

HORSE TAILS

By AYELIEN

Dear Mother,

It is a lot of fun to write to you these little tales of the animals and I am glad you are beginning to see how human they can be!

Recently I took the gelding to his first show . . . he really got terribly upset by being away from home and posed rather a mean problem as I had promised to appear with him at another little show the next day. Not wanting to have him in a continual uproar whereby he might hurt himself, I decided to pick out something to "baby-sit" with him on the trailer and at the show. The quietest filly has been this yearling, as she is strong and bold yet nothing seems to upset her. It was not to be a long trip so I elected to bandage her and take her along for company.

Well, Sammy was just delighted as immediately after I loaded him, (he is pounding and yelling) I loaded the filly beside him! I never heard another peep out of him. We went to Moravia and took him off the trailer to lead the parade, and then go in the horse show (he got his usual third in the parade class). Every time he came near the trailer he said hello to his "sitter" who had her inquisitive little head hanging out the door of the trailer so she wouldn't miss a trick! She loved the bright lights and glitter of the show (she didn't know she was only a bit of company) and she stood quietly and patiently throughout it all. When Sam was returned to the

trailer she welcomed him noisily and he jumped on the trailer so fast he almost walked on me . . . loading was surely no problem!

It was a very good idea as since that time we have taken him all over, sometimes alone, and he has gotten much better about traveling . . . which proves that an old dog can learn new tricks.

Speaking of company, you would have enjoyed the last 3-day show when I only brought Nancy! In order that she wouldn't be lonely I bounced in the trailer with her the now-weaned pony colt and he kept Nancy company throughout the show as the trailer was right in front of her stall door and Nancy had something from home to keep her company. Of course, I know it is probably silly to spoil the horses a little, but I want them to be just as happy at a show as I am, and some horses have goats that travel with them . . . so the pony colt was a good companion.

Nancy has been hard put to it to keep her good spirits as we have had her all over to the shows this year . . . it is fun for me and she is very patient about it. One of my recent trips (without her had an amusing little twist to it as I went to visit with Ev and her Morgans. As you know the last time we were up there we took a mare up to visit the stallion.

Well, you never saw anything so gentlemanly-cute in your life as Pepper this last trip. Ev put the biting rig

on him, but he was looking for someone else the minute he laid eyes on me! His bright little eyes were watching around corners and when Ev led him outside to turn out he had a time being restrained in the biting rig as he trotted to the fence. My car was parked right outside the fence and if a horse ever talked by his manner and bright eyes, Pepper was certainly telling us. He walked up and down and he eyed that car and he just as plain as anything said, "now I know that is the car, it most certainly is the car, but where is the trailer with the mare?" After a very puzzled examination of the car from one end to the other, he shrugged and walked off very definitely disappointed, but he certainly knew that car! Pepper is a cute stallion and if you ever saw him you would love him, as he is very wise in a horsey way, and yet so full of good spirits.

Just a few weeks later we met at a show and I brought the trailer and car up to the barn to load just as Ev brought Pepper around for a walk. His head came up and he let out a very nice stallion hello and he did recognize that trailer. Maybe it is just that these Morgans become very very bright, but they really show so much intelligence that you know they are smart.

Salle is very proud of her old mare as at the Fair she drove her into the ring for the Gen. Purpose class where Polly made her usual good appearance. I am so glad our horses are all so gentle and intelligent that Salle is safe with them. It wouldn't be much fun otherwise.

Love,

Ayelién