

Hi everyone! This is the AskAnnie podcast, horse girl reviews on products you use. Hi everyone and welcome to the AskAnnie Podcast, where I review and test your favorite Horsey products give you the inside scoop on the latest up and coming products and have a conversation about your favorite equine product trends. I'm Annie and I'll be your host. Let me tell you a little bit about myself! I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and passionately devoted to horses from a very young age and never grew out of it. My mom was raised on a farm in upstate New York so she understood my addiction and both my parents helped me to have the opportunities with horses from the beginning. One of the first memories that sticks with my parents is when I was about two years old a good family friend gave me a stuffed animal horse that whinnied whenever you squeezed it. They said I never put it down and I assume they grew to love that whinny. I started in 4H at a local boarding barn and leased an adorable Pinto Bashkir Curly gelding I did everything my little ten year old self could do to spend my days at the barn. From sweeping aisles to mucking stalls I was hooked and from a young age I realize that horses were a lot of work and a lot of responsibility but I was okay with that. These early days a Joey taught me a lot about trust and patience, but also gave me courage and confidence and made me eager to do more. My family got our first horse when I was about twelve. Robbie was and still is the best all around quarter horse gelding a little girl could ever have imagined. My mom said that someone was offered me almost twice what we purchased him for and I admittedly declined, not giving it a second thought or consulting my parents. He was a talented school master and my best friend, but also knew exactly how to push me and didn't let things come easy. When I would ask just right though we were unstoppable. He gave me the confidence to try new things and we conquered everything from western riding to hunters together. It is at this time that the rest of my family jumped on board with the horse train. My little sister loved Robbie and his gentle nature and we even got my dad to ride! One of my fondest memories of my dad riding is every father's day we would have a schooling show and my dad is not a horse riding type of guy, but he would happily be led around on a barrel pattern on our trusty steed just enjoying spending time with his family doing what we loved. Then I started progressing to the local shows and pony club. I really thrived under Pony Club guidance and became enthralled with eventing. When I was sixteen our family friend bought home a stunning but very green PMU mare. She was scared of everything including people and jumped a five foot round pen just to get away from us. I watch her progress in gentle hands and when Robbie pulled a muscle during the summer I was offered her as a substitute. Maddie was challenging and I wanted to do everything that I've done with Robbie on her. I look back on it and think about how good we are for each other her forcing me to take a step back and focus on fundamentals and me pushing her outside of our comfort zone and giving her confidence in a world where she was unsure of. After a successful summer season she was offered to us for sale and we eagerly accepted. There are more horses in Alaska than you might think and a strong horse community. The foundational structure in support of 4H and pony club being national organizations were instrumental in setting a standard to compare myself to. Both of these organizations allowed us kids access to instructors and judges that we would never would have had access to without them. By eighteen I had succeeded at C3 rating in Pony Club and received a bronze medals in hunt seat equitation and Stock equitation through 4H. After this I decided to

go to Colorado State University and progress to receive a bachelor of science in equine science with a minor in business administration. During my college career I decided to play polo! My first year of college I didn't bring Maddie down, but still wanted to keep riding and that's when I found the polo team. I didn't need my own horse and I could still ride and even learn a new sport. This team is one of the highlights of my college career and gave me lifelong friends and memories. I progressed to the varsity team and even played in an inter collegiate national championship tournament. I was able to bring Maddie down in my junior year of college to Colorado and at the same time I inquired about an internship with equine digital team at Active Interest Media and was accepted as AIM's equine digital intern for two years. Upon graduation I went to work for western clothing company and a breed association I also met my husband who's involved in local rodeo and together we taught my eventer to be okay with me swing a rope off of her. We have yet to set our sights on an actual cow, but I have no doubt she'll succeed. AIM contacted me a few years after I graduated and I accepted the position of email marketing coordinator. Here in Equine Network I manage email communications especially regarding our internal programs and our brands newsletters. To sum it up I'm your average twenty something independent horse girl who set her sights on a lofty dream and never looked back. I still have my childhood horse, my horse trailers almost as old as I am, I shop at consignment shops, and my horse is on pasture board but she also gets chiropractic, we show in a local show series and a ride in a wonderful indoor arena all winter long. The products we will be talking about will be tested by me and I'll share my first hand experience. If you have products you'd like me to try and use the hashtag #askanniepodast or contact me on social media, send me an email, or drop a comment on whichever platform you're listening to. I can't wait to get started!