

Con't.....Buyer Beware Part 3

Picasso

May 5 2006 - Picasso our colt was born, the result of mating Treasure with The Business back in 2005 in the UK. Shortly there after I asked Ms. Betteridge for the DNA from The Business to confirm a paternal match to Picasso.

June 26 2005 – *“What has happened to The Business”*

She told me that The Business had been picked up from her place in 2005 and mysteriously disappeared into Europe and she did not know his whereabouts, which I still believe to this day is correct. I inquired again about getting a sample of his DNA to match to Picasso. Ms. Betteridge told me that she had pulled and submitted his DNA to the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society (GVHS) for profiling while he was waiting in her yards to go to the US. According to Ms. Betteridge the GVHS lost the DNA sample. She was furious with herself for not pulling a second lot for herself to keep as The Business had now disappeared off the face of the earth.

September 14 2006 - *“WORKING on it believ me, I am so pissed with this as I pulled hairs and sent them to GVS (Gypsy Vanner Society) in USA along with my membership funny enough they got my membership, but apparently no DNAYEA right IT WAS IN THE SAME ENVELOPE
?????.....”*

I have since spoken with Barb Sneider registrar of the GVHS and to this day, 3 years on she not only remembers this incident with Ms. Betteridge, but is still adamant that there was no DNA in the envelope. And why was Ms. Betteridge trying to register DNA with the GVHS when she was so determined not to share any DNA with anyone as stated on these two occasions:

October 20 2004 – *“I need to keep a good check on blood lines so I know it will work for you, if you do not know each gypsy's stock properly they will make up the parentage if one is not carefull, hence why I have a huge database of blood lines which I know is true, every one keeps asking for it but no way it is mine and I will keep it that way thanks’*

And again in 2007 she refused to fax her copy of Lenny’s DNA profile to Kentucky University, whom already had his DNA profile on file, so Kentucky could perform a parentage match. She also pointed out that all their DNA is logged with their society in the UK, ie and not the US societies. **July 24 2007** – *“there has been a bit of a tiff over DNA being handed out, as many are asking. obviously all our UK DNA is now logged as part of the new society, (Traditional Gypsy Cob Association) 2 of us have passwords to access it. so strict guidelines have been inforced as part of the societies structure. I checked with the other lady and she is insistant we have to follow guidelines, which I have decided is correct, if I fax a copy to Kathryn (Kathryn Davies of UKY) she can adopt the same attitude and pass it out to others as we have given it to her. not something we want to do for the US right now”*

I will talk about this statement later, as I am sure many of you are seeing the loopholes in her reasoning.

So I was off trying to find the Business’s DNA through other channels, mainly his owner, Karen Stenzel of Aristocratic Horses.

November 7 2006 – *‘ps just sent an email off to Karen re the The Business*

I then spent the next 2 years trying to attain DNA for The Business, but was preoccupied trying to procure a second mare through Ms. Betteridge called Ria that I eventually named Ria Mona Lisa. I will eventually come back to the DNA issue of Picasso and The Business, but to keep the time line in order I will bestow the frustrating and infuriating mishap of Ria Mona Lisa before venturing any further.

Ria Mona Lisa

Ms. Betteridge was aware how I felt about Lenny’s stallion and my pledge to one day own a mare from him. She sent me a photo of a filly for sale called Ria and the opening statement was:

January 9 2006 – *Lenny’s daughter...for the serious breeder only.*

Asking price was €10,000, incredibly expensive for an 7-8 month old filly. Ms. Betteridge told me over the phone that she was part of the deal when Lenny’s Stallion was secured for Desert Jewel. I did not have the funds at that time and put her out of my mind and felt she was far too expensive. However, I really wanted a mare out of Lenny’s from my pledge a year ago and Ms. Betteridge reiterated that Lenny foals were far and few between, so a few months later I struck a deal to hold Ria for one year, until I had funds to import her.

March 21 2006 - *"I really liked her from day one and the bonus is that she is from Lenn'y Stallion. I am unable to access my funds until April 10. As soon as I have the funds cleared I will send a telegraphic transfer for 25% of the amount owing with the balance payable within a year. In exchange for this I will consider us fair and square with the loss of Treasures foal, which was a shame."*

I was trying to sell a property at that point in time which would have given me the funds to pay for Ria in full and I had just dropped the price considerably. If sold sooner then I could pay sooner, but felt that a year was a long enough buffer for me to move the property on. As it turned out it took a further 18 months to sell the place as contract after contract kept falling through.

Also remember that Treasure's lost foal was worth at least €4000 (by their words). I felt that was fair compensation for looking after her for the year, considering that for the most part, Ria was put out to pasture in The Marsh near Cliffe, which was an isolated, harsh 900 acres paddock full of deep ditches with mud holes. It was the only paddock that I knew of that needed a key to enter. In hindsight it was more than fair compensation for the lost of a filly that could have borne me foals.

September 28 2006 - *"How is my new girl doing. Have you been over to see her yet. Ask Bill not to keep her in the mud!!!"*

Reply

September 29 2006 - *"ref Ria saw her in the distance last week she looked great, ran out of time and Bill forgot to get the keys so we could not get in field, said I would go back this week"*

December 9 2006 - *"he wants to bring her (Ria) here (Meadow Farms) as he (Bill) needs to turn a stallion out with his mares early, and cannot have her in same field obviously,, he did say he can put her in her own field out on the Marsh where Treasure was when she first foaled but I am not happy with that idea to be honest, it is harsh out there and with no one to keep an eye on her daily"*

But Ria had already been out there for the better part of the last few months and Ms. Betteridge showed no concern then. The only pictures that I was ever sent of Ria was the first ones in January 2006 and the next lot when she finally went to Ms. Betteridge's farm in December 2006. The Marsh was about an hours drive away and a lot of hassles to get out there due to the truck size potholes in the road....I know I drove it many times in our campervan.

So we made the deal and I received a sale contract from Meadow Farms UK Ltd.

April 12 2006 - *"25% deposit upon agreement of this contract and the remaining amount to be paid within an agreed time (to be agreed between both parties) as a mutually agreed payment plan".*

The very next day a wire transfer for the 25% deposit went through to Ms. Betteridge to which I still retain a copy of the bank transfer.

It was also at this point that we discussed mating Ria with her stallion as she would be two years of age once the year was up. There was no way I wanted her coming over empty considering the cost to import one horse alone.

April 12 2006 - *"Tonka black stallion is a result of Lottery and lenny lines, sire lottery, dam lenny, but if you do decide to mate her just before travel let me know as I have a Nobby son of course, so can re create this wonder full cross, just a thought I had to increase you blood lines your end and obviously your height margin"*

This was also a clause in Ria's contract.

