

BREED SPOTLIGHT

The Stylish Saddlebred

THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED IS FLASHY, ENERGETIC AND KIND-HEARTED.

BY KIM KLIMEK

The American Saddlebred is often called the peacock of the horse world, and is loved for its proud look and flashy gaits.

Alex Rudder, 16, from Kentucky, knows a thing or two about Saddlebreds. She has nine world championships, the most recent being in 2016: Road Pony Under-Saddle World Champion and World Grand Champion, and Three-Gaited World Champion in the 14- to 17-year-old division.


"I love American Saddlebreds because of their elegance and attitude," says Alex, whose family has been breeding Saddlebreds for generations. "Their high-headedness and the way they move across the ground is unbelievable."

Alex currently competes in the five-gaited pony division with her 5-year-old mare, RWC Roxie In Vegas. "Riding Roxie is what I think it would feel like to drive a sports car!" says Alex.

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HOWARD SCHATZBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

A young woman with a joyful expression is riding a brown horse. She is wearing a black top hat, a black tuxedo jacket over a white dress shirt with a white bow tie, and a red ribbon pinned to her lapel. The horse is adorned with a red halter, a red floral garland around its neck, and several colorful ribbons (red, yellow, blue, pink) draped over its back. The horse is in motion, with its front legs lifted. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a white fence and a blue structure.

Alex enjoys the thrill of showing and seeing her hard work pay off.