

## Quarter Horses

### A Horse For All Reasons

By Moira C. Harris

Hardy. Delicate. Tough as nails. Beautifully refined. Obedient. Spirited. Athletic. Entertaining. Can one breed of horse be all of these things? It can—if it is the Quarter Horse.

The most popular horse breed in the world, the Quarter Horse is above all an equine known for its versatility. The Quarter Horse's skills can be found in every riding discipline and nearly every equestrian endeavor. Whether it is using its ground-eating stride on the racetrack, trekking through rocky outcroppings to help a rancher search for stray cattle, snaking through a pole bending pattern or performing canter pirouettes in an upper level dressage test, the Quarter Horse excels in just about everything it tries. The Quarter Horse, indeed, is a perfect partner for whatever its rider wishes.

The American Quarter Horse's history follows the path of the nation it hails from, starting with its Colonial origins as a sprinting racer and later as intrepid explorer of the Wild West. And, again mirroring America, the American Quarter Horse is a breed full of diversity, with different branches of the family tree focusing in very specialized sporting events. Yet the breed is adaptable, as countless owners can attest to their American Quarter Horses being teachers during the week, show mounts on weekends and family pets in the off-season.

Now the American Quarter Horse has extended its popularity to all parts of the globe. From Canadian Quarter Horses that have made their home north of the U.S. border, to European Quarter Horses, and even Quarters Down Under, this breed has brought its many talents to an enthusiastic international audience. By doing so, the American Quarter Horse has become an ambassador for its native land.

The publishers and editors of the award-winning monthly magazine, Horse Illustrated®, bring you this special Magabook® to celebrate this most illustrious breed. If you're a horse lover, a fan of Quarter Horses, or deeply involved with the breed, you'll enjoy this beautiful, fact-filled publication that is a perfect guide to the history, care and training of the Quarter Horse. It's a great resource, whether you are looking for a first horse who will be a patient instructor; your next competition partner who can take you to your goals; or a level-headed, kind-hearted friend to spend leisurely afternoons on the trail. If you currently own a Quarter Horse or see one in your future, you are one of the millions who know what it means to have a horse for all reasons.

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### Popular Horses: Quarter Horses Table of Contents

#### Editor's Note

A Horse for All Reasons

#### History Lesson

Learn how the American Quarter Horse became the most popular breed in the world.

By Sharon Biggs

#### Ultimate Versatility

Discover why the Quarter Horse is a multi-talented athlete for any riding discipline.

By Lisa Munniksma

#### Horse for Sale

Tips for finding your equine dream partner.

By Soraya O'Sullivan

**Built Quarter Horse Strong**

Quarter Horses come in many different shapes and sizes. Learn how conformation affects their ability to perform.

By Dale Rudin

**Legends of the Breed**

Read about 10 amazing Quarter Horses that have made the breed history books.

By Cynthia McFarland

**It's Show Time**

Thinking about showing your Quarter Horse? With the right preparation, plenty of rewards are waiting for you.

By Susan Morrison

**Groomed for Show**

If you're ready for competition, your horse will look his best with these expert grooming tips.

By Ange Dickson Finn

**Now Starring:**

**Celebrities and their Quarter Horses**

By Cindy Hale

**On the Job**

Here's a look at Quarter Horses that shine outside the show pen.

By Sharon Biggs

**Blazing New Trails**

Whatever your trail riding interests, you will find that your options have no boundaries.

By Jennifer Nice

**Quarter Horses Around the Country**

Hit the road and check out some of these Quarter Horse destinations during your travels.

By Amber Heintzberger

**Tack Check**

Take time to select the right tack, and your Quarter Horse will show his appreciation by being a pleasure to ride.

By Jennifer Nice

**Beauty Basics**

The tools and tips you need to keep your Quarter Horse looking great.

By Louann Chaudier

**Well Nourished**

Nutritional guidelines that will help ensure your Quarter Horse's good health.

By Marcia King

**Genetic Condition**

What American Quarter Horse owners need to know about hereditary equine disease.

By Nancy S. Loving, DVM

**Healthy ... All Year Long**

Keep your Quarter Horse in top form with this annual healthcare calendar.

By Kim and Kari Baker

**Grand Finale**

Ringo on Patrol in Southern California