

Raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Staci Hancock cannot recall a time that horses were not a major part of her life. She got her first pony at age five and spent much of her childhood on horseback or in the barn. A member of Louisville's Long Run Pony Club, she also showed regionally in the Junior Hunter Division on an OTTB.

Staci attended the University of Kentucky, where she earned a BA in General Studies with an emphasis in Equine Marketing. During the summers, she worked at Warner Jones' Hermitage Farm in Goshen, Ky. There she prepped yearlings and worked for his consignments at the Keeneland Sales as a part of the first all-female sales team.

Over the past 38 years, Staci and her husband Arthur Hancock III have raised three Ky Derby Winners (Gato Del Sol, Sunday Silence, and Fusaichi Pegasus) as well as six champions in the U.S. and Europe on their Stone Farm outside Paris, Kentucky. Staci has played an integral role in the farm's success. She has served as President of Stone Agency, which specializes in equine insurance, and she has overseen the farm's public relations and advertising. The Hancocks have raised six children who share their passion for the horse and farmland conservation.

In 1998, when it was reported that US Champion racehorse Exceller had died in a slaughterhouse in Sweden, Staci turned her attention to equine welfare. Her advocacy began at home. Staci was instrumental in seeing that Kentucky Derby winner Gato Del Sol returned from Germany to Stone Farm to live out his years as an esteemed pensioner. Since then, Staci has worked on legislative efforts to ban the slaughter of American Thoroughbred athletes, including spearheading the "Kentucky Derby Winners Against Slaughter" campaign.

Staci was an original founder, director and first Chairman of the Board of the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, which was developed to provide an alternative to slaughter. She is a past member of the Responsible Breeders Council at HSUS. In addition, Staci is a founding member of Water Hay Oats Alliance, LLC, and she remains very active as the organizations managing member. WHOA currently boasts a membership of 1,400 like-minded individuals who support passage of federal legislation to ban drugs in racing.

Staci continues to work to re-home Stone Farm's retired racehorses into second careers.