

German

BLACK FOREST

Horses

Originating in the depths of the Black Forest in Germany, these horses are making a come back from near extinction.



One of the smaller draft horse breeds, the Black Forest Horse (Schwarzwälder Kaltblut) stands 14.3 - 15.3 hh with the solid build and calm temperament typical of the cold bloods.

They have a distinctive very dark liver chestnut coat and heavy flaxen mane and tail with expansive movement.

Invaded by the Romans in the first century AD, the Black Forest is a heavily forested mountain range 160km by 60km tucked into the south west corner of Germany, with the Rhine river forming the borders to France and Switzerland. WWII bombing destroyed much of the old forest growth. The area is now known for its cake, cuckoo clocks, hiking trails and hot springs.



Originally used by the farmers of the mountainous region to pull carts and logs, this sturdy breed was almost lost as the government in the late 1800's ordered the farmers to use only Belgian stallions for breeding to increase the size of the stock. The farmers secretly used native stallions and forged identity papers as the larger breed wasn't suitable in the mountainous areas. Finally, during WWI, the authorities recognised the problem and allowed the farmers to use any stallions they wanted.



16 stallions now stand at Marbach/Weil Stud (owned by the state Govt of the area, Baden-Württemberg) and the popularity of the breed is returning as they are adapted to modern day use. 🐾

