

## Spotlight: American Saddlebred Registry

*This traditional American breed is being rediscovered for dressage*

The foundation of the American Saddlebred began around 1700, when Galloway and Hobby horses were crossed with Thoroughbreds to produce a riding horse with upright head carriage and smooth gaits.

The versatile Saddlebred is forward-going, intelligent, and powerfully muscled, enabling him to excel



**BIG APPLE:** *The FEI-level American Saddlebred gelding New York City Slicker, owned and ridden by Jody G. Swimmer, Louisville, KY*

in a multitude of disciplines. It was the breed of choice as a field hunter, jumper, and carriage horse until the 1960s, when Thoroughbreds and warmbloods took the spotlight and the Saddlebred became better known for its ability in the saddle-seat showing. Today there is a renewed interest

in the Saddlebred horse's light and responsive way of going. Dressage riders have discovered the breed's natural uphill build and ability to collect. Amateurs enjoy Saddlebreds' willing natures—not to mention their affordable prices as compared to many warmbloods—and Saddlebreds have become popular in dressage and Western dressage alike.

**American Saddlebreds you might know:** **New York City Slicker** (pictured) (*I'm a New Yorker – Callaway's Dash of Class*) is currently competing at Intermediate I with his owner/rider, Jody G. Swimmer. He was the American Saddlebred Registry's 2016 USDF All-Breeds I-I Open champion, and he has received year-end and high-point awards from Saddlebred breed registries.

The gelding **Harry Callahan** has shown in dressage through Grand Prix and with dressage pro Chrissa Hoffmann has been ranked in the top third in USDF's national year-end standings at Prix St. Georges.

**The American Saddlebred Registry:** The American Saddle Horse Breeder's Association was formed in Louisville, KY, in 1891, making the American Saddlebred Registry (its current name) the oldest breed registry in the US. The ASR ensures the accuracy of the records maintained for all pedigreed American Saddlebred horses. To be eligible for registration, a foal must be sired by a registered stallion and out of a registered mare.

The Half American Saddlebred Registry of America, founded in 1971 and now administered by the ASR, reflects many breed crossings with American Saddlebred mares and stallions.

The American Saddlebred Horse Association is the membership and

promotional organization for the American Saddlebred.

**All-Breeds awards offered:** Champion and reserve, open performance divisions; champion only, dressage sport-horse breeding divisions.

**How to participate:** Horses must be registered with the American Saddlebred Registry or the Half Saddlebred Registry of America. Owners and riders must be members of the American Saddlebred Horse Association.

**Learn more:** Saddlebred.com or (859) 259-2742. ▲

## For the Breeds, by the Breeds

Each month, "All-Breeds Connection" spotlights a USDF All-Breeds awards program participating organization and the breed it represents. Information and photos that appear in this column are furnished by the breed registries. USDF does not endorse or promote any breed or registry over another.

The All-Breeds program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage. All participating organizations offer "open" year-end awards from Training Level through Grand Prix, and some offer awards in additional categories, such as adult amateur, junior/young rider, and dressage sport-horse breeding. Registry representatives are usually on hand to help bestow awards at the banquet held during each year's USDF convention.

All-Breeds award eligibility requirements include memberships and horse registrations with both USDF and the participating organization. For details and a list of current participating organizations, visit [usdf.org](http://usdf.org). For more information about All-Breeds awards program participation, send e-mail to [allbreeds@usdf.org](mailto:allbreeds@usdf.org).

### Podcast Alert



Check out podcast 154 for an interview with Jody Swimmer at [usdf.podbean.com](http://usdf.podbean.com).

# I'll take you there.

If you want comfort in the saddle for those long hours of schooling,  
I'm your horse. After all, I'm bred for that.

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I'm all that too, and nobody has a more elegant mount.



**I'm the American Saddlebred  
and I'll take you wherever you want to go  
in Dressage or any other discipline!**

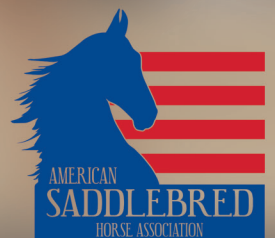
*The American Saddlebred Registry offers Sport Horse incentives and year end awards for Dressage horses registered with the American Saddlebred Registry (ASR) or with the Half-American Saddlebred Registry (HASRA). These include the Sport Horse Year End Awards Program, the High Point Neck Ribbon Awards Program and Saddlebred Select.*



[www.saddlebred.com](http://www.saddlebred.com)  
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