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All Disciplines,
All the Time

Free

March 2010

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses,
And

The Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information. Newspaper

BEWARE! FANCY FEATHERING INSIDE

Wendy & Greg
Garrett
Painted Feathers Farm
Meeker, Colo.

Pam & Albert
Barthel
Creek Side Gypsy Horses
Elk River, Minn.

Equine Voices Rescue
and Sanctuary,
Green Valley, AZ:
An ongoing battle for
PMU Mares

Introducing
New Columnists:

Allison Eklund, PC
"The Weathervane"

and

Julie Penshorn
USDF Certified Trainer



**"Teyha," a batik print by Dikki Van Helstrand,
more about the horse, the artist and the volunteer on page 10**



WALK... TROT... or GALLOP... With Riding on Angels' Wings



ROAW is one of eight charity teams chosen to participate in the 2010 Fargo Marathon on May 22. To join "Running With Wings" Go Far Charity team, please visit our website www.ridingonangelswings.org or call 701-866-9870 for more information.

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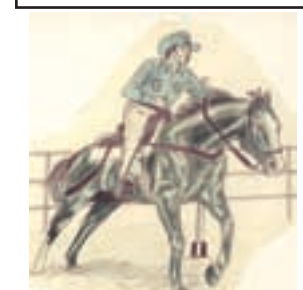
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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2010 HORSE FAIR
North Dakota State University Horsemen's Association proudly presents their annual Horse Fair April 10 and 11, 2010 at the NDSU Equestrian Center (ND Horse Park) which is located 2 miles West of I-29 on 19th Ave. N. in Fargo, N.D.

This year we are excited to host many prestigious horse professionals including Dr. Neil Dyer speaking about horse diseases; Dr. Kevin Sedivec talk about pastures and grazing; Tom Tweeten on horse care and maintenance; Dr. Darin Peterson, "Talk with a Vet!"; Dr. Bowman presents "Floating Teeth", Dr. Erica Berg on Therapeutic riding. This year's clinicians include: Len Danielson - Hunter/jumper; Karen Lee, Dressage; Bob Jansse, Cutting/Reining/Working cow horse; Dave McNamee, Horsemanship/Problem Solving. Kid's activities will be available in our kids' alley including a petting zoo, a boot race, a stick horse race and many more fun events. There will also be many interesting horses to visit in our breed alley and a vendor area to do some shopping. The hours of operation will be Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Admission will be \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Check out our Facebook page under "NDSU Horse Fair."



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About the Cover

Dikki Van Helsland created this month's cover: a batik print of Teyha, a 13-year-old golden palomino paint who now lives in Marana, AZ. Teyha came to Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary in Green Valley, AZ as a Premarin mare. Dikki said: "Teyha came to Equine Voices very shy and was low mare on the totem pole. She was the last to eat but when she was worked in the round pen, she was so willing and tried very hard to do as you asked. She was suffering the effects of an infection that was successfully treated before she went to her forever home. Teyha has become very self assured and a great trail horse." Right: Teyha in real life with Dikki's grandson riding.
Read more about Dikki Van Helsland, the batik process she uses in her artwork and about her volunteer efforts at Equine Voices on pages 10-11.



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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.

Elaina riding one of the mini-donkeys of Painted Feather Shire Farm in Meeker, Colo. See page 19.



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GOLDEN EAGLE WESTERN EQUESTRIAN TEAM CLAIMS ZONE 9, REGION 3 IHSA CHAMPIONSHIP

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Western Equestrian team closed out a stellar regular season in style at North Dakota State University (NDSU). The Golden Eagles captured the High Point Team Award on Saturday, Feb. 6 and the Reserve High Point Team Award to claim the Zone 9, Region 3 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Championship. The win qualifies U of M, Crookston's Western squad for the IHSA Semi-finals hosted by Cal-Poly Pomona in Pomona, Calif. on March 27-28.

Amanda Peterson, (Sr, Rochester, Minn.) finished the year as High Point Rider of the Region and will advance to the IHSA National Competition to compete for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) High Point Rider Cup. On Sunday, she finished her final year showing as the Reserve High Point Rider of the Day winning the Open Horsemanship and taking second in the Reining.

Three more riders qualified for the Regional Championship show with Tandra Klein (Jr, Hazen, Minn.) qualifying in the Reining and Amy VanTreeck (Fr, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.) and Amanda Flint (Fr, Aberdeen, S.D.) qualifying in the Intermediate.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston Western team individuals that have qualified for Regional Championships are as follows: Amanda Peterson in Open Horsemanship; Kayla Klein (Jr, Hazen, N.D.), Becky Rhodus (Jr, Kansas City, Missouri) and Kaitlyn



Amanda Peterson, (Sr, Rochester, Minn.) finished the year as High Point Rider of the Region

Tollefsrud (So, Hawley, Minn.) in Novice Horsemanship; Jackie Nikkel (So, Lunda, Manitoba), Megan Kramer (So, Owatonna, Minn.), VanTreeck and Flint in the Intermediate and Anna Steen (So, Hanover, Minn.) in the Walk/Trot. U of M, Crookston is hosting the Western Regional Competition on Sunday March 7 at 10 a.m. at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) on the U of M, Crookston campus. Riders from Region 3 that have qualified in their respective divisions will compete for the top two spots to move on to individual competition at the IHSA Western Semi-finals horse show March 27-28.

"I am thrilled that the ladies have ridden so consistent all year," says Golden Eagle Western Coach Nicky Overgaard. "It really paid off as we were able to win the region by a substantial margin over NDSU. We are looking forward to preparing the team riders and qualified individuals for the championship competitions with our sights set on IHSA Nationals in May."

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at <http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/>.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is a NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

ARIZONANS PROTEST BLM ROUNDUPS OF WILD HORSES AT SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN'S TUCSON OFFICE

Tucsonans call of Arizona Senator to halt disastrous winter wild horse roundups

Tucson, Ariz. -- Thirty Tucsonans assembled outside the Tucson office of Senator John McCain on Friday January 22, 2010, calling for action from Senator McCain to stop the abusive wild horse round ups. Carol Grubb, one of the event organizers stated "The American taxpayers are being duped by the BLM. In addition to holding roundups in the dead of winter at a cost of 1.9 million dollars, these unfortunate wild horses will be added to the 32,000 currently in holding pens. The daily cost of feed alone is over \$100,000. This is miss-information and government sponsored cruelty. This has to stop."

John McCain is a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where current legislation, known as the ROAM Act (Restore Our American Mustangs) awaits a hearing and a vote. Julianne French, wild horse advocate says "Senator John McCain has the ability to call for a hearing on the Restore Our American Mustang Act and to request an immediate moratorium on the use of appropriation dollars that support the BLM Management to Extinction plan for our wild horses." Following the 2 hour protest members of the delegation met with staff of Senator McCain and submitted a letter asking for a moratorium on roundups, a hearing and passage of the ROAM Act, and restriction of appropriation dollars to the Department of Interior BLM to use taxpayer dollars for roundups, unlimited sale authority where wild horses can be purchase and sent for slaughter, and euthanasia of healthy horses. Already 8 horses have died in the Nevada round ups, one foal was euthanatized after his hoof walls sloughed from the treacher-

ous chase down miles of rough terrain. Ginger Kathrens, Volunteer Director of the Cloud Foundation released this essay on the fatalities and cruel casualties of the current round up at the Calico Range in Nevada www.thecloudfoundation.org.

The BLM intends to spend over \$30 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to capture more than 12,000 wild horses and burros. This stockpiling of horses continues even as an astounding 32,000 are already being held in government holding facilities at enormous taxpayer expense. "Accusing wild horses and burros exclusively of range deterioration is without merit," says Karen Pomroy, Director of Equine Voices Horse Rescue. Arizona has only an estimated 385 horses and 1,436 burros according to the BLM.



In 5 western states, there are 457,000 elk, 70,000 big horn sheep, 23,500 pronghorn and 10,000,000 cattle. Herds of wild horses and burros comprise only a tiny fraction of animals and wildlife grazing our public lands. Far greater damage is caused by privately owned livestock, which outnumber the horses more than 200 to 1. Wild horse and burros are healthy on the range. Demonstrator Jody Blaylock, also who rides for Mounted Search and Rescue in Pima County stated, "The BLM manages wild horses and burros by politics and not science. It is deceiving the public with unsubstantiated claims of wild horse overpopulation, range degradation and starving horses."

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From left: Sawyer Sansevere, AMHR Youth Royalty; Adam Longman, Janet Meyer, Danna Hanson, Jason Pajuja, Scott Wippler and Merrill Meyer.

MINIS FOR SALE:
ALL SIZES, COLORS AND AGES AVAILABLE!

Creek Side Gypsy Horses

That magical moment occurred for Pam Barthel of Creek Side Gypsy Horses of Elk River, Minn. while she was surfing the internet for a new puppy. "I came to a site that every time I moused over this rearing horse, this neat fairy dust burst from it and it gave me this hand that let me "click" into it. Well, I did this and that was the beginning of what would become Creek Side Gypsy Farm."

Once Barthel found them she was "totally taken by these beautiful horses," she says. "They were so magical to look at and you could really see how they could be thought of as magical and magnificent. I went out and began to learn more about these great horses. It was three years later that I felt I was at a point to buy my first Gypsy Horse. I had for months been looking at a young black and white (tobiano) filly, I looked at others, but kept coming back to this little filly with one blue eye. I begged my husband, 'Can I call and ask questions, see if they still have her?' his answer, 'No, we don't need another horse, you already have 3 horses.' My response to that, 'It's not the same, this is a Gypsy!'" That was how it all started with Barthel's Lil Doll or just 'Dolly'.

A month later she was reading the classifieds and came across an ad for a yearling Gypsy stallion. "Wow, he was only about 20 miles out my back door. I picked up the phone and called the seller. We went to look at him 3 times and then I made the decision to buy him. It really is true what they say about these horses: Gypsy Horses are like Potato Chips ... you can't have just one!"