April 12 2006 - *"Meadow Farm UK will undertake to get the mare covered by the chosen stallion at the clients request, subject to full funds being received for the said mare, all extra vets costs required by client ie. scans veterinary pregnancy testing will be the clients responsibility and all bills for such will be paid prior to shipping."*

Ria was already paid in full as Ms. Betteridge had all the vet cost associated with her and Marleys CEM testing charged to my IRT account. My end of the contract was fulfilled. Here is the bill for CEM testing done and paid for by myself.

IRT

Kathy Andrus
c/o Brightwater Gypsy Horses
351 Wairoa Gorge Road
RD 1, Brightwater
Nelson
New Zealand

7th August 2007

INVOICE NO: 4734

RE: Ria Mona Lisa **LHR / Sydney / Auckland** **ETD: 23rd August 2007**

Costs for three CEM swabs for both Ria Mona Lisa and Marley UK £ 657.00

Come end of April 2006, my computer crashed and I lost all the e-mails from here to August, but not much was happening during that period except chit chat and trying to procure DNA from The Business.

Later in the year of 2006, out of the blue I received an email from Ms. Betteridge that Bill was wanting the rest of the money for Ria, 5 months before the agreed date.

November 9 2006 – *“Just had Bill on ther phone !! he defiantly said you had to pay by christmas !!!!”*

Due to financial hardships I emailed my reply back and resent the original agreement to her and told her that it may be best to sell Ria. I wonder to this day if the seller, Bill was properly aware of the agreement in full that Ms. Betteridge and I had discussed back in April of 2006.

Reply

November 9 2006 – *“On another note maybe it would be best to let Ria go. I do not like the pressure from Bill needing his money so soon. So give me your thought on this one.”*

Reply

November 11 2006 - *I think you were having a bad day, you would be mad to let Ria go, the only lenny mares to come up have been sold for £25k she is the right age now as well. give it more thought before you make such a hasty decision that you later regret. if this is the only mare you ever next import it has to be the right blood lines.”*

In December of 2006 and at a huge financial hardship to myself and fearing the loss Ria, I paid the remaining balance in full into Ms. Betteridge’s account. In hindsight I should have let her go and tried to recoup my 25% deposit.

December 11 2006 - *“I have TT the rest of the money €7500 and now I am in the red and more flat broke.. Sent the money to your account at the Nat West bank in Maidstone.”*

Reply back

December 12 2006 – *“On receipt of a bank transfer recieved today 11th December 2006 into FUK bank acc ending in *****421 total recieved £7.488 UK sterling. full payment has **been recieved by MEADOW FARM UK** for the payment of Ria, ownership is now transfered in full to Kathy Andrus. signed Andrea Betteridge”*

Ria then went to Ms. Betteridge yard to stay with her until she was ready to be mated and exported to New Zealand.

December 29 2006 – *“Ria arrived looking good, she is a sweetie beyond words, actually you would think she has always lived here”*

However throughout the next few months I continue to make comments to sell Ria as I was under a lot of financial pressure at this point and the logistics were just getting too much.

January 17 2007 - *“I think it will be best if I sell her. What do you think I can get for her.”*

Reply

January 21/22 2007 - *“I think you would be mad to sell Ria I have said it before why not wait for a while and see how it goes, she is fine here with us one more really does not make any difference to us right now. it is all these colts that cause us more head aches. wait a while before you make a final descion, who knows what the future will bring, either way she needs to be mated this season to get maximum retail value for her.”*

March 6 2007 – *“Now you can understand my reasoning in the beginning for wanting to sell her as the logistics are just getting too much”*

April 6 2007 – *“I realise that the CEM testing is a hassle and if it is too much for you at this point then it may be simpler to sell Ria at Appleby or before. Ria is costing me over \$60,000 to bring in and it just does not make any sense to bring over a mare that is not in foal to something with good lines. Personally I am beginning to wonder if the cost is worth it. If I do not go through with the CEM testing then I can not bring her over in foal unless she remains in the UK until 7-8 months pregnant and then remains in NZ quarantine until 4 weeks after she has foaled.*

In the end with a little encouragement from Ms. Betteridge I did not sell her.

Mating Marley or Django with Ria

Now that Ria was residing at Meadow farms my attentions were put towards getting her pregnant before she was exported to New Zealand. I had a choice between Marley, a phenomenal, fully feathered, yearling son of Tonka who did not have much height or Django, a 15.1, proven 3 year old colt from Nobby and her mare Abbey. Originally, I was going to go with Django to get the height as Marley was only a yearling colt not proven yet. However, I detected apprehension in Ms. Betteridge

voice over the phone coming into the mating season as she did not want to tie Django up for too long while performing the CEM regulations. So I decided to go with Marley instead.

April 12 2006 - "Django is over 14.3hh as a coming 2 yr old so will hit the well over 15hh mark, she is also a big filly so my thinking on it was possibly that may be the way to think if we mated her just prior to travel, she would not foal till late in her second year which would be fine"

Note the year she made this above comment. I wanted the height into my breeding program and Django hopefully would have given that to me. Then a year later in 2007 she states that Marley was bigger than she first thought, it did cross my mind that she was gently nudging me towards using him instead of Django.

January 1 2007 - "Marley is suprisingly 13.3 at a yearling so he will not be as small as I fist thought either" He was only 8 months on *October 9 2006 - "tonka son yearling, pictures at 8 months."* So that would put his birth date at approximately February of 2006 and now eleven month old. At the height of 13.3 at such a young age he would have probably mature to the 15-hand mark or bigger.

I wonder who owns him now as I would love to know his height at 5 years of age. These photos were sent to me on *June 15 2007* taken at Appleby Fair 2007 six months later (17 month of age) after she made the comment he was 13.3. He is pictured here with Jack who owns Tonka and in my opinion he does not look near 13.3.



January 16 2007 - "Maybe it would be better to breed Ria with Marley as Picasso will surely give me the height once she is here."

January 17 2007 - WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DECIDE who to breed to, I am fine if you want Marley, considering Jack reckons he will be better than his sire anyway

Obviously, too early to breed yet, particularly a maiden mare and young colt and finally in March I chose Marley. In hindsight, possibly a bad decision due to his age, but I really had no choice as Ms. Betteridge was not happy with me using Django like we had planned a year ago.

March 3 2007 - "Have thought about Ria and I would like you to breed her with Marley."

Did I have any choice? And when your horse is in someone else's hand half a world away you remain courteous and polite.

March 6 2007 - "ref Ria ok I have no problems with you mating her to Marley if you wish and can see the reasoning behind it all"

April 6 2007 - "I chose Marley more so because I know you are using Django and did not want to tie him up for that long."

