



Toni Anderson and Kira Casartelli team up for Toni's Tack Tips

by Brooke Goddard • photos: USHJA, Toni Anderson, Kira Casartelli

While most teenagers were watching videos on Netflix during the pandemic, Toni Anderson and Kira Casartelli teamed up to produce horsemanship videos, including a "Horsemanship 101" series for Hansen Dam Riding School. Several years ago, Toni started an Instagram page called "Toni's Tack Tips" as a passion project where she would share her thoughts on different horse-related products. Her videos have evolved from there. "I've always had fun explaining things and showing people various horse products," Toni shared.

Toni, the 2018 USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge (HQC) Gold Medalist, stars in the video series and shares her wealth of horsemanship knowledge with others. "As I was studying for the HQC, I started to think that there was a serious need for horsemanship resources," she explained. "The downtime during the pandemic gave me the opportunity to finally start producing videos with the help of my friend and production manager, Kira."

Their videos dive into depth on horsemanship-related numerous topics. "Our videos focus not

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only on the ‘how’ but also on the ‘why’ behind everything we do,” Toni added. “I want people to understand the importance of why we do certain things. For instance, putting water on your tack can damage it over time. I want to emphasize to people the importance of why we do what we do.”



Toni is heading into her final year of college and she has already garnered years of experience when it comes to horsemanship. As the USHJA HQC Gold Medalist, Toni got a special opportunity to intern at Spy Coast Farm, a top horse breeding and training operation in Lexington, Kentucky. Toni was also the overall winner of the 2019 LAHJA Horsemastership Scholarship, earning funds toward her degree at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. Outside of school, she works as a show groom and braider and often helps her “other mother” Marnye Langer at shows. Toni enjoys showing in the 1.0M jumpers and medals on LEGIS Light My Fire.



Toni’s family friend, Kira, is the vision and the creative mind behind their video series. “There was a lot of trial and error,” Kira explained. “We experimented a lot with camera angles and lighting. We realized that sometimes we needed to position the horse facing the back of the cross ties in order to get better lighting. We also started using a tripod with bendable legs. By wrapping the legs around the end of a broom, we could get stable shots from above the horse.”

Kira, 14-years-old, is heading to The Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA) in the fall to focus on her artistic passion. “I’ve always been interested in arts and architecture,” she said. “My mom has worked as a professional photographer, so I had some experience just from watching her.”

