Titel: **Stud Kladrubyr**
Duration: **5'35''**

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Content:

When Norbert Zalis, head of the stud, presents his favourite stallion, he tends to fly off the handle. The family of the horse Generale Proxima can be traced back to more than 13 generations, more than 200 years. A family tree that is perfect for the oldest stud of the world.

Text:

When Norbert Zalis, head of the stud, presents his favourite stallion, he tends to fly off the handle. The family of the horse Generale Proxima can be traced back to more than 13 generations, more than 200 years. A family tree that is perfect for the oldest stud of the world.

The remoteness of the Czech province has helped overcome turmoils of the last century undamaged. Today, the stud is owned by the state, just as the national bank or the mail, and cannot be privatized.

The Kladruby horses were declared cultural heritage. The 400 white and 300 black horses are protected heritage, the world's only cultural heritage that is alive.

Rudolf the Second, ruler of Bohemia, brought the horses back from Spain and founded in 1579 "His emperor's grace stud in Kladrub upon Elbe".

Kladruby horses were raised exclusively for the court in Vienna in the Czech province in order to draw the emperor's carriage.

Monarchies and their horses – the different mentalities of Habsburg or Prussia can also be seen by their choice of horses.

Quote: Norbert Zalis
"While Emperor William loved trotting to Potsdam with horses from Orloff, Franz Joseph preferred using Kladruby horses, travelling pompously and slowly so that his subjects could enjoy the show for which they had waited for hours."

Whether winter or summer time – horses from Kladruby spend their days outside. In the morning they are driven to the pasture of the 2,000 hectare stud. They live in big herds, for they should live their aggressions when they are together and not when they are with humans. The Kladruby horses are said to be one of the most good-natured horses. Visitors of the stud are allowed to walk freely between the herd. You can do that nowhere else. In Kladruby the horses get a positive picture of human beings immediately after their birth.

Quote Norbert Zalis

"Normally horses are animals of the steppe. When they became pets, people put them into stables and thus they became animals of the cave. If a mare now gives birth to a foal and someone enters the box, he is seen as an invader. And that is why we now work with Konrad Lorenz's method. As soon as possible, the mare and the foal are brought into a spacious part of the stud by one of the keepers. In this way, the foal will integrate human beings into its peaceful picture of the world. That will last a lifetime."

The horses start, relatively late, at the age of four, with their 12-month training. The objective is to draw heavy loads in a calm and steady way. And thus the horses do laps after laps pulling180 kilo sleighs.

Beginning of the training session for the Kladruby carts of the new season. Since the fall of the wall, the Czechs have been participating in international tournaments and the horses and riders from Kladruby are renown in the horse racing scene.

Athmo: Coach Felix Auracher

"Giving again and again. Give and take. You have to feel what the horses want to feel in their mouth. It should not be the other way round."

When Felix Auracher was still active, he was one of the best German cart racer. Today, the 57-year old man is the coach of the Czech national team. With few calm words he puts the finishing touches to the horses and the cart drivers. Like for the riders, there are different disciplines, such as dressage, steeplechase with challenging courses or marathon.

Kladruby is the oldest stud of the world. Even tiny little details have their tradition. The floor of the stable has always had this pattern. Nobody knows why, however, everybody is told to do it exactly that way over and over again. 200 people work in Kladruby. And they have 700 horses, which is a real luxury compared to other studs.