



# TANGO'S TOKEN KISS

**2018 Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion**

By Kim Skipton

Just a six-year-old, 2018 Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion Tango's Token Kiss already has three world's grand champion titles as well as five world's champion titles to his credit. The big, handsome gelding was a star from the first time he entered the show ring. Foaled in 2012, he debuted with Matt Shiflet in 2014 to earn the title World's Champion Three-Gaited Two-Year-Old Division II for Matt's parents, owners/breeders, Harrison and Beverly Shiflet. He was purchased by Elisabeth M. Goth shortly after and went on to win the two-year-old three-gaited



class at the UPHA American Royal National Championship with trainer Neil Visser. In 2015, he made a switch to fine harness, earning a blue at Asheville. Moving back to the three-gaited division, he won at Midwest and was then purchased by current owner Grace Arnold LLC of Rancho Santa Fe, California. With trainer Smith Lilly up, the extremely elegant gelding followed in the footsteps of notables <sup>CH</sup>Forest Song and <sup>CH</sup>An Heir About Her (BHF) when he was named the Three-Year-Old Three-Gaited World's Champion and chose to show back against the aged horses in the Open Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship. He made a spectacular show to earn reserve but, following the disqualification of the winner, the title Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion was his, making him one of just three three-year-olds in history to win this class. In 2016, competing as a junior, Tango's Token Kiss won the ASR Four-Year-Old Three-Gaited Sweepstakes at the World's Championship Horse Show. In 2017, he won the three-gaited over 15.2 stake then came back to be crowned Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship, with a performance that showed the world he a true world's grand champion. He repeated those wins in unanimous fashion in 2018. It takes a special horse to win a world's grand championship and a very special one to do so three times. In his young career, the stately, high-headed gelding has entered the show ring 25 times and met defeat in only four classes.

A look at his pedigree shows that he is bred to be the champion that he is. Bred by Harrison and Beverly Shiflet of Cherryville, North Carolina, he is by WGC sire Tango's Parting Kiss, owned by the Shiflet's son Matt and his wife Whitney, and he is a half brother to WC Tango's Private Matter. Tango's Parting Kiss was never shown but he has been siring great ones from the beginning of his career at stud including WCC Hi-Fling, WCC Rango Tango, WC Uptown Funk, WC Let's Go Tango, and many more. Tango's Parting Kiss is sired by the very athletic and very popular stallion (SA) Arborlane Tangos Wee Pee. Imported from South Africa in 1996, Arborlane Tangos Wee Pee is the sire of Fine Harness World's Grand Champion <sup>CH</sup>Lace's Last Tango, WC The Tango Dancer, WC <sup>CH</sup>Tantalize Me, WC My Elegance On Parade, etc. The sire of (SA) Tangos Wee Pee traces to the "golden cross" of WGC sire WGC <sup>CH</sup>Wing Commander and WGC sire Vanity's Sensation Of Crebilly. The dam of (SA) Arborlane Tangos Wee Pee is by Hi-Wing, a stallion bred by Frank Bradshaw and exported to South Africa. Hi-Wing, the 1971 South African Reserve Grand Champion Stallion, is by <sup>CH</sup>Wing Commander and out of WC Crebilly's Hi Note (by WGC sire Vanity's Sensation Of Crebilly), adding another "golden cross" to the mix.

Tango's Parting Kiss is out of One Parting Kiss (BHF), a half sister to WC <sup>CH</sup>Vintage Lace and Hall of Fame broodmare Simply Furious (dam of WCC Page Me, RWC sire WC Simply Majestic, WC I'm Simply Radiant, etc.). He is a half brother to such luminaries as WCC Balenciaga, WC Dressedfortheparty, RWCC Pucker Up (dam of WC Lip Sync, WC Mix It Up, WC Whassup?, and RWC Nuttin' But Kisses), RWC Undaunted, Shut Up And Kiss Me (dam of WC Ro & Me's Kiss And Tell), Swak (dam of So Swank), and more.

(SA) Francona Scandal's Last Tango	Vanity's Scandal
(SA) Arborlane Tangos Wee Pee	Gifted Pearl
(SA) Langhoek Hi-Amaryllis	Hi-Wing
Tango's Parting Kiss, 2001 ch.	(SA) Constania Amaryllis
Radiant Sultan	Supreme Sultan
One Parting Kiss (BHF)	<sup>CH</sup> Glenview Radiance (WC, RWC)
Magic Sue	Mr. Magic Man
	Majestic Susan
<sup>CH</sup> Night Prowler (WGC, WC, RWGC)	Status Symbol (WC)
CF First Night Out (RWC)	Empire's Lady Genius
Happy Twenty-First	New Yorker
CF Deny Me Not, 2000 ch.	Grape Tree's Sparkling Spirit
Genius Bourbon Prince	<sup>CH</sup> Greenway Commander
Waffles	Princess Delaine
Baubles	Family Jewels (WC)
	Poor Ruby Reddress (BHF)

The dam of Tango's Token Kiss is a daughter of world's grand champion sire and multiple world's champion sire RWC CF First Night Out. Of the first four dams of Tango's Token Kiss, two were never shown and two had only moderate show ring success. However, the breeding to produce show ring winners was there. His third dam, Baubles, is a half sister to Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion Gimcrack, Junior Five-Gaited World's Champion of Champions <sup>CH</sup>Trink To Me Only, Oak Hill's Finesse (dam of WC Show Me The Town), and Spinster (dam of WCC Simbara's Sweet Lorraine and <sup>CH-ED</sup>Simbara's Salutation, and second dam of RWC Apparent To Me Only). His fourth dam, Hall of Fame broodmare Poor Ruby Reddress, was the highest selling broodmare in the Newmarket Sale. His fifth dam, Shelby's Sweetheart, is a half sister to WGC <sup>CH</sup>Plainview's Julia (BHF) and RWC Genius' Queen Elizabeth.

**“ He represents an exceedingly rare combination of beauty, size, strength, athleticism and willingness. ”**

His pedigree includes champions in several divisions. On his dam side is the 1976 and 1983 Fine Harness World's Grand Champion Night Prowler and the 1971 ASHA National Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Futurity World's Champion Status Symbol, as well as the beautiful world's champion sire and five-gaited stakes winner <sup>CH</sup>Greenway Commander and the world's champion sire and multiple five-gaited world's champion Family Jewels. The sire line of Tango's Token Kiss traces to the exquisitely beautiful <sup>CH</sup>Glenview Radiance, winner of multiple fine harness world's championships. There are only two Hall of Fame broodmares in the four generation pedigree of Tango's Token Kiss but they are the excellent, prolific producers One Parting Kiss (BHF) on his sire line and

Poor Ruby Reddress (BHF) on his dam line. The strong South African blood on his top line gives him his stamina and power, as does a trace to WCC sire RWC New Yorker on his bottom line. Beauty, elegance, and a wonderful attitude are brought by the blood of WGC sire Radiant Sultan on top and <sup>CH</sup>Greenway Commander on the bottom.

Smith Lilly has said of Tango's Token Kiss, "He represents an exceedingly rare combination of beauty, size, strength, athleticism and willingness". The study of his four generation set of papers shows that the young gelding inherited these traits from both sides of his pedigree. Multiple Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion Tango's Token Kiss has already done more in his career than most horses do in a lifetime. However, with his strong pedigree to back him up, he looks to have years of continued show ring success ahead of him for owner Grace Arnold and trainer Smith Lilly.