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The Valley Equestrian

Vol. 3 No. 7

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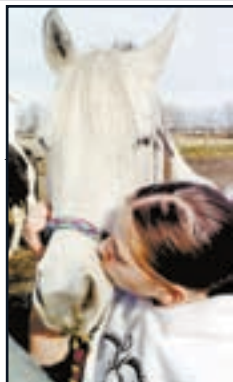
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The Valley Equestrian is published monthly.

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Senate Passes National Day of the Cowboy Resolution



Mary Salata kisses Ari

EDITOR'S CLIPBOARD

We added a new feature this month: highlighting artistic and talented youth. On page 18 you will find an essay by Mary Salata and drawing by Sara Enderle. These two gifted young ladies are the first of many the VE hopes to showcase. If you know of similarly talented youth, please urge them to submit their work and share with the VE readers.



One of the VE goals is to be local where we are distributed. Should your group want to submit an article and photographs about your events, or know someone special who should receive recognition, send the information to Ley Bouchard, Editor, Box 64, Sabin, Minn. 56580; call (701) 361-8648 or email: leybou@gmail.com.

Happy Trails!
Ley Bouchard

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Left: Tristin Hunt at the Up North Miniature Horse Show, Portland, N.D. June 17



Last month's cover photograph (above), enjoyed and complimented by many readers and contributed by Phillip Odden, was photographed by Bob Mischke.

Around the Far Turn

The final countdown has begun! Live horse racing at the North Dakota Horse Park is now but weeks away and the track is quickly shedding its winter coat and becoming summer sleek!

In December of 2008, the track was allotted a total of 16 days of Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred racing by the North Dakota Racing Commission. In an effort to make those days give the fans more "bang for their buck," the Board of Directors for the Fargo-based racetrack chose to switch to a 2 day week and extend the racing season from the 5 weekends it saw in 2008 to a total of 7 weekends for 2009. Translation: More Dollar Hotdog and Dollar Beer Fridays! Racing will now run on Friday and Saturday evenings, with a first post time on each day of 5 p.m. There will be no Sunday racing with the exception of Labor Day weekend which will feature the Horse Park traditional four day North Dakota-bred Racing Extravaganza. Post times for Labor Day Sunday and Monday will remain at 1 p.m. "Our focus is on making the Horse Park a regional entertainment destination," said General Manager Heather Benson "By providing more weekends for people to get to the track, we hope that the greater Red River Valley area will get a chance to see what we are all about. It also allows our horsemen and women a chance to situate themselves here in Fargo for a longer time ... which is always easier on both families and horses!"

Much like 2008, the summer of 2009 will see many exciting changes and additions to the Horse Park line-up. In 2008, the Horse Park built the 6400 square foot

Cover-All Pavilion, a project that went from conception to construction in just 90 days. During the spring of 2009, the Horse Park was the recipient of a grant for \$30,000 from the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitor's Bureau that allowed the Horse Park to create a full concrete floor and finish a large kitchen and dining area in the west end of the building. Newly christened the "Cowboy Cafe," the Horse Park's new dining area will feature a variety of Tex-Mex creations by local chef Carmela Milz as well as outdoor summer fare such as grilled burgers, bratwurst and of course, the Horse Park's famous Friday Dollar Hotdogs. "We're excited to have our own cafe in 2009," said Heather Benson. "In past years, we have contracted all of our food out and therefore have had little control of the fan experience. We are looking forward to giving people great food at a great price, while still shortening the food lines and expanding the menu."

Variety seekers, never fear, the Horse Park will still be bringing in a few outside vendors to satisfy the need for culinary adventure! New for 2009, the Horse Park will see Famous Dave's BBQ become a part of the Horse Park family. Not only will Famous Dave's be the go-to caterer for large corporate groups hosted in the Horse Park's new VIP Clubhouse Private Tent, they will bring their fair stand to the Park and offer a full menu of pulled pork sandwiches, ribs and other BBQ goodies. Another new face at the Horse Park will be ven-

dor Jeff Beving. "I want to offer people something that is not only healthy, but tastes good too ... all in a way that is portable," said Jeff, a lifelong horse racing fan. "I have been at tracks across the country and I know that good food is a big part of what keeps people coming back." Jeff will offer race fans a selection that includes Walleye Wraps, Shrimp Skewers and Veggie Pitas.

Saturday is the new Sunday ... at least at the North Dakota Horse Park! To keep the littlest race fans coming back, the Horse Park has moved their traditional family day from Sunday to Saturday in accordance with the new schedule. The Horse Park will offer free admission for all fans under the age of 18 and will bring back their popular kids events such as the Silver Scramble, stick pony races, inflatable playgrounds by Games Galore and yes, everyone's favorite ex-racehorse, Barracuda Boy and his Barracuda Buddies educational program. "Our youngest fans are the best," said Heather Benson. "I often tell people, if you don't want to come for the races, come for the Silver Scramble on Family Day, that's entertainment enough!"

However, most fans come for the horses and the summer is shaping up to a very horse-filled season! "Right now, we already have 250 stalls reserved which is way ahead of schedule compared to 2008," said Track Assistant, Jessie Monson. "We're seeing horsemen that have never been here before, from

as far away as Idaho and Utah." The North Dakota Horse Park is known regionally for its safe racing surface (ZERO catastrophic breakdowns in 2008) and fun atmosphere and has traditionally attracted horsemen from over a dozen states each year. 2009 promises to be interesting for horsemen and bettors alike as along with new horses and trainers, new jockeys from the West will ride into town, looking to upset 5-time leading rider at the Horse Park, Jake Olesiak.

In 2009, the North Dakota Horse Park will award over \$350,000 in purses to horsemen and see an average purse of \$2300 per race, an increase of 20 percent over 2008. As always, the Horse Park features a mix of both Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred racing. "We tell new people we have 'drag car' (Quarter Horse) and 'Indy car' (Thoroughbred) racing here," said Heather Benson. Feature Quarter Horse races include the \$20,000 North Dakota Quarter Horse Futurity on August 7th, \$12,000 John Deere/AQHA Challenge Race on August 21 and \$23,000 Northern Plains Futurity on September 6. Thoroughbred fans will be treated with the Roughrider Handicap on July 25th, the Flickertail Stakes for fillies on August 15th and the 7th Annual North Dakota Derby on August 29th.

2009 promises to bring lots of hot summer nights with lots of hot racing action at the North Dakota Horse Park. With new food, new horses and new post times, the Horse Park is back again to make a splash in the Red River Valley entertainment scene!

