



**Joann K. Long**  
2906 Wheeler Station Rd.  
Bloomfield, N.Y. 14469  
585-738-7477  
[www.GentleDoveFarm.com](http://www.GentleDoveFarm.com)

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## DILLON

He could have been named the 'come back kid' for all he's been through! Dillon came from a horse trader, had been an auction horse, had signs of abuse, but had a big heart. Joann bought him in 1999, brought him home to Gentle Dove Farm, and began training him when he was 10 years old for mounted police work. At first he was a hot horse who didn't know what a flat walk was and only remembered his barrel racing and competitive trail riding background. But slowly Joann earned his trust and they became partners. They worked methodically and patiently on obstacle training and building confidence. Dillon started competing in Police Horse Competitions and built a reputation of distinction. As the years progressed they earned top honors at the NYS Police and Fire Games multiple years and then in 2006 won the Grand Championship Brigadier Award at the coveted North American Police Equestrian Championship (NAPEC) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with over 100 of the best police horses in the US and Canada competing.

Then tragedy struck with Dillon becoming lame as an 18 year old. Off he went to Cornell Veterinary Hospital for surgery where he received outstanding care and the skilled surgeon was superb. Then home again for months of stall rest along with a recommendation for Cosequin® to help him heal. He had two more trips to Cornell with complications and then more recovery time. Joann hand walked him daily for 5 months, sometimes in the blowing snow. Finally, with a Cosequin® foundation, consistent care, and patience, Dillon became stronger and sound. After a year off he began Police work again and came back to compete in the 2008 NAPEC in Kingston, Canada where he earned a very sweet return to another Grand Championship.

He is now the star of Obstacle and Sensory Training – Mounted Police Style as he starts off each clinic performing through a series of difficult obstacles such as standing still while a gun is fired, walking calmly over the plastic tarp with the sprinkler running, standing quietly while a flare is lit, and willingly pushing past the barrel blockade. Dillon exhibits the ultimate trust that can be achieved. This horse has the biggest heart and will forever be Joann's partner and always have a home at Gentle Dove Farm.