


Age 12How Having A Horse Has Taught Me Responsibility

TBJL

I've grown up with horses all my life. My Grandma lived in the city, so she couldn't keep the two horses she had bought. So, my Dad and Grandpa built a barn at our house. Then, I was born. As I grew up, I wasn't that into horses. All I did was take pony rides on them and occasionally helped bath and brush them. Once I started getting to that age of having big responsibilities, I started doing more with the horses. Then I started doing more with my Grandma's horse.

My Mom and sister started teaching me all the things I needed to know to be a responsible horse owner. In the past two years, I've been riding a lot more and doing more things like feeding, cleaning, grooming and exercising. Unfortunately, I can't feed on week morning because of school, but I try to do as much as I can after school and on the weekends. I've decided, from being around them so long, that I was going to bring her in the fair this year. I'm a little nervous for my first time, but with the help from my Mom and sister, I think I'll do ok.

I've learned a lot of lessons being around horses everyday. They've taught me to be slow and careful because you could spook them and either you or your horse could get hurt. An example of that would be running up behind a horse, they don't know your coming and they could buck or kick you. They can be fun, but they're a lot of work. Some days, I really don't feel like riding or taking care of her, but I know I need to because the more I help and do, the better I'll get at it. Take riding for example, you have

to practice a lot and it's very hard work, but once you're good at it from all that hard work, it'll be fun for you and the horse.

I'm scared and excited at the same time for Horse Camp and Fair. This is a whole new thing to me because I used to show chickens. Chickens and horses are two WAY different things. But, I wanted to try something new and have a challenge this year. And maybe, if I'm lucky, I'll get a ribbon with my horse.

I've learned a lot from the time I was little and now about these cool animals. I put on a lot of responsibility doing these things. Now I know how important it is to take good care of the horse you have because if you don't, they could start having health problems. If they are serious, it could cost a lot of money to get them better. That's why you should check your horse everyday to make sure nothing's wrong. Horses aren't just things you can't care about and leave sitting around like an old, broken toy. If you want a horse, you have to be committed to it. It may be hard, but I'm glad I got into horses more, because even though they're a lot of work doesn't mean they can't be fun.

This is how having a horse has taught me responsibility, and I hope it will inspire other people about how amazing these creatures are, because I know they've inspired me a lot. It's kind of hard not to get into the whole horse deal when you grew up with them your whole life. And also it's kind of hard not to when your Mom and sister are horse fanatics. They've helped me come a long way from not being that big into horses.

Being in 4-H has really helped me to broaden my horizons. Responsibility is a big thing you have to learn if you are going to work with horses, and I've learned that from experience. I haven't been doing horses that long because this is my first year, but I've had a lot of bad and good experiences with them. You learn from the bad ones, believe

me. The good ones on the other hand can make it a more fun learning experience. So have fun with the horse your taking, and learn new things together.