

SPANISH BARB HORSE ASSOCIATION



2017

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• **REMINDER:**
2017 Dues due in February. Please renew promptly.

2017 Annual SBHA Meeting to be held at the Historic NAN Ranch—Sept 21-24



Not long after the 2016 SBHA Annual Meeting, Becky Boyd, Heidi Collings and I, Polly McLain, decided to explore possibilities for a new site for the 2017 meeting. While we enjoyed the 4 Winds Equestrian Center and Colleen Novotny's hospitality and especially her genuine interest; our goal was to find a more central location to attract more members to our group's annual event.

After some research Becky, Heidi and I decided to spend a weekend at the NAN Ranch in Faywood, New Mexico. Located between Deming and Silver City, is an easy tow. The 45,000 acre historic, working ranch has been in the same family for over 50 years. Betty and John Lang, the current owners, acquired the ranch from family members and have been restoring the headquarters to its former glory. The headquarters really impressed us and there are many rental options from entire rooms to a bunk bed. If you prefer, you can dry camp and highline or bring a portable corral in a large meadow close to all the action.

The property has always been a cattle ranch and as such does not have fancy horse facilities but it does have numerous safe pens in which to keep your horses. The options are plentiful, from

basics to posh, the choice is yours. We stayed in the bunkhouse with its long covered porch and basic old time kitchen and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

The ranch is located on the Lower Mimbres River with miles of riding. The choice is yours to meander along the river trails or explore the higher elevations. Easy or technical, it's all there.

Betty and John, are gracious and willing to work with our club to make our annual meeting *memorable and affordable*.

For more information on the Ranch you can Google NAN Ranch. Besides their official website, you will find several sites reviewing what they have to offer. The Ranch was added to the National Register of Historic places in 1988.

By Polly McLain

Additional Note: The date for the meeting is set to start Thursday, September 21st through Sunday the 24th. We wanted to start early so there would be additional days of riding if you can make it by Thursday. Further details on the meeting will be shared in a future email.





2016 Annual SBHA Meeting

by Heidi Collings

Well, it was a long drive for some of us to the 4 Winds Equestrian Center near Estancia, NM, but it was so worth it. First, the facility owned & hosted by Colleen & John Novotny is first rate. There was plenty of space for camping or rooms for rent, large safe pens for horses, wonderful arenas, including a large covered arena. There was plenty of lovely riding right on their large property and even an event course for those crazy enough to give it a go. Cook to order breakfasts and dinners were provided. The meeting was over Labor Day weekend giving people more time to enjoy each other's company. We had a nice turn out of 16 members plus a several guests that came to join in.

Members Kathleen Bellemare and Ann Kirk-Schweitzer did a great job of planning the event. We had a day of horseback games, of which included broomstick polo, my favorite. Thankfully I had my 13-3 hand horse for that one. Sunday was a trail ride on the 4 Winds property where we got to play around using parts of the eventing course as obstacles.

Evenings were spent getting to know the new members or those we had not met before, catching up with everyone and enjoying the live music provided by Steve Dobrott & Dax Bellemare. And ok, yes, a few



Kay Hughes with Tizwin and Cerro, son & sire.

bottles of wine were finished off.

During the General meeting on Sunday, we were fortunate to have Dr. Paul Szauder of EquiSeq, a biotechnology company based in Albuquerque. He gave us a presentation on genetic diseases that are found in many horse breeds but that he thinks are largely absent in our Spanish Barb populations. He is very interested in doing genetic testing on our horses to help EquiSeq further their research. For more information, see the article titled **A CONVERSATION WITH PAUL SZAUDER, PhD** by Jane Dobrott in this issue.

It was a very successful meeting. Thanks to all who were able to attend and we hope to see you next year at the NAN Ranch in SouthWest New Mexico.



Hot match of Broom Polo. Shirley Vinoski on Ghost Dancer smoked us all.



Kathleen Bellmare on Feliz & Steve Dobrott on Orejano.



Amigo's Story By Jane Turcotte

Following is the story of "Amigo," a young stallion -- presumably a Spanish Barb -- who came to us through a serendipity set of circumstances. Amigo was one of a small group of wild young bachelor stallions that came out of the mountains south of Tucson in 2011 and took up residence on a local golf course. The drought was in full swing at the time, and the horses were enjoying the lush grass of the fairways. But, of course, they were deemed a nuisance and a risk --- and therefore they needed to be removed. There was considerable news coverage of all this at the time.

