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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

All Breeds,
All Disciplines,
All the Time!

May 2011

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper



At Home On The Range



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Dyna King's Rescue
from Dogpatch*

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The Importance of Written Contracts with Trainers

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

We all know that record-keeping is important for tax purposes, as well as for keeping track of day-to-day developments in one's horse activities – whether in racing or breeding. One area that is often neglected, however, pertains to written contracts with trainers.

Written contracts are important with trainers not only to protect the parties from unexpected legal liability, but also to provide documentary evidence in the case of an IRS audit. Auditors will ask to see business records associated with the horse venture, and often revenue agents find it incomprehensible that anyone involved in the horse business would not have written contracts with trainers.

The contract should make it clear that the trainer is undertaking the training of the animals listed in the agreement and/or to educate the owner on how to train them. The agreement should specify the terms and conditions of payment, and incidental services, like boarding, grooming, labor, transportation, veterinary

expenses, etc. that might involve additional charges. The horses to be trained should be listed, along with the name of the current insurer, if applicable, the insurer's emergency phone number, a disclosure of the horse's vices or unique habits and other pertinent information.

Under state laws, the trainer can impose a live-stock lien to enforce unpaid boarding costs, and this fact should be mentioned in the contract. Enforcement of a lien for unpaid bills, however, is an undesirable last resort and involves filing a case in court, with associated legal fees and delays.

The contract should have language specifying that the trainer will perform all services in accordance with generally accepted professional standards, and that the trainer will exercise reasonable care for the protection of the horses, and will educate and train the horses and/or owners to the best of his or her ability. There should be a clause pertaining to routine horse care requirements, or special needs.

For the trainer, the contract will set forth an "assumption of risk" clause to make it clear that he or she is not liable for injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting in the inherent risks of equine activities.

To avoid any misunderstanding, the contract should state that the trainer cannot and does not guarantee or predict the success of the training program, since this depends somewhat on the individual physical and mental ability of each horse.

Trainers will always want a statement that each horse will be delivered to the trainer's facility free of transmissible diseases, and must be effectively wormed and have current immunizations prior to arrival.

Trainers usually want the right to terminate the agreement on short notice for any reason, including the animal's poor health or unsoundness, dangerous propensities or other conditions that make the horse unsuitable for training. Likewise, the agreement should state that the owner

may terminate the agreement for any reason. There should be a clause authorizing the trainer to obtain emergency care if the trainer is unable to contact the owner.

Another important clause desired by trainers is a statement that the trainer will not be liable for any sickness, disease, theft, death or injury arising out of the boarding or training of the animal except in the event of willful negligence. It is important to ascertain whether the trainer has public liability, accidental injury, theft or equine mortality insurance that might pertain to horses boarded at his or her stable.

You should retain signed copies of the agreement (not blank copies), because if you are audited, the revenue agent will want to see them. For racehorse contracts the trainer may be designated as an authorized agent with authority to decide which races to enter, including claiming races, and which jockey shall ride the horse. There should be provision for the owner to have the right to require another

jockey of his choice, and the option to withdraw the horse from or not enter it in a particular race, or to direct the trainer to enter the horse in a particular race. For show horses, the contract should make it clear whether the trainer has discretion to have the horse shown at horse shows of his or her choice, or whether this is something to be mutually agreed upon.

According to attorney Michael Dorazio, Jr., of Rancho Santa Fe, California, "It is important to put into the contract exactly what the specific responsibilities of the trainer are. Is he expected to get the horse ready at shows, to cool down the horse and put it away after training sessions?" He adds, "How often is the trainer to ride the horse – how many hours/days per week? It's important to have communication between owner and trainer because this can bring issues to the surface before problems arise."

I recommend a clause that obligates the trainer to provide reports (monthly)

on the general well-being of the horse and progress in its training.

While many owners do not have contracts with their trainers, this is something that is very important for both parties and can help the parties think about the



issues and avert conflicts in the future.

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He has clients in all 50 states. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, by e-mail at johnalancohan@aol.com, or you can see more at his website: www.JohnAlanCohan.com.]

Moral Responsibility, Spirituality, and the Horse as an Industry

by Katherine Windfeather Thompson

In January of 2011, there was an event held in Las Vegas, Nev., called The Summit of the Horse. I was not able to attend due to my duties on the racetrack, but I was keenly interested and kept up on information about the proceedings. The main issue was what to do about the problem created by unwanted and unadoptable horses, as well as excessive numbers of horses being abused, starved, or turned out to fend for themselves. I suspect that much suffering of this sort yet goes unreported, and sadly, will continue until the pendulum begins to swing in the other direction.

Caring owners and breeders are faced with and working through difficult challenges regarding these issues. Much of the blame for this situation has been attributed to the closing of horse (meat) processing plants in the U.S.A. Initially, pressure by passionate animal lovers and animal-rights activists brought about implementation

of legislation to stop the slaughter of horses for the export of horsemeat to foreign countries. No one will argue that those involved, including those opposed to shutting the plants down, had their hearts in the right place. I'm sure they were not, as a whole, heartless butchers intent solely on profit from other countries with a market for horsemeat.

But very often, when you stop a leak in one place, the pressure will create another, bigger one elsewhere. You cannot solve a problem by treating the symptoms. You have to go to the root cause of the imbalance; a problem has to be addressed on the level that on which it is occurring. That level has to do with what people believe. Often, well-meaning people tend to only see the picture directly in front of them, rather than the "picture under the picture," or what I like to call the quantum view. From that perspective, as I see it, what has to change is for people to begin to take more personal responsibility for their choices and actions. This

pertains to each individual person who has a horse or multiple horses, whether for breeding, competition, or recreation.

There is no easy solution at this time for the symptoms created by over-breeding, irresponsible ownership, the downturn in the economy, and the ignorance of well-meaning, (and maybe some not-so-well-meaning people) regarding what it takes to have and maintain horses. It's time for people to take a more ethical and moral approach to ownership. Problem-solving has to start at the source, with increased awareness of the consequences. It's no longer "livestock business as usual."

I personally stopped breeding race prospects; simply having open mares to breed was not reason enough to do so. After doing the best I could to place the horses I had bred with owners who demonstrated the best potential, I made a conscious commitment to see that the two mares left in my care would live out their lives with me, regardless of the inconvenience or expense. They would

never go to a sale when their usefulness was over, to be shipped across the border for disposal. That was a business decision I had been forced to make too many times in the past, and for me, it was unthinkable to make it again. Some could not understand why I didn't breed these mares. But why would I, when there are so many other horses needing homes? Opinions like that made no sense to me, and still don't. Last year, I had to put one of the horses down, and there was no profit in that. But it was, for me, the right way to go – all the way to the end, and the decision, in spite of the expense, brought me a peace never experienced before.

The Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, also known as The Institute of Range and American Mustang, located in South Dakota, has set an example for other organizations and individuals. They suspended their breeding program last year, and while not all feral horses' behavior can be predicted or controlled, to

date they have only one new foal on the ground. This means that more time, effort, and money can be invested to place yearlings and two-year-olds up for adoption in caring and capable situations to give them the best possible relationship with a human. More organizations and ranches need to take note; it can be done. And it will have an effect.

But this is not the only answer to the present dilemma. We must recognize that there is a distinction between former, accepted ways of thinking and believing, and a new paradigm of awareness in the present and for the future. We are literally moving from one reality into another, which is a distinct and obvious process of evolution. As we do, we take with us those with whom we are in relationship – in this case, our horses.

To validate this concept, one has only to look at the massive changes in our personal experiences and relationships interacting with our horses. We are applying groundbreaking

new methods and approaches to training styles in each breed and modality. Many people have become keenly aware that we have more than a physical relationship to our horses; there is an emotional and a spiritual connection to them as well, and this mind-body-spirit relationship is a unified whole.

It will take time to turn the current dilemma around and head in a more positive direction. A more thoughtful and compassionate approach is needed – not another slaughter facility. We are beginning to redefine the significance of our relationship to all the creatures we're connected to on this earth. This is an integral part of the process of experiencing life on this wondrous planet as we know it at this point in time. And it is the process of saving it for the incredible future we have ahead of us.

