

# BEING PUT ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Running a show barn is no different than running a breeding, racing or any other type of equine centre. All types of people come walking through the door trying to sell their services. If you're like me, you really don't have time to converse with every person.

I, Sandra Rizzo, run the Nighswander Equestrian Centre in Aurora, the largest American Saddlebred show horse facility in Ontario, if not Canada. March 2<sup>nd</sup> I remember giving my last feeding instructions as I was getting ready to leave the following week for vacation, and in comes another visitor. Greg Watson and I met that day for the very first time. It may have been that he really wasn't trying to sell me something that day, but rather wanting to know if I was happy with what I was feeding. Of course I was! I take great pride in the health and well-being of all the horses that are in my care. Greg said fine, and asked if it was okay to take a look at our horses. For the first time, I have to admit that was unusual. Why would someone want to stay around if they knew they were getting the cold shoulder? Well, if he had the time to hang around, then I did have an interesting case study of a horse for him, my very own horse. For no apparent reason she just never seemed to bloom anymore. I introduced Greg to Sweet Bourbon Candy, aka Candy. I vividly remember telling Greg that if he would like a project, this mare is all his. Candy was a "Canadian Champion Three-Gaited Show Pleasure mare," emphasis on the word "was."

Greg opened up her stall door and inspected her as we talked. I told him that she would quiver to the touch, sink down when I would do up her girth, and when I got on her she would walk off cricked and quivering as she went. On top of all that, Candy never seemed to shed out her winter coat, and when she did, she got her coat back a month later, dull and long. I told Greg that this mare is the best Canada has to offer, but something had definitely gone wrong, but what and why? I have had veterinarians, a massage therapist, and bone experts take a look at her for the answer, and I have the bills to show for it. The next day Greg came back to the farm with samples and a plan. He told me that he wouldn't be happy until he could see his face in her coat, and that when I returned from my vacation, the mare would be different.

Three weeks later when I returned, Candy had started to change. Greg Watson, territory manger of Brook Feeds, put Candy on Phase V and Joint Armour for her performance, Flax Appeal for her shine, Neigh-Lox for her stomach and EquiShure for her hindgut. This list may sound long to you; however, surprisingly, the quantities are small. Greg's goal was to put this mare back on track as a top contender in the show ring, free from any pain and with a glistening coat. Sure enough, before long Sweet Bourbon Candy left the show ring with the red ribbon in the largest line class judged on conformation, presence and way of going. Greg did exactly what he set out to do. With such a great success story with Candy, I had Greg set up a feeding profile for all of our performance show horses, lesson horses and boarder horses with a Brooks Performance Horse Feed program. Thanks to Greg Watson, my horses are all healthier and happier.

Sandra Rizzo  
Barn Manager



[www.brooksfeeds.com](http://www.brooksfeeds.com)

*Fueling Champions! It's what we do!*



**Sandra Rizzo proudly shows a rejuvenated "Sweet Bourbon Candy"**