Barthel was just in Texas at the GHRA 2nd Annual World Show, where she was able to have conversations with greats like Tom Price, Stevie Downs, Sid Harker, and others. They own Gypsy horses and have bloodlines that many would recognize. "I was asked by two of these greats if I have tested my stallion RRTF Donovan, and if so what had I for numbers on shipping his semen back to Europe. I took these inquiries as a great honor as I knew from our conversations that they knew his sire and dam and were interested in being able to get a piece of this bloodline in their herds. It is a bloodline that many want, but at this time cannot get. The breeders of my young stallion are protecting his bloodline so in order to get a piece of it they have to find someone with an offspring for sale or someone willing to ship back to them. My bloodlines are open to at least 95 percent of the lines here in the states at least by close relationship to those that have come in so far. We have names like Bob the Blagdon, Master, Samson (Tom Price's own), Nelson (out of Old Horse of Wales), Bloc, Shampoo Boy, Tomboy and mares like Liana (Grand daughter to the Legendary Red & White Mare), Bonneke, Pal Gal, CS Dolly, Shinrone and other greats like Bullseye, The Strap Mare, The Horseshoe Mare, The Sweeper Mare, The Producer, The Old Horse of Ireland, The Coal Horse and others in their backgrounds. Each of my Gypsy horses that I've bought and imported from Belgium have been DNA tested and are certified to be offspring of the stated parents. We are very proud to also state that our horses have also gone through an inspection process before coming over here and have paperwork and ribbons to prove the ratings they've been given."

According to Barthel, at the Texas show there were about 50 Gypsy Horses that showed. All of these horses are registered with the GHRA (Gypsy Horse Registry of America), this is the only GHRA based show that the registry hosts. Horses came from as far as California's Northern parts. "Anyone in the world that has a regis-

tered Gypsy Horse could bring it and participate in the show. This was only our second show and it was great to be there. I see it getting bigger and better and hopefully will be the start of many more shows to come."

This year the Minnesota State Fair Horse Show will allow classes of Gypsy Horses, Barthel said. "This is a great thing for our Gypsy Horses. The horses are becoming widely recognized and people are getting more involved with them in showing, driving and just raising them. We get asked, 'What can a Gypsy Horse do?' Our answer to that is, 'They can do anything you can dream up!' If you want a jumping horse, they can do it; if you want a halter horse, they can do it; if you want to teach them to do a Spanish dance, they can do that; they excel in dressage classes."



"These horses have been raised to be family horses; they protect and guard their family. These horses will work an 8 hour day pulling the family Vardo, with all the family's worldly goods inside and possibly the family themselves. At the end of the day they can be found unfied standing in or out of their harness with the Gypsy

children crawling on them as though they were pieces of playground equipment. Many times the horse is asked to pull the Vardo (wagon) with no one at the reins, as sometimes the man of the family has to tend to other issues and he has to leave the reins unattended and the Gypsy Horse is expected to continue on in a straight fashion at an even pace and not spook at other vehicles or animals on the road that may go past them. The Gypsy horse has been around for several hundred years."

"I was told while at the Texas GHRA that the original Gypsy horse was made up of an Irish Vanner brought from Ireland and bred to a Clydesdale, making up the first version of the Gypsy Horse. It has been in the past 75 years that they have started to breed them to the Dales pony and Fell pony to bring the size down to an easier size to maintain on the roadside grasses and to be able to harness and keep the horses easier," said Barthel.

The Gypsy people hold a week long fair in Appleby, England the first week of June, where many breeders come to bring their Gypsy horses to show other Gypsy buyers what they have to sell, they may be trotters, wagon horses or riding horses, may be young stock or already working or maybe bred, they will have harnesses, wagons, and other equipment for sale also. They make camp around the fair area and they wash their horses in the Eden River, many have come for generations, knowing each of the other families that come to the fair. It was told to me that in year's past, as the families showed up they would park in the same spot that family members had parked in for years, if someone would park in a person's spot and it was known the other family was still coming, the newcomer would be asked to move and shown where they could park. The Fair is like a large family reunion they said. Each of the families look out for the others and they all know each other, as the generations grow, they hope that the fair will continue in the old family tradition. "In all, the Gypsy horse has been the most interesting breed I've had the chance to work with," said Barthel. "There is so much to learn and pass on to others."

See more Gypsy horses at www.creeksidegypsy.com

GYPSY HORSE HISTORY

The first thing you notice when you meet a Gypsy Horse is their powerful compact size, flowing mane, tail and abundant flying feathers around their hooves! The Gypsy Horse is a relatively new and rare breed to the United States.

Gypsy Horses were bred by the Romany or Gypsy people of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The horses are influenced by the Shire, Clydesdale, Fell and Dale ponies giving them their strong compact appearance as well as calm temperament, stamina, surefootedness and the ability to easily thrive on roadside forage as the Gypsy traveled.

The Gypsy people were nomadic, traditionally keeping no permanent residence. They had no bank accounts so they carried their wealth in the fineness of their caravan homes, the horses that pulled them and the gold coins they wore ornamentally. Each item in their caravan was the finest they could afford down to the exquisite bone china used for meals. Gypsies used these items as a source of pride to out do one another each time they met. Caravans were ornately painted and embellished with gold leaf to display wealth, pulled by these flashy horses with their proud carriage, free flowing movement and flying feathers they made quite an impression and were a source of great pride to the Gypsies that bred them!

The traveling lifestyle prevented many Gypsies from reading or writing. The history and pedigrees for their beloved horses were kept in oral tradition. Gypsies are elegant storytellers as well as shrewd bargainers. No written contracts or transfers were signed for the sale of a Gypsy horse, simply the slap of a hand. The seller gave his opening price, with the slap of palm on palm the haggling began. When a price was agreed upon, with a slap of the palms the deal was done. This tradition is still in place today and can be seen at the wild and ram-bunctious Gypsy horse fairs such as Appleby, England and Ballinsloe, Ireland.

When the Gypsy caravans arrived in a village their children would sing and dance and play around the caravans, running under the horses collecting coins thrown by delighted crowds. The Gypsy horse had to remain calm and aware of the children, thus the horses were bred for their babysitting like temperament. This

temperament they well learned to a steady pace sharing with uncer-tainties. More than once Horse seen down pulling a caravan with no one at the reins, the driver busy in the caravan with another chore.

The Gypsy Horse did not acquire their varied coloration until the United Kingdom became embroiled in war. The English government conscripted solid color horses for the field of battle. The Gypsies shrewdly introduced pinto coloration as the government would not confiscate horses that would "stand out" on the battlefield. The Gypsies took this change with great fervor and were thrilled with the flashy enhancement! Though not a colored breed, Gypsy horses are predominately black and white pinto coloration.

Striking looks and calm temperament are further enhanced by incredible athletic abilities. Gypsy horses are easily trained, highly interactive athletes well-suited for any equine pursuit. Gypsy Horses have participated in the hunt, dressage, driving Western pleasure, obstacles, games, trail riding and halter classes!

Thanks to the GHRA for the use of this material.



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS: THINK - PLAN - ORGANIZE - EXECUTE - MAKE/SAVE MONEY

In this column we are going to discuss Equity in a horse business and a business's income and expenses.

Equity is the ownership interest in a business and can be in the form of common stock or preferred stock. It also refers to total assets minus total liabilities, in which case it is referred to as shareholder's equity, net worth or book value. Equity in a horse business generally comes from the funds used to start the business, additional funds put into the business and retained earnings. Retained earnings are a business's net income (profits). If a business loses money the loss is subtracted from its equity.

The Chart of Accounts for Equity should reflect the types of transactions that affect the Owner Equity and how the Equity is managed and measured. Possible accounts include: investments, withdrawals of cash by the owner, retained earnings, and income and expenses incurred. Income and Expenses incurred are temporary 'accumulation accounts' that are 'flushed' at the end of an accounting period and show up back in the business's Equity as retained earnings. The 'Debt to Equity' ratio is a good indicator of the level of leverage used by a company as explained in the previous column. The Equity ratio measures the proportion of the total assets that are financed by stockholders and not creditors. A low equity ratio will produce good results for stockholders as long as the company earns a rate of return on assets (ROA) that is greater than the interest rate paid to creditors. Remember, if an Asset isn't producing and returning an acceptable ROI, fix it or sell it (see Sept. 09 column).

The Chart of Accounts income accounts are accounts into which revenue is collected and closed at the end of an accounting period. The resulting income minus the expense balance equals the net income or loss from the operation of the business. The income accounts should reflect the sources of income in your horse business. If you have multiple sources of income, an account should be identified for each source so that source can be managed and measured. Possible accounts include: Boarding, Training,

Lessons, Breeding, Racing, Showing, etc. Spending time and money on an income source that is not profitable is not good business. If you have an income source that isn't profitable you have two choices: figure out why it isn't profitable and make it profitable, or eliminate it as a source of income and additional expense. Possible ways to improve your business's profitability are:



- Increase sales (expand your market reach and customer base)
- Differentiate your business from your competitors (exceptional customer service (free if done properly), offer more amenities with a minimal increase in expenses,
 - Advertise more - watch the expenses.
 - Increase your exposure in your market (club attendance, horse shows and events,
 - Raise prices (be careful - you still need to be competitive and product quality does have its limits)
 - Reduce expenses (new suppliers, eliminate waste, establish purchasing procedures and limits.

I can't emphasize enough that in business it all starts with a sale. Make sure the income accounts you identify enable you to measure and manage your income sources. In a future column we will discuss 'Break even Analysis' and how it applies to product pricing and sales strategies.

The greatest number of accounts identified in your Chart of Accounts will be the accounts associated with expenses incurred in the daily operation of your business. Expense Accounts should take into consideration non-capital expenses

associated with generating sales and operating your business. Care should be taken to identify the accounts that reflect how you want to measure and manage your business expenses. Many Expense Accounts will need to be divided further into Sub accounts so you can have the detail you need to measure and manage your Suppliers, Reduce Cost, Improve Quality, Optimize Purchases, Minimize Inventory, Minimize the Use Cash and many more expense related decisions. The equineGenie Horse Management and Business Software System includes a complete list of horse business expense accounts and allows a business to define multiple sub accounts for each primary account.