*Katherine Windfeather-Thompson,
A New Beginning in 2011*

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell, and wild horses

By Victor Wolf

March 30, 1820, and April 25, 1878, are two dates of significance. They mark the birth and the passing of a woman whose legacy is engraved on history and the one on the hearts of countless people. Her name was Anna Sewell, and she wrote the classic novel *Black Beauty* because she had great compassion for the horses of her time. *Black Beauty* is the story of a horse's life, from colt, to working horse and his treatment, to retirement.

The book is the only contribution Sewell made to the welfare of horses, but it was enough. It's one of the few novels that can claim to have reduced suffering.

Sewell, who said she wanted to raise awareness in regard to animal welfare, intended the book for the people who worked with horses, and she met her goal – repeatedly. It is called the best-selling book of all time, reportedly selling 50 million copies in 2008. (Review biography: "Dark Horse" by Adrienne E. Gavin, *The Nashua Telegraph*, 3-20-11)

But Sewell lived long enough to see only a bit of the success of her

only published work. She passed on just five months after the book was published.

One cannot imagine how Anna Sewell would respond to the plight of America's wild horses today. The pro-slaughter (they call it "harvesting") people seem to be advancing their agenda, and the pro-preservation group, essentially leaderless, seems too mired in confusion.

The organization Veterinarians for Equine Welfare (VEW) has made the statement that "The Summit and The Unwanted Horse Coalition claim to care about horses but both are pro-slaughter, and are advancing a harmful agenda."

On their website (www.vetsforequinewelfare.org), VEW organization offers on their website "A Campaign to End Horse Slaughter" for animal healthcare professionals and horse owners.

Madeline Pickens is one person who attempted to do what she could to save America's wild horses. She bought a 24,000-acre ranch in Nevada, with grazing rights on 540,000 acres of public land. She had planned to move the 34,000 horses which were

being held in government-funded holding facilities and pastures (Standard Examiner, 10-8-10).

But Pickens' plan failed because she lacked the federal government's participation, about \$15 million a year, or \$500.00 per horse – about the same paid to private ranchers who host wild horses in their pastures long-term under federal contract (Washington Post 3-7-09, page A12).

Politics is one aspect of the controversy. Another is the political correctness of words. Can horses really be "harvested," as if they were an edible crop, such as corn or pumpkins? Federal and state agencies label wild horses "non-native, exotic species," seen as causing harm to the ecology of the land. Management then becomes controlling, leading to total eradication.

But John F. Kirkpatrick, PhD, and Patricia M. Fazio, PhD, offer another view in their article "The Surprising History of America's Wild Horses" (Nov. 29, 2009). They report that if wild horses are seen as native wildlife, then current management might shift. Fitzpatrick is the director of

the Science and Conservation Center, and Fazio is a research fellow, at Zoo-Montana, Billings.

And there is a forgotten aspect. On one hand, the wild horse population is made up of feral horses – domesticated horses that have run away, or have been released by irresponsible owners who no longer want the animals. On the other hand, there are the Spanish Mustangs, identified by DNA tests. These horses populate such places as Blackjack Mountain and Kiamichi Mountain, in Oklahoma; Corolla, N.C.; and the Kiger Mountains, in Oregon, not to mention the herds in New Mexico, Montana, and California.

The struggle to preserve these horses brings us to politics, and these few thoughts:

Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, warned, "Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time. They, therefore, who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is sublime and pure, are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free govern-

ments." (To James Henry 11-4-1800)

Chief Justice John Marshall tells us, "Between a balanced republic and a democracy the difference is like that between order and chaos."

John Adams stated, "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide."

Bud Falen, an attorney, is quoted as saying, "We have to get involved, push the politicians to remember who they represent. Get local governments involved; they can be cooperating agencies with the federal agency to help make the right decisions, and a decision that includes the locals is better than one made in DC...."

"Work on a program to file petitions to redress grievance. Statutes get broadly written. We have to start writing petitions to support our rights. We have to start doing what they are doing... If we don't ask, we will never get the answers we need... Start pushing the agencies and Congress to do the right thing."

Carlos Lopopolo who, with his departed wife Cindy, founded the New Mexico Horse Project to preserve Spanish Mustangs in the state, wrote that "There are only 22,000 to 32,000 wild horses in North America. We should have wild horses in every federal park in the U.S."

No, one cannot imagine how Anna Sewell would have addressed the issue of our wild horses, but one can conclude this about that exceptional woman: She would have stirred people to manifest sympathy, kindness and understanding treatment of horses, for she saw them not as livestock, or as a food crop. Sewell saw them as companion animals and partners for people.

A faithful student of Scripture, Sewell may even have known that in the original Hebrew, the term "nefesh chaya" – living soul – was applied to people throughout the Scriptures, and in Genesis 1:21-24, was applied to animals as well.

Equestrian Federation of Finland Honors George H. Morris with Gold Badge of Merit

Ypäjä, Finland - U.S. show jumping legend George H. Morris received a Gold Badge of Merit from the Equestrian Federation of Finland (EFF) on May 5, for his work with the Finnish show jumping athletes. Morris, who is the Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Team, has globally impacted the sport of show jumping.

Tom Gardin, a representative of the Scandinavian country's Federation, awarded the Badge to Morris at the conclusion of a three-day clinic. The presentation took place in Ypäjä, a small village 80 miles northwest of Helsinki best known for horses and its equine college that hosts Finnderby, an international competition that takes place annually.

Morris has been making almost annual trips to Finland since

1984. He has been highly appreciated by the hundreds of riders and trainers, including participants from the Baltic countries, who he has taught and inspired throughout his years of

training and conducting clinics.

"I like coming to Finland...I value this badge highly and feel honored," said Morris.



George H. Morris with his Gold Badge of Merit from the Equestrian Federation of Finland. Photo courtesy of EFF.

Morris is a well-known advocate of the light American riding style and classical horsemanship on which the successes of the U.S. Show Jumping Team are based. He teaches trainers and riders to give the horse the best possible education to develop and flourish. He advocates the importance of training one concept at a time, a method he believes is the most efficient.

The EFF announced the medal in late 2009, but due to travel interruptions caused by the Icelandic volcanoes and subsequent ash clouds, the presentation of the award was delayed.

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About the Cover

Ranching is way of life for the Martin Ranch outside of Evanston, Wyo. Eight-year-old Range Martin seems to fit the life. Range has been riding since he was two; roped his first calf at three; and participates as part of the crew for the branding. Friends and family come out for the event early in May where Justin and Lindie and the Crew brand 250 head. Be sure to catch next month's "Family Affair" featuring the Martin Ranch. Cover Photos by Laurie Errington, Scootemshootem Photography

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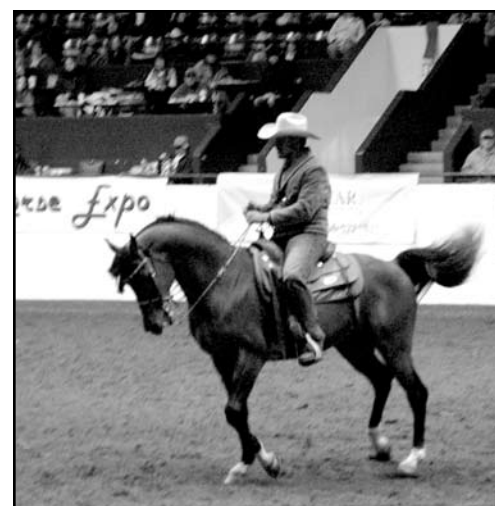
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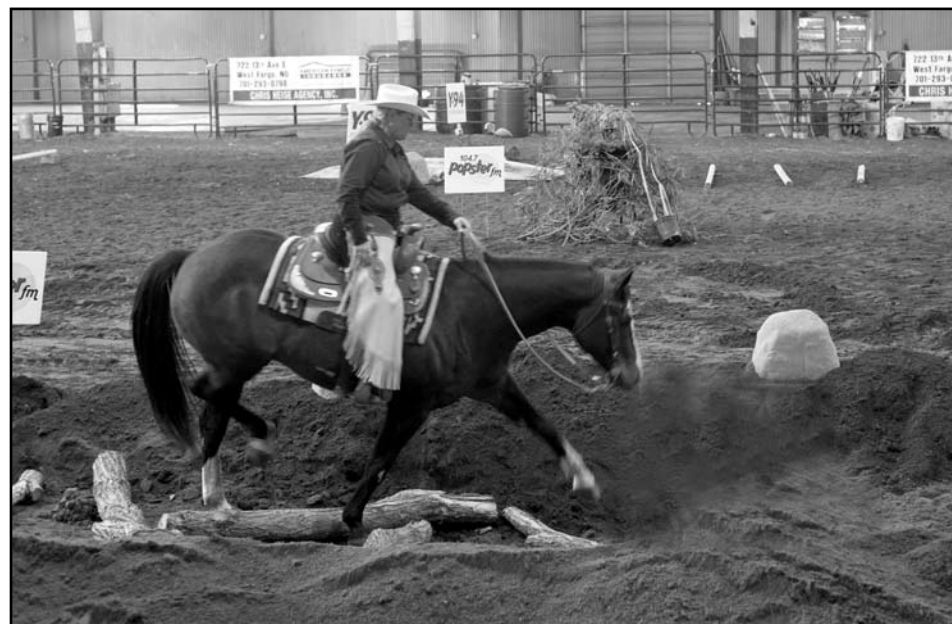
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Below: Sherry Johnson goes through an obstacle on the Trail Challenge at the Red River Horse Fair Sunday, May 15 at the Fairgrounds in West Fargo. Photo by Jesse Trelstad



Editorial Information

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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.

