



Chapter 13

SECF The Goddess

If a Goddess horse has found his way into your barn, you are lucky. If you are wise as well, you will not let him leave. Most SECF's do not change hands often as they work their way into your heart and stay. You should feel honored to be one of their subjects. They will give back as much as they receive. They are loved and appreciated everywhere, including in the pasture. The Bosses will protect them, and the other Submissives will try to get as close as possible. They are happy to meet you at the gate and play at whatever you are doing. Usually quite vocal, this horse will be the one nickering to you when you get out of your car or open your front door.

SECF's have feminine looks as well as characteristics. They are emotional and sensitive and yet still confident. They are wonderfully sensible and safe. They aren't inclined to get into trouble with you or with their environment like some of the other C's. Everything about their demeanor denotes expression—they are talkative, have expressive eyes and ears, active movement, love to touch you, love to show off, act sassy but never in a dominant way, just enough to endear them to you more. If you want a horse to love on, then this is your baby. They like to be clean, pretty, pampered, blanketed, groomed, and fussed over in any fashion.

An older thoroughbred breeding stallion that we had at the ranch was a Goddess. (I am sure he would not have

approved of that name!) Like all Goddesses, he was gentle and kind and very chatty. He was used to pasture breeding and watching him with his mares was a delight. They let him pretend he was boss. One year a small quarter horse mare decided that he should be all hers (she was a Prize Fighter) and after she was bred refused to let him breed any other mares. She would march over and promptly tell him to “get off.” He would comply. This is just another example of how loved the Goddess is whether in the herd or in your barn.

Beware though. If they are uncomfortable, unhappy or sore, they can be very expressive with a cranky pinning of the ears and a swish of the tail! It pays to listen. They are trying to tell you something.

For the Goddess the relationship is paramount. It is what they love, and they would love to engage in long conversations about it if they could. They trust you, and you can trust them. They want to be your partner, and they need you to be listening. If they feel unappreciated, they can spiral downhill into a puddle of worry and insecurity. These are the traits of Submissive and Friendly together. Like other C's they can get bored easily, so you do need an interactive, engaging relationship. They will want a lot of variety in the things that you do together. Your relationship will be strengthened when the Goddess's need to be doing things, especially with you, is met.

Like any of the Energy/Curious horses they can have scattered energy at times that is hard to get focused on the task at hand. In their initial training, you may feel that they have “fluff for brains” and you might describe them as the “blond” of the barn. Their energy can be bouncing off the walls. They can be oversensitive, and if you get them upset, it takes them a long time to settle them back down again.

Some days it is best to walk away and begin again tomorrow. The next day they will be back on your page and trying to please. The Friendly says they love to please and will keep trying and trying in their job. This can make them worriers if they do not understand and are not feeling honored. If they are not being listened to and appreciated, they will usually internalize their stress and can develop physical problems, especially back problems. As their rider, your job will be to help them learn to focus and keep their energies more in balance.

It is difficult for the Goddess to change owners. Not only do we get very attached to these horses, but they to us as well. They show obvious signs of depression when they are sold. It may take them quite a while to adjust to a new owner. They love new situations but like to keep their people the same. At any time, the Goddess dislikes being alone, but they are especially vulnerable in this situation. What can you do to help? The SECF needs to know you are there for him, so if the new owners can understand his personality they will know that they need to pay him a lot of extra special attention when they first get him. Keep the work demands low and the love and attention high. This horse will suffer if left on their own without attention. They love being in a herd situation with all the social intricacies.

Training

Training the Goddess is a pleasure and does not require you to have numerous horse training degrees. Unlike the Dominants, they are quite happy to accept your suggestions on how something should be done. The greatest challenge will be keeping the foundation lessons interesting enough. The SECF will be anxious to get on to the higher learning. Give them a lot of variety and take them to a lot of new

places. They will love to travel and experience new things. They like a communicative rider who is as enthusiastic as them.

If they have a high E, it may make it hard for them to slow down and learn in the beginning. They will be anticipating and offering things that you are not asking for. Positive reinforcement is the key as they will thrive in that type of training program. As they are very engaged and emotional in everything they do they can have their days or times where you will have to quietly sit in the middle and just allow some of the energy to dissipate. They are not trying to take over like the D's, so a rider does not have to come on strong in response. They may just need a little help learning how to release so much emotion. If training is starting to get heated up, just relax and go for a ride out; tomorrow they will be back on track and eager to please.

The Submissive trait of the Goddess tells us that there will be times that we will need to be there for them every step of the way. If they are learning something new or in a fearful situation, they will want to turn over the command to you. They will need you to tell them where to put every foot. The 'leg to hand' type of ride will be comforting to them in this situation, but they do not need it every day.

This horse comes into our life to help us learn about relationships and bonding—they are in it FOR the relationship.

Careers

You will find the SECF performing in all horse sports. They may not be on the top of the podium as often as the DECF's (Rock Stars), but every step of the way has been a pleasure. Whatever your sport, this horse is happy to do it. They are the "keeners." They are not attached to the job. They are working to please you. In competitive fields they

are your high point, super horse, all round contenders. Your challenge will be to not get stuck exclusively in one sport. This horse will encourage you to broaden your horizons and go play in new fields.