

Andiamo

Gertjan van Olst: “Now I know what a ‘true jumper’ is!”

At age three, Andiamo sustained an injury that prevented him from completing the performance test. After a long recovery, he received KWPN approval at age seven but lost his approved status after failing to produce a foal collection. However, because many of his offspring have risen to the ranks of international show jumping over the years, Andiamo was granted KWPN recognition in January. At the 2010 KWPN Stallion Show, the talented jumper was among the renowned horses in the parade of proven sires.



Gertjan van Olst: “This horse has been through a lot, but his fighting spirit gets him through bad times. The central theme of his life is that he’s a natural jumping phenomenon.” Van Olst owned Andiamo for many years. Many of the stallion’s offspring are currently making their breakthrough in the sport.

Andiamo's sire-line boasts an unprecedented number of proven sport horses. Among them is Andiamo's sire, Animo, who was very successful under Norwegian rider Morten Aasen. In 1992, the combination competed in the Barcelona Olympics. Aasen is Andiamo's breeder, and given his achievements with Animo, choosing his number one jumper to be Andiamo's sire was no coincidence. One of Animo's most famous show jumper offspring is Robin Hood W, who is currently excelling under Ben Maher. The pair, which finished 15th individually in the 2010 World Cup Final, is a valuable asset to the British team. Other renowned Animo offspring include Billy Orange, Clear Round Then Party, Parabel, Pessoa, and Puhr. Animo holds eighth place this year in the WBFSH ranking for jumper sires thanks to the performance of his offspring. He also boasts several KWPN-approved sons: Placido, Monaco, Regino, and Revenge W. Animo's sire Alm , a former international jumper, is also famous. Sons like Jalisco

Pieter Kersten

Pieter Kersten, who currently serves on the stallion selection committee, used to ride stallions in the performance test. Andiamo was one of his test mounts. "Andiamo was unique because he really raised his wither and used his body well. He was a very special horse to ride," said Kersten. "Actually, his offspring turned out really well, certainly when it comes to jumping talent. They're not equally easy to ride, and they come by that trait honestly." The comment refers to Andiamo's sire and grandsire, Animo and Alm , respectively, who were known for demanding much from their riders. "They're horses that are really scopey and use their bodies well. When they're young, they're often not very tight with their front legs over jumps, but they always show talent. They're also very careful, and with those kinds of horses, their front legs usually get better on their own. Careful horses are horses that learn," explained Kersten.

Kersten believes in strength of Andiamo's pedigree: "Andiamo passes on unique blood. That dash of Anglo-Arabian in him ensures that his offspring get that extra needed 'blood'. But because of that, they're not always easy, and they really need a good rider, especially to start. Later, once they trust their rider, they can go far." Many good U-year Andiamo offspring are now in the show ring, many of which came on the scene last year. "It's remarkable that Andiamo offspring are cropping up all over. Maybe they're not very special when they're young because they need time to develop and be trained. Now Andiamo offspring are making their breakthrough and their riders can handle them. If they need work with you, they always will", remarked Kersten. Like Van Olst, Kersten believes that Andiamo offspring are not horses that usually do well in the selection. Kersten: "Andiamo has to perform through the sport. With respect to conformation, he doesn't usually produce selection horses. Many stallions score really high indexes right after a year or two of their offspring are inspected or evaluated in the EPTM, but Andiamo is unique because his high indexes are due to the performance of his offspring in the show ring!"



Animo and Andiamo's breeder, Morten Aasen, competed in the Barcelona Olympics. Andiamo boasts impressive international offspring, such as Robin Hood W, Billy Orange, Clear round then Party, Parabel, Pessoa, and Puhr.

Arie Hamoen

Arie Hamoen, the chairman of the stallion selection committee for jumpers, commented: "Andiamo's ster percentage is 31%. For conformation and movement, he scored 100 and 97, respectively, which are average. However, for free-jumping, he scored 110, which is good. Andiamo's jumping index is 160 with 89% reliability, which is high. With +1.86cm., Andiamo produces sufficiently tall offspring. They are characterized by their good rectangular-shaped conformation, poorly muscled neck, straight croup, big legs, big walk, and of course, their very good jumping scores."

B, who competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics; and Galoubet A, who won several Grand Prix in Wiesbaden, London, Fontainebleau, and Washington in 1979 and 1980, have helped immortalize Almé as a jumper sire.

