

CH Titleist Right Tonight

RETIREMENT



CH Titleist Right Tonight and Ally Ehle were joined by Sandy and Alexandra Lilly, Bob and Nancy Ehle, Smith Lilly, Freddie Cruz, Tara Grom, Jessie Richardson and Bob Grom in center ring after making their last trip around Kemper Arena.

Editor's note: The following was presented by David Owens and announcer Peter Fenton on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the UPHA/American Royal National Championship.

CH Titleist Right Tonight, lovingly known as Tony, is a 2001 gelding by Titleist and out of Peppermint Classic. Tony was bred by Ed and Lisa Millet and brought out by the late Joe Elam. In 2007 he was purchased by the Grom Family of Revelation Farm and came to New Jersey under the training of Michael Richardson. Tony made a few shows with Mike and then, with Tara Grom in the irons, he began to make a name for himself in the five-gaited pleasure division.

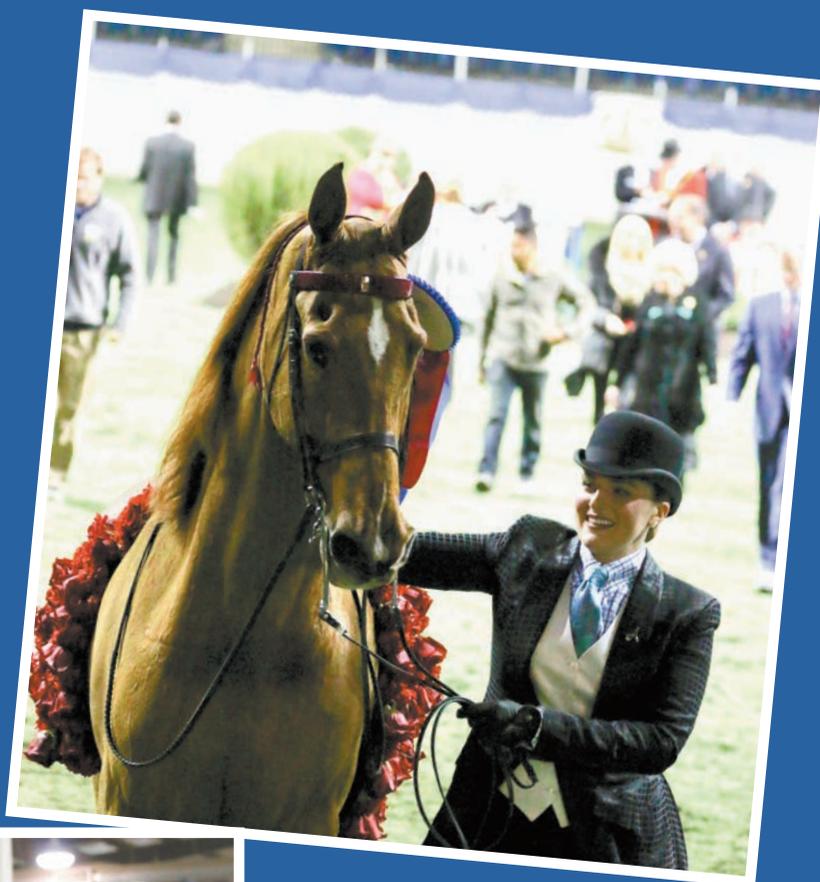
In the fall of 2008, the Ehle family moved to Revelation Farms. It was Ally's last year as a junior exhibitor and the Richardson and Grom families graciously offered her the opportunity to catch ride Tony at the American Royal. Tony and Ally made a great show and were top three in both their qualifier and championship out of a competitive group. Not bad for two practice rides at home. Although the intention of Ally showing this horse was to market him as a junior exhibitor five-gaited pleasure horse, the Ehle's left the 2008 American Royal with an addition to their family, Titleist Right Tonight.

