

Hucul horse – a breed that originated in the Carpathian mountains and is a direct descendant of the European wild horse, the tarpan, that was extirpated in the mid 19th century. In the past, the huculs played an important role in the lives of the mountain people, providing their main source of power. Later, they were used by the Austro-Hungarian army and finally by the army of Czechoslovakia. They have proved themselves well in both world wars of the past century. They carry the genetic information of their wild ancestry, which alone is a reason for keeping this breed alive. However, in the 1950's and 60's, the breed's fate was hanging on a thread, it nearly became extinct. For that reason, the Hucul Club started its activities with a rescue campaign, resulting in the breed's enlistment in the FAO protected gene pool (1979). The club has been raising purebred hucul horses ever since and produced almost 250 foals to date.

The huculs are courageous, undemanding and tireless, capable of excellent performance even with minimal care. They are friendly, quick to learn, and for a little understanding and kind handling they repay us by long years of service. Hucul Club uses them now mainly for recreation, trekking, and hippotherapy, as well as for children's riding instruction. All the exhibited horses are purebred hucul, the mares are registered in the genetic resources of the Czech Republic.

Aida – a typical hucul mare, born 1995, of the Oušor hucul line. She is one of the three hucul mares who, after a demanding trek from here in Lysa, ascended on 6th July of this year the highest Czech mountain, Snezka. Thus they have proved that the hucul is a real mountain horse indeed, and at the same time they symbolically started the jubilee 40th year of Hucul Club's existence. Aida, together with Babeta, Tajga and a pinto gelding named Benny, travelled near 200 km in 4 days, in inclement weather. Under the guidance of Mirek Fencel, and experienced rider, they crowned their achievement by the ascent of a rocky stairway all the way to the top. Then came the descent, possibly even harder. Despite that, all of them returned in perfect condition.

Fortuna – a light bay mare, born 2000, represents the Goral line of huculs. She is somewhat more robust, an excellent and watchful mother, and her care for the foal is exemplary. Unfortunately, the brown colouring is genetically dominant, which often suppresses the desirable grey tinge, the "grey dun" color that the huculs inherited from their wild ancestors. Fortuna's sire was of that colour, preferred by Hucul Club.

The colt – **Robinzon** – was born end of May this year, and represents the Gurgul line on his father's side. He is a great grandson of the founder of Hucul Club breeding program, our first, the legendary Gurgul Edo. Same as foals of other breeds, the hucul foals are friendly and inquisitive, and quick to learn all the horsey skills – as well as vices, however. Thus raising foals is a field best left to experienced breeders, not to lay enthusiasts. For their proper psychological development, foals require contact with other members of the horse herd, both their peers and experienced older horses, in order to be properly "brought up". For good physical development, spacious corrals and pastures are needed, as well as high-quality food. This is how Robinzon is being raised.

Robinzon is for sale but, naturally, cannot be taken away until weaning, at six months of age.