

First season success

LUCY PINCUS has vaulted up the rungs of the dressage ladder since winning the novice open freestyle at this show last year with the "cheeky but kind" home-bred Sheepcote Don Calisto, by Don Schufro (see box, below).

She chose him from a field full of foals when she was just 10, and here she landed the show's first title, the Charles Owen advanced medium restricted.

"I knew I could do a good test, but it is mine and Donny's first season at the level and I've not done many tests," said the 17-year-old. "I didn't make any mistakes in the test, but it wasn't anything really special. I got a little stressed in the run-up to the show.

Her father and trainer David added: "The harder the exercises, the better Donny is. He's talented both physically and mentally, especially in the piaffe-passage transitions."

Both Sheepcote Don Calisto and the current summer national advanced medium restricted champion Sheepcote Delight are out of the same dam, the Dutch-bred Lucky Boy daughter Sheepcote Calista. The moral of the story? If you want a shot at winning an advanced medium restricted national title, buy one of Calista's offspring.



Lucy Pincus and Don Calisto winner of the NAF Five Star Championships advanced medium restricted.

***** NAF Five Star Winter Dressage Championships 2014 *****



Hartpury Arena, Gloucestershire