April 26 2007 - "either way I am sure you will agree Marley is amazing for an under 2 yr old colt so will make a stunning sire and really throw the hair and colour into foals he is very keen to start his stud duties thats for sure"

Being that the year was up for the deal we made back in 2006, I began having guilt attacks that Ria was being held at Meadow Farms and felt pressure to export her as soon as possible. I contacted IRT and they gave me either a June or late September start date for quarantine entry, as everything else in between was full with stallions. So June was chosen so as not to impose on Ms. Betteridge any longer than necessary.

April 4 2007 - "Have decided to mate Ria asap with Marley with the New Zealand CEM testing. Is this still possible?"

April 4 2007 - "a good decision really. should work well your side a Tonka grand kid !!!! and it will give you a 4 generation pedigree DNA verified !!"

Ms. Betteridge then became apprehensive about tying up Marley as well and told me she was now trying to sell him at Appleby in June.

April 6 2007 – “Marely is fine to use providing we can get him done and dusted with Ria asap, then I can put him out with his few booked mares before I sell him, he is off to Appleby, as you know in June and we are April now so we need to get on with it, bearing in mind a the heat cycle is every 3 weeks. so if she does not take we need to catch her next time !!”

Meanwhile IRT came back to me with a more favourable shipping date entering quarantine in the beginning of August. I spoke with Ms. Betteridge over the phone to relay my concerns on making sure Ria was pregnant before she was exported as we now had **more time** up our sleeves. Remember this mare was not cheap and it only became viable if she was in foal. Ms. Betteridge agreed with me whole heartedly. (**January 22 2007 – “either way she needs to be mated this season to get maximum retail value for her.”**)

May 6 2007 – “I totally agree on her being shipped in foal, best idea in my book seeing as it cost the same to do the testing as it does to ship an in foal.”

May 12 2007 – “ref scanning once again if you require her to be scanned then let me know and we can work something out, rather early right now.”

May 12 2007 – “we should wait till she is about 45 days in foal and get her scanned just in case she decides to reabsorb early on”

I wanted to wait till she was 45 days on before we scanned to rule out reabsorption, particularly from a maiden mare. I was only asking for another 3-4 weeks of waiting to insure she was pregnant. If not then other avenues could have been explored at that point. I reiterated this idea again the next day, as Ms. Betteridge was sounding hesitant.

May 13 2007 – “Re scanning, I think it would be safe to do so considering the expense on my end and sending her over empty would be very disappointing. Being her first time you never know what they are like. Scanning her to early will be a waste of time as that is the most likely time for her to reabsorb. Generally 45 days is safe to say.”

I would like to say here that when I put Chocolate Truffles aka Laoire into foal with Lenny’s stallion in 2009/10, Desert Jewel was more than happy to confirm at 18, 30 and 50 day scan for pregnancy.

May 13 2007 – “ref Ria scanning I was going to wait till she had the 3 weeks from mating and see if she came back into season, if so would run her back with Marley and re-cover.

This is where it got sticky and I picked up the phone, as Ms. Betteridge for some reason did not see the point in scanning her at all. Her thinking was that she would run Ria by Marley in a few weeks time and if she did not show..... voila....she was pregnant. Anyone who has bred horses knows that this is not fool proof! The same day I receive this next email.

*May 13 2007 – “when I was at Stow Tom Price was chatting to some of the big guys and they were talking about stallions and one of the chaps asked who the small black stallion was, (Marley) Tom said it will be hers pointing at me, he told everyone it was the best legged horse he had ever seen, he also said you wait till you see the colt it will mkae the most money any horse ever has !!!!! he told me last week to keep him for another year to finish off, he said I woud be mad to sell him this year as he will only get better and I can name my price on him. so **plan A to sell him at Appleby has gone off. plan B to keep him here and keep him hidden up till next year, I will flash him on Appleby if Jack takes Tonka up but that is it.”***

So she was now keeping Marley and there was no reason why he could not be kept segregated until a 45 day scan could be performed. Marley could go to Appleby and providing he was kept segregated from other mares, could come back and still hold his CEM status if Ria needed to be served again. However she was now only taking Marley to Appleby as a show stopper, with little regards to insure that Ria was mated properly. I sent this email to really push home that I wanted Ria pregnant before she flew in August.

*May 18 2007 – “**Now the important stuff re Ria and please read it carefully. I really want to make sure that she is in foal to Marley before she comes. It would be a real shame if she loses it.. Is there any possibility that we can keep Ria and Marley segregated from mating with any other horses, so they do not lose their CEM status, until I have a 45 - 60 positive pregnancy scan. Originally I wanted her in quarantine before the end of the month as IRT NZ told me that they were fully booked with stallions till September, unless I got her in before June. Hence the original rush. Now I find out that I can still import her but she will go through OZ quarantine instead, so the rush is off. A little more expensive but not too much more (hopefully). Taking a 21 day scan if iffy, even if she does scan positive she can still reabsorb in the next few weeks. Too many mares lose their foals in the 3rd to 6th week. I have had it happen to 3 mares already that we bred to Beau. I insist that I pay a livery fee to you, however I am***

*not fully aware of your situation over their and what you intend to do with Marley. If not possible on your end then **IRT has offered to find me some proper livery care for the two....or one***

*May 19 2007 – “sorry no way, he is scheduled to go to Appleby if he carries on putting on weight, if he goes then I intend to sell him there, prior to that **he has to cover my mares just in case I sell him**, my mares are due in season any time now as they were in when Ria was but I missed that season because of Ria, it makes no financial sense my end to hold him off in case he misses my mares, , **he has to mate them and run with them**. either way **NO** I would not let him go into livery anywhere out of my sight. he is one expensive horse and the talk of the UK right now he is worth to much sorry, **if she comes back in she will get recovered simple as that.**”*

My confusion was becoming one big headache as she was now selling Marley at Appleby again! Trust me I was quite frustrated. However none of this made any sense as she said Marley had to mate and run with her mares before he went to Appleby. Now Ria and Marley had mated on May 4 and she dropped off after that. (**May 4 2007**) – *“Ria has now finished season so it is in the lap of the gods if she has taken”*

Ms. Betteridge had already said that she would parade Ria by Marley again in 3 weeks time to coincide with her cycling and that would have taken us to the end of May. Appleby Fair in 2007 started on June 7th so in effect she was allowing less than 2 weeks to mate all her mares with Marley, an unproven colt before he was sold at Appleby. This was ludicrous and what did she do with Marley after Ria had dropped off.....like she said, he “covered her mares just in case she sold him at Appleby”. Yet he was suppose to be segregated for another 3 weeks to insure that he could mate with Ria in case she never took the first time around. I do not know what she did to this day but none of it was making any sense and it was obvious she was making it difficult to insure that Ria was pregnant after I had spent \$1900 for the CEM testing. However at this point I still believed that she was being honest to me, but that trust was waning fast. I replied back.