In future columns we will use a Chart of Accounts to explore how to measure and manage and improve a horse business. I suggest you list all your sources of income in your horse business and then list all the expenses associated with each income source and the amount of time you spend managing each source. You may be surprised to discover that some of your sources of income take a lot of time and expense and really are not worth it. You may discover that other areas of your business can be improved and made more profitable by eliminating marginal activities and freeing up your time. Remember, spending your time and money wisely may provide the opportunity to enjoy your business more while making more money. Think - plan - organize - execute - make/save money.

We have concluded the overview on how to set up a Chart of Accounts. We are now ready to use what we have learned to measure and manage a horse business.

'If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.'

Bob Valentine, Ph.D. is the President of GenieCo, Inc. and is professor of Equine Business at Colorado State University-Fort Collins. He may be reached at: bob@genieatwork.com or (888) 678-4364. Product may be seen and ordered at: www.equinegenie.com

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY SIDESTEPS EU QUARANTINE MANDATE

NEW YORK, February 1, 2010 - (iFH) The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has devised a system of merely reporting horse health histories, instead of quarantining them, as ordered by the European Union's recent directive regarding slaughter horses in North America.

A year ago, iFH began alerting the European Parliament of the fact that horse meat exported from North America to EU member countries is adulterated because of the presence of Phenylbutazone (Bute) and other medications "not for use in horses intended for food" which are routinely given to horses in the United States and Canada. Bute is the most common pain killer prescribed for equines, referred to as the "aspirin of the horse world."

Rather than ban the import of adul-

terated horse meat from Canada and Mexico, the EU responded with a new directive that requires equines from North America be quarantined for a period of six months prior to slaughter for human consumption.

Effective July 31, 2010, it will be mandatory for all facilities under the aegis of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency slaughtering horses for human consumption to have complete records for all equines (domestic and imported) presented for slaughter, as well as a record of medical treatments administered to the animal for the six-month period prior to slaughter.

"The requirement for enforcement of the six-month quarantine order is being virtually ignored by CFIA. The EU,

by accepting these procedures, is not enforcing its own directive," states Vivian Farrell, founder and President of the Int'l Fund for Horses. "It is frustrating that any equine who received Bute in his or her lifetime was previously banned from entering the human food chain in the EU. What changed?" adds Farrell.

Mexico, where horses are also slaughtered for human consumption, has yet to announce how they intend to comply with the EU six-month quarantine order regarding slaughter horses.

Equines are not currently slaughtered in the United States. However, the numbers of horses sent across the border to Mexico and Canada for slaughter doubled from 49,000 in 2007 to nearly 100,000 in 2009, according to trade data.

CENTERED RIDING CLINIC FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Dressage Foundation announced that a new fund has been established to provide financial support for Centered Riding® clinics. The Sally Swift Memorial Fund has been created with donations to The Dressage Foundation from Sally's friends and supporters. This fund will provide grants up to \$1,000 to United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Membership Organizations (GMOs) hosting a Centered Riding® Clinic.

USDF GMO/chapters may apply for these grants by visiting The Dressage Foundation website at www.dressagefoundation.org for guidelines and application forms. Grants will be awarded to the first qualified GMOs whose applications are approved by joint Centered Riding® and The Dressage Foundation's Selection Committee.

"Sally has had a major impact on riding. It is very exciting to be able to offer this fund, to create this legacy for her and for Centered Riding," said Melissa Filipi, Development Director for The Dressage Foundation. "This is a wonderful, lasting tribute to a wonderful woman," said Filipi.

I know Sally would be very pleased to know her work was going to be carried on in the dressage world through The Dressage Foundation," said Deb Moynihan, Level IV Centered Riding Instructor/Clinician, USDF Certified Dressage Instructor/Trainer and USEA Certified Eventing Instructor.

For more information about The Dressage Foundation, please contact Melissa Filipi at (402) 434-8585 or visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt, donor-driven organization that is dedicated to supporting and advancing the sport of dressage. The organization solicits contributions, appropriately allocates the donations, and awards grants and scholarships to dressage riders of all ages and levels. For more information, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

The Int'l Fund for Horses continues to educate European Members of Parliament on the export of adulterated horse meat to the EU not only from North America, but also Australia. Phenylbutazone and similar prohibited substances are also widely administered to equines in Australia. The EU has yet to issue a quarantine mandate regarding slaughter horses in Australia.

The Int'l Fund for Horses is the most influential equine advocacy organization of its kind with constituents in 19 countries. Headquartered in New York, the Int'l Fund for Horses works for the passage and enforcement of horse protection laws, and intervenes on behalf of horses in health, safety and welfare matters. Learn more at www.horsefund.org

HORSES AS OUR TEACHERS

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

In the first article I wrote for The Valley Equestrian, I explained the dynamics of animal communication and healing, and how I came to recognize and apply them. In this column, I'd like to talk about how horses can also be teachers in our relationships, if we will look at what they have to show us.

One night I was called out to do an emergency hands-on healing on a severe case of colic. I never know what to expect, but with each incident, there is always a lesson in it for those involved, and things may not be what they appear on the surface. I call it seeing the picture underneath the picture, or the quantum view.

It didn't look like I was going to help save the life of this mare. She exhibited signs of a twisted intestine, and I could sense it in a place that would be difficult for a surgeon to reach. The vet had been called and the prognosis was not good. He treated her as best as he could and left. I did a healing on her anyway, and for a while, she was calmer, and seemed a little more comfortable. But eventually she began to go down again, trying to thrash and roll. As an empath, it was very difficult not to feel her intense, unrelenting pain.

The owner of the ranch, my friend, and I took turns walking her, and trying to keep her on her feet. In the literal sense of the word, it was a gut wrenching night for all of us involved. This was such a beautiful and sweet mare. Finally, in the early morning hours, I gave up and went home to get an hour or two of sleep, after the veterinarian had come back out and loaded her with another sedative and a strong painkiller.

At first light I went back out to the ranch, and my friend was up and in the stall with the mare. Truth be told, her owner didn't have the money for the surgery that might save her, and even if he did, it was doubtful at this point that it would be successful. It was clearly time for a decision to be made, and I took over the hand walking while my friend went in to talk to the owner and call the vet to come do what we knew was inevitable. The pain in Missy's big expressive eyes begged us to release her.

As we both walked the mare over to a large grassy paddock where he would meet us to put

her down, I reflected on why such things happen, seemingly for no good reason. And as I did, while we waited for the vet to arrive, my friend told me that one year before, she'd had to make a similar decision. She mentioned that this mare's owner had been extremely critical when she had made the decision not to spend the money to try and save a yearling in the same condition. She chose to end the colt's suffering, and ending the expense of trying to save him was secondary. But her boarder was very vocal in his opinion that she should have made every attempt possible to save the colt, and had made the statement that he would never let the issue of money be a factor in saving or destroying the life of a horse. Yet, just a year later, he attracted that very same dilemma to himself, and was forced to make the same decision for the same reason.

Horses mirror back to us things we have forgotten about ourselves. When you judge another, you attract that very same to yourself, make no mistake about it! Take care how you view others, and what conclusions you draw in that observation. While this event was painful, it was a powerful and wonderful lesson I have never forgotten.

Katherine Windfeather-Thompson has over 25 years of experience as a professional licensed race horse trainer and owner, with several wins and track records to her credit. She grew up in the livestock business on a family owned cattle ranch, and has managed and owned lay-up, breeding and training facilities for horses. In 1997 she retired from the racetrack and began traveling, lecturing, and teaching as an animal communicator and clairvoyant healer. She has been a presenter

at many of the major horse expos during the past 14 years, is the author of one book and currently writing another. See her website at www.katherinethompson.net, email her at kwinginit@isp.com, or call 916-770-9376.

DRESSAGE SUPERSTAR RAVEL NAMED 2009 USEF FARNAM®/PLATFORM™ HORSE OF THE YEAR

By Joanie Morri

Louisville, KY - Annually, five of the USEF's 130,000 registered horses achieve so much in a year that they are named USEF Horses of Honor and enter the running for the title of Farnam®/Platform™ Horse of the Year.

In 2009 all five of these horses were nothing short of remarkable. But one forever changed the face of his sport, and with that, Ravel was voted the 2009 USEF Farnam®/Platform™ Horse of the Year.

It began in April at the FEI World Cup Dressage Final™ when, with the weight of a nation on his 11-year-old shoulders, Ravel trotted back into Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Arena after winning the Grand Prix to perform his Freestyle. He delivered.

The performance to music by Coldplay and the Rolling Stones brought down the house, and completed his sweep of the Final with Steffen Peters for his owner Akiko Yamazaki.

"I think it was a great year for US dressage if I may humbly say so," said Yamazaki. "It put us on the world map, at the top."

Reasonably inexperienced amongst the competition, the Dutch gelding never wavered in 2009, from Las Vegas to the CDIO Aachen, he proved invincible and put the US in an excellent position looking forward to the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, to be held in Lexington, KY next September.

Ravel is as sweet in the barn as he is competitive in the ring, he has done nothing but continue to improve in 2009 - pretty good considering his

lowest finish in 2008 (his first year of International competition) was fourth at the Olympic Games.

But in 2009 he was second to no one, and those that were lucky enough to have witnessed him were simply in awe.

Including his own people: Peters and his wife Shannon, Yamazaki and Ravel's loyal groom Rafael Hernandez Carillo all went along for the ride in 2009.

Yamazaki thanked Ravel's entire team in her acceptance speech, citing the international make-up of the superstar's inner circle.

"Only in America can you have a success story like this," she said. "I would like to thank the USEF, Jim Wolf - thank you so much and Jessica Ranshousen for her wonderful coaching." Ravel's rush to greatness was not a surprise to those who have known him, but it was faith rewarded. Yamazaki and Peters got to show the world just how special their horse is.

Ravel had venerable competition for the top honors:

Courage to Lead, the brave Combined Driving Pony who claimed her second USEF National Championship for Suzy Stafford and was the Individual Bronze medalist at the 2009 World Pony Driving Championships, was recognized for her achievement in her final year of competition. Owned by Beverly Leshner, the now 13-year-old Morgan mare heads to retirement and the breeding shed in 2010.