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish Working with a Young Horse

The best place to work with a young horse is in a round pen. Begin by letting the horse be at liberty to move freely but with the object of getting the horse to go forward. This may be too much for some young horses. My 3-year-old filly felt enough pressure that she wanted to go through the round pen rails instead of around inside them. To ease the stress, I put a halter and line on her and worked her this way in the round pen. With a younger horse—a weanling up to one year old—halter training is one of the most important lessons you can do in a round pen. Horses that have not been halter broke may sometimes resist and so learning to work with a halter is actually

horse follows, mirroring his moves. But, anytime his horses' emotional level goes up and the fellow pulls on the lead, putting pressure on the head, the horse digs his feet in, his hindquarters drop down and he won't budge. He has taught this horse to lead through his body language, which is important and we want all of our horses to do this. However, this horse has not learned to give to pressure. When you try to tie up a horse like this, this is often when you find the holes in the training program.

situations can cause real trauma, physically and mentally, from which a horse may never recover. This is why we spend time in the early months teaching the young horse to give to the halter and to tie.

My horse Tension was about as broke

line and this caused him to panic and break the lead rope. This situation caused me to develop the post work exercise because I wanted to change this reaction. I found that after working with Tension using the post work exercise, when he hit the end of the line, he gave to the pressure instead of panicking and hurting himself.

For the post exercise, use a 25-foot line. Thread the line through a tie ring or wrap the line around a solid pipe, post or rail. Attach the other end to the halter. The loop must allow the rope to give or drag, giving the horse some relief without release. Choose a quiet location where your horse is comfortable. Stand behind your horse out of harm's way and slowly start to bump your horse along his side. If he gets nervous, keep bumping until he gets quiet, even for a split second, then quickly release. If the horse pulls back, let the rope slide through your fingers to give relief. Once the horse accepts the bumping on one side, move the rope to the other side. With acceptance you can add excitement and energy, always allowing relief but not release.

Horses have a strong flight instinct which we are restraining every time we tie them. You have to slowly build up your horse's confidence, trust and comfort. There is no way to guarantee that teaching a horse to tie through leading and the post work exercise will keep him from ever pulling back. However, this training will enable you to change your horse's reaction. There may be a time when your horse hits the end of the line but because of your previous work, the horse won't panic but will instead give to the lead line.



early resistance training. At first, a young horse can look like a fish out of water on a fishing line, literally flopping around on the end of the line. At this stage, halter training is a very big event in the horse's life and care needs to be taken that the experience is positive and productive.

a horse pulls back. The horse hasn't learned to give to the pressure of a halter.

The horse has learned to give to pressure but resists when his emotional level is high and the flight instinct kicks in. That is why it is very important that we do not just use body

It's never, ever the horse's fault.

Halter training teaches a horse to give to pressure in all areas of the body, including around the legs and sides. This is a very important part of foundation training. I have had horses come in for training who have barely been halter broke and don't give to pressure, yet their owners want me to get them ready to ride. Training must be one step at a time with each step building on the previous learning. Halter training is basic and must be done first. If you do not have a round pen, which certainly is my preference, you can still do a good job educating the horse mentally, physically, and emotionally with line work.

Halter training is also needed to teach the young horse to tie and stand quietly. I know a fellow who gets his horse to follow him when he is at liberty. If he runs, the

language to cue a horse but also teach the horse to yield to the halter. Otherwise, when you tie a horse and the horse becomes frightened, he can really hurt himself pulling back. The horse may pull the tie bar apart and run with it causing severe damage or snap the line and flip over backwards. Either of these

as a horse can get in regard to leading, tying and giving to pressure. I had traveled across the country with him many times. Once, in Colorado, when I tied him to the trailer, something startled him. He hit the

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COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIERE

FISH PEDDLER WRAPPED UP HIS SALE

CANADIAN WITH PICKUP FULL OF ICE UNHITCH HORSES & LISTEN UP, BOYS A pickup drove into the driveway one day. A 'wooden' house attached to it some way; A do-it-yourself, camper-outhouse-cross. He would sell fish, insisting, "You're the boss." It was a shocking concept way back then. Fish peddlers do remind me, time & again; Of how he'd get his selling-point across; By repeatedly saying, "You're the boss."

OUT THINKING US BY REPETITION I'd not seen back then, a covered truck box. Then he opened the odd door as he talks; A motormouth: for words...not as talks. He'd pique interest saying, "You're the boss." On those hot days, a sensation so nice; We'd dig frozen fish from a pile of ice. A sale was a profit. No sale was a loss. He'd keep us looking saying, "You're the boss."

PERPETUATING A CONCEPT OF CHOICE Mother would point to a family sized meal; Dad found a large "Pike" and wanted to deal. That put him in a bind, or a criss-cross; He'd wiggle his way out saying, "You're the boss." Could my parents spare that much hard-earned cash? They made a decision that did seem rash. "We'll take both, though close to a budget loss." The fish peddler grinned & said "You're the boss."

HIS POINT BEARS REPEATING, EH? Ten pound 'Northens' from Canada, again? Did he have time to catch them? Where & when? His 'hook, line & sinker' to us he'd toss; Perpetuating the concept, "You're the boss." He'd make a couple of visits each year; Like a lesson, or memory held dear. A grinning man who's lips "gathered no moss"; He made us feel good because, "We're the boss."

CHICKEN COOP OR OUTHOUSE ON WHEELS? What an interesting life on the road; What'd he do when the sun melted his load? That was before the days of tartar sauce; He would sell the idea, "We're the boss." The Mother would bake a wonderful meal. Most peddlers should mimic him when they deal. I'll forget him in time from memory loss; But not his curious 'three words', "YOU'RE THE BOSS!"

Orv Alveshiere
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Saddling the Quarter Horse

By Cordia Pearson, Society of Master Saddlers, Qualified Saddle Fitter

With four million registered Quarter Horses in America, it's surprising that saddle makers haven't done more for their special needs. Granted Western saddles have bars named for the breed, but as often as not, I find myself saddling Quarters with Arabian bars, Gaited bars or Walking Horse bars. Why? The animals bred today are powerhouses, with massive hindquarters and deep chests with strong shoulders. Used to be I was always asking if a Quarter was appendix bred. Today, most of the Quarters I saddle are more consistent in conformation and type.

Some of the elements that make saddling Quarters a challenge aren't addressed by all makes of saddles. When a horse has a massive hindquarter and well-muscled loin, the saddler can't just make the swell taller. The front of the bars will still be too low and the rider will be jammed up against the swell. This is a geometry issue that must be dealt with in the design of the bars. If it isn't, the result is constant, downward pressure on the shoulders of the horse. Also, the bars of such saddles tend to be too narrow—an effort to keep them behind the shoulders—more bad news for the horse.

In an English saddle, the key mistake is too tall a gusset in the rear of the panel (under the cantle) and then, using a narrower tree, once again, trying to keep the whole mess in place.

The solution to these issues is not some new invention. Back in the 1950's, Monty Foreman introduced his "Balanced Ride" saddle to Western Horsemanship. For more about this fascinating

story, go to: <http://www.fictionunlimited.com/html/jf-Monte-Foreman--Horseman.htm>

Monty had discovered that horses ridden in the Western saddles of his day did not move in the same fluid way as the horses he rode in a jump saddle. He took on the task of designing a set of bars that would help the horse, rather than hinder them.



