

# THIS ISN'T YOUR ORDINARY

# ANIMAL FARM



## HANNAH D'EPAGNIER '23

"Being able to raise animals as a kid taught me a lot about responsibility and taking care of things other than myself. Because of the experience, I became self-sufficient at a younger age as well as caring. I've become a better person and I wouldn't trade that experience for the world."

### Hannah D'Epagnier '23 finds new love of goats after horse passing

story by e.aho & design by z.stanley

#### NINE YEARS AGO HANNAH D'EPAGNIER '23 AND HER FAMILY BOUGHT THEIR HORSE,

Sugar, from a family friend at their 4-H club. Since then D'Epagnier and Sugar became inseparable and competed in various competitions.

"I would ride her mostly in 4-H shows as well as the Adams County Fair. Sometimes I'd do shows outside of it, but it was mainly a hobby, so I never got very competitive," D'Epagnier said.

At the end of every show, D'Epagnier shared a treat with Sugar to celebrate the end of the day.

"She loved popsicles no matter what form it was so I

would give her a popsicle at the end of the show. She'd either eat it out of the plastic wrapper or off the popsicle stick," D'Epagnier said. "That's what I'd look forward to at the end of every show and I think she did too."

Toward the end of July 2021, Sugar passed away peacefully. D'Epagnier struggled with Sugar's death, but wanted to hold Sugar's memory in her heart and in an Instagram post, she wrote a final message to her.

"You were with me for nine years and you saw me through everything. You were just as stubborn as I was and no one understood me like you did. Thank you for raising me and every day I will continue to be thankful for having the white pony that little me prayed for every day. Through my ups and

downs I always had my Sugs. You were my special unicorn and the amount of memories we had made everything worth it. No horse was ever as amazing as you. I will miss you and all the things we were never able to do."

Despite the passing of her horse, D'Epagnier continued to help around her farm and raise goats, which she helped deliver during various pregnancies in the last five years. Like Sugar, D'Epagnier

had a favorite goat, who was named Macie.

"I helped deliver Macie and as soon as she was born, I just thought she had the prettiest eyes. I chose to keep her when she was one of my sister's baby goats," D'Epagnier said. "She's just the sweetest thing ever. I love her very much."

According to D'Epagnier, goat pregnancies can be straightforward or full of anxieties depending on how

the goat has given birth.

"A couple of times it'll be really easy going. You just dry off the baby and all will be good. Usually there are no complications, but sometimes you have a bit more traumatic ones where they'll come up backward and it just doesn't go smoothly. If the baby goat is breached, which means it comes out backward, you might have to use a glove to help pull the goat out," D'Epagnier said.

D'Epagnier has helped nurture all the baby goats that were born, even ones that passed away at their birth. She remembers them all and held them in her heart next to Sugar.

"If we do lose a baby it does affect me in the long run but even so, I'll keep raising goats until I graduate. I'll just take advantage of these experiences. Like the goats, Sugar was a very big part of my life and I carry her with me every day," D'Epagnier said.



**COME HERE MACIE.** Hannah D'Epagnier '23 takes her goat, Macie, in her hands to give her a kiss after feeding her and the other goats on her farm in September. photo by e.aho **THE TOUCH OF A FINGER.** Hannah D'Epagnier '23 places her finger on the nose of Sugar while taking professional photos at her farm. photo courtesy of h.d'epagnier



#### WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME?



#### KATIE ZIRKER '23

"Clue is my favorite board game because it changes every game since you have to figure out who committed the crime. There's always something different. It's entertaining to watch people get upset about it."

#### EMMA DECRESCENTIS '23

"My favorite game would probably be Sorry, like the game with the pawns because my mom always likes to play it, and we would play that a lot during game night."

#### WYATT EISENACH '23

"My favorite board game is Monopoly because you can destroy friends and family by playing it again and again. It's a great time and brings people together."



#### WESTLEY BACON '23

"It's definitely Scrabble because of how the point system works and how it's a really competitive game. It's just really fun for me to play."



#### KASEY DEAN '23

"Unlock!, which is like an escape room and consists of a bunch of different things you have to do and complete it. It's fun to play with my family."

#### JONAH KESSINGER '23

"My favorite board game is probably Chutes and Ladders because it's simple and easy. It's something I played as a kid at some point."

#### JALENE VALADEZ-FERNANDEZ '23

"My favorite board game is probably Monopoly because it's a challenging and competitive game to play with my family."

OUR PEOPLE WILL CONVINCE YOU ANIMALS CAN LEAVE AN IMPACT

Hannah D'Epagnier/Junior Opener

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