May 19 2007 – “I thought that you were going to keep him as the boys said he had the best set of legs on him that they have ever seen and you were going to finish him off and then ask what you wanted for him in the end”.

*May 19 2007 – “refmarley YES they have all advised me to keep him, and he will make more money next year BUT then he may break his leg by then !!! so my feeling is run him and see what the offers are, but only if I am happy to take him. right now this week with what Django has produced so far if I was to consider keeping one of the boys it will be Django, I like everything about him, his movement he is reproducing, his height he reproduces, his temp as well. **already his foals are gaining big money and I have bookings on 4 fillies by him ???**”so may as well use Tonka as my back up plan if needed. Marley has mares booked to him **but to be honest I would rather keep his line exclusive**, don't forget I have his sire 5 miles down the road !! and I have 4 free matings to use !! so can repeat line if I wish ref chocolate colt no hurry either with him we will see but one thing for **sure Django sells everything he mates . can not get enough mares for him to mate !!!**”*

May 19 2007 – “Yep he could break a leg but then Tonka could die of a twisted gut. At the end of the day nothing is a sure thing.”

Judging by these comments I would say that Django was the one to breed with as he was gaining big money for his foals, sold everything he mated and she would rather keep Marley’s line exclusive. Out of desperation I replied back with this option which I was well aware would cost me dearly but still better than an empty mare and I had already insisted on paying a livery fee on **May 18 2007**.

May 19 2007 – “Had another thought. If she does not take and want to be 100% sure then I could always let her run with Marley with the other mares. It means that all that CEM was a waste of time but I rather have that girl in foal and it would be well worth the wait if she has to remain in quarantine until she foals down. Like I said IRT are happy to find stables for me to keep her in the UK if that is not an option for you. I still have a few more weeks to come to a final decision on this, so leave this one for now.”

The solution was there at no cost to herself, but she would not listen and what can one do when you are half a world away with your hands tied behind your back. It is also common practise for a breeder to sell a stallion with a clause allowing the breeder to serve their mares before the stallion is on sold. Ms. Betteridge already had a deal with Django that would allow her to finish serving her mares with him before she on sold him. In fact I have could quite easily used Django at the end of the season, before he was exported to the US, after all her mares were covered.

May 19 2007 – “I have untill the end of the season with Django to decide if he is booked (means sold) if I decide to sell that was the agreement I had with the lady. if she does not want him I have 3 others waiting for my decision.”

So she could have easily sold Marley but with the clause that he had to finish his stud duties. Remember her statement of **May 19 2007** – *“he is one expensive horse and the talk of the UK right now he is worth to much”* being that good, she could have easily dictated the terms of selling.

This type of agreement was also included with Lenny’s stallion when he was sold to Desert Jewel in 2006. **March 25 2006** – *“when we brought Lennys stallion the man would only sell him provided his mares were covered before he left for USA, this was in the agreement”*

Marley went and came back from Appleby Fair. Originally she was asking a lot less for Marley, but after what Tom Price had said she upped his price considerably and he did not sell.

June 1 2007 – *“Marley is now going to Appleby and I pushed his price up if they do not pay it he is coming home again”*

June 1 2007 – *“last I spoke to you, you were asking 20,000 pounds for Marley. Are you going even higher or holding at that?”*



June 15 2007 - Marley and Jack, who owns Tonka, at Appleby Fair.

Over the next few weeks I continue to receive emails and photos of Ria in with Marley and other mares. Still at this point she had not been scanned so she could have easily been not pregnant for all Ms. Betteridge knew.

June 15 2007 – *“yes she is in with him just to see if she comes back in season so far he has no interest nor does she !!”*

below photo attached with email and she could have easily be in between cycles in this shot.



June 29 2007 – *“Ria has taken to beating him up he is terrified of her, how funny she must be in foal as she will not put up with any of his nonsense”*



With this email came the above photo attachment of Marley and another mare and foal playing with him. Two weeks later came this email again verifying that Ria was in with the other mares as well as Marley.

July 14 2007 – *“they are stuck together like glue, they adore each other, so we left them together, first love and all that considering she hated him at first now it is a bit sad he only has eyes for her, so we moved the rest of the mares in with Django !!”*

First, something is amiss here as you just don't move mares away from a stallion simply because he only has eyes for one mare, was Marley not doing his job and it was now not a concern to use Django over Marley's mares. Also noted that Ria was in the same paddock with Marley and other mares that he was suppose to be serving at the time, again with no real confirmation of her pregnancy state, only guess work.



Ms. Betteridge may argue that she needed to sell her two stallions and cover her mares for financial reasons and understandably so. However, as we read, contractual terms were already in place to cover her mares before they were exported, at least with one stallion and there was nothing stopping her from applying the same terms with the other. I made repeated attempts both written and verbal to have Ria scanned at a 45 to 60 day term, but it always fell on deaf ears, even though she remained at Meadow Farms for another 3 months after mating with Marley.

However, the fact remains that she issued me a contract a year before, with the guarantee that Ria could be mated with a stallion of my choice when she reached two. She was well aware of the agreement we put in place and that Ria was to be covered with one of her stallions. **April 12 2006** - *“by the chosen stallion at the clients request”*. However when the time came to mate Ria I was met with constant indecisions and dubious plan changes. In regards to her stallions, if Ms. Betteridge had made her plans clearer to me prior and constantly not changed them at whim, then I believe my decision making would have been far more simplified and precise.

Disregard of New Zealand MAF Biosecurity Regulations

Unlike the US where one can import a pregnant mare with very little regulations, New Zealand requires that a pregnant mare be free of CEM (Contagious Equine Metritis) before importing. However the test can not be performed on a pregnant mare and therefore she must remain in quarantine until she has foaled down. She can not fly after her 7- month pregnancy date, so requiring a huge expense to remain in quarantine until she foals. Once foaled, she is then tested for CEM and if negative she comes home to your farm. However if she tests positive, she and the foal are immediately destroyed. To get around this regulation, one can pretest the stallion and the mare in question prior to mating, thereby bestowing on them a CEM free status. Once cleared of CEM and they are allowed to mate, providing they are kept in isolation from all other horses during the mating procedure. Once confirmed in foal the mare can then be exported with normal quarantine procedures.

Here is an excerpt from the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand law 10.3.i concerning quarantine regulations for CEM clearance.

10 CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM, *Taylorella equigenitalis*)

10.3.i - The stallion and mare were tested for CEM during the 60 day period prior to mating according to the protocols noted above, and had **no sexual contact with any other horses not of equivalent health status from the time of first swabbing until the time of last service.**

Throughout the time that Ria ran with Marley from **May 4 2007** till she left Meadow farms on **August 2 2007**, she was continually moved from paddock to paddock with or without Marley and other mares present. During this time Ms. Betteridge really had no true knowledge of her pregnancy state as she refused to scan her, only relying on running Ria past him from time to time, which is not always accurate. She didn't even spend the first three weeks while mating in complete isolation with Marley. Ms. Betteridge was well aware of the New Zealand Biosecurity laws to perform CEM testing, yet she consistently disregarded those regulations.