The genesis of his saddling philosophy continues today. Fallis Saddlery of Wilder ID is still building saddles on Monty's bars. I had the privilege of evaluating one of these saddles about fifteen years ago and came close to larceny, suggesting the owner look the other way while I got out of Dodge with her horse and saddle. I wrote the company's name down and taped it to a cabinet door, thinking someday I would order one for myself. Last summer I got to fit another Fallis saddle in Wisconsin. The owners had eaten beans and Mac & Cheese for a year in order to afford the saddle. But when it arrived, the local "experts" said it didn't fit any of their horses. When all their other saddles didn't fit the last horse I was evaluating for them, they reluctantly brought out the Fallis saddle. I took one look and asked, "Is this a Fallis?" We placed it on the mare's back and I was thrilled to tell them it fit perfectly.

The Meleta Brown Freedom saddle is the same class of saddle as Monty Foreman's "balanced ride." Meleta is a barrel racer and knew from her own experience that horses were losing seconds because their shoulders were being clamped by bars that did not leave them any room for swing. Her saddles have a flare in the front over the shoulders and also in the rear over the loin.

cinch. I get told way too often, well, my horse has a tendency to "roan." Not! Those white hairs on either side of the wither are where pressure has been so intense that the pigment can no longer move through the hair shaft. (On grays and white horses, these are dark spots.)

Any questions please write or call. saddlefitter@gmail.com www.saddlefitter.com 651-462-5654

She solved the problem of the reduction in weight bearing surface by increasing the width of the bars. It may sound like a wild claim, but in the field we find that Meleta's bars fit over 80 percent of the horses we see.

In an English saddle, I look for very narrow panels in the rear and of course, all wool flocking so that the saddle can be balanced for the individual horse. If you can go custom, a good saddler can build up the front of the tree without making the saddle too narrow for the shoulders. There are stock English saddles that work with the breed, but you evaluate them carefully and normally balance them with wool flocking or a shim pad. On a final note, if your QH is a working horse, make sure your bars are rawhide wrapped and if you can, get real sheepskin lining rather than pollieste. When a tree has to stop a cow, it needs to be precisely fitted to the horse's back, with 100% wool padding and a back



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One Horsewoman's Life with HERDA

By Robin Davison

Despite 'doing everything right' in selecting and purchasing my new registered Paint mare, I now have a horse I can't ride and who suffers from a genetic disease called HERDA. It's a situation I wouldn't wish on anyone. Here's our story...

I consider my previous Paint mare Christine to be my "once-in-a-lifetime" horse. But she was approaching retirement at the early age of 10 due to a worn out stifle. So we began searching for my next "everything" horse.

When the trainer sent Penelope's photo and video, I wasn't sure at first. I had always said I would never get another mare with white hind legs, and who would own a bald-faced, blue-eyed horse in sunny Colorado? But the more I looked at her picture the more



the two-year-old spoke to me. We saw six horses that day, Penelope (registered name: Quality Sensation) being the last. As soon as I laid my hands on her, I turned to my trainer and whispered, "This is my horse."

Final negotiations were complete and Penelope arrived from Florida in early December 2009. Her right hind leg was badly injured in transport and took two months to heal. This meant that my winter was spent hand walking two horses, since Christine had recently undergone stifle surgery and required short periods of con-

trolled exercise. But I kept up my optimism and told people that "if there were a class for hand walking horses, I would surely win!" Penelope finally healed and we began to start her under saddle in February. I was filled with the excitement of new beginnings, but was sad not to be working with the mare who had taken care of me the last five years.

Then on March 1, tragedy struck – it was confirmed that Christine had developed two increasingly painful post-surgical cysts in her stifle. I made the devastating decision to put her down. I was torn beyond repair – and now had to decide if I could move forward through my grief with Penelope. More than one person asked if she might be for sale, as she was a wonderful show prospect. But I knew if I sold her, I would never go back to horses again.

We decided to continue with Penelope's training, and she was showing real promise as a pleasure horse. But by April she developed saddle sores that did not heal. It was confirmed in May that Penelope was afflicted with hereditary equine regional dermal asthenia, or HERDA. Upon getting the DNA test results – and the news that Penelope could never be ridden again, I was in shock. How could tragedy strike twice in three months?

Everyone involved in Penelope's purchase and breeding was sympathetic, but none of them offered any real help. It became clear that I was on my own to care for her. My initial research on the web provided grim news – these horses are usually dead by age four.

But then a friend stepped forward who offered support and a home for Penelope. She sent me contact information for two top HERDA research vets. While Penelope's prognosis still calls

for a limited life, these two vets added some badly needed sanity to my outlook.

Although my original plans with Penelope have been shattered, we've been able to discover new adventures together. We've done some very



light ground driving, taken a trail obstacle clinic (working from the ground), shown in showmanship and have attended a few Halloween events. I have learned about her nutritional needs and we found a few gentle equine companions for her to play with – including a goat named Ned. Some people might not understand this, but every day she tells me how grateful she is that we did not put her down - or breed her as some have suggested.

I tell people I would have appreciated a break between tragedies, but I know now that I was meant to be with Penelope. Together, we've been working to raise awareness of HERDA at various horse events. I have been entrusted with a very precious soul and I intend to give her the best life possible as long as she isn't suffering. For those of you who are not familiar with it: Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia is a rapidly emerging genetic disease of Quarter Horses and horses of Quarter Horse lineage (Paints, Appaloosas, and any other breed registry that allows out-crossing to AQHA horses). Affected horses develop severe lesions from minor traumas that

occur in a normal horse's daily life, and these injuries frequently result in disfiguring scars. Due to their persistent wounds, most of these horses cannot be ridden or shown competitively, and are humanely euthanized. Many horses affected with HERDA

are not diagnosed until they are one or two, but severely affected horses may develop signs shortly after birth. Symptoms include easily stretched skin that feels mushy or doughy to the touch. Contrary to what the name implies, the disease affects tissues throughout the horse's body, including weak heart valves and ocular issues.

Incidence is high in certain Quarter Horse disciplines such as cutting, where 28.3 percent of elite cutting horses are carriers. In other words, cutting horses that carry HERDA are more prevalent than halter horses that carry HYPP. In fact, 14 of the top 100 cutting sires are carriers whose offspring have earnings in excess of \$116 million dollars. The performance traits of these select carriers bloodlines are highly desired, likely increasing the prevalence of HERDA. Although cutting horses have been the subject of much of the study and press about HERDA, the incidence in pleasure and reining

still long for the day when I can challenge my riding skills again. But in the meantime, Penelope and I will continue to educate fellow horse owners while going on as many new adventures as her condition permits. The University of Michigan accepts tax-deductible donations to support HERDA research. For more info, contact: Dr. Ann Rashmir, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, G209 Veterinary Medical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1314

horses is on the rise. HERDA is primarily traced back to Poco Bueno, but to see if your horse is one of his descendants, you usually need to look back seven or eight generations. HERDA displays an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance, meaning that if two carrier horses are bred, the resulting foal has a 25 percent chance of being "affected". Affected horses have two copies of the HERDA gene, and develop the full set of symptoms, usually condemning them to an early death. Therefore, it is ill-advised to breed a carrier horse to another carrier horse. Breeding a normal horse to a carrier will never produce an affected horse, but there's still a 50 percent chance of producing another carrier. A low-cost DNA test is available at the University of California, Davis (<http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/horse.php>). Most of the technical details on HERDA were provided to me by Dr. Rashmir at the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University.

Meanwhile Penelope and I keep living life as best we can. I



Entries Open for \$30,000 Added 7 & Up Derby in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City, Okla. – May 6, 2011 – The newest trend in Reining is the addition of aged classes for horses age seven and older. This year the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) is excited to offer its own 7 & Up class at the NRHA Derby, held June 27 – July 2 in Oklahoma City. This exciting new opportunity will showcase the industry's most experienced reining horses. NRHA encourages owners of competing reining horses age seven and older to enter the 7 & Up Derby, which consists of \$15,000 added Open and \$15,000 added Non Pro divisions.

The NRHA 7 & Up Open Derby will consist of four divisions: Level 4 Open, Level 3 Open, Level 2 Open and Level 1 Open. Entries may enter at any level, but must enter up at least one division. The NRHA 7 & Up Open Derby will be one go round and will be held concurrently with the ancillary open class.

