

AUSTRALIA

PUREBRED SPANISH SEED IN AUSTRALIA



Animoso VI, bred by Antonio Diodado and owned by the Ryan Family

La familia Ryan in The Ryan family imported Animoso VII (born in 1971) in 1974. Animoso VII, a bay colt, was bred by Antonio Diosdado Palacios.

Although recognizing the importance of purebred stud farms, for the Ryans, their main interest was the breeding of crossbred horses. They had four sons, all of whom rode and they were interested in jumping and driving. Very little was known about the abilities of the PRE to jump, since these horses had never competed against other horses.

Breeding horses for the children to ride and to thus become a part of Rod's team was the priority of the stud farm. To achieve this, they discovered that by crossing purebred mares with Animoso VII, they obtained horses that were excellent for recreational activities, jumping and dressage.

The philosophy of the stud farm was that crossbreds were very important for the growth of the breed in Australia. Horses with some of the qualities of the PRE would end up being more accessible to the equestrian

world of Australia thanks to their success the breed would grow in popularity.

The sensitivity of the Spanish Horse reached its peak when Sue and her son Heath, then 15 years old, broke in Animoso VII.

Soon after an injury, Heath took to Animoso VII to a Tina Wommelsdorf clinic, who could not believe the behavior and ability of the horse. Tina was interested in the difference between the strides of Animoso VII and the rest of the pure breeds at the clinic, so she asked all the horses to lengthen along the long side of the school and shorten along the short side. She then proceeded to count the strides that the horses took along the long side, to see how much they were lengthening. Tina could not believe it. Animoso VII, this PRE stallion, took the smallest number of strides along the long side of the school. This was a major achievement for a 15 year-old boy on a stallion that had just been injured.



*Matt Ryan
earned gold
at the 2000
Sydney Olympics*

The success of the Ryan's breeding program produced competitive boys and talented horses, which combined with the mastery of the riders, won a great number of awards in dressage, jumping, eventing and horse-drawn carriages racing.

At the age of 24, Matt Ryan was selected along with his two PRE crossbred horses—Southland of Coolalee and Benwerrin of Coolalee—for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. The fact that Matt was very young and inexperienced in international competition meant that he did not compete in these Olympics, he was the reserve. Later, Matt was a member of the Australian team that won the gold medal for eventing at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics—that was something that had not happened since the 1960 Olympics in Rome. Matt was also a member of the Australia eventing team that won the gold medal at Sydney 2000.

Rod and Sue Ryan's driving team competed throughout the whole of Australia. They were very successful, winning the carriage driving championships in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

In 1983, a team of horses was hastily put together, so that Gyorgy Bards, the Hungarian World and European Champion, trained them for the carriage driving championships in New South Wales. He did not speak English so the whole team learned Hungarian very quickly. The groom, Shaun, who was French, spoke a little German, as did Gyorgy; this helped the translation a great deal. Between six and seven thousand people saw the team win. When he was asked about the horses, he said: very good horses, very good horses.

The team, made up of the four PRE crossbred horses, Black Billyn of Coolalee, Frystlin of Coolalee, Brown Sugar of Coolalee, Swagman of Coolalee and Platón, who was reserve horse, won the Australian carriage driving championships for many years and was selected for the Stockholm World Equestrian Games. Due to the cost involved, of taking, Rod and Sue could not take the team to Stockholm, but rather, they competed with borrowed horses; nevertheless, it was thanks to the Coolalee team that they were eligible to compete.

The Ryans have certainly proven that with selective and careful breeding, the qualities of the Spanish Horse have a lot to give to the whole of the equestrian world.