

Riding Biography



Candy Haasch is the founder, and heart, of the Warriors of the Rainbow Horse Sanctuary, Inc.

Candy began riding at the age of four at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She studied with Janie Dawson, who owned [Walnut Slope Riding Academy](#), which is now run by Janie's daughter. Janie trained the AQHA Cazador to seven consecutive State Open Jumper Championships and rode him to the American high jumper record of 7'6" (at the time). Cazador was also an Olympic Show Jumping team candidate in both 1964 and 1968. Janie Dawson was a horse master of the highest caliber, and Candy learned at her knee. Candy also worked for Carroll Carney and other American Saddlebred trainers, and was gaiting horses by the time she was twelve, but she found the hunter world more appealing. When she was lucky enough to earn a full scholarship to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, at sixteen years old, she feared her riding days were over, because she could not afford to take her horse along to college with her. However, Cornell was soliciting for new polo team members! Candy tried out for one of the three open spots against 57 other girls, and made it. She played Varsity Women's Polo for three years, then trained polo ponies for Jorie Butler in the 1980s.

Continuing her trend of mastering different disciplines, Candy went to the east coast for five years and worked at Penn National, Suffolk Downs, Pimlico, Keystone, Laurel, and Hialeah race tracks, as a hot walker, groom, pony rider, shedrow manager and finally passing the test for trainer at Delaware Downs.

She returned to Madison, Wisconsin to help her father care for his horses and to run not one, but two successful businesses: Horse Lore Hollow in Cottage Grove, WI, for 11 years, and Haasch Horse Haven in Blue River, WI for 13.

Candy continued to diversify her talents and skills by driving a carriage for hire, training horses, standing stallions at stud, raising and selling purebred Arabian and American Bashkir Curly horses, teaching equitation, and judging horse shows. Both she and her students won championships from local and 4-H levels up through Class A, culminating in the 1987 National Championship in Ely, NV where she won eight out of eight classes entered.

To round out her array of specialties, which by now included: driving, polo, dressage, jumpers, and the racetrack, years later, Candy's daughter decided she wanted to rodeo, so Candy attended a multitude of rodeos in the capacity of “rodeo mom” and therefore learned, amongst other things, Barrels, Pole-Bending, Goat-Tying, and Breakaway Roping.

Accomplishments of recent student Emily Wood (Mineral Point, WI) on Shesa Sassy Mister may be viewed on YouTube, winning championship after championship.

Over the years, Candy has also been employed by dressage FEI Judge Jayne Ayers (Hearthstone Farms, Dousman, WI) Daalda Arabians (Germantown, WI) and Breezy Day Farm (Verona, WI), a Class A hunter/jumper venue, in the capacity of stable manager/young horse trainer.

She has studied under Chuck Grant, Michigan (dressage), Major Paul Lindsay, former Captain of the Irish Show Jumping Team, now at [Cedar Crest in New York and South Carolina](#) (eventing/show jumping), Col. Von Ziegner, Germany (dressage), Marie Francois Johnson, France (dressage). Candy also studied with Amy Hunter, Huntington Farms, Florida and Wisconsin (Grand Prix Open Jumpers) Claudia Misner, formerly from Germany, now in Missouri (dressage) and most recently with Robert Johnson of Johnson's Performance Horses, Miller, MO, World Champion Reiner and many times Champion at AQHA Congress.

Her ongoing professional development has included: the four-day Parelli Instructors Workshop in Galena, IL, the two-week Centered Riding Clinic in Mazomanie, WI, several Linda Tellington-Jones (tTeam touch) classes. She has also attended seminars by [Eitan Beth-Halachmy](#) (formerly of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, now training Morgans in CA), [Monty Roberts](#), John Lyons, Richard Shrake, and the late Sheila Varian, renowned Arabian trainer.

Currently, Candy's permanent “staff” here at Warriors consists of: Pirate, her Curly (seen above in a halter class, where he placed fourth). Pirate came to Candy 15 years ago as a yearling who was going to be put down because he had injured his right eye, and euthanasia was less expensive than eye surgery. Luckily, the owner was willing to give him to Candy, instead, who opted to pay for the eye surgery! Other Warriors include: Traveller, a Quarter Horse who was relinquished to her because he has cancer, the Bonnie Princess Obsidian, an aged Tennessee Walker, and Smarty and Snowy, BLM mustangs. She always has a rotating cast of adoptable horses that are just as varied as her permanent herd. Her herd is just as manifold as her talents.

In Carthage, MO, near where she now resides, Candy has only shown twice, in 2007 and again in 2008, at the Curly Horse Midwest Classics. She won Grand Champion at Halter, Gymkhana Champion, Young Horse Champion, English Champion and even Stall Decorating Champion, winning dozens of ribbons of all placings in the process..

Candy has recently traded her show coat for a hunt coat, and has been foxhunting since 2006 with Coal Valley Hounds of McCune, KS (Wes and Kathleen Sandness, MFHs, Rachel Joyce, Huntsman) In 2008 Coal Valley Hounds awarded her her colors. She is currently a member in good standing with Misty River Hounds (Dina del Guercio, MFH, Sally Lobb, Huntsman) of Huntsville, AR and also hunts with various other hunts around the country (most recently Grand Canyon Hounds in Arizona) as a guest.

In addition to preparing horses to be adopted out, Candy prepares equestrians to become responsible, skilled, 100% successful horse owners. Many, many horse owners whom Candy has started into this passion have kept their first horse (chosen with the help of Candy) until the day that horse died. This is perhaps the credential of which she is most proud.