

# Y Not Dunny Shoulder To Shoulder With QH and Warmblood Competition

By Kelly Bowers

Many in the Ontario horse industry have heard of Y Not Dunny, the 7 yr old Arabian x Quarter Horse gelding. He is the son of renowned NRHA Platinum Reining QH stallion, Dun It You Won It, and is owned by Ron and Gillian Lubinski of Y Not Farms. Over the past few years, while paired with various reining riders, Dunny has blazed trails and found success in the challenging world of Ontario reining. In Canada, he is the only part Arabian to ever win NRHA Champion year end titles ie Reining Canada Novice Horse Open level II competing in only half the season shows. As a 5 year old in July 2009, he won the ORHA Sired Stakes Derby open at Spirit of Excellence with NRHA US rider Jared Leclair, his first event after 5 months off. Y Not Dunny is the first and only Candian part Arabian horse to win a Pro Class at the prestigious Arabian/Part Arabian Futurity in Scottsdale, Arizona and with a rookie pro rider. Even as far back as 2007, Y Not Dunny was turning heads as the first part Arabian to win a NRHA 3-year-old futurity, claiming the \$500 added 3-Year-Old Snaffle Bit/Hackamore class at Ilderton. Most would agree, Y Not Dunny, the Arab, has made a memorable impression in western circles in a short time.

This year, at the Cornerstone Dressage Summer show in Palgrave, trainer and Anglo-Arab breeder, Cheryl Ehrlick, had been observing a new-to-the-ring dressage horse who she described as well built and “real cute”. It was later that she learned the cute dressage horse was in fact Y Not Dunny, being ridden by dressage rider, Joyce Cameron. “I am not hooked on pedigree,” says Cheryl. “I don’t care what package it comes in, or what label it has stuck on it. What is important is how it moves, and what the picture is. I look forward to seeing Y Not compete at my two upcoming Arabian shows and the AHA Nationals.” One of the dressage judges that day also called him “a cute horse” on the score card, which seems to support popular opinion. Having seen Y Not Dunny on several occasions, I agree, he’s definitely a real cutie, but a “Arabian/QH crossed Reining Dressage horse”?

This unusual combination of breed and discipline evolved from an idea Joyce Cameron had early in the summer of 2011. Just months after giving birth to her daughter, Joyce suggested to Ron that he should consider competing Y Not in dressage. They’re neighbours and last year Joyce had ridden Y Not at the AHA Region 18 Open Reining Championship. Although Joyce’s first-ever reining event, they won with only a few weeks training. Now at Cornerstone in dressage, they entered 3rd level Bonze, and won three 2nd place ribbons. They heard lots of positive feedback but no-one there knew that Y Not Dunny had been trained for less than 3 weeks in dressage. Now that’s a versatile horse, and rider too.

That rider, Joyce Cameron, has been performing at the FEI Advanced level in dressage since 2009. She is coached by both her mom, Elsie Cameron and by Jacquie Brooks and the horse on that journey with her is Mardi Gras, a 13 yr old CWHBA gelding whom she started as a 7 yr old. The pair have earned several advanced level placings, claimed 1st at the Prix St. Georges at the Blainville Intl. Classic. They were members of the 2010 Remembrance Day quadrille at the RAWF, as well as this years Lit quadrille. Mardi Gras was also named 2010 CWHBA ON dressage horse of the year.

The Cornerstone competition was a test to see how Y Not would perform and measure up against the many domestic and



Arab/QH gelding Why Not Dunny and Joyce Cameron demonstrate FreeStyle Dressage at the 2011 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Photo by David Reid, D.R. Photos, [www.drphotos.ca](http://www.drphotos.ca)

imported warmbloods. The results were encouraging. Joyce feels Dunny has great potential, expecting to ride him in gold dressage events next year and if things go well, he may even become the first part Arabian/QH cross past reining champ Grand Prix horse. Why not? He is already the first part Arabian NRHA/RC/ORHA reining champion, ever, to compete in high level dressage.

Recently, Y Not Dunny was invited to participate at the OEF Spirit of The Horse demo, on OEF Appreciation Day for the 2011 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Joyce and Y Not Dunny performed three free style dressage shows for the wonderful Royal Fair crowds. Spectators were very enthusiastic to meet Y Not Dunny and the “cute” multi-faceted gelding was approached by many fans between performances.

After watching his reining/dressage horse train and compete, Ron says that reiners who want to improve the performance of their horse, may want to take a look at utilizing more dressage foundation to see the benefits of developing the top side and back end for impulsion and a balanced horse. The big picture, for Ron, though is to introduce the world to, this new kind of warmblood performance horse – a 50/50 Arabian and QH cross, born and bred in Canada. Ron plans to show that, not only can this horse compete and do well in a western discipline like Reining, but he can also experience success in the Olympic English discipline, Dressage. Western to English, he stands shoulder to shoulder with Quarter Horses and Warmbloods, as a breed of horse that is already recognized as one of the most beautiful in the world. Maybe you can have it all. We’ll have to watch to find out.

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