

To Lendon Gray and Ann Pereira

4-30-14

### Scholarship Award

The scholarship award has helped me grow as a rider. The money was put to my lessons with Chandra Bellone. She helped me work on moving up the levels to FEI Pony. I had some trouble doing some of the tight turns in the test. Chandra explained to me that putting my outside leg back a little further than normal will help support the turns. Also not pulling on the inside rein helps us stay balanced. One exercise that we did to help me was very hard and interesting. I had to shoulder in halfway up the long side, then do a 10m half circle, then half pass to the wall. All of these separate movements were in the test, so it was helpful. I learned that sometimes it is better to take it slow and do it the right way than have a forward trot without doing the movements correctly. As I kept doing this exercise it was easier. I really had to use my legs and plan where to make my turns. This exercise would be helpful to someone else struggling with these movements. Another aspect of the FEI Pony test that I was struggling with was the canter serpentine. The rider has to do four loops of canter with a simple change onto counter canter in the middle. I had trouble staying balanced and supportive while Smudge had trouble keeping the canter on the turns and staying round through it. Chandra instructed me to start with a three loop serpentine keeping the counter canter. This helped Smudge get used to staying on the other lead. Once that was mastered, we worked on the 4 loop serpentine. We have still not mastered it but it has come a long way. The serpentine is now much more balanced and Smudge can stay round for the majority of the movement. Overall this scholarship has helped my riding lots. I never would have thought that I would be able to complete my entire FEI Pony test without any major problems. Thank you so much for this amazing scholarship.

Thank you,

Hayley Wheatley