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September 2009

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Newspaper

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Sioux Empire Fair Arabian Show:  
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Managing Your  
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More  
Medora  
Wild Horses

Hi-Fashion's  
Second Chance  
By Eva Robinson

Saddling Your  
Arabian  
By Cordia Pearson



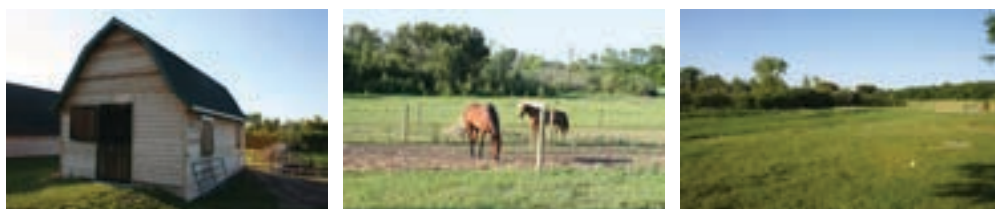
Shawna Olson and Gunner  
at Cowboy Up's  
5th Ride Against  
Cancer at McLeod, N.D.  
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# FARM FOR SALE

## 110 Acres - Lake Maude - Becker County, MN



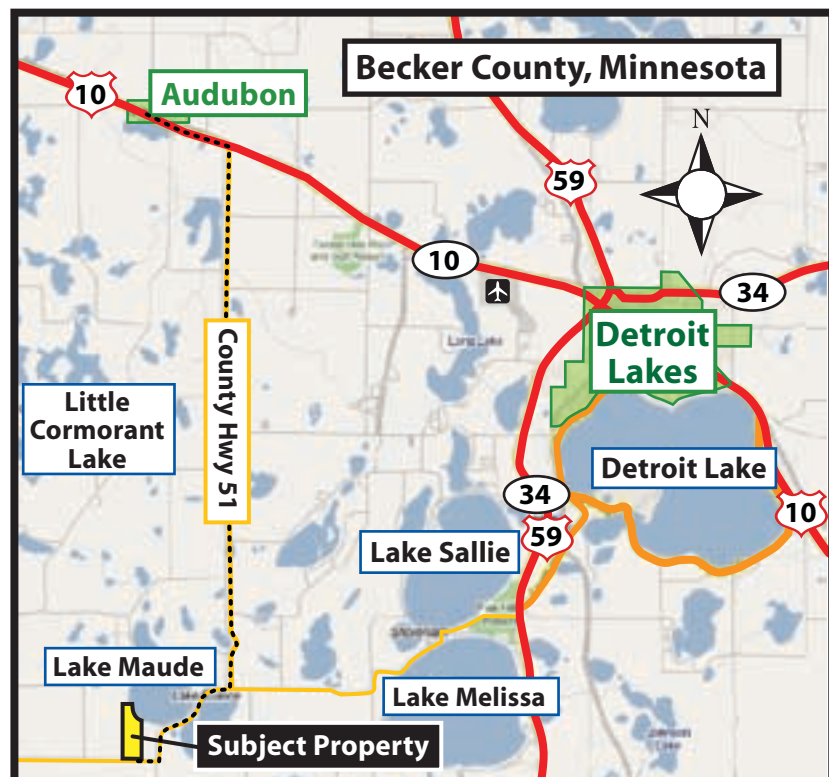
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RRHSC members from top left: Eugene, Mark, Karen Radtke and their grandson pulled by their mule team; Dan and Carmen Eberhardt with their Norwegian Fjord, Teena. Bottom left: Dorothy Larson with Pepper, her 7-year-old mare; and Ken and June Pawluk driving their mule team down the streets of Sabin, Minn. where they gathered in front of the General Store before continuing their drive/ride in the country. Photos by Ley Bouchard

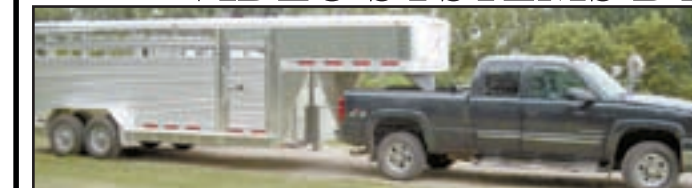
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*About the Cover*

From Top Left clockwise: Paige Osborne riding *Chairman of the Bask* Aug. 11 at the Sioux Falls Arabian Horse Show (see more on page 16); 14-year-old gelding, *Chief*, ridden by Samantha Stahnke at the MINN-I-KOTA Arabian Show in Winona, Minn. (more on page 5); Shawna Olson, KVLV-TV meteorologist, rides in the Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer in McLeod, N.D. (see more on page 18) and Julie Sornson-Cardwell riding Bayleigh her 20-year-old Morgan gelding on the Cross Country Course sponsored by the Alpha Equus English Riders Club on the infield at the ND Horse Park in Fargo, N.D. She purchased Bayleigh from a niece who moved to Hawaii with her military husband. Bayleigh was used as a trail horse in his former life. Sornson-Cardwell says "Bayleigh has a lot of spunk and is a "nice mover" so I thought he'd make a great dressage or hunter/jumper horse. We were very fortunate a few years back to get him enrolled in the NDSU Equine program. The NDSU students taught him how to jump and they did an excellent job because he is a very "honest" and willing jumper and he takes great care of me out there on the Cross Country Course." Julie is board president of the North Dakota Horse Park.

**What's Inside This Issue?**

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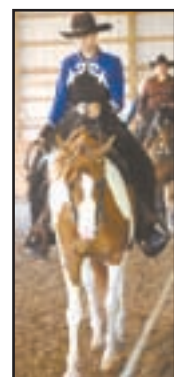
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Errors: The Valley Equestrian newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement only to the extent of the space covered by the error.



Riders at the MINN-I-KOTA Community Arabian Show in Willmar, Minn.; see photo story on page 5.



Diane Schermerhorn and Jazz check in after the first leg of the Thistle Down Endurance Run Aug. 15 near Frazee, Minn. See pages 10-11.



Riders amble out of McLeod, N.D. Aug. 15 at the start of the 5th Annual Cowboy Up Against Cancer; see story on page 18.

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MINN-I-KOTA Arabian Community Show in Willmar, Minn.



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Minn-I-Kota is one of several clubs of the Region 6 Arabian Horse Association. The club held it's annual Arabian Community Show Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26, 2009 at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds in Willmar, Minn. The event was judged by Carolyn McDonald and Cecile Hetzel Dunn; the Show Manager is Rae Ann Bartz. Photos: Top left: Samantha Stahnke, 15, rides Chief, a 14-year-old gelding. Bottom right photo is Alexis Neese, 8, of Bemidji, Minn. riding the 4-year-old palomino, Jake.

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# CATTLE DRIVE, HORSEBACK, 1928

by Orv Alvshere

## WATCHING REAL LIFE, NOT MOVIES

Dad trained, drove and rode horses, and like movie stars, rode tall in the saddle. He told of long rides and cattle drives, with a cow pony to straddle. One cattle drive to Manfred's stockyards to load on the train for market. His Dad was there to pick him up with a Model T, where he'd parked it. His Brother had to lead Dad's horse home. They quizzed an old horse trainer Who told him, "Tie that horse to his horse's tail," it was a 'no-brainer'. Fearing for his horse's tail, he hoped at the rides end...he still had one. Using that suggestion, the ride went well and that cattle drive was done.

## A 20-YEAR-OLD IN 1928

One year Dad spoke to a young lad, "The first time I came to your town Was on a long cattle drive. The sun was setting to the west at sundown. Two of us rode like future movie cowboys on horseback." That lad was shocked, "You did what?" The stunned youth couldn't hold back. "That was a first: I've never conversed with someone who came here by horse." Dad explained, "It was in nineteen-twenty-eight, so consider the source. We'd fed, watered and saddled our steeds. We rose before the fast rising sun. We were half-way through our cattle drive, knowing it had to be done.

## HEAD 'EM UP, MOVE 'EM OUT

"We had driven cattle for miles. We'd herded them into the stockyard. Our Brother followed with team and hayrack, so we didn't drive them hard. That was the first night I'd slept in a hotel room," pointing up there. The impatient youth stopped him, "There is NO hotel in Esmond...anywhere!" Reclaiming the conversation, "Listen, son, to what I'm about to tell; Upstairs...in that corner building, was originally a hotel. It was hot, I tossed and turned, awakened by the tip of the sun. Yes, we rose, fed horses and cattle, as our cattle drive was not done."

## GET ALONG LITTLE DOGIES...TO YOUR NEW HOME

"Many miles to the north, my older Brother had bid and bought some land, A nice house, tall windmill, fenced, plus a new shelterbelt stand. An opportunity to raise horses, cattle, oats and plant some wheat; He sat for hours, days and years behind a team, on a horse drawn plow seat. Our duty...my Brother and I on horseback, drove those cattle north. We had our trained cattle dog following them, moving back and forth. Oh, forgot to mention, the old milk cow...she was the slowest one. Somewhat rested, we were pleased our long cattle drive was nearly half-done."

