

Golden Dalite's Amazing Recovery

As a 20 plus yr. former member of WAHA, and a new 2008 member of MAHA, I thought I'd write to let others know about my year.

In the fall of 2007 I decided it would be fun to return to the show ring under saddle after a 12 yr. absence. I worked all winter with Walt Robilliard, and my 17 yr. old palomino mare, who had not been shown since her Region 10 Top Five halter days in 1993. I felt it would be fun to bring two old ladies out of retirement. (I'm 65)

Golden Dalite 's first show was in Rice Lake, where she qualified for two Region 10 classes. Her second show ever under saddle was the regionals, where she placed well in the qualifying show, and although I did not place in the top five (western Pleasure) she showed like a seasoned veteran. I was so very proud of her. I took her home and started to strive to improve more so we'd scare the pants off everyone next year.

Dalite is my last horse after raising Arabians in N. Wisconsin for 30 yrs. I board her at a nice family run facility 17 miles away from where I live in Forest Lake. In July I received a call that somehow she had gotten her legs tangled up in a fine electric wire. She had severed the extensor tendon on her hind leg.

Due to quick action by Walt Robilliard (he was there when it happened) and quick vet attention, she didn't go down, and she was stabilized. I was told that if I could make a financial and emotional commitment, and be very patient as to how long this recovery process would take, that she had a good chance of recovery.

It's been a long 6 mos., and I received the best Christmas gift in the world . . . she is healed up and is able to walk, trot and canter on the lounge line. After months of daily vet calls, hand walking, bandage changing, and anxiety, it is a thrill to see her canter on the lounge line and in the round ring. I have yet to ride her, but have high hopes as she builds up strength in her legs. I have quite a journal of photo and experiences of this and would be happy to share with anyone who might be going through anything similar.

I wish everyone a very good and safe year with their horses. Perhaps someday I can return to the show ring with her.

Bonnie Henderson