

## MANE ATTRACTIONS: Dunstable photographer's book captures beauty of local horses

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Dunstable photographer Roxanne Marshal with Sopy, one of the stars of Tails of Dunstable. The book features 388 images of horses belonging to dozens of families in town. SUN / DAVID H. BROW

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DUNSTABLE -- Sopy quietly bats his eyes inside the barn on a frosty December morning while Dianna Dilida gets ready to unleash the white thoroughbred into the field.

Through his dark eyes, Dilida says she can see the former racetrack superstar's kind soul. Having been sold from one owner to another, Sopy believes he'd better follow barn rules or will have to move again, Dilida says.

His barn-mate, Apache, could care less about rules. The blue-eyed horse repeatedly kicks the barn's walls to let Dilida know he wants to gallop

outdoors. Dilida says she knows what he is trying to say: "You can have me and use me, but only on my terms."

These are some of the animal spirits that Roxanne Marshal tried to capture in the colorful



For her new book, Tails of Dunstable, Roxanne Marshal took photos of more than 1,000 horses. She has plenty leftover, and is considering taking more for a sequel. SUN / DAVID H. BROW

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photographs that fill the pages of her new book, Tails of Dunstable. Featuring 388 images of local horses, the coffee-table book highlights the unique beauty of each animal and their relationships with the owners who treasure them.

"Every time I met a new horse, I fell in love again," Marshal said.

Marshal, a 16-year Dunstable resident, recently self-published Tails of Dunstable, her first photography book. A Hollywood native who once had a career as a department manager for a film production company, Marshal has been a portrait photographer for more than a decade.

Combining her lifelong love for horses and her adoration for her adopted hometown was a dream come true, Marshal said. The book is already becoming a talk of the local equine community.

The project started about a year ago after Marshal visited Judy Larter's home to see Diesel, a draft horse-show horse mix that always attracted her attention as she drove along Route 113. Having noticed many residents in this former farming community still enjoy riding their own horses, Marshal said she thought it would be a good idea to make a book to showcase them all.

Word of her project has spread quickly. Many horse owners began contacting Marshal, and she wound up with more than 1,000 pictures of horses that belong to 50 different families.

"I chose the best of the best images," Marshal said.

And those include a picture of Benny -- a Friesian stallion that Marshal says "looks like Black Beauty on steroids" -- flexing his muscles to gallop in the sunset light. Then there's a photo that captures Sopy's eye, up close.

Marshal and her husband, Jerami, who was once a mounted sheriff in California, moved to Massachusetts in 1993 for his banking career. The striking colors of blooming flowers and autumn leaves fascinated them, Marshal said. And the village-like community of Dunstable felt right at home from day one.

"Growing up in the heart of the city, I was looking for something unique and different," Marshal said. "It's something I looked for all my life."

Marshal said many local equine enthusiasts seem to

like the idea of preserving the memories of their horses in a book that can be passed down. Because many horse owners contacted her after the book went to print, Marshal is already considering publishing a sequel. She is hoping that her book will serve as a catalyst for them to re-establish an equine group that disbanded some years ago.

The book is available for \$120.95 per copy. For more about Tails of Dunstable, visit Marshal's Web site, [www.picworth.com](http://www.picworth.com).