



Behind The Barn Doors
GAHA Member Horse Feature

Horse Name & Nickname: **Austin Bey**

Horse Breed (Arabian, Half Arabian, or Anglo Arabian): Arabian

Sire x Dam (if known): Affirmative x Crystal Firelite

Gelding, Mare, or Stallion: Gelding

Member Owner, Rider, or Lessee: Owner - Felicia Gartung

Discipline(s): Country English pleasure and Hunter Pleasure

How did you come to own or ride him or her? How long have you owned/lease/ridden him or her?

I was looking for a young Country English pleasure horse. I went to a barn and he ran up to me in the pasture. He was only a year old but he was insistent that he had my full attention. I took him out and hand grazed him for a few minutes and then looked at some other horses. When I left I stopped my car on the way out and gave him a carrot. I kept looking at other horses, but 3 weeks later I came back. When he saw my car he ran over, trotted alongside my car, and waited at the gate til I came over. I was in love. I was blessed to be his person on earth for 14 years before he passed away in 2015.

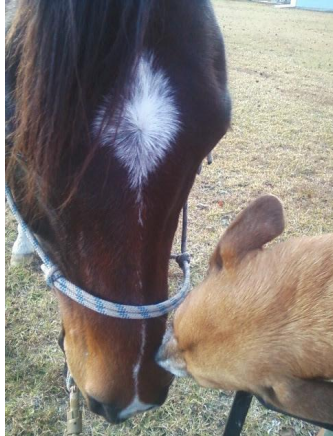
How are they a wonderful example of the Arabian Horse? Or what are their best or your favorite features?

He was smart, fun, and happy. Other animals loved him. My goat would go in his stall only and Austin would share his hay if he wanted any. My dog and he were best friends. They would run around together, then he'd put his head down to her so she could lick his face ♥. He was a dashing dark bay with a white star on his sweet head. An equine photographer chose one of his photos to be her business ad on the cover of an Equine Expo program.

Favorite, sweet or fun memory, story, or fact about them, what are some of their favorite things or treats, etc.:

He always loved playing games. We would play tag in the pasture. He would run, then snort and prance around. At the end he would run up to me at a gallop and stop right in front of me, then sigh & lick my face. I made him a toy out of a gallon water jug with a few small rocks in it. We would toss it back and forth to each other. He learned to pick up items I would point to and bring them to me. He would put the whole end of water hose in his mouth with the water on full blast. He loved to drink from the hose too, and then when I was least

expecting it, he would put his nose on the end and spray me all over. He LOVED to go. He couldn't get in the trailer fast enough. I had 3 judges tell me he was the happiest horse they'd ever seen at a horse show. He was so excited all the people came to see him. He was in his element. At the end of the horse show though, he never wanted to leave. People would ask if they could help as I was running him in circles at the back of the trailer. I'd say thank you, but he'll go right in when everyone leaves. On trail rides, as soon as we would get close to the horse trailer he would try to stop and turn around - everytime. My friends thought it was crazy, as their horses couldn't wait to get back to the horse trailer and go home. He was the greatest gift I could have ever hoped for. He lived life to the fullest and took advantage of every opportunity he had to have fun. He taught me so much about horses and about how you should live your life.



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