Grand Prize Winner: Lindsey Partridge & Soar!

Thank you to everyone who entered our 2016 Barefoot Cover Horse Contest! In our last issue #61, we announced this contest, with the winner receiving a free pair of NEW Scoot Boot hoof boots from Australia! Before we knew it, photos began to arrive from all over the world, and soon we were literally overwhelmed!!! The task of deciding the Grand Prize winner was extremely challenging, but you can see the end result in the beautiful photo gracing the cover of this very issue. Congratulations to **Lindsey Partridge**, and her horse **Soar**, who receive a pair of Scoot Boots and a 2 year subscription to The Horse's Hoof Magazine. Here's more about them:

Harmony with Barefoot and Bitless Thoroughbreds

On the cover is Lindsey Partridge of Ontario, Canada and her 2015 Thoroughbred Makeover Winner "Soar." Lindsey has been retraining race horses, among other breeds, for many years. Lindsey tells us that, "One of the first things I do when the horses come to the farm is transition them to as natural an environment as possible, to help support them physically, mentally, and emotionally." She sets them up with 24/7 turnout with other horses, multiple shelters, multiple hay feeders with slow feeder nets, on a paddock paradise track system that encourages the horses to move more because they can travel between shelters, feeders, water, and horsey friends.

Lindsey shares that another big part of rehabbing her off the track horses is to remove their shoes and get their bodies full of good nutrients. At Lindsey's facility, Partridge Horse Hill, they have their hay analyzed and an equine nutritionist makes recommendations for grain and feeding amounts. They feed products low in sugar and with high quality nutrients along with flax, probiotics, free range salt, free range minerals, and Omega Alpha supplements. Feeding high quality nutrients sets the horses up to have healthy bodies, shiny coats, focused minds, and stronger hooves.

Lindsey explains, "Often when horses come off the track, they have had shoes on from such a young age that the shoe has constricted the growth of the hoof – so their hooves are often a lot smaller then they are meant to be. When we remove the shoes, the horse's hoof has room to grow, develop a strong sole, and allow movement within the hoof." Lindsey shares that it is common for horses to be a little tender when their shoes are removed, so it is very helpful to have hoof boots during training, and especially for trail riding or any work that involves harder surfaces. This helps keep the horse comfortable, so they can perform their best while allowing their hooves time to grow stronger.

Lindsey shared that all of the horses at Partridge Horse Hill are currently barefoot and perform in a variety of tasks from Extreme Cowboy Racing, to Jumpers, and even performances in movies.

Another key to her retraining success is restarting her ex-race horses bitless. In Lindsey's Harmony Horsemanship method, she explains: "The horse's mouth is a sensitive place. If a horse is upset and you pull in their mouth, it often makes them more emotional. When I train horses bitless, I remove the piece of equipment that makes them emotional." Lindsey competed two horses in the Thoroughbred Makeover in 2015, and finished 1st and 2nd in the trail division –Soar rode with a bit, and Lion of Wallstreet rode bitless. Lindsey explains "I let my horses tell me what they want, but I only would offer a bit to a horse if they are already calm and connected to me – that way, the bit can be a fine tool of communication, and not a set of brakes or device to force contact." Lindsey shared that her three horses for the 2016 Thoroughbred Makeover are currently riding bitless and she plans to have them all show bitless this year.

Lindsey will be at the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover again in 2016 with three horses – one competing with a student, and two competing with Lindsey. You can look for Lindsey and Soar in an upcoming movie ***Unbridled*** which will be released in September this year.

If you would like to follow Lindsey's adventures, you can visit her on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/HarmonyHorsemanshipTM

Lindsey won a pair of Scoot Boots! For more info on these new boots, see Facebook page scootbootdownunder or www.scootboots.com