Almé's sire Ibrahim also enjoyed an international show jumping career and played a major role in the start of warmblood breeding in Belgium. Dutch as well as French and Hanoverian breeding stock were used to build the bloodline, and primarily Ibrahim sons were exported from France. Nowadays, the renowned sire's blood is found in the pedigrees of many sporthorses. For instance, he is the grandsire of Calvados (s.Uriel), and he is represented twice in the pedigree of the top show jumper Flipper d'Elle (s.Double Espoir): once as the sire of Double Espoir and again as the grandsire of Jalisco B (s.Almé), on the dam's side.

Anglo-Arabian Blood

Andiamo's dam is the Anglo-Arabian Taj Mahal (s.Garitchou x). Gertjan van Olst, who owned Andiamo for many years, explains: "Andiamo's breeder, Morten Aasen, initially bought the mare for his wife, not for the professional sport. Taj Mahal was a beautiful, high quality mare,

1.65m/16.1-hands tall, and she could jump well. I bought Andiamo as a yearling from Morten. Back then, Andiamo was pretty rough-looking and not very handsome, but I really liked his bloodlines on his dam's side. I've always been crazy about Anglo-Arabs because of the fresh blood and durability they pass on. Nithard x comes out of a leading jumper line in the Anglo-Arabian studbook, and the Garitchou x-line is also important." Andiamo (Animo x Gartichou x x Nithard x) combines prominent Anglo-Arabian lines with the line of the talented jumper Animo. Van Olst: "Andiamo was transported to the Netherlands, and I got him ready for the stallion selection. The first time he jumped was a revelation for me, and he's never taken a bad jump."

A Very Long Road

Andiamo was first approved by the NRPS. Later, he was presented to the KWPN and approved again. At the time, an option was available for stallions to



Foto: Dirk Caremans

As a seven-year-old, Alarm (ds.Larno) became the 2004 IAN Trophy Reserve Champion under Vincent Voorn.



One of Andiamo's most noteworthy daughters is Vicky Gold (ds.Lux), who scored a 9 for scope in her mare test and later placed eleventh in the VION Cup as a five-year-old.

undergo just a three-week performance test and breed up to 50 mares. Stallions were granted definitive KWPN approval after successful evaluation of their offspring as foals and as three-year-olds. Van Olst: "I was so crazy about Andiamo that I wanted to keep him at home, which is why I initially opted for the three-week test. He did great in Ermelo! I still have the reports from back then, and they

were excellent. Unfortunately, I let myself get talked into Andiamo doing the full inspection because people were so crazy about him." Unfortunately, a tragic accident derailed Van Olst's plans. "A week later I got a phone call. Andiamo had flipped over backwards on hard ground as he was being led to the horse exerciser, and he had been taken to the university equine clinic in Utrecht. He fractured four

spinal processes in his wither and split a fifth in half. That's when my world caved in. Because I had committed to the complete inspection, Andiamo was no longer eligible for the other option with the short test, 50 breedings, and waiting period. It was too late," recalled Van Olst. Although Andiamo's KWPN approval was put on hold, he could still breed as an NRPS-approved stallion. Van Olst: "He couldn't mount the phantom mare, so we collected semen from him in his stall." The recovery from the serious accident proved difficult. "It was a very long road, and we weren't able to ride him the year after the fall. As a four-year-old, we took him to Morten again, who still owned a 50% share in him," explained Van Olst. "Morten was incredibly patient with him and rode him through the hills for a year to get him stronger. Little by little, Andiamo got better. Because Morten still had his doubts, I took over his share after that year." To this day, Andiamo still has the scars from his fall and a dent in his wither. "Since the fall, he's been a bit unsteady in his head and neck. We have to lead him with a loose lead rope, and we can't ask too much of him," explained Van Olst.

KWPN Recognition

Andiamo re-entered the KWPN selection system through the stallion competition and the stallion selection. Although he was not initially selected, the reinspection committee saw quality in the stallion and accepted him for the three-week performance test. In the spring of his seventh year, Andiamo received KWPN approval. "A year later, I sold a 50% share in him to Leon Melchior of Stoeterij Zangersheide, and a year after that, I sold him the other 50% with the stipulation that I can get frozen semen from him." However, an Andiamo foal collection was never presented to the KWPN. "Because Melchior didn't meet that requirement, Andiamo lost his approved status. But in January of this year, he became KWPN-recognized," explains Van Olst.

