

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Callene Rapp of Rock Creek Paints in Leon, Kansas, tells the story of how she and her husband Eric got “into” quarter ponies.

I guess you could say Quarter Ponies found us. A mare I had purchased from the girl scout camp I worked with, and had bred to a local stallion gave us Color Me Fancy. We had never really intended to get into breeding, but after Fancy was born we realized what little jewels these small, good minded ponies were. Off we went, back to the girl scout camp and picked up two fillies, Blue and Sage, and the rest is pretty much history.

In 1995 we relocated to Kansas with the majority of our horses, which was an event, since we only had a two horse trailer and eight ponies to move. Since the move, we have worked to build our business and have enjoyed success helping match riders up with ponies that suit their personality and needs. We would rather miss a sale than match someone up with a pony that doesn't suit them.

The Quarter Pony size factor has been one of the most interesting challenges we have had to work with. Most people hear Quarter Pony, and think it's a “cross between a Quarter Horse and a Pony”. Not quite. Pony seems to be a “four letter word” to a lot of people. One of the major advantages to QP's is that they can grow with the family. Kids can ride them without outgrowing them, and then when they grow up or lose interest, mom and dad can still get many hours of enjoyment out of the pony.

One of the most significant ponies in our farm history is our stallion, Color Me Fancy. Without him we wouldn't be in the QP business! He has consistently thrown lovely babies with good minds, which is the most important quality for us. The most beautiful animal in the world is worthless if you can't be safe around it.

We foal imprint our babies and expose them to a variety of stimuli; dogs, cats, chickens, lawn mowers, and anything else that crosses my mind. I always say if your pony will tolerate what I will do to it, it will take everything else in the world in stride!

I have several “human interest” stories. One of my favorites is Kathy and Jazz. I met Kathy at Equifest of Kansas a few years ago. She was looking for a horse to replace hers that had recently died, but with a bad back, she was limited in what she could do horse wise as far as handling and mounting. Jazz is a lovely little 13.2 QP out of Fancy and one of my very first mares, Sage, who was a perfect match for Kathy. Jazz has volunteered with Kathy in some living history reenactments, and I don't think there is enough money in the world to part Kathy from Jazz. A couple of people have told me they have tried.

Two years ago we helped a couple of “over 40” novices fulfill a lifelong dream of horse ownership. Pepper and Beau, geldings from Sage and Blue, have proven to be reliable, devoted companions. Generally young horses and novice riders aren't an ideal match,

but Rock Creek Quarter Ponies are so laid-back and take so much in stride, novices can feel comfortable learning around them.

Rock Creek customers tend to be repeat buyers. Once they have experienced the quality of a Rock Creek pony, they tend to get spoiled and won't settle for less.

We provide customer service to everyone who buys one of our ponies for the entire time they own the pony. Any problems, concerns or issues, we are one phone call away.

IQPA DECEMBER SPECIAL

Ponies registered with IQPA California will be converted to IQPA Tennessee registration for free this month.

DON'T FORGET

Get your points in now to be considered for Year End Awards!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tami Platt and her Quarter Pony SmokinDoubleDutch have earned an Honorary Champion Title by completing ROMs in three separate categories (one must be in Halter.) The halter requirement is to insure ponies with correct conformation are emphasized.) We have several other ponies earning titles and all are listed on www.iqpa.com Accomplishments page.

Photo cutlines:

Baba:

Jana Lapin and last year's high point all around pony, Baba Barbara Ann, compete at the Missouri 4H State Fair.

Foal:

One of the beautiful Quarter Pony foals at Rock Creek Paints in Leon, Kansas.

Fancy:

Color Me Fancy, Callene and Eric Rapp's Quarter Pony Stallion.