

# Successful Racehorse to Neglect Case to Eventing Pro: The Story of Quizzical Quartz's Comeback

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Photos courtesy of  
Days End Farm Horse Rescue



Quizzical Quartz and her new mom, Devon Griffin, schooling cross-country.



Quizzical Quartz upon arrival at Days End Farm Horse Rescue.



Quizzical Quartz and Devon Griffin, schooling cross-country.

Quizzical Quartz (registered name Saskawea) is a Thoroughbred mare whose story started long before she arrived at Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR). Between 2006 and 2009, she ran in 24 races, claimed seven wins, and her career earnings topped \$750,000. She was sold in 2009 for more than \$280,000, sold again in 2011 for over \$485,000, and finally sold for the last time in 2017 as a broodmare for \$2,500—a job she excelled at with one of her offspring taking fifth in the 2019 Preakness Stakes.

Quartz was a horse with athleticism and heart. More importantly, she had made her humans proud. So how does a horse like Quartz end up at DEFHR? On average, a horse finds itself in transition seven times throughout its life, increasing the odds that it may end up in a situation where intervention is needed. There are many factors that can lead to situations requiring intervention, for example, owners may be ageing, face economic struggles, or suffer from mental illness. Beyond these factors, in many cases, the seizure of a horse can be prevented if the owner is properly educated about horse care and is aware of resources and assistance available to them. In Quartz's case, she arrived at DEFHR from Prince George's County, MD, in 2019 emaciated, suffering from hoof and dental neglect, and was riddled with parasites. After months of critical and intensive care, Quartz made a

full recovery and started working in DEFHR's training program. This formerly strong mare had lost muscle due to neglect and needed significant conditioning support from DEFHR's trainers to regain strength in her topline and hind end. Once Quartz was physically fit, the trainers found that she loved to jump, so they catered to her preferences by giving her thorough jumping and cross-country training. Given her natural abilities, it was clear that it wouldn't take long for her to find her special someone.

Enter Devon Griffin. A sophomore at Clemson University and an active member of its eventing team, Devon arrived at DEFHR in August looking for her next event mount. Having been involved with DEFHR previously through its summer Horse Training Internship Program and eventually its Volunteer Training Team, Devon was familiar with DEFHR's horses and Quartz came to mind. After a schooling session, it was obvious that the two were a perfect match. Shortly thereafter, Quartz was officially adopted by Devon and the pair look forward to competing in events and attending clinics in the near future. Like so many other talented horses that come through DEFHR's rehabilitation and training programs, Quartz has found her happily ever after as a competition partner in a loving home for many years to come.

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