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Clovis Horsemanship Award Essay

In December of 2025 my Christmas gift was a fifteen year old Lusitano Warmblood to lease. Dora had been trained to do upper level movements, however, she needed a rider who could take a joke, so had been on the back burner until the right situation came along. In the beginning, everything was going extremely well and we bonded instantly (shh, don't tell my retired mare that). We were told that she had shown once as a four year old and hadn't done it since because she didn't enjoy it and was uncooperative for the show, but all I cared about was the fact that I could learn more from this mare than any other opportunity that I had ever gotten. Dora and I worked together on trust and understanding from the beginning so that when we did try to go to a show if it didn't work out it wouldn't damage our relationship in any way. Little did we know that Dora would be a saint for our first show together, scoring a 64% at first level. I love to pamper her, partially due to the fact that she's a gray, and she loves being pampered.

Unfortunately, in April of this year, we discovered that Dora had a brutal uterine infection. After multiple failed treatments it was decided that Dora would have to go for specialty care at a facility called Rhinebeck Equine in New York. During her week and a half stay at Rhinebeck Equine while the infection was being treated, they discovered that she had Cushing's disease as well as slightly elevated insulin levels, slowing the healing of her uterus from infection. Dora's Cushing disease is now being managed with medication.. Dora went back to Rhinebeck Equine for continued treatment shortly after and stayed another week. As she started to feel better, her full personality started to bloom. We discovered that she is truly a goofy girl who loves to go on adventures and cuddle whenever she gets the chance. She can also be spicy, especially now that she cannot have hormone treatments because they will impede the healing process. While she isn't out of the woods yet and we are unsure whether the uterine issues will be a continuous problem, Dora is getting the care she needs, even if it means she has to be away from me while at Rhinebeck and missing shows/clinics. She will need to go to Rhinebeck Equine for frequent followup examinations to ensure she continues to heal and her body is functioning the way it should. Each trip is three hours to the vet and three hours back,

causing major stress on her body. To counteract this stress, Dora gets treatments such as Gut Support supplements, Magnawave, daily stretching, balance pads, and a monitored diet and a lot of love. I am so grateful that Dora and I were able to create such a strong bond; so much so that when I take another horse out to ride she nickers to me from the pasture. Dora really loves to smile and give kisses, especially for a treat, but she also loves to sit in the pasture and be doted on by a girl who loves her.

Thank you for considering us as candidates for the Clovis Horsemanship Award, as it could really help me to accomplish my educational goals, showing goals, and support Dora in her needs as she recovers from the uterine infection and management of her Cushing disease. We are lucky to have each other and I want to continue to support her in everything she needs.

