

# Edmonton: The Little Sister

Calgary: the heart of show jumping in Alberta.

Calgary: home to Spruce Meadows, the number one venue for show jumping in North America.

Calgary: host to over 15 Gold or Platinum rated shows each year.

Edmonton: host to 3 or 4 Gold rated shows, depending on the year.

As an Edmonton show jumper, how do you compete with a Calgary show jumper? If you are looking to compete in Gold or Platinum shows you are going to have to travel. That means trailering the ~3 hours to Spruce Meadows or Rocky Mountain Show Jumping, organizing accommodations, not sleeping in your own bed, not having access to all your clothes, not being able to cook. Instead, having to eat out, paying for accommodations and costs for your trainer and taking that entire week off work or school.

This is compared to the Calgary show jumper, travelling the 15-30 minutes from your barn to the grounds, sleeping in your bed, being able to do laundry, taking only an afternoon or morning off to show rather than the entire day. Those little things can make a big difference.

Showing means a higher cost, more time from you and less freedom for your horse.

I am always envious, on my horse's behalf, when I see Calgary horses head home for several days of turnout in between shows. On top of that, the riders don't need to be up early to feed or there late to do night check.

However, part of the appeal of the shows is those early mornings and late nights. The extra bonding with your horse and the endless selfie's and snapchats that occur during night walks and

Nov/Dec 2016

*Edmonton: The little sister*

the off days between shows. You can't put a price on that.

We all know that the most valuable ride you can have is a round in the ring. So how as an Edmonton show jumper can you capitalize on rounds without showing your horse in 10 classes a day when you go to Calgary?

One thing Edmonton does have is great schooling show opportunities and Bronze competitions. The key is to take advantage of these on top of the Gold shows that Edmonton and Calgary offer. As a bonus most of these schooling and smaller shows occur on the exact same grounds as the Gold shows, but for a fraction of the cost. Edmonton also has a strong circuit of unrated shows, which are great stepping stones for young riders and horses who just need a chance to leave the property and behave (moderately well) at a different location.

Edmonton will always be the little sister to Calgary. We will never have Spruce Meadows, nor should we. There is only one Spruce Meadows and it doesn't make a difference if you are from Edmonton, Calgary or Timbuktu, it's a privilege to ride there and compete (it also costs everyone the same fee for stabling at the Summer Series, no matter where you are from).

On the bright side, Edmonton is only 3 hours away. It could always be worse; you could be a show jumper from Saskatchewan.

Sincerely - Edmonton SJ.

