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The Role Of Horses In My Life

Horses have played a very important role in my life. The year I turned 10 my mom bought me a pony. A rotten, little, stubborn pony. I loved him dearly and he taught me so much. He taught me about perseverance, determination, and commitment. He also taught me balance, the importance of a strong centre of gravity, and the need for a good fitting helmet. During these early years I was quite and shy, I had a difficult time talking to people outside my immediate family. However, once I was on a horse that changed everything. When I started showing at our local open shows the spectators (and parents of the other competitors) nicknamed me "Smiley Kylie". Horses gave me the strength and power to be a different person. The spectators at the shows didn't know me outside of the horse world, they didn't know I was that shy girl, they saw I was a joyous girl that loved to ride. That's who I was when I was on a horse.

Since 2015 I've had the opportunity to volunteer for a local trainer which has allowed me to be able to give some back and help other younger children develop their passion. I have grown from a girl that could barely look at a stranger to a young woman that helps guide new students of all ages to tack and prepare a horse for a lesson.

Over the years I've had horses of different disciplines, but I have found my passion in reining. I find that there is speed and power along with precision and finesse. It is that versatility that I love, and that continues to challenge me every time I ride.

The reining horse community also opened a new family to me. It gave me the opportunity to meet many new people that without horses I would not have met. My involvement with horses has given me courage, independence and strength. It has contributed to helping me grow into the young woman that I am today. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities that the horse world has offered me.