

Hi everyone! This is the AskAnnie podcast, horse girl reviews on products you use. Hi Everyone thanks for tuning in! We have a special guest with us today, Lauren Feldman! Hi Annie! Lauren is the senior digital editor of EQUUS as well as the manager of a couple other brands here at the Equine Network, so can you tell us what you do on the daily? I am a little bit of a jack of all trades. If it has to do with words, horses and Facebook I probably have a hand in it. I don't know if this is the right place to do a little shameless plug, but can I? Yes! One of the programs that I'm focusing on right now is Hope in the Saddle. And it's this really cool program that's all about celebrating the positive relationship between people and horses and how horses are helping people overcome the challenges in their life. Whether that be physical or emotional or mental challenges and basically I just get to help people tell really cool happy inspirational horse stories. So it's a little bit of a dream job! If anyone wants to check it out the website it hopeinthesaddle.com. Yes, very heartwarming stories and a lot of feel good things on that page. Tell us a little bit about your horse background! So my horse background, I think I probably have the same story as any other horse crazy girl growing up. I was probably 7 or 8 when I started riding horses. And I actually got into riding horses because my best friend was taking horseback riding lessons and I didn't want to be left out. I wanted to do cool things too! So I started taking riding lessons with her. I'd always read Saddle Club and Thoroughbred and Black Beauty. I started taking riding lessons and I'm pretty sure my parents thought I would phase out of it by the time I was 15 or 16, no such luck! Sorry mom and dad! A couple decades later and I'm still involved in horses. I got my first horse, Kinetic, when I was 13 or 14 and he's still around, still kicking. He was my hunter, he was an off the track thoroughbred. When I moved to Colorado to work on a guest ranch after college it was sort of if you can't beat them join them situation. There were not a lot of English saddles up in the high country of Colorado so I swapped out my English saddle for a western saddle and it turns out Kinetic is pretty cowy! That's when I went over to the dark side of western riding and bought myself a little paint mare named Angel. Who you know! Yes, she's featured in some of our episodes. For those who don't know, Annie's horse Maddie and Angel are pretty tight, they're best friends. We're at the same barn. With Angel I do versatility and ranch horse classes, that's the goal anyway. No, you're getting there, definitely. So on our podcast we're all about products, so would you mind sharing with us the three products you can't live without? Absolutely! So product number one is my pepi spray. I love it so much! I got it at a horse show, it was in a prize basket I think. I never used it before and it's in this really cool retro aerosol bottle and it smells so good! I am a little bit addicted to the smell. It works very well as a coat conditioner also, Angel is very shiny. Her tail looks so lovely! But really, it's the smell! When I'm at the barn the entire barn probably just smells like air freshener and coat conditioner. Angel is slicked to within an inch of her life because I love the smell of that so much. The second piece of equipment that I always have is my saddle. It was really the first piece of nice horse tack that I owned. Everything prior to that was like what a 15 year old or a poor college student could afford, so not the greatest. This saddle is a custom, not custom to me but custom to somebody else, McCall Teton all-around saddle with 3/4 acorn tooling. It's really really pretty! I like it a whole lot. I probably had no business buying that saddle when I

did because it definitely had the price tag to match. I had moved to Fort Collins from the mountains and Kinetic was still up at the ranch where I had worked and so I was horse starved when I moved to Fort Collins. I haven't gone more than a day without riding a horse in years! I needed to get me a horse fix. I met a woman who became my horse fairy god mother. And the reason I'm telling you this story is because it's her fault that I own this saddle! So I met my horse fairy god mother and she was like yea, I got a whole bunch of colts have at them. She's just been great, held my hand through all sorts of horsey things and she actually sold me Angel. Anyway, I told her that I was looking for a saddle and she was like ok girlfriend, I got you. We were at the local western consignment shop and I was looking at saddles that were in my price range and they were like 20 year old calf-roping saddles and that's what I could afford. She pulls out this beautiful saddle from the rack and I'm like yeah that is a gorgeous saddle. And I flip over the price tag and I go yeah and it has the price tag to match. She says well you can take it home! Just try it out, you get to try it for a week and see if you like it. I take it home and of course it fits my horse perfectly, it fits me perfectly, its super balanced and everything about is exactly what I was looking for. It was meant to be! It was like well, dangit! I guess I'm buying this saddle! So I actually took out a bank loan took out a personal loan from Wells Fargo to buy this saddle. I don't recommend that, that's probably not the savviest financial decision, but I tell myself it was an investment. Saddles hold there value! I've had that saddle for close to a decade now and its just great. It wears great and I get compliments. It was worth it! That's the saddle story. And you're looking for one more? One more! Alright, then the last piece of equipment that is always with me is my helmet. Which is just an ovation schooling helmet. I get that its a little peculiar for a western rider to ride with a helmet. I don't know if that's just my hold over from my English riding days, but I don't do a schooling ride without my helmet. I do hope that little kids who see me riding western and riding with a helmet might be encouraged to do the same. Someone told me "you can fix all sorts of broken bones, but you can't rehab a brain." So that's something that I took to hear and knock on wood, my brain is still intact. The helmet is kind of my lucky charm, I havent had a nasty wreck since I've worn it, knock on wood! Awesome, thank you so much for sharing all that with us. Yea anytime I get to talk about horses is great! Thanks everyone for listening! Thanks for tuning in! Learn more about the AskAnnie podcast by following us on Facebook and Instagram at AskAnnie podcast. Have a suggestion for a product you'd like me to review in an upcoming episode? Email me at askanniepodcast@gmail.com or leave a comment on any of our social media platforms. Find even more AskAnnie episodes on Soundcloud, iTunes and Stitcher. The AskAnnie Podcast is a production of the Equine Podcast Network an entity of Active Interest Media and the Equine Network.