



Show HORSES



by Margaret Fetty

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An Olympic Ride

It was the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. The Australian **equestrian** team was leading Great Britain by just a few points in the **three-day event**. Andrew Hoy and his horse, Darien Powers, entered the **ring**. Hoy, the last Australian rider, knew that they needed to jump well in order to win.



Andrew Hoy and Darien Powers

Hoy and his horse began the **course**. They easily cleared the first few **fences**. Everything was going well until they got to fence 8. As Darien Powers jumped, two **rails** fell and clattered into the dirt. Then, at fence 11, another rail fell. There were only two fences left. Darien Powers would have to clear both of them in order to win.



Andrew Hoy and Darien Powers complete a jump in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.



The fences that horses jump are often made with colorful poles, boards, bricks, or shrubs.

Going for the Gold

Hoy steadied Darien Powers. They cleared fence 12. The last fence was just steps ahead.

Hoy gripped Darien Powers with his legs. The horse leaped up. His back legs pushed the two of them high into the air. They sailed over fence 13 and raced to finish the course. The Australian team won the gold medal!



The Australian three-day event team celebrates their gold medal win in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

Even before winning at the Olympics, Darien Powers was a successful show horse. He had **competed** in many events around the world. Like other show horses, Darien Powers had speed, strength, and courage. Yet he was also calm and had good manners. Together, he and Andrew Hoy made a winning team.



Equestrian events are one of the few sports where both men and women compete together.

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About the Author

Margaret Fetty has written numerous children's books. She lives in Austin, Texas, where she enjoys running and biking.

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It was the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. The Australian equestrian team was leading Great Britain by just a few points in the three-day event. Andrew Hoy and his horse, Darien Powers, were on the course. At fence 8, Darien Powers jumped and two rails fell. Then another rail fell at fence 11. There were only two fences left. Darien Powers would have to clear both of them in order to win. Would this show horse make it over and win the gold medal?

Look inside to learn more about show horses and how these amazing, athletic animals train to become world champions.



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