

April 19, 2010

Kevin Crane

I met Kevin Crane a number of years ago when I transported a friend's horse to him. This was clearly a very troubled young horse that had very little respect for man or beast. I had the opportunity to watch Kevin work with this horse at a show in Deerfield, New Hampshire over a period of 3 days. He consistently demonstrated patience and compassion for this problematic young horse.

I did not have the opportunity to cross paths again with Kevin until just recently. My closest friend had a very difficult experience with a horse she purchased, that was promoted to be quiet and well broke. Within weeks of bringing the horse home she was unmanageable and unable to be ridden. She sent the mare to Kevin in spring of 2009, and by May of 2009 she was riding and placing in every class she went in. The change I noticed in the mare was remarkable and the change in my friend's confidence was incredible.

Two years ago, I purchased a weanling that I hoped would be my future show horse but I did not have the skills, ability, or time to break a young colt that could certainly be sassy. My trainer was not interested in starting a colt and suggested I find someone who could do the initial work. My friend suggested Kevin, who is known to do a good job with the young horses. Needless to say, I was nervous about sending him 350 miles away but I took a leap of faith and sent him in July of 2009. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was not able to go see him until mid-august. When I arrived to the farm for the first time I was absolutely amazed at how respectful and trusting my 2 year old was. The biggest surprise was when Kevin told me to get on and ride him, he had only been ridden 15-20 times, and he was a quiet as a lamb. When I picked him up at the end of September, Kevin spent two days helping me to learn and understand what his methods were and how to ensure we continued to progress. He took the time to make sure I understood "the program" and the foundation that he had built with this horse.

At the end of a very long trip home I arrived at my trainer's and my horse got off the trailer like an old pro and settled right in to the new routine. The next day I went to the barn to demonstrate what I and the horse had learned. The horse was amazing; new barn, new horses and out of routine and he could have cared less. My trainer is thrilled and has said she has never had a 2 year old as ready to work as he is and as quiet.

Thank you Kevin for doing such an outstanding job with Dion (Willy be Trouble) and ensuring that I had the knowledge and skills to build upon the foundation you started. You will be seeing me again hopefully this winter or spring for a weekend clinic.

Rosemary Reif
Saranac, NY