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## CHAPTER 1

# THE BREEDING LAND BETWEEN THE SEAS

## THE LAND AND AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

As with all warmblood breeds, the Holsteiner horse is characterised by the land that it comes from. This still applies today, even in an era when many Holsteiner horses are raised outside of the breeding area, and when modern feeding technology enables, to a certain degree, compensation for the deficits of the natural environment.

Schleswig-Holstein is the home of the Holsteiner horse, and the essential aspect here is the marshland, where a strong, energetic horse of stable character has developed amid the rough climate of the North Sea. As a result of its excellent jumping ability, its aptitude as a riding horse and its assiduous willingness to perform, the Holsteiner has not only survived the transition from a working horse into a pure sport horse without prejudice, but is indeed thriving. This is not only demonstrated by the figures, but also by the successes registered by the Holsteiner horses in the field of sport, both at basic and top international levels, and last, but not least by the prices that are paid today for Holsteiner horses.

Schleswig-Holstein, the federal state that is the furthest north, comprises of 15,677.78 km<sup>2</sup>. It is home to 2.84 million people, there are 180 people per km<sup>2</sup>. It is thus one of the more sparsely populated of the federal states.

Three main types of landscape are connected by the Elbe and lend the land its special charm. The marshland of the North Sea lowlands is formed by sea deposits and is full of streams and ditches with dykes protecting the land from the sea. On the Baltic Sea the morainic landscape is hilly with numerous lakes. Inbetween these two areas lies the Geest a sandy central ridge.

### The Marshes

The marshland is the core area of the Holsteiner breed, this is home to the oldest bloodlines, comprising of today's breeding districts of Pinneberg, Steinburg and the traditional main areas round Krempe and Wilster, South Dithmarschen and North Dithmarschen. These were joined much later by the breeding district of North Friesland, which was a stronghold of the Schleswig cart horse for many years. The soil in the marshland is heavy, it contains sand and has a rich, natural chalk content.

It prevents the Holsteiner from having soft hooves that are typical of lowland horses, who grow up on

soft moor soils.

On the contrary in the summer the pasture land becomes as hard as stone due to the wind and sun, and this improves the hardness and sturdiness of the hooves.

The marshlands are not of uniform appearance. There are the Elbe marshes of Haseldorf and Seestermühe, where fruit farming plays a significant role, the Kremper Marsh between Stör and Krückau, the low lying Wilster marsh between Stör and the North Sea/Baltic Sea Canal, the rich soils of Dithmarschen, the high, heavy marsh of Eiderstedt, formerly agricultural land, which has been exclusively used as pasture land since the mid-19th Century and the grassland of the North Friesland marsh.

## The Geest

The term Geest derives from Lower German and means: dry and unfertile. Hence, the soil of this central strip of land in Schleswig-Holstein is poor. The melted snow water of the most recent ice age predominantly left behind quartz sand containing only very little clay and chalk. Thanks to modern agricultural methods and fertilisers the land in the Geest has become much more fertile over the past 150 years, and to an extent the heath land areas have been reforested.

## The Eastern Uplands

Here we find a hilly basic morainic landscape with numerous small lakes; the soil comprises of marl with a strong clay content, it is loamy, heavy and fertile. The Eastern uplands are divided up into separate landscapes by the fjords, large bays along the coast of the Baltic Sea of Angeln, Schwansen, Dänischer Wohld, Wagrien and Lauenburg. In a certain sense Lauenburg in the Eastern region of Schleswig-Holstein has a similar climate to the regions East of the Elbe; there is less rainfall and the climate is continental.

At the beginning of the historic age Schleswig-Holstein was predominantly forestland. Whereas in the East the trees were predominantly beech trees, in the central ridge oak trees were more dominant. Only the marshland was primarily grassland.

## Totally different agricultural structures

Due to geographical and historic reasons the agricultural and social structures in the Schleswig-Holstein districts developed differently. In the North Sea coastal region, free farmers lived on their own estates in the marshes and had power of disposal over their property. The natural division of the land in the form of tidal creeks and ditches allowed individual cultivation of the land by the owners from an early age. Only the land in the outside dyke, which is important for horse breeding today, remained in the hands

of the community up until the modern era.

On the whole the agricultural structure of the free farmers survived the centuries. The aristocratic manorial governance only asserted itself in the Elbe marshes, but without a manor system and large estates. In Dithmarschen the resident aristocracy were banished in the 13th Century, instead the land was governed until 1559 by a “council”, comprising of 48 advisers and judges, later called regents and squires, who were appointed for life. This was a classic example of a democratic/aristocratic farming republic. Until today the people from Dithmarschen are known for their strong appreciation of freedom and independence. As a result of the centuries-long individual economy not only good cereals grew in the marshland at a very early stage, but also excellent livestock were reared, especially first-class horses.

The agricultural structure in the Eastern Uplands developed quite differently, where thanks to the hilly young morainic landscape with its heavy clay soils and valuable beech forests, many lakes and depressions which make excellent fish ponds, extensive estates arose very early on. There were only large farms in the region of the former clerical manor system around Eutin or in the collegiate church in the district of Plön. The horse breeding trade also boomed under these conditions. Horses were bred intensively on many estates and the serf farmers had to keep horses in order to fulfil their manual labour and carriage-related duties.