## RATHER STRADDLE SADDLE THAN SEE MOVIES JUBILEE RELIVED HISTORY FROM 1928

His parents arrived, he changed his tune, "Today at our Diamond Jubilee; I learned of a cattle drive, an interesting piece of history. I met this man who sat tall in the saddle when he rode into our town; It was hard to believe, many years ago, on horseback, at sundown. Cowboys arrived here like in the movies, where I've seen cattle drives. We should put up a stone marker, 'A Cattle Drover From Harvey Arrives.'" Dad headed north, the youth convinced, grateful for such rapt attention, Recalling details of years before, when that dusty cattle drive was done.

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## SPORT HORSE NATIONALS COMES TO THE HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

For the first time, Lexington, Ky., known as the Horse Capital of the World, will host the 7th Annual Sport Horse National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show (Sport Horse Nationals) September 22-27, 2009. Competitors will compete in more than 80 different Sport Horse classes across four divisions, including sport horse in-hand and under-saddle, dressage, pleasure carriage driving and hunter/jumper.

Sport Horse Nationals, which has alternated venues in the east and west since its inception, will return to Nampa, Idaho in 2010 while Lexington hosts the World Equestrian Games, but will settle in Lexington at the Kentucky Horse Park for at least three years starting in 2011.

Sport Horse Nationals ranks as the only single-breed sport horse event in the nation offered just for Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses registered with AHA or the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry. An estimated 650 horses will compete at this prestigious event, which will name the nation's top horses.

Competitors from 27 different states and provinces will compete for walnut plaques, rose neck garlands and a Gladys Brown Edwards trophy statue depicting the renowned ideal Arabian horse. Other awards include gold jewelry, and select classes receive additional prizes such as bridles and saddles.

While they are not in the show ring, exhibitors will have a chance to shop the commercial exhibitor area that will feature jewelry, tack and clothing from the likes of Bennett Fine Jewelry, Faulkners Saddlery, The Hat Lady and more.

Exhibitors and spectators can also explore the rest of the Kentucky Horse Park, which is home to a number of attractions including the Hall of Champions, a Parade of Breeds and the International Museum of the Horse, where The Arabian Horse Galleries is scheduled to open next spring.

On September 24 at 8 p.m. exhibitors and general public can enjoy a Progressive Barn Party hosted by a number of different Sport Horse Nationals exhibitors and then on September 26, there will be a special evening performance beginning at 7 p.m. The performance includes a Jumper Mini-Prix, Musical Dressage Free-Style, Pleasure Carriage Driving and more.

**Read All About It! The October issue of the VE is featuring Gaited Horses and Warmbloods! See Page 4 for contact information to submit information or buy an ad today!**

## CABELA'S 2009 FALL EXPO DUTCH OVEN COOK OFF

By Cassandra Swanson

Beautiful, sunny, but cool weather greeted Dutch Oven enthusiasts Saturday, August 22, 2009 at Cabela's in Mitchell 4th Annual \$500 Dutch Oven Challenge. 17 Teams of cooks turned out 32 hot-from-the-oven delicacies vying for their share of the prize money. Hundreds of shoppers toured the camps, checking out the cooks work and sampling the various dishes. Six tireless judges worked their way



through the 15 Main Courses and 17 Desserts. For the second year in a row, Cabela's provided the cooks with the main ingredient for the Main Course - this year it was a pork loin and an onion...and cooks were on their own for desserts allowing for a huge variety of tasty, sweet creations.

The competition was tough and the-judging very close - in fact, there were 3 way ties in BOTH categories, requiring the judges to fall back on the 'taste' score to determine winners!

Main Course: 1st - Almond Apricot Pork (score 122) Shona Thompson and Nancy Neve, Sioux Falls, SD; 2nd - Stuffed Pork Peppers (115) Chris and George Jewell, Sioux Falls, SD Desserts: 1st - Rhubarb Raspberry Pie (score 135) Luinea Caldwell, Brandon, SD; 2nd - Stack Cake (128) Bill and Sandy Hansen, Sioux Falls, SD

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# TALKING HORSES

BY KATHY GRIMES

Recently, I was talking to a group of first time pet owners. During the question and answer part of the program, someone asked if pets knew when another pet was dying and if I believe that pets have souls. To answer this question, I told them of a recent event.

A very special dog named Blackie had come to her last days. She lived on a horse farm with five horses, two cats, two other dogs and two humans named Jane and Bill. She was suffering from cancer. Her humans were good about seeing that she had good vet care along with frequent energy work. For months, we were able to keep her pain low but recently it became harder and harder to reduce her pain. Jane talked to Blackie and asked if she would like to transition from physical life to spirit life. At first, she thought she would have weeks with Blackie and asked me to talk to Blackie to find out what they could do for her. I did talk to Blackie. I found out that she was wondering if it would be hard to cross over and if it would hurt. Before I could answer we were interrupted.

My interruption was actually Blackie's human. Jane was out of town that day and would be returning home the next day. I told her of Blackie's concerns about death. She said that she would talk to her about the procedure and how easy it would be for her.

The next day, when Jane got home she gave Blackie another energy treatment. Both Jane and Bill realized that her pain was very high. Even after a full one-hour treatment, Blackie's pain did not diminish much. Bill said "I think it's time to let Blackie cross over."

They talked to her and got the sense that she was ready. They called me to make sure their sense was correct. I confirmed what they had received. They asked me to tell the rest of the animals. Bill said he would do it but also wanted me to do it. I agreed.

Explaining to animals that one of their friends is going to cross over to spirit life is not always an easy thing to do. But it is important to do. Over

the last few years, I have had to tell them on three other occasions. Each time one of the horses asked why we can't stop it. I can only tell them that there are some things we just not do and death will come to everything. Blackie will be going to a place where there is no pain and total happiness. I also told them that I would be talking to Blackie and tell her how much I will miss hearing about her adventures and what an honor it has been to talk with her over the years. Blackie told me it was time for her to leave her body and be out of pain.

That night one of the dogs, Red, sat by her as if she was keeping watch. The other dog, Gabby, didn't want to be in the same room. Both Bill and Jane spent time telling Blackie some of the memories they will carry in their hearts.

In the morning, when Bill let the horses out, they were not in a hurry to go out to pasture. In fact they stayed around the barn and watched the house. Blackie wanted to go on one last walk. It was like she needed to say goodbye and see that everything was all right before she left. Red went with her and all Gabby could do was to bark at her. One of the older horses pushed the gate open and also walked with them while the other horses just stood there watching. About an hour after they got back from the walk, Bill and Jane took Blackie to the vet. Blackie passing was fast and peaceful.

Helping your pet cross over is never an easy thing to do. Our hearts are full of their paw and hoof prints. My experience as an animal communicator confirms for me that they have souls and live on as spirit animals. I know that many keep watch over us every day. I know that my animal friends will be there to greet me when I cross over.

I hope that all your animals are well and that you remember each day how great they are to have around. Blessings.

*Kathleen Grimes has been doing both animal communication and energy work since 1990. Learn more about her work at: www.brotherwolfandfriends.com. Call (952) 270-4306 or email your questions: kgrimes@brotherwolfandfriends.com*

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# MANAGING YOUR EQUINE BUSINESS ASSETS

By Bob Valentine, Ph.D.

In a declining equine market with increasing costs, we can use all the help we can get to survive this BIG bump in the road. Many of us in the market have to create our own economic stimulus by being smarter, more organized and more efficient by using tools that will help us gain and sustain a competitive edge. You can make money in the equine market and still love your horses. In fact, the current economic environment provides an excellent opportunity to get your business right-sided and emerge a much better business with the potential to gain market share going forward. Even if you don't operate as a business the same principals apply: Using you money wisely may provide the opportunity to attend another horse show or event or do something special with your horse. Think - plan - organize - execute - make/save money.

I am sure many of you have heard the expression money is made by either earning it or saving it. I would add that if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. I call this management before the numbers. There are many good accounting packages on the market, but the problem with an accounting only package is accounting is history, not management. This is the same problem with the so-called horse management programs that only record information and make you spend your valuable time entering the information. History in a business is important, but you really want tools that will help you create history. The ideal environment is to have a management tool that integrates the management and accounting functions while providing real time information so nothing falls through the cracks.

When setting up a management system, an important initial step is to match your Chart of Accounts with the items you want to measure so they can be managed. The items you select should help you optimize your work flow, have a positive influence on your profitability and last but not least, conserve cash. Cash in an equine business is KING. The quality time you spend setting up your Chart of Accounts will pay dividends as you move forward in your equine business.

When setting up your Chart of Accounts don't just limit your thinking to expenses. One of the most important management areas in a business is Asset Management. Asset Accounts fall into two primary categories; Current Assets and Fixed Assets.

Current Assets are things like petty cash, your checking account, accounts receivable (money owed to you) and

inventory (supplies on hand to run your business, horses for sale, etc.). Accounts receivable and inventory can be big cash consumers. If you aren't collecting from people who owe you money, then they are consuming your cash. If you aren't paying attention (managing) your inventory and you have too many supplies, you are consuming cash on things you didn't need. Too much inventory also creates a financial risk if supplies are in inventory too long and they spoil or get lost.

Fixed Assets are generally BIG capital expense items and therefore, consume a lot of cash. Things that fall into the fixed asset category are horses used in



production (breeding and lessons), vehicles, equipment (tractors, ATV's), buildings, etc. You need to make sure all your fixed assets are producing, and furthermore, producing at a level where they are providing you with a Return on Investment (ROI). Before a fixed asset is purchased you should determine the

ROI that is acceptable to you. If the asset is not meeting your expectations, then you need to solve the problem or sell it. You will not be able to make that determination without setting up your system to measure the assets productivity.

