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Chasing GOALS, Clinching CHAMPIONSHIPS, and CONTINUING ON Amid COVID-19

Wellington, FL – On the last day of the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Jennifer Betts clinched a final championship of the season for True North Stables after topping the \$1,500 Low Adult Amateur 18-35 Jumpers aboard her own Europa.

It was a fitting end to a highly successful circuit for the team at True North Stables, led by trainer Caitlyn Shiels, and now it is a high note to look back on and to recreate when horse showing in the U.S. resumes following the global coronavirus pandemic.



Jennifer Betts and Europa with Cody Wooten (left) and Caitlyn Shiels. Photo by Jump Media

“The season ended sooner than any of us expected, but I couldn’t be prouder of all that our team accomplished during the 10 weeks of WEF,” said Caitlyn Shiels, owner and head trainer of True North Stables. “All of our horses and riders achieved the goals that we had set for the winter.”

“Michelle Durpetti moved up from the 3’3” to the 3’6” Amateur-Owner Hunters and earned top ribbons; Marisa Malevitis and KT Forest were a force to be reckoned with in the Low and Medium Amateur Jumpers, and Jennifer [Betts] and Europa really came together as a new partnership,” continued Shiels. “While we aren’t able to horse show now, we’ll be working to build on that momentum and to keep our horses fit and in a consistent program.”



While True North has largely closed the doors to its Wellington, FL base, Shiels and new True North Stables assistant trainer Cody Wooten continue to keep the True North horses fit.

