

# The Tall and the Short of the Horse Auction

A Well-Attended Auction Featured a Wide Variety of Equines

By Kathie Hamlin



**A two week old miniature horse, who was rejected by it's mother, was not only the smallest horse there, but also the one that got the most attention.**

PHOTOS COURTESY: TIM SMITH



**A Gypsy Vanner was one of the more uncommon breeds featured at the May 15 RSD Horse Auction.**

I'm sure I didn't decide to go to the RSD auction on May 15 because I needed another horse. I just like to go "in case." Usually, I stop by to check things out, and make sure I'm not missing anything good. I see a lot of people there that I know and I know they do not need more horses either.

Most of the time I go with my friend Christine, which is a little risky because it could get me labeled as a bad influence with her husband, should she ever fall in love with something she "needs."

Well, I got to experience a lot more of this particular auction than I normally do, because the pony I decided to bid on for the grandkids was pretty much the last horse going through the sale.

Naturally, I was also smitten with the two-week old mini. Apparently, his mother would not claim him, so he was trained to a bucket for his milk supplement. He was so cute and just wandered around following people like a puppy. I was not able to resist picking him up to hold and I was sure I needed him for the grandkids. He was hip number 2.

I had told my husband Greg that we were going early for the tack. When I saw the mini, I figured it would be a good idea to call home and tell him that I found some things for the grandkids and see what he said. To my surprise he said "That's fine, buy whatever you need." I questioned his response with "Really?" He responded "Sure, how much can it be?" Of course, I didn't know.

Christine asked "What did he say?" Knowing how much Greg "loves ponies," she was also expecting that it was not going to be well-received.

When I told her he said, "Buy what you want, how much can it be?" we both shrugged our shoulders and proceeded to investigate more things.

We took our position as little hip number 2 entered the ring. Luckily, he went for almost \$1,000, which was quite a bit more than I was willing to pay for a puppy.

As I was waiting for my other pony to be brought in (several hours later), we visited with other people we knew, I bought a saddle, and considered giving a good home to a couple more ponies that I thought needed some love.

Then we spent some time talking with Dr. Keith Berkeley of Valley Veterinary Associates, which was a good thing, because he reminded me that I may have momentarily lost some of my common sense...I decided to stick with just one pony.

He also gave me a reminder to keep anything brought home from any auction quarantined for at least two, preferably three weeks. More good advice.

Finally, my pony -- the last one of the night -- entered the ring. I have to admit, that after waiting all that time, I was not going to easily let her go. I thought \$600 was a good price and we were done. I would come pick her up in the morning.

I was very proud of myself for showing restraint and only buying one pony and a Crosby saddle for \$75. When I arrived home, I shared the details of my purchases with Greg, who said, "You bought a pony!!" I said, "Yes, I asked you if I could buy some things. I was at a horse auction, what did you think I meant?" Well, since I said I was going early for the tack, he thought that's all I was shopping for. LOL.

I spoke to Tim Smith, the owner of RSD, a couple days after the sale to see what he thought of the event. He confirmed the crowd was above average, but not as big as their New Year's Day sale. He said the horses brought good prices, and that there were ten horses that were "no-saled." He was concerned that people understand that when a horse is "no-saled" it is not because nobody bids, but because the buyer has set a reserve on the price for which they will allow the horse to be sold.

He also said they ran out of BBQ and burgers. After all, it is a social event...I guess people were also there for the food.

Tim confirmed that 56 head of horses went through the sale. There were a variety of breeds and disciplines, and most were broke to ride.

All in all, it was nice to be out again in what for the most part was "business as usual."

As for our new pony, the grandkids came out the next day and we gave her a bath. I think she'll be just fine.