

# USHWA announces Dan Patch Award-winning trotters!

December 19, 2018, from the U.S. Harness Writers Association

**Harrisburg, PA** — Hambletonian-winning filly Atlanta led a distinguished group of trotters named division champions in Dan Patch Award voting released Wednesday (Dec. 19) by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Atlanta received 96.1 percent of the votes for best 3-year-old female trotter, the highest total among the six trotting honorees.

Also named division winners were 2-year-old colt Gimpanzee, 2-year-old filly Woodside Charm, 3-year-old colt Six Pack, 6-year-old gelding Homicide Hunter, and 4-year-old mare Ariana G.

Ariana G, who received the nod for best older female trotter, was the only repeat winner. She collected her third trophy and joined CR Kay Suzie (1994-96) and Peace Corps (1988-90) as the only female trotters to receive a Dan Patch Award at ages 2, 3 and 4.

A total of 130 Dan Patch Award ballots were returned by the U.S. Harness Writers Association's membership this year. Dan Patch Award winners will be honored at the organization's banquet Feb. 24 at Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Fla., at which time Trotter, Pacer, and Horse of the Year will be announced.



Divisional pacing champions will be announced at noon Thursday (Dec. 20) during a live stream broadcast on the Facebook pages of both the U.S. Harness Writers Association and U.S. Trotting Association.

**Hambletonian winner Atlanta was honored as the top 3-year-old trotting filly by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Mark Hall/USTA photo.**

**Atlanta**, who received 125 votes, became the first filly to win the Hambletonian since 1996 when she captured the \$1 million final Aug. 4 at the Meadowlands. Trained by Rick Zeron and driven by his son Scott, she won eight of 14 races this year and earned a division-leading \$1.01 million. Her victories also included the \$320,000 Kentucky Filly

Futurity and \$238,613 Empire Breeders Classic. She finished second in the \$500,000 Breeders Crown.

A daughter of [Chapter Seven](#) out of Hemi Blue Chip, Atlanta is owned by Rick Zeron, Michelle and Al Crawford's Crawford Farms, William Holland's Holland Racing Stable, Howard Taylor, and Brad Grant. She was bred by Order By Stable.



In the division for the 3-year-old colts and geldings, **Six Pack** received 54.6 percent of the vote in the closest balloting among trotters. He outdistanced runner-up Tactical Landing, 71-46.

Six Pack, a son of [Muscle Mass](#) out of Pleading Lady, won 11 of 15 races this year and earned a division-best \$1.15 million.

**Six Pack earned top honors among 3-year-old male trotters. Mark Hall/USTA photo.**

His triumphs included the \$620,000 Kentucky Futurity, \$500,000 Yonkers Trot, \$223,673 Empire Breeders Classic, \$210,150 Matron Stakes, and a \$181,000 division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial. His winning time of 1:49.1 in the Kentucky Futurity final is the fastest mile ever by a 3-year-old trotter.

Åke Svanstedt trained and drove Six Pack in addition to owning the colt with Jeff Gural's Little E LLC, Tomas Olofsson's Stall Kalmar FF, and Lars Berg. Six Pack was bred by Brittany Farms.



**Ariana G** added to her hardware collection by receiving 63.8 percent of the vote for best older female trotter, finishing 50 votes ahead of second-place Emoticon Hanover.

**Ariana G became a three-time Dan Patch Award winner after also winning divisional honors at 2 and 3. Lisa Photo.**

Ariana G was trained by Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter, who retired at the end of the season, and posted victories with drivers Yannick Gingras, Brian Sears, and David Miller.

The homebred mare, a daughter of [Muscle Hill](#) out of Cantab It All, won five of 14 races this year and earned a division-leading \$597,802 for owners Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld. She beat male rivals in all her wins, including the \$405,850 Hambletonian Maturity and \$250,000 Graduate Series championship, which were for 4-year-olds, as well as the \$150,000 Dayton Trotting Derby and an elimination of the Maple Leaf Trot. She finished third in the Maple Leaf final.



**Homicide Hunter**, the fastest trotter in history thanks to his 1:48.4 winning mile in the Allerage Farms Open on Oct. 6 at Red Mile, received the Dan Patch Award for best older male trotter with 73.8 percent of the vote.

**Homicide Hunter earned Dan Patch accolades as Older Male Trotter of the Year off the heels of his 1:48.4 mile at Red Mile. Mark Hall/USTA photo.**

Marion Marauder, the division's 2017 champion, was the only other vote-getter.

In addition to winning the Allerage, Homicide Hunter captured the \$500,000 Breeders Crown, \$200,000 Charlie Hill Memorial, and \$100,000 Great Northeast Open Series championship. George Napolitano Jr., Aaron Merriman, and Brian Sears each had a Grand Circuit victory with the Chris Oakes-trained gelding. Homicide Hunter, a son of [Mr Cantab](#) out of Evening Prayer, is owned by Michelle and Al Crawford's Crawford Farms Racing and was bred by Patrick Graham.

**Gimpanzee** and **Woodside Charm** were undefeated, marking the first time both 2-year-old trotting champions completed unblemished campaigns. They also were the two richest 2-year-old trotters this season.