FACEBOOK: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper



Ruth McCoy, Plymouth, Minn. based photographer, captured this image of a grazing pony at the Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, Calif. "It was a great place to spend the day," said McCoy.

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Dressage Defined

By MARGO BRADY

What is a pony? Many authorities consider any equine fewer than 14.2 hands high at the withers to be a pony, and anything 14.2 hands and over to be a horse. (Each hand is equivalent to 4 inches.) However, ponies can also be classified by conformation. Ponies are typically deeper through the body in relation to their length of leg than a horse. They are rounded over the withers and have short backs. Their cannon bones tend to be very strong and dense, allowing them to carry considerable amounts of weight. The pony head has small ears, is wide across the forehead and tapers down to a fine muzzle. The mane and tail tend to be very thick and dense.

What about horses that are under 14.2 hands? For example there are Arabians and Morgans under 14.2 hands, yet they are not considered ponies due to their distinct breed characteristics and "horse" conformation. The Fjord horse has the opposite problem. Quite a few are 14.2 hands and over, yet due to their pony type conformation, they are often classified as such.

Then we have the Miniature Horse which is the smallest equine, only 34-38 inches at the withers, yet who retains the exact conformation and proportions of a horse! The Miniature Horse was created from crosses with Shetland ponies (very

Americans always refer to their mounts as "ponies" although they are horses of Spanish descent. "Cow ponies" are used on the ranch and are often Quarter Horses, Appaloosas or Paints. The United States Pony Club refers to any mount ridden by one of its members to be a "pony," regardless of breed or size. And the dressage pony can be any breed!

What can be more endearing than a child riding a pony with its scruffy mane and cute little legs?

Ponies from around the world have been used for classical riding with children. The Gotlands Russ pony of Sweden is very primitive, found originally on the Gotland Island in the Baltic Sea. It is an extremely hardy breed with good stamina and



Nina Bengtsson, riding her Gotlands Russ, Hasse Clipp a 7 yr old gelding, in Sweden

surefootedness. They exhibit classical pony conformation with their typical pony head, small ears, bright eyes, and straight profile. The feet are very tough. They are incredibly strong for their size and are used for packing, farm work, in harness, and mostly as a child's mount. The photo of the Gotlands Russ is a prime example of the aforementioned characteristics. Note the correct, classical dressage leg position of the rider even though she is in a jumping saddle.

The Welsh pony has lent itself very nicely to the sport of dressage with his refined characteristics

and light movement. It has now become popular to cross Welsh ponies with larger Warmblood breeds to create what is now called the "Sport Pony," often seen as a ladies mount for dressage, jumping and eventing. In England, for many years, Welsh ponies were crossed with Thoroughbreds to create the "Riding Pony," a smaller version of the "Riding Hack." Last month we introduced the Fjord

pony as a draft breed and remarked on his ability for driven dressage. This month we see a lovely photo of Fjord gelding, Prisco, showing off his extended trot under Lori Albrough of Canada, a trainer who specializes in Fjords for dressage. A range of varieties exists within the Fjord breed lending some individuals suitable for riding and others for driving or draft work. This breed, also a primitive and ancient type

of pony, is used more like a horse due to his size and substance.

Another reputation of the pony is stubbornness. Certainly, ponies that have been ridden only by inexperienced children can develop bad habits and tricks they learn they can get away with. Ponies are intelligent and cunning. They will quickly discover the

means to get what they want, be it to eat grass while out on a ride, head back to the barn before their rider is ready, or to stand still while being kicked in the sides to move forward. It is very important that good training be done by an adult or under adult supervision in the early stages of the pony's schooling to insure a safe and fun mount for children. Ponies are very long lived, some into their 30's, so one good pony can be



Meadowe Brady riding Welsh pony, Merrylegs, under the direction of Swedish trainer Ulf Wadeborn. (Yes, dressage can be done in jeans, cowgirl boots, and leopard print gloves!)

enjoyed by many!

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 Jenä, Head Riding Master and Director of the dressage program at Flying, 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 Grand 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

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Cowboy Poetry

MOVE 'EM OUT, MOVE 'EM UP (BEEF HERD)

by Oro Alvoshere LIKE JOYRIDES IN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

Working cowboys tell of their favorite cattle drives with great pleasure. Moving beef cattle to high mountain pastures... a mem'ry to treasure. Viewing the cattle country of mid-Montana, some of God's handiwork. Rides were long and hard, but the seldom seen rangeland, was a perk. Surveying the immense panorama of the valley was so stunning. Wild deer and elk were grazing, some standing and watching like they were sunning. The steep ride UP the mountain to six thousand feet was not for quitters. Call them cowboys, wranglers, drovers, buckaroos...but *not* critter sitters!

HANGING 'ROUND A ROUND STEAK/PENED FOR EARLY RISING
Day 1, cowboys on working horses rounded up and penned herds of beef. When the corral gates were closed, wranglers and horses rested in relief. Some older cows knew from past cattle drives they would happily find tall grass. Crossing rivers, they wound their way UP the mountain and through the pass. Younger livestock seemed confused. A large number of spring calves were bleating. Young calves sought protection from Mamma Cow by circling and retreating. Between a cow and her calf? You would seek protection, you'd be the quitter. A provoked Mamma Cow would charge, and prove to be the world's best critter sitter!

STANDING EYE-TO-EYE WITH STANDING RIB-EYES/REWARDING YOUR STEED
Most working ponies, draft and pleasure horses, like human connection. They respond with effort in return for oats, hay, water and protection. They love to be curried and groomed and wish the partnership to be attentive. They await your morning return. Attention improves their incentive. If you're assigned a new cow pony, approach gently, use a slow touch, Breathe into it's nostrils, talk softly, then pause and use a gentle clutch. When you hear the signal, 'cowboy up' from the owner or ranch outfitter, Keep your wits about you, you're expected to be more than a critter sitter.

SHOW TIME...BREAK A LEG/SOUNDS OF 4-HOOVED THUNDER
Day 2, saddled and ready, double-check your cinch, wait...they'll open the gate. Cows envision fresh pastures, tall grass... the leader bolts, without debate. Anxious Lead Mamma Cow speeds with a steady, quick-step pace, almost a canter. The wranglers whoop and holler, slap their ropes on their boots...and banter. Don't challenge. Lead 'bossy' cow are literally 'bossy'...and self-appointed! Other cows fall in line and follow. She'd the Queen Bee...and self-anointed! Discretion - the better part of valor, and caution...she's a head-strong critter! To dissuade, or alter routes, you must prove you're more than a critter sitter.