Next month we will continue setting up a Chart of Accounts that is both measureable and manageable. Then we will use the accounts to make meaningful financial performance measurements and discuss what they tell us and how they can help us.

*Bob Valentine, Ph.D. is the President of GenieCo, Inc. and Professor of Equine Business at Colorado State University. He may be reached at 1.888.678.4364 or via email at: bob@genieatwork.com. Get more information and see the products available at: www.equinegenie.com*

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# The OutHouse: Life on the Farm with Emily Complicated Competition

Horse shows and Rodeos are great events. Sometimes the weather is a little annoying or the drive a little long to the arena, but once you get there, it's down to business.

The biggest mistake I ever made was agreeing to ride a neighbor's horse in a fifty-mile endurance ride through a national forest in chilly October.

Vince was the God of horse knowledge in our small community and when he asked me, a mere teenager, to ride his lovely mare, Lady, in a cross country race, I agreed hands down before hindsight caught up to me.

Receiving the training details, it was the most fun a girl could ever have on a horse as the conditioning route passed a McDonalds, and the mileage worked out perfectly to ride through the drive-up for an after school snack.

With both Lady and I in tiptop shape, her with a fresh set of shoes and me sporting a shiny new pair of boots, we were ready to conquer an assortment of other participants on a fifty-mile endurance ride through a maze of forest trails.

Eyeing up the competition the night before was an important thing to do and feeling smug, I fit right in with my bell-bottom jeans and hair in braids. Day dreaming on which wall I would hang my blue ribbon, I passed nerd after nerd polishing their tack. I froze in place and felt like a black sheep as every saddle on the grounds was of English descent while Lady and I had arrived to the competition with my heavy old saddle from the west.

Calling Mom in a panic, I begged her to scavenge the neighborhood and call in all favors to borrow an English saddle and possibly deliver it to the event. With a big number 48 painted on Lady's rump the next morning, all the contestants were gathered on their horses in a roped off area ready to rock and roll through the next fifty miles.

The officials let groups of five at a time out on the trail and being number 48, it was all I could do to hold Lady back as she saw forty-seven horses trotting off into the wilderness without her. By the time it was our turn to start, Lady was hopping on her hind legs and I was holding onto her mane for dear life, as those dang English saddles have no horn!

Seeing mile marker five through a streak of tears, Lady slowed down to a steady trot around marker ten. Not used to posting in an English saddle, by mile marker fifteen I couldn't feel my legs. I remember praying to go back in time and suck up to the nerds to keep my comfortable western saddle, and at the same time kicking myself for agreeing to such an idiotic competition.

Rider number 16 came up behind me

at a fast posting trot and as I politely tried a little conversation I was snubbed as the gal disappeared into the forest. Wondering if it was the braids or the bell-bottoms that offended her, I decided it might be the way I was sitting on my horse (sideways). No longer able to post in the teeny tiny English saddle, it was natural to find the most comfortable position I could!

Promising myself to let the air out of number 16's tires if I ever made it back to camp, Lady and I trotted on.

Rounding a corner, to my amazement there was a clearing filled with horses, people and food! I had reached the half-way point and allowed a short break while Lady was checked for soundness and given a drink of water.

An hour later while passing mile marker 35, I realized that eating four sandwiches and downing three cans of Coke back at the half way point was probably not a good idea. Talk about leaving breadcrumbs in the forest, Little Red Riding Hood would have been proud!

Lady had gotten her second wind at marker 40 while I was just hanging on for the ride.

Approaching a meadow with a lonely tree in the center, the next occurrence resembled walking in a football field while not looking where you were going and running smack dab into the goal post. I had bark implanted into my forehead and was flat on the ground. While trying to mount with no feeling in my legs and now my head, I contemplated how many rolls of toilet paper it would take to cover Vince's house.

Heading south before the little 'Paul Bunyan incident' I was completely turned around with no help from the sun as it was directly overhead. While flipping a twig on the direction to ride, a flock of geese saved the day as they flew over on their way to a warmer climate for the winter.

Striding on in the direction of the geese, Lady and I were sure to finish in the top five and I would be given a homecoming parade along with the City Key.

Informing the two Gals cantering towards me that they were riding in the wrong direction, I received peculiar stares as they passed. As I mouthed "nerd" comments to their horse's rear ends, Lady picked up the pace and I could see the final mile marker dead ahead with my sure-fire victory dance to follow.

Standing in front of mile marker number forty for the second time that late fall day, I silently hoped the flock of geese kept right on migrating back to the North Pole and froze..... Emilysouthouse@aol.com

# First World Animal Day MN

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." World Animal Day MN is being produced as a way to honor all animals, raise the awareness and knowledge of humans and have fun. This event is for all animal lovers. Well-mannered pets are invited. Stuffed animal pets are also welcome. It will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Running ACES Harness Park in Columbus, Minn.

The educational booths will include an exhibit with animals from Africa as well as from Minn. Also in the educational area, Healing Touch For Animals®, will be among the alternative healing methods for pets. On the World Animal Stage, there will be speakers, agility rabbits, and live children's music. People will be able to shop at the different vendor's booths which will include a food booth. At 10:45 a.m. a special honoring service for all the animals of the world will be held on the World Animal Stage. This service will end with the blessings of the pets. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.

The main message of World Animal Day MN is that humans and animals live on this planet together. Both humans and animals depend upon one another for food, safety and enjoyment of life. Kathy Grimes, the President of World Animal Day MN believes, "It is important for humans to understand and continually improve their relationship with animals. Not only do we share the planet with animals but we also share values of love, nurturing and a desire for peace." Grimes believes that this event is one way to deepen human understanding and appreciation of all animals.

Among the animals to be present are the Agility Rabbits sponsored by the Minnesota Companion Rabbits Society, Parrots sponsored by the MN Bird Society, African Porcupine and other exotic animals sponsored by Cock-A-Doodle Zoo. The educational booths will cover a variety of topics such as healing, vet practices, being a reading animal, animals of Minnesota, animals of the world and products that are not tested on

animals. The vendor's booths will have animal related products.

According to Grimes, two important booth areas are the Teddy Bear Project and the Gratitude Wall. The Teddy Bear Project will accept money donations for the purchase of new teddy bears which will be given to police, fire departments and emergency response teams to help children during unpleasant experiences. The Gratitude Wall will be a place where people can write the name of an animal that has left a memory or paw print in their heart.

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# Dressage Eventing Defined: The Thoroughbreds Part II by Margo Brady

The beauty of the Thoroughbred is perhaps unsurpassed in the eyes of horse lovers around the world. Their versatility as sport horses is unmistakable. Last month's column focused on the Thoroughbred in dressage. This month, we continue by introducing the sport of Combined Training, or Eventing. In the article on Dressage Driving, (see May 2009 issue), the Dressage Driving phase was part of what is called Combined Driving. In Combined Driving, there are three phases: Dressage Driving, Marathon (or Cross-Country), and Cones. These three phases are analogous to the three phases in Eventing: Dressage, Cross Country, and Stadium Jumping respectively.

In the 19th century, "endurance rides" were a regular part of cavalry training in France, Germany, Sweden and the US. The emphasis was on speed and stamina; jumping was not included. In Paris, in 1902, the French developed a more difficult test called the Championnat du Cheval d'Armes. (Championship Competition of Army Horses.) There were four phases: a dressage test, a steeplechase race, a 30 mile ride, and jumping. This exercise was first included for military horses in the Olympic Games in



1912 (and won by Sweden). This competition served as the foundation for the modern Three Day Event and in 1924, at the Paris Games, the phases were introduced as: Day 1: Dressage Test, Day 2: Endurance Test (Cross Country), and Day 3: Jumping Test. The Dressage phase takes place in a dressage arena 20m x 60m with the highest level being at 3rd level. Judging is based on precision and grace in the execution of a variety of movements such as shoulder-in, extended trot, collected canter, etc.

The Cross Country phase consists of several obstacles that the horse and rider must negotiate such as ponds, ditches, downward sloping banks, stone walls, etc. Judging is placed on speed with penalties taken for time over the limit or refusals during the course.

The Show Jumping phase takes place in a stadium with judgment on time and precision. Faults are taken for any jumps knocked down or for going over the specified time.

At the international level of Eventing, there are specific categories governed by the rules of the FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale). The Concours Complet International (International Complete Competition), or CCI, has four levels: CCI\* -introductory level, CCI\*\* -experienced horses, CCI\*\*\* - advanced, and CCI\*\*\*\* - the highest level of competition of which there are only 6 competitions in the world, including The Badminton Horse Trials, an Olympic level event held annually in England since 1949.

Another definition of "Horse Trial" requires the horse and rider to compete in all three events in one day. Canadian Thoroughbred "Tipper" placed in the top 2 at the Millbrook Horse Trials in New York in 2005. This horse had competed at the CCI\* level which is the Preliminary level for international competition. This translates to: 2nd level dressage, up to 32 obstacles in the cross country phase, and up to 13 obstacles for the stadium jumping. Tipper was retired from competition in Eventing and has become an outstanding schoolmaster, still fit and sound at age 18. Tipper was never raced and was bred in Canada

for the sole purpose of producing a competition Eventing horse.

