



# Wishful Tomcat hightails to victory in Discovery

by Rommy Faversham

After taking a slim early lead, Wishful Tomcat opened up some daylight approaching the stretch and refused to give in late as he captured the \$110,100 Discovery Handicap (G3) by 1¼ lengths on November 22 at Aqueduct.



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

The Discovery was the first graded stakes score for the improving three-year-old Tactical Cat ridgling, who completed 1½ miles in 1:53.28 on a track rated as fast.

## WISHFUL TOMCAT

Wishful Tomcat entered off back-to-back wins in a pair of overnight stakes on turf at Belmont Park. He won the Floral Park Stakes by a head on September 24 and the John's Gold Stakes by a nose on October 23.

After losing his first five starts in races at seven furlongs or less, Wishful Tomcat has now triumphed in five of his last six races, all at distances of one mile or longer. He has earned \$280,509 in 11 starts.

Bred in New York by Anthony Grey, Wishful Tomcat is one of six winners from seven starters out of the winning Lord At War (Arg) mare Holy Wish. She also is the dam of Wishful Tomcat's three-quarter brother Uncle T Seven, by the Storm Cat stallion Freud. Uncle T Seven is a multiple stakes-placed winner this year as a two-year-old.

More recently, Holy Wish produced a yearling colt by Freud and a 2008 colt by Forest Camp. Her half sister Holy Land Band is the dam of Grade 3 winner Betty's Wish.

Lord At War (Arg) has been a noteworthy broodmare sire of late, particularly since his grandson Raven's Pass won the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) on October 25 at the Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita Park.

Wishful Tomcat's winning third dam Papal Decree produced 1985 Hopeful Stakes (G1) winner Papal Power.

His fourth dam Gris Vitesse was sent to France, where she annexed the prestigious Prix Jacques le Marois. Later, she produced the influential Roberto stallion Silver Hawk.

Wishful Tomcat hails from the fifth crop of the 1998 Hollywood Futurity (G1) winner Tactical Cat and is one of his sire's four North American graded stakes winners.

## Wishful Tomcat, ch. r., 2005

Tactical Cat 96 389 fis, 21 SWs SI 1.14 DI=3.80	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1272 fis, 167 SWs SI 4.08 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fis, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
	Terre Haute 89 5 wins, \$243,696, SW 9 fis, 1 SW DI=2.64	Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	South Ocean 67	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62
Holy Wish 93 8 fis, 1 SW DI=1.57	Lord At War (Arg) 80 10 wins, \$776,945 Champion 381 fis, 47 SWs SI 2.70 DI=1.22	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fis, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	Secretariat 70	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
	Holy Moly 84 1 win, \$4,290 10 fis, 0 SWs DI=2.17	Mia Dancer 74 12 fis, 1 SW DI=3.75	Crimson Saint 69	Crimson Satan 59 Bolero Rose 58
	General (Fr) 74 267 fis, 6 SWs SI 2.32 DI=1.12	Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	=Fortino II (Fr) 59	=Grey Sovereign (GB) 48 =Ranavalo III (Fr) 54
	=Lunade Miel (Arg) 74 14 fis, 1 SW DI=1.12	Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	=Chambord (GB) 55	=Chamossaire (GB) 42 =Life Hill (GB) 40
	Halo 69 724 fis, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Marshua's Dancer 68	Raise a Native 61 Marshua 62
	Papal Decree 76 12 fis, 1 SW DI=1.10	Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Looks Promising 68	Promised Land 54 Fluoresce 58
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	=Brigadier Gerard (GB) 68	=Queen's Hussar (GB) 60 =La Paiva (GB) 56
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	=Mercuriale (Fr) 65	=Pan II (Fr) 47 =Sirrima (GB) 55
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	*Con Brio II 61	*Ribot 52 =Petronella (GB) 55
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Good Will (Arg) 65	=Atlas (Arg) 55 =Gamlingay (GB) 46
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Hail to Reason 58	*Turn-to 51 Northridge 48
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Cosmah 53	Cosmic Bomb 44 Almahmoud 47
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Noble Decree 70	*Vaguely Noble 65 Hidden Secret 63
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Gris Vitesse 66	*Amerigo 55 *Matchiche II 56

After spending his first nine seasons at stud at Overbrook Farm in Lexington, Tactical Cat has been relocated to Diamond G Ranch in Edmond, Oklahoma, where his 2009 fee will be \$2,500.

So far, sons of Storm Cat have combined with daughters of Lord At War to produce five stakes winners including 2001 Oak Leaf Stakes (G1) winner Tali'sluckybusride, by Delineator.

Wishful Tomcat is a five-generation outcross. His pedigree does feature the 4X3 cross of close relatives Northern Dancer and Halo, creating 6X5 inbreeding to their common granddam Almahmoud.

The Discovery Handicap honors one of racing's great weight carriers, Alfred G. Vanderbilt's Racing Hall of Fame horse Discovery, who immortalized himself at stud when siring the dams of Bold Ruler and Native Dancer. Three of his strains appear in the top half of Wishful Tomcat's extended pedigree.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>