

**On the 5th of June, a very special filly was born at Trinketbox Farms. Her sire is Vosmaer, a KWPN Gelders stallion that has received the prestigious keur predicate from the KWPN in 2023 for his performance and breeding success. Vosmaer was born in 1979 and died 16 years ago: the filly was conceived using semen that was frozen in 5cc straws in the early '90's.**

Vosmaer (by Formateur x Epigoon) was bred by Freddy Textor and approved with the KWPN. He bred in the Netherlands for only a few years before he was sold to America in 1986. He was sold to Grand Prix rider, trainer and founder of KWPN North America, Jeff



Moore. He regularly imported Gelders horses and bred a lot with them. At the time, Jeff had three approved stallions: the Gelders stallions Taxateur (by Obelisk) and Vosmaer and the KWPN-recognized Holsteiner Rubinstein (by Lorenz).

In America, Vosmaer bred quite some mares while he showed successfully at Grand Prix up to a high age with Stacee Collier and Chelsey Sibley. Vosmaer turned out to be a really good dressage producer: six of his

offspring were active at a high level in dressage, three at Grand Prix level. His son Exakt (out of Dolissy ster by Staalmeester) for example with Patty Mayer. In 2000, this duo was part of the selection from which the US delegates to the Sydney Olympics were chosen. Two years later, Exakt was seriously competing for the World Equestrian Games in Jerez with Finland's Kyra Kirklund. The KWPN-NA approved son of Vosmaer, IJsselmeer Ikepono (out of Cadenza by Taxateur x Fresco), dominated the FEI Grand Prix rankings in California for several years with Chelsey Sibley.

Jeff Moore had semen of his three stallions frozen in the '90's, in large 5cc straws, and professionally stored it all these years at Pioneer Equine Hospital. Edward Martins bought a dose in the KWPN-NA Stallion Service Auction and bred one of his mares. Although the numbers on the semen weren't great, she caught first try! We asked him to share the background story of his breeding program with us how he came to breed to Vosmaer and create this special foal.



“My name is Edward Martins, and together with my wife Ruth, we are Trinketbox Farms. I was bit by the horse bug when I was very young, by a Welsh cross pony mare by the name of Tammy. She was a Black Silver Dapple pinto. She infected my brain and her traits linger in my mind even today. The Smell of her, that horse scent, I swear I can tell a good horse from a bad one just from their scent. Her coloring was very unique to the Shetland pony – a Silver Dapple color. I spent years trying to duplicate it in a horse version. Took 20 years but finally have my master copy to duplicate my efforts.

It has always been important to stay true to what is important to me and to the horses/ponies that I have created. My breeding program is to produce the best horse I can. And that thought and practice aligns me with the thought process of the KWPN Keurings. I believe you should always look to improve the horses you started with and if that means pulling in an outside source to make that improvement, do it. Even though, I had breeding Arabians (the true source of all worthy horses) since 1983, I mentally stumbled when I walked into my Farrier's barn and there was 6 Dutch Harness Horses standing there. They looked like American Saddlebreds on Steroids. These were real doing horses, great bone and substance, elegant long neck, set on high. Oh My, someone had been keeping a Secret...

He whipped out a current issue of ADHHA's review and hands it me, my horse addiction kicks into overload, my eyes popping out of my head. I can hardly believe what I am looking at...And the Amish are running up and down the roads behind these beautiful creatures? He hands me a couple upcoming Sale catalogs; my mind is racing. I spent the next 2 years visiting every Amish farm that had a Dutch Harness horse for sale. Within that time, I had gathered 20 mares, sold off the first stallion I had bought - a 17 hand Jonker x Majesteit, he was not going to cut it, even though he crossed well with my National Show Breed horses. He was replaced with Firestone (a Nando horse) – he is a high percentage Gelders bred horse that is also Homozygous black with 4 socks and strip. He has that Dutch Warmblood look, more so than the Harness look - a rounded rump, good hock action, good substance, good bone, huge eyes, beautiful eyes, great disposition, yup.... what dreams are made of.

Coming from an Arabian background, I have an image sketched into my head, I like pretty horses and pretty comes in many shapes and sizes. When I look at KWPN Warmbloods, I am always looking for a horse that is pleasing to eye at first look. Something about a horse must grab your attention. Sometimes though, the modern horses are moving to far away from the Warmblood look that is in my head. I like substance, I like bone, I like freaky movers, but I also like pretty, and I refuse to have any horse that has a disposition problem. I refuse to make excuses for a nasty horse that bites or uses me for target practice. So: this brings me to Vosmaer, at first look,

he looks like an oversized Abu Farwa horse, a chestnut Arabian stallion known for producing wild white markings, and they were handy doing horses, some ranch horses and some English show horses.

Vosmaer is a Dutch horse with lots of history, and he left behind a legacy. He was just a beautiful horse, very easy on the eyes, a beautiful mover and he passes those traits on. It is important to me to preserve what we can as breeders, it's our job and our responsibility. Real Breeders, they have a goal, they have a purpose for that foal they are creating, Real Breeders stop breathing during birthing months. Everything they have worked for is going to reveal itself. And with the grace of God, the foals make their glorious presence. Nothing beats seeing a new foal. A straight up Miracle.



My wife insisted on matching Vosmaer up with Josy. Josy is sired by Alonzo and out of a Manno daughter. Josy looks like her pedigree: a black mare with 4 high socks, a wide blaze that extends over her nose, stands 16.1 hands. Alonzo is a Nando son out of a Heineke daughter. Alonzo has more NATURAL hock action than any fine Harness in the showing today, his ankles hit his belly, barefoot! I believe

Nando and his sons, especially Alonzo, are the Harness stallions producing most offspring that have crossed over into the Dressage world. The people that have Alonzo horses, know exactly what they have, and they treasure their horses. They love how talented and trusty they are.

Josy was a great choice to cross with Vosmaer. I truly believe that most Sport horse breeders are missing the mark when they don't consider what a Dutch Harness horse brings to the table. I have looked at a lot of Dressage bred broodmares, and always circle back to the fact, that I don't think they are better than my Dutch Harness mares.

My wife and I are working on a name... just like naming a child, you want the right name. Since it is a V year, her name will start out Vosmaers \_\_\_\_\_. She looks like and is built like a little Hereford bull calf. Our hopes and prayers are for her to develop into a first-class Dressage horse that an amateur can take all the way to the top!"



*The frozen semen of Vosmaer is still available, you can order it through Liz Van Woerden [Lvws80@gmail.com](mailto:Lvws80@gmail.com) .*