



The USEF Horses of the Year Award

Awarded to two horses, one (1) National and one (1) International, that have excelled above all others in equestrian competition for the current year.

Criteria:

- Each USEF Recognized National or FEI Affiliate may nominate one horse or pony per their representative breed or discipline. Each USEF Breed/Discipline committee may also nominate one horse or pony per their representative breed or discipline.
- The nominated horse or pony must be at least 3 years old.
- The nominee must have won a national championship at a Federation-licensed competition held within the U.S., an FEI-rated four-star competition or higher (or an FEI-rated three-star competition for dressage), or medaled in an FEI continental, regional, or world championship in its respective discipline. (The only exceptions are Welsh Ponies, Connemara Ponies, and Hunters, for which the Affiliate will set forth the criteria for their nomination.)
- Must have competed in a USEF-licensed or FEI competition in 2024.

Selection of Winner and Timeline:

The Awards Desk will send requests to National Breed/Discipline Affiliates and USEF Breed/Discipline committees requesting nominations.

** In the event insufficient nominations are received by the Breed/Discipline Affiliates and Committees, USEF Marketing and Sport Staff may put nominations forward. **

Nominations will include the following:

- Owner's Name and Contact Information
- Age, Breed, Sire, Dam, Trainer
- Short biography
- Highlights of past accomplishments
- Current year's competition accomplishments
- Three (3) high-resolution pictures that could be used in promotion of the award

Nominations will be accepted starting in September and will close on November 1, 2024.

(Nominations may be accepted past the published deadline in special circumstances if the Awards Desk is notified in advance. Please Contact Jera Jordan, jjordan@usef.org with any questions regarding late nominations.)

All nominations must include biographical accomplishments. USEF staff will verify eligibility and that nominees meet the criteria on the nomination form. After each affiliate/committee submits its nominee, the USEF Awards Committee, comprised of individuals representing virtually every recognized affiliate, will then analyze each nominee's 2024 accomplishments and overall career credentials and vote for up to six (at least 3 National and 3 International) horses or ponies. These horses will then be presented to the public and submitted for popular vote via the Federation website and email promotions. At the end of the voting period, the horse competing in FEI-sanctioned

disciplines as well as the horse competing and showing within the National breeds and disciplines with the highest number of votes will become the USEF's Horses of the Year.

The semi-finalists will be voted on in a secret ballot by the public.

Voters will rank the National and International semifinalists in order of preference. Duplicate or incorrect ballots are void. Voting closes December 30th.

Votes tabulate as follows:

1st: 5 points

2nd: 3 points

3rd: 1 point

The National candidate with the most points will be the National Horse of the Year and the International candidate with the most points will be the International Horse of the Year. *In case of a tie, the candidate with the most 1st place in the block ranking wins, then the most 2nd places, then the most 3rd places until the winner is determined.*

The Horses of the Year will be announced to the public during the National Horse of the Year Awards Dinner.

Perpetual Trophy: Alexa King Bronze

Horses of the Year
Past Winners & Finalists

2018

Cobra

Karsten

Private Practice

Verdades

Eddie Blue

Ms Dreamy

2021

Balou du Reventon

Dolton

Suppenkasper

Big Shot

HS Daydream's Heads Up

Sjaan

2019

Darry Lou

First Apple

Tseterleg

El Primero

Shezaffirecracker

The Daily Lottery

Zander fan Camelot

2022

Canon Creek

Off the Record

Orafina

Salvino

Shezaffirecracker

Quiana

2020

Gazelle

Dolton

Pritchard Hill

Vivaldi De Besilu

2023

Paradigm

Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars

Mai Baum

HH Azur

VL Todd Michael

Heirs Noble Love