Kripton-Seni II, was another undefeated champion in 2009. This nine-year-old Andalusian stallion swept several divisions in the International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association's regional and national levels. His greatest honor was achieved at the IALHA National where he was honored as the

High-Point Andalusian for the entire competition. Kripton-Seni II showed his versatile nature. He won ribbons in Hunt Seat, Western Pleasure and Dressage Hack in the amateur, vintage and open divisions. An over-achiever across disciplines, he finished the competition with one National Grand Champion, four National Champion and two Reserve National Championship titles.

CHOur Charming Lady, the American Saddlebred Horse Association Horse of the Year and World's Grand Champion wrote her own lore in 2009, winning the Saddlebred "Triple Crown." She was the only one of the breed to do it last year, with champion performances at the Lexington Junior League Horse Show, the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show and the American Royal National Championship. The eight-year-old mare has won 34 straight classes unanimously and is owned by Jack and Donna Finch.

Sapphire, the show jumping super mare that won from Wellington to Calgary in 2009 padded a résumé that already sparkles with two Olympic Gold medals under McLain Ward. Owned by Blue Chip Bloodstock and Ward, Sapphire won the richest classes on the continent, including the \$1 million CN International and the \$400,000 FTI Finale Grand Prix. She was also second by the narrowest margins at the Rolex FEI World Cup Final™ in Las Vegas.



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EQUINE VOICES RESCUE AND SANCTUARY: SAVING PMU MARES, FOALS AND MORE

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER ARTIST AND VOLUNTEER AT EVRS

Dikki Van Helsland has always lived in the city. "I have ridden ever since I've had a chance. I have taken lessons; it's wonderful to learn how to get on the same mental image as your horse. I would love to get a horse and it would be a rescue horse," said Van Helsland.

She began creating equine art and volunteering at Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary (EVRS) at the same time. "I started selling my artwork in 1968, but equine art I started about 4 years ago and I didn't know I could do it as successfully as I can." All the horses she creates are modeled after rescue horses from EVRS.

One of Van Helsland's works is featured on the cover of this issue of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

Van Helsland began volunteering at EVRS as "one of the muckers, moving manure and grooming horses," she said. EVRS offered the volunteer basic horse handling training and Van Helsland began working with the babies. "We have a lot of babies, so getting them used to handling and halter training is important. I had training on that and it was so much fun. Then I made a batik of Gulliver (EVRS mascot). After that, we put him on a wine bottle and we started selling wine in 2007.

"I think they have such a fabulous mission; not only have they collected the Premarin mares from California but also horses dropped off (in the Arizona desert) by the drug users."

Van Helsland, 66, was born in Hungary, lived in Germany and came to the USA with her family as displaced persons from World War II through Ellis Island in 1950.

She met her husband, Marsh, at DePaul University in Chicago when he instructed her women's rifle team. They were married in 1965 when he was drafted for the Viet Nam War. "During this time I started creating art for sale, starting with oil paintings. The first gallery to carry my work in Sea Girt, New Jersey was in 1968.

"I started working in Batik in 1974, again in Arizona. I credit my sister Katalin Ehling with my introduction to this art form. My work has been exhibited in Scottsdale, Tucson, Germany, France, Virginia, among others. I have art in the Phillip Morris and Hughes Communication collections, along with work in Hungary, Greece, Japan, and across North America.

"I continue to educate myself in batik by attending workshops using different dyes, waxes and techniques. An artist never stops learning. I used to do a lot of outdoor art shows, now I do a selective few.. I have taught batik in the US and Germany. Several of my students, including a Baroness in Germany, have shown professionally."

WHAT IS BATIK?

By Dikki Van Helsland

Batik is a fine art or craft, using wax a resist on various natural fabrics, leather, wood, gourds, and even ceramics. The purpose of the wax is to keep the different colors of dyes from mixing with the previous dyes used in a pre-drawn design. Usually the artist works from light to dark. Also, bleach can be used to discharge some of the previous dyeing. Natural brushes of various sizes are used to apply the wax. An Indonesian tool, called a tjanting is also used to apply the wax. It has a well on one end with a spigot, which can come in different sizes for applying fine lines or dots.

When the dying process is finished, the batik is either boiled in hot water, rinsed in kerosene, or ironed out between unprinted newsprint. I use the latter, leaving in a small amount of wax for richness of color. I can mount my pieces on museum board or canvas, framed with matting under glass or gallery wrapped if on canvas. I show my work at Desert Artisan Gallery in Tucson AZ and at the Tubac Center of the Arts, also in AZ.

Batik, in its various forms has been found in Africa, South America and in the Far East, mainly used for yard goods of various qualities on silk or cotton in Indonesia and Bali. The word batik comes from a Japanese word loosely meaning 'patterned cloth.' Batik has been in existence for centuries. Gums, resins, glues, and animal fats have also been used as resists. Royalty wore the finest batik cloths. It was thought: the poorer the quality of the fiber, the poorer the wearer.

Batik is known for its fine spider web lines in between the patterns. The royal quality cloth would have none or the least amount of this webbing. Artwork made these days can also have little or none of this webbing or crackling. The crackling happens when the wax breaks up and dyes seep in. The quality of the wax dictates the amount of crackling. I like the crackle in my batiks. The artwork can be placed in the freezer for ten minutes and then folded to encourage a certain amount of crackling. If the wax is a mixture of beeswax and paraffin the crackling happens naturally.

Right: Gulliver, the mascot for Equine Voices, greets visitors and friends at the entrance to EVRS. The gift shop contains many personalized 'Gulliver' items.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEY BOUCHARD

BY LEY BOUCHARD

Standing like a sentinel, Elephant Head, a rocky peak in the Santa Rita Mountains, overlooks and seems to protect Equine Voices Rescue Sanctuary and the horses lucky enough to find a safe haven in this remote refuge in Green Valley, Arizona.

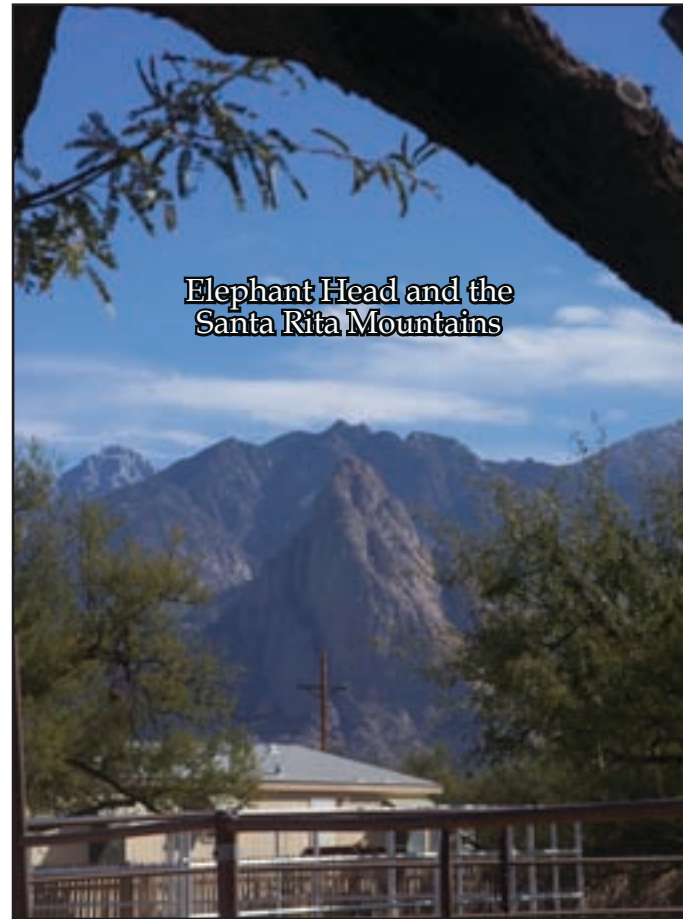
Karen Pomroy owns Jumpin' Jack Ranch and is the founder/president of the non-profit EVRS. Pomroy along with more than 200 volunteers a month work tirelessly to care for the horses and bring the message of Premarin/PremPro mares and foals to the general public.

Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary is dedicated to saving Premarin/PremPro mares and foals from slaughter. The rescue is funded by donations and the many programs the founder has developed with the help of volunteers such as: an adoption program, sponsorship programs, Gulliver's Fan Club, a Euthanasia Fund, Youth Programs, education programs where horsemanship clinics are hosted on various topics such as equine care, massage therapy, energy work, homeopathic healthcare, animal communication and more.

This organizational wizard has inspired volunteers to create a cook book for sale ("Gulliver and Friends Gourmet" Delicious Dishes for Pets and People: recipes compiled and illustrations by Carrie Gayne) on the web site and in the gift shop; the on-site gift shop has many interesting and fashionable items and crafts.

Karen Pomroy spent many years in the corporate world before deciding to "follow her heart" when founding EVRS. She began working with a wild horse sanctuary in California and that experience led her to establish EVRS.

What is Premarin? Many people believe that "pee lines" no longer exist as the pharmaceutical companies have the ability to make chemical de-



Elephant Head and the Santa Rita Mountains



Above: Karen Pomroy, President and Founder of Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary with Wiley; each horse has a unique story to tell



Right: Chip and companions play with a treat bowl in their paddock at Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary in Green Valley, AZ.



Below: Volunteer Diane Russell with Diamond Rio whose legs were tied with rope and dragged before being rescued and rehabilitated by Equine Voices staff.



Brave Spirit

rived synthetic ERT (estrogen replacement therapy) drugs as an alternative to Premarin. Although, synthetic Premarin is made, there still exists a market for Premarin (PREgnant MAREs urINE) and other hormone replacement drugs such as PremPro, PremPhase. Additionally, a new PMU drug by Wyeth, Aprela, is up for FDA approval. This drug will be used for menopausal women at risk of developing osteoporosis.

Currently, there are an estimated 5,600 PMU mares at work. Of course, in order to have pregnant mares there must be a constant source of foals as well.

Activists working this issue believe many foals are mistreated, handled as an unnecessary by-product of the PMU production line and often used for their "pony

4-year volunteer in the program. It is through this publicity that donations and fund-raising occurs that would make possible a \$300,000. annual budget.

