







Bringing You Closer to Your Dream Horse

Written by Kelly Phillips

Helene Jones, a Hallbrook resident of six and a half years, finds herself spending her days working happily away at her "hobby." Five years ago, she started a business called Top Horses primarily as a way of helping some of her U.S. friends find horses that fit their riding needs. Since then, her hobby has turned into a profitable full-time business which keeps her busy every day, working to connect top-rated European horses with new equestrian owners worldwide.

Helene, formerly a barrister/lawyer in the UK and the U.S., has loved horses her whole life - in fact, she has five of her own - so starting Top Horses just seemed to make sense to her. Clients with an interest in finding the perfect hunter, show jumping, or eventing equine find great value in Helene's services. She carefully vets every horse offered for sale to ensure top quality and performance. Helene "vets" the rider, too, with extensive interviews, questions, and videos that help her understand the type of horse they're looking for, their riding skills, and their goals. Her mission is to make the perfect match between the rider and their European equine partner, and she's very good



many happy clients.

Helene has developed a network of top European farms that she uses to take the guesswork out of importing a horse from Europe. Working with associates in England and Florida, Top Horses vets every horse through rigorous and methodical testing to ensure quality prior to the sale. This process also includes analysis of breed papers and X-rays to ensure that the horse is entirely as it's represented. Top Horse handles all the logistics of importation, quarantine, and transportation to the final destination, which is a huge plus for buyers. Helene's primary goal is to make



the process easy for her clients and to eliminate the fear, uncertainty, and potential disappointment that often results when a rider tries to source and purchase such an equine on their own.

All of Helene's horses are trained and vetted by her Florida-based expert trainer, Kris Killam, whose accolades and awards as a competitor are far too numerous to mention here. Kris uses his skill and knowledge to determine the approach that works

Helene enjoys the freedom of working for herself and says that it's fun to see something that was primarily a hobby turn into a successful business. Each day brings exciting new experiences - from consultations with a rider who's looking for their first horse to late-night calls with partners and clients overseas. As the company grows, so does its reputation within the equestrian industry, which has resulted in the attraction of several major sponsors to the Top Horses website.

Born and raised in southern Sweden, Helene has lived in England, Switzerland, and South Africa, but says she's finally found her favorite place at Hallbrook in Leawood, KS.

When Helene isn't working with Top Horses, she spends time with her wonderful husband, Rick, their two kids (Alex, 8, and Victoria, 6), and their rescue cat, Skyy. She enjoys reading good books, dining at Stock Hill steakhouse on the Plaza, traveling to new places around the world with her husband, and being a good mentor to Alex and Victoria. Lately, she's also been busy orchestrating a big remodel on their home in Hallbrook.

Luckily, Helene has found a way to do just that.

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12 Hallbrook Life • April 2019

best for each horse, and every horse he works with is treated as if it were his own. His participation in the process is vital in gathering the information needed to make that perfect match between horse and rider.

Helene's advice to her neighbors: Follow your passion, and love what you do every day. Life is just too short.

