

# Snickers Satisfaction

*It's never too late to complete a childhood dream.*

By Laura Stevens



Jane Davis and "Snickers"

WHILE MANY CHILDREN go through a "horse phase," collecting posters, Breyers and rocking horses, patient parents worldwide write off their children's desire, assuming they might grow out of horse mania. For some, that holds true. Others discover the joys of equine companionship early. Still more

people quietly internalize their horse longing, waiting for the right time to purchase their perfect partner. Jane Davis proved it's never too late in life to return to that childhood dream of horse ownership.

The craze started early for Jane, a New York native. After climbing in the saddle at age 5, she experimented with nearly every style of riding, including hunter/jumpers, dressage, Western pleasure and drill team. Though horseless, Jane fulfilled her riding goals with borrowed mounts supplied by horse-loving friends.

When a childhood riding buddy was kicked in the head, Jane was shocked. Rattled by the accident—and her friend's ensuing brain surgery—Jane abandoned her equestrian lifestyle. Shunning her horse background, Jane was out of the horse world for more than 15 years, until a move to Santa Fe, New Mexico, brought the Western way of life close to home. Surrounded by cowboys, open spaces and other iconic images of the American West, Jane felt drawn back to horses.

"I began asking friends if I could hang out with their horses," Jane recalled. "That led to riding them, mucking stalls and regaining confidence around them."

Jane, a licensed social worker and therapist, learned of an equine therapy certification program and began volunteering. This experience, coupled with a reoccurring dream featuring Paint Horses and Native Americans, propelled Jane's resurgence of horse interest.

"Years ago, I was at an art gallery opening. I turned a corner, and there was a black-and-white

photograph of [the Paint Horse] from my dreams!" Jane remembered. "It has hung in my house like a mantra for years, continuing to draw me closer."

As Jane became more comfortable around equine, she rediscovered a latent longing for horse ownership. Deciding you're never too old to fulfill a dream, Jane began searching for her dream horse.

From beginning to purchase, Jane took over a year to find her perfect Paint. Browsing online horse listings, she also scheduled in-person visits, relying on a trusted, knowledgeable horse friend for guidance.

Between online listings, word-of-mouth and local horse sales, Jane left no stone unturned in her hunt.

"I was doing as much as possible but not focusing on the outcome, a key element for me, which allowed the process to happen," Jane said.

When Snickers N Te made an entrance onto the horse search radar, Jane felt an immediate connection to the 12-year-old black tobiano mare.

"I saw a video of her that included [footage of] her being born!" Jane explained. "I was emotionally hooked for sure."

The mare's ranching background and former owners assuaged any concerns Jane might have had with the purchase process.

"I knew she had been very loved," she said. "The family wanted to be comfortable with whoever bought 'Snickers.'"

With the transfer completed, Jane joyfully loaded her new Paint into the trailer, only to be waylaid by a flat tire. Undeterred by the experience, Jane laughs about it later.

"She and I stood on a patch of grass together for three hours! That was quite a bonding beginning," she explained.

Although good things take time, now that this APHA member found her dream horse, she looks forward to the coming years with Snickers. Eager to share her gentle horse, Jane and Snickers provide equine-assisted therapy through her business, Riders of the Sage—New Mexico.

Up next on Jane's bucket list is shaping her 30-acre property into an equine retreat center called One Heart Ranch.

"There are so many things to be done, but I am satisfied just being with my horse!" she said. 🐾🐾🐾