

Tristyn McLean

Biography

Hello my name is Tristyn McLean and I am 13 years old. I have been riding for my whole life, but I started taking lessons when I was six in a barn outside of Calgary, Alberta. I rode many lesson horses at that stable where I learned the basics of riding. Four years later, in the summer of 2006 my family and I moved to Vancouver Island in British Columbia. The trainer that we had found taught both dressage and jumping, which was perfect for me at the time because I had not decided which venue I wanted to pursue. But it was not long after I moved there that I found my love for dressage. As I was new to the world of dressage I needed to find a horse that knew enough so that I could learn from it, but it would also be tolerant of my mistakes. With the help of my coach we managed to find a pony that I could lease in April of 2007. His name was Lickity Split, or Sparky as we called him. That summer I rode Training level with Sparky, and later that fall I started to participate in the Albrecht Heidamann clinics. I learned so much from Sparky, but I sadly out grew him and I had to give him back to his old owners in January of 2008.

We began to look for another horse that I could potentially do FEI Juniors with in a few years, and thus we found Maartje only a month later. Taj, as we call her, and I progressed quickly and that summer went in one show where we did FEI Children's. For the rest of the summer we mainly went on trail rides and relaxed. At the beginning of August we moved back to Calgary, where we are now. We now board Taj at Carousel Stables where I am under the tutelage of Crystal Kroetch. I have learned so much since then, and I am now showing FEI Childrens with Taj this year. I look forward to learning more in the future.