



Cherokee

Cherokee is a 23 year old Arabian Overo Paint cross that has a huge heart and patience to match. He is the head Hoss of the herd and better than any watch dog we could have! He is Dave's personal horse that he lets Chakota use for the programs, but you can tell this big boy's heart belongs to his Riders as well. He will stand perfectly still when we use him as a demonstration horse for groups of visitors and especially when we use him to teach Horsemanship 101. Even a small 5 year old can help pick his hooves because he stands so still for them.

Now, don't let his kindness and patience fool you into thinking he is so laid back that you can't get him to go. When you put a Rider on his back, his head rises up and his tail flags so beautifully! He has the longest stride here at Chakota and will give his Riders enough bounce to stimulate their muscles to work harder which builds core strength and improves balance. The Riders with Autism or Sensory issues, his movement is enough to help them focus on one thing, instead of thinking about so many thoughts, which in turn helps them become centered. This is when great things happen, such as non-verbal Riders might say a word, or a Rider having a meltdown is able to switch it off and the tears or frustration stops and they can refocus and usually end up smiling!

It's hard to put a price on something so great; therefore, our boy Cherokee must be priceless, and "Cowboy" Dave doesn't mind sharing him at all!!