

I fell in love with horses at the age of 8. I was ecstatic that now I could finally afford my own horse - I was overcome with joy.

But where would I find the perfect horse? Then I heard about New Stride from a lady at my barn, she told me great things about this organization. I was told they would not lie to me about their horse, and they would check me out, check out the barn, so that they knew their horse would go to the right place. I looked at their website and I found out that New Stride actually rehabilitates ex-racehorses...thoroughbreds...and then finds them a new home. We have all heard stories about thoroughbreds; they're high-strung, picky and they need special diets. What was I getting myself into?



I made an appointment to go and see a horse by the name of Cleata at the farm out in Abbotsford, BC. We were greeted by the horses trainer Darell. He was very friendly and he showed us around the farm where New Stride keeps some of their horses. To be honest I was a little worried that she might be high strung, mean or even uncontrollable. Then when I met Cleata she was the complete opposite. She licked me like a dog, and she didn't even spook when my mom's cell phone rang. A month later, we adopted (Cleata) Aurora Borealis. I renamed her after the Northern Lights.

The first couple of weeks were a little rough since Aurora had a head bobbing habit, picked up at the track out of boredom or nervousness. This is very difficult to deal with sometimes. She has an old bow, and she is very thin soled. Aurora requires more frequent visits from the farrier. She loses weight quickly and requires a consistent solid feed. Because she was off the track,

she was green under saddle, could not go very well clockwise, and had poor balance. Because she is only 6 years old, she requires constant exercise, as do any ages of Thoroughbreds, and she needs a lot of TLC.

Aurora is very intelligent and she picks up on things almost immediately. I am also able to ride her western. She is almost completely bomb proof, is very good on the roads, and with loud noises

I am very happy with my horse and that I adopted it from New Stride Retirement Thoroughbred Foundation. I think that how an ex racehorse behaves after the track is greatly affected by how positive their experience is after they get off. NewStride does a great job giving their horses loving and caring temporary homes, and placing them in the right place permanently.

If you are looking to adopt a Thoroughbred, please do evaluate for yourself, and think about what you want to do with your horse, as they are a harder horse to deal with. I also highly recommend New Stride, as they will give you honest feedback, and will only place their horses in the best places possible.

Sam Winger, Chilliwack, BC



www.newstride.com