

# River Basin Equine Congratulates Megan Ruley - Reserve Congress Champion & NSBA Winner!

By Christine Wilkin, DVM -

River Basin Equine Veterinary Services

Photo at left (Megan & 'Eve')

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our employee, Megan Ruley, on her most recent fantastic accomplishments.

Many of you know Megan from her chipper, up-beat attitude when she greets you on the phone or at the door of our clinic.

Megan approached us at the beginning of 2009, asking for some time off throughout the year to show her Quarter Horse mare, "Only And Forever" (aka "Eve"). Megan rides in Western Pleasure, as well as showing her mare in Performance Halter Mares. With some hesitation, but also with great excitement, we agreed to let this girl follow her dreams.

Megan showed through the winter months and into the spring, doing very well. The summer months followed with great success for her, as she won several Circuit awards.

Megan has now ended the show season after competing in Columbus, Ohio, at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. The Congress is the largest single breed horse



NSBA First Place Trophy & 2009 Reserve Congress Champion Spurs

show in the world, housing 8500 Registered Quarter Horses with an amazing 17,000 entries. The congress attracts 650,000 people to the Columbus area, bringing more than \$110 million to the central Ohio economy. There are more than seven acres of equine-related commercial exhibits.

Most say that no matter how you describe it, Congress is a show you have to experience to truly understand it.

The day before she was leaving for the

long drive to Ohio, you could tell Megan was a little anxious and nervous. I told her to go out there and do the best she could and be thankful she had the horse to compete at such a high caliber.

Megan showed on the evening of Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, already two weeks into the Congress. There were 126 entries in Megan's Novice Amateur Western Pleasure Class, with exhibitors and horses from California to New Jersey to Florida to Canada and everywhere in between.

There were nine splits, two semi finals and one final. Megan was in the 8<sup>th</sup> split, and made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semi final. She went on to make it to the finals!! That was her goal for the Congress. She had said, "If I can get to the finals I will be ecstatic."

For the third time that night, Megan and Eve went around that pen in the final go round. There were four judges in the pen that night and it was time for their individual scores, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, a 6<sup>th</sup> and another 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the overall placings, Megan won the NSBA (National Snaffle Bit Association) Award and received the Reserve Congress Championship!

## Congratulations, Megan! WAY TO END THE SHOW SEASON!!



Megan and "Only And Forever" (aka "Eve"), at Tom Powers' Futurity in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Story next page.