

A photograph of Kelly Lockhart and her family celebrating her citizenship. Kelly is in the foreground, smiling and wearing blue star-shaped sunglasses and a white and blue striped shirt. Behind her are two other people, also wearing star-shaped sunglasses. One person is holding a small American flag. The background shows an outdoor setting, likely a horse show, with a blue sky and some structures.

Kelly Lockhart became an American citizen earlier this month in April. The England native has spent the last 15 years in the United States and celebrated her accomplishment with her High Caliber Stables family at the J.D. Massey Horse Show.

Kelly Lockhart Becomes A U.S. Citizen

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Kelly Lockhart has long been tied to a myriad of achievements in the equine industry. She has garnered continued success whether developing champions as a valued member at High Caliber Stables, or making victory passes of her own at the country's most famed shows. The England native can now add becoming an American citizen to her list of accolades, having officially gotten her citizenship earlier this month.

Lockhart's passion for horses was ignited by her aunt Caroline while growing up in England. She gained experience riding the many different breeds of horses that her aunt owned and entered the show ring for the first time at the tender age of five. From there, she began showing saddle seat aboard a Morgan Horse.

Lockhart's love of saddle seat soon blossomed, and she made the decision to make the cross continental trek to the United States to further her work with horses. She left England for America in April of 2007, hoping to gain additional experience with the American Saddlebred breed.

"I wanted to work with Saddlebreds and there was not that much opportunity in England," she said.

Kelly Lockhart has since assumed an assistant trainer position at the North Carolina based High Caliber Stables after working for great trainers and owners in Kentucky including AJ Bruwer, John Conatser, and Kathy Capsuto. She explained that she has thoroughly enjoyed her 15 years in this country, working alongside fellow equine enthusiasts as well as some of the top show horses in the nation.


"The people, the cultures and the horse industry have been so welcoming," she said.

Lockhart eventually made the decision to become an American citizen - a choice that was made permanent in April. She said there was much thought that went behind her decision.

"I wanted to live here worry free about immigration and the opportunities America provided me," she said. "It helped me succeed in my passion of working with horses."

Lockhart celebrated her citizenship with her High Caliber barn family while fulfilling her passion and working at a horse show. A celebration was had with Mary and Evan Orr and their clients and friends following the Friday evening session at J.D. Massey. After 15 years in the United States, Kelly Lockhart can now continue her thriving career in the equine industry as a full American citizen.

"It's hard to put the feelings into words because for once I feel at home in a place that has accepted me with open arms," she said.

A photograph of Kelly Lockhart and her family with a champion horse. Kelly is riding a dark horse, wearing a white jacket and a green hat. She is surrounded by several people, including a man in a blue suit and a woman in a blue shirt. The background shows a horse show setting with a building that says "HIGH CALIBER STABLES".

Lockhart along with Mary and Evan Orr have helped in the success of the many world's champion of champions that make their home base at High Caliber Stables. Kelly Lockhart was part of the training team that guided Olivia Horan and CH Really Really Red to the roses in Louisville.