

## Saying Good-by to Iso, chef of the herd for 10 years

Iso was the horse, who stayed with the ThRCT for the longest time. Originating from New Zealand, he was brought to Taiwan to pursue a career as race horse, but these plans were never approved by the government and therefore he and his buddies were sold to different riding clubs around the island.

About 10 years ago he finally came to Jungli, to a place, which than was called “Horse Farm of Hope”. There four mentally challenged adults learned, how to do stable work, groom horses, prepare them for classes and finally ride them. Towards people Iso was always behaving like a gentleman, he had a very calm nature and there was hardly anything, which could upset him – despite snake alikes in form of water hoses, lunge reins on the ground etc. He laid the foundation for 2 of these riders going to the Special Olympics in Irland in 2003.



With the renaming of the farm into “Therapeutic Riding Centre of Taiwan” and with the opening of the doors for

patients from outside Iso got new work to do. His saddle was often changed to a pad and a surcingle and he had to learn to cope with a leader and two side walkers, which actually did not bother him at all. With more and more patients coming, the herd of four also started to grow up to ten horses, who accepted him as their chief.

During the year Iso was never our most beautiful horse, but whenever we had a competition at our place, he developed into an eye catcher.



Originally we had planned to let him join the competitions during the 5<sup>th</sup> Hope Cup for a last time, carrying some of our Grade 1a riders, but an old injury in his right hindleg started to trouble him again. When we thought that he had recovered, he out of a sudden developed problems with his left hindleg, and this on the other side was affecting the other leg again. Soon, the medicine, the vet gave him, did not show any effect

anymore, so that there was not much more for us to do than to try to relieve his pain. Whenever his leg was hurting him, he was neighing to approaching people, but as soon as somebody started to take care of him – no matter whether this action relieved his pain or not – he did not make any sounds anymore. Seeing him suffering and getting thinner

day by day was very painful for us, who all had learned so much from him, therefore we finally asked the vet to put an end to his pains. He had outlived all his buddies, with whom he was coming from New Zealand to Taiwan and till the very end he still had the respect of his herd, which now has to decide who the new leader will be.



For many riders Iso was the first mount they dared to steer on their own. Thank you Iso!



**2009/12/11 Good-by to Iso**