CACOPHONOUS, THE HERD IS HEARD/GETTING UP IN THIS WORLD
Cow-calf pairs stick close together. We may think they all look alike. They're known by sight, smell and sound. Herds move. Suddenly a maverick on strike Bolts to right. A trained cow horse is instantly on his tail. Drovers beware; horses can react as fast as you. He's hustled back on the trail. The herd was moving as fast as four hooves could carry them, marching strong. That spirited Lead Cow *detours left*, and the whole herd follows along. Holy methane backfire, Batman, that lead rider, *confused*, did consider: She *should* know the trail. How now brown cow? Did she *dupe* the critter sitter?

UP GETS REDEFINED BY LITTLE BELT MOUNTAINS
What's a cowboy to do? Seemed those methane-burners had lit their afterburner. He enjoyed the distant scenery, the soaring hawks, as a sojourner. "Get along little doggies." The cows bellered. "Quit your beller-aching." He chided. Steep ascents...with trouble ahead...the river was snaking. They crossed the river 30 times. Rookie calves balked. They were nudged, Into the water by trained horses. Nature gave swimming skills, but they'd misjudged. Without stampedes so far...their saddles became *hand-polished*. He did permit her To lead the beeves UP the *wrong trail*, so they waited, hmmm, like a critter sitter.

GO TO GRASS YOU ORNERY COW/SHIFT HAPPENS
Nine long saddle hours...delivery completed...slepted in the line cabin overnight. Cud-chewing, four-stomach bovines found tall grass. A seven hour ride at daylight. Down the mountain goes faster, except for pauses behind the trees. Day 3, no rogue cows to slow them. No calves needing prodding in the mountain breeze. They followed the 'critter litter' trail, *no detours*, just the shortest route, Down the canyon, through the draws, away from snow caps...beauty beyond doubt. The drovers moved beeves on the hoof. They were the pick of the litters.

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The Dynamics of Animal Communication and Healing

By KATHERINE WINDFEATHER THOMPSON

These days, there can be no doubt that so-called animal communicators are coming out of the woodwork. In my experience this is part of a much bigger picture. Communication has little to do with being able to "talk" to animals in a verbal dialog, although that can be a lot of fun and very entertaining. Communication is really opening a doorway to a deeper understanding of animals, an awareness of our own, innate abilities to see and hear more. It often indicates the need for healing at deeper levels.



This point of view is not where I started out in my relationships with animals. I grew up in a very traditional environment as the daughter of a cattleman and feedlot owner. If you would have told me that I'd be transitioning to a life working on an energetic level with animals, I'm pretty sure I would have told you point blank that you were full of that fertilizer that cows so abundantly produce.

But the truth is, I literally had a heavenly push toward taking this unorthodox approach to relating to horses. It was so strong that I shifted from a career as a racehorse trainer to that

of a healer. Talk about taking a plunge off the deep end! So let me share with you a few of the more profound things I've learned in the 15 years I've been working as an animal

communicator and a certified clairvoyant healer. First and foremost is the obvious fact that animals often mirror issues we're working on, in both an emotional and physical level. These issues will manifest in a behavior or physical problem. So, in essence, they take on "our stuff" in order to help us process it. We don't always recognize this, and if and when we do, then fixing it is the next challenge. That's where people like me come in.

Most approaches to healing from traditional veterinary and medical science perspectives are ones that deal with the symptoms of disease in the body. We now know that all forms of illness or injury have a root cause in the emotional body. While the emotional body is outside the realm of our physical experience, it doesn't take rocket science to validate that it exists. Science knows and quantum physics shows! When I'm working on an animal, I'm not practicing veterinary medicine on the physical body. I'm working on the emotional body and the charge therein that has created the problem in the physical. Inevitably, when that charge is removed, a shift, in both the emotional and the physical, is facilitated. Often, the results are visible to even an unpracticed eye. Let me give you an

example of this. Some time back a woman came to me at a horse expo for a reading on her gelding. During this reading, I told her some things about this horse of which I had no previous knowledge. It was clear to me that he'd tangled with some barbed wire and had considerable tendon damage in one of his rear legs; there was a lot of scar tissue buildup that interfered with fluid movement. In fact, the horse showed the symptoms of straining. I also told her some other things that she felt only she could have known, so she was quite blown away by my accuracy. She took my brochure home and later called and asked me to do a long distance healing for her. Over 2,000 miles away from my home, she went out to her horse's paddock to watch what would happen at the prescribed time. While I was doing the healing, several times her gelding jerked his head up from grazing and took some very deep breaths. His owner became extremely emotional and began feeling queasy, with heavy pressure in her chest and throat. The end result within two weeks was remarkable. The horse's canter became smoother, he lost some of his girthiness and became much less cranky to be around. So this is just one example of how communication is really about healing -- and all about you!

Katherine Windfeather Thompson has over 20 years experience as a professional licensed trainer, and owner-operator of a race barn, with several wins and track records to her credit. She has also been a ranch owner, manager of lay-up, breeding and training facilities for horses. She has extensive hands-on knowledge of the equine industry, including equine behavioral physiology and psychology, management, and sales, and has successfully rehabilitated many retired race horses to go on and become talented show and performance horses.

PILOT THERAPY PROGRAM FUNDRAISING SUCCESSFUL

Animal Assisted Therapy has become a respected means for treating survivors of traumatic events like natural disasters, war, rape, and other catastrophic events. It's no wonder someone in the Twin Cities is investigating its use to treat domestic violence survivors who have suffered years of physical, emotional, and sometimes sexual abuse at the hands of their intimate partner.

But the animal of choice this time isn't a dog or cat. It's a horse and if you ask the experts you'll find there are good reasons for picking such a large, intimidating animal for a program like this. "Horses can't talk so they use their teeth, feet and bodies to bite, kick and push each other to communicate what they want," says Shannon Bruce, Program and Curriculum Director for the pilot project at Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women. "A lot of people are afraid of horses but horses respond instinctively to someone with confidence and leadership. They are natural followers that want a strong leader. So if you develop your confidence with them and earn their respect and trust, you can teach them to NOT bite, kick, or push into your space. They are ideal for this program because the women are learning how to regain confidence, be assertive and protect their personal boundaries."

The University of Minnesota's new Leatherdale Equine Center was the location for the pilot project's fundraiser June 13, 2009 and featuring Parelli Natural Horsemanship™ 3 Star Professional Nita Jo Rush with her top students performing with their equine partners. Human/horse communication demonstrations, riding, and

playing with horses at liberty were all part of the venue.

