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Cielo Celeste Farm

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I am a Gypsy breeder in Santa Ynez, Calif. and own a small herd of 15 or so registered and quality Gypsy Cob mares, foals and stand 2 stallions, Huston and St Clarins and have been doing so for 3 or so years. I have bred, shown and owned horses since the 1950's and stood stallions-Arab, AQHA, Appy, APHA, Andalusian until now, and am breeding the gypsy and continue AQHA.

This is an open letter to all the wonderful and sincere breeders of these fantastic gypsy horses. I would feel great guilt if I did not write this letter to all of us. Guilt because my years of knowledge and experience have seen so much happen to the real dedicated honorable and true breeders of horses, that if I do not write you all, I would not be fulfilling the duty to myself and those I respect and revere!

We have, all of us with the rare exception, dedicated hundreds of thousands of dollars and years of time, work and love to creating stock we feel will carry on the Gypsy horse to its best quality worldwide. We USA breeders were 'first in' on the top of the line imported stallions and mares and many are lucky enough to have a terrific foundation band from which to grow and produce fine desirable horses which are representative our sincere endeavors! We must join hands now as there has been a cancerous wound festering within the Gypsy horse world within the USA, which I see clear as light and is growing at a rapid rate that being the mass importers of these gypsy horses- 200 and more at a time. These consciences lacking avaricious people have cleverly placed pods of horses within 5 or so states from which they operate as a co-op and do the old USED CAR techniques to attract innocent buyers who just want to own a beautiful family friend, show horse or breeding prospect. They sell at ridiculously high prices OR so they claim. They will see the light soon and undercut all of us to abandon their herds of mostly cull quality horses. We cannot turn a blind eye to what is going on and we cannot blame the registries-they have enough difficulty defending their positions and keeping a fair judgment call to all those interested in the breed as it is. I have been asked by the GCSA to write an informative newsletter to try to educate their members and new buyers NOT to become hooked into the PONY MILL tactics. We MUST, all of us, Cob/Vanner/Drum Societies, have a page on our sites with a BUYER BEWARE heading in order to inform future buyers of the dangers of dealing

with a non- recognized breeder or person who must genuinely part with his or her pet Gypsy pal. In our internet ads warn the buyers of caution and awareness to the used car lot dealers. We should, all of us, refer potential buyers to other breeders we feel are up to the high standards by which most of us operate, if we cannot fulfill their needs. There is a great feeling of satisfaction for me to help someone who really doesn't know how to avoid the pitfalls. I feel, personally, wrong in taking a commission on a referral. We breeders put out time and money and loving care to get where we are and by offering commissions we then turn into creating another preferred list of the buddy system and a good honest buyer can get stuck in a tar baby type of situation. Let the breeders be smart and keep the public aware within the USA of OUR great ring of honor and dedication. Let's stop the random importation of these poor in-bred, ripped from their dams-man-handled and tossed about horses and unite NOW stand tall and with generous spirit-help the future gypsy owner become aware that we are here to serve and not to be put by the wayside. Let's please not say which I have heard TOO often, "Well, isn't that the horse business-crooked dealers go along with the territory?" NO, that cannot be the horse business and I am a living example of that by caring, sharing and writing all of you hoping to get the starting gate open now! If I can be of service or help in any way, I will promise to try to without anything but dedication, answer questions or try to improve on what I have written.

Please feel free to send this note to any of your fellow breeders, friends or acquaintances asap to let the word get out! WE STAND UNITED ON KEEPING OUR GYPSY HORSES PROTECTED AND TO CREATE THE BEST MADE IN USA, GYPSY HORSES POSSIBLE!

Thank you,

Celeste Huston

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