

EXMOOR PONY STAR

2011 WINNERS



WINNER

TEAGLE EXCALIBUR (“Joey”)

In 1995 we started to look for a new Exmoor pony to our daughter Alexandra, because her old Rainbow has to be retired.

We wanted a mare so we also would have the ability to breed. Yvonne Campbell should help us to find the right one and one evening she called. She had the

perfect pony for Alexandra, one she had bred herself and who she had shown successfully as a foal. However, there was one problem. It was a 7 y.o. gelding! When we heard that he had been a child's pony for some years and had an excellent temperament, we quickly changed our minds. And Teagle Excalibur, nick name Joey, entered our lives.

For many years he was a marvellous companion for Alexandra. Even though they mostly went trekking, they also participated in riding camps, entered a show jumping competition and took dressage lessons.

At 14 Alexandra had grown quite a bit and suddenly felt too tall for her best friend. Joey then started a new career. First he helped adult riders to get over their fear of riding. Always being very calm and a strong character, yet forward going, he took care of everything and didn't bother if the rider was shaking at the beginning of the ride.

Then he did his turn as a therapy pony, letting mentally disabled children from the school where I work, enjoy a ride.

At the same time his old mum (that's me) got interested in doing long reining, the way they do it at the Spanish riding school in Vienna. I choose Joey to join me in my efforts and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made. We very soon became a team and he is today my dearest friend.

This spring the unbelievable happened. Our beautiful mare Vildrosen's Witch Hazel died, only 14.y.o. Left behind was her 5 weeks old colt Vildrosen's Peter Pan. We had to feed him milk from a bucket, but he also needed a foster mother. With no mares available Joey had to take on the mission. This turned out to be a successful choice, as Joey seemed to be born to be a nanny.

At this year's annual show little Peter Pan was entered for the foal class. He didn't have to go into the ring alone - uncle Joey was with him all the time.

After that Joey himself won the veteran class for the second time.

Joey is giving so much to everyone and has touched so many people's heart. If any pony deserves to win the Exmoor pony star reward, it is Joey!



RUNNER UP

DUNKERY TAWNY OWL (“Owly”)

‘Owly’ is the love of my life and he’s quite simply my pony of a lifetime. Owly arrived with us early 2008 and from that moment has been nothing short of a pure gentleman and a sheer delight to have on the yard.

Since his arrival with us, he’s won NPS Silver Medals in-hand and under saddle, given me my first ridden county show win (Three Counties 2009), qualified for numerous NPS finals, finished 6th in the small breed Picton Final, been placed in all his HOYS and Olympia qualifiers and has accumulated many Cornish championships in mixed M&M company and on the workers circuit. In 2010 Owly and I rode our first dressage tests with the local riding club and remains unbeaten, he also competed in showjumping, working hunter pony and attended riding club rallies. He really does turn his hoof to anything with a wonderfully calm and ‘can do’ attitude! At a native pony display, his jockey wasn’t able to ride him and I was more than confident for a young girl from the riding school display team to ride him. I was proved right as the new combination gave a foot perfect performance and the little girl came out beaming with pride!

Owly always has the winters off competition with hacking at home and some hunting where he showed that even the small ponies can keep up! Only 5 months after being backed, he escorted an 8 year old jockey on the child's meet and took a 9 year old on a sponsored ride, looking after his little riders beautifully! Owly very rapidly proved himself after our son, Harry was given a child's basket saddle by his Grandparents for Christmas and he had the honour of wearing it. Harry adored riding him and beamed from ear to ear as he bumped along in his saddle. Harry is now 3 years old and he has developed a very special relationship with Owly and loves to brush and cuddle him – he even cuddles him when Owly is lying down in the stable!

In June 2011, Dunkery Tawny Owl made one of my dreams come true. We've had reserve champion at county level in no less than four different native breed sections, but we'd never, until this year, taken the top spot. At Royal Cornwall Show, Owly stood Exmoor Champion which left me crying with delight! It was very poignant that my favourite pony should provide us with our first county show championship on home turf - a moment I will never forget.

I see Owly always being very much part of our family and future and I hope that Lowenna grows to enjoy the ponies like her brother, Harry, does. I know that the children will never be able to compete with Owly as he is a stallion, but that doesn't matter to me. I trust Owly implicitly and couldn't ask for a better steed. Owly is a true Exmoor Pony Star; one in a million.