

Rare All-White Deer Selling Like Hotcakes

Looking for a pet that doesn't bark, climb screens, or have other annoying habits? Bill Noll Jr., Shippensburg, Penn., suggests you consider one of his all-white "whitetail" deer.

Noll raises both the rare all-white whitetails and the more normal brown whitetails. He says he's perfected a method of raising them that results in very tame animals. "I sell a lot of them for pets. They'll follow you around like a dog."

He treats deer like pets from birth. "I've found that if I bottle feed them rather than leaving them with their mothers, they get used to being handled, having people around, and are less likely to get wild when they're weaned," he says.

"White deer are extremely rare and have been bred in captivity for so long that they tend to be much more tame than brown ones," he notes. "When people see the white

ones, their first thought is that they're albinos, but they're not. Albinos are more susceptible to disease and usually don't survive long. White whitetails have brown eyes, just like those with brown hair."

Another trick for keeping deer docile is to limit their space. "The bigger the area you give them, the wilder they seem to get," he says. He keeps his 23-head breeding herd on about 4 acres, all of which is surrounded with 9-ft. tall fencing.

When Noll first started raising deer, he discovered that deer which have been domesticated for several generations make the best pets. And he was surprised when he came across his first all-white whitetail.

"I also have piebald-colored whitetails, which are even more rare. They're spotted like an appaloosa horse," says Noll, noting that both the white and piebald colors breed



All-white "whitetail" deer are not albinos. They have brown eyes, just like brown deer. true when like animals are crossed.

He's sold out of young deer for this year, but is holding back young does to expand his herd for next year. At this point, he's not certain how many deer he'll have for sale next year, but says if people contact him, he'll put them in touch with other breeders. Brown

fawn does sell for \$400 weaned off the mother. Bottled white fawn does start at around \$1,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Noll, Jr., 8029 Molly Pitcher Hwy., Shippensburg, Penn. 17257 (ph 717-532-2108).

Living Flag Is A Hit Wherever It Goes

Norma Clavadatscher and the six other members of her Sauk City, Wisconsin parade unit don't just salute the American flag. They are the flag.

Three of the women dress in satin robes with both stars and bars while the other four members dress exclusively in red and white bars. All members are about the same height to ensure that everything lines up when the group marches in area parades.

"This year we marched in five parades," says Clavadatscher, a 47 year veteran of the Living Flag. "Wherever we wear it, people salute us, and veterans take off their hats. We always get lumps in our throats and tears in our eyes."

What started out as a skit for a county Extension Homemakers meeting in 1953 turned into a nearly 50-year enterprise that has involved two generations of marchers.

Clavadatscher (73) is the only remaining member of the original unit from 1953, although she plans to hand over her robe soon to a younger marcher. She has two daughters, Vicki Meyer and JoAnn Ballweg, who joined the group as older members left.

The early Living Flag had eight flag members and a number of women in a chorus. By the mid 1960's, the chorus had disbanded, and then the flag did, too. It wasn't until 1978 that the idea of reorganizing was raised. The gowns had been stored and were hung out to air. New stars were added and the flag size reduced to seven marchers. A new chorus was also formed.

In 1981 Charles Kuralt gave them national exposure on television. The results of his interest live on with clips of the original show being broadcast as recently as this spring.

Today the chorus has again been cut back,



Three of the women dress in satin robes with both stars and bars while the other four members dress exclusively in red and white bars.

but the flag continues to march in the local area. Clavadatscher still gets calls from people around the country wanting to duplicate the flag.

"All I tell them is the pattern is a choir

gown," she says. "We don't have a patent on the design."

Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Norma Clavadatscher, S 9895 Highway E., Sauk City, Wis. 53583 (ph 608-544-5345).

Wedding Couple's Limousine Sports A 6-Row Corn Head

A ride in a big, expensive limousine is what every couple wants on their wedding day, and the bigger the better. Right?

When Danny Thompson of Lakeville, Minn., and Staci Goss got engaged, Danny teased Staci that they would be taking a combine from the church to the reception.

On April 15, the day of the wedding, everything went as Danny expected, until his uncle Gordon Thompson, who had been enlisted to drive the couple from the church to the reception, turned into the Northfield Tractor and Equipment parking lot instead of the Northfield American Legion Hall, the site of the reception.

It didn't take Danny long to figure out why. On the back side of the used equipment lot sat a shiny green Deere 9510 combine, engine running. The combine had been decorated by friends and relatives earlier that day.

The couple climbed aboard and drove it to the reception, to the surprise of most of their guests.

Staci explains that she knew Danny's combine comments were in jest, but she decided that arriving at the reception in a combine might be fun. And she figured it would be more fun if Danny didn't know about it.

So, she contacted Gordon who then made



After their wedding, Danny Thompson and Staci Goss drove a combine from the church to the reception.

the arrangements for the combine with Northfield Equipment's co-owner Jim Estrem. "Gordon and Danny have been good customers, so I was glad to help out," Estrem says. "And I couldn't pass up the publicity this would get the dealership, either."

Estrem says neither Danny nor Gordon own a 9510, but of all the combines he had on the lot, the 9510 seemed to fit the bill best. "The newer series combines have seats wide enough for two people to sit, so the bride didn't have to stand up on her way to the reception," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Danny & Staci Thompson, 24901 Beard Court, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

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