Equine Voices is a huge undertaking and a lot of responsibility which the volunteers and staff do not take lightly. They will also tell you it is work for which they are rewarded daily when they come out to care for and be loved by their horse friends or when they know they've made a difference in the life of an animal and its newly adopted family.

For more information about Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary, please visit their web site: www.equinevoices.org, email Karen@equinevoices.org or call (520) 398-2814.



New arrivals at EVRS

You are invited to "A Very Special Horse Event"

The sixth annual Fundraiser for Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary "A Very Special Horse Event," will take place Saturday March 6, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, 3482 E. River Rd in Tucson, AZ, 85718.

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary™ is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to saving Premarin (PMU) mares and foals from slaughter. Equine Voices also works with law enforcement agencies to provide services to abused, abandoned, and starving horses.

Revenue from this event goes directly to the rescue, rehabilitation and recovery of horses in desperate need.

Gulliver, mascot of Equine Voices, will be at the event to tell his story of rescue and recovery, and will be available for pictures with horse lovers of all ages.

Training demonstrations will feature rescued horses and the methods used in their recovery.

The fun filled family day will include an opportunity to visit "Gulliver's Store" featuring unique clothing, art objects and jewelry. The program also features live and silent auctions with items of interest for everyone, a tack sale, and raffles with extraordinary grand prize drawings. Food by Quesadillas and More, Zona 78, Keva Juice, and Kettle Korn will provide delicious additions to this special event.

For more information on this event please contact: Carol Grubb at 520-405-6054 or email headmare0@yahoo.com



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EQUINE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY LAW

skins," or sent to slaughter houses out of the country. Activists and journalists report about PMU lines and the horrible life experienced by a PMU mare forced to stand in a small stall with a collection tube hooked around their urethras.

Equine Voices takes in neglected and abandoned horses, rehabilitates them and places them for adoption when possible. Pomroy has also been working with law enforcement and border patrol officers in rescuing horses used in drug trafficking and border crossings. Savannah, one of the residents of Jumpin' Jack Ranch, was found wandering the streets of Tucson and brought to EVRS.

"Karen does a very good job about publicizing photos and the mission in the Green Valley News," says Dikki Van Helsland, a

Happened Upon By Chance

by Pam Del Vecchio

Growing up in Northeast Texas, I had always owned and been a big fan of Quarter horses. So after years of moving around to different states because of my husband's work, we ended up in Louisiana. My husband took the job as Beef Cattle Specialist at Louisiana State University. I wanted a horse upon learning we were going to stay there for awhile. So when it was time for me to go horse shopping, naturally I started looking for a Quarter Horse, one I could train for barrels, my passion at the time. When I saw an ad for a mare that sounded promising I called to set up a time to see her. The next morning, after



dropping my kids off at school, I drove the 45 minutes to see her. When I arrived the owners informed me they had sold her the night before and forgot to call me. Upset and mad about not being told before I made the trip, I got back in my truck to head home. Pulling out of their yard onto the gravel road I noticed a gray horse in a paddock behind their barn. Something told me to turn back, so I did and inquired about this horse. Walking over to see him I noticed how pathetically thin he was, standing with his nose inches from the ground. I had to choke back tears at his poor condition the closer I got. This poor horse had eaten all the bark off the trees as high as he could reach. His water was so thick with slime, it looked like wilted lettuce, and the paddock was nothing but dirt with no evidence of hay anywhere.

I went through the gate; he lifted his head, gave a pitiful

nicker and slowly walked over to me. As he walked he would jerk his hind legs up. Strange, I thought. When he got to me he put his face against my chest, I whispered, "It's going to be okay." When I stepped back to look at him I could see he had scratches and skinned marks on his right side. I knew I had to save him, so I asked the owners what breed he was. They said he was a six-year-old Quarter horse. I made them an offer which they accepted, then told them that I would be back later that day to pick him up.

On the way back I called my husband to tell him I had bought a horse. I told him about the horse and his living conditions. When we arrived later, the owners weren't outside so we went over to see the horse. My husband checked the horse over and discovered rope burns on all four pasterns, the worse being the hind legs. That's the reason for the back legs jerking up when he walked. My husband grew up with Thoroughbreds, his family trained and raced them, and he said this is a Thoroughbred not a Quarter horse. He also said that it looked as if this horse had been dragged along the ground. I thought, "These people are monsters." The owners walked over and I paid them. My husband and I then slowly started to try to load my new horse. This horse didn't want any part of trailer loading.

We finally got this poor, scared horse loaded and were on our way. My husband told me to keep an eye on him through the little window in front of the trailer to make sure the horse didn't go down. He was so weak from putting up a fight at being loaded.

I called the vet when we got home and he arrived soon after. We already knew about the rope burns and his side, but when the vet checked his mouth we discovered a tattoo on the upper lip. Then while checking the teeth the vet showed us the tongue had been badly cut. Although not recently because it was healed, but it was almost cut in half. My husband said it could have been from having his tongue tied too tight while

tracing or from a harsh bit with rough hands. I thought no doubt from a bit, look where he came from. We also found a scar of a human bite mark on his ear. "You have got to be kidding," I said. I had only heard about that kind of behavior in the old western movies. The vet left us with medicine to treat the wounds and said he'd be in touch.

I contacted the Jockey Club to trace the tattoo. My new horse wasn't a six-year old Quarter horse but a nine-year-old Thoroughbred that raced for five years. I wondered what misery this poor horse had lived in the four years from when he retired until I found him. His registered name is Hell With Roses, but we named him Chance because my husband said that's what we were giving him. With the cut tongue Chance drops grain when he chews, so we keep the rubber mat under his feed bucket clean so he can lick up what he drops. I found using a French link snaffle works well without pinching the tongue.

Chance never became my new barrel horse, he couldn't mentally handle it. I tried jumping but found jumping wasn't for me. My husband took a job at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) as the Agriculture Department Head so we moved and hauled Chance to Crookston, Minn. For the past

six years of living here Chance and I have been learning dressage.

On July 25, 2009, I entered us in our first AEER Dressage Schooling Show; we placed 1st in Intro A, 2nd in Intro B and, 1st in Training Level Test 1. I was so shocked and proud of Chance, I cried on the trip home. It has taken

years of patience on my part and forgiveness of my mistakes on his part to get to where we are today. This once scared, abused and neglected horse is now a calm, happy partner of mine. He is now 17-years-old and lives a great life. I am glad that something made me turn around that day, eight years ago, and I thank God for him every day.



DEALING WITH ICE IN PADDOCKS

Ice is a problem in horse paddocks as falls and slips can lead to serious injury. The best solution is to remove the horse from the paddock, until the ice melts, but few horse owners have that option. Sand can be helpful to increase traction. However, it is ideal to not feed the horses in the area where the sand is spread to minimize the risk of ingestion. Straight salt can speed the melting of the ice if temperatures are not too cold. There is no research documenting the effect of salt on horse hooves, but pure salt should be used in moderation as a precaution. If using pure salt to melt ice, make sure the horses have an alternative source of salt to reduce ingestion off the ground. A mixture of sand and salt should not be used in horse paddocks due

to the chance of horses accidentally ingesting the sand via their interest in the salt. Other options like shavings, hay, and straw tend to slide over ice and do not provide additional traction. Small rocks can provide traction, but can be accidentally ingested or become lodged in hooves. To reduce water/ice in the future, improve the grade, install gutters on the barn, and reduce the amount of manure in the paddock. By: Julie Wilson, DVM and Erin Malone, DVM, University of Minnesota

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COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIRE

LOST BETWEEN BARN AND HOUSE IN A BLIZZARD

SNOW CAN FIND YOU: CAN YOU FIND THE HOUSE? Luckily he had just arrived home to the farm; Fast changing weather gave extreme cause for alarm. He had just returned from an urgent trip to town. Overcast clouds darkened the low sky like sundown; Suddenly the wind bore down with a vicious sound! The blinding snow was blowing sideways, coming down! Checking horses and cows, a time he did allow; That day he was wearing a brand new Mackinaw. * VIOLENT VELOCITY, WALKING INTO HEADWINDS History records that on that cold winter day Seventy-one mile-per-hour gusting winds came that way! In moments he couldn't see where he was going Against the vicious velocity it was blowing. But there was some distance from the barn to the house That he must trudge to get to his waiting spouse. He couldn't see through a nearly snow-caked eyebrow. He pulled up the collar of his new Mackinaw.

NO TURNING BACK IN ZERO VISABILITY Leaning against strong head winds to stay on his feet; Aware it was not the time to think of retreat. Losing body heat walking slow against the wind; He could feel it freezing all of his exposed skin. He was deathly afraid of getting lost that night, As he pulled his long coat and cap and mittens tight. But he realized he must struggle on somehow. It was luck he was wearing his new Mackinaw.

CHALLENGED NOT TO LOSE DIRECTION Leaving the barn he followed the long steel well pipe That would lead him to the windmill (vertical type). Knowing that would shorten the distance by one-third. But the loud roar of the storm was all that he heard. He tied a big blue handkerchief over his nose; He couldn't get his breath and he tugged at his clothes. Mortally afraid he'd veer off in the wind so raw; He was barely warmed by his new Mackinaw.

PACKED WITH SNOW He opened one eye and squinted and searched in the night; Then saw the glimmer of...yes, the kitchen light. Visibility was zero, just one big blur; She was glad see him. He was grateful to see her. The family was happy; all were safe in the house; Dad took off his winter coat with help from his spouse. But a strange mystery: no one can explain how A layer of snow was inside his Mackinaw!?

*Long, heavy winter coat © Copyright 1996, rewrite 12-2009, all rights reserved



APPALOOSA HORSE CLUB ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY GREETING CARD CONTEST

MOSCOW, Idaho – The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) gave members and enthusiasts the option to spread more holiday cheer this year with Appaloosa holiday greeting cards! With the success of this year's greeting cards, the ApHC has decided to make it an annual tradition by implementing the Holiday Card Contest!