The pilot project will be held at the new Equine Center and is planned for September this year. Participants will come from Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women and will attend a total of 16 hours of therapy. A licensed psychologist and equine specialist will lead the sessions and the women will participate in ground play sessions with their assigned horse and trained handlers.

"One of our goals in the program is to expose participants to healthy relationships. That means intimate partner relationships, friendships (male and female) and families. Many of them have grown up in abusive homes and have never seen what an emotionally healthy relationship, of any sort, looks like. We've gone out of our way to find and evaluate suitable couples, and particularly men, who are Parelli Natural Horsemanship™ students to participate as horse handlers," says Bruce. "We know it's important these women develop their social skills, as well as their confidence and leadership skills so they can make the changes needed in order for them, and their children, to thrive in our communities."

For more information on the program contact <http://www.southernvalleyalliance.org/hhh> or Shannon Bruce at 763-479-9970.

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or Ted Johnson at 701-945-2331

Great Midwest Indoor Horse Show
For more information contact:
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The Schoenbauers: A Family Affair

By LEY BOUCHARD

August 31 is a very important day in the Schoenbauer household. The birthday of LeRoy and Pam Schoenbauer and the day they moved into their dream house. It's also the week their son, Marcus, started having Gran Mal Seizures. Their oldest son, who was 2 at the time, became comatose and the family was given a forty percent chance that he would awaken. It was the beginning of many terrifying episodes, seizures, and therapy sessions. It was the beginning of a way of life they love.



Marcus and Matthew with a 4-H ribbon.

Schoenbauer Country Corral acreage has seen a few incarnations over the decades. LeRoy grew up on the family farm in New Prague, Minn. He is a Master Gardner, from a family of gardeners; his Aunt Harriet and Uncle Edmund had a green house business. Living on the land was in his blood, but raising a family has financial demands.

LeRoy makes a living as a custodian for the New Prague School District 721 where their children attend. He is a police reservist for the New Prague Police Department where he has 13 years experience as an ambulance technician. In his spare time he runs the ranch: maintains machinery, teaches lessons, does chores, and keeps the family in clean clothes. Pam says he "dreams of fishing" in those elusive moments between tasks.

Pam is a daycare provider during the school year and manages a youth program in the summer, which allows her to be a stay-at-home working mom. She, too, is a 22-year veteran as an emergency medical technician for the New Prague Ambulance. B.C. (before children) she was a full-time deputy for Scott County. She and their daughter, Megan, are training for the Mounted Posse.

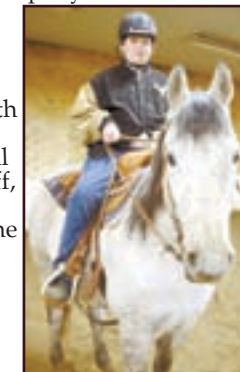
The couple is raising their three children -- Marcus, 16, Megan, 14, and Matthew, 12 -- at Schoenbauer Corral; their ten acres of heaven. Pam describes Marcus as the "Inspiration to this whole wonder life we are living. It's not about his disabilities; it's about his abilities

and the life we are living with so many wonderful equine opportunities."

Schoenbauer Country Corral offers therapeutic riding and therapeutic animal services for all ages and all abilities, from daycare centers to nursing homes to family gatherings. Trail rides, pony parties and lessons are offered by appointment only. They provide a pony ring for events like the MN Horse Expo, where children enjoy not only the ponies but the other critters Schoenbauer's bring for a petting zoo-like experience. The family brings their horses to parades and the Special Olympics. Hayrides are given to support groups.

"Megan is our fireball," says Pam. She keeps the boys in line and is the organizer. Megan has a gift to deal with disabilities; she has been the Adapted Sports Manager for four years, keeping her brother in line. Megan is going to join the High School Rodeo in the fall. She has her own heifer she won at the Beef Expo and shows cattle with her two brothers and the Sirek Angus Farm. She plans to become a veterinarian and is already choosing courses in school that will apply to her college degree. "Matthew is my Horse Whisperer. He has a magical way of looking into the eye of an animal and getting them to do what he wants," said Pam.

"At the age of two he got on the back of an untrained young pony and off he went. That crazy little pony acted like



Marcus experiences the benefits of riding

he was walking on glass for him; my breath was absent until he got off, walked him to the rail and tied him up." Matthew loves the farm animals and wants more than just the sheep, goats, chickens, ducks, peacock, turkey, guinea hens and rabbits. He shows pigs for 4-H and has a Donkey name "Eushie" that means "ears" in Czech. Matthew trained a mini; Herbie is now three years-old and is used for therapy; he loves wheelchairs, can walk up steps and whatever Matthew asks him to do.

"4-H has been the foundation of our family," said Pam. "The life values and herdsmanship they are learning is

so rewarding. We are very involved. I'm a Leader, Megan is Vice-President, Marcus and Matthew are Historians, LeRoy is an adult leader and we are on a lot of committees to learn as much as we can and show the kids the variety of every area of the 4-H world. We have such an awesome group, the Webster Willing Workers of Rice County."

It's not an easy life; the Schoenbauer's don't "do" easy. It is the life they want, the life they have chosen, the life they work hard to maintain. Their values compel them to live their dream.

"The economy has changed farmers and rancher's lives forever. They know the simplicity of life: food, water, and shelter are the three most important things. The economy has brought people away from buying happiness to getting back to basics; families being together for a picnic versus dining out; a

trail ride for \$20 versus a trip to South Dakota for \$2000. Our business has grown. We are Catholics and faithful people. We got this far through good and bad times and if you are faithful to yourself and your business you'll survive. Hard to make money is hard to lose; fast money is fast to lose. We live 25 miles from the Canterbury Race Track and I see it. I worked



Megan hugging Eushie

there as a Medic and Security Officer," said Pam. After Marcus graduates in two years the Schoenbauer's plan is to convert some of their ranch activities to include a working group home. A place where young adults can provide services like Therapy Riding, raise their own fruit, vegetables, eggs, and learn gardening, preparing the summer's bounty for winter storage. "Equines saved our lives and we will forever keep equines in Marcus' life," Pam said.

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Shetland Pony and the Modern Shetland Pony. In addition, the organization has registries for two types of pony crosses, the

The American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry is home to four small equine registries and is known as the most versatile registry for the small equine. Here is a little information about each of small equine breeds to help you decide which of these small wonders might best suit your needs.

American Show Pony and the National Show Pony. In other words, we have a pony suited to almost everyone's needs.

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as the best kept secret in the pony world!

Shetland Ponies

The American Shetland Pony Club recognizes two distinct types of Shetland Ponies, the Classic



In 1888, The American Shetland Pony club was formed to preserve the bloodlines of the Shetland Pony while improving and refining the breed. The result is the

versatile Shetland pony we know in America today.