A clear village/farmer-like structure developed in the lean Geest region, the aristocracy’s interest in the light, less fertile soils was limited. There were free farmers and tenant farmers on the manorial estates, so-called state farmers. Later the leased land became the property of the owners. The economy was to a large extent self-sufficient, the ownership shares in the estates were widely fragmented. The joint ownership of all village inhabitants in the common land played a major role well into the 18th Century.



Evening mood in the marshes

## Calido I

Born in 1991 out of Baroness by Coriander/Roman, line 5064, breeder: Matthias Kahler, Geismar, colour: grey, size: 167 cm.



Cantus by Caletto I

Calido I is Cantus' most popular son. He won the stallion performance test with an index of 140.40 points (scored a 10 in jumping). Calido I is also approved for Hanover where he is in great demand. Since the beginning of his stud career he has been stationed at the private station of Maas Johannes Hell. Under Thomas Mohr he won numerous young horse competitions – frequently with scores over 9.5.



Every year the offspring of Calido I excels with top placings at the National Championships for Young Horses in Warendorf. In 2004 the two Calido sons, Coster under Cameron Hanley and Clintwood under Ulrich Kirchhoff achieved a double victory at the Championships for the five-year-old jumping horses. Coeur de Lion with Philip Rüping, Curley Sue under Gerald Geessink, Celine with Markus Brinkmann and Caliro with Bastian Freese also deserve a mention considering their sporting achievements.

On the international jumping circuit, Calido I, is primarily represented by his licensed son, Coupe de Coeur, born in 1997, grey, 170 cm, out of Adele by Lincoln/Urioso, line 4232, breeder: Johann Jürgens, Marne. René Tebbel became the German Champion in 2006 and 2007 with the grey stallion, he also won the 2006 World Cup qualifier with him in Oslo and was a member of the German team that won the Nations Cup in Barcelona in the same year. Ludger Beerbaum has been riding Coup de Coeur since the spring of 2008 and he was the reserve horse for the Olympic Games. Calido I was represented by three of his offspring at the Olympic games in Hong Kong: California under Taizo Sugitani (JPN), Cayak DH with Eiken Sato (JPN) and Nobless M with the Swiss rider, Pius Schwizer, who was able to win the Grand Prix of La Coruna and Helsinki in 2007. So far 16 Calido I sons have been graded, eleven of them are approved for Holstein.



Come On by Cantus

### Come On

Born in 1985 by Cantus out of Sühne-Landgraf I/Fokus II, line 5094. Breeder: Gerd Magens, Ottenbüttel, colour: grey, size: 173 cm.

Come On out of the famous Bühne line was a large-framed grey, who in spite of his heavy build was always easy to ride and cooperative. He won countless advanced jumping classes with Ludger Beerbaum, Ralf Schneider and Princess Haya Bint al Hussein, who is now the President of the FEI. He also achieved top placings in many Nations Cups. Almost all of his offspring have great potential and excel because of their high rideability. Come On, who had to be put down at the start of 2008 due to a leg injury, left the breed four licensed sons as well as a multitude of daughters.



Cascavelle by Cantus

## Cascavelle

Born in 1986 by Cantus out of Phaedra by Calando I/Consul, line 162, breeder: Walter Frers, Tangstedt, colour: grey, size: 167 cm.

Before he was sold abroad, Cascavelle was stationed for four years at the private stud of Lothar Völz in Wöhrden. He left the breed 125 registered mares and three licensed sons, including the grey stallion, Casco, 168 cm, born in 1997 out of Faret by Landlord/Lagos, line 5382, breeder: Johann Peter Lass, Leck, who is at stud in the Netherlands and is successful in international sport with Gerald Geessink. Cascavelle's son, Carinjo, who was born in 2001 out of Exquisite by Landgraf I/Ramiro; line 703, breeder: Klaus-Hermann Hollm, Wacken, colour: bay, size: 165 cm, was the champion of the stallion licensing in 2003.

## Canturo

Born in 1995 by Cantus out of Fara by Calando I/Landego/Pannier xx, line 162, breeder: Herbert Diederich, Niestetal, colour: bay, size: 168 cm.

Canturo pursued an international jumping sport career. He was initially successful in young horse jumping classes with Dirk Ahlmann, but after 2003 he was ridden by the Brazilian rider Bernardo Alves. The pair's biggest victories include the Grand Prix in Spruce Meadows and Madrid as well as the Prize of Europe in Aachen.

## Canto

Born in 2002 by Canturo out of Krokus by Limbus/Caletto I/Corporal, line 2027, breeder: Adelbert Sporn, Jardelundfeld, colour: bay, size: 168 cm.

Canto won the stallion licensing in Neumünster in 2004. He caused a stir with this first crop of foals: He sired the champion of the Holsteiner licensing in 2008: Cantoblanco, born in 2006 out of G-Casablanca by Carolus I/Calypso II, line 4965, breeder: Hartmann Breeding & Competition Stables GmbH & Co. KG, Rendsburg, colour: dark bay, size: 164 cm, as well as two further licensed stallions. The graded Canturo son, Canturano, born in 2003 out of Madonna by Coriano/Ahorn Z/Fontan, line 2067, breeder: Jürgen Strauß, Sarzbüttel, colour: bay, size: 168 cm, won the stallion performance test with sovereignty and today he stands at the Eurocommerce competition yard in the Netherlands.