

I heard Tommy give a talk at the Horse World Expo in Maryland. I hadn't known of him before, but as he spoke, I heard someone who was talking about my horse. The one that when my son showed him, judges would say that I should have him trained in dressage to teach him to go on the bit. That just happened to be what the talk was about.

A few months later, I gave the Garlands a call and explained about my 17 year old Morgan, and could they help and do some work with him. Tommy thought he could. So, down to VA went my horse. Tommy and Greg greeted me, and we talked as they settled CD in. What was it I wanted from CD? And they listened. I wanted to drive, but he needed to be on the bit first. I wanted to have a safe trail horse, safe for me to ride. My dreams of dreams would be to show, but that I believe in reality and would love a safe horse that went on the bit, could trail ride and then drive.

With weekly phone calls to Tommy, I heard what they were working on, and things were coming along slowly...but he was learning. It was possible to teach an old horse new tricks. (I thought he was talking about me, and then realized he hadn't seen me ride yet)

I finally got the go ahead to come down to ride. I noticed that while the barn was full, horses were on cross ties, being ridden or being washed, and everything was calm and quiet. The staff and clients were introduced and everyone was as friendly as could be.

Tommy talks about training with CPR, Confidence, Patience, and Respect. He and his staff not only train the horses that way, they treat everyone that way.

For my first lesson I loped, and then I cried. You see, my health is not the best, and I hadn't ridden in, oh 10 years, and maybe only to the trot. This time I cantered! I then filled them in on my health condition. I'm an eight year cancer survivor. I lost a lung and subsequently developed Congestive Heart failure. I had been told rather fatalistically, that I'll never run in the Olympics...and in fact I had great difficulty even walking to my barn some sixty feet from my house. To say the least, I was at times very depressed, and I had been heartbroken that my dreams might never be realized.

I've had lessons there while CD has been in training, and I cannot believe the horse I now have. Quiet, respectful, and a true pleasure to ride. Tommy, and everyone in the barn, have given me, not just a trained horse, but they have given me back my dreams and made them come true.

CD comes home this weekend. I'm thrilled beyond anything with what they have done with him, and with me. I look forward to having him here to ride more often with a routine I can follow and continue to ride with safety and fun. I will not miss my drive down on the weekends, but I will miss seeing everyone.

If you're looking for someone to train your horse, I don't think you can go wrong with The Garlands. Tommy is a true trainer, training any breed and most disciplines. He'll be getting my other pasture potato, hopefully, by summer to perform turning my dreams, yet again, into a reality.

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