At age 3, my unsuspecting Dad took me to the Sonoma County Fair and let me climb aboard Sunny, the pony on the carousel. Oops… In just two short years, we had 5 horses, our first show season, and my (previously stay-at-home) mom had begun teaching riding lessons, just to keep up with our shared love. My mother’s lifelong passion for the Arabian horse led us quickly into the performance arena, where at just 5 years old, I competed in the w/j 10 & under division in the western pleasure, equitation, trail, and of course, the crowd favorite- stick horse. I attended my first Arabian Youth Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico at just 9 years old in hunter pleasure, equitation, and showmanship, where I received my first Top Ten honors. I returned to Youth Nationals 4 more times during my youth career, and had two extremely successful trips to the Scottsdale Arabian horse show. During my youth years at home, I had the privilege of riding and showing in most every discipline including: Western and Hunter Pleasure, Equitation, Country English Pleasure, Trail, Showmanship, Halter, Sport horse, Western Dressage, Dressage, Reining, and Eventing; on a variety of breeds, including: Arabians, Quarter horses, Fresians, Morgans, Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, various ponies, Saddlebreds, Cobs, Dutch Harness horses, Percherons, Andalusians, Warmbloods, Belgium Drafts, and Tennessee Walking Horses. I received local, regional, and highpoint awards, and also held the honors of being elected as vice president of the Junior Colorado Arabian Horse Club, the Region 8 youth director, and finally, the vice president of the Arabian Youth Horse Association. I also had the unique privilege of watching, learning, and executing the process for starting young horses from the ground up all the way to the national stage.

I met my horse, LLC Wyatt, for the first time when I was 15. 8 years, 3 states, and countless memories later, you could say that we sort of grew up together. Since day one, Wyatt has been my dream horse. Although he already had a solid foundation at purchase, Wyatt was by far the most energetic and spunky horse I had ever ridden at that point- dazzling us all, with what we would come to refer to as his circus tricks! At first, his power and athleticism really scared me and provided me with a new challenge of bravery and humility as a rider. Year after year, Wyatt captured my heart and my soul with his personality and loyalty, and pushed me to grow as a rider and a competitor. When it came time for me to go to college I simply couldn’t part with my most special friend. So, in 2020, I moved with my beloved horse, Wyatt, to Charleston, South Carolina where I attended the College of Charleston to complete my BA in Psychology. During these treasured college years, I continued on with Wyatt to have some of the most successful show seasons of my riding career thus far, in the Amature and Open Sport Horse divisions. I continued to explore the equine industry in avenues I had not yet explored, and expanded my repertoire to include: Barrel racing, Carriage driving, Hunter/Jumpers, commercial hauling, Hunting Plantation horses, and honed in my colt starting skills.

Wyatt lived 14 years with two healthy eyes as a competitive show horse in the Arabian circuit. This past March he had a traumatic ulcer form in his left eye (from what the vets said most likely was a piece of hay or dirt) which then contracted a highly volatile airborne fungal infection. He was hospitalized at NC State equine ophthalmology for two weeks, where they treated and monitored the infection 24 hours a day. Due to the potent medication they were using to treat his eye, Wyatt suffered an impaction Colic that prompted his expedited return home, at which point I continued to treat his eye 6 times a day for two additional weeks with weekly check ups and two more minor fungus removal procedures. Unfortunately, at some point the ulcer perforated his eye lens and he lost vision. At that point we decided it was best to proceed with the removal surgery because he was in a lot of pain and at that point keeping his eye would’ve been strictly cosmetic. Since the surgery Wyatt has recovered quickly, and has had little to no changes to his daily routine or behaviors. At first, I was just so relieved that he would survive the ordeal which was always my primary concern, but in the days and weeks to follow I realized that our show days may be over for good. 6 months later, and relocated with Wyatt to Waco, Texas to start a horse training business of my own, I am pleased to say that Wyatt is doing better than ever, and we plan to return to the show ring for the first time with a bang at the 2025 Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. I will continue to enjoy Wyatt and showcase his incredible athleticism, talent, and beauty, and hope that we can make a dent in normalizing life long partnerships for performance horses as well as show the world that with hard work and dedication, you never run out of time to make your dreams come true.