

European Performance Horses LLC is owned and operated by Sarah and Gerd Reuter in Barboursville , VA. Until recently, Sarah and Gerd specialized in importing top quality horses from Europe, sales, training , shows and clinics. Sarah is a USDF Silver and Bronze medallist and her husband Gerd is a Gold and Silver USDF Medalist; has a German Gold Medal and is a Reitlehrer FN.

It just became too hard having so many show horses and sale horses at home. We were up to 23 horses of our own. So when we went to shows you have the others left at home and also Gerd is on the road so much with clinics. The work hours were also tremendous and just never seemed to end. So we decided to downsize.

Although Gerd has had a lot of experience training and showing stallions in former years for Mrs. Rosemarie Springer and working at Hamilton Farm, he was never involved in the breeding side. All of our horses come from our partner in Germany, Mr Detlef Saul, who was three times World Champion Breeder in Jumping. [Mr Saul was the breeder of the famous ET] .We never thought about becoming involved in the breeding world until the opportunity arose in 2000. We went to Germany with a client to look at a horse she was interested in at our partner's farm and I fell in love with our first stallion, Romantic Star. Since then we have bought four more. Our partner has advised us about our choices of stallions to bring over to the USA and thus far it has proven to be very successful. All of our stallions were bought with the purpose to show in addition to breeding. Gerd helps Sarah train the stallions at home and Sarah competes with them in Dressage. I have found a deep rapport with all my stallions. I truly enjoy working with them .

EPH is home to Romantic Star , a License Class I Hanoverian Stallion; Welt Hit Star, a License Class I Oldenburg Stallion; Super Star, a Class I Akhal Teke Stallion and Razeni Star, a Hanoverian Stallion that we recently imported. In the winter of 2002 , we are importing our fifth stallion , a grandson of Rubinstein.

Our mission is to provide top quality stallions to our clients and to produce the ideal performance horse whether it is for the professional or amateur rider. We have chosen stallions that have superb temperaments, conformation, movement, trainability.

Our stallions are all extremely different types and we therefore can have a much more diverse market. We target many markets: dressage, jumping, hunter jumpers and target many different types of mares: a heavy warmblood or a children's pony.

The communication between the stallion owner and the client is of vast importance. We believe in prompt response to their inquiries; we offer that the client can come and see our stallions in work at home. We send out all information and semen as soon as it is requested. In other words, we strive to be very flexible.

We have set up a partnership with our veterinarian, Dr. D. Flynn, and his practice is responsible for all stallion bookings. Dr Flynn's son, Sean Flynn , is our breeding manager and is responsible for handling and collecting all of our stallions. All stallions stand at EPH ..This allows us to remain flexible and also accessible at all times for

stallion collections . This has proven to be a great success since this gives Gerd and me more time to focus on the clientele and advertisement and also the stallions associate us only with the training side.

I have found that many clients come looking for one specific stallion. They say that they love a particular one but when they look at the different types we have to offer, they may find that another one may be more suitable for their mare. I find it important for the client to come and see the stallion if it is possible geographically and for us to also understand what they are looking for. One stallion may have a wonderful topline and hind end, whereas the other may be more suitable size wise. It just depends on what the customer wants and what their mare's qualities and flaws are and it is our responsibility to help them.

You do not want to breed a small mare for instance to a huge stallion. On the same note, you do not want to breed a hot tempered mare to a stallion who could be on the hot side if you are looking for a calmer ride. We, as stallion owners, must be honest with our customers and we are all looking to improve the breed not just take the breeding fee. We are interested in seeing our stallion's offspring and for them to be successful so we must take care in what we breed to and stand behind that.

It is important to look at the stallion's attributes, his offspring and his lineage. This helps narrow down your choices. However, you need to look at each mare and maybe one particular stallion that the client likes will not be well suited for the mare. You cannot just take a mare and breed to any stallion. The mare makes up for 60 % of the foal so you need to make sure you have a good quality mare. Of course you then want to breed to a stallion that will improve some flaw that the mare has but it is not always so. You must look at the other offspring from the stallion and ask whether that stallion stamps out his conformation, movement, temperament?