



To all the ICHA competitors, friends, family and supporters,

I am so grateful to those of you that have chosen to select and donate myself to receive the donations for the Interior cutting horse cut for the cause show. I appreciate this more than I could ever explain.

For those of you that don't know me I started riding when I was young and cutting 3 seasons ago with the Zirhnhelts and their group. I have met so many amazing people in the cutting world and miss them everyday. I fell in love with the sport and was wanting to compete all that I could. This would have been my fourth year. I missed last season and now this season as I have been battling Lyme disease which I contracted from Ticks. I was hoping to be well enough to at least start loping horses this season but so far that hasn't happened yet.

I have been battling "strange symptoms" for 10-12 plus years and have been in and out of doctors and specialists more times than one can count. As most Lyme patients stories go I was tested and diagnosed with every disease that may match symptoms and given medication to treat the symptoms. From Lupus, Multiple scoliosis, Lung Cancer, Early Alzheimers, Early menopause, Rheumatoid arthritis, several Neurological diseases, Crones, Auto Immune Diseases, on going shingles, among many others. My symptoms have progressively gotten worse and caused me to be unable to work and function in day to day life.

One night my folks ran into the founder of Canada Lyme Jim Wilson and they started talking about me. He and his daughter had both suffered Lyme and after them telling him my story he said to contact him and he would get me in touch with someone who could help me. I didn't waste anytime.

After meeting with the Natural Path we decided I needed to pay to have my blood sent away and tested at Armin labs in Germany, he was confident I had Lyme but he wasn't sure what else I was dealing with. My blood work came back with an active positive and this is when my newest normal finally had a diagnosis. Lyme with 4 co infections including Babesia, Rickettsia (Rocky Mountain spotted fever), Bartonella, Ehrlichia and Mycoplasma. We have determined that I was originally infected in Williams Lake, BC and re infected in Kamloops, BC from a timeline of my symptoms.

Each day has become a struggle. My way of escaping the stress of everyday by riding came to an end last year. Hopefully just temporarily. I struggle to get going in the morning, my hands swell so bad, my joints ache not to mention the fact I don't sleep from the night sweats and pain. My brain fog and memory make even writing this a struggle. I have become so sick of being sick. At times I have become bedridden for days and using medical devises to walk.

This past fall I was forced to sell my two year old cutter. I had high hopes for her but with all the cost associated with Lyme I had no other choice. When it comes to Lyme our medical system is very broken. Having to pay out of our own pockets to be tested for a disease is criminal. Our Canadian government won't accept the blood results since they were done in Germany so they won't accept that I have Lyme. This makes Lyme patients pay out of pocket for all doctor appointments, treatments and tests. Treatments consist of a lot of antibiotics, vitamins, minerals, probiotics in different combinations and forms. In 9 months, I have paid over \$30K. I have hit many road blocks along the



way like after being refused a PICC line in the hospital in Kelowna and Kamloops, even with a doctor referral, I was forced to go to Seattle and pay to have it put in. I am improving slowly and I feel like I am at about 70% of the way to remission. I am reassured by many Chronic Lyme victims that there is a light at the end of the tunnel so keep moving forward.



So, one foot in front of the other I move forward.

A link for more information on Lyme disease check out <https://canlyme.com/>.

Thank you again for all your amazing support in my battle,

Jenn van den Born