The racehorse that became a painter

Vocabulary

1. treatment 2. compared 3. retired 4. canvas 5. charity 6. adopted

True Story

Metro was a famous racehorse but had to stop racing because of knee problems. His owner, Ron, _____ him in 2009. Ron tried to help Metro with special shoes and medical treatments, but the horse's knees kept getting worse. Ron was worried that Metro would have to be put down.

One day, Ron had a unique idea. He noticed that Metro liked to move his head up and down and pick things up with his mouth. Ron, an artist himself, thought that maybe Metro could learn to paint. He taught the horse to touch a _____ with his nose and hold a paintbrush in his mouth. To Ron's surprise, Metro started to make up and down strokes with the brush.

Ron started to sell Metro's paintings in a local gallery. People _____ his style to the famous painter Jackson Pollock. The paintings sold well, and the money helped pay for a new _____ for Metro's knees. The treatment worked, and Metro's health improved.

Now, Metro paints regularly in his own studio in the barn. "He loves to paint," says Ron. "I don't think he'll ever get tired of it." Half of the money from the paintings goes to a _____ for _____ racehorses.

Quiz

1. Why did Metro have to stop racing?
2. What unique idea did Ron have for Metro?
3. How did the money from Metro's paintings help him?
4. What does Metro do with half of the money from his paintings?

True or False

1. Metro was a famous house before he started painting. True | False
2. Ron taught Metro to hold a paintbrush in his nose. True | False
3. Metro's health improved after the new treatment. True | False

Conversation

A: Can you believe it, Metro is painting now!
B: Seriously? A horse that paints?
A: Yep, and his paintings are selling well.
B: That's incredible! How did he learn to paint?
A: Ron taught him. He noticed Metro liked to move his head up and down.
B: Wow, that's such a smart idea!

Discussion

1. Have you ever seen an animal do something unusual?
2. What jobs can animals do better than humans?
3. Do you have an animal friend? If not, would you like one?
4. Would you buy a painting made by an animal? How about an AI painting?

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