North Dakota Trainer Mindy Cook is shown competing in the Cross Country phase on her 10-year-old Off-the-Track Thoroughbred, Gentle Ben.



His story is amazing. This horse won about \$100,000 on the track before retiring from racing. He was then rescued by two veterinarians and turned out to pasture for a year before doing some Western trail riding. Due to severe anxiety, he needed to be tranquilized just to get in a trailer. Mindy rode him bareback with a rope halter throughout the Badlands as a trust building exercise. She then began training him for English riding about a year before competing. Ben is now schooling 2nd level dressage and is jumping up to three feet, six inches and walks into any trailer unassisted! Mindy states, "I think that thoroughbreds are a very versatile breed for anyone to own. They are sensitive, kind-hearted, honest, patient, hardworking and very athletic! It has been very rewarding to help him progress through his training."

In summary, the late Colonel Frank Weldon, who served as the Director of the Badminton Horse Trials for many years, and an Olympic gold medalist himself stated, "Anything a common horse can do, a Thoroughbred does better."

for the sole purpose of producing a competition Eventing horse. North Dakota Trainer Mindy Cook is shown competing in the Cross Country phase on her 10-year-old Off-the-Track Thoroughbred, Gentle Ben. His story is amazing. This horse won about \$100,000 on the track before retiring from racing. He was then rescued by two veterinarians and turned out to pasture for a year before doing some Western trail riding. Due to severe anxiety, he needed to be tranquilized just to get in a trailer. Mindy rode him bareback with a rope halter throughout the Badlands as a trust building exercise. She then began training him for English riding about a year before competing. Ben is now schooling 2nd level dressage and is jumping up to three feet, six inches and walks into any trailer unassisted! Mindy states, "I think that thoroughbreds are a very versatile breed for anyone to own. They are sensitive, kind-hearted, honest, patient, hardworking and very athletic! It has been very rewarding to help him progress through his training."

Margo Brady began studying dressage in 1986 with Anne Mouen-Stahl, Grand Prix rider and Apprentice to Carole Grant (double Gold Medalist 1983 Pan Am Games) and Jan Macafee from Australia.

She has ridden with Bo Jenå, Head Riding Master and Director of the dressage program at Flyinge, the National Stud for the Swedish Warmblood in Sweden, and also with Denis Robet, Head Trainer at the Volte-Face Equestrian Center in the French Alps.

She currently studies with Lisbeth Bengtsson of Sweden, now in Wisconsin and clinics with International Gran Prix competitor and 'R' dressage judge, Ulf Wadeborn, formerly from the Stromsholm Riding Academy of Sweden.

Margo is the owner of the Brady Equestrian Center in Downer, MN, where she breeds Swedish Warmbloods and stands the Swedish import stallion Bayron 885. She has upper level dressage schoolmasters available for lessons and lease. Call (218) 789-7704 for more information.

# Sport Horse Nationals Comes to the Horse Capital of the World

For the first time, Lexington, Kent, known as the Horse Capital of the World, will host the 7th Annual Sport Horse National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show (Sport Horse Nationals) September 22-27, 2009. Competitors will compete in more than 80 different Sport Horse classes across four divisions, including sport horse in-hand and under-saddle, dressage, pleasure carriage driving and hunter/jumper.

Sport Horse Nationals, which has alternated venues in the east and west since its inception, will return to Nampa, Idaho in 2010 while Lexington hosts the World Equestrian Games, but will settle in Lexington at the Kentucky Horse Park for at least three years starting in 2011.

Sport Horse Nationals ranks as the only single-breed sport horse event in the nation offered just for Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses registered with AHA or the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry.

For more information call AHA at 303-696-4500, info.comp@Arabianhorses.org

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BY LEY BOUCHARD

# ENDURANCE RIDING: LIFE IN THE FAST LANE FOR CHAR TUHY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEY BOUCHARD

To finish is to win ... Just like a million other riders, she walks up to Max, places her hands on his neck, rubs him for good luck, tosses her foot in the stirrup and slings her leg across his back as she whispers in his ear, "If we finish, we win." They've trained for this and now it's time.

In an endurance race it is so much more than being the fastest. It is being in the best shape when you finish the race.

Many have heard about or seen Hidalgo and the much disputed, self-proclaimed endurance ride of Frank Hopkins and his Mustang across the Gulf of Syria in the late 1800s.

Endurance riding has its roots in the founding of America, the legendary ride of Paul Revere and stories of the American west and the Pony Express. Today, most endurance riding is done for sport.

The reasons vary, the result the same: horses and humans conditioned to travel vast distances.

Char Tuhy, Hawley, Minn., was one of many riders at Thistle Down near Frazee, Minn. Aug. 15. She was born

with a love of horses. "Ever since I was old enough to ride alone, at 9-years-old, my neighbor Frank Garland, would ride over. He taught me a lot; he was like a grandpa to me.

"At 13, I bought a pretty, palomino grade horse that fit my budget; she was ill-mannered and I put a lot of time into her. She was in real good shape; we went from Carrington to Lake Ashtabula and camped in a farmer's field and he never knew it - I was 15." The horse was 29 when she died.

"When I moved to Fargo for college I brought her with me," Tuhy said. "I bought a buggy, boarded at a private farm near the horse park and drove her into Fargo. Going down Broadway the train went by and she had no trouble with it even though she had not been desensitized to a train; but she would not walk on a manhole cover!"

Tuhy has trained a lot of horses since then; many she sells - mainly for endurance riding.

This pretty and petite wisp of a woman entrepreneur spends her days and nights



working, but can it be called work when doing what you love? But work even when enjoyed can be exhausting.

"I entered the vet tech

Top left: Horses are cooled with sponges of water while they await the pulse check during endurance run; bottom left: Donny Schermerhorn, holds Max which Char Tuhy sponges off before the pulse check; below: Dean Peterson performs the CRI before Max and Char leave for the next leg of the endurance run.

program at NDSU then worked as a vet tech. I built a grooming business with three different locations at one time."

Tuhy started *Animal Acres*, an animal boarding and rescue facility. She boards animals to pay the bills for her rescue work which is one of her passions. She networks to find homes for animals in need - and not just your typical dog, cat or horse. This could and does include birds, reptiles and rodents.

She began working with holistic and natural healing after a dog, Zorro became sick. "They said there was nothing they could do for him." At the urging of a friend, Will Winters, "an amazing healer," Tuhy started Zorro on homeopathic and chiropractic treatments; "I did a mental adjustment on my part - I had hope and that made all the difference," she added.

"He had to come off commercial dog food and I used a raw food diet and adopted a clean and healthy lifestyle. We took all chemicals and pesticides out of his life. Zorro did heal and lived to be 20-years-old and ran like a puppy the rest of his life. That was enough for me to want to learn more and that's why I put the Natural Pet Center together, I wanted a stage for my message."

Tuhy is a member of three endurance organizations: UMECRA (Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Assoc.), AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) and MnDRA (Minnesota Distance Riding Assoc.) Members accrue points in each organization for placing and completing rides. Like other equestrian organizations, they have year-end award dinners where the

prizes are given.

Points are earned based on criteria established by the governing organizations which have mostly adopted similar rules. "Some rules state you can't use any drugs, even yucca which is natural but not allowed. MSM is a joint supplement but will test; anabolic steroids are a big no! If you test positive you are issued a warning and disqualified from the ride that day; if you test positive again you are reprimanded. I know you don't want to do it more than once," Tuhy said. "It keeps the playing field level; the horses are to do what they do on their natural abilities.

"These are the best cared for and most loved horses you are going to meet. They camp with them, live with them; they are treated like a partner," Tuhy said. "If you don't have a good relationship with a horse you aren't going to be a successful endurance rider." There are more horses that die for metabolic problems in the general horse world than in the endurance world.

"I know my horse very well; I know when a look in his eye isn't right; I know when his trot is just this much off; I know when he

isn't feeling good. There are horses out there in their late 20s doing endurance riding; that says something; and where else do you put your

horse through a vet check 4-5 times a day." Veterinarians are sanctioned by the organizations. Vets join, read and learn the rules of the books furnished; if they want they can be accredited. At least two veterinarians work at each endurance race: a head vet and a second vet because when the horses start coming in for pulse checks and CRIs, processing in a timely fashion is essential.



Center above: A typical scenario: a sponge hanging from the saddle and the horse's mane in braids to help cool the horse on warm, sunny days. Center bottom: The schedule of events for the two-day rides and camping fees. Below: Teresa Fett, ride manager, and her horse, CR Easter Lily, await the completion of the CRI by veterinarian Dean Peterson at Thistle Down.



decided he wanted to work and live in N.D. He wanted to be an endurance vet and said there are not many endurance runs in N.D. This is the third race he has worked. Shortly after the horses started to come

Below: Diane and Donny Schermerhorn cool down Jazz, a Morgan, after the first leg of their first endurance run. Top left: A busy pulse check as many horses arrive to the vet station. Right below: Horses check in and out while Orlynn Hanson (sitting) Chris Mondak (blue jacket) and Dale Fett (red shirt) record check-in times.



in from the first leg of their 25-mile run, Lynn Reicher's horse, Choiz (WH Procratinator) threw a shoe and needed a ferrier. Luckily, Kuhlka had just returned from New York State where he picked up his custom-made veterinary pickup truck equipped with ferrier tools. Yes, what luck to have a vet that is also a ferrier. Travis quickly replaced the shoe, at no charge, but not until after Choiz pulsed down and went on his 40-minute break.

