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MAGAZINE

The Royal Issue

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the Magic of the Fair**

**Heartland Star Amber Marshall
and her pets and animals**

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Catching Up with Our Favourite Actress, Amber Marshall



CP&AM: And how about all your equine friends?

Amber: My Buckskin Quarter-Horse, Cash has turned into a really beautiful 2-year-old. I have just started working with him under-saddle and he is such a kind and gentle horse. I brought him home a new friend last winter - another Quarter Horse named Tango. They are like two peas in a pod and even when they sleep they are side by side.

CP&AM: Obviously, you love caring for animals, so please tell us about them, new ones that have come onto your farm and into your home.

Amber: This year I decided to get a few unique critters to fill my yard. I purchased a pair of Buford Bronze Peafowl. They are a unique breed of peacock that is black and bronze in colour. My male just shed his gorgeous tail feathers (as they do each fall) and so now I have a wonderful centerpiece of feathers! I also brought home a trio of Wyandotte Chickens to keep my old hen, Ruby company.

CP&AM: Heartland is becoming more and more popular around the world with syndication in many other countries. What do you think it is about Heartland and the animals of Heartland that people connect so strongly with?

CP&AM: Please start by filling us in on how all of your animals are doing?

Amber: Remi my King Shepherd has really found herself. Now 18 months old I have started bringing her to work with me along side my Border Collie, China. For still being a young dog, Remi surprises everyone with her quiet and calm disposition. She is happy to lay off camera all day and watch me work. China on the other hand loves to explore. She loves that I travel around to beautiful remote locations to film Heartland, as she gets to explore each one. She is always close enough to hear my loud whistle and when it's time to head home, she comes running back.

CP&AM: And what about your cats Chyanne and Turner? Do they still join in all the chasing games?

Amber: My cats Chyanne and Turner are still best of friends and spend their days trying to catch pigeons in the barn. My newest kitty, Mouzer came into my home last November, so I'm not sure if readers have heard of him. He is just a little kitty with a BIG personality. He will hide behind the couch and jump on Remi as she walks by. He wraps his paws around her neck and drags across the floor while she doesn't even change her pace. It is always fun to watch them play.

Amber: Heartland is a show that focuses on something most television productions have gone away from - a nice wholesome family drama. It always pleases me when fans approach me with a comment like, "We finally have a show we can watch with our kids and not feel uncomfortable!" or "Heartland has really brought Sunday nights closer in our family." I personally think this is the reason our audience is





so broad. There is something for everyone. I don't care how young or old you are, watching horses and other animals is always captivating but lets not forget our locations. I had a gentleman say to me the other day, "I count the scenery just as much as any character." With most popular shows on air right now, a gritty, urban environment is portrayed. This is where Heartland differs. With each episode we showcase stunning new mountain vistas that continue to take my breath away. I think it is a great way to show the beauty of what Canada has to offer.

CP&AM: We are pleased that you will once again be at this year's Royal. At the Canadian Pets & Animals Magazine booth, so many people tell us how much they love the Royal and how, when they were young, they would come with their friends, class or parents. We find these stories quite interesting and sometimes magical. All the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and animals to visit, conger up different memories for different people. Do you have a few fond memories of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from when you were a kid, that you could share with us?

Amber: When I was in my early teens I boarded my horse (Monty at the time) at a stable in London, Ontario. Each November, my friends from my stable and I would get together and take the train to Toronto to go to the Royal. It was always such a big adventure for us and we craved the excitement it had to offer. I am so glad I can keep up the tradition, but now traveling from Alberta I switched my mode of transportation to a plane.

CP&AM: Earlier this year, the City of Richmond, BC became the first jurisdiction to ban the sale of puppies in pet stores. Other municipalities are following their lead. Most recently, the City of Toronto has banned the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. This will assist in educating people to the ongoing surplus of healthy animals available for adoption. It will also decrease the demand for poorly-run puppy and kitten mills. Since the largest city in Canada has imposed these new laws regarding animal welfare, what advice would you give individuals and families who will be new to "adopting" a dog or cat?

Amber: I am such an advocate for shelter animals. I find a lot of people shy away because they think they will be difficult to handle if they have had a rough past. My Border Collie X, China I picked up 3 years ago from an organization called "Pets For Life." She had been abused before she arrived at the shelter and she was terrified of people. It didn't matter if they were men, women, tall or small - she would cower and hide under any furniture she could find. Yes, it did take work to get her out of that, but I can honestly say it was one of the most rewarding experiences. Everyday I would work at building her confidence. Walk her through large groups of people and show her that no one was there to harm her. Now China is just a happy pup and she shows me her love and dedication every day.

CP&AM: We heard about some guest horses and Nitro, a new dog on the set of Heartland. Can you tell us anything about them?

Amber: Each year we have many guest horses that play on Heartland. There are some incredible moments coming up this season as we discover new story lines. And although Heartland primarily focuses on horses we do have a few new animal friends joining the cast this year. There will be a goat, and some sheep and a long horn steer featured. Near the end of the season we meet "Lobo" a dog played by a Malamute X named Nitro. Stay tuned for his story beginning episode 15!

CP&AM: And finally, how can your fans and fans of Heartland connect with you? Are you on Facebook or Twitter?

Amber: My website features my animals with pictures and bios under the "My Pets" tab at the top. I am also on Facebook and Twitter which you can be directed to through my website as well. If you want to get a closer look, head to www.ambermarshall.com