A volunteer at Equine Voices (a nearby horse rescue and sanctuary) knew of our ranch that we co-own in Aravaipa Canyon north of Tucson. Looking for a humane solution to the problem, she contacted our ranch partner. After some discussion amongst ourselves we agreed to let the state relocate the horses to our ranch. They became affectionately known as the "Band of Brothers," and over the next



four years they roamed freely across more than 2,000 fenced acres of rugged ranchland, with a perennial spring for water.

The stallions turned out to be both a de-

light and a challenge. They were very creative about finding their way through our fences, often in search of greener pastures or a neighbor's mare. We had a highly skilled ranch foreman at the time who always managed to herd them back, but there were other difficult incidents as well. Finally, last year we decided that it would be best to gentle them and try to place them in homes. So, the horses went off to Hay Creek Ranch in Oracle, AZ where Doug Lindgren had agreed to take them in and train them.



A part of our agreement with Doug was that we would have the stallions gelded. But, in a twist of fate, before he could be gelded Amigo was bitten -- quite severely -- in the cheek by one of his herd mates. Our equine vet spent a couple of hours stitching him up, and we brought him back to our barn to recover. The other stallions were gelded.

Up until this time, our knowledge about Spanish Barbs was quite limited. A couple of people had mentioned the possibility that our stallions might be Barbs, but we really didn't know enough at the time to appreciate the significance of this observation. Remarkably (and in another stroke of luck), around this same time we learned that the Spanish Barb Horse Association was about to gather for a meeting at Hay Creek Ranch. We drove out for an evening and talked with several association members. With their encouragement, we submitted Amigo's samples for DNA typing, which showed (in order of predominance): (1) Turkoman; (2) Mangalarga Marchador; and (3) Venezuelan Criollo. Recently, we submitted his paperwork to apply for the Spanish Barb registry.

Our equine vet believes Amigo to be approximately 7 years old. His name stems from his personality -- among the wild horses,

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

he was by far the friendliest and the most approachable. He is one of two of the original stallions that remain in our care, and the only one that is still a stallion.

The more we learn, the more we see the value of preserving this heritage breed. Of course, we have no way of knowing for sure exactly what Amigo's lineage is, but his appearance, his size, his DNA, and the fact that he was found in an area near the old Wilbur-Cruce ranch certainly suggests that his heritage is significant.

NOTE: Amigo's SBHA registration will soon be complete. He is currently with a professional trainer who reports that he has been an absolute star --



Amigo held by Steve Turcotte

a delight to work with and a fast learner. He is available for stud service. Contact the Turcottes at Stephen.turcotte@gmail.com or 520-579-7714.



Notices:

SBHA Board of Directors and Officers for 2017

Board

Beth Mendivil, Tucson AZ
Esha Mork, Oracale AZ
John Mayer, St. David, AZ
Kathleen White, Tucson AZ
Maggie Engler, Rapid City SD
Sheila Segien, Trabuco Canyon, CA
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Treasurer	Maggie Engler
Registrar	Heidi Collings

Webmaster Maureen Kirk-Detburner
Membership Sheila Segien

Website: Spanishbarb.org
Email: Info@Spanishbarb.com

Mourning Our Losses

- ◆ Blaine Hadden: beloved member and Mounted Shooter, riding his Spanish Barb gelding, Jalisco. Our love & sympathy to his sweet wife, Marie-Louise and Blaine's family.
- ◆ Emlon Stanton: long time member, supporter and former Spanish Barb breeder. Our love & sympathy to his wife, Michele, and the rest of his family.

Newsletter Status:

So sorry we have not gotten a newsletter out for awhile. What can we say, life happens. Thanks so much this time to Becky Boyd for collecting contributions and mailing, thanks to the contributors, to Heidi Collings for assembling. Please send any ideas, photos or other contributions to info@spanishbarb.org , for the next one.

FACEBOOK—Check out and join the SBHA Facebook page to see what members are up to.



