

[REDACTED]  
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2009 4H Camp Essay  
April 6, 2009

## How Owning/ Having a Horse Will Help Me

I am 12 years old and I have only *owned* a horse for about a year. I got into the Horse business with my mom in 2007, when I went to camp; before I joined 4H. I had done some light riding with my Best Friend who had horses; I was always jealous. That all changed when I went to Falcon Horse Camp for Girls. I learned all the basics, and soon found out that I could take home some of the horses for the winter. My mom and I were extremely ecstatic; and during the winter that year, we brought home Blue, Ninja, and Breeze. They were the first horses I have ever had and I will never forget any of them.

We really only leased them, and they had to go back the next spring. Not only did they give us the encouragement to continue with horse stuff, but they also left a hoofprint on our hearts. I had joined 4H just before the Boys went back to camp, and so my parents decided I could get a horse. I had a choice between Sox, [REDACTED] and Spot. I finally choose [REDACTED] after a lot of debate, discussion, persuasion, and dealing.

She came home to stay a few short weeks before Fair in 2008. She was the best decision I have ever Made. I love her more than *Anything* in the world, and even though I complain about going out to feed, or mucking stalls, she is the best thing in my life.

What exactly does owning a horse teach you? For one, it teaches you how to be responsible and make the right decision. I am extremely glad [REDACTED] has been able to stay with my family, even if she did throw a huge fit last year at fair earning 2 disqualifications, 3 ribbons. I truly would never have done it without her.

Secondly, it also teaches about priorities. Should you feed the horse or eat your dinner first? Spend a day cleaning your mud encrusted pony, or spend the day at the mall? Hang out with your friends, or exercise your horse because she is a little rotund? All of these decisions need to be made, either for the better or the worst of you and your horse.

Thirdly, it helps you find a better understanding of what a horse is worth. It doesn't matter how much you paid to get her, how much income you and your horse bring in from horse shows, or even what your horse is physically capable of. It is about what you think of your horse as in terms of kinship and friendship. Without trust between you and your horse, your nothing. Without the understanding of the relationship between you and your horse your both nothing. The relationship determines how much the horse is worth. How much would you give up for your horse if it was fatally ill, or dying? Would you just forget it and walk away? Only selfish people would do that, and leave the horse without an extra hand, or leg to help them. They would just wallow in there own pain waiting for you. But if you never came, the trust would die, and your relationship would be worth nothing.

In the future, I will own a farm with Tons of horses that have been neglected or abused; injured or broken; healthy or sick; and I will not be selfish and walk away in there time of need. I will gain there trust, there friendship, and be there extra leg to help them up. I want to only help horses. Maybe I will becomce a journalist, or a trainer, but I will always be around horses until I die. I will stand for whats good in a horse, and stand up for them; be their voice in there time of need, and God help me if I fail, but I will do my best, to help every horse, and create the best relationship with any horse I own. I never would have done anything, with the key to open the flood gates. The key, is my horse right now; 