



## Fjord Herald - A Sneak Peek into the next Issue

### A Fun-Filled Fjord Summer

by Jacqueline Bayne

IF YOU HAD ASKED ME A YEAR AGO what a Norwegian Fjord was, I probably would have replied with something like, "Isn't that the kind of horse that has a Mohawk and zebra stripes on their legs?" Well, technically that answer would be correct, but after having the opportunity to intern at Willows Edge Farm, I have come to realize that they are so much more than just horses with a funny haircut.

One day during school, the weirdest thing happened. Three different people came up to me and told me about this internship program they had heard about and wanted me to try. I looked into it and found out about a local horse farm that raised Norwegian Fjords. Wanting to get as much horse experience as I could, I applied. I was accepted and was invited to meet Corinne Logan, owner of Willows Edge Farm. I have to admit that I was a little nervous going out to a professional breeding farm and meeting someone who had to have been very dignified and professional. After I arrived, I realized that my initial thoughts had been completely wrong. Corinne Logan turned out to be a wonderfully kind person who was more than just a little fun to be around.

From day one, the three other interns and I were thrown into the world of Fjords. We learned just about everything, from their disposition and conformation, to breeding and training. I was amazed at just how versatile these horses were. Fair Acres Ole (or just Ole as we called him) is trained in English riding, draft, carriage, vaulting and jumping. When I first heard all that he was capable of doing, I almost could not believe it. As I got to know Ole and his breed, it was plain to see how they could easily accomplish all of that and still have room left over for more.

To top it off, each one of us was assigned to a different horse, which we were able to ride almost every day. Can I say, "Dream come true?" The horse that I was assigned to was a sweet seven-year-old mare named Greta. She taught me a lot (including how to fall off and get back on) but the most significant thing was how to listen, so I did. I learned just as much from her as I did from Corinne.



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However, while the hands-on horse experience was amazing by itself, Corinne added in what I personally was most interested in, the financial end of the farm. We learned how everything added up to become a successful business, including hay cost, farrier fees and vet bills. We also learned what could be done to create income and how everything tied together to make it all work.

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By the end of the summer, I no longer had trouble telling the horses apart. (At the beginning of summer, they had all looked the same.) Ole, Elsie, Sveena, Mina, Lena, Greta, Steren and Hans; each became completely individual to my eyes. I came away with much more knowledge about the horse world and this wonderful breed than I had before.

It was a marvelous experience that I wish every "horse crazy" boy or girl could have. And if Corinne thought that she was finally rid of us at the end of summer, she was wrong! Since the program ended, I have been back countless times to see the horses and to visit with Corinne, who has become a wonderful friend and mentor to me. It truly was the experience of a lifetime. I wish that I could do it again!



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