

09/19/16

To Whom It May Concern:

We purchased our 13-year old Morgan, HD Redford, as a 4 year old for two reasons. We wanted a companion horse for my dressage horse Pookey and I wanted a horse my husband could safely ride. The criteria used to choose this companion horse included big (myself and my husband are both tall), sound, good feet and given the fact we were leaving VT, the home of the Morgan horse, I thought it appropriate we purchase one to take with us. I rode "Red" just once before purchasing him and found him green, barely able to do a canter transition but willing to try hard to do what was asked. He was also very sensible about being ridden in a completely new arena and out on a trail. His owner thought he had the temperament to be a good police horse but not a good dressage horse because he had very ordinary paces. No overtrack at the walk, no suspension in his trot and an ordinary canter.

So we moved the two horses to California and I started training Red on my own, with just one lesson a year on him, and concentrated mostly on getting lessons on my real dressage horse Pookey. I met Shayan at the end of 2011, just five years ago, and he said almost from Day 1 that Red had potential to do high school dressage. Four other trainers had seen me ride Red and none of them saw any real potential in him for dressage. He certainly had a great temperament and was extremely keen to learn if cookies were involved ☺

Shayan helped me train Pookey to Grand Prix from 3<sup>rd</sup> level, helping me to achieve my long time goal, and enabling me to successfully earn my USDF gold medal. In that time Red was still on the back burner with me teaching him things I learned from Shayan and Shayan riding him occasionally when he was used for teaching lessons. Despite the lack of focused attention, by the time Red was 11 ½ Shayan had trained him to do a beautifully elevated passage, classical piaffe, canter pirouettes, Spanish walk and clean flying changes (up to 2-tempis). Despite his physical limitations (a decent extended trot is still beyond our abilities), he has scored much better at Intermediate level tests than he did at 2<sup>nd</sup> level tests because he does have talent for the collected movements. As a result, we earned a 2016 scholarship from the Morgan Dressage Association to assist with our training at FEI level.

In late March of this year, I tore my ACL and needed Shayan to ride my horses regularly to keep them fit and trained. Red is far easier to ride than Pookey and I could ride him OK with a 'broken' knee so Shayan started riding Pookey for me and then about 4 months ago he started riding Red once a week. In that short time he has trained Red's passage from a 7 to a 9, his canter pirouettes from a 6 to a 9, finally built up his strength enough to canter in self-carriage, taught him to do a collected trot that has consistent rhythm and SUSPENSION (a true miracle) and helped to fix basic issues with his flying changes that were affecting his ability to do a clean line of one-tempis with no short striding changes. Now his left to right changes, which for 6 years have often been late behind, are beautiful big and consistently clean and I have no doubt Shayan will train his right to left changes to be just as good and then we will finally be ready for Grand Prix. The last miracle Red needs from Shayan is to learn to do an extended trot without rushing but I have no doubt Shayan in time will deliver that miracle also ☺

Sincerely,



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