

20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with MCLAUGHLIN FAMILY

"I love to ride these horses anytime and anywhere ... living the dream with our Arabian horses. I love and cherish them." Grandma Diane, daughter Candace and third generation rider Alana (11 years old).



1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

Diane: My current involvement is that I am showing and starting my young horse MS Centaur. Also have bred our mare to Spitfyre VF for next spring.

Candy: I compete in Amateur Western Pleasure and like to trail ride.

Alana: I participate in lots of Arabian horse shows throughout the summer and I do all of my lessons on arabians.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

Diane: I have been around horses since childhood. Too many years to say.

Candy: Since I was about 10 years old.

Alana: I have been around horses my whole life and the first time I was on the back of a horse I was only 1 year old.

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

Diane: The Arabian horse found me through my daughter Candy.

Candy: I started taking riding lessons at a stable down the road that bred and showed them.

Alana: My family has had arabian horses since before I was born so I've grown up with them.



4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

Diane: My favorite is of course Billy Bob.

Candy: All of them! They have all been special and had something great to share and teach me.

Alana: My favorite horse companion is Billy Bob.



5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

Diane: My mentor is my husband, Lorne. He is the best horseman I know.

Candy: Everyone you ride with or watch has something to share!

Alana: My horse mentor is my aunt Candace. She has been giving me lessons for many years and I would like to grow up and be able to ride just like her.

6 What is your favorite horse book?

Diane: No one favorite but read every horse book I could get my hands on numerous times.

Candy: Black Beauty, even though it still makes me cry.

Alana: My favorite horse book is Arabian Legends.

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Diane: The Black Stallion.

Candy: Man from Snowy River.

Alana: I love the movie Flicka, but I also have many other favorites.

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

Diane: I show of course but I believe any activity is an Arabian one. Have used our Arabian horses for cattle penning, gymkhana, roping, cattle drives, mountain rides and anything else in between.

Candy: Showing mostly, but I've spent many hours in the mountains on them, cattle penning, you name it and they can do it!

Alana: I do lots of arabian horse shows and I ride in 4H with Billy Bob. We've done cattle penning, trail riding and lots of other fun things too.



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

Arabian horse?

Diane: My most memorable moment so far was last year at Canadian Nationals when Billy and I went Top 10 in the Western Pleasure Select on what was to be our retirement ride.

Candy: The first time I went Champion at Regionals, it took a long time to get there but so worth it.

Alana: My favorite memory happened a few years ago when Billy Bob and I were doing an exercise trotting over poles, we got going a bit too fast and he decided to jump clean over top of the poles instead. That was

unexpected, but exciting!

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

Diane: Winning The Sandra Lynch Trophy 5 times.

Candy: Finishing 3rd in the Amateur Owner Western at Canadian Nationals with Billy Bob.

Alana: My greatest achievement was at the Region 17 show in Calgary this past July, Billy Bob and I won a unanimous championship in Walk/Trot Hunter Pleasure 10 & under.

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

Diane: My dream horse is of course BILLY BOB.

Candy: I've never really picked one, hummmm lol.

Alana: My dream horse is Billy Bob! I love him!

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

Diane: I have been taught that you must have patience and understanding.

Candy: Work hard will pay off and patience.

Alana: My horse has taught me patience and understanding. I've learned how to ride and how to care for a horse. Everything I know about horses was learned by working with Billy Bob (full arabian) and Bubba, who is half arabian, and lives at the farm now.

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

Diane: It is totally rewarding partnership.

Candy: Their personalities, they may be more spirited than other breeds but it is so worth it!

Alana: Billy can sometimes be tricky, but he's a lot of fun and he's my good old reliable buddy. He's the best horse to work with.

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

Diane: They are the most understanding and lovable equine partner.

Candy: They are a great animal, they love people and there are so many disciplines that there is one out there for almost everyone.

Alana: I would tell them how great arabians are and how much fun they are to work with.

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

Diane: If they are brand new to horses to realize it is life long commitment just like any other animal. If they are not a 100% sure it is for them they should take lessons or lease a horse to start.

Candy: Take lessons first to decide what you like before purchasing.

Alana: If someone was new to horses, like many of my friends, I would tell them everything I know. Sometimes it's a bit scary but it's a very rewarding experience working with horses.



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

Diane: Not much of a book learner more of a hands on type person.

Candy: I don't read so much, I prefer to watch or participate in clinics. Watching in real life is always better.

Alana: I would recommend Arabian Legends, to share the history of the greatest Arabian horses.

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

Diane: One thing I would like to do. See one of our home bred horses win Red Roses.

Candy: One day I'll get a country horse ;)

Alana: When I get bigger, I would really, really, really like to attend the Equine Sciences program at Olds College.

18 What about “kids” and an Arabian horse?

Diane: As my three grandkids would say “They are the Best.” All three have learned to ride on our Arabian horses.

Candy: They are amazingly kind and forgiving. My niece and nephews are learning on our arabians and it's great.

Alana: I feel that if you put a kid with a new horse and leave them for about an hour and a half, they would most likely be friends afterwards.



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

Diane: They give me a rush because they are a part of our family lifestyle.

Candy: They are always happy to see me!

Alana: I get that rush when we get our work done and then I can play around with him after. I love to work with my horse, it always makes me feel good and I especially love to canter!



20 What are your words to live by?

Diane: Enjoy your horse no matter what you do with them.

Candy: "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." ~ Winston S Churchill.

Alana: I live by the words "You can't buy happiness but you can buy a horse, and that's pretty much the same thing!" ■