

**"How having a horse has taught me responsibility"**

**Having a horse is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. Horses are fun, enjoyable, relaxing, but most of all a major responsibility. I must exercise, groom, and take care of my horse daily. Sometimes this can be very time consuming because they are such big animals, but it must be done.**

**My horse has helped me to be more responsible because no matter what I feel like I must go take care of him. A horse is a living, breathing thing so there is no excuse to forget. I have also learned responsibility by cleaning 15 stalls every Wednesday and Friday. I must also clean my horses stall daily. I began cleaning stalls consistently with my Dad three years ago, and since then I usually go back by myself everyday. By cleaning stalls at my barn it helps me lower the cost of my horse's board. This also has taught me to do things on my own. Cleaning stalls may not be the**

**best job but it helps me to keep my horse and also forces me to go see him often. This has also taught me responsibility because I sometimes I must give up hanging out with my friends to go to the barn (Not that that's a bad thing).**

**I have also learned responsibility by spending time with my horse. Since I am back at the barn so much I have learned to really get to know my horse, and I believe we really are beginning to work as a team. My horse has also taught me to be patient and to not get frustrated as easily. I also believe that spending time with my horse has taught me that time is the best present anyone could give. Instead of just going to the barn as a chore I began to see that I feel so relaxed when I am there and especially when I am riding.**

**I truly think that by learning responsibility now I can use it later in life. Learning that in whatever I do in life I am always going to use the life skills that I am learning now will help me to get jobs and also to be a respected adult.**

**My horse is a lot of things but most of all I believe he is a great teacher and I am so grateful to have found him! Responsibility is a great thing to have later in life and I think that by being in 4-H and having a horse I will help you to be successful.**