

# Readington farm hosts American Warmblood inspection

Last month on Sunday, Sept. 7, Pleasant Meadow Farm in Readington Township hosted an inspection for the American Warmblood Society (AWS).

The AWS' goal is to assist in the education of North American breeders and sport horse/pony selectors by encouraging the development of the most talented quality sport horses/ponies.

AWS sport horses/ponies may be evaluated on their own qualities and/or performance records.

Hot-bloods, cold-bloods, warm-bloods, and all crosses are eligible, previously registered or non-registered, as long as the horse/pony is breeding for, training for, or participating in one of the four disciplines that the AWS supports (Dressage, Eventing, Jumping, or Combined Driving). The minimum size requirement is 13 hands.

Horses at Pleasant Meadow's AWS Inspection were shown in-hand, with young horses (up to 3 years old) also shown at liberty. Horses were inspected youngest to oldest.

The judge allotted 10 minutes per horse to evaluate conformation, movement, and sport horse potential, which includes tractability with generous forward drive, presence, and suitability to move up the levels.

There are four categories of certified AWS horses:

62 to 66.999 percent — **Certified**  
67 to 74.999 percent — **Red Preferred**

75 to 79.999 percent — **Blue Preferred**

80 percent and higher — **Supreme Horse**

After seven hours, a total of 18 horses were inspected and approved, with nine both qualifying and opting for branding. To qualify for a brand, sport horses/ponies must obtain a minimum 67 percent in-hand rating. The branding cost is \$95 and offered at all AWS inspections, but supreme horses/ponies (rated 80 percent or higher) are offered the brand for free.

The AWS brand shows the capital "A" for North America with a subtle "W" for warmblood. Over the "A" is a crown to symbolize the nobility of the breed. The outline of the crown captures the entire "A" and "W," indicating the bond and unity of American Warmbloods and symbolizing the new tradition. According to the AWS, the emphasis is not "Warmblood," but rather the sport horse/pony of modern type.

"My inspiration for hosting the inspection was Pleasant Meadow's Serendipity, an 8-year-old



**Diana Tuorto**

**HUNTERDON HORSE BEAT**

The writer, a resident of Stanhope, owns a Morgan mare. She is also the author of several children's novels, most recently Janie's New Legs and Luck of the Draw, which benefit local charities. She runs the Horse Welfare Organizations website at <http://horsewelfare.8k.com> and can be reached at [lunar\\_aradia@yahoo.com](mailto:lunar_aradia@yahoo.com).

Trakehner cross," said Joanne Pelosi, owner/manager of Pleasant Meadow Farm. "I recently sold this lovely mare to one of our students, Brittany Orashen, who presented her at the inspection. Serendipity was found by our barn manager/trainer, Alyssa Weihe, on Craigslist.com; she was advertised under "farm equipment" and almost went to auction before I bought her. She had so much potential that we had to bring her home. Serendipity had so many issues at first; she was afraid to be brushed, didn't know how to steer, and a bridle literally needed to be taken apart and put on her head slowly, piece by piece, given her shyness."

"Even with all of these issues," Pelosi added. "We knew that we had found a diamond in the rough. Brittany loves her dearly and the two have developed a very strong bond. It was so exciting to watch the two of them in the ring at the inspection; they ended up winning the silver medal and achieved the second highest score for the day! That was definitely my highlight."

Pelosi continued, "We had an excellent turnout; at one point, I counted about 40 cars in addition to 16 trailers. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude to everyone that was here for the day; from spectators, to participants, our knowledgeable judge to the amazingly capable and always helpful volunteers, along with our very talented photographer Tallman Photo."

While Pelosi does not have another AWS inspection yet scheduled, interested parties may contact her via her Web site at [www.pleasantmeadowfarm.com](http://www.pleasantmeadowfarm.com) to be notified should a date be set in the future.

"I'm not sure when I'll host another inspection, but certainly hope to," she added. "It was such a pleasure giving owners the opportunity to showcase their beau-

tiful animals. With so many wonderful volunteers, the inspection ran like clockwork and everyone really seemed to enjoy them-

selves. I've only received positive feedback since the inspection."

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