

**8 Ranching life**  
Discover more about the life of a cowboy as keen photographer Anouk Krantz captures special moments from Wagonhound. "I love the way they connect with – and live off – the land," Anouk tells us.



**14 H&R Hub**  
Readers share photos of their favourite horses sporting a variety of rugs. Plus, a range of winter inspiration for you from the *Horse&Rider* website – we're here to help you get your mojo back!



**16 News**  
All the action from the 2022 London International Horse Show, plus discover more about the exciting new eventing opportunities from British Riding Clubs and the Pony Club.

# Traditions of the American West

*Photographer Anouk Krantz shares her journey of life-changing adventures that led her to Wagonhound in Wyoming, where dreams really do come true*

**A** keen showjumper in her younger days, Anouk Krantz was born and raised in the South of France, moving to New York in the late 1990s. After attending university in Paris, she returned to the Big Apple, where her passion for photography soon led to her enrolling on a course at the International Center of Photography. What began as a hobby for Anouk soon became the start of a series of adventures that was to see her travelling to many untouched places around the world.

Anouk recalls, "One of my first adventures was a visit to the Cumberland Island, off the coast of Georgia, so my camera and I set off to discover more about this beautiful place. Having always loved horses, I walked the 17 miles from the north to the south, exploring and taking photos of the island's small equine population. I talked to families about their way of life, saw some incredible landscape and discovered unbelievable history, an experience that gave me a totally different perspective on what I wanted out of life."

## Finding inspiration

Anouk found herself looking back at the images from her Cumberland trip and she had a thought. They were such inspiring photos that it seemed a shame not to share them with others. After contacting a publisher and getting the go-ahead, her first book *Wild Horses of Cumberland Island* was created, going on to become a bestseller.

"It seems there are very few untouched places left in the world, but I've been keen to visit the ones that still exist," says Anouk. "I have a particular interest in cowboys and their way of life. I love how they connect with – and live off – the land, so I immediately started planning my next adventure.

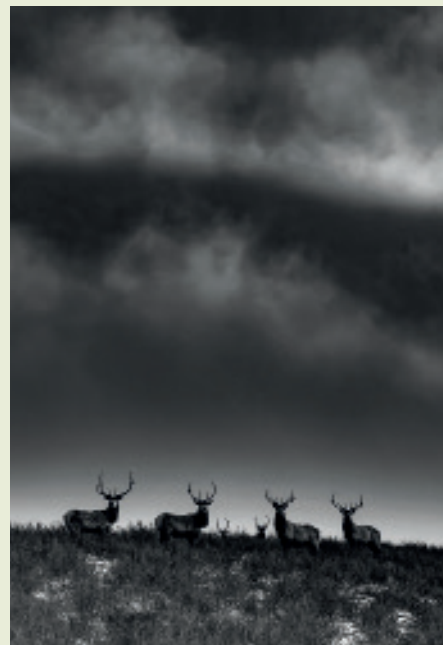
"One day in 2019, while giving a lecture, I was handed a piece of paper with the number of a Dallas rancher on it. It led to me making plans to visit another

rancher, and soon I'd booked a one-way ticket to Dallas, rented a car and set off across five states, with my two children, aged 11 and 12, in tow."

Anouk's travels across the American West lasted from 2019 until 2021, culminating in two more books – *West: The American Cowboy* and *American Cowboys*. Her next adventure, however, was to lead her to a very special ranch in Wyoming – Wagonhound.

### DID YOU KNOW?

After purchasing extra land, Wagonhound now covers a total of 300,000 acres and owner Art has since restored the land to its original state.



## Wagonhound ranch

In 1999, Arthur (Art) and Catherine Nicholas acquired Wagonhound, where they have worked tirelessly over the years to preserve an industry and lifestyle they hope will still be here for generations to come.

It's a strong community, in which neighbours help each other out, everyone knows where their food comes from and they all work together. As Art explains, "It's a place we love to be and I'm so fortunate to have spent most of my life on a ranch with horses, cattle and such varied terrain".

Art's wife, Catherine, grew up in Los Angeles and never imagined that she'd find fulfilment and enrichment on a Western ranch. In total contrast, Art's parents grew up in southeast Kansas, both on farms that, sadly, didn't survive the Second World War. Later, settling in Nebraska, where Art's father managed the Pawnee Springs Ranch for 30 years, their children came to learn the values of the cowboy's work ethic.

It was during her visit to Wagonhound that Anouk managed to capture images for her fourth book *Ranchland Wagonhound*. "My lens doesn't do the work for me," she tells us. "I was climbing mountains every day and walking miles to get the best shots. It's very physical.