The ApHC is inviting members to submit their fondest holiday memories featuring

their breed of choice...the Appaloosa! Submit your original artwork, painting, drawing or photo and it may be featured in the 2010 Appaloosa holiday greeting card collection. It is easy to enter, simply send your original artwork with a description and Production Director, 2720 W. Pullman Rd., Moscow, ID 83843

All entries must be received in the office by Oct. 1, 2010.



The Outhouse: Life on the Farm with Emily

Don't Shoot the Goat!

I had heard somewhere that goats were great companions for horses, so I thought I'd give it a try. Common sense said no, but this one was sooo cute! Sweet little goat was delivered and placed in the horse barn while I was away on errands for the day. Previous "keep your mouth shut and don't say a word until cash is in your hand" goat owner didn't bother to tell me anything about goats, especially the fact that they viewed horse tails as a delicacy.

Arriving home, I found four horses with nicely squared-off, considerably shorter tails. Goat had a look on her face that said, "Only their hair dresser could tell for sure." Swallowing her excuse while double-thinking my sanity, I petted cute little goat and welcomed her to her new home, silently praying that the horses' tails would grow out before anyone noticed.

Ed came over to "my side" of the farm to see the new little pet and, on his way out the door, laughed and said my horses looked like a bunch of jackasses with the short tails. I made a mental note to dunk his toothbrush in the toilet. Goat needed to be halter-broke and the Yellow Pages omitted any listing for goat trainers. Standing in separate corners of the horse stall, the two of us squared off and stared eye-to-eye, questioning who was going to train whom.

I decided to try the method used on horses where the animal is moved around in a circle until a little tired and then is supposed to come on in and "join up" with the trainer. Well, Goat joined up all right, right on top of me! As I was lying in the horse poop, I drew the conclusion that what was underneath me was considerably better smelling than what was on top of me. Goats stink – I mean, really stink!

Eventually Goat adopted me as her number-one person while accepting the collar and lead. She did most of the leading while I followed.

Goat was protector of Emily. Where I went, she went. No horse, dog, or human was to come close or she would stand on her back legs and tilt her head while using her fifty-pound body as a battering ram. I was quite fond of my little bodyguard, but Ed wasn't

too impressed when her horns started growing and he got it in the rump a few times after coming too close to our happy little circle. The UPS worker hung our packages on the mailbox at the end of the driveway, and we received a nasty letter with an invoice attached for a new pair of delivery driver trousers.

Goat had great fun practicing mountain climbing on Ed's pickup hood, and I didn't see much need to reprimand her for it as the truck was old and scratched-up anyways. The day she saw her reflection in the windshield ended a little dicey as the "other" goat was battered beyond repair and Ed needed a new windshield.

It was time to corral the goat or, as Ed nicely stated, "Keep that four-legged destruction varmint penned up, or it's open goat-shooting season on the farm."

Christmas was just around the corner, and our church asked if the yearly tree-cutting hayride could come to our place. One of the young lads came out early that morning, sporting a beautiful pre-cut evergreen, and hid it amongst the trees behind the barn. That afternoon, the wagonload of excited children arrived to chop down a special tree for the Christmas Eve service. I stayed behind, chatting with the minister and his wife while the group trotted into the woods, searching for their tree.

Back came the kids, followed by a goat and a tree that looked like it had been to the spa for a pedicure and major leg wax. Everything was stripped clean as far up as a goat could reach on her hind legs, and I

swallowed hard while kicking some rocks around, trying to think of an excuse for my sweet little pet. Goat had that look on her face that said, "Don't you dare take away my pie a la mode."

The kids didn't mind that the bottom half of their tree looked like a naked bird, and the minister was humble about the situation, reaching to shake my hand in thanks for the happy day. Goat saw her morning delicacy being hauled away and the person responsible was way too close to her human. I saw it coming before the minister did and there was no way to stop it. Goat battered him in a spot below his chest and above the knees. His bent-over response came in a slow-motion sentence that resembled what Ralphia blurted out in "A Christmas Story." Twenty-odd children stood in total shock with their eyes and mouths wide open...

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MARCH EVENTS AND BEYOND

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

March 5-7: Illinois Horse Fair, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL see www.horsemendscouncil.org

March 5-6: Majestic Valley Arena Winter Rodeo Series at Kalispell, Mont.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.; contact (406) 755-5366

March 6-7: Central MN Team Penning and Ranch Sort at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. contact (218) 736-3000

Mar. 6: Winter Series #5 at the Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Contact Tim at (507) 697-6167

Mar. 6: Fuzzy Wuzzy Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the NDSU Equine Center in Fargo, ND; 36 classes; contact Tara Swanson at (701) 231-8865

Mar. 6: The 6th Annual Rescue-Rehabilitation-Recovery Fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, 3482 E. River Rd in Tucson, AZ, 85718 with a silent auction, live dessert auction, huge tack sale, meet Martha Vazquez from KVOA News 4 and Michael Blake, awarding winning author and screenplay writer of "Dances with Wolves." Contact

March 6-7: Jane Melby Barrel Racing Clinic at 9 a.m. at West Oaks Ranch in Watkins, Minn; contact (612) 275-1748

March 6: Team Penning Jackpot at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch at 10 p.m. in Isanti, Minn. contact (612) 803-5950

Mar. 6: Cowboy Church on the Free Stage of the N.D. Winter Show Building in Valley City, N.D. featuring the music of Randy Mc Ginnity and his daughter Andrea.

March 6: UBRA Falcon Ridge Barrel Burners Winter Series starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn. contact Deb Marko at (651) 462-2129

Mar. 6-7: Hunter/Jumper Winter Schooling Show at the Colorado Horse Park at 8 a.m. in Parker, CO; (303) 841-5550

Mar. 6-7: Road to the Horse with entertainer John Payne at the World Championship Colt-Starting in Murfreesboro, TN; visit: roadtothehorse.com or call (325) 736-5000

Mar. 11: World Famous Lippizzaner Stallions, Glen Rose, Tex. www.lippizzaner.com

Mar. 11: Tom Murphy, horse dentist, at JJ Arena in Balsum Lake, Minn., contact ulie Jones at (715) 857-5505

Mar. 12-14: Denver Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

Mar. 13: Cowboy/Cowgirl Gathering, Expo & Hay, Equipment and Tack Auction at noon at the Community Center in Hinckley, Minn. Contact randyisham@yahoo.com or (320)629-7575 Ext. 16

Mar. 13: NDSU Barrel Racing Series at 11 a.m. at the NDSU Equine Center in Fargo, ND; contact Tate Eck at (701) 793-3862

March 13: UBRA Barrell Racing at the Arrowhead Arena in Monticello, Minn. contact (763) 878-1554

March 14, 2010 MayPort Arena Association Monthly Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Portland Credit Union in Portland, N.D. Everyone is Welcome.

March 15: Denver Championship RanchRodeo in Denver, CO. contact Brian Kitchen at (303) 292-4981

Mar. 18-21: Texas Reining Horse Show, Glen Rose, Tex. www.theraonline.com

March 18-21: Thesing Quarter Horse Show at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn.

March 20-21: CHJA Show: High Prairie Marches On, Hunter Jumper Competition at the CO HOrse Park; contact Carole A. Kenney at (303)840-4384; spectators welcome, free admission

March 20-21: Spring Series Barrel Racing at 11 a.m. at the Sweetwater Event Center in Rock Springs, Wyo.; see www.sweetwaterevents.com for more info

March 27: Wells County Hippology Contest at the Wells Co Fairgrounds; contact LeannSchafer at (701) 847-2568

March 26-28: MN Arabian Horse Association at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn.

March 27: JJ Arena Open/WSCA Fun Show and UBRA Barrel Race in Balsum Lake, Minn., contact Julie Jones at (715) 857-5505

Mar. 27: Winter Regional Horse Owner Program, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, Minn. Register online before Mar. 25: www.regonline.com/CloquetHorse

Mar. 27: Wells County Hippology Contest at the Wells Co. Fairgrounds in Fessenden, ND; contact Leann Schafer at (701) 947-2568

April 3: Fun show at Houck Horse Company Arena, in North Branch, Minn.; contact (651)277-1095

April 10-11: NDSU Horse Fair at the NDSU Equine Center in Fargo; contact Nichole Chapel at nichole.chapel@ndsu.edu

April 11: Fun show at Houck Horse

Company Arena, in North Branch, Minn.; contact (651)277-1095

April 17-18: Carleton Brook's Hunter Equitation Clinic at the CO Horse Park in Parker, CO; contact Vivien Van Buren at (303) 814-1500

April 17-18: ND State 4-H Horse Contests: Horse Judging, Hippology, Quiz Bowl; contact Carrie Hammer at (701) 231-5682

April 17-25: Reach Out To Horses at the Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary, Green Valley, AZ for Anna Twinney Clinics; for more information or to reserve your space contact Carrie at 520-398-9312 or email evoicesassistant@yahoo.com Or contact Anna at anna@reachoutto-horses.com

April 18: JJ Arena Saddle Club Tack Swap and Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Balsum Lake, Minn., contact Julie Jones at (715) 857-5505

April 23-25: Kelly Kaminski Barrel Racing and Horsemanship Clinic at JJ Arena in Balsum Lake, Minn., contact Julie Jones at (715) 857-5505

April 23-25: AHA SD Spring Show A&B (Concurrent shows) Souix Falls, SD; contact Heather Swanson at (605)743-2745

May 23-24: OK Cattlemen's Assoc. Range Round-up OKC; OK Steve McKinley at (405) 235-4391; see: www.okcattlemen.org

June 13: MnFQCH Second Annual Ride-A-Thon to benefit the American Cancer Society from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wild River State Park north of East Branch, Minn. Registration deadline May 24. Contact Sue at (651)-462-1544. or visit: www.mnfoundationquarterhorseclub.org

June 26 & 27: Added Money Barrel Race "Dashin' For Diamonds ... Southern Style!" at 10:30 a.m. at the Elk River Fairgrounds in Elk River, Minn.

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The Weathervane: EQUINE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

MINNESOTA TAX COURT DECISION A VICTORY FOR OWNERS OF HORSE BOARDING PROPERTY

BY ALLISON EKLUND

On January 21, 2010, the Minnesota Tax Court issued a decision that could help many owners of equine property used for horse boarding. In Sommerdorf v. County of Sherburne, the petitioners had appealed a reclassification of their 80-acre horse boarding property from agricultural-homestead to a split classification of agricultural and commercial.



