

Scooter Gulch – P-15168

Scooter Gulch was foaled on April 20, 1983 and registered with IBHA as a 10 year old in 1993 by Shannon Beaudry. Together Shannon and Scooter were a formidable team in the show pen, and they won 5 World Championships, 6 Reserve World Championships and in 1994, they won the World Champion All Around Youth. This team also won multiple IBHA Honor Roll and Reserve Honor Roll titles and in 1994 won the coveted title of the IBHA Honor Roll All Around Youth. Shannon showed Scooter in AQHA shows as well. They placed third in Novice Youth Horsemanship at the Quarter Horse Congress in 1995. In 1996, Shannon showed Scooter in Amateur Versatility at the Congress where they placed eighth in horsemanship and 9th in Pole Bending. Scooter was definitely the “little” horse...that could...and he gave it his all.

Scooter was purchased by the Robinson Family in July, 2004. Alexis was just 4 years old when he came into their family. From day one, from the time she unloaded him from the trailer when they brought him home, Scooter and Alexis formed an unbreakable bond.

Scooter had bowed the tendons in both his front legs right before the Robinson's purchased him. He was running barrels in the mud and slipped and fell. It took over a year to rehab Scooter's legs and nurse him back to health. Many people would probably not look twice at a 21 year old gelding with two bowed tendons and spend the time to try to bring him back to soundness, but there was just something special about Scooter and the Robinson's had admired the horse for a long time...so when the opportunity presented itself, they bought him with the hope that they could make him sound again for Alexis to show.

By time 2006 rolled around, Scooter was once again sound and Alexis was 6, and they were ready to hit the IBHA show pen. And even though this pair was obviously the “oldest and the youngest” out there in the youth classes, it was quite evident that they were not to be taken lightly in the competition. They became the favorites of the show committees and competitors alike and Scooter quickly won the admiration of many in the IBHA community for how well he took care of Alexis when she was riding him.

In 2008, when Scooter was 25 and Alexis was only 8, they won their first IBHA World Championship together in Youth Disciplined Rail. Barb Robinson said that that particular moment in time was truly unbelievable when they called Alexis and Scooter out as World Champions. The entire crowd erupted and the arena was electrified and it was very emotional. She still gets a tear in her eye and a smile on her face when she thinks back to that moment.



In 2009, Alexis and Scooter won 2 more IBHA world titles and 3 Reserve World Titles. 2010 was the year of their greatest achievements or I guess you could say their “Swan Song”. They won 6 World and 2 Reserve World Championships and the title of the 2010 World Champion All Around Youth 13 & Under.

At the conclusion of the 2010 Show season, Alexis & Scooter won 1 Honor Roll and 7 Reserve Honor Roll titles and they took home the title of the IBHA Reserve Honor Roll All Around Youth. Together they earned 11 IBHA Register of Merits as well as one Superior in Western Showmanship. Scooter earned over 1566 IBHA points and 310 AQHA points in his show career.

Scooter was retired at the grand old age of 27 at the end of the 2010 show season, complete with a retirement party at the October ISBA show that year. Sadly, Scooter passed away on December 23, 2010, just 2 ½ months after his retirement after suffering a stroke.

Besides being a show horse with all his titles and accolades in the show pen, what made Scooter special was...well Scooter himself. Barb told me that Scooter had a personality like no horse she has ever owned and that his personality was bigger than himself. He was an extremely intelligent horse and he loved to play his games.

