

VEFELE PETRUIK

Specialized Dressage Trainer and Coach

CONTACT

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Vefele.com

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

USDF Gold Medalist

USDF Silver Medalist

Competed 7 Horses FEI

EXPERTISE

FEI level Trainer

Biomechanics Coach

Horse Fitness Specialist

Revenue Growth Talent

Development Consulting

MENTORS

Jessica Jo Tate

Arthur Kottas

Hilda Gurney

Tristian Tucker

Warwick Schiller

Col. Christian Carde

Shelley Lawder

My name is Vefele Petruik, and I am passionate about horses and all facets of horse and rider relationships. I have been riding dressage for almost 30 years and have trained professionally for over 12 years. My training has taken the form of several world class instructors and programs. As CEO of Vefele's Equine Partnerships (VEP) in California USA I built and maintained a successful dressage operation in the very competitive California area. In the 2021 Wellington season I immersed myself in the highest level of dressage in the USA. Accompanied by my current FEI Prospect, I took daily lessons with Classical Master Jessica Jo Tate to increase my understanding and personal development. I watched top vets diagnose, top farriers work with problem feet and had the experience of watching multiple Olympic riders train and coach.

VEP specializes in creating a deep understanding of rider and horse biomechanics to promote correct comprehension of dressage movements and purpose. With a thorough knowledge of horse mentality and physicality I have successfully worked with complicated horse relationships to create clear results.

My passion and goals are bringing more understanding and empathy to the dressage community with a methodical, logical, consistent and compassionate approach. I have developed and improved multiple horses at FEI levels including my main campaign horse, Rockefeller who was trained to Grand Prix by me. I have worked with all levels and disciplines of horses to increase fitness and soundness, mentored over 50 students to various levels including professionals, and utilized these skills on 100's of cases of lameness and complicated situations to create results and positive outcomes.

My comprehensive approach includes developing a clear, written plan to achieve goals and milestones. This plan is reviewed and modified continually as the rider and horse develop the deep relationship required to achieve success, be it in competition or simple enjoyment of that special bond.

Once I moved back to Greater Victoria in 2023, I spent some time as a freelance coach in the area. I struggled to find a barn that reflected the horse care and management I was trained to expect. In the summer of 2024, with the help of Farm Credit Canada and my mother, we created a business plan and acquired a 6 acer property in North Saanich to create a much needed level of care for the area.

For the last couple of years, we have slowly created a well organized facility with a focus on quality of life for our equestrian athletes. Spearheaded by myself, we have installed better quality footing, a eurowalker, proper footing in all paddocks, clean pathways and parking lots, moved multiple temp barns that were on property but poorly placed, built a safe rounded with a focus on safe footing and numerous other fixes with a focus on keeping all our horses healthy and safe.

I most recently achieved my Equestrian Canada Coach Licensing.

2005-2009

Working Student

- Queenswood in Ottawa at 15 years old for summer
- Dressure Van Ballen at 21 for three months
- Jessica Jo Tate at 36 for four months

Young Rider/Apprentice

Various Stables

- Exercise rider
- Grooming
- Teaching lower-level lessons

2010-2011

Training and development under Hilda Gurney in California

Keenridge Farm, Moorpark California

- Grooming, bathing, cleaning show prep and braiding
- Exercise rider
- Tacking up and untacking
- Starting young horses
- Training school horses

2011-2013

Head Trainer

Dutch Dream Horses, Aromas California

- Upper-level horse showing and sales
- Everyday maintenance of stables
- Feeding and nutrition
- Using advanced techniques for rehab and top fitness
- Off property lessons and clinics
- Showing upper-level sales horses at FEI level

2012-2026

Dressage Trainer, Coach, Consultant, Manager

Vefele's Equine Partnerships 2012-2023

Equestris 2023-2026

- Coaching and training daily
- Assisted in purchasing appropriate horses for clients
- Ground work with young horses/troubled horses
- Inhand work for piaffe and passage training
- Showing clients horses and prepping/assisting clients at shows
- All aspects of grooming including braiding/clipping
- Budgeting expenses and income
- Completely running educational events/open houses
- Assessing and creating training plans