



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: SOPHIA BRADY-OWEN



Sophia Brady-Owen and Tito
Photo by Liz Crawley Photography

Sophia Brady-Owen is a member of the USC-Aiken Eventing team and is an active competitor at many of Stable View's eventing competitions. Sophia grew up around horses as her mom's side of the family rode. Her mom did competitive trail riding and endurance riding as a kid with her mom and grandmother. Sophia was on her first horse from a very young age but didn't do anything but trail ride until she was eight or nine and began taking

lessons.

She shared, "I did the hunters for a few years until going to a summer camp in Vermont called Vershire Riding School, which got me hooked on eventing. I went there for a couple of summers and it sparked my upper-level goals despite not having a horse or much access to eventing. The month I turned fifteen I ventured into the working student world and spent the summer in Jane Sleeper's program up in Pennsylvania learning the ins and outs of an upper-level barn. As many of us do, from there I made the switch to online school and moved to Virginia to work and compete with a smaller home barn. A couple of years later I made the move to Aiken to work for Jessica Schultz, and I haven't left."

Outside of horses, Sophia is currently a student at USC-Aiken as a nursing major. She works and rides part-time. Between classes, horses, and work it doesn't leave her much free time. When she does have time she enjoys spending it with friends, watching a Netflix series, or attempting the New York Times games.

Sophia currently has two horses. She has a mare named Stella who she took through Training Level and is currently being leased out. Her second horse is named Tato who is currently competing at Beginner Novice. Sophia said, "I'm excited to see what he does as he continues up the levels. A very notable horse in my journey though is a horse named Tito, who I leased for a couple of years. He gave me a little bit of that "I made it" feeling after years of working with no real opportunity to move up. We did a couple of prelims together in 2023 and he made a big impact on my riding career."

Sophia actively competes at Stable View. She shared, "The facilities

at Stable View are wonderful. Growing up in a small town in Massachusetts, the closest venues were two or three hours away, and to have a place like Stable View so close is awesome. That's one of the things I love about Aiken in general - the access to great places to school and compete so close is incredible. I also volunteer at Stable View events when I have time, and I've never had a bad experience. They make sure to provide some kind of breakfast spread, lunches, and plenty of snacks/ drinks throughout the day which is really appreciated."

Not only does Sophia compete at Stable View's eventing shows but she also competes at the TIP Championships. She said, "I have competed at TIP champs at Stable View two out of the last three years and those have been fun and successful weekends each year. I also competed in my first intercollegiate champs with the USC Aiken eventing team last year which was a blast. For my first experience at Champs, it was nice to know the facility and Stable View did a great job hosting it. I think all of the teams had a really fun time, and I'm excited to be back for champs this year in a few weeks!"