

## Ivory Pal Pays Tribute to Elvis at Equifest 2008

By Kathleen Heinz

Elvis Presley was and remains one of the most recognizable men on the planet and is considered by many to be the greatest entertainer ever. Elvis also had a great fondness and love for horses. He owned several horses, including Tennessee Walkers, as he loved to watch them work. To this day, it is Graceland's policy to always have horses on its grounds as a tribute to Elvis.

Legend has it that Elvis' dream was to own a golden palomino stallion. Elvis would get up at 3 am in the morning, ride around the Tennessee country side, and stop at certain farms and ranches and ask, "Do you have a Golden Palomino for sale?" At Equifest 2008, which was held at the Lake Helen Equestrian Center on April 12, 2008, Ivory Pal, the golden palomino Tennessee Walker



stallion, paid a moving and emotional tribute to Elvis by performing a breathtaking musical free style to Elvis' song, "If I Can Dream." The audience, which was in excess of 3,000 people, cheered and applauded as Ivory Pal performed his signature moves perfectly choreographed to the music, while decked out in tack full of rhinestones that truly made him look like an Elvis horse. Rafael A. Valle, who rode Ivory Pal in a matching white rhinestone jumpsuit, stated, "Elvis gave so much of himself as a person, entertainer, and humanitarian to all of his fans, that Ivory Pal and I just wanted to pay tribute to him and give back to him a very small part of what he gave and continues to give to the world."

David Ellinor, an Ivory Pal fan stated, "Ivory Pal's tribute to Elvis was amazing! The choreography really showcased the athletic abilities of both horse and rider and the music selection of 'If I Can Dream' was perfect. However, the most important aspect that I witnessed that day in the arena was the partnership and relationship that Rafael and Ivory Pal exhibit. Yes, you can actually see it.....even if you are not fluent in horse language. Ivory Pal has an immense amount of enjoyment in what he does. Ivory Pal seems to thrive on and cherish his role as a performer and entertainer. It was obvious to all in attendance that Ivory Pal put his heart into paying tribute to Elvis and performing for his large fan base."

In between performances, Ivory Pal was kept busy greeting the hundreds and hundreds of fans that came to Equifest 2008 to catch a glimpse of and have their pictures taken with this amazing and charismatic stallion, who was kindly referred to by some of his fans as the "golden Pegasus."

Judy Thompson, coordinator and promoter of Equifest stated, "Ivory Pal has been a great favorite of thousands of Equifest attendees over the last couple of years. His great beauty coupled with a kind, loving, patient temperament makes him the ideal equine participant for a family event like Equifest. He represents the best of his breed and is a compelling ambassador for the equine world at large. Ivory Pal is simply a dream of a horse, and we look forward to his participation at Equifest 2009."



**For more information on Ivory Pal, please visit [www.IvoryKnollRanch.Com](http://www.IvoryKnollRanch.Com)**

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