

Carrie Johnson & TM Bagheera



American Endurance Ride Conference

2013 AERC Decade Team



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Rider's name: Carrie Johnson

Horse's name: TM Bagheera

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): 2004

Region: NW

Current rider lifetime mileage? 6,155. Endurance: 4,095 - Limited Distance: 2,060

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her? Bagheera was at a trainers, he was a 5 year old, 15+ hand Arabian and I fell in love with this horse. I took him home and our journey began. Bagheera was a handful, he wanted to go and now. At 19 years old he is still anxious to go. The first

few years we figured each other out, but that didn't go without being bucked off at the beginning of a ride, which I got a score of "10". Bagheera is one of the most natural athletic horses I have ever ridden, he knows his job and he loves it.

What is your horse's breeding? Arabian

Sex: Gelding

Horse height: 15' 3 hands

Approximate weight: 1,100

Color: Liver Chestnut

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? His height, build and color.

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? Yes, my first endurance horse was an 11 year old grey Arabian mare.

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? (14) 10 of my own and 4 belonging to other people.

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? No, this is the only horse sport I am involved in.

How many years have you been involved with endurance? 17 years *With horses in general?* Yes

What got you interested in endurance riding? A friend *What was it that kept you interested?* The love of being around horses and being out on the trail with your partner. Once you are out there with your horse you are hooked.

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? 11 years old

How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons? 11

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 25 miles.

How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)? My first ride in 1997 - we took 1st place and BC on a 25.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? 2 to 3 months during the winter.

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? No 100, yet!

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? At least 2 weeks.

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? I use Specialized Saddles and now I ride my horses barefoot, but I will put on Easy Care Gloves or Glue-On's for the rides.

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? About 5 years into his career, Bagheera would have bouts of colic after a ride, nothing severe but it started happening more and more. I had Bagheera scoped and he had ulcers. I had to give him some time off and change his diet. This was a learning experience.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. It was on an 80, we were out on the trail alone and enjoying every minute and he wasn't pulling.

What was your most humbling experience? When Bagheera and I were riding along the Sinker Canyon Reservoir, we got sucked into the mud and fell over into the water. Bagheera was stuck in the mud and couldn't get out. I thought I was going to lose my horse, but all of a sudden he threw himself out into the water, swam down and found another spot to get out. We finished the rest of the 50 mile ride. I was

very thankful that I didn't lose my horse that day.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? To make sure you take care of your horse on the trail, make sure he is eating and drinking and watch for any warning signs. Let vets know of any changes in your horse.

What advice would you give to new riders? Do your homework; ask lots of questions, educate yourself. Do what is best for you and your horse.

Looking back, what do you feel you did right? good training

What would you do differently? I would have paid more attention to my horse.

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? It was to do a 100 on Bagheera, but we never did make that goal. I trained one year for it, rode several 75 mile rides. When my riding partner (friend) had a accident on her horse, it was put off. A year later Bagheera was diagnosed with ulcers and he needed time off.

Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours? Bagheera is this big, in your pocket horse, that loves the attention.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multiday, etc.)? I love them all! I still want to do a 100.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? How we treat our equine, is how we treat people, with respect.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? I have learned that sugar and molasses is not good for horses. I stay away from any products that are high in sugars or molasses. I use beet pulp, I make sure to rinse real good (a Lee Pearce secret) and I use Platinum Performance and electrolytes when needed. This seems to work the best for me.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? Platinum Performance

Do you give any kind of joint products? No

Describe your electrolyte protocol. I will start giving my horse electrolytes a few days before a ride. The day of the ride, it depends on the horse, if the horse is drinking and eating good I will give some electrolytes in his mash at vet checks. If the horse is not drinking or eating good I will wait until after the ride to see if they will eat mash with electrolytes. When home I make sure he gets electrolytes put back into his diet for the next few days.

How do you choose which rides to attend? I don't choose, I try do them all. :)

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? Not really, but would like to do more.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why. Skyla Stewart- she has a great training program. Lee Pearce because he has done so well with his horse and knows all kinds of little secrets. Carolyn Roberts because she has lots of endurance miles and I love all her stories and she knows how to keep her horses in shape.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. I have several mentors and I try to get information from all of them. I learn something new all the time.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? I would look at their mind, see how they make changes when asked and how they take care of themselves.