RANCHO DEL SUENO Could Use a Helping Hand

In November the SBHA was notified that Robin Collins, owner & operator of Rancho Del Sueno, and home of the largest known group of Wilbur-Cruce horses, was in need of some financial assistance.

Resulting from drought, high hay prices, medical problems and the economy in general, Robin put out a call for help. Rancho del Sueno is a 40 acre preservation center and 501c3 organization so donations are tax deductible. The SBHA board voted in December 2016 to donate \$1000 from the club treasury.

To help support the herd and spread awareness of the Spanish Barbs, Robin has started programs featuring equine assisted learning and wellness programs for adults, youth, veterans and people with special needs.

Rancho Del Sueno is located near Madera, CA. I spoke to Robin recently and now she is additionally dealing with floods (following fires last summer) and unexpected veterinarian bills of over \$3000 due to a load of bad hay.

As they are caring for over 70 horses, 30 of which are stallions, the ranch would appreciate any help they can get. If you are able, please consider sending a contribution to:

Rancho del Sueno
40222 Millstream Ln.
Madera, CA 93638

Website: ranchodelsueno.org

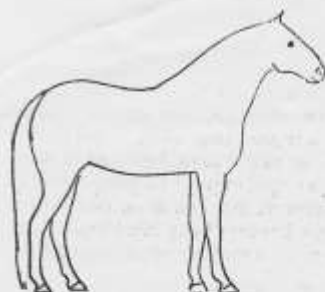
There is also a GoFundMe page at
www.gofundme.com/endangeredhorses





From our Archives ...

The following article is reprinted from an old SBBA Journal, date unknown.



Spanish

CONFORMATION VS. BREED STANDARD

"A Horse Stands as His Own Testimony"

by Susan Paulton

CONFORMATION is Form to Function. In other words, how a horse is built relates directly to how he performs.

BREED STANDARD is a term used for purebred horses of the various breeds and it is The Overall Shape of a Horse that Distinguishes One Breed from Another.

Conformation is not breed standard. Breed standard is not conformation. Of course, the ideal individual of a particular breed is a combination of breed standard coupled with all the strong, correct conformation points.

Correct and strong conformation is the same for all horses. Such conformation enables horses to perform well and stand up under the stress of performance. Poor and weak conformation predisposes a horse to breakdown and inhibits his performance and/or usefulness.

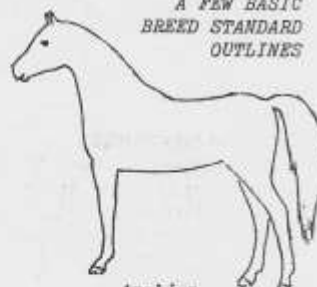
Conformation includes such points as: Short back vs. long back; strong loin vs. weak loin; long sloping shoulder vs. short straight shoulder; well angulated stifle and hock vs. too straight stifle and hock; short hip vs. long hip; large, coarse head vs. balanced, refined head. Ewe neck, calf knees, sickle hocks, cow hocks, pig eyes, tied in tendons refer to conformation - undesirable conformation. Legs that conform to the "plumb line" test (correct leg structure), muscling that carries down well into the joint, eyes that are large and expressive, and pasterns that are strong and properly angulated are just a few more desirable conformation points that can be added to the previously mentioned ones - desirable conformation of all horses and ponies.

Breed standard. This is what visibly distinguishes one purebred breed from another. As the purebred Arabian does not look like the purebred Spanish horse, neither does the purebred Percheron look like the purebred Thoroughbred. If an "Andalusian" looks Arabic, that is because he has Arabian blood in him. If a "Spanish-Barb" looks like a Quarter Horse, that is because he has had Q.H. blood bred into him. If a "Morgan" appears American Saddlebred that is due to the infusion of Saddlebred blood into him. And the list goes on. These pseudo-types are not the purebloods of the breeds.

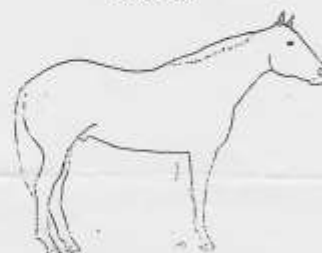
Some primary points of breed standard are: Convex face profile vs. concave vs. ram-nosed; thin neck vs. heavy neck; high neck carriage vs. level neck carriage; flat croup vs. round croup vs. angular croup; high tail set vs. low tail set vs. medium set; heavy bone vs. refined bone; feathered legs vs. clean legs; deep flank vs. shallow flank; bunchy muscling vs. long, smooth muscling.

