

TNT Thunder Micki (horse on left)

Youth versus experience:

After a hard start of 2000 by breaking my arm in a Non-horse related accident, I lost my endurance partner Barkley to colic in June. After a few month of grieving, I began looking for my next partner in crime. My riding adventure did not begin until I was 44 and I consider myself an intermediate rider.

What to choose – youth or experience. I met this amazing horse in August. Mickey was recently retired as his owner moved to a youngster but Mickey still had years of trails left in him. From the first ride, I felt safe and we bonded immediately. He was calm with new horses, bikes, leading or following and just overall solid. At the end of the day, Mickey came home with me, walked out of the trailer and knew he was home.

Why to go senior –

Mickey is the calm one with our group on the trail with a “been there, seen that” attitude. He doesn’t panic when we leave the other horses, no spook, no jump, and no major attitude. He is an Arab – so the little attitude is part of the breed. All the qualities I needed to feel confident during endurance season.

His experience and intelligence is amazing and during lessons. With all horses, they may have learned habits that need to be corrected. He highlights any balance issue but is very forgiving and reminds me constantly to ride with my seat, not my hands.

Mickey is back pocket horse who runs to me in the pasture just for scratches or to put his head in a halter. Just a quick story to highlight. Last week after a ride, I was loading him in the trailer. I thought I had hooked him, but when I exited the trailer, he followed me out. Before I reacted, he walked around me and lined up for another trailer load – that is experience!

I want to thank Guy and Sandy for trusting me to take care of their boy and giving me a new best friend. Mickey & I cannot wait for the first race in May.

Thank You,
Martha (Marty) Graham