



# Dreams Do Come True

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*Fallon Nygaard on Priceless*

Who would think that in our mid 40's we'd be starting a brand new business, breeding Gypsy Cob horses? The dream actually began when my husband Dale decided to do something to take time apart from the hectic pace of life. He bought a "heinz-57" horse and during the next few years, spent some wonderful time stealing away for quiet hours with "Chief".

Time passed and we realized we wanted to share the peaceful presence of these intuitive, gentle animals with others and gradually a new dream started to take shape. It was that of owning a breeding ranch, enabling people to come and experience their beauty and peaceful presence. The desire persisted, and sitting around the dinner table one night, the subject came up again, this time in the form of a family vision.

We were talking about things we could do together as a family when our eldest son mentioned the horses with the "super long manes and big hairy feet" we had seen in a magazine a few years before. After some research and a visit to a ranch about six hours away, our love story with

the beautiful Gypsy Cobs began.

In researching the breed, we found out that most of their history had been passed down through the spoken word of the nomadic Romani people. The Romani (also known as Romany, or a Rom, meaning "man" or "people") are located mainly in Europe. The term "Gypsy" was often used to refer to their nomadic lifestyle, as they travelled from village to village in living wagons pulled

by carefully bred horses. Characteristics such as strength, endurance and an even-tempered personality were selected from breeds such as Shires, Dale ponies, Fell ponies and Clydesdales to make the Gypsy Cob horse, now a breed in its' own right for about 90 years.

They are very versatile, and can be used for driving, riding and other more intricate performance disciplines. It is estimated there are about 100 Gypsy



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Cobs in Canada. North American breeders having discovered them only as recently as 1997. Sometimes called "Gypsy Vanners," they are known in Europe by names such as Tinker, Gypsy Horses and Irish Cobs as well as the more commonly used term Gypsy Cob. The most traditional colours of the breed are black and white, but they also come in many other beautiful colours and patterns.

Finding the highest quality stock in England, we travelled there and

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handpicked all our horses, each having legendary bloodlines behind them. Since then we've added Stallions and mares from trusted suppliers there, as the horses are all we've dreamed of and more. Their shorter stature, (anywhere from 13 to 15.3 hands high), powerful bodies and smaller, refined head, paired with a beautiful flowing mane, tail and feather make them irresistible. However, the most treasured part of the Gypsy Cob breed is their nature. The winning combination of strength and gentleness leads some to refer to them as "the golden retriever of horses." We often stroll out after dinner to visit with our herd, as each has his or her own personality that calms the spirit and soothes the soul.

As owners and breeders of this amazing horse, we realize this journey is only the beginning, as we share with many the beauty, quick mindedness and versatility of the legends we love.

— Cheryl Nygaard  
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# The Business of Legends



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