

EXMOOR PONY STAR WINNER AND RUNNER-UP



DUNKERY TAWNY OWL 78/142

By Jenna Payne

9 year old stallion.

We owe this pony everything. Owly's given so much to our family and he's touched and inspired so many people that have met him. He's taught children and adults to ride, he's competed in top level showing; Royal Cornwall in-hand champion 2011, Exmoor Pony Breed Show Supreme Champion 2012, he's competed at HOYS, he's won at Three Counties in working hunter pony in 2013. He's competed in gymkahanas, showjumping, working hunter pony, cross country and been successful at them all, he's even had a gallop on Aintree Racecourse! Owly has hunted with the Western and the Fourburrow, has taken a 9-year-old girl to a child's meet and enjoyed many pleasure rides with children and adults alike. He takes my children to Kids Club, where he stands amongst the other ponies and children with most Mothers oblivious the stallion in their midst; he's so quiet and easy going! Owly's also enjoyed Le TREC, both with me in the open classes and in the novice classes with the children. Owly has given my 5-year-old son, Harry, his first visit to the show ring on the leading rein, he's been dressed up as a 'Princess' to satisfy the whims of my 3-year-old daughter, Lowenna and given pony rides to hundreds of children that have come visiting – he's even got a basket saddle to give rides to the tiny tots!

Owly's also competed extensively in the dressage arena up to novice level and also competed at the BRC Quadrille Championships as the smallest of a team of four to represent Cornwall. He finished his career with a win at pas-de-deux dressage, performing side-by-side with his own brother, Dunkery Shrike and ridden by my husband, Jonathan, and I scoring 91.6%.

This year, he completed our final wish: to plough. He was paired with a very experienced 22-year-old pony, Baloo who initially taught him in front of a chain harrow. Owly took to it like a duck to water and has now attended his first ploughing match where young Harry walked up and down the furrows alongside him for the whole day. I think he might be the most versatile Exmoor pony, possibly in history?! There isn't anything this pony wouldn't turn his hoof to; a true ambassador for the breed.

Sadly, mid-November, after journey home from the most wonderful dressage lesson we've ever had, he suffered a dislocation of his fetlock and will never be ridden again. He's been in a fibreglass cast for the past six weeks, with many more months of box rest ahead of him on the slow road to recovery. We shall now be doing everything we can to give him the happy, sound retirement he so deserves and maybe, if he's lucky and the damage heals well, he'll get to sire a foal or two to pass on his glorious temperament. Owly is our star; our true, shining star.



CELEBRINDAL 337/3

By Amanda Clunie

Kenzie started riding at 3, after visiting the stables twice a week for 18 months we weren't getting very far. I decided she would learn more with her own pony (my excuse)! The hunt was on! I had looked for about 6 months, welshies, Shetlands but nothing fitted the bill, my friend Fiona heard about an Exmoor.....eh too big! too much pony! no way...

I sorted livery for when we found this elusive pony at Scholland with Ed & Debbie Maas and told Ed I was looking for a dope on a rope! He rang a week later he had found a pony that he thought sounded ideal.....another Exmoor! It was local so we went for a look, the Orkneys were standing in the field with their pony all tacked up a very fat, very woolly pony with a huge crack in her hoof and this huge neck. We led Kenz round the field a couple of times, this pony might be unfit but Lord it was strong! Kenzie helped untack her and the pony just stood next to her with her head against her. We had just bought Posh.

Two hours in the snow it took to load her, the Orkneys had got her when she was 4 and for 11 years had loved the bones of her but she hadn't done anything. I spent the next week with Posh grooming, talking and walking. Kenz rode her the following Sunday after twenty minutes can we go back now? I had taken my tottie wee granddaughter from a skinny 10 hand pony to a 12 hand coffee table, it was going to take time.

In that first few weeks this pony had a lot of firsts, vet visit, shoes, Alex Moulder the dentist, bath and best of all at the age of 15 her first show. A riding club show and she was 2nd in the M&M in hand class and 3rd in the veteran. A couple of weeks later at Fife County Show she was placed 1st in the M&M which was a qualifier for Ponys UK! No one could believe this was the same pony.

More importantly, she was developing this wonderful bond with Kenzie, in no time Kenz was off the lead rein on the estate and in the school, they were doing Pony Club and amassing rosettes, though the most special times were just watching their interaction Kenz has mild ADHD but Posh didn't have any expectations from Kenz just that she was loved.

We couldn't wait for the Scottish Exmoor Show we had made so many friends through FB, Kenz and Posh got a 1st in the LR and after watching the Working Hunter she said when is it our turn, I told her maybe next year.

Two days later we lost our beloved pony to EGS, we are all devastated especially Kenzie, she lost her spark even stopped eating. There is no better ambassador for the breed, loads of people now know the name Posh, this pair had a huge following watching their progress. Posh is a star, if you give these special ponies your heart time & understanding, they give it right back, oh and having Ed Maas on hand is a big plus too! xx