



Summer 2017
**Horse
Times**

Serving Northern Virginia,
a touch of West Virginia,
and a hint of Maryland

FREE

Summer Camps
Show Prize Lists
Hunt Trail Rides
Oliver On Courses
The Cover Story

Contents
Page 3

Virginia Regional Pony Club Holds A *Horse Times* Essay Contest

Here's The Winner!

**By Morgan Gerald, age 14
Dominion Valley Pony Club, D-3 Traditional**

I want to start by saying how grateful I am to live in an area that promotes and supports my passion: horses. Like me, there are numerous kids around me that ride. Some of them are in Pony Club, and some are not. Those who aren't ask me the same question, "Why Pony Club?" It seems like such a simple question to answer. While I can think of over a million reasons "Why Pony Club?" in my experience, there are three that stand out the most.

The first and most important one to me is **Horse Management**. I always answer

back with this one first, not only because it's so necessary, but because it has the greatest variety of important and useful information. Then kids always challenge me and say, "Well, what's so great about Horse Management?" I look at them with big eyes, stunned with disbelief. I rebut that question with a question for them. "How well do you REALLY know your horse?" Horse Management has taught me how to monitor my horse for injury or illness. It has taught me the importance of taking and knowing her vital signs at rest (TPR-temperature,

PHOTO COURTESY: KRIS GERALD



Pony Club essay contest winner Morgan Gerald with her pony Junior, at their first Pony Club Rally.

pulse and respiration) because that is critical information that I may need to provide to my vet if I feel something is wrong with her. I have also learned

to properly feed and condition my horse for a specific event. I explain to them how feeding and conditioning go hand and hand **continued on p. 43**



FLEXIBLE, TAILORED COVERAGE FOR EQUINE OPERATIONS

Whether you keep a pony for weekend recreation or raise elite breeding stallions, it makes good business sense to choose an insurance agent who understands your specific coverage needs.

PROPERTY COVERAGE:

Home | Barns | Hay and Grain | Machinery | Farm Supplies | Tack

LIABILITY COVERAGE:

Care, Custody and Control | Clinics | Riding Instruction | Boarding | Shows
Hay and Sleigh Rides

DEBBIE BENNETT

Agent

118 N Charles Street
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-1508
SMART THINKING, REWARDED™

✉ deborah.bennett@farm-family.com

☎ 304.725.6090



<http://www.farmfamily.com/agent/debbiebennett>

American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten by American National Property And Casualty Company, its subsidiary American National General Insurance Company, both of Springfield, Missouri, or affiliates Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company or United Farm Family Insurance Company, both of Glenmont, New York. 93433

Pony Club.....from p. 7 in her ability to perform at her very best! I then look at them, jaw dropped, speechless, when I am through with my example. As a finale, I throw little extra sprinkles on top of my delicious Horse Management sundae. I add that Horse Management not only teaches me how to heal my horse, feed her, and properly take care of her, but it teaches me to really know her inside and out. And to always say, "Horse first."

The second one that I have learned so well, and that you will learn if you join Pony Club, is **Team Work**. Pony Club really teaches you to check your ego at the stall door and actually wish for others to do well. Even if your team mates do better than you, you are more than happy because it helps your team. I remember when I was at Rally, and I didn't do so well at dressage (it's not my pony's favorite subject!), but my sister, Melissa, did an outstanding job on her dressage test! I was so happy for her because it helped our team. There are other benefits that Team Work can teach, as well. Being on a team gives you the tools to resolve conflicts with others (getting along with team members), as well as fighting for what you feel is right. For example, at Rally, we had a meeting with the TD to lobby for those lost Horse Management points; even if it means respectfully (and scarily) pleading your case to an adult, while in the end learning to accept the outcome -- good or bad.

The third one that I have experienced so fully is the **Opportunities** Pony Club gives you. I was recently at a Pony Club clinic, and another member excitedly told me about his trip to Australia. Through Pony Club, that opportunity was made available to him and now he will carry that wonderful experience for the rest of his life. I just sat there in awe, feeling so happy and thinking "I would love to do something like that someday", and you can with Pony Club! There are countless other opportunities as

well, like adopting and training a retired race horse. All of these opportunities (and many more) are made available through Pony Club.

I finish by saying, yes, Pony Club can be hard work, but anything worth achieving *is* hard work. And most of all, Pony Club is fun and will provide me with a lifetime of knowledge, experiences, and opportunities that make it all totally worth it. That is *my why*, in "Why Pony Club."

Pony Club develops sportsmanship, stewardship, and leadership through horsemanship. The Virginia Region of the United States Pony Clubs consists of 10 local Pony Clubs and 2 Riding Centers. We have over 300 members from as far north as Arlington, west into West Virginia, and south to Richmond. Our members participate in most of the pony club disciplines: Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing, Quiz (knowledge), Tetrathlon, Mounted Games, Polocross and Hunt Seat Equitation.

**Horse Times
Congratulates**

**Total Equine
Veterinary
Associates**



Named to Northern Virginia magazine's Top Veterinarians list!

Both Dr. Jay Joyce and Dr. Sallie Hyman made the list, which appears in the May issue of the magazine.

"The best part is that we didn't know that it was happening," said Dr. Joyce. "We were just as surprised by the announcement when the magazine was published. This is the first year that equine veterinarians were included in the listings," he noted.

Loudoun Milling Feeds

540-338-7161
Hamilton, VA.

Nutrena's

**Pro-Force Line....
Fuel, Fiber & Senior**

**Hay & Straw
Mulch, Sand,
Gravel, Stone Dust**

**Erosion Control:
Culverts, Geo Fabric,
Straw Blankets**



THE TACK BOX, INC.

**Quality Equipment & Attire
for Horse & Rider**

Special ~ Rider Package Deals

- Custom Boot Fitting
- Racing Silks
- Saddle Fitting
- Custom Blankets & Coolers
- Blanket Cleaning & Repair
- Embroidery & Engraving
- Custom Tack Trunks & Drapes



www.TheTackBoxInc.com

540-687-3231

Mon-Sat 9-5

7 West Federal St., Middleburg, Va. 20118