



Get to know Jenna:

How old were you when you started riding?
I started when I was 7.

Where did you ride growing up?
Our family farm in Olds, AB, and Teesdale Riding School.

Were you a good student?
I hope so!

When did you start showing?
I started showing at 11.

Did you always want to be a professional rider?
I have always wanted to be around horses but I also have a lot of other interests and goals. I have been very lucky because my parents have given me the opportunity to ride as well as pursue other schooling and career options.

Do you get nervous?
Very!

What do you do to help with your nerves?
Reading or going for a run. I try to keep myself busy so I don't just obsess over the class. I almost prefer going early in the order because it gives me less time to spend second-guessing my plan. I am fortunate to have great coaches (Mark Laskin and Brian Morton) and when we walk the course we make a plan, then we watch a few go to confirm our track, but after that I try not to watch too many more or I find I over-analyze it and start to stress.

What would you do if you weren't riding?
That's a tough question. I have a degree in environmental sciences so probably something in that field. Or maybe rescuing sloths in South America. I think I would be happy doing that too.

When did you buy your first horse?
I bought my first horse when I was 11.

What horses do you have now? What are they all like?

Webster is an 11-year old Dutch Warmblood. I have had him for 4 years now but I have really been taking my time with him. We have just started jumping some Grand Prix and World Cup classes. I have been really happy with him – every time I ask for a little more he gives it to me. I think he is really a special horse and I am excited to see where he will go this year.

Cathleen is a 12-year old Hanoverian mare. I have had her since she was 5 and she is a really great jumper, but her attitude can be quite 'special.' I used her as my second horse on the European tours and she was very successful jumping some 1.50 tracks but unfortunately she has an issue with the open water. This issue got to a point where we decided that the best thing for her was some time off. She had a foal last spring and she is just starting to show again now. We aren't really sure what to expect, but so far, so good!

Charly is a 7 year old Canadian Sport Horse mare. She is a relatively new horse for me but she has a really great manner and I am hoping to get to know her this upcoming summer. She is quite scopey and I think has a lot of potential.

When I talk about my horses I can't forget Zeke. Zeke is a 17 year old Oldenburg, and I have had him since he was 9. I know I am biased, but I really do think that in his prime he was one of best horses we had in the country and I was lucky enough to get to ride him. Because of Zeke I got to compete in many world-class events and got to ride on 5-star Nations Cup teams, alongside people like Ian Millar and Jill Henselwood. Being on the team with those riders was really an invaluable experience, and I consider myself very fortunate. Zeke is older now and only jumping small classes but we bring him to all the shows anyways. Riding him is the best part of my day!

Can you tell us about your business?
My business is a family affair. Ever since I started riding ponies my parents have been very involved. My mom was my first groom and my dad with his tractor-trailer has been the truck driver. I am very lucky to have such supportive parents!
I am also lucky to have always had nice horses to start with and I just try to bring them along and get the best out of them that I can. I really think that so much of this sport is about the relationship you have with your horse.
Lastly, nothing that I do would be possible without Jodie Stutt. She wears all the hats: manager, groom, rider and occasionally trainer! It is pretty much impossible to do this sport at a high level without someone good on the ground and in the barn that you can trust. I am fortunate to have all of that in Jodie.

Do you have any advice for young riders?
I think one thing I found is to not be afraid of the unorthodox horses. Especially with prices skyrocketing, it is important to focus on the important things and not whether the horse is particularly handsome or doesn't carry itself in the typical fashion. For a young rider wanting to move up and start jumping bigger jumps, scope is the most important thing. You might have a few rails but it's important to gain confidence over bigger jumps first. Also, remember to have fun! It's pretty amazing what we get to do.

What do you do in your spare time?
I love playing sports: football, volleyball, squash, and tennis – pretty much everything. Soccer was always my favorite, but after I tore my ACL a few years ago I have been trying to find other lower impact sports. I have started rock climbing and attempting to become a less terrible golfer. But whenever I hear someone mention soccer I am usually the first to sign up, and the first to get hurt! I also enjoy reading, watching movies, playing cards and the occasional shopping trip with my mom!

What could you not live without?
My family, and probably cookies.

What is your most embarrassing horse show moment?
I was in Kentucky a few years ago at a horse show and I was hand grazing my mare, Cathleen, and like a true responsible horsewoman I was simultaneously drinking a coffee and talking on the phone. Of course Cathleen spooks at something, my coffee and phone go flying, while she races off. There was a hunter derby go on close by and Cathleen JUMPS into the ring right in front of the judges and continues to race around WHILE a horse was on course. I was too embarrassed to do anything but stand there stupidly with my mouth open, covered in coffee. A groom eventually caught her and I sheepishly claimed ownership. I went later to formally apologies to the judges and the rider on course. The judges were a bit stiff but the rider was great and told me she didn't even notice because she was 'in the zone.'

Name 3 things most people don't know about you:

I had a pet crow named Eldon growing up.
I work part time in a scrap metal yard.
I can recite Monty Python and the Holy Grail verbatim.

Describe yourself in 5 words:
Determined, grateful, geeky, hardworking, lucky.