The change caused a tax increase of several thousand dollars. The Tax Court restored agricultural classification for the entire 80-acre property, including petitioners' horse barn, riding arena and 40 acres of timber and riding trails.

The central issue in the Sommerdorf case was whether over 20 acres of specially seeded and managed horse pasture used for grazing boarded horses counted as "raising an agricultural product for sale." Under the property tax statute, 273.13 Subd. 23(i)(3), commercial horse boarding property may be classified as agricultural only if the property is used to raise or cultivate an agricultural product "in conjunction with the boarding." Also at issue was whether the horse training and riding instruction offered by a trainer on the property under contract with petitioners were "commercial services" subjecting the horse barn and riding arena to commercial-industrial classification.

The Sommerdorf decision, assuming it survives any appeal, would be a significant victory for owners of horse boarding property because it holds that pasture used for grazing boarded horses is an agricultural product "sold" to boarders under their boarding contracts. The Court further held that services for hire such as riding instruction, horse training, and exercise are "integral to horse boarding" because "horses are dangerous and unpredictable." Therefore, horse boarding properties that graze horses on pasture pursuant to boarding contracts are properly classified as agricultural, and they should not be subject to split classification as commercial for offering riding or training services to boarders.

The tax court victory is not the end of the story, however. Because each property is unique, and because counties vary widely in land use and character, assessors will continue to struggle to classify equestrian property. The Minnesota Horse Council is working with a coalition of agricultural interests and individual property owners to propose a statutory amendment to codify the Sommerdorf decision and protect the agricultural classification of property used for horse boarding and equestrian activities. For more information, or for a copy of the Sommerdorf decision, contact Allison Eklund at (651) 592-7858 or allison@eklund-law.com.

Allison Fabynske Eklund is a Twin Cities attorney with a practice focusing on equine law and public policy. As government relations counsel for the Minnesota Horse Council and staff attorney for the Minnesota Horse Expo, she strives to improve business conditions for the horse industry by educating both government and the public about the critical role of horses in agriculture. Through Eklund Law, PC, she represents equine business and property owners as well as nonprofit equestrian organizations. Ms. Eklund recently volunteered to help create the Minnesota Stable Owners Association, a Minnesota nonprofit and 501(c)(6) business league that will help unify the voice of the horse industry by enabling grassroots participation in the public policy arena. She is a regular speaker for the University of Minnesota Extension's Equine and Forestry programs providing business law and estate-planning information to families seeking to keep their farm or cabin property in the family over successive generations.



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link. Enter the code at checkout. AQHA welcomes comments regarding the new dressage program. To submit a comment, e-mail shows@aqha.org.

AQHA WELCOMES DRESSAGE AS AN OFFICIAL CLASS

The American Quarter Horse Journal, January 25, 2010 - Dressage is now an official AQHA class - one in which you can earn AQHA points, qualify for AQHA Incentive Fund earnings and compete for year-end awards. Beginning at Training Level 4, AQHA dressage classes will be held within existing classes at competitions licensed by the United States Dressage Federation or United States Equestrian Federation. The same USDF-USEF judges will preside over the AQHA classes; the only additional requirement is that the judges must be AQHA members. Exhibitors must also be current members of AQHA, and the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse. A competition license fee of \$85, good for the lifetime of the horse, is also required. The shows must be approved by AQHA at least 60 days in advance.

Horses competing in dressage are given scores, expressed in percentages. The Quarter Horse show industry has always been a point-driven system so AQHA has created a conversion table to change dressage scores into AQHA points. To see the conversion table, go to www.aqha.com/showing/guidetoshowing/dressage.html and click on "frequently asked questions."

In addition to awarding points, AQHA is recognizing the three high-point American Quarter Horses at each of the nine USEF-USDF Regional Championship shows in 2010 and has also created a high-point recognition program for the open, amateur and youth divisions in each level of dressage competition. Amateur and youth eligibility is based on criteria found in the AQHA Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

If you're interested in getting your American Quarter Horse started in dressage, America's Horse - AQHA's membership magazine - initiated a year-long series on Training Level dressage in the January-February 2010 issue. For more information, search for "dressage" on americashorsedaily.com. Included in the search results, you'll find an excerpt from "The USDF Guide to Dressage," written by Jennifer O. Bryant and much more.

The United States Dressage Federation is giving AQHA members a 10 percent discount on the guide books. Visit www.aqha.com/showing/guidetoshowing/dressage.html to find the offer code and

Leading Edge: Progressive approaches to horses and riding

BY JULIE PENSCHORN

Only a sound horse can happily work well for us. We really must do everything possible to keep our horses that way! Over the winter your horse may have had to deal with walking on slippery footing and some time off. Both can play havoc with his muscles and mind. Massage helps horses that shy, that want to run out from under you, or even buck you off, become calmer, because horses often act out when they are uncomfortable.

Don't we all say, "Can you just rub this sore muscle here?"

when we have muscle pain? It's the same for horses. When they rough-house, gallop to one end of their turnout paddock and slide to a stop, buck, rear, slip on the ice, or just stand around with little turnout, they can cause themselves all sorts of woes. And, like you, they just love bodywork!

If you've never worked on your horse before, don't worry. You will be surprised how easy it is to begin to listen to your horse from the ground. With time you'll find you can work



Always think about your body position in terms of safety. The most gentle horse can be a bit annoyed by deep pressure, and you need deep pressure for results.

the only equipment you really need to get started. Then, begin to touch the horse with pressure all over his body, sensing tightness, flinching, ears back, etc. Keep watching the horse for information. The horse will tell you what hurts through his body language. When the respiration goes up, you're on a sore spot. Watch him. When he's blinking more, or yawning, you may well be on a sore spot. Feel him push into you or try to get away from you. Both are indications of a sore area, but use discretion!

wonders to stimulate circulation and promote healing. You'll help your horse avoid compensation in other parts of his body, and sometimes you can delay the onset of arthritis by reducing inflammation and moving lymph fluid.

A good plan is to hire an expert to help you, so you can learn how by watching and asking

Always monitor your body position. You never want to be in a position where you could get kicked, though I find it's rare that horses act out during massages.

I often use my elbow to get deep into a muscle in the hindquarters or the shoulders. In these pictures we show where we like to work on the

horses. These are some common areas where we have gotten the most benefit from our work.

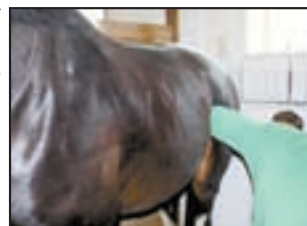
Often, as I massage, I am sure the horse needs a chiropractic adjustment as well. With the pres-



sure points near the tail you can get the horse to hump up his back and make many minor adjustments by himself. You may also have results by slowly pulling the tail straight back and down.

By turning the neck while you have deep pressure on it in an upward (toward the head) direction, you'll often get adjustments as well. If you get a noisy pop, it's not ever bad. You're not hurting your horse (watch him say thank you with his head shake and licking and chewing), but you may not get the entire problem solved. So don't think you're done! If you have a neck vertebra that releases from one side, it's highly likely you'll have another one that wants to release from the other side.

I'm a massage therapist, and a Spinologist, but you can't just learn from me! There are



We've found this upward approach in the flank works well for loosening the deep core muscles that tie into the inside of the hip.

many books you may want to explore including "Beating Muscle Injuries in Horses" by Jack Meagher, "The Bremm Method" by Doris Holstead, and "Equine Structural Integration: Myofascial Release Manual" by James Pascucci.

Julie Penshorn owns Sunborn Stables in Chisago City, Minn. She especially enjoys working with instructors to help them become more effective riders and teachers of dressage and jumping. For more information and to read her blog, visit www.sunbornstables.com.



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Dressage Defined: The Baroque Horse

BY MARGO BRADY

The term "Baroque horse" is used to collectively describe the type of horse seen and used during the "Baroque" period in Europe, 1590-1750. During this artistic time, classical dressage and the movements of the haute école were in full vogue. The modern equivalents of this type of horse are the Friesian, Lipizzan, Andalusian/Pura Raza Española (P.R.E.), Carthusian, Lusitano, Alter-Real, Kladruber, and the Frederiksberg and Knabstrup. Last month we described the Danish Frederiksberg and Knabstrup and their role in modern dressage. Here we take a look at their Baroque cousins.

The Friesian is a native horse of the Netherlands who has been used both for driving and riding. A solid black horse, he has enjoyed the spotlight in the modern dressage world due to his noble presence and majestic movement accentuated with long flowing



Shaun McLaughlin-Myers riding Fryso fan Bosksicht, an 8 year-old imported Friesian gelding, at the Champagne Classic Horse Show at Donida Farm in Auburn, WA

mane and tail. This is the horse often seen in the movies with knights on his back and damselfs in red velvet dresses riding sidesaddle. Professional trainer, Shaun McLaughlin-Myers of Auburn, Washington, is shown riding Fryso fan Bosksicht, an 8 year-old imported Friesian gelding, owned by Laurie McLaughlin. Shaun says, "He is a super nice dressage show horse and has scored to the 80's at 2nd level this year. From my experience this breed has a fantastic work ethic and is super personable both on the ground and as a riding partner." Shaun has earned her USDF Silver Medal and has studied under many great trainers, including Rapahel Heiligers who was a member of the Dutch National Team. She continues, "The Friesians show a great ability to sit. In fact, Fryso learned the piaffe very quickly and is developing his passage quite well. However, lateral work is not their forte."

The Lipizzan is the classical dressage horse from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna where traditional dressage and the movements of the haute école are alive and well today. Established in 1572, it is the oldest riding academy in the world. The Spanish Riding School is named after the Spanish horses that were used there, not from a "Spanish" method of training. The Lipizzan traces his ancestry to the Iberian horses of Spain although the breed was created and takes its name from the Lipica (Lipizza) stud, formerly of northern Italy, now of Slovenia.