Between laps, the horses are required to take a 40- or 60-minute break depending upon which leg of the run is being done. During this time they are fed, watered and rested for the next lap of the run.

After 40 minutes, the rider returns the horse for the CRI - Cardiac Recovery Index. "You need an exit, right?" Peterson asked the rider. The CRI (exit, as the vet refers to it) measures how well a horse recovers after a period of stress, like the stress of carrying someone at a consistent pace for 25 miles. The horse's pulse is taken before it is trotted 125 feet away from the vet and returned. The vet then immediately takes the pulse again which cannot be more than four beats faster than the previous reading. The vet examines for lameness (done while watching the horse trot). The vet performs a physical examination for muscle tone, gut sounds, flaccidness of the anal sphincter (which tells the vet much about the horse's fatigue), routing blood muscle activity, mucus membranes, capillary refill, jugular refill, skin tenting, muscle tone, back withers, tack galls, wounds, gait, impulsion, attitude, overall impression, and pulse. The vet gives a letter grade for each of these factors which is recorded by the scribe on the form that ultimately goes to the sanctioning organization. The rider is then given the go ahead to start the next leg of the endurance race, or the horse is eliminated. Endurance riding is all about

the health of the horse.

Hanson is a three-year volunteer at Thistle Down. She has known the Fetts since Teresa was a teenager and at tests to the work they've done on their acreage to make Thistle Down possible. Teresa and Dale Fett are the hosts and ride managers at Thistle Down. They created the trails on which the race is run. "They work so hard cutting the trail through the woods, trimming trees, cutting stumps and tree roots out of the ground, rock removal, keeping the trails groomed, mowing the grounds to keep weeds out of the camp grounds." The weeds is from where this event gets its name as the grounds were covered in thistle taller than the Fetts when they started to prepare the property for the endurance runs. Fifty-six horses participated in the week-end races at Thistle Down.

When choosing a good endurance or competitive trail horse, Tuhy says, you want a horse that is confirmationally correct; so that he can travel a lot of miles and hold up to it. "Endurance people like big bones and big feet and the heavier the rider the more important that becomes; you want a horse that becomes forward; it isn't fun if you have to push your horse to go. It doesn't have to be a fast horse, it's not a speed event; you want a horse that can pick up a good steady gate and hold a trot for a long time. At first you might have to nag



and push; once the horse gets in better physical shape and enjoys it they want to go and you have to hold them back; it's relationship building too, once you realize you can do it and have fun with it they become forward and enthusiastic."

Tuhy's daughter, Jordanne, is also riding her horse, Trooper, a rescue horse, at Thistle Down. Trooper was purchased from a kill buyer for \$225.

Tuhy volunteers as a mentor on the MnDRA website. Diane Schermerhorn of Cormorant, Minn. contacted Tuhy for coaching in the sport. Diane and her horse, Jazz, are riding their first (for both of them), endurance race.

I asked Tuhy if she rides alone. "I often ride alone because I'm riding out front and trying to beat everyone else. I feel I'm competitive and my horses are, too," Tuhy says. "I have an awesome partner in my horse; because we put the time in to get in shape and get ready; I have a great family support system in my daughter. I have an inside track because I use animal communicators and alternative modalities as well as conventional vet medicine and I think all those tools combined help my horse be the best he can be." Tuhy and her horses, Max and Pippin, earned first place in both of their runs at Thistle Down. In addition, they won the B/C or best condition award.

To finish is to win ... Tuhy does that and so much more.



# TRNP WILD HORSE AUCTION OCTOBER 23 AT DICKINSON, ND

BY MARYLU WEBER

I have loved and handled horses most of my life a result of having grown up on a farm by Minot, N.D. I met Henry, a fellow horse lover, at North Dakota State University (NDSU) and we have owned horses of various breeds and disciplines for the past 30 years. We moved north of Bismarck in 1981. Henry just retired after 31 years at Bobcat and I have worked for Social Services for almost 20 years. Though I love my job, it's pretty much a way to support my passion of training horses.

We have been riding in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) for about 26 years and started recording the horses we were seeing. In 1999, the

Resource Manager introduced us to Tom Tescher, who had recorded and managed the wild horses for around 40 years. Tom was gracious enough to share his work with us and let us help him. We



Marylu Weber with her TRNP horse, Whisper, a 2-year old filly she is training.

started volunteering for the Park at that time and have identified and recorded for ten years, identifying horses for the 2000, 2003, and 2007 roundups.

In the summer of 2007, after falling in love with Curious George, Eileen Norton (see the August issue of the VE, Page 12) called TRNP Biologist Mike Oehler who put me in contact with her. We first met Eileen and Bill that fall and became fast friends.

This year Mike invited me to help with a wild horse behavior study April through July. Mike is exploring better methods of controlling the wild horse population so that they don't have to remove such large numbers of horses. There is no money in the Parks budget for advertising, so it is up to those few of us who know

and love these horses to spread the word as to how nice they are, how to purchase them, and how to get them registered. After the roundup of 2003, Henry bought a weanling colt he calls Embers' Fire. Fire's sire and half brother are both band sires in TRNP at this time. Broken to drive and ride, Fire has made a great trail horse for the past three years.

In May of 2008, in order to have a better way of handling escaped animals, the Park invited Whit Hibbard to give a

workshop on low stress livestock handling. I was invited to go and the next day was fortunate enough to ride out with Whit after a band of 10 that park personnel had been trying to remove. In two hours and without going over a trot, Whit and I were able to quietly bring them into a 60-acre enclosure and then into an ordinary panel pen. They were loaded onto stock trailers and rode quietly to the handling facility and then to the sales barn. I talked Whit into buying a yearling blue roan colt and I bought the cute weanling filly (see photo). Teddy and Whisper have proven to be gentle, intelligent, easily trained youngsters. Our experience is that the TRNP horses are easy to gentle, like to be around people, and make good using horses.

Around 90 horses will be culled and sold at auction October 23 at Stockman's Livestock Exchange in Dickinson, N.D. Please stop by, take a look, and consider purchasing one.



# FOR ONE HORSE SOLD AT A KILLER SALE, THERE WAS A SECOND CHANCE

By Eve Robinson

Every breeder that has been in the business of raising and standing stallions at stud for as many years as Rauleigh and Eve Robinson have (formerly of Bismarck, N.D. and now retired in Minoken, N.D.) has some favorite story that stands out as something very special among their many memories.

This story is about a beautiful National Champion Arabian stallion, a syndicated son of the legendary Ferzon, a Supreme Legion of Honor Stallion who was left in the care and keeping of a local ranch to stand at stud, Hi Fashion Imperial ++++. This magnificent horse was found and rescued at a local livestock auction. The stallion had already been purchased by a kill buyer and horses were being loaded to go to slaughter.

Now elegance is often difficult to define, but not to recognize. Rauleigh and Eve had arrived at the sale to look for a small pony mare for their small pony stallion they used for a "teaser" in their breeding program. In the course of their wanderings up on the cat walk they ran into a friend who is also an Arabian raiser. She had heard that some Arabian stallions had been dumped at the killer sale early in the morning on that warm March day (in the afternoon the riding horses are sold).

As they looked over the day's offerings, they spotted them. In a pen of the worst sort, with ten other "killers," all of whom had been sold by the pound, a graceful old gentleman paraded. Head high, neck arched, and tail held high, it made no difference that his once pristine coat was matted and filthy. Once sparkling in the sunshine and show ring, he still knew he was special and his name was followed by not one but by three ++++'s indicating he had achieved the then highest honor of Supreme Legion of Merit that the Arabian Registry placed at the end of a name to indicate their outstanding accom-

plishments. Positive they recognized the horse, they ran home and found dozens of his photos in numerous publications: head shots, confirmation shots, dashing photos that would be irrefutable, but what to do?

As they returned to the stock yards, trailers were loading. Fortunately,



Rauleigh remembered the pen the stallion was in, pen 74, and literally ran to the office to have the kill buyer paged. After waiting for what seemed like what was much longer than it must have been, a young man from South Dakota emerged from the crowd and a deal was struck. The kill buyer was offered \$100 more than he paid for the horse and for a check of \$495. The muddy, painfully thin, stallion became theirs. A hasty bill of sale was scribbled out on the back of a check blank. With reassurances that no one would accidentally load him while they retrieved their truck and trailer, they set off again for home. When Rauleigh went into the pen to put a halter on this old stallion, he put his head under Rauleigh's arm and buried his head in Rauleigh's chest, saying in his own way, "I don't belong here; can I go with you?"

