

# CADABRA Conquers Canada

Two years ago, Maryanne Gough set off with her black stallion CADABRA (AUS) to promote the Australian Stock Horse in Canada; no small task when you consider the size and depth of the North American horse industry.

**B**asing at McArthur Farms in the Canadian province of Alberta (named by Agriculture Canada as the leading province for horse related activity), Maryanne, alongside Canadian Jacquie McArthur, began what would turn out to be a mammoth task; the introduction of a foreign horse breed into a new country.

As one of the first three Australian Stock Horses ever shipped into Canada from Australia, and the first Australian Stock Horse stallion ever to enter the country, CADABRA (AUS) had begun to set records the moment he stepped off the transport truck in March 2009. The real work for Maryanne and Jacquie had only just begun, as they set out to prove the

credibility of the breed as a performance animal in the North American market. The pair began to prepare for a hectic annual schedule which would see CADABRA (AUS) presented both in Reined Cow Horse events and at major equine displays, as well as promoted to the local horse community in and around Calgary, Alberta – all whilst maintaining a busy breeding programme.

Canada is home to some of the most popular horse festivals in the world. The annual Calgary Stampede, a ten-day mecca for anyone with even the slightest 'cowboy' streak, averages an attendance of around 1.2 million each July. Calgary's 360 acre Spruce Meadows holds its annual Masters Showjumping

*CADABRA (AUS) ridden by Maryanne Gough alongside Jacquie McArthur, presented the breed for the first time at the 2010 Mane Event Expo in Red Deer, Alberta.*



*Clockwise from top left: Coming to a sliding stop, CADABRA (AUS) wins his final Reined Cow Horse event in Claresholm, Alberta; Presenting to the crowd at the Spruce Meadows 'Breeds for the World' exhibit; CADABRA (AUS) enjoys the lovely Canadian fall, just before his return to Australian soil; CADABRA (AUS) proving that Australia has its own brand of outstanding cow horses.*



spectacular in September, which incorporates a Breeds for the World exhibit; and the free entry sees around 200,000 horse lovers walk through the gates. The Mane Event Expo is held each October in Red Deer, Alberta, and features a famous trade fair and expert clinicians, including a Saturday night showcase that attracts up to 45,000 spectators. CADABRA (AUS) was the first Australian Stock Horse presented at these three major events, making him an outstanding ambassador for the breed on a world scale.

Making ground in the performance arena was a huge undertaking, which saw Maryanne begin training under renowned Canadian cutting and cow horse trainer John Swales. After training on American Bison and spending hours learning the finer points of competition, CADABRA (AUS) began to develop into a talented reined cow horse; proving his talent by becoming a regular in the winners' circle. Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) competed throughout Alberta, and became known for their precise reined work and fearless fence runs – and of course, the signature 'roached' mane! The hard work paid off, and in their first two years of competition Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) won two consecutive year end reserve championship titles in open company.

CADABRA (AUS) stood at McArthur Farms for two seasons, and proved to be a very commercial sire. His reputation was far-reaching, and saw breeders from western and english industries converge on the stud farm to see what an Australian Stock Horse could produce for them. Progeny have already begun to sell outside of Canada, with one of Jacquie McArthur's young fillies by

CADABRA (AUS), already sold into a polocrosse home in Texas, United States. Meanwhile back in Australia, young CADABRA (AUS) progeny were doing him proud, and news of his Australian youngstock winning both in hand and under saddle only served to cement the idea that the right stallion had landed in Canada.

Heartfelt thanks must go to Jacquie McArthur and her family for hosting both Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) during their time abroad. Their hospitality and enthusiasm were integral to the success he achieved in such a short time. There is no doubt that we will be hearing about McArthur Farms in years to come. Jacquie added: 'CADABRA (aka 'J') will be missed here at McArthur Farms, but with his progeny on the ground, and more to come, we are excited about the future of the ASH breed overseas. We feel lucky to be a part of the foundation of this great breed in Canada, and to have been involved with a horse as great as CADABRA.' McArthur Farms have retained stocks of frozen semen from CADABRA (AUS) and will continue to be the exclusive distributor in North America.

In conclusion, we are proud to announce the return of CADABRA (AUS) and Maryanne to Australia. Their time abroad has been an amazing adventure, and no doubt the fruits of their work will continue to be yielded in years to come. We look forward to seeing his young progeny follow on in his footsteps, taking our great Australian breed to all the corners of the globe. CADABRA (AUS) will stand at public stud in Queensland in 2011, and Maryanne will again be available for horse training. Visit [www.icewood.com.au](http://www.icewood.com.au) for further information. 🐾