

Karen A Jarvie

Born and raised in Southern Alberta, Karen's life has always revolved around horses. Her father founded Ranchland Stables (now known as Lethbridge Therapeutic Riding Association), where Karen learned the intricacies of what it takes to win in the show ring.

To name just a few of her accolades:

Showed and was Top 10 in the world with the American Quarter Horse Association, Top 5 in the World with the American Paint Horse Association, and Reserve Champion, Challenge of the Breeds in Edmonton (8 events)

In the early 70's, Karen and her father bought 2 Lipizzaner's from Kernel Hermann. These were the first Lipizzaner's to arrive in Western Canada. This is where she was introduced to Dressage and "Airs above the Ground". In 1972 with the help of Dr. Allen of Taber they imported 2 Trakehner Stallions from Poland, Cekin and Dobosz. (another first for Western Canada). This is where her love for Trakehners and jumping came into play.

She was successful in Dressage to a Medium Level, and numerous Championships, and reserve championships in Hunters and jumpers were added to her credentials, and in 1980 she acquired her Equine Canada English Coach 1 (an extremely challenging feat at the time)

In 1983 Karen and her father imported their foundation Trakehner Mare (Helsinki), another mare named Capri, and the Trakehner stallion Kolberg. The breeding of Trakehners was now firmly planted in Canada.

After the death of her father, Karen and partner Al McEwen built Painted Trak Farms on the north edge of the city of Lethbridge. Together they built a large boarding facility that catered to the disciplines of Hunters and Jumpers. They also worked to build their breeding business to become the largest breeders of Trakehners in North America.

For the next 25 years Karen ran a successful Trakehner breeding operation, and at the same time continued to coach and mentor hundreds of youth in the show ring, where they were a force to be reckoned with. Her "teams" were always very successful, and always came home with numerous champion, and reserve championships.

Through all of her life, Karen has always ridden, taught, bred and encouraged an approach to horses that was in the best interest of the horse. In 2015, an Israeli immigrant to the US, put a name to "discipline" that Karen had always aspired to promote. The man was Eitan Beth-Halachmy, and the name was "Cowboy Dressage". She has focused all of her energy into promoting this discipline in Canada and in true Karen fashion has become a successful clinician and Educator 2 for Cowboy Dressage World.