The story did not end here. The stallion was in miserable shape, dramatically underweight, dehydrated because there was no food or water in the pens and they were six inches deep in wet slop (boots were needed to retrieve him.) He went straight to the wash rack for an iodine bath, a battery of shots and a futile attempt at grooming. Everything fed to him was more than he had been used to. Plain hay was even too rich. One could see every bone in

his body even through the ragged, long, dirty coat. The Robinsons began the task of slowly bringing this grand old gentleman back to health. His teeth were floated, shoes put on his badly damaged, severely contracted feet, vitamins were given, and daily grooming and limited exercise became a routine. Slowly this aged stallion began to improve and actually began to gain weight. It is a long and slow process to bring back a horse so neglected. Another task then fell to the Robinsons. How to find Hi-Fashion's owner as the people who "dumped" this stallion at the killer sale did not own him. The last publications that carried photos and information on Hi-Fashion had phone numbers that no longer worked and addresses of farms that no longer existed after some 15 to 20 years. Finally, the Arabian Horse Registry agreed to help find the owner. They forwarded a "to whom it may concern" letter that finally landed in the hands of his owner, then retired in Florida.

He was unbelieving at first, having been told the stallion had died. He actually thought this was some kind of a fraud and asked the Robinsons to shave down his markings and forward some photos to him. They assured the gentleman that they wanted nothing; they just wanted to return this stallion to his owner having found him at a local killer sale. The photos of this grand old horse (now age 24) made their way to Florida along with other information that the Robinsons knew about the ranch that had dumped him and had formerly been located in California.

Needless to say, there was a very angry owner on the other end of the line when he called Rauleigh and Eve. He thought he had found a retirement home for this wonderful horse when he had moved to a retirement village where he no longer could care for his own horses. To find out he had been lied to

and this once National, Regional and Class A Champion had been put through a killer sale literally made him sick. He visited at length with the Robinsons and finally asked them if they would consider caring for the horse for the rest of his natural life. In exchange, they could use him for breeding and he would sign any of the necessary papers to register his foals. He said he could hardly find a better place than the people who chose to rescue the horse and a deal was struck.

When Hi Fashion came to live with the Robinsons, he didn't ask for much. It was probably that he had asked so often and nothing was given him. But as he soon learned, his quiet nicker got him soft, leafy alfalfa that his long uncared for masticators could handle, or some steam rolled grains or clean fresh water -- he then learned to talk often. The long coat shed off in the spring and a round, robust lovely stallion began to reemerge reminiscent of his glory days of elegance and beauty.

Hi Fashion lived with the Robinsons for nearly five years. He sired 24 more purebred and part bred youngsters full of vibrancy and youth. He passed on his elegance, gentle character, charm and beauty. During that time, many visitors who remembered him from his early show days stopped in

to hear his story and run an approving hand down his long, white, silky neck or give him a hug. He became a fixture on the ranch, daily going around with Eve to check mares and provide companionship. His gentle presence impressed everyone who came in contact with him.



Then finally, on a beautiful, sunny, warm May day, Hi Fashion once again laid his head on Rauleigh's shoulder and communicated to him that he could no longer eat and he could no longer drink and was failing rapidly. Given more freedom than he ever had, the Robinsons removed

his halter and turned him loose in the pasture to roam among the mares. He sought out his favorites and touched noses with them, an image that the Robinsons say still haunts them. As anyone who has been around mares heavy in foal knows, they want nothing to do with a stallion. Yet these mares caressed his neck and scratched his withers as he gently nickered to them one last time. Very clearly, he was saying "Goodbye" and they fully understood. Then he returned to put his head once more under Rauleigh's arm and was led back to the safety and security of his stall where he laid down, rested his head on a pillow of fresh hay and breathed his last breath. Hi Fashion made his way to heaven among the angels on that warm May day and the Robinsons like to think that his hoof beats can still be heard as he takes the place of the lead horse in front of Elijah's chariot.

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# SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND BEYOND

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for changes to scheduled events

Sept. 3-7: Iowa Fall Classic USEF Show in Des Moines, IA; contact Laurie Persson at (920) 568-9073

Sept. 4 or 5: South Dakota State Fair Cowboy Mounted Shoot, Huron, SD; Fairgrounds; Contact: Mike Whitehead, 605-261-9766, www.daktms.com

Sept. 4-6: CAHC Fall USEF Show at Denver, CO; contact Jo Anne Read at (303) 648-3261

Sept. 4-6: Great American USDF Region 4 Midwest Regional Championship and Open Show in Mason City, IA; see www.dressageshowinfo.com or call (641) 424-3547

Sept 5-7: UMECRA White River Labor Day endurance rides in Hesperia, MI; contact Wayne Gastfield at (616) 924-2605

Sept. 6-7: Harvest Classic ACS Open Show at Bozeman, MT; contact Cheri Clark at (406) 388-3364 or showingcc@aol.com

Sept. 11-13: MN Pinto Horse September Celebration & Slot Bonanza at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. contact Kameron Duncan at (763) 355-9541 for more information

Sept. 11-13: ABU All Arabian USEF Show in Springfield, IL; contact Laurie Persson at (920) 568-9073

Sept. 12-13: UMECRA Charity Cup endurance rides at Pillager, Minn.; contact Michael or Lisa Powell at horselady1@yahoo.com or (320)250-0006

Sept. 12-13: UMECRA Keweenaw endurance rides at Lake Lindon, MI; contact Sheila Mattson at sm7814@earthlink.net or (906) 482-7814

Sept. 12-13: Minn. Paint Horse Assoc. "Fall Celebration & Futurity" at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. contact Bev Baker at (507) 767-2263 or email: bwelding@hbc.com

Sept. 12-13: Strait Rail Ranch "Special Events" Cutting at Strait Rail Ranch in Nevis, Minn. Dava Scribner Phone: (612) 845-1270

Sept. 12-13: Charity Cup Ride at Pillsbury State Forest 1 mile east of Pillager, Minn. on Highway 210; contact Lisa Powell at (320) 309-9075 or email: horselady1@yahoo.com

Sept. 13-14: Pioneer Cabin Endurance Ride: 25, 50, 75 miles in Helena, MT; contact Juli Muscutt at (406) 449-8639

Sept. 14-18: Big Sky Draft Horse Expo at Deer Lodge, MT with a mule and draft horse show, team driving, working teamsters classes, kids stick horse race, quilt and carriage show; contact Marion Barton at 406-846-2854 or go to www.draffhorseexpo.com

Sept. 18-20: Rocky Mountain Horse Expo at Ignacio, CO; see www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com

Sept. 18-20: Colorado Fall Charity Denver, CO USEF Show at Louisville CO; contact Anne Burton at (303) 665-3307

Sept. 19-20: MAHA Fall Classic Horse Show at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn.; contact Lori Conway at (507) 202-4440 or email: lori@conwayarabians.com

Sept. 19-20: UMECRA Colorama Classic endurance rides at Greenbush, WI; contact Jill Feller at jfeller@nconnect.net or (920) 948-9502

Sept. 18-20: Spirit of the West Festival CMSA Cowboy Mounted Shoot; \$3,000 Chuck Wagon Cook-off; Contact: Mike Whitehead, 605-261-9766, www.daktms.com. Also a Chuck Wagon and Dutch Oven Cook Off held at this event. www.spiritofthewestfestival.com

Sept. 18-20: RHRA Harvest Run Barrel Race at Red Horse Ranch in Fer-

gus Falls, Minn. contact (218) 736-3232 for more information

September 19: AQHA show with the Sheyenne Valley Team Penning at Lisbon, ND; visit www.sheyennevalleyteampenning.com or call Diane at (701) 252-4020

Sept. 19-20: Colorama Classic Endurance Ride at New Prospect, Wis., contact Jill Feller at (920)948-9502 or email: jfeller@nconnect.net

Sept. 25-27: Benefit Trail Ride and Ranch Sort at Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Proceeds will go to various children programs; go to www.mnqha.com to download forms or contact Midge at (651) 260-6354 or email: mnride06@yahoo.com

Sept. 25-27: American Royal Arabian Horse USEF Show at Kansas City, MO; contact Ruth Charpie at (816) 765-5683

Sept. 26-27, 2009 - Fall Trail Ride, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit; Smith Rapids, WI. See www.widonkeymule.org for more information

Sept. 26-27: Run for the Ridge Endurance Ride at Fort Ridgely State Park in Fairfax, Minn.; contact Sarah Maass at (507) 426-8385 or email: sarahmaass@hotmail.com

Sept. 27-28: DDE's Pheasant Open shows and USDFBC West Central Series Finals, INDOORS at Huron SD, dressage of all levels & In Hand sport horse classes, presented by Dakota Dressage and Eventing. Details online at www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or contact committee chair Joann at Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com or 402-639-3575

October 2-3, 2009 -- MN Rodeo Association Finals, Red Horse Ranch Arena, Fergus Falls, Minn. call 218-736-3000, or email: rhra@prtcl.com or visit: www.RedHorseRanchArena.com

Oct. 3-4: Draw-A-Rama Endurance Rides at Palmyra, WI; contact Nicole Herrmann at (920) 726-4313

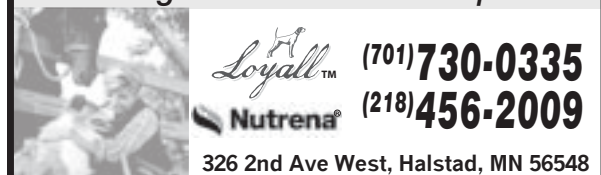
October 8 - 11: Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado for the CHA International Conference. Open to all horse enthusiasts!

