

On July 6th, 1997 something magical happened in the north of the Netherlands just outside the village of Terwispel. Terwispel, a small village of less than 1000 people, is located in Friesland between Heerenveen and Drachten. Just outside of Terwispel, on a farm, lives a very famous Friesian breeder Mr. Foeke van der Velde. Little did anyone know at that time, a foal was born on Mr. F. van der Velde's farm that would have such an impact on the Friesian breed. He named the foal Sape F.T. and from the second day knew that this was going to be a special one. From that day forward a new chapter in the Friesian breed was written.

E.A. Constant, owner of Stal Wijdewormer the second largest Stallion Station in Holland, also saw something special in the young Sape F.T. At the young age of 6 months Mr. Constant bought this young promising foal from Mr. F. van der Velde. In January of 2000, Mr. Constant presented Sape F.T. at the Stallion Inspection in Holland where he was selected to take part in the stallion testing that spring. Sape F.T passed the stallion testing and the KFPS renamed him Sape 381.

Sape 381 instantly had a major impact on the breed. At his first Stallion Show in 2001. Sape was named the KFPS World Champion Stallion. Twice in years that followed, 2002 and 2004, Sape was awarded KFPS Reserve World Champion Stallion and was third place in 2003. Every year, from 2001-2009, during his years of eligibility (stallions are eligible up to the age of 12) Sape was at the top of his group and asked to be in the Championship round. Even in 2010 at the age of 13 many Friesian breeders felt Sape was good enough to be in the Championship round. Up to 2008, the FPS gave stallions 1st or 2nd Premies at the Stallion show, every year Sape was awarded the 1st Premium status. Sape since has been permanently approved on offspring.

Sape's numbers truly tell the whole story of why he will be a stallion that will go down as one of the great ones. Through the end of 2009, Sape has produced 94 1st premium foals and has a 76.79% 1st and 2nd Premium Foal percentage with 483 foals of 629 shown awarded one of these premies. Sape's Ster mare percentage is also extremely high with a 54.2% or 135 of 249 mares receiving the Ster title. These percentages rank higher than some of great Friesians Stallions of all time such as, Feitse 293 Preferent (75.66% foals and 44.1% ster mares), Tsjerk 328 Preferent (74.10% foals and 49.6% ster mares) and Leffert 306 Preferent (57.78% foals and 41.1% ster mares). Sape has also produced 3 Model Mares, 5 Crown/Provision Crown Mares, 45 Ster Stallions and 21 Ster Geldings. Sape is only lacking an Approved son, but other great stallions such as Oege didn't get his first approved son until the age of 14.

Sape's offspring has always made a big impression at the inspections. Famke Inke B. (Sape X Djurre) born in 2001 and owned by the Bosma family in Makkum is one of those horses. Famke was awarded Champion Foal of all of the Netherlands in 2001. The following year at the 2002 Mare Show, Famke was made Champion of all the 1 and 2 year olds. For 7 years straight Famke was award a 1st Premium and in 2008 she was awarded the Model Title.

Sape stems from the rare Age line, with only 4 Approved Friesian Stallions left from this line (Melle 311, Fabe 348, Sape 381 and Jorn 430), Sape's blood is of true importance to the Studbook. This gives him a very low relationship value of 16.5% making him compatible with a very large percentage of the Friesian Mare population. Sape stands at 168cm or 16.2 hands. Sape is from the famous part of stamline 50 going back to the Model Preferent mare Marianne. His mother is Olcha, a Model Preferent Feitse Mare then from there it goes Dephne (Ster+Pref+Prstm) x Namke (Model+Pref) x Namk (Model+Pref) x Anke (Ster+Pref) x Manda (Model+Pref) x Marianne (Model+Pref). This is the same part of stamline 50 that has produced great stallions like Anton 343 and Beart 411. Olcha, the mother of Sape, has produced many great foals such as Model mare Gonda F.T. Gonda has accumulated many Championships including Champion of the Mare Show in 2005.

Sape passes down to his offspring a very strong trot with much length. This is a result of the engagement from the powerful rear end. The importance of a motor/rear-end is much needed to be able compete successfully in sport. Sape gives very luxury type foals that stand upright with much length in the forearm. The necks are nice and upright with nice sloping shoulders. Amongst his many attributes one of his strongest is passing on nice length to the Croup. One of the biggest criticisms you hear about many Friesians is that they have a short and slanty croup, Sape can definitely compliment in this area.

Like ice cream in the desert, Sape will melt your heart fast. He has that little extra special something that words can not describe. He draws you in with his magnetic charm. There is never a dull moment; he's always putting a smile on your face.

Sape has been shown up to Z1 level dressage in Holland. He is now continuing his training here in the states with FEI rider, Mary Forck, who sees great potential/talent for upper level success. We are looking forward to the 2011 show season to earn Sape the Sport title. We hope to see you at an upcoming show.

“Here at Signature Friesians it is a true privilege and honor to have such a paramount stallion as Sape 381. Sape is a true Friesian Icon.”

“Sometimes when you believe in the impossible, the incredible comes true!”

Pamela and Matt Gish, Signature Friesians

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