Shetland Ponies are athletic, quick learners and extremely hardy. They generally have excellent hooves and a propensity towards soundness and good health. These qualities combined with their endearing dispositions contribute to their ongoing popularity.

The Classic Shetland Pony

Classic Shetland Ponies are a refined version of their Scottish ancestors. They have been selectively bred for 100 years and the result is a sturdy pony with appealing conformation. Classic Shetlands can be up to 46" at the wither. They are the perfect sized starter pony for children. From their early history of pulling ore carts in coalmines, Shetlands have retained an innate driving ability and their popularity as a driving pony for children and adults alike is ever growing. Classic Shetlands can be found driving along a country lane or holding their own in highly competitive driving events.

The versatile Classic Shetland pony can be found in almost every equine role from children's leadline and short-stirrup competitions, to school ponies, to driving teams with 4 or more ponies in hand. Whatever the challenge, the ever-appealing Classic Shetland Pony is ready to excel.

The Modern Shetland Pony

Modern Shetland Ponies combine the beauty and hardiness of the Classic Shetland and the excitement and animation of a Hackney pony. The result is elegance in motion. This sophisticated pony with its extreme action and spirited



personality is at home in the show ring. Modern Shetland Ponies are shown in two height categories, under 43" at the wither and 43-46" at the wither. They excel in performance classes including roadster, harness, and pleasure driving.

A well-trained Modern Shetland makes an athletic responsive mount for a child and can be used for everything from gymkhana



to the popular pony jumper division. Modern Shetlands are a thrill to watch and even more exciting to own and compete.

The American Show Pony

The American Show Pony is similar to the Modern Shetland Pony with its animated gait and



brilliance. However, American Show Ponies can measure up to 48" at the wither. They can be of Shetland or Hackney breeding or a combination of the two. These larger, flashy ponies are especially suited to driving and draw a lot of attention in the show ring.

The American Shetland Pony Club offers national and world championship level competitions for American Show Ponies and recognizes their unique accomplishments with special year-end awards for top ponies in the division.

The National Show Pony

The newest small equine recognized by the American Shetland Pony Club is the

National Show Pony. National Show ponies are required to have one purebred Shetland or Miniature Horse parent and can measure up to a full 14.2 hands at the wither. National Show Pony divisions for hunters, western, and driving are currently being developed and integrated into Shetland Pony shows. These larger National Show Ponies will enable children to enjoy riding a pony with Shetland and Miniature attributes longer. In addition, they will serve adults as a larger carriage pony for a variety of uses.

The American Miniature Horse

The American Miniature Horse Registry is the original registry for the Miniature Horse and recognizes two miniature size divisions. Division A miniatures are up to 34" in height and Division B miniatures are between 34" and 38" tall.

Miniature horses have become increasingly popular with both children and adults. These versatile little horses can do just about everything a full-sized horse can do. They are big fun in a small package.

Miniature Horse shows are hosted around the country and attract large numbers of Miniature Horse owners of all ages. These shows offer a variety of classes from halter and showmanship to obstacle driving and the speedy roadster driving...and everything in between. Last year the American Miniature Horse Registry nationals Championships competitors took home over \$50,000 in prize money! But the rewards these little horses provide go well beyond any money they win. Miniatures bring enjoyment to everyone from the novice horse person to the consummate show professional.

Miniatures are extremely versatile. Their roles vary from backyard pet, to gorgeous show horses to therapy horses for handicapped and companions to the elderly.



Whatever your interest in horses, there is a Miniature Horse to suitable for the job!

For more information about Shetland Ponies and Miniature Horses visit website at www.shetlandminiature.com or write the American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry, 81-B East Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550 309-263-4044



Forum: Groups in Tune With Equine Welfare

By Tom LaMarra

Representatives of various equine breeds and disciplines found out June 16 they have a lot in common when it comes to the welfare and safety of horses.

The "Welfare of the Horse," called the most inclusive program of its kind, was the sole topic for this year's American Horse Council National Issues Forum in Washington, D.C. It offered participants a chance to learn what others are doing as the welfare of horses—or any animal for that matter—comes under closer public scrutiny.

The forum covered everything from horse racing to the carriage horse industry which, in Charleston, S.C., at least, is highly regulated. And the horses, according to Tommy Doyle, are well maintained.

"We're at the forefront of animal welfare," said Doyle, president of the Carriage Operators of North America. "We're out there 365 days a year."

Doyle is a second generation carriage operator whose family has about 40 horses and 90 employees in Charleston, where carriage rides per year number about 250,000. The city has an equine welfare policy that requires regular veterinarian checks and use of microchips, Doyle said.

Horses can't work more than eight hours per day, and their temperatures are taken after every tour. If it's hotter than 98 degrees, the carriage rides are suspended. The horses are turned out every four months.

"The system we have in place is 100% effective," Doyle said.

Doyle indicated that caring for horses is second nature in his family. Still, public perception and potential attacks by animal-rights activists call for a plan and documentation.

Doyle used the breakdowns of Barbaro and Eight Belles as examples of what can happen in the public arena. He said those two incidents were no more indicative of the Thoroughbred industry than the US Airways flight landing in the Hudson River was indicative of the airline industry.

Laura Hayes of the American Endurance Ride Conference said endurance horses must meet certain heart-rate parameters, undergo complete vet exams and soundness checks, and can't compete if it is determined they are lame. The discipline even has a

drug-testing program with a zero-tolerance policy, she said.

Equine fatalities are reported voluntarily, but of 40 cases, only one horse owner chose not to participate. All fatalities are investigated, and the results made public, Hayes said.

"The AERC believes in transparency," she said.

Cindy Schonholtz, chair of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association Animal Welfare Council, said it's key to have a welfare and safety plan in place, have the "right person speak" when questions are asked, and have the facts. "A written statement is worth its weight in gold," Schonholtz said. "How many of us have been misquoted?"

Schonholtz said animal-rights activists' strategy is to "divide and conquer" by using "sensational media," undercover investigations, messages that target children, and the legal system. Violence is a possibility, she said. "The whole (equine) industry needs to consider security plans before you're targeted," Schonholtz said.

The various equine groups continue to work on an exit strategy for horses than can no longer compete or be of service. The situation of unwanted horses—about 80,000 to 150,000 a year, depending on estimates—has been worsened because of the economy and its impact on horse owners.

