

Where do the Curly horses come from?

Curly horses were known to the Sioux and Crow Native Americans and Curlies were found in the feral herds of Nevada by the Damele family.

The Damele's, a Nevada ranching family, were the first to gather and use the Curlies on their ranch, in the 1930's. The Damele's found in their breeding of the curlies that the Curly passed on the traits of strong bones, strong hooves; calm, intelligent, easily trainable temperament, friendly personality; tough constitutions and stamina. The Smooth Coats have these traits without the full Curly coat.

Are Curlies hypoallergenic?

A study in Germany has shown that Curlies have less of a protein present that causes allergies. Which means a person that is allergic to horses will be less likely to be allergic to the Curlies. It all depends on the individual's allergies and the individual horse.

Now for the best kept secret of the Curly world!

Smooth Coated Curlies!

When breeding curly coated Curlies, it's not always a guarantee that you will get a curly coated foal and when this happens you get a Smooth Coat, "SC" Curly! Just like many of the curly coated Curlies, many SC Curlies have also been found to be Hypoallergenic and exhibit the wonderful traits that their curly coated counterparts have except for the abundance of body curls. The SC Curlies can range from super straight looking, to having waves in certain areas. Their coats can be silky soft or feel like cotton and many, like many of the curly coated Curlies, don't smell like a regular horse. Their smooth coat can be soft or coarser and may have a few swirls or waves or a curl here and there but they do not show a full body curl like the full curled Curlies and look smooth coated overall.



Some of the SC's have the most wonderful spinning fiber. It resembles angora rabbit hair and has a matting quality which helps it spin well into yarn. Several fiber artists have used SC fiber to make a variety of items.

What do owners say about their SC Curlies?

They love them! Many say their personality and temperament is just wonderful and were some of their very favorite horses. The added benefit of being able to have an SC for an allergy sufferer in the family is also a huge benefit.

Many SC's have been shown successfully, make marvelous trail horses and breeding horses when bred back to a Curly coated Curly. There is nothing our SC's can't do, they are very talented horses.



SC gelding, Bars, modeling Comanche tack made by Dr. Mitch Wilkinson at the ICHO Convention, NM.

Hypoallergenic Qualities

In some allergy cases the owners of SC Curlies have shown they have less of an allergic reaction to the SC than some Curly counterparts. But that all depends on the individual and their own allergies.

Below is a testimonial from an owner of a SC Curly and the hypoallergenic quality of her Smooth Coat.

I found out my daughter was allergic to horses when she was 18 months old and thought she would never be able to ride with me. I had to keep her completely away from my horses and the hay to avoid an allergic reaction and an asthma attack.

When she was 9, I heard about "Curlies" for the first time and went on a quest to find her a horse. My search took me to Canada where I purchased a bred minimal curly mare. When we decided we wanted a gelding for her, we went back to the breeder and purchased an 11 month old "smooth coat" curly gelding (Major). I was not sure if he would be hypoallergenic like the original mare and her very curly filly. Of course, there was an immediate bond between Major and my daughter so I was praying that she would not react to him. He was too young to ride, so her contact that first year was brushing and playing with him.

There were some days that she came in and needed her inhaler or had developed a rash after being around him, but not always. I found this to be curious and withheld judgment being hypoallergenic because she certainly did not have the reaction she posed to my horses. The following year she had more with him. It was in training that I noticed she was not reacting to him at all. Now after nearly 3 years of riding Major, I have concluded that it was not him at all that was causing the occasional break out or asthma episode, it was the hay, and during the summertime, the dust!



What a relief that was because their bond is so strong, I never could have separated them! I was asked if she was more "allergic" to Major as a smooth coat curly, than my other curly mare. There doesn't appear to be any difference, but she does not handle my mare much. I can always tell though when she has touched (or kissed) my quarter horse mare as the tell-tale "rash" appears instantly! We feel very fortunate and blessed to have this amazing "smooth coat" curly, and I am grateful I did not pass him up because of my uncertainty about him being hypoallergenic. You really can't tell unless you've been around them. She now rides with me all the time and we have a lot of fun.

Thanks for the opportunity!
Kellie

What can a SC Curly do?

The SC coated curlies have been used in dressage, trail riding, cart pulling etc. If there is an activity that you would like to do there is a SC Coated Curly for you.

The SC Curly has a wonderful personality and is willing to learn if treated fairly and taken care of properly. They are very people orientated and love attention. It is not unusual to have a SC Curly that is also a prankster and vies for your attention.



OYY Elektra, scored well in first training level dressage show.



OYY Pal's Job, Therapeutic lesson horse as well as driving.



OYY Elektra, playing in the snow

Research Projects:

Fiber Studies: There have been fiber lab tests done on the SC Curlies and the curly Curlies documenting their spinning quality. Hair studies on the hair coats of Curly coats and SC's have shown the SC Curlies lack the tight spiral shape of the Curly coats, but have measurable curvature in a low range.

The Curly horse Gene: There are also genetic studies being done on finding the Curly gene and its visible expression.



Gracie and her passengers saying "Good Bye" for now.

The SC Curlies are in every discipline and every size. Stop in at our web site. It will give you more information on the SC Curlies and it will give you names of breeders that you can contact to answer more of your questions or help you find that special SC Curly that is meant just for you. There is also a Nursery page so that you can see all of the SC babies.

You don't have to be allergic to horses to appreciate the gentle nature of a SC Curly they are fun and loving for everyone. Hope to see you soon!



Smooth Coat CURLY HORSES

**Are they the
answer to your
dreams?**

Mission Statement: To conserve, promote and provide information about the Smooth Coated Curly

Smooth Coat Curly Association is a part of the International Curly Horse Organization <http://curlyhorses.org>



www.smoothcoatcurlys.com

International Curly Horse Organization