



Trigger: The Legendary Steed of Roy Rogers

Georgia Andrews

In the pantheon of iconic horses, few names evoke the same reverence and nostalgia as Trigger, the beloved equine companion of the legendary cowboy, Roy Rogers. As a symbol of courage, loyalty, and the American frontier spirit, Trigger captured the hearts of millions and left an indelible mark on the landscape of popular culture. Delving into Trigger's remarkable journey alongside Roy Rogers unveils a tale of friendship, stardom, and the enduring bond between man and horse.

Trigger, originally named Golden Cloud, was born in 1932 on the Hudkins Horse Ranch in San Diego, California. Bred by Roy Rogers himself, the golden palomino colt exhibited exceptional beauty, intelligence, and athleticism from an early age. Recognizing his potential, Rogers set out to train and develop Golden Cloud into the ultimate equine performer, laying the foundation for a partnership that would captivate audiences for decades to come.

In 1938, Golden Cloud made his silver screen debut alongside Rogers in the film "Under Western Stars," marking the beginning of a legendary career in Hollywood. Renamed Trigger by Rogers' wife, Dale Evans, the horse quickly became a sensation, enchanting audiences with his stunning appearance, spirited performances, and uncanny ability to convey emotion through his expressive eyes.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, Trigger and Rogers starred in over 80 films and television episodes, including classics like "The Sons of the Pioneers" and "King of the Cowboys." Together, they embodied the quintessential cowboy-hero archetype, inspiring generations of fans with their daring stunts, thrilling adventures, and unwavering sense of justice.

Trigger's influence extended far beyond the realm of entertainment, transcending the boundaries of fiction to become a cultural icon in his own right. From comic books and radio shows to toys and merchandise, Trigger's likeness adorned a myriad of products, cementing his status as a beloved symbol of the American West.

Moreover, Trigger played a pivotal role in shaping public perceptions of horses and horsemanship, showcasing the beauty, grace, and intelligence of these majestic animals to audiences around the world. His legacy endures as a testament to the enduring bond between humans and horses, as well as the timeless appeal of the cowboy ethos.

Following Trigger's passing in 1965, Rogers ensured that his beloved companion's legacy would live on for future generations to cherish. The iconic horse was preserved through taxidermy by master taxidermist Glenn Randall, resulting in a lifelike tribute that continues to captivate visitors at the Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum in Branson, Missouri.

Moreover, Trigger's spirit lives on through the countless tributes, homages, and memorials dedicated to his memory. From statues and plaques to honorary ceremonies and commemorative events, Trigger's impact on popular culture and the equestrian world remains as potent as ever, serving as a timeless reminder of the enduring power of friendship, loyalty, and the American frontier spirit.

Few horses have left a legacy as enduring and beloved as Trigger, the faithful companion of Roy Rogers. From his humble beginnings on a California ranch to his storied career in Hollywood, Trigger captivated the hearts of millions with his beauty, talent, and unwavering devotion to his legendary rider. As we reflect on Trigger's remarkable journey and the profound bond he shared with Roy Rogers, we are reminded of the timeless allure of the American West and the enduring power of the human-animal connection.



Over 20 Years Experience in Equine Law



Ashby & Andrews
Attorneys at Law, P.C.

Wills • Contracts • Uncontested Divorces • Waivers

24 S. KENT ST • WINCHESTER, VA 22601 • 540.722.3151