Dr. Scott Palmer of the New Jersey Equine Clinic spoke about responsible horse ownership and maximizing funds to properly care for horses. But he said the statistics can't be ignored. Palmer noted it would cost about \$18.6 million a year to euthanize unwanted horses, and about \$234 million a year to take care of them.

"I don't care if you like it politically—these are facts that we have to deal with," he said. "Somewhere down the road, we're going to have to euthanize more horses to make this work." Palmer said it's not uncommon to spend about \$15,000 a year to keep a horse, and that's one that doesn't compete.

"It's time for a welfare audit," said Palmer, who gave the forum's keynote address. "This is not a unique problem to any one segment of the industry. We don't get a pass on this. The horse is going to pick up the tab."

Meanwhile, Mike Ziegler, executive director of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Safety and Integrity Alliance, said a fourth track—Delaware Park—will be announced June 17 as being fully accredited by the alliance, with Hollywood Park expected to be next. Belmont Park, Churchill Downs, and Keeneland were accredited earlier this year.

The alliance was formed in 2008 to create a blueprint for equine safety and welfare in Thoroughbred racing.

GREAT SLIDING STOPS AT RHR



Meg McNamara, (left) Lake Elmo, Minn. riding Wiz Van Winkle at RHR June 7.



The North Central Reining Horse Association show June 7, 2009 at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Elizabeth, Minn. brought out some great reining and included these sliding stops! See the show results at www.ncrha.com

Photography By Ley Bouchard

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DEWORMING AND VACCINATIONS FOR THE FOAL

By DAN DREWLOW
North Star Stables

FOAL DEWORMING SCHEDULE 1 MONTH OLD TO 12 MONTHS OLD

1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month	4th Month	5th Month	6th Month
Pyrantal	Pyrantal	Pyrantal	Pyrantal	Pyrantal	Ivermectin
or	or	or	or	or	or
Fenbendazole	Fenbendazole	Fenbendazole	Fenbendazole	Fenbendazole	
7th Month	8th Month	9th Month	10th Month	11th Month	12th Month
Pyrantal	Ivermectin	Pyrantal	Ivermectin	Pyrantal	Ivermectin

Now that the foals are on the ground it's time to begin them on their way to a long and healthy life. The early steps to help ensure that long and healthy life of the foal is through proper deworming and vaccinations. The following is just a quick overview of a deworming and vaccination schedule. As always it is advisable to discuss any and all deworming and vaccination goals with your local veterinarian.

Deworming:

Deworming for the foal is very important as young foals are more likely to be susceptible to parasites (worms) than adult horses. The exposure begins right at birth. It is recommended to deworm the dam at or shortly after foaling with a product effective against Strongyloides SP and a wide range of other parasites. As Strongyloides western can be passed in the dam's milk and other parasite eggs can be passed in the dam's manure.

Any parasite can affect the foal but

West Nile Virus

1st Dose - 3-4 months
2nd Dose - 4-5 months / 30 days after 1st
3rd Dose - 5-6 months / 30 days after 2nd

Tetanus Toxoid

Non-Vaccinated Mares	Vaccinated Mares
1st Dose - 3-4 months	1st Dose - 6 months
2nd Dose - 4-5 months	2nd Dose - 7 months
3rd Dose - 5-6 months	3rd Dose - 8 months

Encephalomyelitis

Non-Vaccinated Mares	Vaccinated Mares (VEE, EEE, WEE)
1st Dose - 3-4 months	1st Dose - 6 months
2nd Dose - 4-5 months	2nd Dose - 7 months
3rd Dose - 5-6 months	3rd Dose - 8 months

Influenza (Injectable)

Non - Vaccinated Mares	Vaccinated Mares
1st Dose - 6 months	1st Dose - 9 months
2nd Dose - 7 months	2nd Dose - 10 months
3rd Dose - 8 months	3rd Dose - 11 months

Influenza (Intranasal) Rhinopneumonitis

11 months of age	11 months of age
1st Dose - 4-6 months	

(EHV-1 & EHV-4)

2nd Dose - 5-7 months
3rd Dose - 6-8 months

Strangles (Injectable)

1st Dose - 4-6 months
2nd Dose - 5-7 months
3rd Dose - 7-8 months

Strangles (Intranasal)

May be safely given foals as young as 6 weeks. With a 3rd dose given 2-4 weeks before weaning

Rabies

Non - Vaccinated Mares	Vaccinated Mares
1st Dose - 3-4 months	1st Dose - 6 months
2nd Dose - 12 months	2nd Dose - 7 months
3rd Dose - 12 months	

Potomac Horse Fever

1st Dose - 5-6 months
2nd Dose - 6-7 months

Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)

Intact colts intended to be breeding stallions
One Dose at 6 - 12 months of age

the roundworm (Ascarids) is the most significant. The roundworm in the horse less than 18 months-old can cause the following issues: depression, respiratory disease, stunted growth, diarrhea, constipation and potentially fatal colic. The immature roundworm larvae migrate through the foal's lungs and liver as part of its life cycle. The adult roundworm can cause impaction in the small intestines. As the foal ages past 18 months-old it develops a better immunity to roundworms and the danger is greatly reduced.

As foals are most susceptible to roundworms and since worm burdens can be high in foals, they may need to be on a monthly deworming schedule. After the foal is a year old it can go on an adult

deworming program.

(See Deworming Schedule)

Vaccinations:

When talking and thinking about foal vaccinations we need to know what the goals are. 1) To provide immediate protection as early as we can in the foal's life. 2) To provide long term protection against diseases that can occur later in the foal's life.

To provide early protection for the foal, the mare must be vaccinated so she will then pass the antibodies to the foal in her colostrum. This passing of the protective antibodies from dam to foal in the colostrum is Passive Immunization.

For maximized passive immunization the dam needs to be on a regular vaccination program and be given booster doses 4 to 6 weeks before foaling. The booster doses will increase and will allow the antibodies to be more concen-

trated in the colostrum. During the first 24 hours of the foal's life the antibodies in the colostrum can be absorbed into circulation without being digested, which is one reason why it is extremely important that the foal receives the colostrum within the first few hours after birth.

To provide long-term protection the foal is in need of Active Immunization. Active immunization is through a vaccination given to the foal itself. Recent research has shown that there is need to have a couple different guidelines for vaccinating foals. One for foals with passive immunization and one for foals without passive immunization.

The reason for this is that the antibodies that the dam produces and in turn the foal gets in the colostrum can cause maternal antibody interference with the vaccine. Maternal antibody interference is that the dam's antibodies may react to the antigens in the vaccine that the foal receives as if it were the disease itself and neutralize them. With the maternal antibodies neutralizing the antigen before the foals produced its own antibodies to the antigen, the foal will receive no protection from the vaccine. See the guideline for vaccination of the foal.

