

# Spotlight: Friesian Sporthorse Association

*Bred to perform*

**F**riesian Sporthorses are often a bit baroque in their build, with the higher and more arched neck of the Friesian. They are best known for their kind temperaments and expressive gaits.

The goal of Friesian Sporthorse breeding is to produce a quality horse of sport-horse type by building on the strengths of the Friesian, but with a greater emphasis on sport potential.



**STANDOUT:** The Grand Prix-level Friesian Sporthorse stallion Lexington, owned, trained, and ridden by Gigha Steinman of River Oaks Farm (FL)

Friesian Sporthorses most commonly combine warmblood blood, Thoroughbred blood, or both with that of the Friesian, as these breeds have proven to most consistently improve overall athleticism and stamina as well as the quality of the canter.

The Friesian Sporthorse is an especially popular choice for dressage and combined driving.

**Friesian Sporthorses you might know:** The main book/elite book stallion Lexington (Baron von Kolderveen – Denver Miss xx) is one of the best-known Friesian Sporthorses in the US. Lexington has been the Friesian Sporthorse Association's (FSA) high-performance dressage national champion for five consecutive years, and he was the 2015 Adequan/USDF All-Breeds FSA champion at Grand Prix.

Friesian Sporthorses have also excelled in dressage sport-horse breeding (DSHB) classes and in FEI Young Horse competition. Multiple Friesian Sporthorses have participated in the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan; Celtic Grace (Roi Des Blues – Zena xx), owned by Bobbi Wojtowicz and ridden by Jonni Allen, won the 2015 Fourth Level Open Freestyle championship with a score of 72.944 percent.

**The Friesian Sporthorse Association:** The FSA is the official registry of the Friesian Sporthorse and registers Friesian Sporthorses worldwide. It is the only registry to recognize the Friesian

Sporthorse as a developing breed, with strict and specific guidelines for breeding and registration. In 2008 the FSA trademarked the name Friesian Sporthorse; that same year, the FSA became internationally recognized and authorized to issue UELNs (Universal Equine Life Numbers) to Friesian Sporthorses, giving additional legitimacy and recognition to the

breed around the world.

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

**How to participate:** The horses must be registered with the FSA. Membership is included with registration; there is no additional membership requirement for owners or riders.

**Learn more:** FriesianSporthorse Association.com or (386) 749-0097. ▲

## For the Breeds, by the Breeds

**E**ach 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).