

FOX TROTTER NAMED HORSE OF THE YEAR BY FRIENDS OF SOUND HORSES (FOSH)

Ava, Missouri – MARCH 29, 2011 – Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) has named a Missouri Fox Trotter its Horse of the Year for the third time. The Kansas Kowboy D, owned by John Brandreth of Brandreth Farms, Brandrethfarms.com, is the 2010 FOSH Horse of the Year, earning more than 1000 FOSH show points. "Kowboy" was the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association's (MFTHBA) World Grand Champion Open Versatility horse in 2010 with six World Championships, and was an MFTHBA gaited performance champion, winning four World Championships in 2008.

"It's a thrill to compete against some of the best gaited horses in the country," said Brandreth. "Kowboy demonstrates that you can take a top gaited performance horse that wins demanding 'in breed' competitions for correct smooth gaits, and train that horse to excel in versatility horse sports like reining, cutting and barrel racing."

FOSH is a national organization dedicated to the promotion of humane horse activities and to fighting abusive horse-training practices. The FOSH Horse of the Year title is bestowed on the horse that accumulates the most points in FOSH-sanctioned shows for gaited horses, which are produced nation-wide and feature competition in a wide range of disciplines.

"When we left the MFTHBA Celebration Show in September of 2008, we developed a strategy to transform The Kansas Kowboy from a gaited performance horse to a gaited versatility horse, which meant changing his mindset," said Brandreth, a native of Georgia who owns Fox Trotters and Quarter Horses and enjoys raising gaited horses to compete in ranch horse disciplines.

"Kowboy spent two months in the mountains riding trails and bushwhacking, then another nine months at the farm doing anything but getting in an arena. In November of 2009 Kowboy went to Blankenship Stables in Sarasota, Florida, where Tori Blankenship began his transformation," Brandreth said.

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