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LITTLE HORSES - BIG SMILES

By Merrill Meyer, Photography by Janet Meyer

What a beautiful day to spend at the park! On Saturday, June 13th, the Up North Miniature Horse Alliance held an Introduction to Miniatures horse show at the newly formed Equine Park located at the Portland Park.



Pacifiers Allowed: Destiny, age 2 with dad, Nick Fayette, showing grandma's yearling filly Lilly.

Exhibitors and horses came from as far away as Cathay, Grafton, Petersburg, N.D. and points in between as well as the local area. If one wanted to show and did not have a horse, it was not a problem. Horses were provided by Seldom Rest Acres of Reynolds, Danna's Miniature Horses of Portland and Rainy Day Miniatures of Thompson, N.D.

The spirit of cooperation and fun was obvious when 3 year-old Kadence Kost of Cathay, N.D. handed the lead rope of her horse, Peanut, to David Jacobson of Portland. He wanted to participate in the Egg and Spoon race. Kadence heard him say, "But I don't have a horse," and Kadence, who does not know David, smiled and said, "Here you can use my horse." Little did David know that Peanut is a World Champion AMHA miniature horse.



Tristen Hunt, age 3 of Buxton, N.D. showing Seldom Rest Acres Teblo.

line, egg and spoon, the pop race, obstacle, relay obstacle, liberty, hunter jumping and golden age jumping. The exhibitors ranged in age from 17 months-old to 55 years-young and all had smiles.

At one point, 123 people were in attendance. The Portland Equine Park Turned out to be an excellent location for the MayPort Arena. Spectators were able to sneak a peek while driving slowly by, watch from their parked cars or sit on the bleachers.

Jodie French from Foley, Minn. was the judge for the day. She is a certified AMHR/ASPC horse show judge. When she was asked to judge the educational and fun show she agreed without hesitation.

The youngest exhibitor was 17 month-old Tegan Domier, daughter of Bryan & Kelly Fulton-Domier, owners of Sliding Stop Ranch. Tegan was assisted by Shelby Braaten and Mandy Evans of Mayville-Portland.

Special classes were held for age 5 and younger. The competition was so close that the judge declared a tie for 1st place and all eight entrants received 1st place trophies.

The Up North Miniature Horse Show had two PMC classes, each with three Exhibitors.

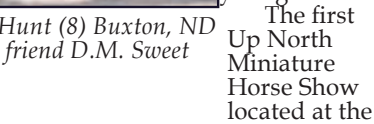
PMC stands for (Physically/Mentally Challenged). Miniature horse have proven to be excellent companions and friends to individuals with special needs. The American Miniature Horse Registry and the American Miniature Horse



Spectators including Doris Boedeker (petting the sorrel) and Gladys Forseth (right) enjoyed getting up close to the miniature horses.

Association sponsor PMC and special needs classes at all of their horse shows. Individuals with walkers and wheel chairs do exhibit and show miniature horses. Miniature horses are very Smart and gentle.

High point trophy winners for the day were; Megan Eichele, 13-17 age group, Mikayla Boxley, 10-12 age group and Dylan Fayette in the 9 & younger.



Tanner Hunt (8) Buxton, ND with his friend D.M. Sweet Jericho.

The first Up North Miniature Horse Show located at the MayPort Arena in the Portland Equine Park was a success. Plans are in the process for the next miniature horse show as many people have requested this event continue. Also, miniature horse classes will be included in the MayPort Arena Association's Playday Events this summer at the Portland Equine Park. Miniature horses have found a place in many hearts and are here to stay.

The Up North Miniature Horse Alliance would like to thank all of the sponsors; Lucky Hart Ranch of Petersburg, N.D.; Seldom Rest Acres of Reynolds, Rainy Day Miniatures of Thompson N.D.; Portland Credit Union, Danna's Miniature Horses, and Sliding Stop Ranch of Portland; Eagle Tree Feed Store of Halstad, Minn.; Tractor Supply Co of Grand Forks, N.D.; Ivan Skadeland, Al Eichhorn and family; Dakota Sky Riders of Steele County 4-H, Karibbean Karaoke/AFLAC and Dan and Judy Ingvanson of Mayville, N.D.; Jodie French of Foley, Minn.; The Hunt families of Buxton/Reynolds, N.D.; Johnson Family Farm & Hay Grinding of Sharon, N.D.; Lande Auction Service of Mayville and the MayPort Arena Association and all of the volunteer helpers.

SENATE PASSES NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY RESOLUTION

The American Horse Council is pleased the U.S. Senate yesterday passed a resolution honoring the American cowboy. The resolution, introduced by U.S. Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming, designates Saturday, July 25, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy."

"The bill pays tribute to the enduring legacy of the cowboy in America and the contributions cowboys continue to make to our nation today.

"I am happy the United States Senate is honoring such an enduring cultural icon of the American West that is irrevocably linked with the history of the horse in this country. It is important to remember the cowboy and the horse remain an important part of America still. This resolution recognizes both the history and the continuing contribution of the American cowboy" said AHC President Jay Hickey.

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HIGHLIGHTING TALENTED YOUTH

Once in Many Lifetimes



By MARY SALATA

Once in many lifetimes, a horse and rider will come together and form a bond stronger than any other force on earth, from Alexander the Great and Beaucephalus to Frank Hopkins and Hidalgo. I was lucky enough to have one of those bonds with my first horse, Araganz.

"Ari" was a 14hh grey, Arabian mare with plenty of Arrogance and much personality. My brother and I both got a horse when my family moved farther north because of my dad's work. We bought a little 10-acre ranch, built stalls and put up fencing for the horses. We called it "Windy Pines" because it is surrounded by pine trees and if you have ever been in NW Minnesota you know it's windy, but we also call it "Ari's Ranch."

Ari had been a camp horse at a riding stable before I got her, so she had never had a person of her own, not even a stall of her own. When she came with me, she got a ranch of her own, a stall of her own, a herd of her own, and a girl of her own. I love her and I know she loved me. She was my entire sense of direction; I always knew where to turn when I was scared or upset or confused. I could tell her anything, because she was the best friend I ever had. She never didn't want to listen, never tried to turn away when I cried into her mane; for as high as she could hold her head and lift her tail and for as well as she could swing her butt, she loved me for who I am.

I knew that I could just slip on her halter and lead rope and gallop down our country road if I needed to. I always loved to ride her bareback. My parents always tell me that when I would ride her, she would adjust her stride constantly to make sure I stayed on her back. I trusted her and I knew she would do anything for me.

