

I found Shayan in October 2008. He came highly recommended from a woman by the name of Karen Smith, who used him to work out some issues on her horse Seven. I originally hired Shayan to work on a problem I was having with a young horse named Remy. (See testimonial on Echoes of Rembrandt) Through that relationship, Shayan and I became friends and I introduced him to my other horse Warlord's Archer. Archer, an arab-friesian, who is my pride and joy. I had raised him from a weanling and at the time of the introduction to Shayan Archer was five years old. I was able to break him to the saddle myself and he could walk, trot and canter with relative ease. He did however have one bad issue, when cantering he would take hold of his bit and bolt. Archer is very large and powerful. He is built like a Friesian with the hotness of an Arabian. He is seventeen hands and about two thousand pounds. When he decides to bolt, there was no stopping him and this was very frightening to me. I asked Shayan if he would work with both of us. I had never had any professional riding instruction and had the desire to learn dressage. At the time I was not interested in competition, I just wanted Archer and I to have better balance and to achieve a higher level of riding. Shayan agreed to help despite my physical condition at the time. I was a forty-eight year woman. I had broken my back and smashed my pelvis in the past. I was recovering from near fatal auto accident just months prior in which I had lost all peripheral vision in both eyes and had reinjured my back. I was overweight and recovering from kidney cancer. I was a real mess and the doctors warned me not to ride. For whatever reason, this did not scare Shayan off and we began a journey that has led to many great things. Under his instruction I began to heal and slowly improve. Shayan motivated and inspired me to get over my fears. He instilled confidence and made me feel that I could be a good rider. He also saw the potential in Archer and started retraining him for me. It is now July 2010 and Shayan will be moving to California. He asked me to write him a testimonial and I have tears in my eyes as I think about all the things I have been through with him. We have shared so much. We have had many laughs and many tears. We have been there for each other through good times and bad. I no longer consider him just a friend, but a brother of the heart. I know that our friendship will last a lifetime. As for me and Archer, we are competing in many disciplines from state competitions , dressage, national trail horse competitions, cattle sorting to just plain riding and enjoying each other's company. We've ridden from the mountains, to the oceans and across the East coast. We have a barn full of blue ribbons and a partnership that will last forever and Archer no longer bolts. I never dreamed that we would be where we are today. As Shayan says "Archer is a Ferrari that I can go dirt biking on." As Shayan is leaving , within a year Archer is at 3rd level dressage. He excels in collection in all gaits, extension, fantastic in lateral work,at the trot and in canter. Shayan has put on a croupade as well, just in case something would happen if I was by myself on the trail. It is a High School dressage exercise where the horse double barrel kicks in a controlled manner and least but not last a beautiful consistent Spanish walk. His leads changes are flawless. He is being slowly introduced to work between the pillars.

Shayan has taught us to dance. I will miss him dearly and wish him the best that life has to give.

With Love and Great Respect,

Jeannine Foster

