

Publisher's Test Ride

Stride Right Farms: Breeders of Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses and Rocky Mountain Horses

by NWHS Owner/Publisher
Karen Pickering

When I arrived at Stride Right Farms in Issaquah, Washington for a test ride at noon one January day, I was greeted by Mel Kuhlman



and his wife, Debbie, the owners of the farm. A few visitors were checking out the horses, and I met some regulars who said they absolutely loved coming to Stride Right Farms for the environment and were particularly impressed by the temperament of the horses.

Mel put me up on a 14.2-hand mare named Ginger, gave me a little instruction, and let me have some fun with this new experience. We warmed up in the indoor arena, allowing us all the chance to play with the Rocky Mountain Horse's smooth 4-beat gait. After that, we were able to ride off into the woods that sit beyond the farm's driveway. The weather decided to break just long enough for us to get a nice ride up in the hills on some well-groomed trails at the base of Squak Mountain State Park.

What a hoot! This little horse could flat out *move*, yet she was unbelievably smooth. I can certainly understand the attraction to these horses, especially for long hours on the trail. Ginger was well-mannered, willing, and had plenty of energy, yet remained easy to control. I had suspected she was young, but when Mel told me she was only 2 ½ years old I was completely sold on his breeding program.

If you're new to horses or just getting back into riding, I would highly recommend having a look at the horses from Stride Right Farms. Mel Kuhlman has a solid breeding program, producing national champions that can trail ride or do just about anything you want to do. I came away with appreciation for the Rocky Mountain Horse as a breed and for what they have to offer our readers.

Give Mel and Debbie a call. They are gracious hosts and have a love for the breed. Stride Right Farms welcomes you to come for a test ride.

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Stride Right Farms
(425) 766-1184 • www.striderightfarms.com