



## The USEF Horse of the Year Awards

*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., a 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 2025.

### 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 October 31, 2025.

*(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](mailto: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 2025 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 31.

**Votes tabulate as follows:**

**1<sup>st</sup>: 5 points**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: 3 points**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: 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**

**2019**

Darry Lou  
First Apple  
Tseterleg  
El Primero  
Shezaffirecracker  
The Daily Lottery  
Zander fan Camelot

**2023**

HH Azur  
Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars  
Mai Baum  
Paradigm  
VL Todd Michael  
Heirs Noble Love

**2020**

Gazelle  
Dolton  
Pritchard Hill  
Vivaldi De Besilu

**2024**

Caracole de la Roque  
Diabolo  
Diamond Dunes  
Floratina  
McQueen  
CH The Crowd Went Nuts!

**2021**

Balou du Reventon  
Dolton  
Suppenkasper  
Big Shot  
HS Daydream's Heads Up  
Sjaan

**2022**

Salvino  
Off the Record  
Orafina  
Canon Creek  
Shezaffirecracker  
Quiana



## 2025 Horse of the Year Nomination

*Please submit this form by the deadline, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to:*  
Jera Jordan, Marketing Department  
USEF, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511. [jjordan@usef.org](mailto:jjordan@usef.org),  
Tel: (859) 225-6939

### **Criteria for nomination:**

Each USEF Recognized National or FEI Affiliate may nominate one horse or pony per their representative breeds or disciplines. 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 US, 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 2025.

**Name of Breed/Discipline Affiliate or Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Nominated Horse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USEF Horse ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliate ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner(s):** *(If more than one, please attach all names and addresses)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Notable Accomplishments for 2025:**

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Nominee's Notable Career Accomplishments Prior to 2025:

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Horse's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Sire \_\_\_\_\_ Dam \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Three (3) high-resolution photos of the nominated horse MUST be included with the submission**

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**Executive Director/President of affiliate or Chair of USEF Committee submitting the nomination:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Also please include any additional criteria used to determine your Affiliation's nominee.*