The NRHA 7 & Up Non Pro Derby will consist of four divisions: Level 4 Non Pro, Level 3 Non Pro, Level 2 Non Pro and Level 1 Non Pro. Entries may enter at any level, but must enter up at least one division. The NRHA 7 & Up Non Pro Derby will be one go round and will be held concurrently with the ancillary Non Pro class.

Pre entries are highly encouraged. However, all entries will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. the day before the class runs. To get more information on the \$30,000 added 7 & Up Derby visit NRHADerby.com.

Founded in 1966, NRHA is an organization dedicated to promoting the reining horse, encouraging all levels of reining competition and providing worthwhile purses. NRHA takes pride in offering revolutionary programs and top-notch events for its members while providing a fun-filled, family-oriented atmosphere. More information on its shows and programs, like Entry Level Reining, can be found at nrha.com.

NRHA Approves FEI Reining World Final

Oklahoma City, Okla. – May 4, 2011 – The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) has opted to officially recognize the inaugural FEI Reining World Final to be held on May 21 in Bökeberg, just outside of Malmö (SWE). As a service to its members, NRHA leadership agreed it is important to recognize this show and earnings accumulated there.

Not all FEI events are NRHA-approved because not all of those events seek approval - as was the case for the FEI Reining World Final, a new version of the previously held FEI World Reining Masters. Although no application was submitted for approval, there was some misinformation that the World Reining

World Final would automatically be an NRHA-approved event. Therefore, in the best interest of the owners, riders and members involved, the NRHA Executive Committee voted to recognize the FEI Reining World Final as a Category 8 event.

Approximately 20 nations will be represented and will field riders all vying for the coveted title of FEI Reining World Champion and the \$100,000 purse. The nations intending to send athletes are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. The definite entries will be announced on May 18.

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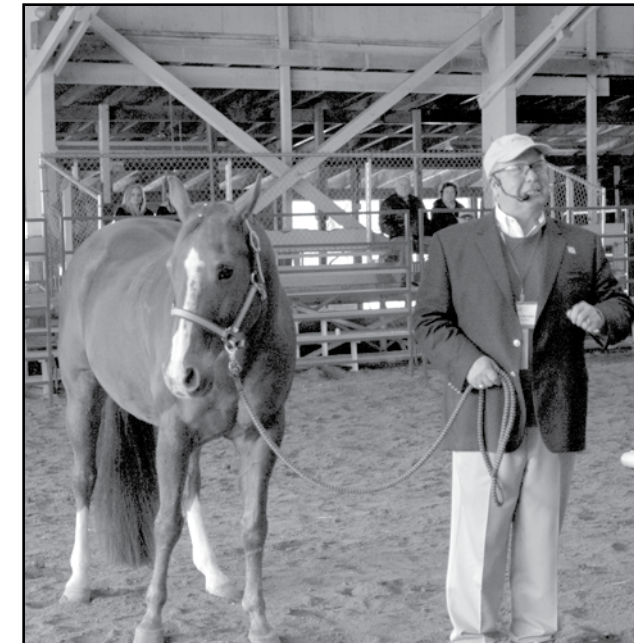
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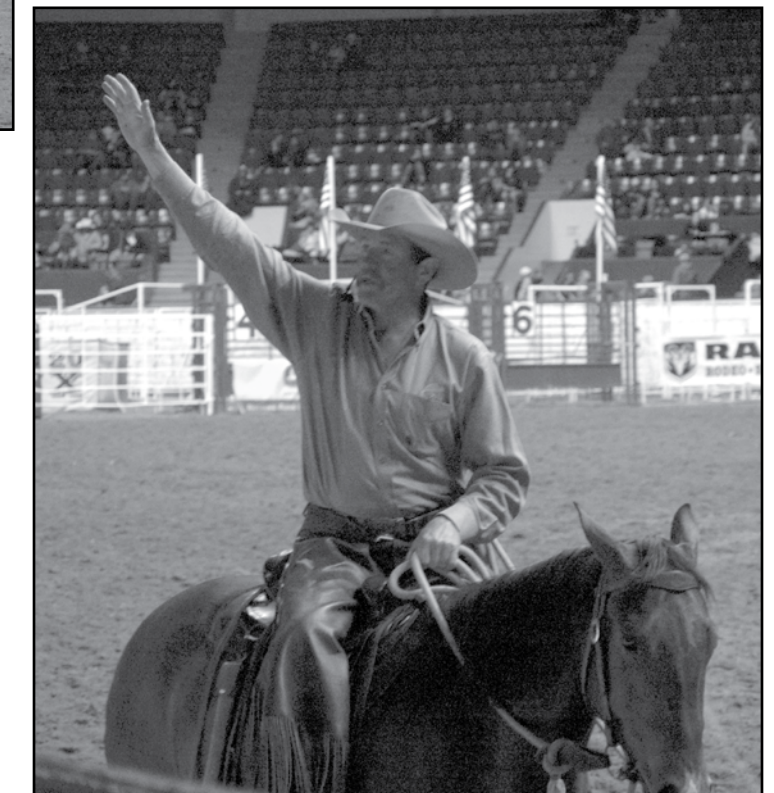
A PHOTO ESSAY OF THE MN HORSE EXPO



Photos by Ley Bouchard



Spectators braved cool temperatures, rain and snow at the MN Horse Expo April 28 to May 1 at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, MN, where clinicians keep the show rolling. Clockwise from top left: Richard Shrake; Tommy Garland; Icelandic rider on Judson Ave.; horse fans stop to visit with a Gypsy Vanner and rider; Pat Parelli speaks to the crowd; free wagon rides on Judson Avenue outside the Coliseum; Ruben Villaseñor impresses the crowd in the Coliseum with a graceful ride demonstrating his training skills; Ruben Villaseñor; members of the New Ulm Battery demonstrate Civil War cannon drills; from horseback, Parelli teaches a yearling to bond with him.



Equine Herpesvirus Confirmed in Two Colorado Horses

LAKEWOOD, Colo. - The Colorado Department of Agriculture is investigating two confirmed cases of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) within the state. Two quarantines have been placed on two Weld County premises.

One horse was euthanized after showing severe neurological signs associated with the disease and the second horse is currently under observation in a biosecure location.

"The Department is taking quick and appropriate actions to control and mitigate this disease," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. "We will continue to trace the movement of these horses

and those horses they came into contact with in order to protect Colorado's equine industry."

Both diagnosed horses had recently attended the National Cutting Horse Association's Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah. The Colorado Department of Agriculture is working with the Utah State Veterinarian to investigate the location as a point of interest for the infection.

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The

virus can also spread through the air, contaminated equipment, clothing and hands.

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable.

Additional Resources:
• A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV

Infection
• USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources
• American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners Fact Sheet

This information brought to you by the Colorado Horse Council as a benefit for our members. To continue receiving valuable updates, become a member today. Or learn more about the benefits of becoming a member.

The Colorado Horse Council, Inc. is a grass-roots, all-breed, non-discipline specific organization dedicated to linking the horse owners and the horse industry of the State of Colorado into a powerful, common voice in order to protect their common equine interests through legislation and education. It also employs a full-time contract lobbyist, who works with the State Legislature on horse and agriculture-related issues.

For more information on Colorado Horse Council, please call our office at 303-292-4981.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Equestrians Helping Equestrians

April 27th, 2011 brought devastating tornadoes to Alabama and neighboring states. The destruction is extremely wide spread and has left many areas a wasteland.

Families have lost loved ones, their homes, and their basic way of life and are now faced with the daunting task of starting over completely from scratch. They have lost many beloved pets, horses, and farm animals and have no way of caring for the ones that remain. As members of the equestrian community, we feel we must do what we can to help those that are in so much pain and need.

The Birmingham Dressage & Combined Training Association is teaming up with Rhonda Johnson-Bowles from Land O'Lakes Purina Feeds, The Alabama Horse Council, Cahaba Pony Club, and the US Pony Club South Region to help the equine and pet victims of these destructive tornadoes.

BDCTA requests your donations of basic horse & pet supplies, such as buckets, water troughs, fencing materials, veterinary supplies, fly spray, halters and leads, shavings, dog runs, dog and cat crates, feed bowls... anything horse or pet care related.

Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase needed supplies. 100% of all donations will be distributed to those in need.

More information can be found on our website, www.BDCTA.com or via e-mail at: Birmingham-DCTA@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your help! Kelly Vaughan Hanby, President BDCTA. Fran Summerlin Histed, Relief Coordinator, BDCTA

Monetary Donations can be sent to: BDCTA/ Tornado Relief c/o Natalie Nixon, Treasurer BDCTA 1222 Woodlands Way Helena, AL 35080

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The VEN Honors: The Oldest Horse



Bessie, age 32, and Carolyn Duncan, age 57, of Albert Lea, Minn. As the saying goes, "When we are old, we will wear purple and a red hat that doesn't match." Carolyn says, "Bessie is purebred Morgan. I feed her HS35 every day, mixed grain and hay and grass in summer. I have a new 5-year-old Appaloosa mare who has a 6-week-old filly. So now I have three whinnys, two of which are watchdog mares, and the filly who hasn't decided what she is going to do in the herd. She just follows mama around. And Bessie is THE ALPHA MARE. She just stands around and tells everyone else what to do!"



Ruben Villaseñor rears his horse for the crowd of the MN Horse Expo at the St. Paul Fairgrounds Saturday, April 30 in St. Paul, MN. More expo photos may be found on page 9 and on our Facebook page: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper. Photo by Ley Bouchard

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Four horses killed near Cooperstown, ND

By Ley Bouchard

The North Dakota Stockman's Association has set up a \$5,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the killing of the livestock," said Griggs County Chief Sheriff Deputy Terry Gray late Monday afternoon.

Late Thursday, May 12, 4 horses were found shot dead in the head at close range at Schmidt Performance Horses at Hannaford, N.D. about ten miles southeast of Cooperstown. Two of the horses killed were mares in foal and two were yearlings. Reports indicate the ranchers left the property at 2 p.m. and a friend found the horses dead at 5 p.m. Other property has been damaged by gunshot recently within miles of the slaughterers.

Three young cattle were shot in the same style with a similar weapon about a half mile from where the horses were shot. Gray said a .22 caliber gun was used for both shootings. "We were out again today using the metal detector in the feed lot

area, looking for any bullets or shell casings, things like that. We are working with the Brand Inspector (BI) from the Stockman's Association and he's doing some work with us. The NDSA BI is doing some follow-up work for us. We are following up on stuff and trying to get the time lines down." Dallas and DeLayne Schmidt, owners of North Dakota ranch where the horses were found dead, are avoiding contact with the media and don't want to make any statements to the press, said Gray.

The quarter horses killed are estimated to have a \$4000 to \$5000 value each.

Comments are coming in from all over the country to the Schmidt Performance Horse Facebook page after word spread through the equine community and media where the AP picked up the story. Lindsay says, "So sorry to hear about this! What people do to these horses is absolutely disgusting! Hope everything starts to look up for you guys! Melinda said: What horrid news to hear about the horses! I sincerely hope that justice is done in this case." Shawna said: "Can't believe this happened in our area,

makes me lose a little faith in people. My heart goes out to you guys.

Kay Elyrum told GoHorse-Show.com that she was the owner of a Thoroughbred mare that was shot. "What makes it even sadder to us, is that it appeared she went up to the fence to greet the assailant and was shot in the head. She was found next to the fence and was very friendly." Griggs County Sheriff's Office asks that anyone with information call (701) 797-2202.

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Minnesota EquiFest plans Fall Festival of Horses

Preparation is well underway for the 5th Annual Minnesota EquiFest to be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, October 15-16, 2011.

The Extreme Cowboy Horsemanship Challenge is back by popular demand. Watch cowboys and cowgirls maneuver through a series of 13 obstacles while demonstrating both speed and horsemanship. These obstacles, sanctioned by the North Central Region of the Extreme Cowboy Association (NCR EXCA), are typical of what you will routinely encounter while on the trail or at home on a ranch. The Challenge is specifically designed to interest riders of all levels who want to compete and enjoy the "fastest growing equine sport, the Extreme Cowboy Challenge." Sign up to show off your partnership and skill with your horse. For entry information, please contact Chris Vinson at 715-928-018 or chris@3SRanch.com.

Dan Grunewald, a judge, clinician and lifelong horseman, will present his series called "Through the Judge's Eyes," including tips about what a judge looks for in the show ring. Don't miss this opportunity to be in the Winner's Circle as you gain knowledge about showing. Those who attend will be given the opportunity to sign up for one or more classes with Dan. Classes include "From the Ground Up," "Collection and Establishing a Headset," "Exhibitor Strategies" and "Advanced Horsemanship Maneuvers." Dan offers a vast

amount of knowledge and expertise in the show world, based on his experience as an exhibitor, clinician and judge. Dan was recently chosen to be a featured clinician at the 2010 Alltech Equestrian Games in Lexington, Ky.

Dressage will be represented by two excellent clinicians, Karen Lee and Suzette Sontag. Karen Lee, Hay River Equestrian from Boyceville, Wis., will present Musical Dressage. Lee is a United States Dressage Federation Bronze and Silver Medalist. She has been involved with horse training for over 30 years. A horse she bred and trained earned second in the nation for 3rd Level Musical Freestyle for American Warmbloods. She is an L Judge with distinction with the United States Equestrian Federation and has shown through Intermediate I. One of Lee's demo horses was rescued as an adult, never having been haltered or touched before arriving at Lee's barn. For the demo, Lee and several other riders will demonstrate musical rides and how to develop them.

Suzette Sontag, Rick Schmitt and Kari Augustine of Smart Start Stable, Somerset, Wis., help people understand how to ride and train Dressage from the horse's point of view. At their stable, the team applies basic exercises to the different movements required for dressage, or whatever discipline people want to do with their horse, bringing together all the pieces

in the right combination to show and win. Smart Start has competed nationally in the Arabian Sport World, winning three National Championships, two Reserve National Championships and many Top Tens on several different horses. Smart Start shows Arabians, Half Arabians, Warmbloods and Friesian Crosses, and trains nearly every breed: Icelandic, Morgans, Paints, Quarter Horses, Tennessee Walkers, Missouri Foxtrotters, Halflingers, and a few more.

With carriage driving becoming more popular, the EquiFest will again focus on driving aspects. Marc Johnson, Wenham, Mass., will be the featured driving clinician. Johnson started in the world of driving in 1978 at the end of his senior year in high school, working for Deidre Pirie, a true pioneer in American Combined Driving. Over the years, he has navigated for three World Four-in-Hand World Championships, one World Pair Championship and one World Single Driving Championship. For the past 16 years, Johnson has dedicated his time to training driving animals and drivers, organizing competitions, course design and being an ADS Technical Delegate.

Returning this year will be Werner Thiedemann of Thiedemann Performance Horses. Thiedemann will again offer four Horsemanship Workshops, each on a different topic. Participants can choose an individual workshop or ride in all four. Pre-registration is required. Thiedemann was born in Germany and is a 4th-generation equestrian. He currently conducts educational clinics and seminars on a variety of topics from horse equipment to horsemanship, with the focus on creating better communication and understanding between horse and rider. This is done in a positive manner to achieve the results you want with your horse. With over 35 years in the horse industry, Thiedemann has shown a variety of breeds, with his main background in Reining and Ranch Horse. His training experience ranges from starting colts to working performance horses. Tom Tweeten, ATH Science, Prior Lake, Minn., will add some learning and fun for this year's program. Tweeten will present a Grooming Competition with horses in hand. Participants will have the opportunity

to prepare their horse for the show ring and will be judged on it. Spectators will be able to watch and gain valuable knowledge as to what is expected from judges.

You won't want to miss the Festival of Horses, which includes a daily Parade of Breeds, a Stallion Row and the newly added Equine Extravaganza, a Saturday afternoon show featuring horse presentations. Some of the presentations will include a Roy Rogers 100th Birthday Tribute, 4H Drill teams, Carriage Driving, mini-cart driving teams and more. The Parade of Breeds will be held each day at noon in Warner Coliseum. In the horse barn, check out the breed horses, stallions, horses for sale, commercial horse businesses, booths and a demo area.

Don't forget your Christmas shopping list, and take advantage of some great bargains at the Tack Sale and vendor booths! Minnesota EquiFest is a great place to come and get your last-minute horse needs squared away before winter and to pick up new ideas to work with you horse doing the colder months.

