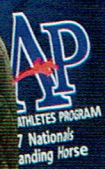




# IN STRIDE

The Official Magazine of the United States Equestrian Team

Cutting-Edge  
Horse Care for 2018



## Best of the EAP

EAP winner  
Kendra Duggleby  
with Sally Ike  
and Peter Wylde

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## Creating Educated Riders Starts with Educated Trainers



Trainer Kristin Jacob with riders Katie Glass, left, and Hilary Peterson

Be open-minded, listen to your equine friends, and they'll help to guide your way.

**D**ear USHJA Members,  
"Teach them as much horsemanship as possible. Good horsemen are better riders!"

This advice resonated with me as I was reading through the *USHJA Trainer Certification Program Manual*. But what is horsemanship? Knowing what your horse eats and being able to properly apply standing wraps to his legs are important and certainly give you a deeper understanding of—and connection to—your horse.

But I believe there's a less tangible piece of horsemanship that, taken to a higher level, becomes a way of being. There's too much to learn in a single lifetime. Good horsemanship is a practice in excellence in and out of the saddle that carries over into every aspect of your life.

In 2010, I imported a talented mare who challenged me and pushed me to better understand the horse and myself. The horse is a reflection of its rider, and sometimes, changing your attitude and approach changes the way the horse goes. She taught me to stop, recognize and work with the horse from where the horse is, not from where I want that horse to be. Using that approach and shift in my mentality, this horse began to genuinely understand her job. She gave me the humility to look at a situation from the horse's perspective.

When I first started my business, Blue Star Farms in Longmont, Colorado, I found great demand for a program that combined the classical skills taught by the American Hunter/Jumper Forward Riding System with the horsemanship and empathy for the horse I'd learned. My program focuses on fostering a willing partnership between horse and rider through education. We work hard and train to do well in the show ring, but regardless of ribbons won, my riders all enjoy rich and rewarding relationships with their horses. I believe that education is paramount in one's ability to make the best and most humane decisions for our equine partners.

The USHJA has developed some fantastic resources for riders and trainers, but with a little creativity, these resources also provide a wonderful framework on which to elaborate.

Last spring, I, with the help of a client, put

together a nine-week study course involving a number of guest speakers in preparation for the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge and the Stable Challenge. Through participating in these sessions, my riders gained a much better understanding of the different professionals that come together to help them and their horses perform at their best. In the end, Blue Star Farms won the Stable Challenge for Zone 8, but, more importantly, my riders were inspired to continue to learn.

As a young professional, I consider the *TCP Manual* to be an invaluable resource, and it's served as a source of inspiration for designing creative lesson plans. Beyond these programs, I've found that hosting a party to watch the ASPCA Maclay, the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship or the AIG \$1 Million Grand Prix is educational bonding for the whole barn. I also integrate time for field trips to parks and open spaces, which keeps the horses mentally fresh and helps my riders gain confidence and better understand their horses.

After the 2017 show season wrapped up and before the winter circuits started was the perfect time to focus on pursuing a higher level of horsemanship. This included attending clinics, reading books and publications inside and outside the Hunter/Jumper discipline, colt starting and traveling to Belgium for the stallion testing.

As a life-long student of the horse, I've found the USHJA's educational programs to be fantastic resources. But we must not forget that the most valuable resource has always been the horse. Be open-minded, listen to your equine friends, and they'll help to guide your way. I wish you the very best on your horsemanship journey!

Kristin Jacob  
USHJA Member and TCP Certified Trainer