

The Cottage May 2019



In the last five months I have found a new home on the other side of the world. Even though my first few days were a little overwhelming it was totally worth it! After that it just got better and better. I learned so many new things everyday and not just in theory this time, as usual, I had to practice and be tougher than some horses, in order to get them to do what I want. A good example for this takes place at feeding time, where every horse has to wait until we give them the "okay" to go to their feed bins and eat. Some wait really patiently while you have to be stricter with others. Nevertheless all of them are super lovely.

After some time work didn't feel like work anymore, since I got the hang of it and it was more like being responsible for your animals. Everyday we would feed in the morning and afternoon and ride 1-5 horses in between. There are some well educated dressage horses, a few oldies (which were still ridden), a youngster (4yo), two cute yearlings and a few agistment racehorses. Geneva is definitely my favorite because she always tries so hard to meet your expectations. Tommy and Aastaron are really nice horses to ride, a bit difficult at times but jumping them was always my favorite thing to do.

Once I got to know them all I started to try new things with them, like taking away the fear of a ball from Geneva. After a while she even started chasing the ball and playing with it. I'm still really thankful for the trust that Chris & Deborah had in me. That way I learned so much more about handling different horses. Chores like rolling hay around, trimming trees/picking up sticks but also playing with the foals, cuddling and lunging the oldies and cleaning the house/ tackroom just didn't feel like "chores" anymore, it was fun with the right people and mindset! I'm also very thankful for the two lessons I had with Sue, the jumping lesson I had with Brad and the clinics with Ricky that I could watch, it's so inspiring!

All in all it was a great time and I hope I can use some of the groundwork I learned here back in Vienna. At this place you can learn as much as you want to, from lounging a horse to loosing the fear of trying new things and gaining confidence. Although I'll have to say goodbye for now, I'm gonna come back in June and probably in the near future as well!

From Lilly, 20, Vienna