

20 Questions for... Buckton Dominoff

Here at **PONIES!** we thought it was about time someone asked the four-legged superstars the secrets of their success. This issue, it's pony dressage supremo **Buckton Dominoff**

Hallo, Buckton Dominoff. We're actually somewhat awed to be in your presence, as we've read so much about you lately, winning the national pony dressage title, competing at Open Medium level! And of course we're absolute fans. But let's get started with a very delicate question about ETHNICITY. Do you consider yourself to be a New Zealander or a German?

At heart would have to say I have the dominant nature of a German!

You're such a gorgeous and handsome boy! Do all the fillies fall for that dashing white face and splendid white socks?

Well... no, I think I'm SO good looking I tend to put them off a bit!

We know who your fabulous father is (Davidoff, of course), but can you tell us a little about your equine mum? And also tell us where you were born?

I was born in Blenheim and bred by Janna Greene of Buckton Pony Stud. My mother is Corona's Dream Girl, she was by Windermere Remember Me, and she went on

to become a great show pony and jumper. I get my big white face from her!

And your vital statistics? Age, height, etc, and, er...are you a weight-watcher or one of those rare equines with a naturally perfect figure?

My birthday was 6 October 2002, so I'm currently seven, and 147.5cm. I am a gelding, although sometimes act like a stallion, and have to watch my figure as I put on weight very easily and can get a bit podgy (but I lose it when I travel).

Who owns you and whereabouts do you live?

The Wadworth family own me. Sarah is my rider and best friend, and her mother Jo is my Mum. I live in the sunny town of Blenheim.

What do your best friends call you – and will you allow us to call you by that name too?

Sarah calls me Dum Dum, and Mum calls me Boy Wonder, but I prefer just Dominoff.

Oh. Well, if it's okay with you we'll go with Sarah and call you Dum Dum. How long have you and Sarah been together? And was it love at first sight?

We have been together nearly five years and not so much love at first sight – she thought I was ugly at first! Back then I had a long mane and was too fat. Mum had to look at me FIVE times before they decided to buy me.

Tell us about the best time you two have ever had together. We're guessing it was at a big show, but maybe you just love going for a gallop?

Smart, superior, handsome... that's me! Oh, and modest, too...





Here I am with my fave gal, Honey Puff. She's kinda camera shy!

The best time was my first year at the Christchurch Royal Show. I was four years old and won my first supreme champion pony. After that I had to go into the main ring for the supreme champion overall exhibit... but got beaten by a BULL!

Dum Dum! We've been itching to ask you this! What is your FAVE dressage movement – and why?

I LOVE flying changes and can't help but pop them in when I'm not supposed to! They make me feel very smart and superior.

And your least fave? And – please be brutally frank here – why?

I HATE all walk movements especially the pirouettes. They are so boring and I try to liven them up a bit.

Yes, that's understandable. In fact, quite a few of us ponies think that ALL dressage looks somewhat, um, tedious. Do you ever get sick of going round and round an arena?

Yup, some days I add a bit of spice by shying and being difficult in a corner of the dressage arena. It normally works and I get a hack out the next day.

And how do you feel about prancing about in time to music? Doesn't that blaring noise split your ears and make your head spin?

No! I love my music! When I hear it, I know it's all about ME!

Now it's time to own up, Dum Dum the Wonder Boy. You've won so many 'paced and mannered' classes, but we find it VERY hard to

believe you've NEVER been wicked! So, tell us – what's the worst thing you've ever done? (Yes, we can keep a secret.)

Last year at the Grand National I bucked my rider off (pure exuberance, of course). She even got sand in her underpants and wasn't impressed!!!

We know you've been successful at all three, but do you prefer show hunter, dressage or showing... and why?

Showing is my favourite. I get to wear make-up and prance around with all the girls for the morning! The ribbons aren't bad either.

If you could swap places with one horse or pony in the world, who would it be and why? (And if you need to go back in time, we can use our imaginations... perhaps you've always fancied being Phar Lap?!)

I would LOVE to be a Western riding horse because I like chasing cows!

When you're not being ridden, what do you like doing most?

Eating, sleeping and annoying my brothers and sisters.

Is there one special horse in your life?

Honey Puff, owned and ridden by Ellie Braddock. Honey Puff is

another dressage star and she is blonde, talented and gorgeous – everything I look for in a girl.

Honey Puff?! That cool-as-palomino princess!?! Wow! We're impressed! But we promise not to tell the gossip columns. And do you have an active social life, beyond the show ring, dressage arena and paddock? Pony club perhaps?

Often friends will come for a ride around the farm with me. I love that, so I have a very active social life. When Sarah comes home she also sometimes brings friends. It's lots of fun to have a new rider for the day.

We're guessing that (like most owners) Sarah doesn't speak equine. So, is there anything you REALLY want to say to her? Because now's your chance!

I would like to tell her I'm always really relieved when she comes home from boarding school, because Mum (Jo) can get VERY bossy!

Last question, Dum Dum – and it's an easy one. You're a quite young boy still, but what do you dream of doing when you retire?

When I retire I would like a lot of action and horses/people around me, but not be involved too much – I would like to age gracefully.



Oh yes, I can MOVE!

ANNE STODOLME