

SKATHOLM

25 years with Connemara

It started by coincidence in 1984. Susanne's Danish Warm blood mare had been set in foal, so instead we bought a 5 year old Connemara mare for riding. As the Danish Breeders Society that same year held its 20th anniversary, we reported her to inspection and show. She was registered in class IIB. We could see that the mares that went forward in the different classes were of better quality than our Altmark Bardot (Øxenholm Godot x Lykkesholm's Flossie). The festival was a great experience and we decided on the spot that we would begin to breed these beautiful and fascinating ponies. We were lucky enough at the same time that we could buy the 2 good I.kl. broodmares, Ardnasillagh Treasure in foal with Øxenholm Mash, her daughter Øxenholm Tresmeralda also in foal to Øxenholm Mash and her filly True Love U. We lived at this time in a rented house, so we had to rent a stable in Varde. In 1985, we found a farm with 30 acres of land, which we bought at a bankruptcy auction. Everything was very run down, so their awaited us a large and extensive renovation, which here 24 years later is almost completed! We knew that it was the mares that had



the biggest influence, so we bought shortly after 2 new good broodmares, Øxenholm Meadow Lark and Øxenholm Columbine, which were for sale because the Øxenholm Stud stopped at this time. The base for quality breeding was set. It was therefore up to us to find the right stallions. Our goal was and is, that we will breed quality rather than quantity, with an emphasis on type, temperament and movement. Ponies must be equally applicable to both children and adults. From the outset we were aware of the pedigrees and spent much time with this. In the following years we used different stallions: Øxenholm Marble Jr, Øxenholm Godot, Rosenaharley Lavelle, Skatholm Big Chief, Skatholm Talisman, Munkholm Cobbergate, Cocum Jackpot, Grange Surf Sparrow, Caraway, Dangan Boy, Cocum Thunder Boy and the latest Pady Melody

d'Auxence, from France. We have never been afraid to try out old stallions with good blood lines, and it has been interesting to see how different the offspring are. The biggest positive surprises were Rosenaharley Lavelle and Cocum Jackpot, which gave us some Connemara offspring which lived up to our goal, even if they were not much used, and have not been any show winners. The biggest disappointment was the offspring we got after Caraway,

who was a many time show winner in Germany. Our experience is that it is not always the stallion's own qualities, but depends very much on the genes found in the pedigree which makes a difference. Through the years we have selected our broodmares with a hard hand, which we today can trace back to the mare Wild Wisdom. Her daughter Smear Mullai, who was an elite mare, was imported to Denmark by Holen Stud. She produced a daughter Holens Smut with the stallion Rosenaharley Mac Milo, selected I kl. and elite mare. It was she who is mother to our mare family in 5 generations, Øxenholm Columbine selected 1 kl. and elite mare. Her daughter, Skatholm Darling, selected I kl. and elite mare and her daughter is Skatholm White Queen, selected I kl. and elite mare too. Her daughter, Skatholm Zoya is also selected I kl. and her daughter



again, Skatholm Kleopatra (Cocum Thunder Boy), who now is 3 years old and already a very promising filly, will go for inspection in 2010. Susanne and Torben like to spend vacations visiting Connemara foreign events and have



travelled in Europe, and a lot in Ireland, which is the parent country. In the 25 years it has been a total of 50 foals, half of which have been exported to Germany, Norway, Sweden, Austria, England and USA. 8 stallions have been approved for breeding, 7 mares have been selected I kl. and 5 mares chosen as elite mares in Denmark. The daily work with Connemara ponies has become a lifestyle which occupies all of our spare time. The anniversary will be celebrated with an open house event, where all are welcome.

SKATHOLM CONNEMARA

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Open House event: Sunday, 19 July 2009, from 13.00 pm until 17.00