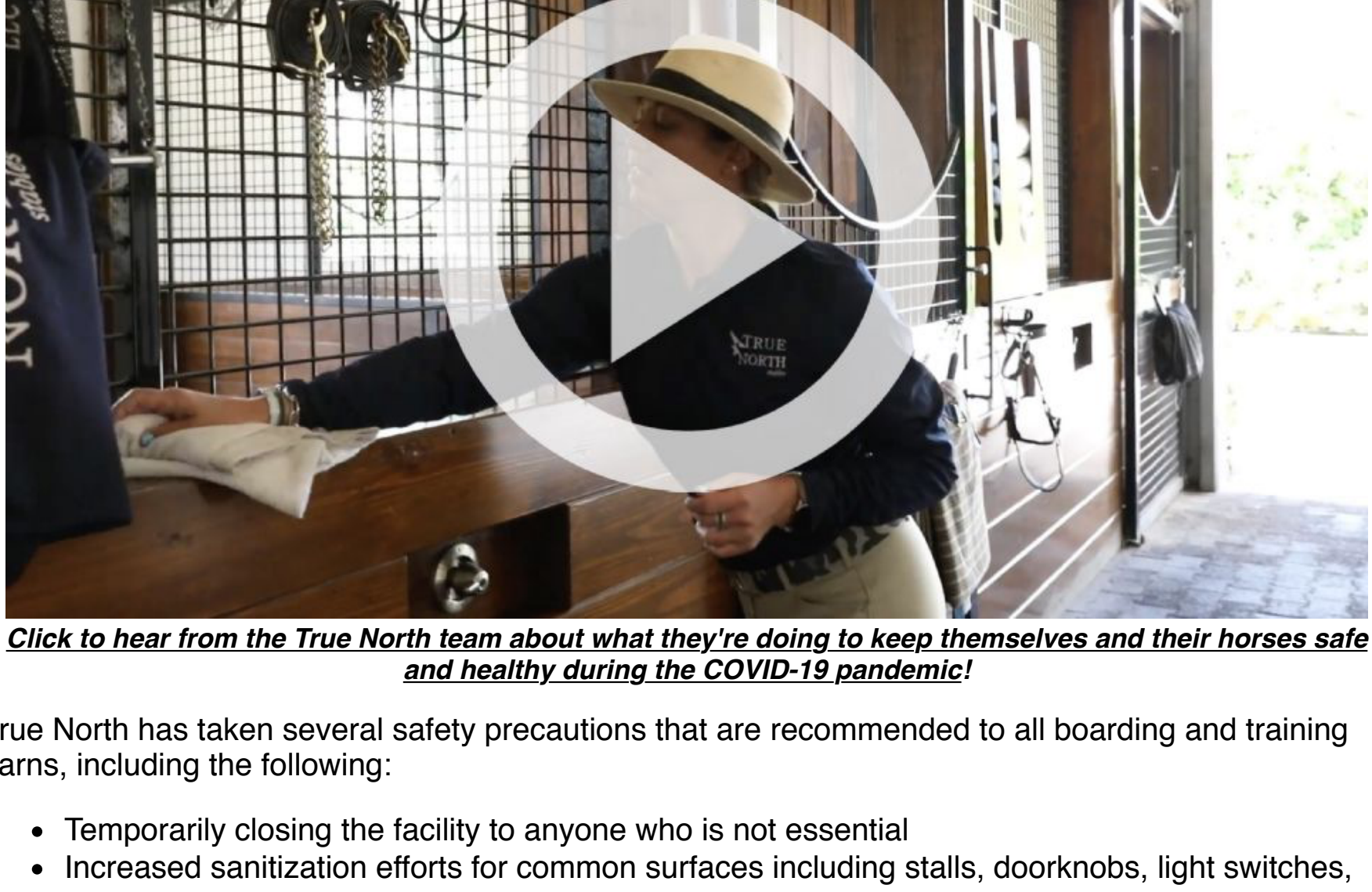


Michelle Durpetti and Serafina (top) and Marisa Malevitis and KT Forest (bottom). Photos by Jump Media

“While following the guidelines of the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention] and staying safe to help contain the spread of the virus, we’re also working hard to keep our horses on their regimented programs,” said Wooten. “They obviously don’t know that anything has changed, and we want to keep it that way.”

Shiels and Wooten will be focusing on their horses’ fitness and well-being, as well as their own well-being, while implementing quarantine guidelines for the farm.

“It’s important to us to keep our horses going, but it’s equally important that we practice social distancing and follow extra safety measures during this time,” said Shiels. “We’re continually adapting and acclimating to the current situation, but it’s helpful to find solace in knowing that by taking these measures now, we’re helping to protect our industry and ensuring that we have an industry to return to.”



Click to hear from the True North team about what they’re doing to keep themselves and their horses safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic!

True North has taken several safety precautions that are recommended to all boarding and training barns, including the following:

- Temporarily closing the facility to anyone who is not essential
- Increased sanitization efforts for common surfaces including stalls, doorknobs, light switches, sink faucets, gates, and crossties
