

2017 Report

Dear Lendon and Scholarship Award Committee:

I am reporting on how Riding Right Boot Camp went. I received a \$250.00 scholarship for this camp. By having the option to do Boot Camp, I always feel very prepared after attending. We rode once a day. On Monday we had equitation preparation. On Tuesday I had a 45 minute private lesson with Gail Kapiloff which I really enjoyed and got a lot out of. On Wednesday we had big group rides to practice riding with others in a ring. When we were not riding, some of my teammates parents ran study groups for us and then we took a practice test. On Wednesday we also had time to clean our tack, clean and clip our horses. Also each day we did pilates and yoga to help get us stretched out and loose for riding. I found out where I am tight and I can do these exercises to help me with my daily rides.

D4K this year was interesting. I definitely did not do as well as I had hoped. On the bright side, my horse Tidbit and I got our two best scores on a dressage test with cantering in it. We got a 69.50 on Friday and a 65.50 on Saturday which I am really happy about.


The rest could have been so much better. I messed up big time with the written test. I studied so hard and thought the test was easy. I screwed up on some of the answers with my answer sheet and only got an 86. I would have scored what I think was a perfect score. I was heartbroken. I went to the show office to see if there was anything that could be done but I was told no. Well for next year I will definitely be more careful.

Equitation was the worst part. I am still working with Tidbit to help him gain balance so he is able to canter with ease down the long side. He has really bad anxiety when asked to do something he isn't comfortable with, let alone at a place other than home. So once we picked up the canter and headed down the long side he started going faster like he always does. I did what felt like a thousand half halts to slow him down, but he just switched the lead in the back end. I rode a circle to get the canter back and then when I got it back she asked us to trot. The same exact thing happened on the other side. My trainer Hollie and I call him a wild card because every time we ask to canter he will either explode into the transition, won't listen to me ask, be calm and not change the lead, or get all speedy and change the lead. We are trying to find a happy medium.

Hollie has been riding him once a week to see if we can figure it out because of course I am still learning everything and don't have nearly as much experience as her. The whole training process with Tidbit is frustrating at times but it will be so rewarding in the end. He is teaching me so much.

At D4K we only placed 10th but I'm okay with it. I know well come back next year even better!

Thank you again!


Sara Stein