The Iberian Peninsula is geographically located in the southwestern portion of Europe and contains Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar, Andorra, and a small portion of France. The Andalusian/Pura Raza Española (P.R.E.), Carthusian, Lusitano, and Alter-Real are all considered Iberian breeds and share much of the same history and genetic background. The Andalusian was renamed by the Spanish Breeders Association in 1912 giving it the name Pura Raza Española (P.R.E.) meaning "pure Spanish breed." This breed is particularly suited to the haute

école and is now seen climbing the ranks in modern dressage competition.

Kate Fleming-Kuhn, a professional dressage trainer in Illinois, earned her USDF Gold Medal on Osado IV, a P.R.E. stallion. "Osado and I competed at Grand Prix together. Osado, like many of the Andalusians

and Lusitanos that I have ridden, had an incredible desire to please. He was sensitive and sensible with lots of energy. The highlight of this type of horse



Kate Fleming-Kuhn riding Osado IV, a P.R.E. stallion, on whom she earned her USDF Gold Medal.

is their aptitude for collection, particularly piaffe and passage." She continues, "I purchased Osado through a bankruptcy auction. He knew all the grand prix movements, but was very sensitive and got nervous while schooling the more advanced movements which made him very difficult for many of the adult amateurs who were also interested in purchasing him. I spent every dime I had to buy him with the hopes that he would help educate me to learning all the grand prix movements. Seven months later, I earned my USDF Gold Medal on him. I learned on Osado not only how to ride all the grand prix movements and how to put the movements together for the test, but also how to be a tactful, soft rider so that he had the confidence to go with relaxation

during the difficult movements he had to perform. This is the greatest gift of the Baroque horse -- their sensitivity and desire to please makes for a ride of 'whispering' aids."

The Carthusian is not so much of a separate breed but is of Andalusian blood that was carefully guarded and bred by the Carthusian monks since 1476. They are considered to be the purest strain of Andalusian remaining in the world and are used for bullfighting and haute école demonstrations.

The Lusitano is the Iberian horse found in Portugal. Sharing the same breeding as the Andalusian, they have only been called "Lusitano" since 1966. Horses had always been exchanged across the border between Portugal and Spain up until this time when the Portuguese wanted to concentrate on strengthening their stud book and refining their own breed, the Lusitano. Although the differences are few, the Lusitano typically has stronger hindquarters than the Andalusian due to his continued presence in the bullfighting ring.

The Alter-Real was founded from Andalusian blood and is the second Portuguese bullfighting and haute école breed. In the 1940's the Alter-Real was used to rebuild the foundation of what was to become the Lusitano breed. His name comes from the town of Alter do Chão where he was first bred in 1748. Real is Portuguese for "royal." These horses became famous because of their association with Pedro José de Alcântara Antonio Luis de Meneses, 4th Marquis de Marialva (1713-1799), considered to be the "Portuguese La Guérinière." (In 1733, François Robichon de la Guérinière published

his book, *Ecole de Cavalerie*, considered by many to be the "Bible" of classical equitation. It is his method that is used at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna.) Through his influence by la Guérinière, the Marquis de Marialva is credited for the extreme lightness in hand of the balanced horse found in Iberian classical equitation. Unlike the Andalusian and Lusitano, the Alter-Real can have a difficult and excitable temperament and requires expert handling.

The Kladruber from Czechoslovakia has been bred since 1597 and shares many characteristics and history with the Lippizaner breed. Used mostly for cart driving, they are also a good riding horse. They tend to be quite tall (about 17 hands) and have a convex profile. Typically grey, the blacks are very rare because the black herd was all but destroyed in the 1930's with most of the horses being sold for meat! However, they were saved from extinction by Professor Prantisek Bilek, the founder of Czech cattle-breeding and equine research. Starting with about 20 horses, the black herd now consists of 65 mares and 10 breeding stallions and is kept at the Horse Breeding Research Station in Slatinany. The greys are still bred at the Kladrub stud. (I personally had the privilege of riding next to an imported black Kladruber while studying dressage in Michigan in the 1980's!)

The Baroque horses are often referred to as the "original" dressage horse. The truth in this is that these breeds were created and refined for use in classical equitation and the movements of the haute école in the 16th century! Undoubtedly, the Iberian horses possess the ability, aptitude,



Minnesota trainer, Lisa Williams, riding Romeo, a Lusitano gelding. Photo by Ley Bouchard

-Concluded on Page 18-



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and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



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DRESSAGE DEFINED:
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grace, and athleticism called for in the upper levels of dressage, both classical and modern. The Iberian or Spanish horses have had a tremendous influence on many breeds around the world throughout the centuries. It is about time that they receive their due in the modern dressage arena!

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 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.

In the News!

NAIS ABANDONED

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is no longer, at least for now; it may come back in a different form and certainly with another name but for right now the National Animal Identification System devised by the 2004 Bush Administration is out of favor. Developed on the premise of monitoring the movement of livestock in case of disease, Department of Agriculture officials said Feb. 5 that they are giving up on the NAIS and will let the states develop individual plans to monitor the movement of livestock.

The announcement comes after many months

of disfavor and complaints from large livestock operators and other advocacy groups who believed it was another "Big Brother" approach by government. It was believed the costs to the livestock producer would be great and troublesome.

BLM ROUNDUP CONCLUDES IN CALICO MOUNTAINS, NEVADA

The Calico Mountain Roundup by the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada has concluded with the loss of between 39 and 43 horses, depending upon the source.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOZER



1994 - 2010

Living the Dream: The Garrett's of Painted Feather Shires

BY LEY BOUCHARD

Looking out her window in the White River Valley near Meeker, Colo., Wendy Garrett can see the ranch where she spent her adolescent years and grew to love horses. After marrying, the Garrett's spent the next 15 years in Glenwood and then 5 in Denver, Colo. before moving to Meeker.

The Beginning of Painted Feather Shires & Gypsies

Wendy visited Greg, her plumber husband, at a job site and ended up buying their first Shire horse from the Parrington Family at Tally Ho Shires in Rifle, Colo. The Parrington's, well-known in the industry, boarded the stallion until the Garrett's bought a place in the country and taught the Garrett's everything they needed to know to start their business.

"I feel you need to love and treat your horses well. By doing so they will respect you. My mare will step between me and another horse giving me

people that are rough on their horses and want to show them who "the boss is" but that just shows them who to kick. You treat them like you want them to treat you and you get it back." If my stallion does something stupid, I can point my finger at him and scold him and he will put his head down in apology. Because of their size you need them to be gentle and smart. Back in the day farmers need ed to be able to count on them and would breed for brains and conformation. And those are priorities for us as well."

The Gypsies

"In 2004, we bought a Gypsy stallion, my husband really liked the smaller horse and we got the mares. The gypsy personality is so great, even mellow than the Shires." But then the economy went south. "We aren't going to breed a lot of babies until the economy gets better."



Dealing with the Economy

The downturned economy has presented other challenges for their business. "Yea, finding hay for a reasonable price. All the ranches are selling off and subdividing. We use 50 ton a year, easily, and we hay 23 acres; last year we got 15

tons off it but we still have to buy a lot and the hay is a big thing. It's going to get worse. We talk about it, let people know, we work hard to make our horse's lives easier. We have to plan ahead so we can afford it."

ton off it but we still have to buy a lot and the hay is a big thing. It's going to get worse. We talk about it, let people know, we work hard to make our horse's lives easier. We have to plan ahead so we can afford it."

The Minis



"We went to a western stock show and met a champion donkey which was so adorable. Their main

selling point is that grandparent's purchase for their grandkids. So we bought two males because lady wanted them to stay together. Then we bought three females and a breeding male, and we gelded

will go after dogs that are not supposed to be there."

The Family

Wendy is also a real estate broker and mother. Their son Thomas is also a plumber. Their grand-



one. His mom is a spotted one and we want to make a team out of them.

"Mini-donkeys come up to you the minute they are born and glomp onto you. We drive them and put them in parades. You can't beat hats on a mini donkey."

The Garrett's church asked them to bring a mini to Easter last year. "You never know until you bring them indoors, but he did real well. We have brought them to the nursing home and the hospital and they just love them. It brought back memories to the residents and they recalled when they were children. I need to do that more," Wendy confided.

"Mini donkeys are good against snakes. The minis are good about notification. Once they get used to animals, like the fox, they don't holler at fox. The regular size donkeys do more protection against creatures. They both let you know. The minis are good against rattlesnakes. I have seen minis go after dogs. They get used to ones, like when our neighbor's dog comes over. But if it's one that they don't know, they

daughter, Elaina, is eight years-old. Elaina likes to ride, jump and this year wants to barrel race.

Wendy worries about all the abandoned and unwanted horses. "If they really can't afford to take care of their animals

they need to seriously consider - and I don't care if an animal is worth many thousands - they need to find a good home for it even

if it has to be given away. Many people are dumping horses - it's not fair. If you can't feed and vaccinate your horse you have to give your horse away."

Our farrier was here recently telling us of people that want to give him horses. He does outfitting so he can use them - but he needs to have grazing land for them, etc. He also said that someone had dropped horses into a field and there was a sign that read, "Whoever dropped your horses off, please come get them."

The Garretts are making plans to diversify their Painted Feather Shire business. "I consider every one of them out there a blessing; just like our one gelding: one of the mares out there we didn't think she was late in the season; we didn't put her back out with the stallion. I kept training her throughout

when she was really holding her weight I had her checked again and she was in foal, and a colt was born. We had him gelded and he is being trained along with the mare and we will use

them as a team this year. We just do the pleasure stuff when it comes to riding. We drive in shows and do halter in shows. I want to start doing weddings this year; last year we had a lot of requests. Many people have their weddings in Meeker because they can go up river. The White River Valley is a popular spot, hunters come up, and people see it, fishing and

camping up river. It is beautiful. People come from all over for their weddings. There is always so much to do.

"We have a wagon but this spring we want to go to the eastern slope sale and

I want to get a smaller buggy for four people." I asked Wendy if she had any regrets and she responded, "Just that in 20 years I didn't have horses. I just forgot how much they add to your life. If we had tried to stay in Meeker and had

horses, it would have been a better life in those 20 years."

The Garrett's may be reached at: www.paintedgeathershires.com or (970) 878-4689.



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