

EQUINE SHINING STAR

Canada's Equine Shining Stars are the Canadian born and raised horses or ponies of any breed or discipline that deserve recognition for achievement in sport, recreation, work, breeding, or therapeutic endeavours.

WINNER

Amadeus Mozart Ara-Li*

Amadeus Mozart Ara-Li*, or "Moe," is a 1994 Morgan stallion owned by Dawn and Walter Brown of Collina, New Brunswick. Originally given to the Browns in utero as trade for training two horses, Moe introduced the Browns to the Morgan breed and has gone on to earn one of the highest achievements a Morgan can earn with the Canadian Morgan Horse Association (CMHA).

Moe began showing in the foal class at a local Morgan Horse show and continued showing in hand as a yearling and two-year-old. He then went on to show in pleasure driving, carriage driving, Western, and English, winning various championships, including many Justin Morgan Standard Classes. Moe loves to show, truly lighting up in the show ring. Driving and English riding are where he has excelled, and his favourite competition is obstacle driving.

In 2001 Moe received two Justin Morgan Medallions with 1000 points in the pleasure driving and driving general purpose divisions. To date, he has received five medallions for driving general purpose. In 2006 he earned the Superior Justin Morgan Honour for performance by earning 4000 points in a single division, and then in 2008 he earned a Justin Morgan Medallion for English general performance. In 2010 Moe finally



PHOTO: PAT PEARSON

Amadeus Mozart Ara-Li* is an Equine Shining Star for his exceptional achievements with the Canadian Morgan Horse Association.

earned the balance of points needed in Hunter Seat Pleasure to get a Justin Morgan Medallion in that division, even winning a championship class.

With four Justin Morgan Medallions in four different divisions, Moe was awarded a Superior Justin Morgan Honour for Versatility. This, combined with his total of over 8000 points over four divisions, earned him the title of Supreme, allowing the placement of an asterisk after his name. Moe is only the fifth Morgan to receive the Supreme Justin Morgan Honours



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Heart of a Hoofbeat

by Margaret Evans

- Do domestic horses behave like wild horses?
- Why do they band together?
- Do they have a leader, make friends and watch out for each other?
- What is a dominant mare? What is a bachelor band?
- Are they smart, can they solve problems and remember tasks?
- Why do we value them so much?

Heart of a Hoofbeat explores the natural behaviour of domestic horses and their close links to a wild ancestry. From our ancient fascination with them to a new understanding that horses as grazers contribute to healthy ecosystems, the book celebrates horses in their world and in ours.

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since the system was established in 1973.

In addition to Moe's CMHA Supreme and Versatility achievements, he has also been named Lippitt of the Year by The Lippitt Club, has received the club's Allen Major's Award for competition, and has been recognized as the Lippitt Morgan who generated the greatest amount of recognition for the breed in a single year.

"We never dreamed that unborn foal would be our horse of a lifetime... Moe was very sensible (in the show ring), settled into new surroundings well, and loved to travel. He would stand and wait patiently between classes resting, even sleeping in harness or when I was sitting on him. As soon as he went in the ring, he puffed up and exuded energy. He seemed to save every bit of it for the show ring."

— DAWN BROWN, COLLINA, NEW BRUNSWICK

WINNER PopTart

PopTart is a special pony who inspired the creation of the Pony Pals Therapeutic Riding Association (PPTRA), which serves the Delta and Surrey areas in BC. Once the pony that no one wanted and no one wanted to ride because she was too slow, one day her owners noticed her special calling as a therapeutic riding pony when the disabled younger sibling of one of their students was seen cuddling with the little mare. PopTart began her training for therapeutic riding and was an instant star. In 2008, PopTart, one coach, one volunteer, and five children formed PPTRA.

Regardless of the disability of her rider or the equipment they might require, PopTart takes it all in stride and helps each rider recognize their own special skills and talents. She is the highlight of many children's weeks!

PopTart also has the special skill of being able to sense a seizure before it occurs and will halt and refuse to move in order to protect her rider from falling.

With the help of PopTart's unique skills, PPTRA's therapeutic riding program has grown to over 60 riders per week.

"PopTart reminds us that you don't have to be fast, big, or fancy to live a life of impact."

— CANDICE MILLER, DELTA, BC



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDICE MILLER

PopTart is an Equine Shining Star for her amazing abilities as a therapeutic riding pony.



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