

### **Glenormiston Slipper and Thomas Lord share breakfast.**

One morning recently, after feeding the dozen or so horses, 4 dogs, a cat, 5 children and a husband, I was chipping weeds in Slipper's paddock. One of the bigger children had just delivered hay and Mitavite Breeda to Slipper's large hayrack. Tom and John (aged 2 and 5) had followed me to the paddock. I thought they were playing just beside me. When I looked up, what I saw made me call to Andrew for a camera. Tom had climbed into the hayrack beside Slipper's head and was sharing his breakfast of Breeda. Tom has often helped himself to Breeda, but had never before eaten it out of a horse's feeder.

Slipper was not at all concerned, and happily accepted that he would lose some of his breakfast. If anything, he seemed to appreciate the company. Stallions lead a fairly lonely life, after all. Tom spent nearly half an hour playing, rummaging through Slipper's hay, talking to him and then trying to undo the knot in his halter.

This sort of experience really does prove that Connemara Ponies have a most wonderful, laid-back attitude to life. The first of Slipper's foals are being broken in this year, with Riverdell Park Capella (Glenormiston Slipper X Colmaur Colleen) currently being ridden by my 16-year-old son, Andrew.

Glenormiston Slipper (Abbeyleix Finbar imp. X Oxenholm Tiffany imp.) is one of a well-known family of ponies. He has a full brother, Glenormiston Flurry Knox in the USA, and a sister, Glenormiston Catriona, in Thailand, as well as Glenormiston Fionnuala and Glenormiston Fiona in Australia.

Our other stallion, Capparis Casanova (Domo Cavallo Praize X Glenormiston Rusheen) has also demonstrated this wonderful temperament. After about 18 months unriden, we brought him in again for a visiting child to ride. After such a long break he showed no sign of any misbehaviour and was a very pleasant and obedient mount. After two weeks work, he went to the Connemara Action Day at Helidon, and on his first ridden outing, achieved Reserve Champion Under Saddle with Andrew in the saddle.

My 12-year-old son Matthew now rides him regularly, both at home and out in company, demonstrating his fantastic temperament and impeccable stallion manners.

Andrew will campaign him in Pony Dressage for the remainder of this year.

Wendy Lord, Capparis Connemaras, Chinchilla, Queensland.