

From Suzanne Cartwright & Bailey

Riding with Shayan Richet has helped me accomplish two things that were really important to me. The first was to be able to ride with 15 other people on a cattle drive for 8 days in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming and survive safely and enjoy it. The second was to re-establish a riding partnership with my horse and to rebuild my self-confidence when riding him.

When I first met Shayan he assessed my strengths and weaknesses as a rider, and we worked mainly on learning balance and how to ride with the correct seat. I had lost a lot of confidence in my riding ability and had serious canter issues. Together with a well trained lesson horse (Missy), and his ability to teach me to ride by sitting "into" the horse, and not "on" the horse, by the end of 10 lessons I was trotting and cantering without stirrups and reins. That is truly amazing! Learning to balance myself on the horse using my mind and body together was awesome!

I have had my 16.1 hand Appendix Quarter Horse Gelding, Bailey, since he was 4 years old and he was trained excellently by an accomplished German Dressage instructor, and for many years while we were in training and showing things were fine. But when I brought him home to a barn closer to where I live and no longer wanted to compete things began to fall apart. I had lost a lot of confidence in my riding ability and my partnership and trust with my horse. We had serious canter issues. He would not pick up the correct lead. I could not trust him in the canter, he would sometimes run away with me, which terrified me because he was so powerfully built (and I'm only 5'3"), I never knew what he was going to do.

Shayan has worked with Bailey and me for several months now and what a change has taken place in my riding. I feel Bailey's movements in a way that was not possible before. I seem to have gotten balanced, so that each time I ask for the canter he slides right into the loveliest and most wonderful canter you can imagine, and I am with his motion the entire time. And Bailey trusts me, there is no running away—we are both finally relaxed. One of life's truly happy moments! Many, many thanks for your help.

Suzanne Cartwright

Virginia Beach, Virginia

757-407-0725

cartwrs1@evms.edu

