

"It Takes a Village" to Earn a World Championship

by Christine Woodford, DVM

June 14th, 2010 was a day that I will never forget. It was on this day that I earned a World Championship in Showmanship at the Pinto World Show. I could not have achieved that title on my own; it took a tremendous support system to earn that award.

I have been showing at the Pinto World Show for the past six years. The Pinto Association is a fun, family-oriented organization that offers a variety of classes.

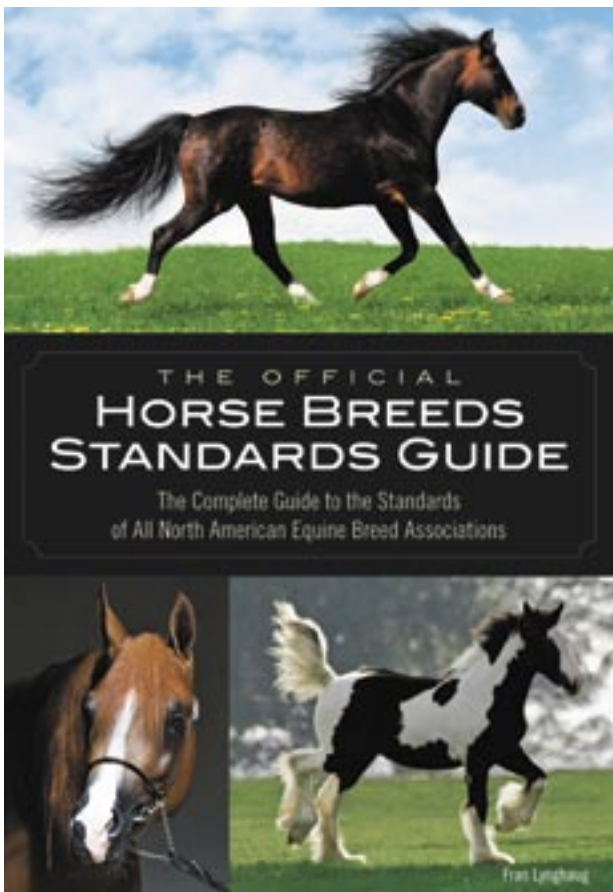
In fact in May, I was not sure if I would be able to show at the world show. My 8 year old gelding had injured his stifle and required arthroscopic joint surgery. His surgery went well and he had a favorable prognosis. But he had to be on stall rest, so showing him at the world show was now out of the question.

I had been working with one of our younger horses, who was progressing nicely, but not "locked in" enough to show at the world level. I was bummed that I would not be able to compete this year and had been talking with my good friend Linda Tucker. Linda, originally from Canada, is a college professor and lives in Arkansas. She and I had met at the Pinto World Show two years earlier and had kept in touch. When she heard



Many thanks to everyone in this "village," Tiffany included, who helped me to earn a World Championship in Showmanship

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Book Review

*Everything you ever wanted to know
and some things that you didn't know you didn't know!
(About Breeds of Horses)*

by Carol Eilers

"The Official HORSE BREEDS STANDARDS GUIDE" is rather a stuffy title for a very entertaining, fascinating, and informative read!

At first, I thought I would just look up the breeds with which I was familiar, and see what new things I could learn about them. They're all there: Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, Saddlebred, ... the breeds that we own, or our neighbors and/or friends show and love.

But what caught my attention was the fact that there are breeds in this book that I have never even heard of, such as _____

And then there were the facts about the breeds that I THOUGHT I knew, such as _____

I'm sure there are some folks out there who really DO know most everything there is to know about all of the horse breeds in the world, but I'm not one of them (or at least I *wasn't*).

The next time I go to a party and find myself in conversation with fellow horse enthusiasts, I plan on wowing them just a bit with some of my new-found knowledge about breeds of horses. Let's just hope I get the pronunciations right!

If there were 124 hours in every day, I still wouldn't get everything done. So the last thing I want to do is make more work for myself when it's not necessary.

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"Village;" (continued from page 31)

about the news of Jackson's condition, she made me an offer: to lease and show her horse, Tiffany Two Spots.

Tiffany is a 17 year old paint/pinto mare that had undergone a joint surgery to remove a bone chip in the fall of 2009 in Texas. I had helped counsel Linda through Tiffany's procedure and rehabilitation. Tiffany recovered 100% from her surgery. I was amazed at Linda's generosity in offering me her mare to show. Due to the distance between all of us, my only time to practice with Tiffany was going to be at the world show a few days before our class.

Upon arriving in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the show, Linda helped teach me Tiffany's cues for showmanship. A very wise horse person once told me that a well-trained horse and an educated rider can communicate from the word go, because they speak the "same language!" Tiffany and I have proven this statement to be true and we immediately clicked!

With the tremendous support and coaching from Linda, her trainers, my husband, and friends, Tiffany and I laid down a solid preliminary pattern in Showmanship and made it to the finals. We had achieved our goal to make it back to the finals. For the final round, I just wanted a clean pattern. Tiffany was awesome in the final round. She is such a well trained horse, I just had to remain calm and give her clear signals and together we had an amazing pattern. In fact when we stopped in front of the judges for inspection, she had already set up square on her own! All I had to do was set back, smile and show! That pattern earned us a Pinto World Championship in Jr. Amateur Showmanship. That was a day that I will never forget!

The most incredible thing about the whole experience was the support and generosity of the people that I have met and become lifelong friends with through the Pinto Association. When I wear my world championship buckle I am not only proud of the accomplishment, but also proud of being a part of a horse show organization with great people.

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