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## CHUGGER

Chugger's Jack Straw, or fondly called Chugger, is a registered 1991 Quarterhorse with outstanding bloodlines and has won many ribbons as a Western Pleasure Horse with Joann before becoming a police mount.



Joann's very first Police Horse Competition in 1999 was aboard Chugger. The story goes that they entered the arena and Chugger stopped dead in front of the bridge with balloons on each side. The announcer joked that Chugger must not go to many parties! Joann knew that although Chugger had not been exposed to balloons before, patience and reassurance were key

tools. After Joann took a deep breath and urged one step forward from Chugger, it was that first step that provided the mechanism for positive reinforcement. Joann rewarded the effort with soft words and a pat. Chugger visibly calmed enough to take one more step and receive more reassurance. The entire process was slow, but the pair went past the balloons! They earned a respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place, but it wasn't the ribbon that was prized, it was the trust that Chugger gave. Although not a brave horse in terms of obstacles and competitions, he is a very sensible, trustworthy horse that has a big heart.

Chugger was Joann's husband's first horse. He joined Gentle Dove Farm as a young 6 year old as Mike's trusted mount taking him as a new rider on many a lone trail ride through some unique experiences and always bringing him back safely. He is a dependable, easy going horse and knows how much work he really has to do. Beginner riders will find themselves standing in the middle of the ring, while those who know how to communicate their wishes will have a sensitive mount willing to perform at the highest levels.

Chugger has also been a steadfast mount on many work details including searching for missing drug dealers, escorting celebrity buses through ten thousand screaming fans, and then peacefully settling down to watch the sky explode with monumental fireworks. Horse shows, trail riding, camping, mounted details, trail trials, and team penning are just some of Chugger's diverse experiences. Always the perfect gentleman, Chugger is the boss in the Gentle Dove Farm herd.