A Sport Career

Under Van Olst's ownership, Henk van den Broek showed Andiamo up to the 1.30m level. "He was an incredible horse that jumped with a lot of push, and he

The Anglo-Arabian

An Anglo-Arabian is a cross between an English Thoroughbred and a pure Arabian, or a cross between horses from these types of combinations. In 1836, a targeted program for breeding Anglo-Arabians was established in France with two Arabian stallions and three Thoroughbred mares. For registration in the French studbook, an Anglo-Arabian must carry at least 25% Arabian blood; in contrast, the English studbook requires 12.5% Arabian blood. The breed is designated by a single 'x' following the name of each horse as recorded in its pedigree. Anglo-Arabians are known for their durability and stamina. The pedigrees of many sport horses carry blood from this breed which boasts a rich history. The grandsire of Jus de Pomme and Andiamo is the Anglo-Arabian Garitchou x. The sire of the international show jumper and KWPN-approved stallion Calypso is Hadj x, another Anglo-Arabian. Among other famous horses with Anglo-Arabian blood are Quick Star (ds.Nithard x), Idem du Roc (s.Deux du Coeur x), and the KWPN-approved stallion Enrico (s.Fast x x Pancho II x).

had unlimited scope. Andiamo was always really keen to work, and he's a very high quality horse. At first, he sometimes rushed to the jumps, but then he'd settle in the take-off and jump nicely. I also see that trait in his offspring. At home, he was always very willing and easy in his dressage work, but the Thoroughbred blood in him would come out at shows." Jos Lansink competed Andiamo at Zangersheide until the stallion sustained a soft tissue injury. After that, he was sold to De Slovere of Belgium, where he thrived. Christophe Cleeren and the recently deceased Jean Claude Vangeenberghe were among the riders who successfully competed Andiamo in Grand Prix show jumping. Van Olst: "Andiamo's show career ended abruptly, and now he's only used for breeding. But he won't mount the phantom any more. He was always a sensitive horse, so I handled his semen collection alone and never rushed him. Maybe he had a



One of Andiamo's first offspring to become an international show jumper was Pitareusa (ds.Legaat), who began her career under Eric van der Vleuten. She is currently successful in the show ring under Yann Candele.

Offspring in the International Show Scene

Many Andiamo offspring burst onto the international show scene last year, and the sire's KWPN U-year offspring are particularly successful. In fact, ten are qualified at the international level. Among them is Ulot (ds.Iroko), who is conquering his competition under David Quigley, and Ultimo (ds.Dageraad), who is excelling in

the show ring under Jeroen Dubbeldam. One of Andiamo's first offspring to advance to the international show ring was the renowned jumper Pitareusa (ds.Legaat). Several Andiamo daughters have garnered attention in the mare tests. One of them, Vicky Gold (ds.Lux), scored a 9 for scope and 8s on the rest of her jumping test. At age five, she finished 11th in the

VION Cup. Her half-sister Porella (ds. Recruit) also scored a 9 for scope and an 8.5 for technique and suitability as a sport horse.

Van Olst: “Andiamo’s natural jumping style is electric, balanced, and scopey: his wither comes up, his nose goes down, his hind end goes out - and he’s scopey. He really has textbook-classic jumping form. Actually, he’s the quintessential jumper with a fighter’s mentality, who’s also careful - he’s a horse with character, and he passes on those traits. Andiamo offspring aren’t amateur horses, but they’re natural jumpers.”

Although Andiamo offspring have more than proven themselves in sport, finding ones that excel in the inspections is more difficult. “Conformation-wise, they’re not selection horses, and Andiamo himself moved a bit on the forehand and trailed with his hind legs. His offspring are better in that respect, and he sires nice horses when he’s bred to a nice mare. And he always passes on his Thoroughbred blood; you won’t find any cold ones. He produces jumpers from the most divergent combinations,” explains Van Olst. However, Andiamo still does not have a KWPN-approved son. “It is hard to find one that fulfill the complete picture,” according to Van Olst.

An Exceptional Horse

Van Olst has always considered Andiamo a special horse: “He’s gone through so much in his life. When he was five, he had a kind of allergic reaction to a course of antibiotics and almost died. But he’s always been a fighter. Andiamo’s story isn’t unusual, but its central theme is that he’s been a true jumping phenomenon from day one. As a three-year-old in Den Bosch, he got better with every jump. I was standing in the middle of the arena watching him. The audience started clapping and whistling, and I got embarrassed. Everyone thought that he’d been prepped for the occasion, but I really had to teach him how to walk over a pole normally. He would always jump over things, even an ordinary garden hose. Andiamo jumped everything I put in front of him. As a jumper enthusiast, having that kind of horse was a great experience; that’s how I learned what a ‘true jumper’ is!”



David Quigley and Ulot (ds.Iroko) represented the Irish team last year in Lisbon. The pair also placed well at shows in Saint Lo, Birmingham, and Dublin.



Ultimo (ds.Dageraad) became a national show jumper under Jeroen Dubbeldam after placing fourth in the VION Cup as a six-year-old.