



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

10 Facts About the Queen and Horses

1. From what age did the Queen first have her own horse?

The Queen's first horse was a Shetland pony named Peggy. Her Majesty got Peggy at the young age of 4 as a birthday present from her grandfather, King George V.



Queen on her Shetland Pony – Peggy – with her father King George VI

2. How many Racehorses does the Queen own?

The Queen is an avid fan of Thoroughbred racing. After her father, King George VI, passed away, she inherited breeding and racing stock. The Queen adds new blood to her stables every year, owning in excess of 100 horses

The Queen's Thoroughbred breeding program is at the Royal Stud in Sandringham. As yearlings, they go to Polhampton Stud before heading to various training stables. She routinely visits to observe and assess her Thoroughbred horses.

To date, Her Majesty's horses have won over 1,600 races and is believed to have earned around £7m from prize money down the years.

3. What does the Queen rides now?

Though the Queen has ridden various horses throughout her life, but when able to take to the saddle, rides native ponies now.

The Queen typically rides Fell ponies. One of her most trusty Fell ponies is a mare named Carltonima Emma. Emma became so popular that she even got her own Breyer model made after her. Emma is still going strong at the age of 24.



Beyer Model of the Queen's Carltonima Emma

4. What pony breeds does the Queen favour?

Queen Elizabeth is a huge supporter of Britain's native pony breeds. She breeds Shetland, Fell and Highland ponies.

The Shetland and Highland pony breeding programmes are located at Balmoral. Her Fell pony breeding programme is based at Hampton Court. Her breeding programme helps preserve the traditional bloodlines in these native British breeds. The Queen is patron of the Fell Pony Society and Highland Pony Societies.

5. What award did she receive in 2014?

Due to her lifelong contribution to the horse industry, the Queen was awarded the first-ever FEI Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. She received the award from former FEI President Princess Haya.



The Queen receiving the first ever FEI Lifetime Achievement Award from Princess Haya

6. What horse did the Queen ride at Ceremonial events for 18 years

Burmese was presented to Her Majesty in 1969 by The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and The Queen rode her in Trooping the Colour for 18 years before the mare retired in 1986 to Windsor. There she enjoyed four years before passing away at the age of 28. Burmese is buried in the grounds of the Home Park.



The Queen being presented with Burmese by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

7. Where are the Horses used in Royal Ceremonial Events kept?

The horses that you see in the royal parades are kept at the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, 'one of the finest working stables in existence'. The Queen names each horse. The Royal Mews is also where they keep all the carriages, coaches and cars used by the Queen.

8. In what Showing Event did the Queen have recent success?

The Queen has attended the Royal Windsor Horse Show every year since the event was first held in 1943. This year, she had showing success, being on hand to watch as her home-bred Highland mare, Balmoral Leia, claimed the prestigious Mountain and Moorland Supreme In-Hand Championship.



Queen receiving Trophy at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and Balmoral Leia is declared Mountain and Moorland Supreme In-Hand Champion

It is reported that the Queen was once temporarily refused entry by a guard after he failed to recognise her. The recently unearthed story goes back to 1991 when Her Majesty, then 65-years-old, was stopped from entering the event by a security guard. In the mix up, the guard reportedly said: "Sorry love, you can't come in without a sticker." To which The Queen responded: "I think if you check, you will find I can." The guard did just that.....and she entered.

9. Which horse trainer has the Queen named a Corgi after?

Monty Roberts, also known as The Horse Whisperer, has trained the Queen's horses since 1989. He has been honoured by the Queen and is an honorary member of the Royal Victorian Order. They have shared a

close friendship since he began training her horses. She even named a Corgi after him. Monty, the Corgi, died in 2012 aged 13. Monty Roberts, the Horse Whisperer, is still going strong at the aged of 87.



Left – The Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall with Monty Roberts
Right – Monty, the Corgi

10. What is the Queen famous for not doing?

The Queen is famous for always riding without a helmet.

....and one other important fact (or, at least, we think so)

11. What Association formed in 1954, the year after the Queen's Coronation?

Founded in 1954 as the Association of British Riding Schools, the ABRS+ runs Britain's longest-established Riding School Approval Scheme, representing hundreds of the best riding schools across the UK.