

Meet Anna Larson

Hello all, I'm Anna Larson. I was born a horse addicted child. I apparently also obtained by obsession for Appaloosa spotty butts from my mother and grandfather. I grew up in south eastern New Mexico where the Quarter Horse rules the land, but I wanted different from the first time I saw that big black stallion with the white and black spotted blanket. He was owned by Mr. Jim Sears. We boarded my first horse Dolly at his place, and my mom took us to visit and see his horses. My mom told me the stallion looked just like Stud Spider, but I was too young to know who Stud Spider was back then. I did know, however, that I wanted to own a horse like that.

I grew up listening to stories of my mom showing her POA's at shows all over Iowa and all the people she'd met over time. My mom Sandra (Wilson) Connolly and my grandpa Robert Wilson had raised, trained, bred, and shown POA's nearly from the beginning of the organization of the club. My grandpa had one of the first ten ponies registered in the newly formed POAC and at one point, he was also on the board of directors.



Northstar Ladybug F2-2388 and Keith Larson

I loved hearing about all the spotted horses my mom grew up seeing. But living here in Quarter Horse country, I never saw very many Appaloosas of my own. When my grandpa died and left me a bit of his inheritance, I decided to find one. I was sorely disappointed with the stock available in the state as they were basically all the AQHA bloodlines I'd grown up with only with a few spots. I wanted more, so I searched high and low for horses with more Appaloosa and less Quarter Horse. I had to "import" my horses from other states. One from Minnesota, one from Iowa, and finally, one from Arkansas.

I only have a few horses due to space, money and all that jazz, but my mares are part of the family. I choose each with an intent to breed at some point, and to breed up in generations.

Northstar Ladybug (F2-2388), my Minnesota purchase, is the horse that tuned me in to the ICAA.

Ladybug came with ICAA and CRHA papers, but no ApHC papers. I learned all about the ICAA because of her. Over time, I learned that I preferred the way the ICAA rules were structured and their breeding generational Appaloosa to Appaloosa appealed to my interest in raising appaloosas, not just Quarter Horses with spots. So I've continued using ICAA to register my horses ever since.

Although one of my mares, Annas Top Dun F2-2379 has more Quarter Horse bloodlines up close, she's still more generational Appaloosa than what I could get locally.

If you also can't tell, I also have an obsession with the dun gene in horses. So I've searched high and low to find generational Appaloosas with dun coloration. So I intentionally scoured the sales notices for over two years in order to find the right combination of pedigree, bloodlines, and conformation in dun Appaloosas around the country. Annas Top Dun is one of my choices.

My "Dream" horse literally came to me in a dream. Hobos Dream Girl (F4-2591) first popped into my dreams about one month after my childhood gelding Hobo was euthanized due to a twisted intestine. He haunted my dreams for weeks and weeks until I accidentally found the foal for sale. I tried to ignore it and not buy her, but the dreams wouldn't stop. When I finally looked at her pedigree and saw both the gelding's name and my name in her pedigree, I knew she was mine.



Annas Top Dun F2-2379 with Jet To The Moon F3-2693



Hobos Dream Girl F4-2591 and Anna Larson



Hobos Heart F5-2730

I prefer that my horses be “using” horses before being breeding horses. I don’t show, but I do trail ride. Dream and I placed 6th in the State of NM and in the top 100 in the nation during her first year of competition with ACTHA trail riding. I continue to use and “show” my Appaloosas at all of our Back Country Horsemen trail and work rides. My husband Keith, rides Ladybug and I usually ride Dream on our many adventures throughout the state and our region. We have participated in parades, Rodeo Grand Entries, and many BCH work projects.

My pride and joy, Hobo’s Heart (F5-2730), I hope will stand at stud in the future and pass on his great temperament and beauty along the way.

To learn more about Anna's "dream horse", look for her book "The Horse That Haunts Dreams" on Amazon.