The knowledgeable breeder has, through study and research of facts and fallacies, established in his mind's eye the perfect breed standard of the particular breed he has and he selectively breeds to that end. He knows how to attain his goal and moves in whatever positive direction required to achieve it, always producing finer horses than what he had in the past. Through knowledge he has built convictions. He is not swayed by those persons who have only opinions to offer, opinions not substantiated by facts and truths. (Too many people are swayed by such opinions rather than researching for themselves.) A breeder, in the true sense of the word, works to stabilize both breed standard and correct conformation in his horses, but he also desires to maintain intelligence, fine disposition, and top performance ability. BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST HE MUST HAVE BREED STANDARD. Without it he has nothing, if it is a

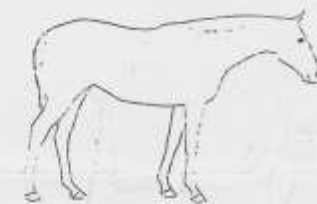
A FEW BASIC
BREED STANDARD
OUTLINES



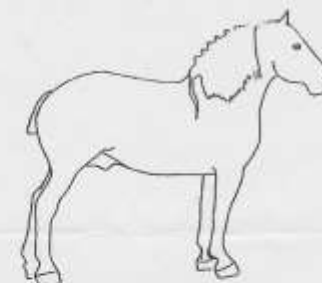
Arabian



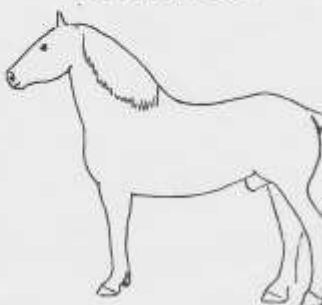
Quarter Horse



Thoroughbred



Belgian (draft)



Percheron (draft)



blood breed he desires to maintain.

As one gains in knowledge of all breeds, he becomes more sensitive to breed standard and the presence or lack of it within a breed. It is breed standard or a mixture of breed standards that enable a well versed horseman to distinguish whether a horse is purebred or crossbred, regardless of registration paper claims. One of the most frequently heard excuses that point to a lack of breed standard knowledge is, "That is your opinion." But breed standard is not an opinion. Think about it. If we are talking about a purebred breed, it will have a single, consistent, and established breed standard, as in the case of the Spanish and Barb horse of almost 2000 years existence. Opinion does not enter in UNLESS deviation is made from that particular breed standard.

So what causes deviation from breed standard in any registered horses?

1. Lowbreeding- Caused by: (a) Inbreeding which can produce the gamut from a horse that is slightly non-breed standard to one that is grossly undesirable and non-breed standard.
(b) Breeding inferior horses (those with marginal or lack of quality).
2. Crossbreeding- A crossbred horse is one that is not purebred but carries the blood of another breed or other breeds. These horses may not ever be able to produce breed standard and generally do not. If it is breed stabilization one wants, these animals should not be used for breeding.
3. Throwback - This horse is a product of breed standard parents who in their distant past carried hidden mixed blood and in a rare instance produced an offspring that resembled that other blood.
4. Mutation or Dwarf - A sudden variation in some inheritable characteristic.
Dwarf - Abnormally small and out of proportion.

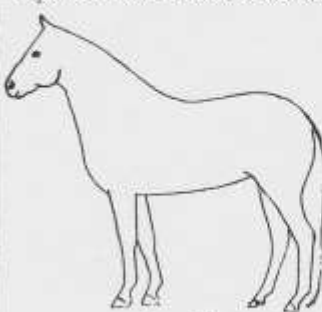
Horses from all four categories would be non-breed standard of varying degrees and should be dealt with accordingly. The horses in category #1 are able to produce breed standard progeny - the quality dependent upon the degree of negative inbreeding of the parent. The lesser of these horses should not be used for breeding. Horses in the other three categories would not be a good choice from which to choose breeding stock or breed representatives.

