

## My Beginning

I grew up in Chattanooga, TN. Where I spent all of my after-school days and summers riding and training horses. I rode in high school rodeo, competing all over the southeast. It was a fantastic experience that I feel so fortunate my parents were able to give me. Despite their lack of luster for horses, they always encouraged me. My first job was working as a veterinary assistant for VetSmart (Now called Banfield). In 1999, I was blessed with a beautiful set of twin girls. Kimberly and McKayla. My first time ever caring for human babies! What a surprise!



My twins and I moved here to FL in 2004, as I continued my career in the Veterinary World. Somehow my assistant duties morphed into management and paperwork. However, no matter which hat I wore in private practice, I loved every minute of it and value the knowledge gained throughout the years immensely.



In 2013, I purchased my first chickens - 3 beautiful silkie pullets - from Vickie Harry with Sunshine Silkies. (She still remains a mentor to this day.) As you all well know, deciding to keep a backyard flock is a life changing event. I had absolutely no clue how much so...

My human girls are 22 years old this year. Because we all are passionate about rock music, we follow a handful of bands around the southeast. I look forward to our girl trips and yes... Minime comes along and meets the bands

My twins are such big-hearted souls, I can't even begin to tell you how huge their capacity for love is, and how strong their passions are. They are seeking a career in music photography and have ambitions to start their own business.



# My Reasons for Sweetheart Silkies Inc.

There are so many things I want to do, feats I want to accomplish. Sometimes I wonder if I will ever find the means to see to them all. I want to write a book. I want to start my own blog. I would love to rodeo again. I also have a secret dream of being a private detective... one day. Reasons for having my farm in the beginning was simply to indulge in my love of chickens; however, I am relentless in my quest for knowledge. I believe anyone who knows me may refer to me as a bulldog. Not in the sense that I bite. When I start something... I finish. When I want to learn about something, I study endlessly until I know the facts forwards and backwards. I also continue to see too much misguided information out there regarding keeping backyard flocks healthy. While I understand that everyone has an opinion, and I respect the right to voice it, some topics come down to plain Jane research and science and is not subjective... but rather proven to be true.



More and more Americans each day are deciding to keep a small backyard flock. The popularity of "having a pet that makes breakfast" is growing at a tremendous rate! This is fantastic! It opens a door to never ending opportunities to promote the health and well-being of our feathered friends, but it also puts a lot of chicks and chickens in new homes lacking the experience and knowledge it takes to keep the flock healthy - as well as their own family. I was that family when I started out with my first 3 Silkies. We all start somewhere.

The need for solid, correct and unopinionated answers to newcomers' backyard flock questions is unequivocal. I started Sweetheart Silkies, Inc., a Nonprofit Corporation, help fill this need.

While I am still working on ideas and ways to accomplish this task, speaking at local Ag centers,

*"Go beyond your backyard or as I like to say it... "flockyard". Find what You love, cherish the moments, and keep exploring!"*

feed stores, and 4-H meets is a beginning. Article contributions to blogs to such as Durvet's, is a start. We desperately need solid thinkers, who are respectful to others (that point is crucial), and truly care about chickens and their families to take the lead in disseminating incorrect information and promoting backyard flock health and sanitation... and I hope to be a small part of that.