

## Gray Slipper



Artist Susan Van Wagoner

Susan Van Wagoner combines her bachelor's degree in studio art with her lifelong, intimate knowledge of horses, dogs and other animals. She works closely with clients in the process of taking extensive photographs and notes, doing many sketches, measurements and designs as she develops each concept and detailed finished piece.

This life-size portrait depicts the famous show hunter, Gray Slipper, who was officially retired at the 2011 Devon Horse Show (Pa.) after an 11-year career in the amateur division with owner Bridget Hallman and in the professional divisions with Louise Serio. He was the *Chronicle's* 2006 Overall Show Hunter Horse of the Year, two-time grand champion at Devon, winner of grand championships at Capital Challenge (Md.) and Washington International (D.C.) horse shows, multiple champion-

ships at the Pennsylvania National, Middleburg Classic (Va.), Winter Equestrian Festival (Fla.) and other major shows. He is now retired in Pennsylvania.

Slipper's portrait measures 69" by 34" (80" by 45" framed).

Van Wagoner has become known for her life-sized animal paintings and portraits. She did her first life-size piece, a Holstein cow, in the mid-1980s. She uses a mix of media on raw linen to achieve great detail with an unusual dry finish, and she often uses space to achieve distinctive compositions.

Three of Susan's life-size portraits were reproduced and donated by clients to the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association office in Lexington, Ky., and her work is in private collections throughout the country. More of her work can be seen at [susanvanwagoner.com](http://susanvanwagoner.com).



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