

Hello, my name is Katelen Browning and I am 9 years old. I have been a member of the Ride-It! 4-H Horse club since I was 5 years old.

Before I could walk, my papaw sat me up on my first Tennessee Walking Horse. I think I have loved horses and riding ever since that day. When I was two years old, my Aunt Mary let me ride her Tennessee Walking horse, Blaze, and the next year she let me ride her project horse, Bo in the lead line classes. When I was 4 years old and before I was old enough to ride in a 4-H show or be a member, I rode Beam's Miss Baby Doll, another walking horse at a local horse show. The first few years that I was old enough to show in 4-H, I rode a Paso Fino, Ela Mia, to many first place ribbons at local shows and of course in the 4-H shows.

In our 4-H club I have learned how to care for horses by learning what to feed them, how to take care of their hooves, how to groom them

and many other things. In fact, this year I participated in Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Horse Judging in our district and in the state.

Also, I love to read books and magazines about horses. When my Papaw gets his VOICE magazine, I look at the pictures and read out loud to my Papaw about the different horses that have won first place. We like to look at the horse's bloodlines and trace them back to older world champions. As you can see, I really love anything that has to do with horses.

Since last year, I have begun to build a strong relationship with my horse, "Baby Doll" and I wouldn't dream of hurting her on purpose or letting anyone else hurt her. For this reason, I believe the Horse Protection Act is a good law for all horses.

to hurt her. I'm just a kid that loves her horse and I would never do anything to hurt her.

For me, horse showing is not really about the color of the ribbons. It is about knowing that I went out there and did my very best and asked my horse to do its best.

We need the Horse Protection Act, but kids like me shouldn't feel as if we are being punished because we ride walking horses!

Thank you for letting me speak to you today. I hope you understand more about how kids like me feel, when we ride walking horses.