



AGHBA Gypsy Horse Script

ANNOUNCER BEGIN HERE:

The American Gypsy Horse Breed Association is pleased to have this opportunity to share with you the beauty, magic, charm and versatility that is the hallmark of a unique horse...a horse bred by the Gypsy people. This magical horse encompasses the color and beauty of the Gypsy culture and combines it with a kindness and substance seldom seen in other horses.

Gypsies have had horses for as long as their culture has been in existence but the horse we recognize today as the Gypsy Cob or Gypsy Vanner has only emerged within the past 50 years. In the mid 1900's, the Gypsy breeders began infusing the blood of the Clydesdale and Shire horses, which gave the breed bone and feather. They then introduced the bloodlines of the Dale and Fell ponies for their economical use of forage and more manageable size. By the early 70's, a breed type was becoming established.

These horses were used in nearly every aspect of the Gypsy's life. Traveling the roads and often cared for by children, it was essential that the horses be strong, kind and have a willing disposition. They also had to be of a hardy nature, sound and easily kept, as there were no special provisions made for food or shelter. The horses lived on the vacant land and grass strips found next to the road.

Easily recognized, these sturdy little horses come in nearly all colors and most have pinto markings. The Gypsy Horse has a sweet head with a kind eye and neat ears, a short well-muscled back, well-sprung ribs, deep shoulders with a good slope, and powerful rounded hindquarters. They will have substantial bone that is flat, clean and dense and a generous foot with thick walls and open heels. Thick manes typically fall below the shoulder and tails drag the ground. The crowning glory on a good Gypsy horse is the abundance of silky feather. Though you can find horses ranging from 11 hands up to 16 hands, they typically stand between 14 and 15 hands.

Originally bred to pull the caravans, Gypsy horses excel at driving but are also being used for nearly all riding disciplines and can be found throughout Europe and the United States doing everything from pleasure riding and driving, CDE driving,



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trail riding, dressage, hunt seat, jumping, cattle sorting and ranch work. Many are used as safe mounts for the novice.

The American Gypsy Horse Breed Association is a mission based organization motivated to educate the public, promote the breed, and make benevolent contributions of Gypsy horses to worthy causes such as therapeutic riding, horses for health, inner city youth organizations, and other groups that might benefit from these special horses. Funds to support these interests are raised through our Angel Baby Program.

To help the funding of our Angel Baby program, the Association is sponsoring a Gypsy horse raffle for Lord Duncan, a 2 year old gelding. Lord Duncan was donated by Happy Camp Cobs of Moorpark, Ca. He will be delivered to the winner, free of charge, anywhere in the continental United States. The drawing will be held on October 14th, 2007, at the Georgia Feathered Horse Classic.

The members of the American Gypsy Horse Breed Association thank you for joining us in celebrating this wonderful breed. We invite you to visit our website at www.aghba.org for more information on the Association, our Angel Baby Program, the breed and on breeders in your area.

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