

### PATCHY KANGEROOSA

By Elinore Tonsor

Patchy Kangeroosa is a registered Appaloosa gelding, #154,144. He was the first Appaloosa to obtain his **UMECRA 1000 Mile Award**. Foaled in 1971, I purchased Patchy when he was only 18 months old from Gerome Halverson, Hager City, Wisconsin. After a few years of growing up, and some intensive training, Patchy was used as pleasure horse, trail horse and shown with some success on the ApHC Class A circuit and in local open shows. Regardless of the success we were having in the show ring, the sport of Distance Riding beckoned, and we were off on a whole new adventure. Unfortunagely, though the horse's flesh was willing, the rider had not done her homework well enough. Patchy finished his first 25 mile competitive ride in Palmyra, Wisconsin, but took one-half hour longer than the rest of the horses. We were hooked! The people were friendly and the feeling of accomplishment great. Besides that, the horse never seemed to have as much fun in his life as he did trotting down the trail. I would take us eight more attempts before we would complete a ride within the allotted time, or without getting pulled for high Pulse and Respiration readings. The draw was still there, however. It seemed like such a terrific sport to be involved in, so we kept on trying. A few of the veterans in the sport, being tortured by our lack of success, began to pull me aside and suggest rather strongly that I get myself a different horse. Patchy was the only horse I had, however, so if I was going to distance ride, it was going to have to be on him. Finally, the 1979 Palisades Ride brought everything together for us, and he had a successful, legitimate completion!

In 1980, Patchy received his Bronze Medallion from the Appaloosa Horse Club for completing 300 miles of Competitive Rides in one season. In 1981, he was started as an Endurance Horse. He may not have won many prizes, but he logged over 350 miles, and earned a Superior Achievement Certificat from the ApHC. In 1982, he finished in the UMECRA Heavyweight Endurance Top Six, earned his second Superior Achievement Award from the ApHC, earned his UMECRA 1000 Mile Award, the ApDRA Endurance Reserve Championship, and was voted the top Appaloosa Distance Horse in the country by the readers of the Appaloosa News. Not bad for a horse who couldn't make it through his first eight rides!!

Due to irreversable liver damage, Patchy was retired from the sport of Endurance Riding in 1983. He remains my favorite pleasure horse, an excellent trail horse, and is kept in condition for occational participation in Competitive Rides. Patchy Kangeroosa remains proof positive that any horse which is properly conditioned, can do the sport of Distance Riding. He is slowly, but surely approaching the 2000 mile mark. I consider myself fortunate for having the privilage of owning and riding this horse, and can not thank him enough for having the patience to put up with an inexperienced rider and all of her mistakes.

