

## DELTA DAWN

At any given time, thousands of unrecognized horses enrich people's lives without ever making it to the competition ring. They are the school horses and pets that populate this province, living in backyards and boarding stables. Delta Dawn is a perfect example of these dependable old horses. She is a 15.2hh solid dark bay Appendix QH born in the US about 25 years ago. She started her seventh career this past spring, much to the delight of her young riders. She has become the favorite mount of the riding school - Blue Valley Horse - in Abbotsford. Her gentle and sensible (though cheeky) nature makes her an ideal introduction to the equine. She has inspired many new riders to continue with the equestrian sport. Delta was most likely started under saddle at 2 years of age and was used extensively by a whole family in south Texas. She eventually was traded to a landlord for back rent owed on a house. Her new owner was a "tick rider". He rode her up and down the banks of the Rio Grande River in Texas, chasing Mexican cows & illegal Mexicans back across the river. As a "tick horse", she was well accustomed to being ridden for eight hours at a stretch with her rider shooting at the cattle from the saddle. At 13 years of age, Delta was sold to an English riding school for \$500 and when asked her name, her previous owner said she was just called "mare". The trainers named her Delta Dawn and taught her to jump both stadium and cross country as well as to perform dressage basics. She then became a favorite school horse for beginners and the Pony Club. Soon she was carrying disabled adults and children in their therapeutic riding program. In 2000, she moved from Texas with her owners to Aldergrove, BC where she continued to be used as a beginner lesson horse. One boarder at the barn showed a great interest in owning Delta Dawn so that she could ride with her partner, so Delta moved on to her next career change and became a trail and pleasure horse and was semi-retired. In 2003, Delta was invited to participate in the PNE's first Equestriana Theatrical Horse Show in a starring role. A new baby entered Delta's owner's life and it was decided that Delta needed a career change and now at 25 she is still healthy and very much enjoying her life as a children's lesson horse. During her life she has had two foals, one who is now extremely successful on the dressage circuit and another who is a lovely hunter in the Vancouver area. She also boasts two grand children. Her offspring share her wonderful temperament that will be the delight to riders for years to come. Honouring Delta Dawn with this award - for her consistency, willingness to please and mostly for her kindheartedness that has won so many fans throughout her years is a great pleasure.