**How Horses Have Changed My Life**

**Alex Hibberd**

Horses have had a major impact on my life; I would not be the person I am today without them. Over the years I have found many life lessons can be learned from them. How to deal with difficult situations and how not every problem can be solved with the same solution. One must be flexible and willing to try new things in order to get around challenges thrown in their way. Riding has taught me I need to keep working for what I want and how to set realistic goals. For example, getting on a two-year-old, you can’t expect them to behave like a trained horse, you need perspective about the situation you are in and that applies to life outside of riding as well. It’s all about the perspective and flexibility to adapt you have going into something and that will determine how successful you are going to be in that task. Commitment and dedication are needed for everything in life and growing up with horses have allowed me to know what true dedication can get you. How applying yourself with determination can get end results much better than winging it. The opportunities I have had because of riding have also shaped me enormously. Being able to travel internationally and experience the world has offered opportunities for myself to grow as a person. My people skills, leadership and problem solving has been largely impacted because of these opportunities. Reining has allowed me to make connections with people of similar interests and without this commonality I would have never met. Horse have provided myself a sense of community and has shown me what I am capable of.