse Registry after passing a strict criteria based on Measurements, Trainability and Temperament.



Many of these mares will be bred to BNC Big Ben (ABCR and Gold Star Buffalo Registry Foundation Stock). These foals are eligible for ICHO, ABCR where applicable, as well as inclusion to the Buffalo Horse Registry.



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Our first Curly Coated foal will be born in April by Xadrez do Pentagono out of an Extreme Buckskin Curly mare.

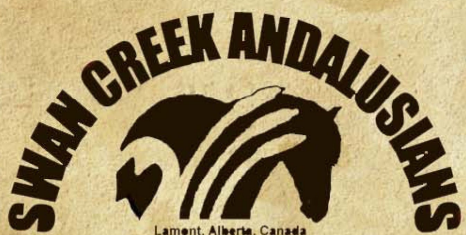
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