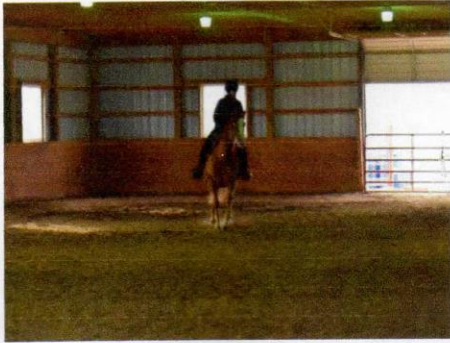


Hello, my name is Sue Schmitz. My husband and I have a small farm in Lincoln, MI. that backs up to the Huron National Forest. On the farm I have 2 horses that board and 1 of my 2 horses, Cheyenne.

Cheyenne is a 22 year old, buckskin, quarter horse mare. Cheyenne and I love to go on trail rides directly behind our farm. She is also a great teacher for the younger horses: Spirit, my other horse when she was younger and now McCoy, a yearling boarder. We pony McCoy when we go for quick trail rides when I am not riding bareback. Cheyenne also enjoys doing some fun obstacle training.

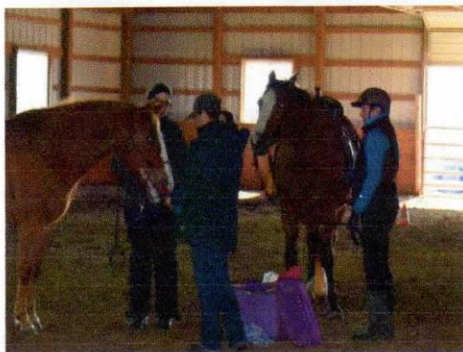
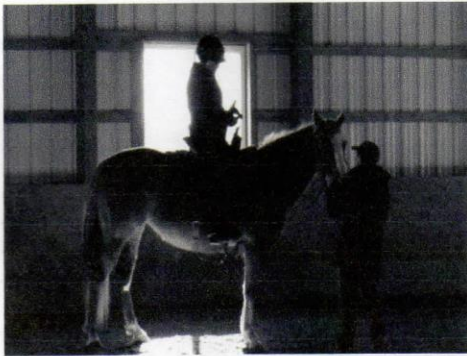


And then there is Spirit, a 13 year old Sorrel Paint mare, who I have had since she was 2 ½ months old. Spirit and I love to do a multitude of disciplines, such as Western and Traditional Dressage, Cowboy Challenges, trail riding, and some cross country. This year we went back to the basics in Western Dressage to undo some bad training on my part. It was my goal to ride 4 – 5 days a week this past spring and summer mixing the training up to cover groundwork as well as working under saddle. I am fortunate to be able to keep Spirit at a friend's barn where we have access to an indoor arena all year round and can continue to ride during the fall and winter at least 3 days a week.

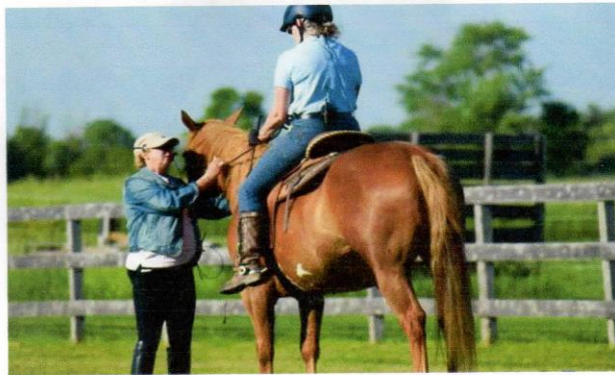


At Lucky Dog Ranch, the barn where Spirit stays, we had two wonderful clinicians come multiple times to help us with our Western Dressage.

Sue Morissee came in March, September and November. Not only did she teach Western Dressage, she also taught a bit of trick training to mix things up as well as being a judge for our last schooling show of the 2019 season in September.



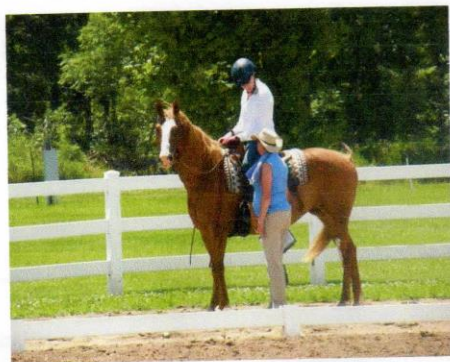
In May and June, we had Beth Schaub, who again was not only a clinician but also a judge for one of our schooling shows at Lucky Dog Ranch.



These two ladies, Sue and Beth, are amazing teachers and judges. It was so helpful to have a clinic the day after a show to go over some of the movements and to understand the scoring. They also gave us a lot of homework.



In July I took a huge leap out of my comfort zone as Spirit and I headed south to Shiawassee County Fairgrounds for a 2 day horse show. I have to admit both Spirit and I struggled with show nerves, but Coach Beth Schaub came to the rescue to help with some pointers on how to relax.



I do have to admit that I enjoy the training and not so much the showing.

October brought some lovely weather and a much needed physical and mental break from training for both Spirit and me.



Looking forward to continuing my horse journey in 2020.