- Staff safety measures including social distancing and more frequent and thorough hand washing

While no one knows for certain when competition will resume, Shiels and Wooten are remaining positive and looking to the benefits of the time at home.

“Downtime can be great for our horses,” said Shiels. “I look at last year, and we didn’t show from Derby Finals in August until Wellington in January, but we kept the horses going in their individual programs, and they came out fit and better than ever. We still had a focus and a goal, and we’re finding comfort in maintaining that same focus now.”

True North Stables WELCOMES New Assistant Trainer CODY WOOTEN



Cody Wooten and Caitlyn Shiels. Photo by Jump Media

True North Stables is thrilled to welcome Cody Wooten to the team as an assistant trainer for the hunter/jumper training and sales program led by Caitlyn Shiels.

Wooten is graduate of Centenary University in New Jersey, where he received a degree in equine science. While at Centenary, Wooten participated in internships and training sessions with many top trainers including Joe Fargis, Stacia Madden, Chad Keenum, and Courtney Boyd. In 2014, Cody finished second in the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Emerging Athletes National Training Session. After college, Wooten spent several months traveling Europe searching for top young hunter prospects with Rothmann Sport Horses before returning to the U.S. to work for Olympic gold medalist Peter Wylde.

Wooten will work alongside Shiels to produce top sales horses and to train hunter, jumper, and equitation riders of all levels.

