

### Abstract

Ballyhigh Show Stable is located at Brinsfield Farm LLC in Versailles KY. It is a hunter, jumper, and equitation facility with boarding, lessons, and shows. Joyce Brinsfield is the owner and founder. As of the fall of 2020, Joyce has welcomed the UK Huntseat Equestrian Team to the stables and has been an outstanding coach.



### Description of Responsibilities and Activities

This semester, I had the amazing opportunity to intern at Ballyhigh as the weekend lesson barn manager. I spent most of my time turning horses out, mucking stalls, cleaning tack, and organizing the barn on the weekends. I also brought horses back inside in the afternoons checking for overall soundness and making sure all their shoes were on. During the week, I spent my time riding, shadowing lessons, and asking questions. I also got to hold horses for the dentist, which I had never done before. I also attended a few pony club meetings for the younger levels and helped them learn the parts of the horse for their upcoming test.



### Professional Growth Goals

1. **Contribute ideas and actions to change daily operations:** Ask everyone else working their thoughts, compile lists and solutions, follow through.
2. **Understand financials of and equine facility:** Interview Joyce, research, spreadsheets
3. **Know how to train a hunter/jumper horse:** Work with OTTB, ask questions, ground work younger horse, shadow
4. **Become a better rider to train in the future:** Continue riding, attend lessons, shadow, watch advanced riders on green horses

### Professional Growth Outcomes

I was able to complete all of my goals by the end of this internship, but will continue to grow with them. I have learned many more things as well.

1. I did say what I was thinking and changed routine on the weekends to be more efficient. I was able to collaborate with others to start larger projects/tasks.
2. When interviewing Joyce, I was able to understand the costs of running an operation as well as how valuable it is to have connections.
3. Shadowing lessons of younger horses and the retraining of an OTTB has given me a greater understanding of how to go about this training.
4. Taking lessons twice a week with varying groups helped me focus on my movement as well as be aware of those around me.

### Acknowledgements

This internship would not have been possible without Joyce taking me in so close to the start of the semester, huge thanks to you. Thank you to everyone else who contributed to this experience including Bryant Rogers.

### Evaluation of Equine Courses

**EQM 105: Equine Behavior and Handling**  
Although I had always handled horses on my own, this introductory course gave a guideline to proper handling and understanding basic behaviors.

**ASC 310: Equine Anatomy**  
Not only did this course help me learn proper terms for the external anatomy, but also internal parts. This was especially important understanding horses that went lame.

**ASC 389: Equine Nutrition and Feeding**  
This was a very useful course understanding the feeding programs of performance horses from a nutritional standpoint as well as financial.

### Project Development

**Project Overview:** When Joyce welcomed the UK Huntseat Equestrian Team, she had to get all new lesson horses and restart a lesson program. No one knew much about these horses and having a book with all the information would be helpful in terms of handling and riding.

**Objective of Project:** I had planned on this project being helpful to the team as well as anyone else who may come through Joyce's lesson program. My hope is to reduce the unknown of riding a new horse.

**Plan of Action:** I first started with sheets of each horse with their picture and a quick physical description. I also added if they needed a crop or spurs just so it was in one place. I got what background was known, if any, from Joyce as well as her experience if she rode them. I also had input from others who had ridden them for a different perspective. I also decided to add what their bridle looks like just in case it ends up on the wrong hook or not put away at all.

**Reflection:** As the semester is coming to an end, the horses are changing, the book will be updated. I plan to stay here throughout the summer, after that point I hope to leave the book for future interns or the UK Equestrian team to update.