

Have you ever had a dream come true? As a child I dreamed about riding horses. This dream continued throughout my life. I read books about horses, especially the "Black Stallion" books which only intensified my dream of riding a horse and of owning an Arabian horse. When I retired from my job at 62 years old, I had the chance to buy a six year old bay Arabian horse. I thought we would be great friends but I was greatly mistaken

At the stable where my horse, Aladdinn, was boarded I had a trainer for 4 months. Aladinn is a pure bred Arabian gelding of 6 years old at the time, with plenty of energy. I took my horse to my new barn on my property thinking I knew what to do with him. Several trainers/instructors briefly worked with us but to no avail. I finally gained some control of Aladdinn on the ground using Parelli techniques, but I could not ride him.

After five years of trying to ride him I gave up and decided Aladdinn would be a pasture horse and I would enjoy feeding him and working with him on the ground only. Aladinn was still hot, rude at times, bit me twice and tried to nip me on several other occasions. My farrier, Rachel, told me about a horse trainer/riding instructor who could train Aladdinn. I went to see him work with his horse Joe, a black quarter horse stallion. The way the horse was working was very pretty to see but I still was not buying it. My very first impression was that Shayan was a showman and charged too much money. I must say that by now I was very weary of so called "trainers"....

I later found out through my farrier, Rachel, that Joe was 14 years old seriously abused stallion, mad at the world that Shayan rescued. Rachel told me that Joe had a serious history of aggression with people. Shayan was the only one at the time at the exception of Desiree, who was working with Shayan to care enough to get on his back and to attend to his needs, as no one at that barn would even consider coming near him or even feeding him. Rachel kept telling me I should go back for a one on one talk with Shayan. He also did let Rachel ride Joe at some point. Finally I went to see him again. He was working with Joe. The stallion was quiet and worked very nicely. After all maybe Shayan disserved a little more credit. He sounded genuine and guaranteed his work.

After an evaluation of my horse, he said he could "fix" Aladdinn. Shayan convinced my husband who is not the easiest man to convince, that he could train me as well as my horse. I was now 70 but began to think that my dream just might come true. And come true it did!

It took a month for Aladdin to be safe for me to ride and another 2 to be trained to a standard Shayan could live with. I was still terrified to ride... The rides were sporadic due to the cold and inclement weather and Aladdin also had some health issues. We had some down time but all in all, It took me 3 months to relax and achieved a better balance and another 3 so that I could go through all transitions including cantering on my horse without being terrified. Recently I learned to work in collected gaits and can depart in the nicest collected canter from the walk. He is very comfortable and very willing. Aladdin has become a well balanced gentleman, calm and obedient. Shayan fixed his mouth in the beginning as well, I ride him with a smooth snaffle. He is a joy to ride. Aladdin is well behaved and I am no longer afraid of him. I feel so very confident and proud of him. If Shayan had not come to Chesapeake, VA, I would still have a fat, out of shape horse that did as he pleased.

Do dreams come true? They really do! Even if you're 71 years old, My dream came true because Shayan would not give up on me. He became extremely frustrated with me, not with my horse. Shayan never lost his patience with either of us and kept reassuring me that a day will come where I would get it. He did what he said he would do. He trained my horse and taught me to walk, trot, and canter on Aladdin. He also put on a slow and soft jog on Aladdin so that I can still ride him when I am 100! Without Shayan my dream would not have come true. I will always be grateful that Shayan came to Virginia. He's expensive but he's worth it!! California is in for a treat!!!

P.S.

I really appreciate you Desiree. Thanks for sharing Toro with me. God bless you as you become a great veterinarian.

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