



Get to Know Maren Reinbold

[Back to Articles...](#)

How old were you when you started riding?

- First lesson was when I was 3 and a half years old in Saint Ives, New South Wales.

Where did you ride growing up? Were you a good student?

- I started in Australia, and since moving to Calgary I have ridden with many pros in the area. I think it's a good idea to get lessons from multiple professionals to see what their take is on your riding.
- I was told I was a good student, usually. Except when I was younger and thought I knew better than my trainers... I didn't.

When did you start showing?

- I started showing at 5 years old on a 5-year-old welsh pony, named Pocket Rocket.

Did you always want to be a professional rider?

- No, when I was younger I wanted to be a horse, till I was 8. But since I was 18 years-old and went to Europe to ride for the first time was when I realized I wanted to be a professional.

Do you get nervous?

- I think everyone has nervous to some point when entering the ring. But I get more nervous on young horses first time going into the show ring as I have no idea what I'm sitting on, or what will catch them off guard. I was really nervous when I thought I was going into my first ever 1.45m FEI class, which turned out to be a 1.50-1.55m Grand Prix.

What do you do to help your nerves?

- A trainer once told me "Ride the horse you're on." So if you go into the ring and it's a different horse than you felt in the warm-up that's alright, that's the sport. Just trying my best is all I can I do for that horse on that day. It has taken time to think that when I start to feel nervous, but now I just try my best and go from there!

What would you do if weren't riding?



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[Back to Articles...](#)

- Probably be a nurse or paramedic. Not smart enough for medical school, but I think that line of work is interesting and never the same day to day.

When did you buy your first horse?

- I got my first horse when I was 7-years-old. She was from BC, and the prettiest pony that I have ever had the pleasure to ride. She sadly passed away on Boxing Day 2016 after 15 years of owning her. Allegra will always be the one who started my obsession and passion when it comes to horses.

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

- Now, I have 15 horses. 10 are 5-years-old and younger. Since my bigger jumper died 3 years ago I now only have green and/or young horses.
- They are all very different. But we have siblings from the same dam that have similarities that are interesting to see come out as they get older. One mare's offspring are VERY independent, they will just go wherever they want no matter what you want them to do. It's fun as a breeder to see how they develop and change over the years.

Can you tell us about your business?

- Nordic Farms is a small breeding, training and selling operation. We are about to start the building of our barn and indoor arena, which is very exciting. We will be offering board and lessons hopefully starting late fall/early winter. We already offer 50 acres of fenced paddocks for the horses to enjoy. After being an exchange rider for the Hannoveraner Verband I have picked up dressage, so currently showing in the hunters, jumpers, and dressage! Also I am involved with the Hannoveraner Verband and KWPN-NA as a young breeder.

Do you have any advice for young riders?

- Go to Europe to ride. You will find out if you are strong enough to stay in this sport as a professional, or take another path. Either way it is a great experience and so different from riding in North America.

What do you do in your spare time?

- Usually look up bloodlines, and check on how some young stallions are doing in competitions that I am keeping an eye on. I also like to ski in the winter when shows are done for the season.



[Get to Know Maren Reinbold](#)

[Back to Articles...](#)

What could you not live without?

- My parents. They are so supportive and help with every aspect of getting my career off the ground, no matter how slow it is going. And my animals, obviously.

What is your most embarrassing horse show moment?

- I was in the 1.40m at the Masters at Spruce Meadows and I was eliminated at the open water. (My horse would NOT do any real open water, ever.) And I took a courtesy fence that was a massive wall. However, I did not notice the big marching band that was going along the road behind the wall... My horse noticed. We crashed through the wall and I fell off and had to do the worst walk of shame across the All Canada ring, to my coach and mother waiting at the gate to ask why on earth did I pick THAT fence to re-do. I do re-share the video on Facebook every year though.

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

- I'm an introvert, but trying hard not to be.
- My favourite horse changes every day. (Whoever is behaving is my favourite.)
- As if 3 disciplines aren't enough I may try eventing and polo next year!

Describe yourself in 5 words:

- Tenacious
- Dedicated
- Unlucky
- Focused
- Pragmatic