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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN IBERIAN HORSE CLUB**

Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: February 17, 2004**

**HEADLINE: Andalusians & Lusitanos To Perform Six Unique Exhibitions at Rocky Mtn Horse Expo**

**On March 12-14, 2004, The Rocky Mountain Iberian Horse Club (RMIHC) celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> year of entertaining the crowds at EXPO with an all new line up of six unique exhibitions performed with Andalusians & Lusitanos.**

**Andalusians & Lusitanos have always been a crowd pleaser at Expo, attracting horsemen and women from a variety of disciplines. This year, the 7 state regional Andalusian breed club has a spectacular presentation planned with approximately 30 horses from the area.**

**The RMIHC will present a host of stallions, geldings & mares, performing Dressage Musical Freestyles, High School movement demos, and traditional performances, including Charro dancing, La Garrocha, and a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Medieval Combat demo.**

**To celebrate the versatility and ageless appeal of the breed, the breeders and owners will be adorned in festive regala from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, spanning several centuries into modern times.**

**"This year will be our greatest presence at EXPO, with over 30 horses in attendance," states Susan Ambrose, RMIHC co-founder and club secretary. "The Andalusian is a born performer, proud and eager to show off... we are looking forward to revealing the outstanding qualities of the breed."**

**The RMIHC will host a hospitality booth in the barn area and invites everyone to stop by and meet the 'Royal Horse of Europe'. The club will house all of the horses together on 'Andalusian Row'. Visitors are invited to stop by and pick up breed information, watch videos and engage in horse talk.**

**"In the past 5 years we have seen tremendous growth in the breed here in the Rockies. Part of this is attributed to the remarkable athleticism and versatility of this ancient horse," states Karen Muhler, RMIHC President. From working cattle in Spain, Portugal & Mexico, to bullfighting, dressage, eventing and exhibition work, this horse has proven ability to rise to almost any occasion.**

**The Andalusian and Lusitano hail from the Iberian Peninsula as one of the original horse breeds. For centuries they were known as the 'Horse of Kings' and graced every European Court. The Andalusian carried soldiers into battles as long ago as the Greek and Roman times. The Conquistadors rode him to the shores of the Americas, and today he performs in most disciplines.**

**Still a relatively rare breed in the USA, Andalusians & Lusitanos were imported roughly 40 years ago. Today there are approximately 6,000 purebreds and 5,000 partbreds in the breed registry. Many of today's breeds descend from the Iberian, including the Lipizzan from Austria, known for its strength, collection and ability to perform airs above the grounds. Dispersment of Spanish horses during the exploration of the Americas lead to their capture by natives. As a result, most of our breeds carry the blood of the Andalusian- the Mustang, Paso Fino, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Morgan, Paint Peruvian Paso, and more.**

**The Rocky Mountain Iberian Horse Club was founded in 1999 and has approximately 50 members in a 7 state region. The RMIHC holds numerous events to promote the breed, including educational seminars, clinics, workshops and a regional championship qualifying show for the annual International Andalusian & Lusitano Horse Association (IALHA) National Breed show. Visit the website for more information at <http://rmihc.tripod.com> Visit the IALHA breed registry site at <http://ialha.org>**