

Mary Miller, Champion Extreme Mustang Makeover Star: From Humble Beginnings To National Prominence.

Her Love For All Things Horse Has Made Her A Rising Star On The Extreme Mustang Makeover Circuit.



Q. How long have you been riding?

A. My whole life, my momma used to sit me in front of her as we rode my Granddaddy's walking horses at bird dog field trial.

Q. Is your family involved in horses too?

A. When I was growing up I never had horses in my backyard full time. I always day dreamed of them. I could go to my Granddaddy's to ride. After I was grown my Mom married a farrier and they had lots of horses and my sister loves horses and has a horse too.

Q. What disciplines did you start riding and how old were you?

A. Well I grew up on gaited horses riding in a big ole trooper saddle. I started riding barrel horses with a family that I adored when I was 12. I remember the first time I rode a trot and I was bouncing all over! I held my tail down in the saddle by using my hand on the cantle hoping no one would notice! When I was 14 we bought a horse of my own and boarded him, I wanted to barrel race him, but that was not his cup of tea - so I explored things he did seem to do well at. First it was Western Pleasure, then Hunters and then some Dressage and Eventing. He was so good to me.

Q. What made you choose the disciplines you train, and compete in?

A. I loved barrels because it was always easier to turn money into diesel than a ribbon and typically with barrels you win money, not ribbons. But I really have an appreciation for every discipline. I've done enough of them to know they are ALL hard to master and there is nothing more beautiful than watching a horse that really loves her job, doing it well. Now I compete in Extreme Mustang Makeovers and that embraces many different styles of riding. I have always loved the trail/obstacle class the most though. It really gives you a great platform to exemplify your relationship with you horse.

Q. Who helped you acquire the skills for the events you do?

A. Hands down the horse, the Mustang specifically. I watch and try to soak up everything I can from other riders. If I see someone doing something I want to do, I watch them and try to learn from them, but most of all the horse is my teacher. The horse has all the answers, they can do everything with their bodies and more than we can even imagine them doing, it's all a matter of figuring out what makes them tick, what motivates them.

Q. If you could clinic or train with any top rider who would it be?

A. Gosh that's hard, I would LOVE to live in the head of a horse for one day and just see everything from their true perspective, but as far as trainers I really look up to. I'd have to say Guy McLean and Stacy Westfall, they not only live, breath and know horses, but they are kind souls. That is so very important, and a per-requisite for obtaining the ultimate relationship with a horse.

Q. If there was another discipline I could try it would be:

A. I would love to master reining to the best of my ability as well as learn as much as I can about the upper levels of Classical Dressage.

Q. A breed of horse I have not ridden but would love to is:

A. Lipizzaner - I have never ridden one before and I am enamored by their uphill movement and natural collection.

Q. How many horse shows do you attend a year? (or clinics or other events J)

A. About 24 I'd say, they range from shows we host ourselves (The HC Obstacle Challenges) to demos we do at other places with the Mustangs to competitions.

Q. How many horses are you currently training and competing with now?

A. Right now all my focus is on the Mustang Team. We have 4 on the team and I work with them just about every day and the days I don't, I feel depressed, they are my soul, I'm pretty much an empty shell without a horse.

Q. What has been some of your most memorable past accomplishments?

A. I think winning Reserve Champion this past year at the Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover with Silver Lining was my highlight, but a close second was winning America's Favorite Trail Horse with Lindsay's Faith - these Mustangs have brought such sweetness to my life - much beyond any title or award.

Q. What are your goals for the future?

A. To compete in Mustang Million this year and then build up the Mustang team to be all we can be, as a mirrored group. I love working with multiple Mustangs at liberty and would love to continue to build up our routines to hopefully inspire the same elation in the hearts of others that I feel when I'm surrounded by these magnificent creatures!

Q. What other pets do you own?

A. A pot belly pig named Samantha P - the p is for pig, a barn cat, 5 dogs and a pet rat.

Q. When not riding what are your other hobbies?

A. Not riding? What's that mean? I draw ..horses of course :-)

Q. How did you hear about Triple Crown feeds and what products do you use?

A. My barrel mare had bad stomach ulcers - I put her on treatment, but also wanted to change her diet for preventative care. The person that owned the product I used to treat her told me that I needed a feed with 20 percent or less NSC. I researched it, and low and behold, my "Safe" feed was well over 20% NSC . TC Senior is by far my favorite, totally different from other Seniors and it is PERFECT FOR ALL horses. I was elated when I joined the TC team of sponsored riders and I will forever do all in my power to share with others the brilliance of their products. They are truly a whole level above everyone else - it's not a level playing field at all - and when it comes to my horses their well-being is a number one priority. I also use their TC Fish Oil and am completely IN LOVE with it, even with 3 inches of Mustang winter hair coat my guys SHINE. Oh, and my barrel mare is ulcer free ;-)) I also use TC Total Lifetime Care , and TC Omega Max.

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