

To prospective clients of Shayan Richet:

April 20th 2011

Shayan Richet has worked with my 12 year old Holsteiner mare and me for the last 3 months with excellent results. She is a powerful and opinionated mare that has the propensity to challenge authority and needs a steady, kind hand but definitive commands to gain her respect. Her training history included dressage and jumping between bouts of hoof abscesses and a significant injury that was causing her pain. After these issues were resolved she did not have a good work ethic because of the association of "work" with pain. The attitude she displayed during work outs would range from being cooperative to temper tantrums when the anticipation of pain, or maybe just hard work, resulting in spending part of each riding time to work though the resistance. Much time was spent encouraging engagement of the mind and body before actual enjoyable riding could begin.

I had been looking for a trainer that could work with both horse and rider to work through these issues and help us to become a successful horse and rider team. I needed some help with her to make riding both more enjoyable and be able to develop to the point to be able to reach our goal to compete in dressage/eventing again. I knew it would take an advanced rider with a strong dressage back ground to work with this mare. I also did not want to start with a trainer that would not be committed to working with a horse that was going to be a challenge. I observed Shayan for several months work with other horses at our barn and was impressed with the calmness of his demeanor with each horse and attention to working with each horse based on its needs to achieve relaxation, balance and collection at the trot and canter and lovely transitions between gaits.

Shayan spent 2 months riding her and working through the attitude adjustment and has now engaged her mind to respectfully accepting the bit, becoming light in the hand while developing the proper muscling to comfortably maintain her frame. With the proper carriage and muscling, the work ethic has improved tremendously.

I started riding her again after the 2 months and have taken just the first few lessons in the last month with Shayan to learn his studied and effective riding techniques to be able to maintain the amazing work he has accomplished with this mare. He has the dedication to see the training through for the enjoyment for horse and lessons with the rider to effectively mesh the team.

I am very happy with the results of Shayan's training and ongoing training with my riding and continued training with the horse. I highly recommend him and give the best possible recommendation to anyone interested in improving their horse's physical and mental balance and improve your riding skills. I plan to continue training with Shayan to help both Bliss and I continue to improve the fun level as well!

I welcome you to contact me if you have any questions regarding working with Shayan and the results I have experienced working with him.

Debbie Leverenz
Woodland, CA
530.559.7576