

## **SPORTING THEIR COLOURS**

### **Samber's colourful influence on warmblood breeding**

Teri Erickson describes her Dutch Warmblood stallion Tricolore as “a perfect example of European bloodlines with a splash of colour”. Tricolore is resident stallion at Teri's Maplebrook Farm located in Duncan, BC. His sire is Voltaire, the influential show jumping sire. Tricolore is outstanding not only for his bloodlines, but also for his markings. He is a pinto and one of a growing group of athletic pinto warmblood stallions that are making themselves known in the sporthorse world.

His pinto colouring comes from his dam sire Samber. Samber was the first and only coloured stallion ever accepted into the KWPN studbook and his bloodline is responsible for the majority of pinto warmbloods in the world.

#### **SAMBER'S BREEDING**

Samber, bred by Mr. Smilda of Roden, Netherlands, was born on April 2, 1976 as a result of a mating between the tobiano mare Tina D and the British thoroughbred Pericles. It appears that Tina D had many special qualities, besides her pinto markings. She was obviously a breeder's “dream broodmare”. At the age of 19, she had produced 16 foals and one of these foals was Samber. She was also the dam of Cora. Cora produced Rinaldo who sired Rainbow and Renaldino; two renown pinto warmblood sires.

Beyond Tina D, it is hard to trace where the pinto colour comes from. Breeding records found through internet searches are vague. One has to recognize that originally most farmers were breeding for working stock rather than sporthorses and some pinto colouring was evident in the Dutch working breeds such as the Gronigen, one of the breeds which influenced the modern Dutch Warmblood.

#### **HIS QUALITIES**

In her definitive article “Great European Colored Bloodlines” Nathalie Kilpatrick theorizes about the reason for Samber's inclusion into the Dutch studbook. “Until the advent of Samber, coloureds were being bred in the Netherlands but there was no where to register them since farmers using unregistered and ungraded colts could not get papers for the ensuing progeny. It is possible that the KWPN licensed Samber to give the farmers and breeders what they obviously wanted: a fully approved coloured stallion”. Samber's 100 day stallion performance test proved that he had exceptional qualities that he could pass onto his offspring and therefore be an asset to the KWPN.

In his 100 day stallion test, he received a perfect 10 for character and temperament. Some of the translated comments on the report were “He has a great deal of suppleness and is very easy to handle. He gets along with everybody....The work is very easy for him and he is very willing to work”

Along with his steady temperament, Samber became known for his athletic abilities. He reached Grand Prix level in dressage and competed in the Z level jumpers in Holland. He has been able to pass along these strengths to his offspring; evident by the fact that he has been in the top 15 for producing dressage horses in Holland (out of over 400 stallions) and in the top 100 for producing jumpers.

Three of Samber's many successful offspring are Art Deco, Sambertino, and Domino.

#### **OFFSPRING**

Art Deco (Samber x Trait d'Union x Floor), owned by Silverwood Farms in Vermont is probably the best known Samber son in North America. His website states that he is “the foundation sire of pinto sporthorses in America”. He competed in Grand Prix Dressage as well as hunters, eventing and jumpers.

He was the first pinto stallion in the world approved for breeding by the Oldenburg verband via ISR/OLD NA in 1993, making it possible for pinto warmbloods to be registered with a German registry.

Sambertino (Samber x Wellington x Onyx) followed in his father's footsteps by scoring a perfect 10 for temperament and willingness to work in his 100 day performance test at Neustadt Dosse. He qualified for

the Pavo Cup, the Dutch National Championship for dressage, as a four and five year old. Sambertino stands at Flax Lion Stud in the UK

Domino (Samber x Principaal x Sandor) had a successful career in the hunter/jumper ring in the United States, winning numerous championships. In 2004, the NA KWPN recognized Domino as a foundation Hunter sire. He also sired successful dressage horses.

#### OTHER PINTO WARMBLOODS

Most pinto warmbloods are descended from Samber or through the line of Samber's dam Tina D. Some are also the progeny of Ico. Ico was a coloured sire, primarily of high level jumpers. He was bred by the Dutch and exported to Germany in 1973. Ico did not pass his 100 day stallion test due to his difficult and "buzzy" character, although he went on to sire such greats as Nekoma and Stanhopes Diddicoy.

Pintos can also receive warmblood registry by attending a breed inspection and in North American there are many paint or saddlebred crosses that are pinto warmbloods.

#### CONCLUSION

Reflecting on the influence of Samber, one can't help feel a sense of awe for the Dutch farmers, breeders and inspectors who recognized Samber. They had the foresight to acknowledge the potential value to the KWPN and the sporthorse world of the pinto horse with the "golden temperament".

#### FOOTNOTE

*A note from the KWPN in the Netherlands states that Samber is still alive. He is 33 years old. He is owned by the Vrieling family of Coerdoven*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR – Carolyn Webb breeds sporthorses on her family's farm in Mill Bay, BC. Her website is [jandcsporthorses.com](http://jandcsporthorses.com). Her two broodmares produced two pinto colts by Tricolore this year. When she isn't dreaming about foals, she is riding her mare Baylee, a Dutch Warmblood/Appaloosa cross through the farm and dreaming about dressage.