

**From Tracey Binder, mother to Madelyn, 2nd place in Intro C Div age 13-14**

My daughter had an amazing time at D4K this past weekend in Saugerties. We have never been to an away show or any big show for that matter so it was extra special for us. We came with no expectations except to learn and have fun but when my daughter and her pony ended up coming in 2nd place overall in their division, well that was just unbelievable! The pony she rides is not an old schoolmaster nor does she have papers. She was literally someone else's trash, thrown out at the tender age of 3. Thankfully she was cute and sweet enough to get the attention of a local rescue in Gap, PA. They paid her \$250 bail and saved her from being shipped out on the next truck to Canada. That was July 2010. From there a hunter trainer saw her turned out in a field at the rescue and thought she was cute as well. She took her in and started her training that same year in September. May of 2011 she was put up for sale and that is when we spotted her in an ad. She was the first horse we looked at and we bought her the same day. A very impulsive move for someone like me, buying a 4 year old green pony for an 11 year rider! The pony was quiet but she seemed to have a shutting down issue that I just assumed was stubbornness or "typical" mare behavior (I hate to use that term). It took some time for my daughter to get strong enough to help the pony overcome this habit but with patience and perseverance they made great strides. She not only moves forward willingly but does it quite nicely! Now she is transformed into something beautiful and we have been approached many times with offers to buy her.

I know you are all about the horses, their care and well being above all. I know there are other happy ending stories much like ours and that is why I thought it would be great to have an award for such a pony. You know the ones, with unknown origins. We can only guess our pony is a quarter horse cross with a paint by her big butt and her high stockings and white spot on her belly.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestion and for having these wonderful festivals for the kids.

Sincerely,

Tracey Binder

mother to Madelyn Binder

2nd place finisher in Intro C div age 13-14