



BUCKINGHAM HORSE OF THE YEAR



Photo Credit: Andrew Ryback

Buckingham named Horse of the Year

Buckingham (Dantos HBC x L'Esprit), a nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Cawthra Burns has been named the 2022 Horse of the Year. This award was created in 2019 to recognize a horse that has had an exceptional performance year. This meaningful award focuses specifically on the performances within a one-year timeframe rather than the long-established celebrity or iconic performance status of the horse of a lifetime.

Buckingham or his barn name, "Hammy", has sported numerous Combined Hunter and 3'6 Amateur Owner championships and multiple Canadian Hunter Derby wins. In 2022, he was the year end provincial champion and nationally in the Combines 3'6 Amateur Owners and the Canadian Hunter Derby series. At the Royal, he won the Champion of the Combined Division and received the Killer Tom award for the high score of 90. It was his first year stepping up to 3'6 and he did it both with professionals and his amateur owner. He also captured the combined working hunter championship at the Royal.

Buckingham is known to be kind, loving, athletic and naturally talented. He has a playful character and is a barn favourite. Burns and Hammy have been partnered for four years and the pair have had a strong bond from the beginning that continues today. "Every time I am sitting on Hammy's back waiting to go



through that ingate, it is the best feeling in the world,” said Burns. Two of her proudest moments so far include, “walking into the Coliseum for the Prince of Thieves award for the Derbies and the Killer Tom Award for the high score at the Royal.”

Winning Horse of the Year is a wonderful feeling for the King City, ON, native. “This is such a huge honour, I never imagined this award would go to a hunter, let alone mine!” She said. “I am so blessed to own and ride such an incredible animal.”

The ‘Buck’ does not stop here! The pair started their 2023 season at WEC Ocala, where Buckingham tricoloured all three weeks they were competing. Burns’ plan is to continue with the Amateur Owners and Derbies and according to her, “Maybe, share him a little with my daughters!”