There is a saying, "What you tolerate soon becomes your standard." And maybe this is why there are so many "standards" within a breed. Let us take our eyes farther than the horses in our backyard. Look around the world. Research. Study. Regardless of what registration papers say, or what someone might say, all horses stand as their own testimony, both in breed standard and conformation. Man must train his eye to be able to see what those horses are telling him.

Breed standard of such ancient breeds as the Iberian Horse (Spanish), Barb, and Arabian was established, for the first two, centuries before the birth of Christ, and for the later, by 700 A.D.¹ In those very early years, a bit of refining took place within the Spanish and Barb breeds, yet even today all three of these breeds still breed true to their ancient breed standard, provided they have not recently been generously infused with blood of other breeds. (Registration papers are not a guarantee of pure blood or authentic type.) Documented research of the ancient Iberian and Barb horse reveals the convex or ram-nose profile, the heavy, upright neck set upon an unusually long, sloping shoulder, the deep body and flank, the very round croup and hip, the lower tail set, and the refined legs (meaning not draft) that we see today in the Spanish and Barb horses that are free of outside influence.

This brings up an interesting point. Shoulder angle and length is a conformation point, yet has become so predominant in the authentic, well bred Iberian (Spanish) horse that it has virtually become a point of breed standard when speaking of Spanish horses. (One sees this shoulder in the well bred Peruvian Horses also.) And therein lies the goal: To combine breed standard with correct conformation until that conformation becomes so predominant that it can be included as breed standard. But this goal is theory only. No breed has ever attained it. People breeding horses are too careless in their direction. As a result, breed standard and conformation must remain in separated categories.

Spanish-Barb Breed Standard:



Spanish-Barb

Heavy, upright neck; deep body and flank; round croup and hip; smooth, long muscling; refined leg bone; legs free of feathering; fetlock hair lacking or sparse; facial profile slightly convex or ram-nosed; long, abundant mane and tail (various environmental factors may cause these to be lesser in length and thickness); height in the 14 hand range; weight average 950 - 1000 pounds. Because of the heavy neck and often present long, sloping shoulder, Spanish, Barb, and Spanish-Barb horses appear to have a predominance of weight of the forehead over the hindquarter, a body type that contributes to endurance in a horse.

1. The Royal Horse of Europe by Sylvia Loch (1966) pg. 54



A CONVERSATION WITH PAUL SZAUTER, PhD—Equine Geneticist

By Jane Dobrott

The SBHA has an exciting opportunity to participate in a program that will result in genetic sequencing of SBHA stallions at no cost and a chance to alleviate suffering in the horses of the American Paint Horse Association. The following explains what we are being asked to do:

Paul sat down with the SBHA group at 4Winds Equestrian Center during the Trainer's Showcase event in May 2016, at which our SBHA horses were being promoted. He additionally attended our 2016 Annual Meeting at which he gave a fascinating and thought provoking presentation.

Paul explained that he is working with the APHA, (American Paint Horse Association) to address their serious, high incidence, genetically inherited disease problems prevalent among popular stallions within the APHA (AQHA is also affected). Testing is available for five of the six genes responsible for their difficulties. These traits have been inadvertently concentrated in a few stallions that by their popularity have narrowed genetic diversity. One of the diseases, a muscle myopathy, which causes considerable pain, has led to the retirement of performance mares to brood mares because they were considered temperamentally unfit for competition, thereby compounding the inheritance of genes responsible for their problems.

Paul would like to begin an association with SBHA by performing genetic sequencing of Spanish Barb stallions to verify that they do not carry any genetically inherited disease. Our stallions could then be used to cross on APHA mares to eliminate inherited diseases, to increase genetic diversity, and restore lost versatility in the breeding stock. As he explained, a bottle neck of concentrated genes has been created through the popularity of certain stallion lines. Also, because individual horse lines have been long specializing in one performance event they have lost the ability to excel at more than one discipline. Our demonstration at 4Winds pointed out that our horses are able to perform in several, diverse disciplines and have sound and serviceable conformation as well as willing, sensible dispositions. Kathleen Bellemare and her horse,

"Whipper" demonstrated advanced liberty ground and riding work that showed their enviable partnership through natural horsemanship, a task at which our horses excel.

