

Mill Dominguero

By Fiona Human

Dominguero is a partbred Andalusian sired by the versatile Balconero II and out of an Arab X British Spotted mare, Pepper. Dominguero (or Spot as he is known at home -for obvious reasons) is 5 years old and stands 14hh.. He was bred by Mandy Wheatcroft in 1995, at the Millpark Andalusian Stud in Leicestershire.

I started riding Balconero when I was 14 and over the few years I was privileged to enough to ride him, we definitely had a lot of fun together. With his famous laid-back temperament within a few weeks we were competing at a local hunter trial. Well being the gentleman he was, he didn't put a foot wrong all day and after doing the pairs following a mare around the course, we set off in the novice and came 7th out of 110!!!

Pepper, Spot's mum has had a very varied life before I had her, working in a local riding school she was especially good at riding for the disabled. The six months before arriving back in Leicestershire were spent on the hills of North Wales and the day after she returned we won a

Ridden Spotted Championship and were overall show champions. During the time we were together we were often involved in showing, showjumping, X-Country and even Prince Philip Cup mounted games. She is definitely a very versatile pony with a wonderful temperament. Not to be forgotten is her impeccable breeding, her great grandfather being one of the first ever recognised British Spotted Ponies.

Cross all these facts with Balconero's looks, temperament and notable ability and I'm lucky enough to have a well rounded pony which when his unique coat pattern is added he definitely stands out in a crowd.

I only started breaking him in six weeks ago and naturally being 50% Spanish he's taking it all in his stride. We have already mastered trot and we're working on canter. Hopefully in the Spring, when the weather improves we'll start jumping and he's already showing great dressage potential. At the moment however Spot enjoys nothing more than a relaxing ride around the fields when he can utilize his curious nature and keep an eye on everything.

What does the future hold for us? Well Spot's looking forward to standing at stud from



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this summer on. Our other plans include rounding off his education and maybe fitting in a couple of shows, so you might see us at the breed show this year. I also hope to breed a foal from Spot whom I can eventually start eventing with. Sadly Spot didn't quite grow big enough, however we may possibly fit in a couple of events at Pony Club level before I get too old.

Finally I'd like to say a very big thank you to Mandy for breeding Spot and for introducing me to the world of Spanish horses.

EDITORS NOTE; MILL DOMINGUERO is an Approved for Breeding PRE Partbred Stallion

Below: Spot working nicely.

Left: Spot's mother Pepper. See Spot's father, BALCONERO II, on the front cover

