Hello:)

I would like to nominate my gelding Kings Ransom  EE +/ for the PAHA special Arabian award.

He is a 23 year old purebred gelding with regional wins in Junior to ride, Junior Horse Hunter,  Dressage training level, 1st level, Western Pleasure, Ranch Riding, Western Dressage show hack and now a National Top ten in Ranch Riding.

I have owned King since he was 9, he was just a lesson horse for me until I fell in love and found out he was for sale. I found a way to purchase him and have had him since. He is an amazing trail horse, have camped out in the Allegheny National Forest, I have taught young children how to ride on him, he has been in photoshoots and a music video. He is that special horse I feel safe with anywhere. He rode his first owner down the aisle for her wedding for a remembrance of her parents that passed away. They bought King for her and while a young teen she was unable to keep him. Samantha and I kept in touch as I view her as much of Kings owner and person as I. I always update her on his amazing doings. When she asked this favor, I had to do it. King was put in a new situation, new place and in front of a hundred people with a huge wedding dress on his back and did his job as we knew he would...

At around age 10, he was having some balance issues in the backend...he was off. He had a look in his eyes and I just couldn't figure out what it was. After countless vet visits, I was told he needed to "muscle up". We continued to try that and one day loping around the arena, he lost his backend and we skidded across the arena. King scraped his chest, and his left eyelid. My left leg had a huge hematoma for weeks. It was black. My beautiful Victor work saddle had scrapes across the pommel. What the heck was wrong with my boy?

After some of my own research I found out about Lyme disease.  It wasn’t as prevalent as now but all of the symptoms looked familiar. I immediately sent the information to my vet and requested a Lyme test..after results came in from a three panel Lyme Test at Cornell it showed he had it. And according to my vet the highest titre she had seen. We immediately did two months of Doxycycline and the issues resolved. I kept up with immune care and also had routine testing every six months. All clear..

At About age 15 he was brought in from the pasture with a torn suspensory, and when brought to the New Bolton Clinic were told the news he had what the vet thought was the beginnings of DSLD which can be debilitating to a horse. I was told he may not ever be shown again. I was also told he needs to ride or may have further breakdown of the suspensory. After much of my own research, I found a company in Germany which offered a pdf file of a rehabilitation program for their platelet rich plasma. While I was told at the time this would not benefit my horse, I tried the program anyway. It was TEDIOUS.  First day was hand walking for one minute.  Next day two..and each day added a minute of time until we got to an hour. After that, sitting on his back and walking around the arena consisted of a 1/4 way around. Then 3/4 the next day...The idea was to make him strong enough to push but not push too hard. We got him back in a year and a half. Went to sport horse nationals and missed a top ten by an error. We stepped out of the arena.

A few years later. King would have tearing eyes consistently. Vets for years thought allergies. Give me some steroid ointment and it would go away. Unbeknownst to us, he had an underlying issue. Keratitis in both eyes. While at a PAHA social, we had a wonderful guest speaker like we always do. This time was Equine Ophthalmologist Dr Nikki Scherrer. She spoke of some commonalities with what was going on with King. A few days later we had an appointment set up with Dr Scherrer and she told us what was going on. He had eye surgery to remove tiny lesions that were growing on his eyeballs. This was causing irritation and making him tear and then it burned. The poor boy was miserable. After the surgery he had SPL lines sewn into his under eyes. This allowed the injection of medication at first 6 times a day. He was stabled at new Bolton's rehab facility where they did the medication around the clock. At 3 weeks we brought him home to find out it healed too quickly and actually had abscessed.  The eye needed to to be debrided. Another long three weeks and King was finally home. We still tried riding but couldn't keep sound enough for competing so King was retired and used for occasional trail rides.

I found another horse, Sammy thru my trainer and found King getting pretty jealous! After some time off I tried riding again and would take the two boys on trail rides with my friend.  I'd hop on King bareback and go. He got stronger and stronger and I decided to try a show this year after quite a while. We did in hand at Devon but was a while since we did any riding classes and not since 2013 or so an Arabian show. We went to the PAHA games, and met up with many old friends. We showed in everything we haven't done but wanted to. We did trail, Ranch Riding, borrowed my friend Angela's costume for the Native Costume class.  We had a ball, he stayed sound and actually won a few classes! I decided to take the boys(yes Sammy is his copilot!)  down to Virginia for the East coast Championships.  We won Ranch riding and Western dressage show hack. We had a ball.

My work was slow and we had time. The only thing King and I hadn't done was show at Nationals. While we would miss our absolute favorite thing to do and that is the PAHA judged Pleasure ride, which King won high point the last ride, we wanted to try Nationals.  We entered! We made the trip (Sidekick Sammy in tow as well) I did all the driving as I don’Geldingt trust anyone else with my precious cargo...my sweet boy King came in 7 out of 22 to make his first ever trip to Nationals with a Top Ten. Using my saddle that I skidded across the arena with. The saddle itself is a symbol. Symbol of determination.  Symbol of never giving up. Loving your horse and loving what you do every single day.

I hope you see how special this horse is. I think he is deserving for this special award as I think he is as special as they come.....

Thank you.

Adrienne Morella