

Newhaven Rigoletto



Rigoletto at approx 5yrs



Rigoletto at approx 12yrs

Newhaven Rigoletto was born on Newhaven Station, bordering the southern Tanami desert area of the NT, during an extended period of drought. Dam and sire unknown.

Newhaven Station is approx 360km northwest of Alice Springs. Now known as Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary and covering 262,00 hectares it is currently one of Australia's largest non-government protected areas. The most recent undertaking has been the completion in 2018 of the world's longest feral cat-proof fence, a critical step in establishing an initial feral predator-free area of 9,390 hectares.

All horses there had been running unmanaged for 40 years and were descended from Waler types brought to the station at that time from surrounding areas. When the station was destocked due to its sale to Birds Australia in 2003, Rigoletto, along with Pearl, Fisher and Lakme (Virtuoso's dam) was amongst a small herd of foals rescued by WHOBAA (Waler Horse Owners & Breeders Association Australia) members in 2004 from holding paddocks in South Australia, just prior to their long journey ending at the Peterborough meatworks. All are rump branded with AC, believed to be the personal brand of the outgoing owner of Newhaven Station, Alex Coppock.



Rigoletto & her second foal, filly Classic Faith, 2016



Rigoletto's first foal, gelding Maestro

Newhaven Rigoletto is of Basuto pony type, used in the military as a scout and polo horse. She was in foal when rescued, with a male foal safely delivered at Tylden in Victoria in 2005, gelding Maestro. Her second foal was born at Clarkefield in 2016, Classic Faith, a filly foal sired by Classic Ezekiel. Both her foals have the true wonderful Waler temperament and good looks, showing strong bone and standing taller than Rigoletto, most likely due to the harsh conditions she endured as a foal running wild on Newhaven Station and whilst being held in meatworks paddocks.



Rigoletto & Classic Faith, brand new foal, 11 Aug 2016



Classic Faith at 9 months



Rigoletto at approx 8yrs



Rigoletto & Faith August 2016