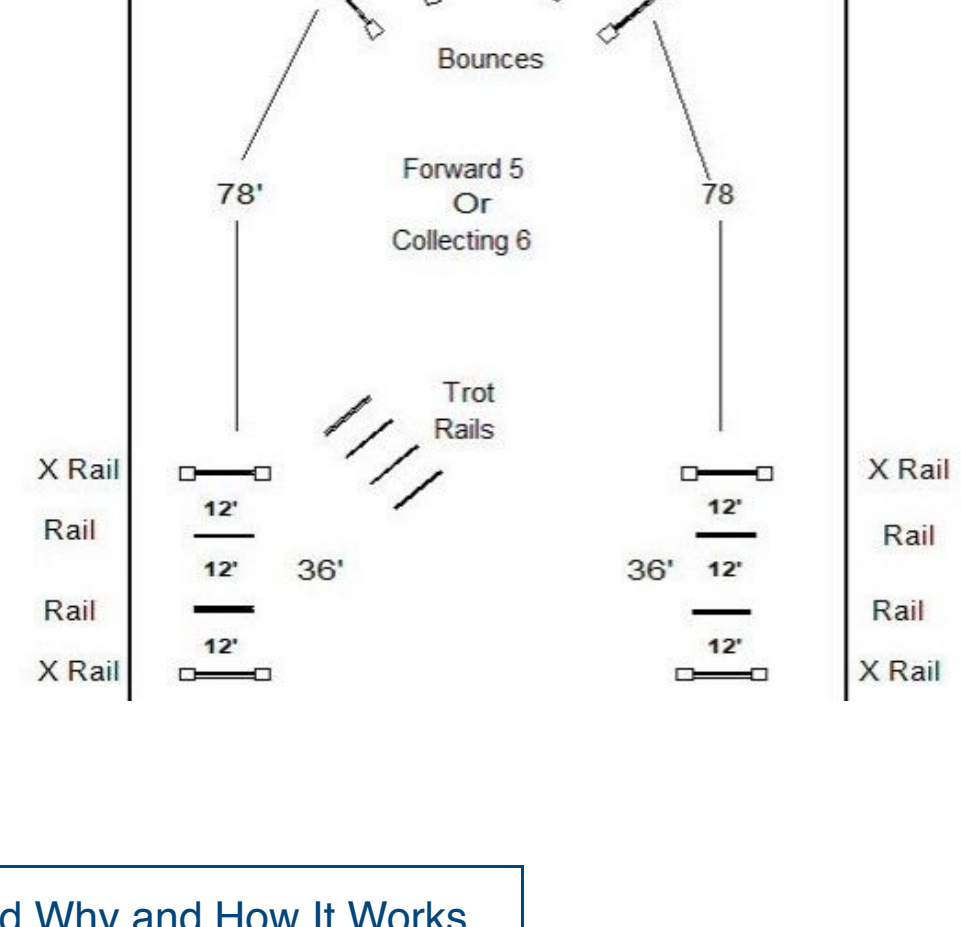
True North Stables will remain in Wellington, FL, until further notice for the safety of its staff during this time. To learn more about True North Stables, visit www.TrueNorthStables.com.

Jumper Nation's GRID OF THE WEEK

Each week during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jumper Nation is sharing a new grid or exercise to try at home - starting with one from True North Stables!

This exercise from Caitlyn Shiels and Cody Wooten consists of:

- Cross rail, two long poles, to another cross rail on the long side of the arena (all set 12’ apart)
- A forward 5-strides or collecting 6-strides to a set of bounces at the end of the arena (set 12’ apart)
- Another forward 5-strides or collecting 6-strides to cross rail, two ground poles, cross rail on the other long side of the arena (set 12’ apart)
- Trot rails in the middle of the ring, which are great to warm up and/or come back to if your horse needs a mental break

