

Quarter Horses

A Horse For All Reasons

By Moira C. Harris

Hardy. Delicate. Tough as nails. Beautifully refined. Obedient. Spirited. Athletic. Entertaining. Can one breed of horse be all of these things? It can—if it is the Quarter Horse.

The most popular horse breed in the world, the Quarter Horse is above all an equine known for its versatility. The Quarter Horse's skills can be found in every riding discipline and nearly every equestrian endeavor. Whether it is using its ground-eating stride on the racetrack, trekking through rocky outcroppings to help a rancher search for stray cattle, snaking through a pole bending pattern or performing canter pirouettes in an upper level dressage test, the Quarter Horse excels in just about everything it tries. The Quarter Horse, indeed, is a perfect partner for whatever its rider wishes.

The American Quarter Horse's history follows the path of the nation it hails from, starting with its Colonial origins as a sprinting racer and later as intrepid explorer of the Wild West. And, again mirroring America, the American Quarter Horse is a breed full of diversity, with different branches of the family tree focusing in very specialized sporting events. Yet the breed is adaptable, as countless owners can attest to their American Quarter Horses being teachers during the week, show mounts on weekends and family pets in the off-season.

Now the American Quarter Horse has extended its popularity to all parts of the globe. From Canadian Quarter Horses that have made their home north of the U.S. border, to European Quarter Horses, and even Quarters Down Under, this breed has brought its many talents to an enthusiastic international audience. By doing so, the American Quarter Horse has become an ambassador for its native land.

The publishers and editors of the award-winning monthly magazine, Horse Illustrated®, bring you this special Magabook® to celebrate this most illustrious breed. If you're a horse lover, a fan of Quarter Horses, or deeply involved with the breed, you'll enjoy this beautiful, fact-filled publication that is a perfect guide to the history, care and training of the Quarter Horse. It's a great resource, whether you are looking for a first horse who will be a patient instructor; your next competition partner who can take you to your goals; or a level-headed, kind-hearted friend to spend leisurely afternoons on the trail. If you currently own a Quarter Horse or see one in your future, you are one of the millions who know what it means to have a horse for all reasons.

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