Last April, she passed away. But in the days leading up to that, we fought to save her and she tried just as hard to live because I asked her. She went through more pain than I could imagine and never once pinned her ears or stomped her feet, just because I asked her to not give up. On the morning we laid her to rest, she was so weak she could barely stand, but I asked her to walk across her yard, to a little spot I had picked out if it came to what it had, that overlooked the pasture where her herd liked to graze.

If someone asks me why I love my horse, I can't help but cry because I know, even though she isn't with me physically, she is with me in spirit, and loves as much as ever. I know she will always be watching out for me. There is so much more I could have written about her, but then again I could go on forever, because I Love My Girl, my Gorgeous Girl.

Editor's note: I think it's important to provide as many opportunities and venues as possible for our young people to show their talents. That's why The Valley Equestrian is highlighting talented youth in this new section. I hope by publishing this essay and artwork, more people will be inspired to submit their work so we may have art, poetry, essays, cartoons and other creative material sent to the

VE regularly and young artists will have an opportunity to be published, add to their portfolio and promote their work. This month is an opportunity to show the talents of Sara Enderle of Sabin, Minn. and Mary Salata of Fisher, Minn.

Salata entered an essay-writing contest sponsored by Sundowner Trailers. Her essay was selected from hundreds as winner. For her effort, she won a brand new Sundowner trailer

in the spring of 2008.

Enderle has been drawing, etching and painting since she was 13 years-old and her work reflects the sophistication, unity, and form of a seasoned artist with the creativity of youth.

Next month, let's feature someone from your hometown! Encourage your talented youth to submit their work to: Ley Bouchard, Box 64, Sabin, Minn. or email: leybou@gmail.com or call (701) 361-8648.



"Marionette" by Sara Enderle -- Artists Statement: "This drawing was part of the Advanced Placement Studio Art Portfolio. It was categorized in the section titled "Concentration" where we had to take an idea and build on it with each piece in the section. The title reflects the message. A marionette is attached by strings, and movement is limited. I have read many articles where in equine show world we create strings to make the horse perform exactly how we want them to. Weights on a Saddlebred's tail forces them to carry it higher, tying a Quarter Horse's head up strains their neck to what they keep their head low in the ring. The animals on the branch represent the spectators. This piece was done in colored pencil and I used the colors to attempt a sort of Van Gogh style."

I have been seriously drawing for about five years. In that time I've gotten my work published on three different book covers, and sold a handful of pencil drawings. I specialize in horses, and I hope to get more into western art. I will be attending college at MSUM for a major in art, and NDSU for a minor in equine studies. I have had no lack of support from friends and family. Several would say, and I would agree, that my art is truly a God given talent."

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BACK PAIN IN HORSES

By ERIKA BERG, Ph.D

The cause of back pain in horses is notoriously difficult to identify because there are a multitude of factors that can contribute to this condition. Most often a decline in the horse's performance and (or) attitude is apparent. While the lists below are by no means exhaustive, appearance of these symptoms from a previously willing horse are likely indications of physical pain.

- Changes in performance may include:
1. Kicking out, bucking or rearing
 2. Refusing or twisting over fences
 3. Increased difficulty with lateral work
 4. Reluctance to take or change leads
 5. Head tossing
 6. Tripping
 7. An unwillingness to move forward
 8. Noticeable differences between posting diagonals
 9. General poor attitude
 10. Resistance to engage hindquarters

- Changes on the ground may include:
1. Opposition to grooming
 2. Difficulty tacking up
 3. Refusal to stand still for mounting
 4. Collapsing their back or sinking down during or after the mounting process

- Other changes that may indicate back pain include:
1. Saddle or girth sores
 2. A saddle that constantly tips to one side
 3. Uneven wear on shoes

In order to sort through the symptoms and identify the potential causes of pain, a systematic approach is imperative so you know what treatment to employ, as well as what treatment is most beneficial. To begin, an honest examination of how well your tack fits your horse is essential as ill-fitting tack is a primary cause of back pain in horses. There are a number of books and websites available on this topic, in addition to professional saddle fitting services. The Horse's Pain-Free Back and Saddle-

Fit Book (for English disciplines) and The Western Horse's Pain-Free Back and Saddle-Fit Book, both by Joyce Harman, are excellent comprehensive references on tack fitting.

Once you determine that your horse's tack does fit properly, a thorough physical exam that includes inspection of the horse's teeth and mouth is an important next step in determining possible causes of pain. Dental problems can quickly lead to back pain in horses because of postures they assume in an attempt to protect their sore mouth.

Lameness issues are another obvious and potential cause of back pain in equine. Preexisting back conditions such as fractured or misaligned vertebrae can lead to pain. A number of pathologic conditions including arthritis, neurologic diseases, muscular disorders, or reproductive problems can also affect the equine back. Finally, allergies or skin sensitivities to certain ingredients in shampoos, liniments, or fly sprays may eventually cause back pain in your horse.

Because the symptoms of back pain vary greatly among horses, it is important to rule out causes in a systematic manner. Treatments obviously depend on the cause and may include traditional treatment by a veterinarian, equine dentist, or farrier, or alternative treatments such as chiropractic care, acupuncture, or equine massage therapy. Determining and treating the cause of back pain is well worth the investment, as the future soundness of your horse depends a great deal on the soundness of their back.

Erika Berg is an assistant professor of Equine Studies at NDSU and has her Ph.D. in Animal Science with an emphasis on equine physiology from the University of Missouri where she managed the Horse Teaching and Research Farm for 8 years. She may be reached at erika.berg@ndsu.edu.

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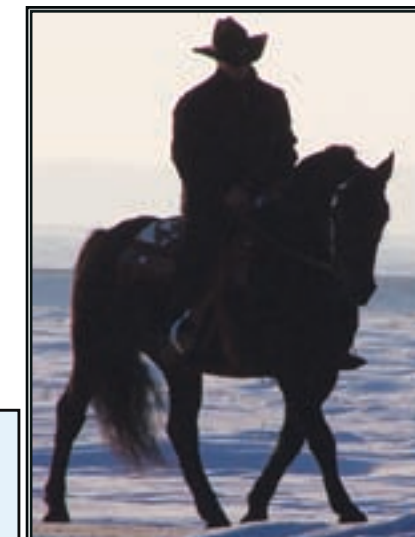
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Read All About It! The August issue of the VE is featuring Thoroughbreds! See Page 4 for contact information to submit information or buy an ad today!



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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



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Ridden by Stephanie Shwier

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