"I'm proud to say my photos at Wagonhound captured more than 100 years of ranching heritage and traditions that remain relatively unchanged. The modern cowboys and cowgirls may ride off into the sunset like iconic Hollywood cowboys, but the truth is they're back at work at sunrise on the same ranch their predecessors worked on more than a century ago."

Yes, the world has changed in so many ways over the past 150 years, with its numerous technological advancements, but cowboys saddle up just as they did over a century ago and the dreams of the men and women who love horses, cattle, the land, freedom and this way of life continue to survive. ➤



### DID YOU KNOW?

Guests can stay at Wagonhound and enjoy a personal experience riding the centre's award-winning Quarter Horses.





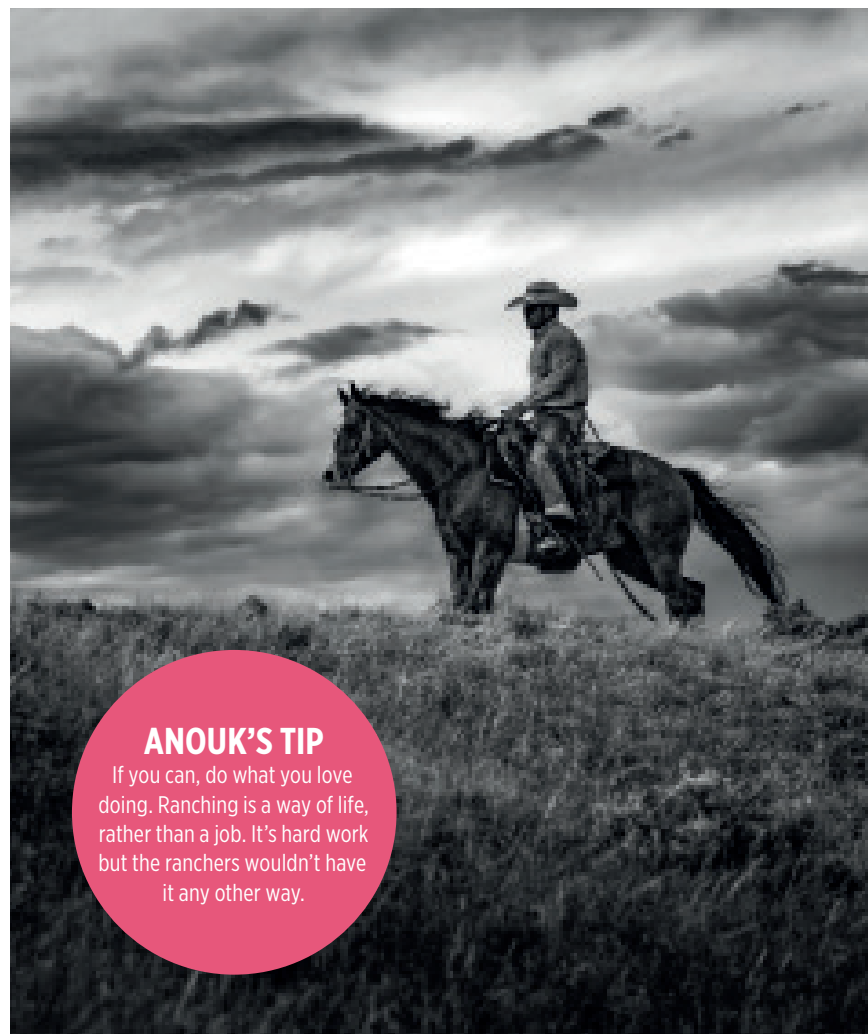
## It's all about the horses

The Quarter Horses that the cowboys of Wagonhound rely upon to herd their cattle across the wide-open prairie and occasional rugged landscapes of the ranch are descendants of a horse that traces its ancestry from the Seventeenth Century. The early British colonists on the east coast developed the breed and often raced their horses over a quarter-mile distance, giving the Quarter Horse its name. But those early horses served a valuable purpose beyond recreation as the colonists' racehorses. They were integral to their livelihoods as transportation and work animals as the men and women carved out their farms, plantations and towns up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

These were the same horses that carried the pioneers west. Quarter Horses ultimately earned their fame out west and today still make up the remudas (saddle horses) of cattle ranches all the way from the arid reaches of the Rio Grande to the open ranges of Alberta, Canada.