April 5 2007 – *“well voice of experience here, am I not right in thinking we got the vets to liase with shipping company and make sure they did the correct testing on the correct days in compliance with NZ regs !! if we get it wrong it will cost a fortune to correct, if the vets are asked by the shipping agents and it is their mistake then they foot the bill !! he (Marley) has to be swabbed prior to mating if you are doing it same way as Treasure. and **quarantined off from other mares till he has mated Ria. and she is confirmed in foal. or have I got this whole thing wrong !! I know it was a mad time when we did it last time (Treasure) due to my moving farms**”*

April 9 2007 – *“ will await IRT instructions, told Marley he has a girly, **once cleared** (from CEM) **I will put my new mare with him and Ria as well** so it takes some attention away from Ria they can divide his attentions!!”*

May 4 2007 – *“we ended up putting sassy (her 15.1 mare) **in with him** (Marley) **and her** (Ria), as she certainly has a jump on her and kept jumping out of field at first ?? so we put sassy in to keep her in the field ?? no other way to keep her running with stallion,*

May 13 2007 – *“I have not put Django out with mares yet so **she** (Ria) **is just in with the group of our mares and foals quietly eating.**”*

Interesting comment as she was complaining that she had held off serving her mares with Marley due to Ria in late April, early May. (**May 19 2007 - mares are due in season any time now as they were in when Ria was but I missed that season because of Ria**) yet still had not put D'Jango out with his mares and she already had him on offer. (**May 19 2007 - I have untill the end of the season with Django to decide if he is booked** (sold))

June 15 2007 – *“yes she is in with him just to see if she comes back in season so far he has no interest nor does she !!”* Possibly she could have been inbetween her cycles.

June 29 2007 – *“Ria has taken to beating him up he is terrified of her, how **funny she must be in foal** as she will not put up with any of his nonsense”* Guessing again.

July 14 2007 – *“they are stuck together like glue, they adore each other, so we left them together, first love and all that considering she hated him at first now it is a bit sad he only has eyes for her, so we **moved the rest of the mares in with Django !!**”*

Comment made to Ms. Betteridge the following year re-verifying what I originally pleaded with her to do. Ria was served almost immediately once she arrived at our farm.

April 10 2008 - *“Both Treasure and Ria are pregnant by Beau. Ria never did get pregnant with Marley. I knew we should have scanned her as she was not in foal as soon as she hit the quarantine in the UK. So that exercise was a disappointment not to mention the cost.”*

So we had Ria in paddocks with Marley which had other mares in as well that he was supposed to be serving thereby loosing his CEM free status. There was every possibility that she was **NOT** pregnant and every possibility that Marley was serving her at night unbeknown to Ms. Betteridge and against the CEM regulations that she was fully aware of. At the end of the day I really had know no idea what was going on over there, as Ms. Betteridge refused to scan Ria for pregnancy and I only had her observational guesses of her pregnancy state. On the other side of the equation, Marley may not have been fertile, being his first time and under 2. It is common knowledge amongst breeders that young colt's sperm quality and quantity can vary in the beginning.

I think half the problem could have been Ria's age. I asked her age a few times with Ms. Betteridge and on going back over these emails I found some shots of her that were taken on **March 25 2006**. *“she was 8 months old in these and that is danny leading her so will give you an idea of height”*

January 3 2007 – *“Can you tell me her exact age???”*

August 7 2006 – *“PS have you seen Ria lately, how old is she now.”*

She never replied to any of these emails. So come April 2007 she would have only been 18-20 months old. The gypsies do breed their mares as early as two with no difficulties and some get in foal and others don't, but the next year they conceive with no ill effects. In another words they let nature dictate the terms when the mare is ready. Marley on the other hand was only 15 months old in May 2007.

Knowing what I know today about breeding as compared to back then, which was very little, I would have never chanced mating Ria at that age with a 15 month old colt. Ms. Betteridge should have known better and advised me so, as I was the newcomer to all of this. When I was apprehensive about importing a stallion in 2004, as I told her I knew nothing about breeding, I remember her comments well about breeding to me, "there was nothing to it at all!"

On August 3 when she entered Newmarket quarantine, a quick phone call to IRT, UK confirmed she was **NOT** in foal. By Ms. Betteridge expert observations she was deemed in foal till almost the day she left. So either she coincidentally happened to lose the foal in the "one" day she travelled between Meadow Farm and New Market quarantine **OR** she was never in foal at all. Whatever, she could have been scanned to ascertain all of this, well before she hit Newmarket! Another valuable foal lost due to negligence.

Ria's DNA

While all the above was taking place, on **June 30 2007** I received the **even more** distressing news from Becky Glover from the GCDHA that The Lion King was not the sire of my first mare Treasure, as to which Ms. Betteridge had given me a 100% written guarantee that she was. Now this is where Ms. Betteridge credibility started to fall to pieces. Up to this point I had blindly accepted her word on just about everything in the gypsy horse world and felt that any slight of hand was coming from the gypsies themselves and not her. She had me completely hoodwinked.

*July 2 2007 - "Just got the results back from GCDHA in the US and **The Lion King is not her sire**..... personally I am not very happy about this..... I am beginning to feel I overpaid big time for a horse with no parentage and no foal. (Fran (in Australia) only paid about 3000-4000 pounds for Lily (out of Lenny) who was just as good quality) I am sure you can understand how I feel."*

AND in the same email

*July 2 2007 - "Can you get **Ria's DNA tested** before I ship her because I want to make absolutely sure. (that she is from Lenny' Stallion) And maybe you can **ask him** (Bill King) **where Treasure came from**. It always did sit heavy in my mind that I asked for a daughter of The Lion King and suddenly one appeared just at the right time."*

July 3 2007 - "I will be furious with Bill when I talk to him I think the way forward is I will talk to him and also he has a new telephone no which I will include so you can talk to him as well between us we may get to the bottom of it, but he did swear it was a 100% out of LK."

Right away she passed the buck to Bill King, who could very well have deceived Ms. Betteridge and he himself possibly deceived as well, but in hindsight she was well aware of the gypsies reputation to make up bloodlines and it was necessary to do your homework thoroughly. Besides she was the dealer and it was her ultimate and final responsibility to insure that what she told me was correct. If you buy a second hand car and it falls to pieces 10 kilometres down the road, you don't go back to the person whom the dealer bought the car from. You go back to the dealer, as it is their responsibility to know what they is selling and it is factual to their customers. Ms. Betteridge once told me she makes nothing out of the deals with the gypsies, however as shown before I do not accept that she was just doing us all a favour and not taking a cut out of all these horses she bought and sold. She was buying and selling gypsy horses to all parts of the world as an income. That was very apparent.

