

# Breed of the Month: Weser-Ems German Riding Pony and Small Horse

*These smaller equines combine temperament with sport-horse talent*

The *Pferdestammbuch Weser-Ems e.V.* (Weser-Ems Breeding Society) was founded in 1949 in the German state of Lower Saxony, bordering the Netherlands. The region, Weser-Ems, named for the two rivers that run through it, included the city of Oldenburg, which is famous for its sport horses.

The Oldenburg breed in Germany has been governed by the *Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes* (Oldenburg Horse Breeders' Society) for almost 200 years. But in the trying economic times following World War II, the region's small farming operations needed robust, hardy ponies and small horses. Soon it became clear that a breeding society was needed to oversee those equines whose size did not meet the breeding goals of the OHBS. In 1949, the Weser-Ems Breeding Society for Ponies and Small Horses was founded in Lingen, Germany.

In 1963, the first "German Riding Pony" stallion was licensed by Weser-Ems. The German Riding Pony was officially recognized as a breed in 1970.

Weser-Ems now maintains 22 studbooks of small-horse and pony breeds as well as those of the German Riding Pony and the German Small Riding Horse. Both of these breeds are developed specifically for children and smaller riders who wish to compete in the sports of dressage, jumping, and eventing. Those bred for dressage possess excellent movement, beauty, and above all, a wonderful character.

**Weser-Ems ponies you might know:** One of the most successful dressage ponies of all time is the Weser-Ems German Riding Pony **Conrad** (later renamed Konrad), who won the team gold medal at the

European Junior Championships an astounding eight times in the 1990s and 2000s, the individual gold medal twice, and the individual silver medal twice. His sire is the Welsh B pony Constantin (Whatton Copper Beech), who is famous for his ability to produce top sport ponies out of smaller Oldenburg mares.

Another Constantin son who has succeeded in open dressage competition against larger horses is the Weser-Ems German Riding Pony stallion **Chardonnay** (pictured). Chardonnay won the silver medal in 2002 and 2003 in the three- and four-year old German Riding Pony Stallion divisions of the German Bundeschampionate. He went on to win many M-level open dressage classes before he was imported to California. There, he and rider/trainer Jaye Cherry have been winning at Intermediate II with scores as high as



**FINE WINE:** *The Weser-Ems stallion Chardonnay, owned by Marta Kaufmann (CA) and ridden by Jaye Cherry (CA), is winning at Intermediate II*

68 percent.

**All-Breeds awards offered:** All USDF performance and DSHB categories.

**How to participate:** The owner must be an active member of the Weser-Ems Breeding Society by August 1 of the respective year, and the horse must be registered originally by Weser-Ems.

**Organization contact info:** *Weser-Ems Breeding Society for Ponies and Small Horses:* oldenburghorse.com. All-Breeds awards contact: Marne Martin Tucker, marne.martin@gmail.com or (240) 505-9929. ▲

## For the Breeds, by the Breeds

Each month, "All-Breeds Connection" spotlights a USDF All-Breeds awards program participating organization and the breed it represents. Information and photos that appear in this column are furnished by the breed registries. USDF does not endorse or promote any breed or registry over another.

The All-Breeds program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage. All participating organizations offer "open" year-end awards from Training Level through Grand Prix, and some offer awards in additional categories, such as adult amateur, junior/young rider, and dressage sport-horse breeding. Registry representatives are usually on hand to help bestow awards at the banquet held during each year's USDF convention.

All-Breeds award eligibility requirements include memberships and horse registrations with both USDF and the participating organization. For details and a list of current participating organizations, visit [usdf.org](http://usdf.org). For more information about All-Breeds awards program participation, send e-mail to [allbreeds@usdf.org](mailto:allbreeds@usdf.org).