

Festival

Even at a horse show, amongst many beautiful horses, some stand out from the rest. Although I am no doubt "preaching to the converted", there is something about a beautiful horse that enraptures and makes the heart soar.



Major Show Record 2005 – 2007...

Brisbane Royal 2005

- Supreme Thoroughbred
- 1st Open Hack 15.2-16hh

Qld. Hack Council 2005

- Led Hack Of The Year

Nth NSW Hack

Championships 2005

- Led Newcomer Hack
- Led Open Hack
- RU Newcomer Hack

Canberra Royal 2006

- Supreme Thoroughbred
- Supreme ANSA
- Champion Ridden ANSA

- 1st Mare Hack
- 1st Lady's Hack

Toowoomba Royal 2006

- Supreme Thoroughbred
- Supreme ANSA
- Champion Small Hack

Nth NSW Hack Championships 2006

- Led Open Hack
- Brisbane Royal 2006

- Supreme ANSA
- 1st TB Mare Hack.

Country Hack Champs Tamworth 2006

- Small HOTY

Qld EFA HOTY 2006

- RU Hack Of The Year.

Toowoomba Royal 2007

- Champion Small Hack
- Supreme Hack

Grand Nationals 2007

- Top Ten

Canberra Royal 2007

- Champion ANSA Mare.

Nth NSW Hack Championships 2007

- RU Led Small Hack
- RU Small HOTY.

Owned by Robyn Unsworth and shown and campaigned by Joanne Uppington, Festival, had the power to uplift even the most jaded show goer and her death from colic at just eight years old on 30th October is a loss to everyone who is moved by beauty. In just a few years, Festival has accumulated an amazing list of achievements and as Joanne put it; "When I started to write it down, I was amazed myself, just how much the mare had won".

Festival was bred 'in the purple' for the show ring and despite some suggestion that she should race, breeder, Robyn Unsworth, was determined that the mare's future was in showing. Robyn, from Park Ridge in Queensland takes up the story. "Festival was by our stallion, Silver Laird out of a lovely and successful hack I had, A Riot in Paris, a great grand daughter of the Melbourne Cup winner, Evening Peel. Silver Laird by Lord Silverman was Supreme Led Thoroughbred and Champion ANSA Stallion at Brisbane Royal in 1996 and was a registered Australian Stock Horse as well. I was sitting with the mare before she foaled and there were water lilies on the dam and I thought, if she were a filly, I would call her Lilly. When she was born in 1999 I could tell straight away she was going to make a beautiful show horse. My husband wanted to race her, but I said no, as Lilly was just so special.

"Lilly broke in well and I did a couple of shows and took her to Brisbane where she was third in her Three-Year-Old Led Thoroughbred class. Well-known horseman, Ted Mulligan, (Di Newberry's father) spotted her there and wanted to buy her. I said she was not for sale, and then he asked if he could lease her. So I leased her for almost three years. They did not do a great deal with her, but the work she had, riding on the road and going to Pony Club was all very good grounding for her. When she came home she continued to grow and that's when Jo, my niece took her over. I was determined to hang on to Lilly, despite a very good offer at Brisbane in 2005, because I had lost both the sire and dam by that time. As soon as she hit the scene, she just did well and Jo did a lovely job of presenting her and Rianne McIvor a lovely job of riding her".

At her second visit to Brisbane Royal, Festival made a triumphant return to the ring. She was declared Supreme Champion Thoroughbred and won her Open 15.2-16hh class. Joanne Uppington is well known in showing circles and has had great success with amongst others, the Galloway, Silk Stockings. (I remember her as I always thought it such a good name). Joanne continues; "I remembered Lilly as being a nice little mare and when she came back, I suggested Robyn give her to me and I would do something with her. So we had her for just nine days and she went Supreme Led Thoroughbred and Supreme Led ANSA at Greenbank Show. I said then that, this mare might be worth keeping. There is a team of us at Logan Village, me, Sue McIvor and her daughter, Rianne, who started to ride Lilly and was the only person to ride her.

"The first year we started showing her, 2005, she went very well at Brisbane and was Queensland Hack Council Led Hack Of The Year and at the Northern NSW Hack Championships was Led Newcomer Hack, Led Open Hack and Runner Up Newcomer Hack. At Canberra in 2006, she absolutely cleaned up; she was Supreme Led Thoroughbred and ANSA, Champion Ridden ANSA and won her Mare Hack class and the Lady's Hack. Toowoomba followed with Supreme Thoroughbred and ANSA and Champion Small Hack. And so it went, (a full list of performances follows) with the mare going from success to success. She was a beautiful mare.

"Sue (McIvor) lives two doors up from me and we do the horses together every morning. She was there at about 5.45am and came running over and said; you had better come as I don't think Lilly's well. I went over and she was a bit dodgy, so we rang the vet straight away. They were there within about 50 minutes, did an examination, gave her a couple of needles and asked if we had had EI, which we hadn't. The DPI was very good and was quick about organising a travel permit, so we put her on the truck and took her to the clinic. We filled the truck up on the way home thinking, as she was not that bad, that we would be over the next afternoon to pick her up.

4 REASONS WHY

Equest® Plus Tape Long Acting Horse Wormer and Boticide breaks all barriers:

1. Now controls Tapeworm

2. Provides longer worm protection than other wormers*

3. The only wormer to control deadly encysted small strongyles in a single dose!**



Tribute to a Champion

Brought to you by Long Acting EQUEST® Plus Tape



But by that afternoon, they rang and said there was nothing they could do for her. That's when Sue took over and organised everything. The vets at the Redlands Veterinary Clinic, who were marvellous, said she had twisted her small intestine. By the time they had done the blood tests, she had gone toxic and they could not even operate and save her. To this day we can't understand it. She had been in the stable overnight as she always was and had eaten up and drunk a bucket of water, and manured twice. All they can think of, is that with all the rain we have had up

here, which brings everything to the surface, she might have picked up something that did not agree with her in the grass.

"Lilly was such a lovely horse to have around at home and the most beautiful horse to handle in every way. You could not have wished for a nicer mare and she even seemed to enjoy being a show horse. The show world can be hard, but the support we have had since she died has been absolutely overwhelming. We received emails, cards and flowers, and even today (mid December) we are still getting cards".



4. Is a unique
easy to use gel

© Registered trademark.
* Based on Equest Plus Tape being the only equine wormer to have a registered re-treatment interval of 14-16 weeks.
** Based on comparison of registered label claims