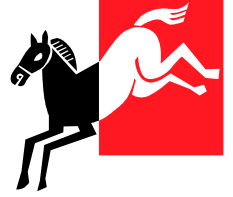


Hoofmaiden

Performance Barefoot Hoofcare



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To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Cindy Daigre's adoption of Slim and Buddy, the Percheron geldings you have available. I can tell you with complete confidence that you could not POSSIBLY have a better choice of adopter than Cindy, because a better horse owner simply does not exist.

Cindy is absolutely at the very top rung of horse owners with whom I have dealt over the years. She is utterly fastidious in her care of both her own horses and the senior boarders under her care, and I have told her before that I want her to keep a paddock open for ME when I retire, LOL! No one could provide better care, period.

I first met Cindy several years ago when she needed a new trimmer for her EPM horse, Haley. Haley had wobblers and then contracted EPM: to say that he presented a challenge is putting it lightly. Cindy nursed Haley through EPM treatment (several times) and then dealt valiantly with the remaining neurological damage which left Haley putting far too much pressure on one hind leg. This resulted in recurring abscessing and laminitis in the supporting limb. I have simply NEVER seen a client devote the kind of time, energy, and passion to the treatment of a horse as Cindy did for Haley. Her vet and I discussed this several times—he had assumed that the horse would have to be put down in less than 6 mos, and instead, Haley made it almost 2 years after diagnosis with excellent quality of life. Both the vet and I marveled and agreed that in anyone else's hands the outcome would have been very different, but Cindy simply would not give up, and Haley followed her lead.

Cindy's current 3 personal horses, Francis, Mary, and Siegfried, were all adopted. Again, they have presented her (and me!) with many challenges due to old injuries. Cindy has been willing—even eager!—to do whatever I suggested to improve their feet, no matter how difficult or time-consuming.

Francis was apparently in a terrible accident as a cab horse, b/c he has RH tendons that look (according to the vet) "like spaghetti" on ultrasound. When he arrived he had a deformed RH foot due to his compensating for this injury, and he was unable to put the heel on that foot down. Cindy worked with me over many months to slowly allow the tendons to stretch, while dealing with the fact that often we could not get the alternate hind foot up to trim it. Together we came up with the idea of using a wedge-shaped piece of wood (made by Cindy's woodworker husband) under the bad heel to alleviate the tendon pressure so we could work on the LH foot. Thanks in large part to Cindy's constant diligence and apparently endless patience, Francis now has a RH foot that not only looks almost normal but works almost normally as well (which both the vet and I were certain we would never see!).

Francis is also pre-Cushinoid and has off-and-on problems related to that condition. Recently, after much research, Cindy found a new supplement for Francis which has had a remarkable affect on him:

the last time I trimmed him I was actually able to get both hind feet up for trimming with little effort on my part or discomfort on his!

Mary, too, came with her own special issues, including sore knees and hips from her work as a cab horse and, prior to that, on the Standardbred track. She also has canker, which Cindy has treated tirelessly.

Both Mary and Francis were a bit wary when they arrived, as well, but I have seen them change in so many ways thanks to Cindy's love and devotion. I think it became clear to those horses very soon after their arrival at Ferrell Hollow Farm that this truly WAS their forever home, and that the days of uncertainty were over for good. They are lovely horses to deal with—well behaved despite their size—and they are so loving and affectionate with Cindy. Anyone can see the love and trust shining through.

Siegfried, who is a Percheron used previously for jousting performances, is pre-Cushinoid and has a prior history of laminitis. Again, Cindy has devoted unlimited time and energy to ensuring that Siegfried has the best possible environment and the most helpful supplements. She notices the smallest changes in his way of going and responds instantly. If all horse owners were this conscientious, my job would be far easier!

Dealing with full drafts is not for everyone. Lovely and well-mannered as Siegfried is, he is a BIG boy and anything he does is therefore many times magnified as compared with a "normal" horse. Cindy did not hesitate to make changes to her fencing to accommodate Siegfried, and she continues to think outside the box so that she anticipates problems and is able to address them before they ARE problems. Cindy is one of the rare people who can handle and house full drafts safely and correctly.

Cindy devotes the same level of care and concern to the retirees she boards as she does to her own horses. Her retiree Eagle, whom I trim, has Cushing's disease. Cindy has to control his access to grass to an extreme degree, and has rearranged her entire setup to accommodate him. Because Eagle grows a thick hair coat even in summertime, Cindy has to clip him every few months almost year-round. She simply sees these problems, which make extra work for her, as part of her job. She is outside working with the horses almost all day long, catering to their various needs with joy and love.

Bluntly put, you would be crazy not to place your horses with Cindy if you have the opportunity to do so. I have extremely high standards for horse care and do not say this lightly. In fact, I cannot think of another client—current or past—about whom I would say these things. If Cindy takes on Buddy and Slim, she WILL succeed, no matter what challenges they present. They will live out their lives at Ferrell Hollow Farm, and they will live them out in bliss. Any horse in America would kill to have the opportunity to be cared for by Cindy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all. I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,



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