

The SA Boerperd as international competition horse

One of the corner stone's of the SA Boerperd is that the breed is particularly versatile and well suited to compete in several disciplines. They bring pleasure to both children and adults; from pleasure and outride horse to highly competitive horse.

Due to this versatility and sensible temperament, an international competition between the SA Boerperd and the American Morgan Horses were born. The SA Boerperd competes very successfully in dressage, showing and show jumping to name but a few disciplines; as does the Morgan Horses in America. Therefore we decided after a visit from certain Morgan Horse representatives that we should put our horses and riders to the test and showcase the versatility of our breeds.

The first competition will take place in Lexington Kentucky in July 2012 where 5 SA Boerperd equitation riders will compete against a team of 5 Morgan equitation riders. The age of these riders are between 12 and 19 years old, as investment in the youth are of utmost importance to both societies. There will be 10 Morgan horses available for this competition and the 10 riders will each draw a horse's name from a hat. The rider will use this horse to show for 3 days in 3 different disciplines. And that is where the heart of these breeds will be tested. The rider will compete in Saddle-seat, Standard seat and do a Driving test with one horse using the different saddles and displaying the different riding styles with the horse in the ultimate way of going.

These riders will also have to display a great deal of horsemanship to achieve these goals.

The SA Boerperd team consist of the following riders: Linda Meintjies, Kristen Joubert, Riekie Engelbrecht , Hans Schutte and Dédé Cloete. These riders were successful during trials held at the Peter van Eck Equitation Centre in Bloemfontein were they had to ride their own horses as well as other children's horses displaying the three different disciplines convincing a panel specialist selectors of their technical riding ability as well as their horsemanship.

The Morgan Horse Association will send a team in 2013 to South Africa to compete against a SA Boerperd team riding SA Boerperd horses. The vision for this competition is that it will be an annual event proving and enjoying the versatility of our breed and increase the riding ability and horsemanship of our riders.

HQ asked some questions to the members of this team:

Hans Schutte

Why do you ride a SA Boerperd?

The SA Boerperd has a good temperament and is very versatile. My horse is tough enough for farm riding and yet stylish enough to win Championships at shows.

Mention 5 of the most outstanding characteristics of your horse?

My horse, Bonito, is a very loveable horse. Some people he does not like and certain other people make him nervous. He is a typical one-man's-horse, but when I stay calm, he will calm down too. He does not like carrots; only sugar from my hand. He has a very high knee action, is easy to train and a fast learner.

What is your favourite riding style/discipline and why?

Saddle seat. In my opinion, it is the most challenging and the neatest riding style.

Do you follow any specific school of thought or approach when training your horse?

I think it is important to have a calm but disciplined approach when training a horse.

What is your top 'schooling / training' tip to other young riders

If you struggle with your horse, style or discipline, stay calm, practice whenever you can and never ever give up!

Dedré Cloete

Why do I ride a SA Boerperd?

The SA Boerperd can be described as the number one versatile horse breed. Because of the versatility every rider has the ideal opportunity to excel in multiple disciplines. These intelligent animals know exactly what is expected of them in each discipline and always strive to give more than what the rider is asking for. The SA Boerperd gives a whole new meaning to pleasure. It is my privilege to be a SA Boerperd rider, knowing I can put an inexperienced rider on my Boerperd with the greatest peace of mind.

Mention 5 of the most outstanding characteristics of your horse.

- ⊖ Determined to always do better than his best
- ⊖ Intelligent
- ⊖ Incredible natural movement
- ⊖ Wonderful temperament
- ⊖ Disciplined

What is your favourite riding style/discipline and why?

I love a horse giving his all in a performance class. Without a doubt my favourite will be the traditional 3-& 5 gaited classes. The adrenalin which both you and the horse experience is indescribable. One thing I can say with certainty is that the crowd going crazy psyches both you and the horse up providing you with the ability to exceed your capacity.

Do you follow any specific school of thought or approach when training your horse?

I believe that once you get mad at your horse all is already lost. You should punish the bad and praise the good but always remember the importance of working together and not against your horse.

What is your top 'schooling / training' tip to other young riders

Never give up before the horse did what he is supposed to do. If you leave the problem it will end up in a snowball effect and only get worse every day. The most important thing to remember is to punish the bad and always praise the good.

Kristen Joubert

Why do I ride a SA Boerperd?

We own a SA Boerperd Stud and I love everything that makes the breed special. My Boerperd allows me to complete successfully in dressage, showing and show jumping. My special horse is so versatile.

Mention 5 of the most outstanding characteristics of your horse.

My favourite horse is Rooigras Gina. She is a mare and 6 years old.

Gina's best characteristic is her temperament. She would absolutely do anything for me and trust me 100%. When I am on her back she is afraid of nothing, she does exactly what I ask of her and we are a very strong team.

Her movement is in line with classical dressage requirements and because of her good conformation she has big straight and correct strides.

Gina is intelligent and therefore she is a horse that is only a pleasure to train.

Her height and excellent conformation has the result that she presents well in the arena and gets noticed easily.

What is your favourite riding style/discipline and why?

I love dressage because it consists of the basic components for all other riding styles and disciplines. I utilise these principals in every style I ride and every discipline I complete in.

Do you follow any specific school of thought or approach when training your horse?

I believe there is no replacement for hard work. My trainer Anel Pelser also trains me in such a manner that I understand what the impact of all my actions are on the horse. If you understand why you do something and what is the required output of your actions you could train on your own and try to ensure that you are successful.

What is your top 'schooling / training' tip to other young riders

Stick to the basics, sometimes you try to do too much and then you forget to do the basics 100%.

Linda Meintjies

Why do I ride a SA Boerperd?

The SA Boerperd has such a phenomenal temperament, always eager to learn new things and wanting to please the rider. When my father and grandfather started looking at all the different

breeds of horses this was exactly what they saw and that was when we joined the SA Boerperd community.

Mention 5 of the most outstanding characteristics of your horse.

My horse, Carel Hancke Joe Black, is an absolute gentleman and he has such a big heart. He is always eager to learn new things and he loves pleasing everyone around him. He tries his best to do everything I ask of him.

What is your favourite riding style/discipline and why?

I do not really have a favourite discipline, I enjoy Show Jumping, Dressage and Saddle Seat , because all of them have their exciting part. Each discipline compliments the other even though they are all so different.

Do you follow any specific school of thought or approach when training your horse?

I like to do a little of everything when training or schooling because they get bored just like we do. If you vary your exercises it will lead to a well rounded horse at the end of the day.

What is your top 'schooling / training' tip to other young riders

You have to be passionate about riding and horses, and you need to have all the patience in the world. Train yourself and your horse as much as possible, get your bum in the saddle and keep it there! Make your Dream a reality!

Riekie Engelbrecht

Why do I ride a SA Boerperd?

I grew up with a SA Boerperd and still prefer them above all other breeds, for their great temperament and willingness to please. The SA Boerperd is so versatile which I love because I can do all disciplines with one horse. Best of the SA Boerperd is that it is a proudly South African breed. I am proud to own and ride my SA Boerperd!

Mention 5 of the most outstanding characteristics of your horse.

Temperament
Intelligence
Trainability
Versatility
Comfortable

What is your favourite riding style/discipline and why?

Dressage is the foundation of all disciplines. For me it feels like dancing with a horse.

Do you follow any specific school of thought or approach when training your horse?

I like to use elements of different schools of thought that works for me and the horse that I am training.

What is your top 'schooling / training' tip to other young riders

Take time bonding with your horse to develop a relationship of trust. Never give up on your dreams.
Aanhouer wen!