October 9-10: "Fall Festival" Incentive Fund Futurity at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact Dava Scribner Phone: 651-462-1803 for more information.

Oct. 10: WDMS meeting, Westfield Village Hall/Fire Dept., 124 3rd St., Westfield, WI 53964. Potluck 11:00 AM, meeting follows. See www.widonkeymule.org for more information

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# SADDLING THE ARABIAN

By Cordia Pearson

Think come-along girth tightners, think crupper, think breast collar, think no slip pads, think pulling your hair out in frustration.

All of the above are symptoms of the Arabian rider trying to keep their saddle in place on their horse's back. The why is simple--an extremely short back with no withers to speak of on a barrel that resembles, well frankly, an oil barrel.

Compounding the problem, few saddlers make the hoop tree that this breed demands. Our breed (Morgans) share a huge number of saddling characteristics with the Arab, so it's fair to say I have put thirty-plus years into resolving the issue of revolving saddles.

While the strong back of the Arabian makes them a premier Endurance horse, when a saddle has a more tent shaped tree, nothing short of brute force can keep it in place. And when force is used, the tree cuts into the back muscles, doing damage and ruining performance.

A correctly shaped saddle tree and panel will lay quietly on the round-backed horse. The panel needs to be wide and thinner. Too high a gusset can shove the cantle too high and create a tipped pelvis for the rider and pressure points for the horse. One of my favorite tests of a saddle is to place it on the horse's bare back in the correct position--with the points 1.5" behind the shoul-

wild the number of Quarter horses, Icelandics and Paints I saddle with Arabian bars.) The one saddle that almost always works with Arabians is the Freedom Saddle, made by Crates for Meleta Brown. The bars of this saddle



Top photo: Suzette Sontag of www.smartstartstable.com riding Safarr+// in the Lovatt & Ricketts Berkeley--a flared tree. Bottom photo: David Bowler of www.dressage-saddles-uk.com on his Arabian, Strada, now 27-years-old.

are flared at the shoulders, very important for the width of the Arab barrel those shoulders move over. They also have enough rise over the flank so that they do not cut into the loin between the ribs and hips. Equally important are the width of the bars, a full 1.5" wider than most stock bars. Why? Because the greater the bearing surface in contact with the back, the

smaller the pressure any one square inch of the back.

There is only one English saddle in the world that replicates the shape of the Arabian back in the same way that the Freedom Saddle does. This is an interesting ponder. America's Western saddle trees are in the shape of the horse. Unlike some saddles designed to speed through the factory manufacturing process, quality Western trees are made at great expense and precision so they match the horse. Saddle designer David Bowler, owner of Strada Saddles has done the same thing. I began working with David's saddles early this year and while they are still "new" to me, I am thrilled at how well they work. A Dressage rider in Canada who just test rode (and ordered) a Strada described it as Dressage Heaven. Like the Steele Saddle Tree Company's "Fit to be seen" systems of forms, David has done the same thing for his Dressage, Endurance and Jumping saddles.

Feel free to contact me via phone (651-462-5654) or web www.saddlefitter.com if I can be of assistance saddling your Arabian.

Cordia Pearson is one of fifteen Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddle Fitters in the United States. She brings the Society's highest standards to her work with both English and Western saddles. She is a rider and has bred Morgan horses for more

than thirty years. "Every moment you spend with your horse is precious and none of it should be wasted struggling with painful or crippling lack." You can find her on the web at www.Saddlefitter.com

## Iowa Pinto Association 2nd Annual Jubilee October 24-25th, 2009 Iowa Equestrian Center Cedar Rapids

Judges: Burton Butler, Kathy Miller, Gary Miller  
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For show bill/registration forms  
Check out the Iowa Pinto website

**ptha.org**

click on links / click on charters / click on Iowa

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or Wendy @ 763-856-4054 or  
visit: www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org



## SIoux EMPIRE FAIR ARABIAN SHOW AT SIoux FALLS, S.D.



The 70th Annual Sioux Empire Fair hosted several horse events Aug. 11-16 in Sioux Falls, S.D. including the Class 'A' Arabian Horse show with over 80 classes available for entry at the Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building. Show manager was Heather Swanson.

Top left: Paige Osborne riding saddle seat upon "Chairman of the Bask." Top right: Riding "Fadl Attraction," a 16-year-old stallion in the Arabian Mounted Native Costume class, is Deb Risty of "Glory Bound Arabians" from Brandon, S.D. Bottom left: Spencer Kurtz, 17, son of Connie and Eric Kurtz of Montrose, S.D. riding "RH Naughty by Nature" an 8-year-old gelding. Bottom right: Wendy Hartman with her daughter, Cassie Hartman, riding in the leadline class upon "SW Zibba."

**NEW VE SECTION: "MEMORY PAGE" REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED CRITTER: HORSE, CAT, DOG, LIZARD, BIRD, ETC. WITH A MEMORIAL AD! CONTACT ANY VE SALES MANAGER OR EMAIL: THEVENews@GMAIL.COM**

## Dakota 50/50 Futurity and Sale Gearing Up for Another Successful Event

Since its inception in 2002, the Dakota 50/50 Sale and Futurity has grown in popularity and success. It is the goal of the 50/50 to promote well-trained, intelligent and attractive horses through selective bloodlines bred by our members. Our members consist of horse ranchers, breeders and horse enthusiasts who aim to raise quality working horses. Our 35 members may consign two weanlings each year to our sale and 50% of their total purchase price goes towards the jackpot that those colts will compete for as two-year olds. The other 50% goes to the breeders and to help fund our two-day event. On October 30th and 31st 2009, this year's returning two-year olds will be competing for \$19,200 under four judges in three classes, (two judges a day, the same classes both days). Next year, the returning two-year olds will be competing for \$21,900! Just imagine the potential jackpot for 2011 with your par-

ticipation in the Dakota 50/50 Sale and Futurity. The futurity entrees compete in a conformation class, a rail division and a trail class. The top ten placings, from combined points over both days win the jackpot! On top of that, we are giving away gift bags to the top ten places, a show halter to the top non-youth, non-pro entry, a belt buckle to the top youth competitor, and a show saddle to the top amateur competitor! In addition to our two-day futurity show, the Dakota 50/50 hosts a trade show, the "Mane Street Canteen" as well as "The Mane Event" Friday night for exhibitors, competitors and members. Saturday after the show we have the awards ceremony followed by the weanling sale where horse enthusiasts like you may become a part of our organization. Since we are a non-profit organization we rely very much on our sponsors and donations. All of our top ten prizes and raffle items at the "Mane

## CYCLONE LARRY OFF TO HOLLYWOOD

Cyclone Larry, a three year old Thoroughbred racehorse currently residing at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, North Dakota was recently chosen by the head horse wrangler for the Disney corporation as one of the new stars of the upcoming Disney movie "Secretariat". The movie, based on the life of 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat, is scheduled to begin filming in Fall of 2009 and when a casting call went out nationwide for horses to fill the main role, General Manager Heather Benson answered.

"They were looking for a big, bright chestnut Thoroughbred with a happy attitude and good health and 'Larry' fit that to a T" said Benson, Larry's owner. "We sent

in his photos and biography to their website, www.secretariat.com, and a week later Larry got the call to Hollywood!"

Cyclone Larry will join 3-4 other Thoroughbred horses in filling the part of America's champion racehorse of the 1970's. The movie will begin filming sometime at the end of 2009 and should be released sometime the summer of 2010. Head Wrangler, Rusty Hendrickson will have Larry shipped to the Kentucky-based training center for the production company sometime during the week of August 28 where he will begin the training necessary to prepare him for his on-screen role. Until then, the new Hollywood "star" will reside at the North Dakota Horse Park and remain in training.



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2008 First place winner Rider Kim Kraft on "Go Princess Sophie", Breeders Dave and Phyllis Gieszler of Bottineau, ND.

## THE DANGERS OF OVERMEDICATION AND UNDER DIAGNOSIS IN THE SPORT HORSE

BY DR. A. KENT ALLEN, DVM

In this day and age, there are many medications available to both human and horses. While some of these medications are quite benign, most of them have varying degrees of side effects. Some of the side effects are relatively minor, while some are rapidly fatal. Recent national events have shown us that we must take great care in what we put in our horses. Obviously, horses can neither tell you where it hurts nor can they tell you what they feel like on a given medication. So, paying attention to what our horses have been diagnosed and medicated with is critical.

The USEF equine drug and medication rule is a rule that has evolved for 30+ years and serves almost 30 breed and discipline organizations. It is, however, a rule that has served us well for a long time, as long as we remember to continually modify it in favor of the horse. The last major modification of the rule was in 1998. The modification involved setting dosage restrictions on all of the medications permitted by the USEF. This was accomplished and has since helped people with correctly medicating their horses. Another proposal that was put forward at the same meeting was not able to be passed at that time. The USEF Veterinary committee put forward a recommendation that the Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) be limited to a single medication. This proposal was ahead of its time and had neither the research nor the political will to succeed. Since that time the American Quarter Horse Association has adopted a single NSAID rule and has lived with it successfully for many years. It is certainly time to revisit this proposal within the USEF.