Other clinicians at the Minnesota EquiFest will include the Minnesota Farriers Association, presenting shoeing demonstrations; Jeanie Klien, HowerPower; Dr. Tracy Turner, Anoka Equine Veterinary Services, discussing Pre-Purchase Exams and Lameness in horses; Renee Hogendorf, Equine Defined, demonstrating Equine Touch, Aromatherapy & Reiki; and Dale Froyum, judge, talking about Bits and Biting. During the latter, horse owners will be able to bring in their bits to discuss with Dale why they are or are not the best choice for the horse. Karen Clark of Rainbow's End will head up a panel discussion to include trainers. Ginny Pomije, Big Black Horse, will demonstrate harnessing the carriage horse. Chuck Wagon Cooking, Cowboy Church and other opportunities are yet to be announced.

For more information regarding booths, horses, volunteering or sponsorships, please go to www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com or call the EquiFest office at 763-421-5750. Join us on Facebook and invite your friends to join. For advertising information, contact Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphics and Printing, at 651-353-8188.



Top left: Dennis Auslam Takes Roger around an obstacle while Tracy Kurtz observes; Shelly Johnson on Ty at the Red River Valley Horse Fair May 15 in West Fargo

Photos by Jesse Trelstad



SD Mini Horse Club Alliance "Spring Extravaganza Show"

South Dakota Miniature Horse Club Alliance held its "Spring Extravaganza" Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14th, 2011 at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds Expo Building in Sioux Falls, SD. Both shows were sanctioned by AMHR.

SD Miniature Horse Club Alliance was started seven years ago by four families. Taking a huge risk they donated their money and time and have had outstanding results!

Wonderful door prizes given away all day Saturday and Sunday for youth and adults. Door prizes were donated by Tibbs Family Miniatures (Time and Linda Tibbs) out of Ft. Pierre SD. Silent Auction was held and winners announced Sunday.



Photo by Jon Tamke, Battle Lake, MN

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HEART OF TUCSON RESCUE SAVES DYNA KING

By Ley Bouchard

The Arizona desert is not kind to an abandoned horse: starving, dehydrated, with abscesses on his feet hindering him from walking to a place where he could find food and water if even he had the energy to survive.

His mother would not recognize Dyna King, a son of Dynaformer out of the mare Re-kindled and brother to Barbaro, if she had happened upon Dogpatch with Judy Glore Dec. 12, 2010. But a brief three months later, after gaining a few hundred pounds and abscesses nearly healed, Dyna King, aka Gifted, is rolling in the dirt and kicking up his heels in delight with the energy he once again feels.

Dyna King, or Gifted, as Judy named him before discovering his true identity, was abandoned in the Sonoran Desert near Sahuarita, Arizona in a place called Dogpatch. It is a sometime dumping ground; a dumping ground for unwanted animals, alive and dead, a dumping ground for trash, and

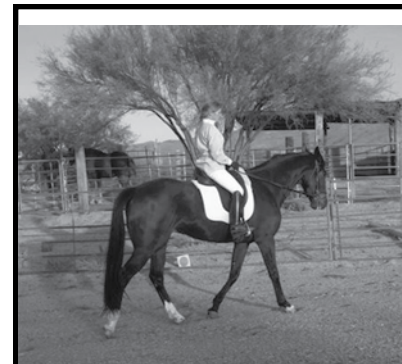
a place known to be frequented by illegals.

Gifted came to Dogpatch after a successful racing career: 56 starts, 8 wins, 6 places, 6 shows with career earnings of \$34,113. Not bad for a son of Dynaformer.

When Judy Glore got the call from the Livestock Board she had no idea what she would find. Glore had started Heart of Tucson: Happy Equine Acres Rescue & Therapy.

Heart of Tucson's mission is two-fold: to rescue horses of all breeds that are in urgent need of care and to instruct and raise the awareness of the general public to what it takes to own a horse in order to stress responsibility so the unwanted horse situation will no longer be an issue. Heart rehabilitates, provides the best care for their rescues, educates the public through on-site, hands-on seminars and workshops.

See the entire story about Dyna King on Heart's web site: www.HeartofTucson.org.

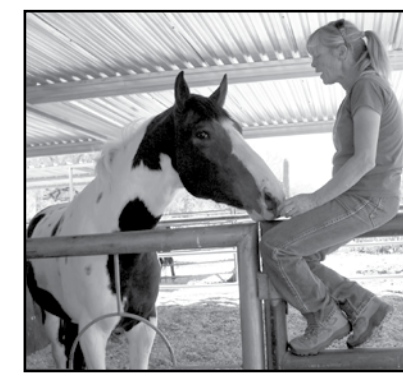


For adoption from the Heart of Tucson: Dante, a 7 year old Thoroughbred bay gelding. Excellent in the arena for dressage, wants to please. Loving, respectful personality. Adoption fee: \$2500

Requirements for adoption: home inspection, 30 day trial period, adoption contract. Contact

Heart of Tucson
520.445.1510

Adopt-A-Horse



Dyna King, above, Judy Glore, founder of the Heart of Tucson near spends a little quality time with the horses at the rescue. Kawlinga, right, is her personal keeper.



NEW TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HORSES TRAVELING TO COLORADO DUE TO THE SPREAD OF EQUINE HERPESVIRUS (EHV-1)

LAKEWOOD, Colo. - The Colorado Department of Agriculture has implemented new travel requirements for horses entering the state due to the spread of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1).

"We are considering all of our options for protecting Colorado's horse industry. At this point, we do not believe it's necessary to stop horses from entering the state but we need to be able to know where those horses are coming from and where they are going; traceback is a vital part of disease control," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr.

New Travel Requirements for Horses Entering Colorado

Standard requirements for horses entering Colorado include a health issued certificate within 30 days of their arrival and a negative Coggins test within 12 months. The new requirement consists of a permit to enter the state. Horse owners who wish to bring their horse into Colorado must first call their veterinarian. That veteri-

narian can then contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office at (303) 239-4161 and request a permit number. That number would then be included on the health certificate.

Additional Travel Tips for Horse Owners Traveling To or From Colorado

1. Consider the disease risk before transporting horses.
2. Contact the State Veterinarian's Office of the destination state to find out if travel requirements have changed for that state.
3. Call organizers of the event to see if they have new health requirements or if it has been cancelled.
4. If traveling, practice appropriate biosecurity measures. Biosecurity tips may be found at www.colorado.gov/ag.
5. Isolate any new animals and those returning to the home premises for three weeks when possible.

6. Use separate water, feed supplies and equipment.

7. Continue to monitor the CDA webpage at www.colorado.gov/ag for further information to aid in the decision making for transporting horses.

If your horse attended the Ogden, Utah event:

CDA encourages all horse owners who attended the Ogden, UT, event should notify their veterinarian and isolate and monitor their horses for clinical signs of the disease. These horses should have their temperature taken twice a day. Horses with elevated temperature can be sampled by a veterinarian to analyze whether their horse is shedding EHV-1. Individual horse and barn bio-security is very important. Some horses may not show signs of the disease but may still be a carrier. Those owners are also encouraged to restrict movement of their horses.

General Disease Information

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious equine disease that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. It can also be spread by contaminated tack, equipment, and people's clothing. In addition, the virus can be spread through aerosols (airborne) for a limited distance.

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable.

Horse owners should isolate any sick horses and immediately contact their veterinarian. Any individual horse with clinical signs consistent with neurologic EHV-1 infection should be removed immediately from the area and placed in a separate enclosure for isolation.

Questions?

The Department has received numerous calls from veterinarians, horse owners and media. To help facilitate a timely response, please see the following list.

1. If you want to get your horse tested: contact your local veterinarian.

2. If you are a horse owner and have questions about the disease, testing, or other aspects of the investigation:

a. Contact your local veterinarian

b. Dr. Kate Anderson, 303-239-4161, Kate.anderson@ag.state.co.us

c. Dr. Carl Heckendorf, 303-239-4161, Carl.Heckendorf@ag.state.co.us

3. If you are a media outlet and would like an interview: contact Christi Lightcap, 303-239-4190, Christi.lightcap@ag.state.co.us

Additional Resources:
A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of

EHV Infection
· USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources

· American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners Fact Sheet

· CSU EHV-1 Fact Sheet
This information brought to you by the Colorado Horse Council as a benefit for our members. To continue receiving valuable updates, become a member today. Or learn more about the benefits of becoming a member.

