

# Sara Skotarek Loch, MSc.



I grew up on Vancouver Island, competing in Pony Club accomplishing B level. After graduating from high school I became a Pony Club Examiner and continued to compete my OTTB while completing my Bachelors of Science degree. During my undergraduate studies I found a passion for equine parasitology and completed an honours project monitoring fecal egg counts in a cohort of horses over a year.

Moving from Nanaimo to Lethbridge to pursue a Masters of Science, researching and diagnosing horse tapeworms which we published in the journal Veterinary Parasitology. After successfully defending, I was offered a job managing a clinical research trial at the University of Calgary focusing on treatment of heaves in horses. At that time, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was being established and I accepted a role organizing and teaching the anatomy labs. In 2020 I transitioned to teaching the anatomic and clinical pathology labs, and in 2022 took the Manager, Operations position for the Diagnostic Services Unit. We are a fee-for-service veterinary diagnostic lab providing service to licensed veterinarians. We are expanding rapidly, with support in funding from the Government of Alberta, livestock producer groups and research funding bodies. In 2021 we opened bacteriology service, in 2023 a serology lab, and fall of 2024 parasitology service. This year we will be rolling out a molecular lab section!

I competed my amazing QH who I bought as a 3 year old in 2008 when I finished school. I started him and went on to participate in many disciplines including cowboy challenge, penning, reining, dressage, show jumping and eventing up to training level. He is now 21 years young and semi-retired back at his breeder's in Lethbridge with a fantastic 70+ year old woman who loves him to pieces. I continue to ride a beautiful welsh cob pony for fun.

