

Top German Bloodlines Come to BC

By Karen Robinson

After 14 years in England, Alberta-born Jill Giese and her partner John Dingle have purchased a cattle ranch in Pemberton, British Columbia, and are in the process of turning it into a year-round dressage training facility, Dreamcatcher Meadows. Giese is a trainer and instructor, and hopes to be taking clients as soon as this fall. "I know this is not the Fraser Valley and the hub of English riding activity. However, there isn't better countryside to keep a horse and there is a strong community of dedicated horse people here." She will offer full training packages, so that riders can leave their horses for a period of time. The ranch house will be turned into a bed and breakfast so that clients can visit to train with their horses. With numerous outdoor activities on offer in the Pemberton valley, and Whistler just half an hour away, Giese hopes that non-horsey family members will be enticed to visit too. Giese is also the Canadian distributor for Equimat stall and trailer mats.

Recently joining Giese on her dream farm is her Elite Hanoverian mare Dreamcatcher and the mare's three yearling offspring — triplets born through embryo transfer. Giese took an intense interest in dressage while living in England, and traveled to the Elite auction in Verden, Germany for 'window-shopping'. "I left with the top three-year-old (and a serious debt!)," says Giese. The 16.1 hand liver chestnut mare is by the now-deceased stallion Dream of Glory (Donnerhall), and out of a Western Star mare (Wenzel). After her triplets were born in 2003, she was awarded Elite or Star Premium status. Her regis-



Dreamcatcher's triplets, shown here with their surrogate mothers. The foals appear to have inherited Dreamcatcher's disposition.

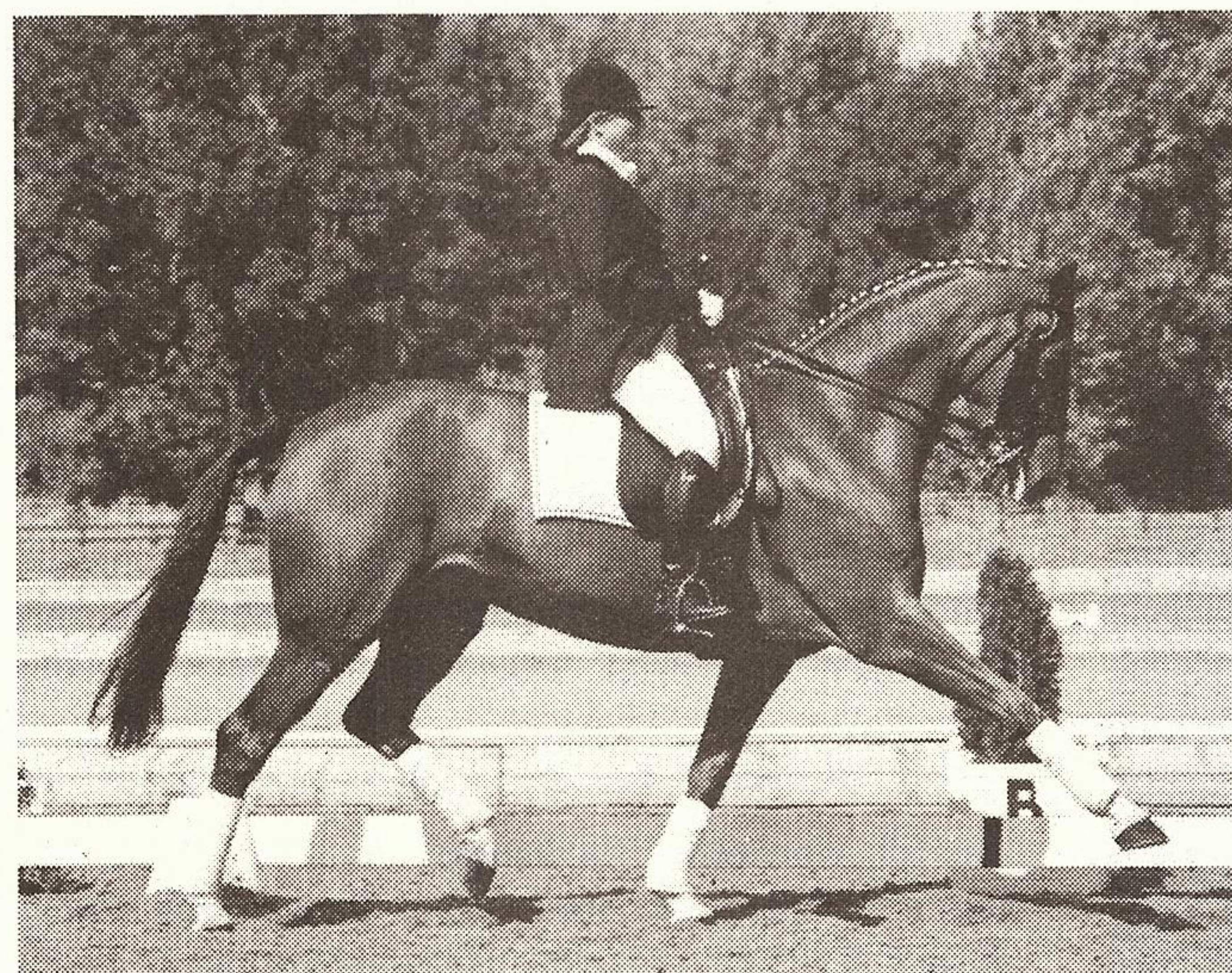
Photo: Jill Giese

plans to keep the two colts stallions as breeding prospects. She notes that one of Dreamcatcher's best qualities is her high rideability and 'labrador' temperament on the ground. Her offspring have inherited this temperament, even though, as Giese says, "the foal's birth mothers were anything but easy." It is a matter of much study and conjecture whether offspring inherit their temperaments genetically, or by mimicking the mother; Giese's triplets seem to support the former argument.

Giese hopes to introduce Dreamcatcher to the Canadian show ring next year. "We have decided not to compete this season and gently settle in to our new home. We will train seriously this winter and hope to do the 2005 show season justice."

The mare will perform a demonstration to music at the Pemberton Agrifair on September 25th and will be doing dressage demonstrations at the Mane Event, Heritage Park, Chilliwack, BC as follows: October 8, 6:30 p.m.; October 9, 4:30 p.m.; October 10, 1:00 p.m.

Equimat will have a booth at the Spruce Meadows Equi-Fair in Calgary, AB, September 8-12 and at The Mane Event, October 8-10. ■



Dreamcatcher at a regional dressage competition at Addington Manor, near London, England.

Photo: Jill Giese