

## The Breed.

- The Gypsy Vanner has fascinated the United States since the late great Cushti Bok first stepped foot on American soil in 1996. The breed's origins go back much, much further than people realize. Its roots are firmly planted in Scotland thanks to the shared DNA of the Clydsdale, the Highland Pony and the Shire: Shaw's Grey Horse of Scotland who belonged to the governor of Stirling Castle during the reign of James IV.
- The breed has been immortalized in the spectacular sculpture known as the Kelpies in Falkirk that can be seen today.
- The Gypsy Vanner is well known for the luxurious hair of the mane and tail as well as the copious amounts of hair, or feather, that cover the lower leg and engulf the hooves. That hair provides warmth from the damp, chilly weather and provides protection for the legs from thistles and briars.
- The Gypsy people spent generations developing a strong, yet gentle horse that was an easy keeper, and can pull a vardo, or wagon, all day without tiring. The short back, thick neck, strong legs and a sweet temperament has stood the test of time and very little about the breed has changed.

## The Gypsy Vanners of G.G.'s Farm

LexLin's Black Jack of Dynasty is the direct grandson of the Lion King who was owned by the unofficial "King of the Gypsies" himself – Fred Walker. "B.J." as he is known was foaled in 2012 at the LexLin Ranch in Tennessee. The LexLin Ranch is the gypsy farm that donates fully trained therapy horses to several P.A.T.H. Certified riding centers to be used in their established programs. Living up to his phenomenal breeding B.J. was started in harness and under saddle and has never looked back. From the show ring where he is a Reserve National Champion in trail as well as a multi qualifier in several disciplines to the back woods and trails of North East Florida where he calls home, he has remained willing and patient with a work ethic that belies his young age. The week after he turned four (in April of 2016) he was chosen to be North Florida's first equine representative to the State level Special Olympics where he carried two Olympians to a Gold, Silver, Bronze and a fourth place in Trail classes as well as two Equitation classes. B.J. continues to be a Breed Ambassador and embodies everything you want to see in a

gypsy- Brains, Brawn and Beauty. He will continue to work with the Special Olympics and make public appearances as well as keeping occupied in the show ring.

Moonflower is the granddaughter of the very first Gypsy Vanner to step foot in the United States, the late great Cushti Bok. "Gracie" as she answers to, also shares relatives with BJ through the Lion King. Already a veteran of the show ring in halter classes, she turns three this year and has proved yet again just how sweet natured this breed is right from the start. Gracie was lightly started under saddle this summer and is currently being ridden on trails and learning in the ring. Gracie has such a wonderful personality she quickly becomes a favorite of all who meet her. With her willing attitude and athletic build the sky is the limit to what she can do. We will continue to guide her and watch her grow to become the Grand Mare we know she will one day become.

Please feel free to edit as needed keeping in mind the correct names of the Horses and their pedigrees.