

"Horses Throughout My Education"

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I have been collecting this anthology since I was given book orders to take home in the first grade! I have always loved the grace and elegance of the horse! Although this collection is for practical purposes, it serves as a great enjoyment as well. It started out to be a fiction collection I suppose because having grown up on a small acreage, there was never any room for my to have my own horse and so I loved to read about stories of other kids and their horses.

When I became older, I didn't fall for the Nancy Drew series, or the Hardy Boys. Don't get me wrong, I still wanted to read good mystery and suspense, but I wanted to read about horses! This was when I came across the Saddle Club series. It is a very exciting series about a group of young girls forming a club in the name of horses to get good at getting into trouble, and then learning how to get out of it! I still read them now.

As I left junior high and was half way through high school, I decided that I would like to become a veterinarian. So, the hunt began for hard core informational and factual type books on horses to add to the small and at the time, childish, I thought, collection. This is how I added the horse health, diseases and veterinarian books to my collection. I read through all of these books so many times, and even wrote down in a notebook the things I'd read across that I needed to reread because I didn't quite understand them. I suppose that I have remembered a sufficient amount from all of that self-drilling! After some consideration, I decided not to be a vet because of the strenuous life style they must live.

It was only recently that I made this decision, three years ago this April. At the horse farm I was working at, a foal was born and orphaned when the mother died. I was given a major responsibility to raise her. This experience set forth my career for me! I have to go into horse nutrition to improve and develop new protocols for what is being done to care for horses like this. The books on horse nutrition and care I shuffled through at book stores to help me and this horse, were scant at best in the procedures for getting an orphaned foal healthy enough to live. I immediately bought them and took them out to the farm so they'd be handy every day.

I will graduate next year with a Bachelors in Animal Science. Then it's southward to Kentucky to begin the most rewarding part of my education so far; a masters in horse nutrition! So, as you can see, my collection has taken me through all venues of my education so far, and it is by no means completed.