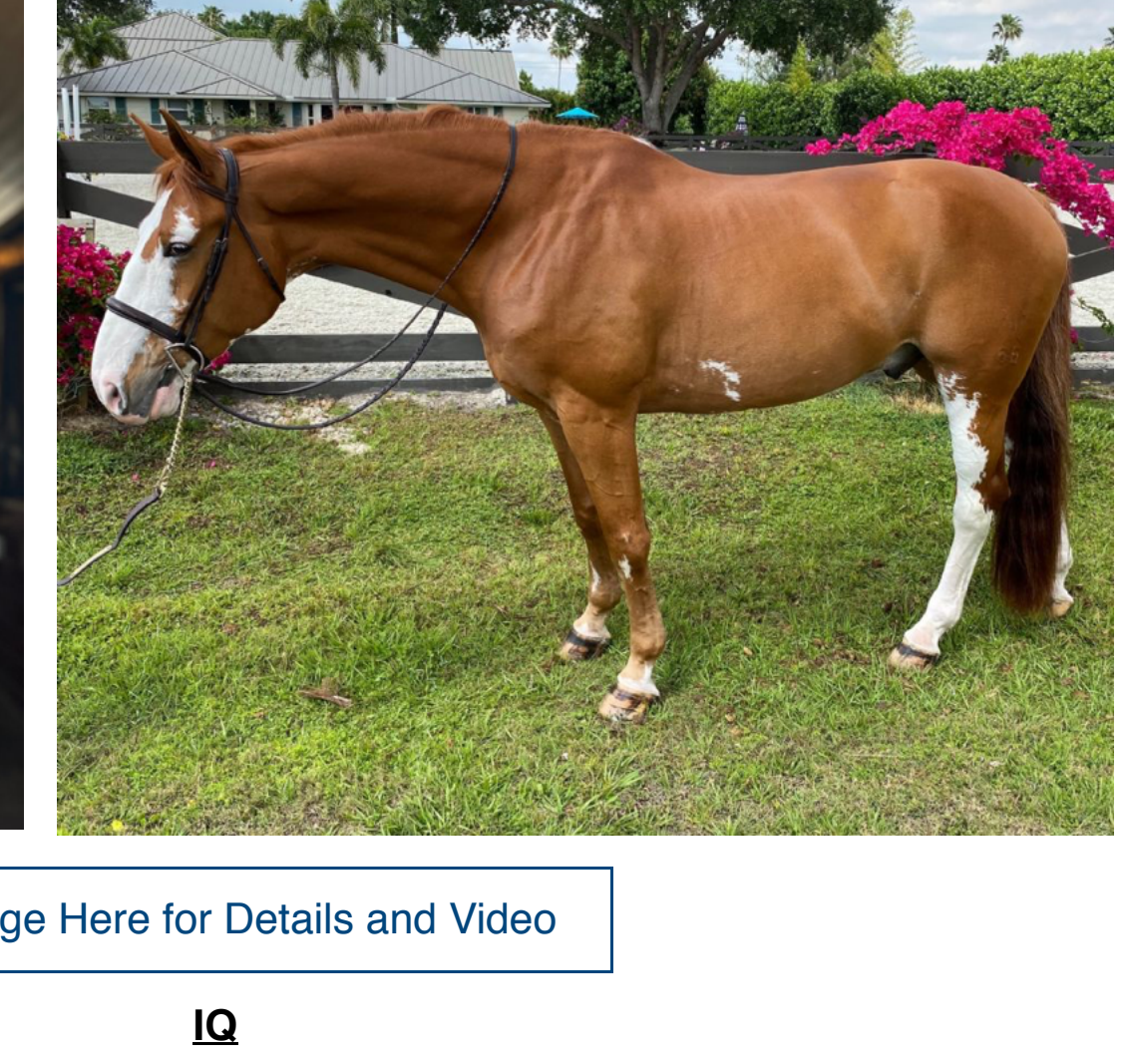
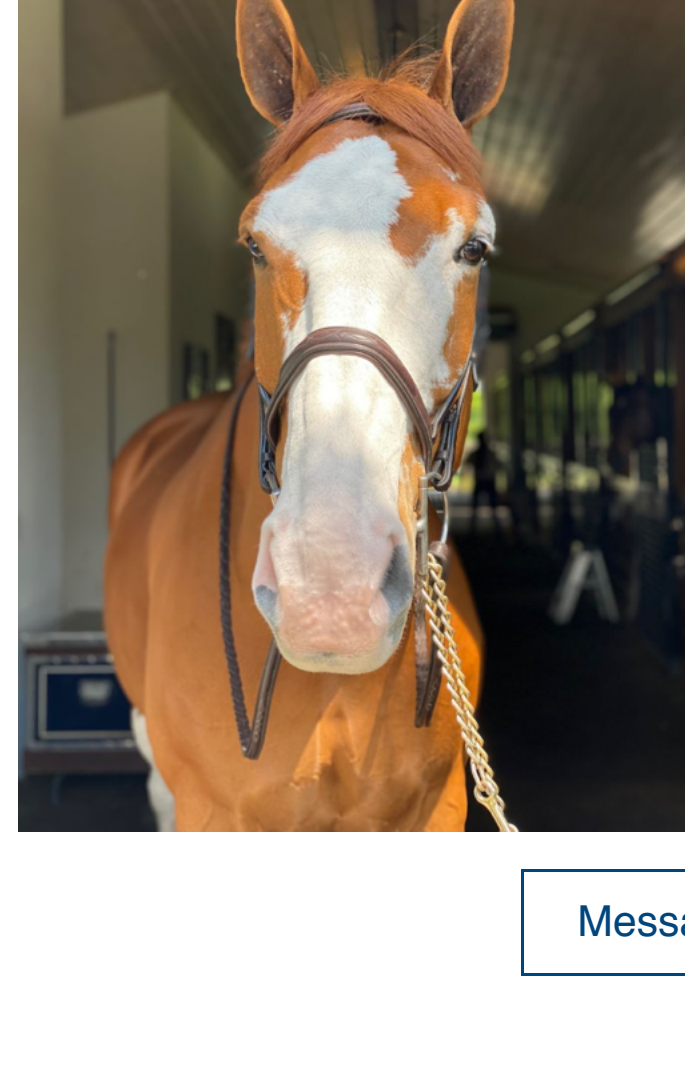


