

Hi guys,

I have not had a chance to touch base in a while. Archer and I did a lot of showing this year and we were invited to show at the International Friesian Horse Show this fall. There were 160 Friesians and Friesian crosses in attendance. At first I wasn't going to go. I felt that I would not be able to compete with that caliber of horse and rider.

It was just me and the two boys. There were show barns from all over the world. They rented entire barn isle ways. They came with trainers, grooms, stable help etc. They brought their horses in from giant air-conditioned horse vans. They had tables set up with all the accomplishments of their horses. Pictures, trophies, ribbons etc. Some of the isle ways had red or blue carpeting running down them and each horse had curtains on the stall which were in the barn colors. They all wore wool show blankets again in the barn colors. The owners were dressed to the nines and either sat at the tables drinking wine or up in the owners booth watching the show. The stable people cleaned the stalls, fed and watered the horses. The grooms slept in the barn at night and kept all the horses clean and pretty. The trainer worked the horses every day and when it was show time, the owner met them at ring side and rode the already prepared horse. Then gave it back to the trainer, who gave it to the groom who cleaned it up and gave it to the stable boy. It was really something.

I felt like an orphan. Here I come in my little trailer. Lugging tack, hay, feed and my two horses down their pristine barn isle. My horses covered in shavings from the night before, coats not matching, and no entourage. We had three stalls at the end of the isle. Two for the boys and one for tack and feed. The other owners did not even speak with me at first. Finally I got the boys cleaned up and settled in. Then I took a shower and got dressed to compete that first night.

I was so scared. Our first class was a freestyle dressage. I had choreographed it to some Jazz music. There were 9 horses in this class. Archer was right on and I felt that we did well. I could not believe it when we won the class and got a world championship. I cried when they put the yellow roses on him and had me take a victory lap. We showed for 5 days. We won another World Championship in Trail. We got a top 5 in Western pleasure, a reserve champion in English, World and Reserve Championship in conformation/showmanship. (Archer world and Remy reserve world). Both boys went thru a Kerring inspection and got 2nd premium, high merit with a performance star award.

By the third night of showing the owners were all coming out and supporting me while I showed. It was incredible. I never thought I would ever do something like this. Too bad you weren't there. There were a lot of owners and horses from Europe and I met a few trainers from Holland. It seemed like everyone spoke Dutch or German.

Anyway, I thought you would like this picture and story for your book. I never could have done this without you. I miss you both very much. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Great year in 2012.

Luv Ya Both!

Jeannine