



Behind the Stall Door with Apart

[Back to Articles...](#)

Horse Details

Name: Apart (Party)

Age: 12

Competitive Height: 1.30m/1.40m

Gelding

What is a normal day like for your horse?

We are very lucky to live both in Calgary and on Vancouver Island throughout the year. When in Calgary, Party eats breakfast, gets dressed and goes outside for the day, weather permitting, before coming in to get changed and eat dinner. I usually arrive at the barn after school about 4pm. We then go for a hack, or a Pessoa lunge or a lesson depending on the day. I usually spend two or so hours with him, then he has a nap until he gets more food at night check, then it's lights out.

On the island, it is very similar, though I usually go out to ride in the morning because I don't have school. He usually goes on grass for the morning, and sand for the afternoon. We have LOTS of trails at our barn on the island so we try to get out on them several times a week and work on cardio too ! Party LOVES his island vacation and is super relaxed and happy to have a change in scenery !

What do they and don't they like?

Party will literally eat anything and his favorite candy is twizzlers ! Party does not like small spaces AT ALL, he is extremely claustrophobic. These environments include most in gates, chutes, small or busy warmup rings, holding areas, even smaller paths when I am hand walking him. He immediately grows another two hands and starts uncontrollably spinning and rearing, this makes horse show super entertaining (insert eye roll). However, I know him and all his quirks well enough now that I know when it's coming, how to handle it and how to prevent it the best I can.

How would you describe your horse's personality?

Hilarious, fun and difficult. Party is extremely friendly and social in the barn with horses and people which makes him fun to be around and the center of most of my social media posts ! He loves having his head out of his stall to greet people and horses as they walk by. He is also very vocal. Whenever he is too far away from the barn at the horse show he starts to panic and starts calling ! Also whenever I come down the aisle, even if I am only gone for a minute, he starts yelling at me as though I have abandoned him, it's pretty cute !

Some of the not so cute things ... because of his size, when he has a temper tantrum he becomes very difficult to handle. It's as though he doesn't see anyone in his way and just wants to get out from wherever he is. Because he doesn't stand well at the ring, I have to organize my time properly so that he



Behind the Stall Door with Apart

[Back to Articles...](#)

is up at the ring for an appropriate amount of time to keep him happy, but also so that I can have a good walk, and hopefully watch a few so that I can make a proper plan.

Party has taught me so much, not only with the riding, but mostly with how to handle a large horse. These are skills I know I will carry with me for the rest of my riding career so I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to ride him !

What personality traits does your horse have that sets them apart as a competitor?

He literally has the biggest heart. He is very brave and handles tough courses with determination. He always tries so hard for me in the ring, which makes his difficult behavior outside of the ring worth it. I think that horses need to have lots of personality, spirit and heart to jump at this level !

What does your horse eat? How often?

Party eats A LOT. While Party may be a large horse, he also isn't the easiest to keep weight on either. Most people think I'm joking when I say that my horse has a nutritionist, but it is true! Party is on the ARK Nutrition program with Amanda Kroekker.

For breakfast, he gets Strategy, Gro-Fit, beet pulp, omeprezol, ECP and MRM supplements, and a probiotic along with alfalfa cubes, thrown hay AND a full haynet at all times. At the horse show I add Equisure, Performance supplement and Zilkene to his feed. For lunch he gets a couple flakes of hay.

For dinner, he eats Strategy, Gro-fit, beet pulp cobalt salt, and a probiotic along with the alfalfa cubes, thrown hay and hay net. At the horse show, I add zilkene and equisure to his feed.

For night check, both at home and at the horse show, he gets his hay net refilled, more thrown hay and more alfalfa cubes. And YES, he eats it all !!

What is your exercise regime to keep your horse fit?

Because of the long winters in Calgary, I can't do as much cardio fitness outdoors as I would like, so I really work on strength. I have been fortunate to have ridden with multiple dressage trainers over the years, so I am able to work on each part of his body in the flatwork with the addition of poles. We have jumping lessons three times a week, one day is exercises and gymnastics, another on small jumping and rideability, and the third lesson on bigger jumping. When the weather warms up, we have a large grass ring where I can work on more cardio. There are slight hills in it which is nice, and a bank where you can ride off either side which is great for his back and hind end.

On the island, we have a larger indoor which is ideal for gridwork, a sand and grass ring where we have dry ditches, a dyke, two smaller banks, one large bank, and miles of manicured trails. I really like to take advantage of all of these elements as much as possible while I am there. I try to get him on the trails as much as possible as they are great for both his mind and body ! I like to walk and trot a few loops a few times a week. We also usually have two or three lessons a week as we approach a horse show. One



Behind the Stall Door with Apart

[Back to Articles...](#)

lesson is flat/gymnastic, the second is exercise work and gymnastic, and the last day is a bigger jumping lesson. I also like to incorporate a Pessoa lunge in our week as well !

Who supports this horse?

My parents have supported my riding since I started just over 12 years ago. I am also extremely lucky to now have a sponsor. I started working with Donna Bassett and Precision Saddle Fitting a little more than a year ago and she has been incredibly generous in outfitting Party and I with a gorgeous saddle, bridle, girth, stirrups, spurs and all new show clothing for me too ! I couldn't be more grateful for the support that I have to be able to ride competitively at this level !

Where did you purchase your horse?

We did not buy him, I have him on a lease from Reva Glass. He was born and raised here in Calgary!

How old was he/she and what level were they competing at?

Party was 11 when we got him and I've had him for just over a year. Reva had been riding him mostly in the 1.30m jumpers with a couple of 1.40m classes !