

I love a parade!

There's something about taking the most beautiful horse in the world (yours) downtown for the whole world to see. I'd like to thank all of the Houston-area Andalusian and Lusitano owners who have joined me during the last 10 years to represent IALHA at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Parade, one of the largest in the nation. We have been seen in person and on television by nearly 1.5 million people each year.



Amuleto VO stepping before the band.



Parade Regalia



This year, I was happy to feature the Woodlands Equestrian Club, owned by friends Antonio Renilla and his daughters Ana and Marta, which specializes in training Iberian horses in sport horse disciplines. Also joining us were the Consul General of Spain, Miguel Angel Fernandez de Mazarambroz, and several other riders from WEC.

It was the first-ever parade for many of the horses, including my 6-year-old palomino Lusitano stallion Amuleto VO, and 5-year-old Andalusian gelding Mistico TP, owned by Marta Renilla and ridden by her father, Antonio. Marta rode Brumoso, a PRE stallion from Spain, while Anartz Chanca rode Viviano, a PRE stallion owned by Rancho La Passion. Amuleto VO, Brumoso, Mistico TP and Viviano have all been schooled in dressage by Marta Renilla, which is unique preparation for riding through downtown Houston directly in front of the Sonic Boom Band.

Just as we entered the parade in front of the Alley Theatre, we had a dicey moment or two when the float in front of us stalled, and the band behind kept on coming. However, the brains, adaptability and courage of the Iberian horse prevailed, even in the face of approaching flags, floats, tubas and kettle drums. Once we started moving again, all of the horses seemed to enjoy the experience.

Riders who would like to join us in 2012 should email lgrahamwwl@gmail.com no later than January 1. **► AM**