Continuation of the last email....

*July 3 2007 - **will ring him (Bill) tonight** and ask, then let you know what he tells me, his tel no for the record are 1474 322473 that is his new home no."*

I tried that number over the next week and found it not active. *July 15 2007 - "By the way I tried to phone Bill but the number you gave me did not work. Can you give it to me again."*

She rang the "inactive" number that night and gave me Bill's supposed answer.

*July 4 2007 - "Bill brought Treasure off the Vines **he says** they told him that was her breeding and he had no doubt, when looking at her to doubt them." Bill says definatly Ria lenny line bred, yeah right and Treasure was 100% out of the Lion King just by looking at her, her mother is still around she is 16yrs she the dam was out of the old Roan horse who was out of old black Bob both are dead now (convenient) but that line is seriously hard to find. I have no idea where her dam is at all, so it is going to be a hard task trying to match DNA with out it all. All I need proof of is she was sired by Lenny*

himself.... all I will say is she is the spitting image of the lenny line you can tell that by looking at her. and that is just not me looking !! I agree, particularly the markings but I still want to be sure.....can not afford another screw up like this one.

Ms. Betteridge was well aware of the resemblance of Ria's markings that are almost identical to Lennys, particularly on one side and it is very common for progeny to take on similar markings to their sires or dams. This photo of Lenny's was taken at Ms. Betteridge's old yard off Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent, just before he was sold to Desert Jewel in 2006.

March 25 2006 - "funny how they all have that black spot just behind withers ???"



Uncanny the resemblance in markings further reinforcing my belief that she was truly a Lenny's daughter and it was obvious that Ms. Betteridge saw the same thing as well.

I began to pursue the problem of a DNA match with Lenny and Ria.

July 4 2007 - "They (the gypsies) work on the theory that most of these horses end up overseas with no comeback.....and they are right!!!! Look at poor Adie in OZ with Geordie. I still want her DNA checked against Lenny..... is his DNA kept at Kentucky and if so I am assuming it is under the name of Lenny's Stallion.....LET ME KNOW ASAP IF THIS IS NOT SO."

July 5 2007 - "it is only this year or so that every one wants DNA hence the problems of trying to trace back DNA on horses from a year or so ago, ie dam and sire which is what you need to check the markers."

Bullocks she has been collecting DNA for a long time now Ms. Betteridge collected DNA of every horse she got her hands on. She was constantly going on about the dishonesty of many of the exporters and importers and how they were all fibbing about their lineage just to make the sale and DNA was a must to stop this nonsense.

A letter was then sent to Kentucky University to Karin Davies.

July 5 2007 -

- 1. Could you please tell me if you have the DNA of a B&W Tobiano Gypsy Cob called "Lenny's Stallion" on file.*
- 2. Are you able to process DNA within a week - I have a mare in the UK that I would like to import but it all depends on her parentage. I do not want to miss the next air flight as the next one after that down under is not for another 3-4 months. I am quite happy to pay an extra fee for the urgent service.*

A few days earlier I had asked Ms. Betteridge to pull some more hairs from Ria to send in for DNA profiling against Lenny. She adamantly refused to pull more hairs though it was not a problem when she did it for the colour testing and sent them to Animal Genetics a few months before.

April 7 2007 - "sending you some forms in the mail to test Ria for certain colour genes. The form will already be filled out with a self addressed envelope in it so all you have to do is pull the hair and mail it. Thanks"

April 9 2007 - "will take hair samples and repost when it comes"

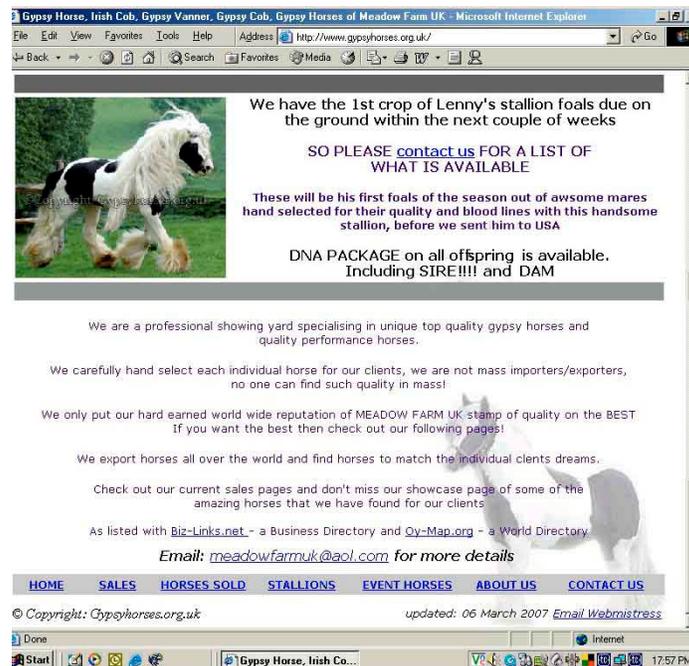
April 24 2007 - "send hairs off as you asked by the way"

She then told me to check with Animal Genetics to see if they could profile it for me, knowing full well that Animal Genetics did not do DNA profiling. I wanted her tested before she left the UK as I was seriously thinking of not taking her.

July 3 2007 - "Animal genetics may be able to process the hairs for DNA that you sent off for colour testing, is that possible ?"

Ms. Betteridge then sent me an email, which made me feel like I was the culprit and I still believe to this day any one else in my position would have been more than "naffed off" as she put it.

However I believe that Ms. Betteridge had a copy of Lenny's DNA profile even well before this time, as early as March 2006, 4-6 weeks before she issued me a contract for Ria. Below is an image of Ms. Betteridge website – note the website was updated on March 6 2007 (see bottom of image) and the most telling information on that image about Lenny himself. *“These will be his first foals of the season out of awesome mares hand selected for their quality and blood lines with this handsome stallion, before we sent him to the USA. DNA package on all offspring is available. Including SIRE!!!! And DAM”* and the foals were *“due on the ground within the next couple of weeks”* hence they had to be bred in the early part of 2006.