Marcus Melander-trained Gimpanzee, who got 90 percent of the vote, dominated the New York Sire Stakes circuit, winning six preliminary rounds and the \$225,000

championship, before finishing his season by winning his Breeders Crown elimination and the \$600,000 final.

His 9-for-9 performance resulted in earnings of \$591,358 for owners Anders Ström's Courant Inc. and Lennart Agren's SRF Stable. Brian Sears drove Gimpanzee, who became the first undefeated 2-year-old male trotter to receive a Dan Patch Award since [Wheeling N Dealin](#) in 2012. Gimpanzee, a son of [Chapter Seven](#) out of Steamy Windows, was bred by Order By Stable.

Woodside Charm, who received 93.8 percent of the vote, won all seven of her starts for owner-trainer-driver Verlin Yoder. Her wins included the \$600,000 Breeders Crown and \$236,000 Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stakes. She also won a division of the New York Sire Stakes at Saratoga in 1:53.4, the fastest mile ever by a 2-year-old trotter on a half-mile track.

A daughter of [Chapter Seven](#) out of Fireworks Hanover, Woodside Charm was bred by AV & Son Bloodstock. She became only the second unbeaten 2-year-old filly trotter to win a Dan Patch Award, following 2017 honoree Manchego.

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### **2-Year-Old Male Trotter**

**Gimpanzee** (117 votes/90 percent)

[Chapter Seven](#) – Steamy Windows – [Muscle Massive](#)

**Yearling price:** \$170,000 under the name Army Of Monkeys at Standardbred Horse Sale

**Breeder:** Order By Stable

**Owners:** Courant Inc., SRF Stable

**Trainer:** Marcus Melander **Driver:** Brian Sears

**Races:** 9-9-0-0 **Purses:** \$591,358 **Mark:** 1:54.3 at Vernon Downs

**Top wins:** \$600,000 Breeders Crown; \$225,000 New York Sire Stakes final

### **2-Year-Old Female Trotter**

**Woodside Charm** (122 votes/93.8 percent)

[Chapter Seven](#) – Fireworks Hanover – [Muscles Yankee](#)

**Yearling price:** Private

**Breeder:** AV & Son Bloodstock LLC

**Owner:** Verlin Yoder

**Trainer:** Verlin Yoder **Driver:** Verlin Yoder

**Races:** 7-7-0-0 **Purses:** \$521,658 **Mark:** 1:53 at Pocono

**Top wins:** \$600,000 Breeders Crown; \$236,000 Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stakes

### **3-Year-Old Male Trotter**

**Six Pack** (71 votes/54.6 percent)

[Muscle Mass](#) – Pleasing Lady – [Cantab Hall](#)

**Yearling price:** \$30,000 at Lexington Selected Sale

**Breeder:** Brittany Farms

**Owners:** Åke Svanstedt Inc., Little E LLC, Stall Kalmar FF, Lars Berg

**Trainer:** Åke Svanstedt **Driver:** Åke Svanstedt

**Races:** 15-11-2-1 **Purses:** \$1.15 million **Mark:** 1:49.1 at Red Mile (world record)

**Top wins:** \$620,000 Kentucky Futurity; \$500,000 Yonkers Trot; \$210,150 Matron Stakes

### **3-Year-Old Female Trotter**

**Atlanta** (125 votes/96.1 percent)

[Chapter Seven](#) – Hemi Blue Chip – [Cantab Hall](#)

**Yearling price:** \$60,000 under the name Django Unchained at Standardbred Horse Sale

**Breeder:** Order By Stable

**Owners:** Rick Zeron/Crawford Farms, Holland Racing Stable, Howard Taylor, Brad Grant

**Trainer:** Rick Zeron **Driver:** Scott Zeron

**Races:** 14-8-5-1 **Purses:** \$1.01 million **Mark:** 1:50.3 at Vernon Downs

**Top wins:** \$1 million Hambletonian; \$320,000 Kentucky Filly Futurity

### **Older Male Trotter**

**Homicide Hunter** (96 votes/73.8 percent)

[Mr Cantab](#) – Evening Prayer – Like A Prayer

**Yearling price:** Homebred, sold privately at age 4

**Breeder:** Patrick Graham

**Owner:** Crawford Farms Racing

**Trainer:** Chris Oakes **Drivers:** George Napolitano Jr., Brian Sears, Aaron Merriman

**Races:** 16-9-0-2 **Purses:** \$605,770 **Mark:** 1:48.4 at Red Mile (world record)

**Top wins:** \$500,000 Breeders Crown; \$200,000 Hill Memorial; \$145,000 Allerage

### **Older Female Trotter**

**Ariana G** (83 votes/63.8 percent)

[Muscle Hill](#) – Cantab It All – [Cantab Hall](#)

**Yearling price:** Homebred

**Breeders:** Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld

**Owners:** Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld

**Trainer:** Jimmy Takter **Drivers:** Yannick Gingras, Brian Sears, David Miller

**Races:** 14-5-1-1 **Purses:** \$597,802 **Mark:** 1:50.2 at Meadowlands

**Top wins:** \$405,850 Hambletonian Maturity; \$250,000 Graduate; \$150,000 Dayton Derby

Complete vote totals are available at this [link](#).