

20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with KATELIN CARTER



1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I am currently starting my own business training, breeding and showing Arabians.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

14.

3 They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

When I was 7 years old I wanted to start taking riding lesson, so my Mom found a barn right in town which turned out to be Kim Seward's arabian training barn. I learned to ride from the very beginning on Arabians.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

My favorite horse companion is my 11 year old stallion BG Firefly. I started him myself when I was 15 and this horse will and has, done anything and everything for me. You name it, he is game for it. He has national titles in western pleasure, working hunters and trail. He came third in his first 50 mile endurance race in 5 hrs 3 minutes, and he has competed extremely successfully in every cowboy obstacle competition we have entered.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

My horse mentor was absolutely my half arabian mare JM Golden Reflection. She gave me a lot of grief, she was a bolter, and certainly not a good show horse, but this mare taught me their language. Endless hours in a snowsuit in 3 feet of snow in our junky round pen showed me that there is more to riding horses than just getting on and going. I definitely credit this wonderful mare to most of my ability to read horses and communicate with them on a higher level.

6 What is your favorite horse book?

I was a huge pony pals fan growing up, I think I had just about every single one!

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

The black stallion, more truth to what a stallion will do in that story than many others.

8 What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

I love attending the big shows with my horses, Region 17 championships, Canadian Nationals and Scottsdale are my "Showcations" I get to spend a week with the most beautiful horses and fantastic "Show family". I like to equate us to a band of gypsies, always the same set ups, same people and horses and we all pack up and move to our next location for our next party!

9 What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

My current favorite moment was winning the HA/AA Western Pleasure Junior Horse class and Canadian Nationals. I was riding my 5 year old stallion BH Sandman whom I bought as a yearling and trained myself, with tons of help from the people around me, especially Carla Jackson, who gave me a lot of extremely valuable information and skills.

10 What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

My greatest achievement so far has been reaching a level in my training where I have wonderful clients who trust their horses with me, and to now have a group of national quality horses to show for their owners this season.

11 Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present?

I have had several dream horses and dreams for them. Every one is better than the last, when that horse makes my dreams come true, I go looking for a new outrageous dream!

My current dream horse is a 3 year old purebred reining prospect I hope to show in the futurities in 2016.

12 Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person?

Patience, oh my, patience... some of the worst rides you have on a horse are the best learning experiences, and I never take them for granted.

13 What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse?

Their incredible intelligence, I have had some great horses of other breeds, but nothing will ever beat my Arabs. I swear with some of them you just have to think it, and they are already doing it!

14 What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

I would say, if you want a horse that genuinely wants to be around people, not for food or pets, but solely for companionship, or if you want a horse that spends every minute of the day trying to please his or her owner, buy an arabian. Be prepared though, you are expected to give your soul to an arabian as he has to you. They bond fiercely and you cannot ever betray that.

15 What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

Find a riding stable who's main focus is fun! Safety and learning are very important but how can you learn to love a horse if it isn't fun? A great riding stable will bring you in as part of the family and not just another \$30 riding lesson,

and having a support network will pay off more than excellent skills or expensive horses.

16 Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share?

17 What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

I would love to show my horses, and my client's horses at US Nationals.

18 What about 'kids' and an Arabian horse?

I have seen some amazing relationships between children and Arabians. They connect with them on a level often missed by adults. Many Arabians will also change their behavior when a child is involved and take extra caution.

19 Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

Arabians have always let me show the world my best side, and when a horse trusts you as completely as mine do its an amazing feeling.

20 What are your words to live by?

Always be happy with what you have and where you are at, but never be satisfied. Keep dreaming, keep looking for the better method, and the greener grass, but never forget where you started.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Join us at the Western Canadian Breeders Championship the evening of Saturday, June 20, 2015 to see an amazing presentation of the arabian horse. ■