When Lenny's Stallion was purchased he spent time at Ms. Betteridge yard before he was exported. She even boasts today on her website *“another magnificent stallion found and produced by Meadow Farm UK”*. However, Jennifer from Desert Jewel was wanting Lenny to be exported as soon as possible. **March 25 2006** – *“when we brought Lennys stallion the man would only sell him provided his mares were covered before he left for USA, this was in the agreement now suddenly Jen who brought him wants to ship him 5 days from now !!!! and he has not covered the mares !!!!”*

Not only did Ms. Betteridge mate as many mares to Lenny, but she would have more and likely pulled his DNA hair sample before he left her yard sometime in April/May 2006. Otherwise how did she obtain hair samples to send to Fran Scott and hence the reason she could boast full DNA packages on all of his offspring. **April 21 2007** - *“I have to say it helps having so many generations DNA verified of parentage on these lines, then no mistakes can be made”* and *“mind you one must be aware in my own personal breeding program I always have an outcross to bring fresh blood in, once again I DNA this to double check”*

There are 3 photos Desert Jewel website, the earliest ones that Desert Jewel have of him, stating “Lenny is pictured in England just prior to his flight into the States! The last photo of him standing side on was taken at Ms. Betteridge's old yard off Tonbridge Road, Maidstone that she sold to Bill King's relatives (brother Danny?) I am pretty sure that is Danny standing in behind Lenny holding him, at least it is his coat. I have these same 3 pictures on my file as Ms. Betteridge sent them to me and they were dated April 2006.

AND one and half months before the actual reporting dates on February 28 2007 of Mani of Athelwyne and his dam the Mostly White Mare Ms. Betteridge states the following:

January 2 2007 – *“Fran who has Manni being shipped to Auz, the dam off him appears to be a Lenny mare she has loads of markers”*.

How could she ascertain this unless she had their DNA profiles already in her hands that were reported from another lab at an earlier date. Possibly with their new UK society, The Traditional Gypsy Cob Association.

Not only did she fail to mention to me that she actually held a copy of Lenny's DNA in her hands, remember my query on **July 4 2007** *“is his DNA kept at Kentucky and if so I am assuming it is under the name of Lenny's Stallion.....LET ME KNOW ASAP IF THIS IS NOT SO.”* she also had his DNA

profile since before she issued me a contract to buy Ria and never once did she pull hairs from her to ascertain if she was truly a Lenny's daughter. It wasn't until she knew that I had tracked down Lenny's DNA that she admitted she had his profile! At this point I was fuming and knew that she was not to be trusted anymore. Here she was, continually debasing all the gypsies for made up parentage, when in fact she was the worse of the lot. There is no way that I would have paid €10,000 yes you read it right, for an 8 month filly unless she was out of Lenny's. Only that year she had a lovely chocolate filly on her webshot page for sale at €5000 **December 16 2007** – *“the chocolate filly is out of a conners bred stallion and a black mare which was Vines bred she is available for £5k, she is owned by Tom Price”* . However I had to hold my tongue as we still had not checked Ria's profile against him. I would say that I overpaid dearly for Ria and simply because she was marked just like Lenny himself.

I did go back to Animal Genetics and they were happy to on forward Ria's hair sample to Kentucky for DNA profiling. As I said they were not yet set up to do DNA profiling. I wanted Kentucky to do compare the two profiles themselves, as I could not trust Ms. Betteridge to be honest any more. Here is my email I sent to Kathryn Davies from Kentucky University which is self explanatory.

July 18 2007 – *“Spoke with my contact, Andrea Betteridge from Meadow Farms, <http://www.gypsyhorses.org.uk/> in the UK regarding the DNA for Lenny's Stallion. She told me that she collected the samples (Lennys) and mailed them to her colleague, Fran Scott from Remme Park, <http://www.remmepark.com/> and she sent in the samples. Also Andrea has a copy of the DNA results from Lenny's Stallion, so do I really need to go ahead with asking Fran's permission to match with Lenny (which should be no problem if need be) or if Andrea has a copy and I have a copy of one of his daughter's DNA can a lay person make heads or tails or the two samples to make or break a match. I trust you understand what I mean.”*

Kathryn Davies's reply back was simple as they are not allowed to compare DNA profiles unless they have the explicit permission of the owner who submitted it or in many cases the society.

July 19 2007 – *“As long as you (or someone) faxes me or scans and emails me a copy of the (Lenny's) DNA report I can accept that as permission.”*

By requesting Ms. Betteridge to fax her a copy of Lenny's DNA it was verifying to Kathryn that she did have a copy in her hands already. She could then verify it as Lenny's DNA against his copy on their files and do a parentage match for me. I sent an email off to Ms. Betteridge.

July 19 2007 – *“Just got permission to DNA test Ria with your copy of Lenny's DNA certificate. Here is the email that Kathryn sent me (as above).....are you able to fax the copy of Lenny's DNA to her for me. Let me know if there are any problems.*

No reply back so I ask again

July 21 2007 – *“let me know when you fax the DNA file for Lenny.*

And again

July 23 2007 – *“Hey just wondering if you have had the time yet to fax through the copy of Lenny's DNA file to Kathryn Graves from Kentucky Uni. Will be phoning them in the next 12 hours so to sort out Treasure's and make sure that everything goes through with Ria's DNA also.”*

Then I get the most ridiculous excuse why Ms. Betteridge could not send a “copy” of Lenny's DNA profile to Kentucky University who had the original copy already stored on file.

July 24 2007 – *“can you get Kathryn to fax Ria's DNA through to here so we can compare it. there has been a bit of a tiff over DNA being handed out, as many are asking. obviously all our UK DNA is now logged as part of the new society, (Traditional Gypsy Cob Association) 2 of us have passwords to access it. so strict guidelines have been enforced as part of the societies structure. I checked with the other lady and she is insistant we have to follow guidelines. which I have decided is correct, if I fax a copy to Kathryn she can adopt the same attitude and pass it out to others as we have given it to her. not something we want to do for the US right now.”*

Upon receiving this message I spoke to Ms. Betteridge on the phone and told her that was absolutely ludicrous as Kentucky already had Lenny's DNA profile in their registry. They had **“requested her”** to fax a copy to confirm she also held one so they could perform a parentage match for me. Also employees at Kentucky University are strictly forbidden not to hand out DNA profiles unless they have the explicit permission of the owner or society that owns that DNA. If they do so, they risk losing their jobs, so why would Kathryn Davies adopt the same attitude and pass it out to others. That logic fell on deaf ears and she had good reason to with hold the DNA I requested, as I am sure you have guessed by now.

In hindsight the copy of Lenny's DNA profile that Ms. Betteridge had, may possibly not have been the same that was on file with Kentucky. Same DNA profile, but processed by a different lab in the UK at a far earlier date than what Kentucky had processed their sample from Fran Scott. Maybe this is why she refused to fax her copy to Kentucky for fear that they could possibly relay to me that the profile

September 15 2007 – “It has been almost a month now since I have sent you Ria's DNA to match with Lenny's. I have sent it twice and phoned you once, emailed you at least 3 times asking about it. I would really like to know one way or the other though your long period of absence has begun to leave me wondering if she is not even remotely related to Lenny's. If you can take 15 minutes out of your busy schedule to have a look that would be much appreciated or send me Lenny's DNA and I can do the match....it really is not that hard to do. Thanks.”