What has happened in the APHA Horse industry

should serve as a timely warning to us to be responsible breeders whose goal is to preserve and maintain genetic diversity. The Spanish Barb is of special interest to EquiSeq because they are one of very few breeds today that do not have Arab or Thoroughbred blood. The fact that the Barb was used in the foundation of both the

AQHA, (American Quarter Horse) and APHA. There will be no cost to owners of breeding stallions for the gene sequencing and the results could create more value for SBHA stallions. In the future, according to the results of sequencing, semen will be frozen at no cost as well. EquiSeq will be creating income through the APHA.

This is an opportunity to help alleviate suffering in the horses of the APHA, to support responsible breeding and hopefully create respect for the APHA foundation horse, the Spanish Barb.



Kathleen Bellmare & "Whipper" in Liberty demonstration.

(Continued on page 9)



OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR SPANISH BARB INFORMATION FROM EQUISEQ:

EquiSeq is an equine genetics company that analyzes the genetic material of horses to improve breeding. As part of our effort to identify deleterious genetic variants that affect the health of Quarter Horses and related stock breeds, we are interested in surveying the normal genetic variation in a variety of breeds. We are especially interested in Spanish Barbs because of their contribution to the genetics of Quarter Horses and because prior genetic analysis has shown that they are free of Arabian and Thoroughbred admixture. While this project will be undertaken primarily to improve the breeding of Quarter Horses and related breeds, it will also produce a large amount of information on the genetic variation found in Spanish Barbs. This information may be useful in conservation breeding of Spanish Barbs.

We seek owners of Spanish Barbs who would be willing to enroll their horses in this project. Owners will be asked to sign an informed consent form, provide health and pedigree data, and provide hair samples. All expenses will be covered on hair analysis. In some cases, we may ask for owners to provide blood samples (a 10 ml EDTA blood draw). If you own one or more Spanish Barb stallions and are interested in participating, please send a request to participate to pszauter@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this.

Paul Szauter, PhD
Chief Scientific Officer, EquiSeq

Where Are They Now? —Rosendo Survives & Thrives

In April of 2003, the Dixon family was shocked when their very pregnant foundation Wilbur-Cruce mare (at least 20 years old at the time) produced TWINS. The filly, Sofia was normal sized, but little Rosendo weighed only 25 lb. Thanks to the dedication of the Dixon's, their veterinarian assistance, & their daughter Ashlyn who kept "Rosie" in her bedroom for 24/7 care, Rosie is alive, well, short (12 hands) but leading an amazingly normal life. He was recently purchased by Beth & Alfredo Mendivil and is learning to become a serious trail pony. His sister is also well with her owner near Rodeo, NM.



Clockwise from top left: Rosendo with Marjorie Dixon, Sofia & Rosie at 1 year with Kay Hughes, Rosie now with Alfredo Mendivil, both twins, Rosie exhausted from visiting in Ashlyn's bedroom.



Members Enjoying their Spanish Barbs



Top: Katie White on Fabiana, Middle: Alfredo Mendivil on Hermoso, Polly McLain & Nickel, Beth Mendivil & Lorenzo. Bottom: Claire O'Neill & Calabasa, Heidi Collings & Tizwin, Mariposa & Cauleen Svanda, Cerro & Kay Hughes, Perico & Becky Boyd, Nickel & Polly McLain and Lexi.



2017 Promotional Events in New Mexico

Fall Harvest Festival at Los Golandrinas, Santa Fe



Claire O'Neill and Calabasa



Kathleen Bellmare on Orejano, Claire O'Neill on Calabasa

New Mexico Trainer Showcase & Horse Expo



Clockwise: Ann Kirk-Schweitzer on Gabbie, Steve Dobrott & Orejano, Kathleen Bellmare on Whipper, Jane Dobrott announcing, Steve & Jane Dobrott riding with Padre Johnny and his matched pair of Tobiano draft horses.



Babies



Faline
(Cococito
de la Saba-
na x Pilar
Wilbur)
with own-
er Esha
Mork



"Fiesta" (Cococito de la Sabana x Elvira) owned by Louise & Doug Novak

Congratulations to the proud owners/
riders, Alana Carden and
Rosemary Gordan Panuco



Alejandro and Jose Juan showing off their year end
RESERVE CHAMPION RIBBONS
for the Tucson Dressage Club



SBHA
PO Box 256
Pomerene, AZ 85627