

Early in 2010 we featured a horse named VLQ Friendly Fire, a purebred Arabian reiner. He was the only full Arabian to win both the Amateur and Open divisions at Canadian Nationals and U.S. Nationals in the same year.

“Fireman” has continued his winning ways in the past year, much to the delight of his owner Allison Mostowich.

During the Canadian National Show in Regina, Allison relied on Fireman’s unflappable nature and love of showing. He didn’t let her down, capturing the Canadian National Arabian Reining AAOTR (Adult Amateur Owner to Ride) Championship for a second consecutive year. Also for the second year in a row, with trainer LaRae Fletcher-Powell in the saddle, Fireman captured the Championship in Open Reining.

At the US Nationals, in his infamous fashion, VLQ Friendly Fire proved he could still keep his humans on their toes, kicking out in a lead change in the first round of Open reining. Why would such an experienced competitor do such a thing? According to Allison, “because he felt like it.” Of course this meant a considerable penalty. It took an enormous effort by LaRae, high score in the second round, to get Fireman into the top ten.

The AAOTR division went more smoothly, except that only six horses were entered, so only three would advance to the final round. LaRae’s only advice to Allison was “stay out of the penalty box!” They ran a conservative, correct pattern and went on to the finals as one of the top three. This time Fireman chose to be his wonderful self and they finished as Champions for the second year running.

Congratulations to Allison and her “little red desert goat”, as Fireman is nicknamed, and much success in 2011!