It takes all of 10 minutes to ascertain if the two profiles match and yes I was upset at this point as the realisation was dawning on me that Ria was probably not out of Lenny's.

September 16 2007 – “well I am sorry I have not answered but am away on holiday in USA hence why I have not picked up mail. !!! when I get home I will send exact results, I will be back on 22nd”

Finally a reply over 2 months later since she had Ria's profile in her hands.

October 22 2007 - “checked Ria's markers she has 3 matching which would make sense.”

This was correct, but made no sense at all. By this she meant that Ria has 3 markers in common with Lenny's so by her thinking Lenny had to be her grandsire. This means absolutely “diddly squat” and anyone who has anything remotely to do with DNA profiling will agree with me 100%. Beau has 7 markers in common with the Lottery horse and Lennys but he is no where related to them at all. To make it even more laughable, Ria has “7” markers in common with Appleby my 2009 yearling filly that I purchased from Tom Price. So that must make her Ria's grandmother or is it the other way around! Anyone who understands DNA and it is not rocket science, comes to the realisation fairly quickly, like I did, that there is no way you can ascertain a foal's grandparent by comparing their DNA profile to a supposed grand parent's profile. This is impossible because once you move “1” generation away, the possibilities become almost unlimited. To further clarify this analogy it is possible to have two full sisters with no markers in common and likewise, two full sisters with identical DNA profiles. It all depends on which marker they take from both sides of the equation and the combinations are extremely enormous. Have a look on the DNA page of my website, it explains DNA in more simplistic terms.

However to be absolutely sure of what I was saying I obtained confirmation from Kentucky University and Massey University in New Zealand that it is not possible to confirm a horse is a grand sire of grand dam of a foal by comparing their profiles.

Email to **Kathryn T. Graves, PhD**, Director, University of Kentucky Equine Parentage Lab Kentucky.

October 26 2007 - I am not sure if you remember but a few months ago you offered to do a DNA verification of a mare that I had tested by the university. Her name was Ria Mona Lisa and the supposed stallion was Lenny's Stallion. Originally the Meadow Farms , UK was going to fax you a copy of Lennys DNA for proof that she held a copy and then changed her mind for various reasons. I have finally heard back from the lady in the UK and she tells me that my mare is a grand daughter of Lenny's as she has 3 markers that match, not that I have been privilege to the sire's DNA profile. Could you please tell me if it is possible to verify grandparent sirage with only 3 markers matching. I thank you for your help.

*October 30 2007 – “**Absolutely not**- it is not possible to confirm a horse is the grandsire. I would be highly suspect that your horse is not by Lenny's Stallion if she is trying this route.”*

AND from Jenny Cahill, Director Equine Parentage and Animal Genetic Services Centre, Massey University. The explanation is somewhat more technical but the same results.

*November 26 2007 – “all markers tested must match for parentage to be verified. If there is 1 mismatch we test an additional 14 markers. If no further mismatches we assume that there is a mutated allele in the foal at the marker in question. 2 or more mismatches – parentage is excluded (in another word no match). You can generally tell by the alleles present in the foal if it is the sire or dam or both that are excluded. -why this method of exclusion **is not useful over more than 1 generation.**”*

This becomes even more bizarre and adding to the fire, when a year later after Ria had been imported and mated with Beau, she gave birth on December 8 2008 to a stunning colt called Bandito, name later changed to The Cisco Kid. We sent his hair samples in for DNA parentage confirmation to Animal Genetics who were now doing DNA profiling. When they came back there was something drastically wrong. His profile matched Beau's but was no where close to matching his dam Ria.

December 31 2008 – “I think there has been a mistake as only 3 markers match to both the dam and sire of this foal. Could you please re do the results again as you must have mixed them up with another horse. Thank you.”

Animal Genetic's reply

January 1 2009 – “We went back and looked at the results. We had run Mr. Beau Jangles and Ria Mona Lisa along with the foal and they do match up exactly. I will attach the other results so you can see.

3-18-08 #73 is Mr. Beau Jangles,

5-2-07 #132 is Ria Mona Lisa,

Where did you get the other horses done?”

*January 1 2009 – Arne, Now you have me really confused and pretty sure you have given me the DNA results for another horse. Both Mr. Beau Jangles and Ria Mona Lisa DNA was done at the KYU, Beaus was tested September 15 of this year and Ria was tested July 25 2007. While the DNA results #73 is Mr. Beau Jangles correct profile, the other one #132 is not the dam Ria Mona Lisa or it does not match the one that the KYU sent me.....by the way his name was **changed to "The Cisco Kid"** so could you please amend that for me.*

It is all coming back to me now. Ria Mona Lisa was still in the UK when I asked the owner to pull some hairs and send them to you for colour testing. That was back in May 2007. Then there was some question as to her supposed sire and I asked you guys to send the sample to the KYU so they could perform a DNA profile (I was unaware that you did DNA profiling back then and also the sires DNA profile (Lenny’s Stallion) that I wanted to do a match to was on record with the KYU. There is every possibility that when the sample was sent there has been a mix up along the road and the profile that you have there for Ria Mona Lisa may be the correct one and the KYU is wrong. This would make alot of sense as the profile I have for Ria (from Kentucky) does not match her foal at all which is just not possible.

I hope this all makes sense and I have to logically say that your profile for Ria is the correct one as the foals profiles matches up to both the dam and sire. Will ask the KYU to do another test on Ria once they receive another sample from me. I am sure it will come out the same as yours this time around. To which it did.

In short, the sample of Ria’s hair that Animal Genetics sent to Kentucky for profiling against Lenny’s Stallion had some how gotten mixed up. And when I sent Kentucky’s DNA profile of Ria to Ms. Betteridge in 2007 to do a parentage match against Lenny’s, she was in fact confirming a grandsire match against **“a DNA profile of unknown origin”**. For all we know it could have been a thoroughbred’s or even a donkey’s DNA profile! So much for making sense because **“3 markers match”**. The only thing that was making sense now was how badly I had been lied to all along.

But the lies and deception did not even end there! You would have thought at this point that Ms. Betteridge would have made an effort to track down the sires and dams of my horses. Remember she was the one who knew all the gypsies herds and kept DNA on all their bloodlines. In 2009 she was crusading around collecting DNA from many horses in the UK but still had not cleaned up her own back yard.

I began to pursue the question of Ria’s and Treasure’s sires 6 months later with Ms. Betteridge. I needed that much time to let the hurt and anger subside in me!

.....Continue on “Buyer Beware Part 4”