Scooter's stall had a full front opening as he loved to stand and watch what was going on in the barn and his stall had it's own outside run, but apparently, that was not good enough for him. When Barb would be in a hurry, or just not paying attention as she was trying to get stalls cleaned, Scooter would wait until her back was turned or when she was in the back of his stall opening up the door to his outdoor run. He would then push his stall door open and out he would go, down the aisle...out the barn door...across the driveway...past the indoor...and out into her big front yard. His tail would be up (as though he were an Arabian), he would be snorting and running as fast as he could go. And the game was ON. He would run for a while and then he would stop and munch on the green grass just long enough for Barb to catch up to him. Just as she was about to put a hand on him, away he would go, slide to a stop and spin around and look at her as if to say “come on...bet you can't catch me!” He would do this over and over until she was so mad at

him that she started calling him names. And when he was done, he was done and she could walk over to him and lead him to the barn with two fingers under his chin like nothing had ever happened. But the thing with Scooter is that Barb couldn't just stand there and wait for him to be done....NOOOO, she had to play this game with him.

Alexis told me that one of the things that made Scooter so special is that he would take care of her like her grandpa or dad would. He was a challenge to show at times because he kept her safe in the show ring, and even though she wanted to go faster and try something different, he simply would not.

When Alexis was 7, they were at an IBHA show in IL, Amy wanted Alexis to ride Scooter in barrel racing. She wrapped his legs and put on his contesting bridle and set Alexis in the saddle. They thought that he would forget how much he loved to run barrels, but were so wrong! Scooter took one look at those barrels, up came his head, his eyes lit up, and he started to bounce around. Barb grabbed one side of his bridle and Ed Anderson grabbed the other side and they both said at the same time "this is not happening". Alexis did ride him at a later date in barrel and poles but always with his pleasure bit and his heavy pleasure saddle on. Once he figured out the she wasn't ready to go fast he packed her around the pattern at a safe speed, which was a hard thing for him as he did love to run. Every year she got braver and he got faster for her but somehow he knew it wasn't her cup of tea. As much as he wanted to run he took care of his little gal.

Scooter was not a push button horse, you had to know how to ride him and how to push those buttons. He was a horse that you had to earn his respect, and once you did, he would give you his respect and give you 110%. Alexis and Scooter had success in the show pen because they spent many hours together and she knew what he would do before he even did it. Barb has this rule at her farm that in order to show on the weekend, you had to ride your horse at least three times a week before the show. She never had to tell Alexis that. If no one would have time to get Scooter ready for her to ride (keeping in mind she still couldn't reach his back to saddle him), she would lead him over to the arena fence and climb onto her grandpa's john boat, onto the arena fence and literally jump on his back and ride off with just a halter and leadrope.

In Barb's words, every young person needs a horse like Scooter. He was not a push button horse and he developed a work ethic in you because he took work. He taught Alexis that "you get out of me what you put into me". His work ethic lessons have set Alexis on a path to greatness. Not only is she excelling in school because of her work ethic, but she is also has an invitation to visit Texas A & M this summer with the hopes of being accepted into their equine program when she starts college in 2 years. Scooter has taught Alexis to be a gracious loser...a humble winner...and good sportsman. These life lessons have led her to be well received within the equine community; not only within IBHA community, but also with the POA's as well as Quarter Horses. Alexis loves and appreciates Scooter for his love and his lessons for getting her where is she at in life today and she thinks of him every time she gets on another horse.

Barb said that Scooter's stall is still open in her barn. There have been times when there have been a few horses in it for a short period of time (like a new baby and their dam), but that this will always be Scooter's stall. There are many early mornings that she looks over and wishes so much that she could hear his soft, gentle nicker that greeted her every day. She said when he died it would hard to find another horse to fill his shoes. A friend told her not to try to fill his shoes, but to be thankful if they could find one that can walk in his hoof prints. She is still looking for that horse.

Alexis said that Scooter brought her family together. Scooter didn't just teach her how to ride; he thought her how to care...how to love... and how to appreciate and that she will forever miss him. Scooter was her once in a lifetime horse and his memory continues to live on in the heart of the little girl who once owned and showed him. He is her angel.

In closing, I would like to share a quote from the movie Seabiscuit. Alexis said that this is one of her favorite quotes and it reminds her of Scooter.

"You know everyone thinks that we found this broken down horse and fixed him, but we didn't. He fixed us, every one of us and I guess in a way, we kinda fixed each other too."