

Missouri Quarter Horse Association

Member Spotlight

Julie Horton

My passion for horses started very early in life. I begged for a horse at Christmas and birthdays. Finally, I got a pony for my ninth birthday. We called him Dusty.

I was very active in 4-H as a kid, did lots of trail riding, and an occasional open show. In my early twenties I really had the urge to compete on a different level, so with trial and error I purchased a great little Quarter Horse named Heir Bar Cody. I learned so much and received my first ROM in Horsemanship with Cody. Cody and I were very successful in Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, and we even dabbled with Equitation. Also, I had always admired English riding and had a strong desire to learn to jump. After a few lessons, and before you knew it, I purchased a 16-hand gray gelding and began to make a plan. His name was Saint Flying Smoke, but I called him Ringo. I competed in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma on a regular basis. I went to the Congress several times and also the AQHA World Show. Ringo always placed! The highlight of my show career was receiving Reserve Champion in Working Hunter at the Congress in 2004. There were 57 in the class, and I knew we had a perfect ride. The feeling was amazing! Ringo was also Reserve Champion in Open Jumping the same year at the AQHA World Show. He was very talented to say the least. Ringo has since been sold and has gone on to win at the Youth World and the Congress with his new owner.

I have never quit riding, but I have slowed down. My focus now is on Hunter Under Saddle and Equitation. Learning about halter horses and fitting them is a part of my horse life now, too. I am currently working with a yearling for a longe line futurity.

In the past, I have been a member of MQHA and KQHA and a board member for Northeast Kansas Quarter Horse Association (NEKQHA) for several years while they were an active organization. I learned a lot about horse shows from helping behind the scenes. It takes a lot of work to have a show. Attending the MQHA banquet and convention this past January was enjoyable and very informative.

I truly love the smell of horses and enjoy every aspect of taking care of them. I have learned so much about the horse industry from being involved with AQHA and the people I have met through horses. I am really fortunate to have had talented, intelligent people, friends, and trainers in my life who have helped me reach my goals.

I have been self-employed all of my life and am a hair designer and skin care specialist at Studio 213 in Kansas City, Missouri. I also have a real estate license and work with Platinum Realty. Lee's Summit is my home town now. I am very partial to my nine-year-old nephew, Drake, and Gary's grandson, Darrin.

I am looking forward to the upcoming shows!