NSAID's (Phenylbutazone, Banamine, Equioxx and others) are the most commonly used medications in the athletic horse. These medications provide us with the ability to treat inflamed joints, readily and easily. They are useful in treating colic conditions. They are the single most useful medication in temporarily treating mild inflammatory conditions in the horse. Similar to the NSAID's available for human usage, they are meant to be taken at reasonable doses for a short period of time. Complications of overmedication can occur when they are taken at too high a dose, too long a period of time, or combined with other medications. The complications of overmedication in the horse include gastric ulcers, deterioration of joints and tendons from masking pain and rupture of the intestine. No single NSAID licensed for use in the horse was ever intended to be used in conjunction with another NSAID.

The research of the last 10 years into NSAID use and pain management has taught us much. We are now aware of the very real danger of masking significant injury in our performance horses with more than one NSAID drug. We are aware that "stacking" NSAID use in some circumstances is similar to doubling the

dose. We are aware in the stressed horse even normal doses can cause significant side effects. We are aware of how common gastrointestinal side effects (gastric ulcers, colic, intestinal perforation) are with a single nonsteroidal at elevated doses. We are aware that it is difficult to predict the effect on the horse in combining two non-steroidal drugs. In some cases the drugs are no more effective than a single drug, in other cases they were more powerful than two drugs taken separately and in some cases they mask pain more effectively than very potent morphine-like drugs. We are aware that there will always be a need for more research into this area but on this particular topic the answer seems to be clear.

The question has been raised that if we limit treatment to a single non-steroidal drug will that increase the amount of joint injections being put into our horses? First, it is important to understand that a joint injection properly performed in experienced veterinary hands is the single most effective anti-inflammatory treatment we have for a equine joint. Secondly, there are numerous medications to inject into joints. Often it is hyaluronic acid in combination with a variety of cortisones, or autologously derived (from the horse's own blood) therapies such as IRAP. Some of these medications are extremely safe and all of them will significantly reduce joint inflammation. On the question of "are joint injections going to be overused," the answer is that is already happening today. In some cases, joint injections are being used as treatments in four, six or eight joints without a diagnosis of joint inflammation ever being established. This is dangerous not only from the standpoint of increasing the number of joint injections in the horse and potential side effects but you may or may not be treating the real problem. Accurate diagnosis, including lameness examination, nerve blocks, joint blocks and diagnostic imaging is the most effective method of determining what the problem is and if the horse needs joint injections. This also has the benefit of reducing the cost to owners as well as the risk to the horse.

A similar question has been raised, will we increase the amount of illicit drugs being administered to our horses by limiting legal treatment to a single non-steroidal drug. The vast majority of horse owners and USEF members would never consider this option. A very small minority of people will attempt this option if they think they can get away with it. The real answer is that this small minority will attempt to cheat, no matter what the legal drug rule is. The best defense against these individuals is to have a highly effective drug medication research laboratory. The USEF Drug and Research Laboratory is one of the most effective equine drug detection laboratories in the world. It is one of five FEI equine reference laboratories in the world. The USEF Equine and Drug



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and Medication Program spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to stay ahead of illicit drug usage. The program tests up to 17,000 samples a year collected on a random basis and will eventually catch someone using illicit drugs.

So the answer to the question of how do we reduce the amount of overmedication and under diagnosis in our horses, is simple. We revisit the USEF medication rule. We make it simpler for our members to understand and implement. We make it safer for our equine friends because they are counting on us to do the right thing. For more information, visit: <http://www.usef.org/>

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# Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Exceeds Expectations

The 5th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer topped all previous years' celebrations not only in terms of funds raised but with the many varied activities enjoyed by the more than 375 riders and approximately 750 spectators.

Cowboy Up started Friday, Aug. 14 with the Cowboy Up Extreme Fun Race, a Cowboy Up Wedding at 5 p.m. at Clayton Johnson's yard, followed by Brother Jukebox for

evening of entertainment.

"Considering the weather, the support is unbelievable. The riders come rain or shine. It was a good time. We thank everyone that supports us - riders or not," said organizer Carol Van Den Einde.

Local celebrities joined in the fun. Joel Heitkamp of KFGO Radio broadcast live from McLeod, N.D. Friday evening. Shawna Olson, from Valley News Live, a long supporter of the event, rode her horse Gunner in the ride Saturday. "The Truck" broadcasted live the morning of

the ride, Saturday, August 15, and Hoppy Gilmore from Froggy radio was aboard to kick off the 2009 ride.

Other events included a wood bat softball tournament, a silent auction of more than 300 items, food, people mover tours of McLeod, the Bernhardt Quarter Horse and JST Quarter Horse foal sale, a kid's carnival on Saturday, an evening meal, and a horseshow tournament.

The Town of McLeod served a Cowboy Break-

fast Saturday and Sunday morning. Camping was available throughout the weekend.

Lone Wolf provided the Saturday evening entertainment with a special guest appearance of comedian Tony Martinez.

This year's efforts earned the hard-working committee and event organizers a total \$52,000 plus that will be given to the Roger Maris Cancer Center. Carol Van Den Einde Karen Haugen, one of 13 committee members

who organize the event with the help of many more volunteers, said next year's Cowboy Up will be held Aug. 21, 2010 and the weekend's events will be similar to this year.

For more information about Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer or to get involved in next year's festivities, go to: <http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/>



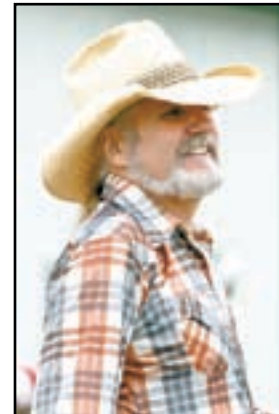
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Two purebred weanling fillies for your consideration. Black and bay, these fillies will knock your sox off with their breeding, conformation and dispositions.  
For more information and photos, please call:  
**701-527-5271**



Above: Fargo, N.D. celebrity, Shawna Olson, greets crowd at Saturday's Cowboy Up ride.



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Photography by Jesse Trelstad

# Helland Ranch & Comet Ranch Production Sale

Unique once a year production sale that features well bred horses from the Helland Ranch and the Comet Ranch.

This sale will differ from any other production sales in North Dakota. The horse prices are predetermined. Preview the horses at 10 a.m. Purchase the horses at noon. No need to wait for hours for that one horse you want to walk though the ring.

*Bloodlines include some of the industry's best. These horses have the bloodlines to do it all!*

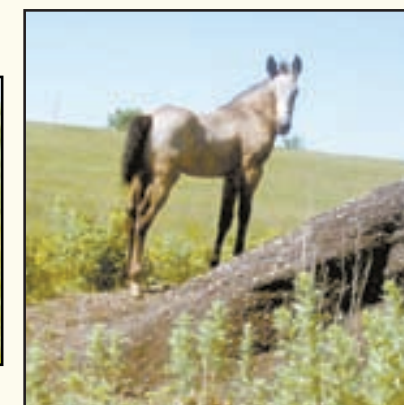
Come and meet us and our fine horses. Fun packed day! Door prizes.

**Lisbon Expo Center, Lisbon, North Dakota**  
**September 27, 2009**  
**Preview: 10 a.m. Sale: Noon**

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[hellandranch@hotmail.com](mailto:hellandranch@hotmail.com)  
701-238-6197 cell

Rinda Opp  
Comet Ranch  
[www.cometranch.com](http://www.cometranch.com)  
[roppbek@bektel.com](mailto:roppbek@bektel.com)  
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# Meet the Schoolmasters

at the

## Brady Equestrian Center LLC



**Vero:** Swedish Warmblood gelding by Livius; age 19; 16.2 hands; 4th level USDF horse of the year; the sensitive and advanced rider will thoroughly enjoy this horse!  
Ridden by Kristina Gillespie



**Tipper:** Canadian Thoroughbred (okay, he's not Swedish but he thinks he is!); age 18; 15.3 hands; CCI\* Prelim eventing horse shown through 2nd level dressage; absolutely outstanding horse for the beginner!  
Ridden by Alana Bernhardt



**Bruno:** Swedish Warmblood gelding, age 26 (and still going strong), 16.3 hands; schooled through 3rd level dressage and jumping; great for beginners and for working on position, balance, and rhythm!  
Ridden by Megan Donaldson



**Tucker:** Swedish Warmblood gelding by Galapard; age 13; 17.2 hands; schooled through 4th level and PSG; both the beginner and advanced rider will appreciate this horse!  
Ridden by Stephanie Swiers

**THESE HORSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR LEASE, SHOWS AND CLINICS**



**Mia:** Swedish Warmblood mare by Kyra Kyrklund's Master; age 10; 15.3 hands; schooled through second level dressage; very forward and fun on trails; excellent for beginners!  
Ridden by Maverick Brady



**BEC Coupon**  
Coupon good for one free riding lesson or 20% off any breeding services. Limit one coupon per customer. Good through 12/31/09.



"Margo and her dressage horses helped ignite my interest in classical dressage."

Brooke Leininger  
HeadCoach Equestrian Team  
Teaching Specialist Equine Science  
University of Minnesota - Crookston



**Bayron:** imported Swedish Warmblood stallion; age 19; 16.3 hands; schooled through Gran Prix; available to the advanced rider with stallion experience; a very special horse!  
Ridden by Geni Corwin

**Lessons:** \$45 adults  
\$35 children  
\$25 group



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**Contact: Margo Brady • 218-789-7704 • mturkish@msn.com**