

Introduction

In 2022 Karin van Bekkum is 54 years old and lives with her husband Henri van den Tweel in Terschuur, Netherlands. From the time she can remember she, and her sister Yvette, have been



involved in the horse industry, at first of course mainly at the local ponyclub riding and showing their ponies in jumping and dressage. By the time Karin was 18 she got her first introduction to Western Riding and used her pony to further explore all disciplines of Allround Western Riding. That was around the year 1990.

After finishing her study at CAH Dronten - University of Applied Sciences and working as a nutritionist with a big Agro Food Business, her involvement in the Western Riding Industry quickly became bigger. Starting her own farm which involved the breeding and raising of Quarter Horses and American Paint Horses in 1997 got her on the map not only in the Netherlands but also in neighbouring countries Belgium and Germany.

The farm consisted of up to 35 horses, mostly from clients. Activities included organising practise days and clinics, demonstrations, getting a team of riders together to learn from and with each other and go to clinics and shows, boarding broodmares and making sure they got in foal, standing 2 studs, raising offspring, riding/training/showing, you name it.

Her involvement with Western Riding first was more with AQHA, showing offspring of the 2 Quarter Horse stallions standing at stud in all the major Futurities in Europe and later also with APHA showing American Paint Horses. Her first attendance at Euro-Paint was in 2003 with a horse called U Make My Day. Their debut was like a dream, winning the European Title in Sr. Hunter under Saddle and becoming the Res. Champion a couple of days later in Sr. Western Pleasure.

A couple of American Paint Horses crossed her path and by the time she bought Wrap And Roll in 2008 she was hooked with APHA and its shows. With "Rusty" she travelled as far as Italy to live and train there for a month, showed in Sweden and ofcourse in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Rusty was the best gelding in Zone 12 for 2years (Gelding+ program), won numerous Dutch and European Champion titles and still is shown, being 19 years old, by lessee Ellen Compagnie.

The horse that Karin is known with at this moment is Zip Me In My Dress. She bought her as a foal, only a couple of hours old and from just a few pictures. It was love at first sight! With "Betty" Karin started on the same path as she once did with Rusty but an injury changed the plan. Forced to give the injury time to heal Betty was bred and since then every other year she has given birth to a beautiful foal. The 2 oldest ones have been very succesful at Euro-Paint themselves. In between Betty is shown and has won several Dutch and European Championship titles in 8 different events!



Ever since her involvement with Western Riding and showing internationally, but also being a breeder of AQHA and APHA offspring, Karin tries to keep up with knowing the rules and regulations of both the associations and affiliates. Getting more and more involved with APHA and her Dutch affiliate made her become more interested in learning more. Now that she gets (a bit) older and is not showing as much as she used to there is time to spend on deepening her knowledge and helping others.

Always willing to help out other people with their registrations of weanlings, answering questions about anything from the rulebook or questions about scoring Halterclasses or what is the appropriate show outfit, it

all interests her and she is willing to help. That is why she would like to be on the ballot for next years election for State Director.

Picture 1: Karin with Wrap And Roll, a.k.a. Rusty

Picture 2: Karin at Euro-Paint, Nations Cup in 2019

Picture 3: Karin with Zip Me In My Dress, a.k.a. Betty in Green Western Pleasure.