In 2009, Tony and Ally garnered top ribbons across the country, capping their first full season together as the Adult Five-Gaited Show Pleasure National Champions at the American Royal. 2010 was an especially stellar year for this team, winning at least one class at every horse show in which they competed, with the exception of reserve honors in both classes at Lexington Junior League. In 2010, Ally and Tony were named the Section One Adult Five-Gaited Show Pleasure World's Champions in a stellar class of 19 horses. This was an all-time high in both of their showing careers.

In the fall of 2010 Ally and Tony were asked to exhibit at the World Equestrian Games, where they represented the American Saddlebred breed. Tony underwent surgery in the fall to remove a bone chip but recovered in time for the next show season. 2011 was another successful season for Ally and Tony with the highlight being named to the top three in the five-gaited pleasure championship at the Kentucky State FAir. In 2012, Tony developed shin splints and was only able to compete in the spring.

In 2013 he returned to the show ring as strong as ever to capture third place yet again in five-gaited pleasure championship at the Kentucky State Fair.

2014 was more of the same, wins and reserves at local shows and finishing out the year as the Adult Five-Gaited Pleasure Reserve National Champion at the 2014 American Royal. This was an especially rewarding achievement, as Tony's heart was strong as ever but keeping him sound was a becoming a bit tricky. 2015 was tough. After exhibiting some soundness issues, Tony was diagnosed with navicular disease and a hind leg suspensory injury. The Ehle's had to make a tough decision whether to retire him right then and there or elect surgery to relieve the pressure on his navicular bones. The surgery would require a lengthy recovery and there was no guarantee that he would ever show again; however, the Richardson's and the Ehle's felt that Tony's heart and mind were still that of a show horse. He was not ready to be finished yet. Tony had surgery in the summer of 2015 and was on stall rest for three months and strict hand walking for another three months. He returned to work in the winter of this year after relocating to Mercer Springs Farm when the Richardson's retired. Tony has competed successfully in 2016 with wins at Raleigh Spring and reserves at Bonnie Blue and Roanoke. If it were up to Tony he would keep showing until the end of time, however



the Ehle's feel that it's best to retire this special horse while he is still feeling good. Overall in his show ring career, CH Titleist Right Tonight has garnered 36 wins, 26 reserves, and 17 top three finishes. Of 88 show ring appearances, only nine times has he placed below third.

Now we'd like to welcome to Kemper Arena, five-gaited show pleasure world's and national champion CH Titleist Right Tonight and his longtime teammate Allyson Ehle. Tony will close out his career full circle, as he and Ally show for the final time in the same arena where they debuted eight years ago.

Joining us in center ring tonight are Nancy and Bob Ehle, Jessie Richardson, Tara & Bob Grom, Andrea Harry, Smith, Alexandra and Sandy Lilly, and Fredi Cruz.

A note from Ally, "If there is such a thing as a perfect horse, it's Tony. First of all, he has the most lovable face you've ever seen, with those huge dimples above his eyes. Despite developing health issues, he has a true zest for life and gives 100% every ride. He has the biggest heart of any horse I've ever known and anyone that's worked with him will agree. He is GAME – at 15 years old I still have to mount him in the stall! But he is as sweet as they come. Tony certainly does NOT think he's

ready to be finished yet, but I owe it to him to live out his years in retirement, after all he has done for me. He'll always be my favorite horse.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been involved in Tony's career -- Caretakers Freddy Cruz and Andrea Harry, Veterinarians Dr. Scott Bennet and Dr. Tiffany Marr, Farriers Chuck Rutenburg and Joe Blake. Mike and Jessie Richardson – I am forever grateful to you for bringing me together with this once in a lifetime horse. You two reignited my love for this sport. To Andrea, Smith and everyone at Mercer Springs Farm, thank you for your expert care and training over the past year. This season would not have been possible without you. To my parents and brother, thank you for your endless love and encouragement of me and Tony. I am beyond fortunate to have a family and support system like you. I think Tony will learn to enjoy his downtime and he will surely be spoiled as he returns to Kierson Farm in Flemington NJ. I'm hopeful that one day Tony will retire to the Ehle residence in Orefield, PA. I'd really appreciate it if you all would convince my dad that this is a good idea."