

Absolute success for three-of-a-kind

by Michelle Reichert

The third of Sir Isaac Newton's "Three Laws of Motion" states that, "For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." As it turns out, this is especially true for three exceptional Paint siblings from Iowa.



What a surprise for the Scheckel family when they did their first embryo transfer on their mare Absolutely Thrilling and ended up with a bay tobiano filly, a buckskin solid colt and a palomino solid colt. Photography by APHA STAFF.

The Scheckel family of Bellevue, Iowa, has been breeding horses for more than 15 years, but this past year has been an exceptional one. Their time and investment has proven worthwhile with the birth of three embryo transfer foals out of their mare, Absolutely Thrilling, and by the legendary halter stallion, Kids Classic Style (AQHA). All three now have earned titles at the Fall World Championship Show (there's the "equal").

At the Paint Vegas show in 2006, Tom Scheckel and his family spotted a beautiful black tobiano weanling filly, Absolutely Thrilling, and made plans to buy her. The transfer was complete in December 2006. Casey Veach, Tom's daughter, said, "The mare was our favorite. We showed her a lot, but she never did get any titles. But, she was always our favorite because even though she wasn't very tall, she was so pretty."

Absolutely Thrilling was only 2 years old when they harvested three embryos out of her and bred to Kids Classic Style (AQHA), a buckskin whom the Scheckels also recently

purchased at last year's World Show. Each embryo was transferred to recipient draft mares and was born within a few weeks of each other. A peculiar note is that none of them looked alike (there's the "opposite"). The first was a palomino Solid Paint-Bred colt, the second a bay tobiano filly and the third a buckskin Solid Paint-Bred colt. They are named Absolutely Solid, Absolutely Classic and Absolutely Stylin, respectively.

"They look totally different. Totally different body shapes, totally different colors. They are three totally different horses. The mare put the pretty on these foals, but Kids Classic Style put the height."

Absolutely Solid, who is also registered with the Palomino Horse Breeders Association (PHBA), won the World Champion Solid Paint-Bred Weanling Geldings title in addition to being a world champion with PHBA as a weanling. Absolutely Stylin was Reserve World Champion Solid Paint-Bred Weanling Stallion and Absolutely Classic was Reserve World Champion Open Weanling Mares. Casey and her husband Jason show the weanlings in the Amateur classes and J. T. Mitchell and Leon Borcharding show them in the Open.

Tom loves the buckskins so his favorite is Absolutely Stylin. "We keep giving him a hard time because he didn't like the palomino, and the palomino has the most titles now," Casey said with a grin.

The Scheckels are rightfully pleased with the equally impressive, but intriguingly different, outcomes of this cross. The weanlings were the dam's first offspring, and she is bred back again, this time herself, to Kids Classic Style AQHA.

"It's been a great year and we can't wait to see what we get the next time," said Veach.