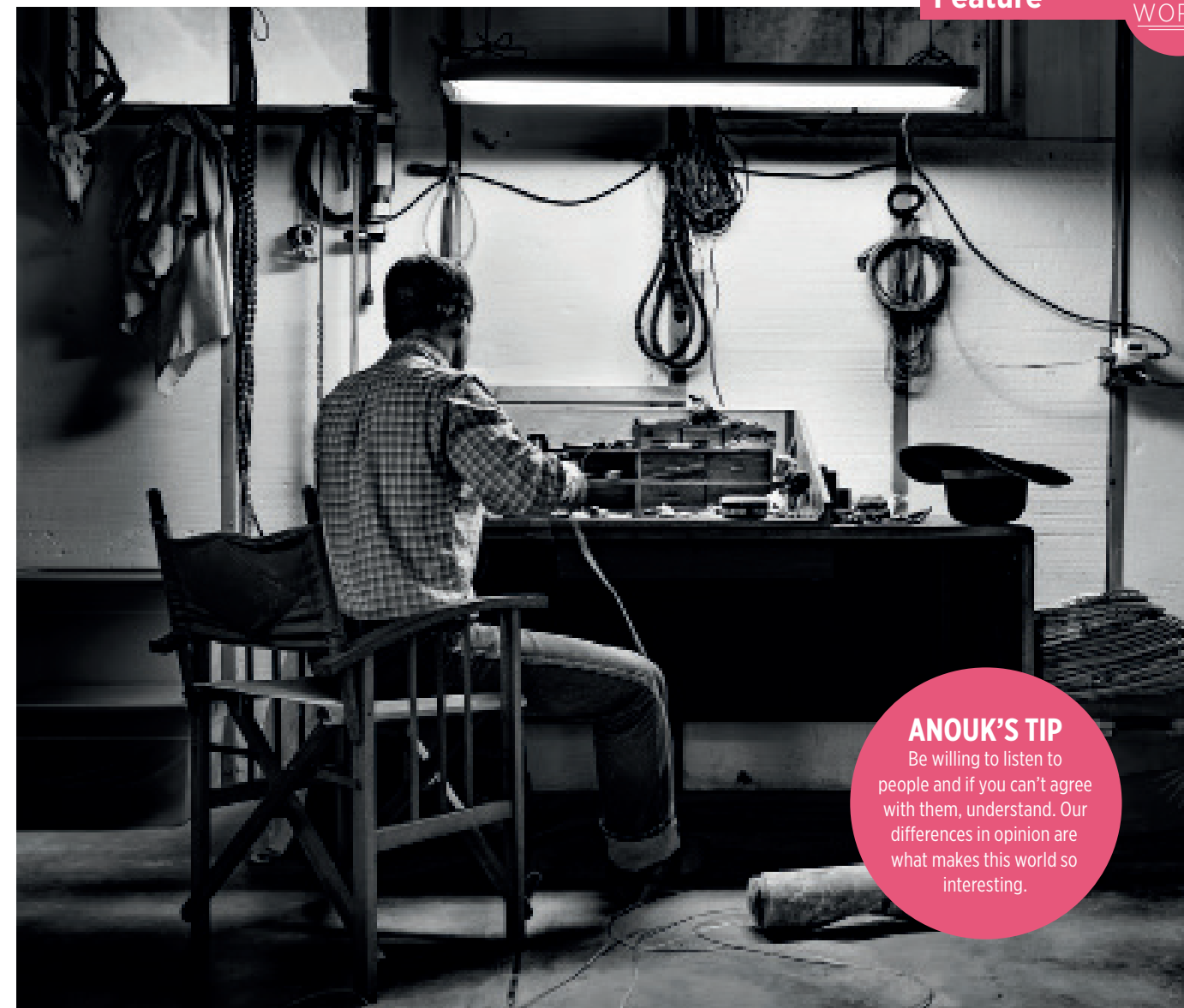
Good horses are as important to a successful ranch operation as water and grass. Ranch cowboys want the best horses they can find for their long days of work rounding up the cattle, cutting out those animals which are to be sold and roping calves to be branded.

Wagonhound has been judged by the American Quarter Horse Association to have one of the best remudas in the country.



### ANOUK'S TIP

If you can, do what you love doing. Ranching is a way of life, rather than a job. It's hard work but the ranchers wouldn't have it any other way.



### ANOUK'S TIP

Be willing to listen to people and if you can't agree with them, understand. Our differences in opinion are what makes this world so interesting.



### What's next for Anouk?

"I'm still very much on the go and I'm yearning for bigger and bigger adventures," Anouk concludes. "We've become a very concrete world and when I come home and step off the plane at JFK airport, I feel incredibly empowered to return to more untouched places.

"I think every human being needs to have a connection with the land and understand the importance it has. Experiencing ranching life taught me how the herds massage the soil and fertilise it in a natural way, and healthy soil is what preserves our Earth for the future generations. I've also learnt to listen to people, to understand their ways of life and embrace their values. My adventures to such places are far from over yet!"

Ranchland Wagonhound is published by Images Publishing Group. To find out more about Anouk's adventures or order copies of her books, visit [anoukkrantz.com](http://anoukkrantz.com). To find out more about Wagonhound, visit [wagonhound.com](http://wagonhound.com)