[Click Here to Read Why and How It Works](#)

Horses FOR SALE

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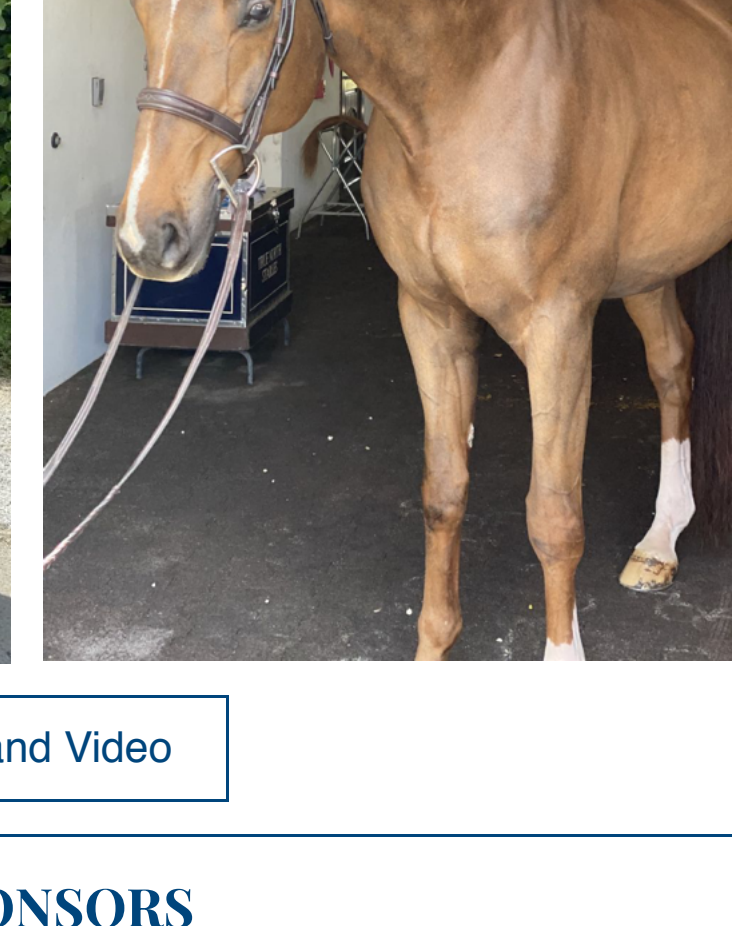
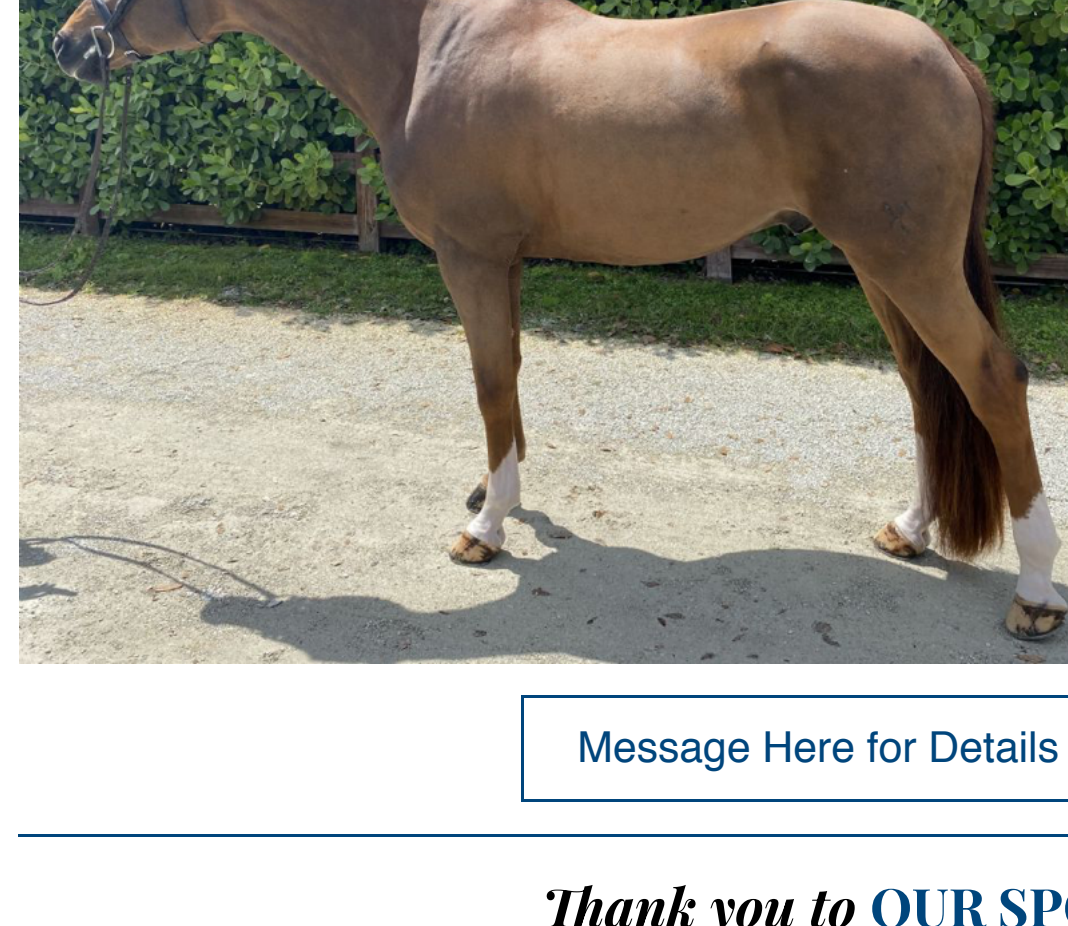
11-year-old Hanoverian gelding. Equitation/hunter type available for sale or lease.



[Message Here for Details and Video](#)

IQ

6-year-old Hanoverian gelding. Eligible everything. Good mover and cute jumper.



[Message Here for Details and Video](#)

Thank you to OUR SPONSORS



True North Stables is a full-service hunter/jumper training program, dedicated to horsemanship and to providing top-class riding and training services to both horse and rider. Led by Caitlyn Shiels and with bases in Illinois and Florida, True North Stables offers highly-individualized instruction, horse acquisition and sales assistance, and the opportunity to excel in the sport and in nationwide competition.

ABOUT CAITLYN SHIELS

CONTACT