The Colorado Horse Council, Inc. is a grass-roots, all-breed, non-discipline specific organization dedicated to linking the horse owners and the horse industry of the State of Colorado into a powerful, common voice in order to protect their common equine interests through legislation and education. It also employs a full-time contract lobbyist, who works with the State Legislature on horse and agriculture-related issues.

For more information on Colorado Horse Council, please call our office at 303-292-4981.


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Contact information:
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From the Horse Industry's Mouth

AAEP Foundation to Host 10th International Equine Colic Research Symposium

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation will host the 10th International Equine Colic Research Symposium, July 26-28, 2011, in Indianapolis, Ind., at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott.

The symposium, held every three years, alternating between Europe and North America, is designed to bring together leading researchers, practitioners, residents and graduate students to share knowledge about equine colic, the leading cause of premature death in horses. The two-day symposium will take place at the same location immediately following the AAEP Focus on Colic and Business Education: Practices in Transitions, Transitions in Practice meetings, which will be held at the same location.

As with previous symposiums, the presentations this year will accelerate the exchange of new information about colic among investigators while stimulating new collaborations and research projects. This year's symposium has attracted top researchers from around the world to present the newest information on a variety of colic-related topics. More than 40 oral presentations and more than 75 poster presentations will be presented during the symposium.

"Equine practitioners and researchers remain committed in to solving the puzzle of equine colic," said Nat White, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, Symposium Chairman. "We look forward to sharing the knowledge that we've gathered over the past three years and applying new solutions to this deadly problem."

The meeting format will be similar to previous Colic Research Symposia. Fifteen-minute oral presentations will be followed by a five-minute period for questions and discussion will take place in sessions throughout the symposium.

Attendees will have the opportunity to view research posters each evening during receptions. Poster sessions on the 26th and

27th will expand beyond the oral presentations, giving attendees the opportunity to review and discuss the posters with the various presenters.

A limited number of travel scholarships are available to assist graduate students, residents or researchers wishing to attend the Colic Research Symposium. Five travel awards of \$650 (£400) will be made to help cover the cost of travel and lodging. The scholarships are intended to help graduate students, residents and scientists who would be unable to attend the meeting without financial assistance.

The complete program, registration, lodging, travel scholarship information and sponsor information is available online at www.aepfoundation.org.

"This important research meeting would not be possible without the support from industry partners," said Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, Diplomate ACVS, AAEP Foundation Chairman. "We can't thank our partners and the other equine and research funding organizations enough for their support."

The symposium is presented by AAEP Educational Partner Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

Additional sponsorship support is being provided by: American Quarter Horse Foundation, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, Morris Animal Foundation, North American Equine Ranching Information Council, Nutrena and Platinum Performance.

The AAEP Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, was created in 1994 as the charitable arm of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. The AAEP Foundation's mission is to improve the health and welfare of the horse through support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community. Since its inception, the Foundation has allocated more than \$1.8 million to support its mission.

American Youth Horse Council

It's hard to find someone who would say horses are not good for kids or that kids aren't good for the horse industry, but as rewarding as it can be, serving as a youth leader can be a lonely calling. That's where the American Youth Horse Council fits in, working to unite the youth horse industry and support its leaders by offering a wide array of goods and services designed to help leaders help kids connect through horses. In fact, helping is AYHC's second nature.

How can AYHC help you?
 • Networking with fellow youth horse industry leaders from across the country

• Resource materials such as the comprehensive AYHC Horse Industry Handbook and the AYHC Youth Leaders Manual, with lesson plans and follow up exercises at three different progress levels

• Research documentation, such as the "Impact of Equine Activities on Youth Development"—invaluable statistics for fund-raising efforts

• Quarterly newsletter and bi-monthly e-news featuring industry news and useful articles
 • Annual AYHC Symposium featuring a rich schedule of educational presentations and activities; in 2012 the Symposium will

WOMEN'S HORSE INDUSTRY PARTNERS WITH EQUESTRIAN AID FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL BREAST CANCER CAMPAIGN

The Women's Horse Industry Association (WHIA) has announced a global partnership with the Equestrian Aid Foundation to raise funds for women affected by breast cancer. The Equestrian Aid Foundation is a 501(c)(3) providing financial assistance to equestrians, horsemen and equine professionals who are suffering from catastrophic illnesses or injuries. Funding is provided for medical, rehabilitation and other basic needs, such as food and housing.

Called "Ponie Express for Breast", the campaign consists of trail rides and hikes around the world. The events are open to everyone who wants to support this cause and all proceeds will go directly to women in the equine industry who have been or who are currently dealing with breast cancer.

Two events are already scheduled for this campaign. The first will be held June 25 at the Settlement At Thomas Divide in Bryon City, North Carolina. The second event will be held July 23 at Mid West Trail Rides in Norman, Indiana. Other events are in the process of being scheduled by the WHIA and interested sites should contact the office to be considered.

"This is a great cause and one that we know many people who have been affected by this disease will support. Plus, it's a fun way to meet other equestrians and at the same time support women in our industry. The Equestrian Aid Foundation helps many people in the equine industry and we are looking forward to helping them raise more funds for their efforts," states WHIA Executive Director, Catherine Masters. "We're thrilled to partner with the Women's Horse Industry Association to raise funds for those coping with breast cancer."

says Sheryl Kursar, managing director of the Equestrian Aid Foundation. "Ponie Express for Breast" will be a fun way for anyone in the horse community, on horse or foot, to have a great time while creating support for our friends in need."

The Women's Horse Industry Association is a business networking group with over 700 members around the world. For additional information on the Women's Horse Industry and the Ponie Express For Breast Campaign, please visit www.womenshorseindustry.com or call 615-730-7833.

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Unwanted Horse Coalition's Operation Gelding Clinics Help Over 245 Stallions

xWASHINGTON, DC – April 20, 2011 The Unwanted Horse Coalition's [UHC] Operation Gelding program has aided in gelding 246 stallions to date. The program, which was launched in late August 2010 with the help of seed money from the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation and the UHC, is designed to offer funding assistance to organizations, associations, and events that wish to conduct a public gelding clinic under the name and guidelines of Operation Gelding. An organization that has completed an Operation Gelding clinic will receive funding of \$50 per horse, \$1,000 maximum, to aid in the costs associated with the clinic.

Organizations continue to express interest in hosting and conducting Operation Gelding clinics. As of April 18th, 2011, 246 stallions have been castrated with the help of UHC's Operation Gelding funding. The nationwide program has sponsored 23 Operation Gelding clinics and offered a total of \$12,300 in seed money. UHC sponsored clinics have been offered in 20 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Dakota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Virginia.

Nadia Lane of High Sierra Wild Horse Sanctuary hosted an Operation Gelding clinic in California. With her efforts, she and a team of vets were able to help castrate 10 stallions. "I would like to thank you

for your help in getting the Operation Gelding seed money check processed for us. The extra effort you made on our behalf really means a lot to me. Our organization is very grateful for the financial help the UHC has afforded toward the gelding of colts and stallions", said Lane.

The Tacoma Equine Hospital, of Tacoma Washington, was able to host a successful Operation Gelding clinic under the tutelage of Dr. Meg deGravelles. With seed money provided by the UHC, they were able to castrate seven horses. "Operation Gelding was a success! We ended up castrating seven horses. The community has been extremely supportive and grateful, and this was a fabulous opportunity you allowed us to pursue," said Dr. deGravelles.

Ericka Caslin, UHC Director, said, "We are thrilled with the success of the Operation Gelding program thus far. It is very encouraging to see the amount of interest and participation in the program. Participating organizations have helped hundreds of horses and horse owners in need and have done a wonderful job working together to help with the issue of unwanted horses."

For more information on Operation Gelding, how to conduct a clinic, or the schedule and location of Operation Gelding clinics, please contact Ericka Caslin, UHC director, at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org or 2022964031.

*See more photos and content on the VEN Facebook page:
 The Valley Equestrian Newspaper and online at www.theveonline.com*

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Thoroughbred

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- Schooled through Gran Prix by Susanne Gielen of Flyinge

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-Ulf Wadeborn, international competitor, 'R' judge, formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy, Sweden
Stud fee: \$1000 payable when Live Foal Stands & Nurses

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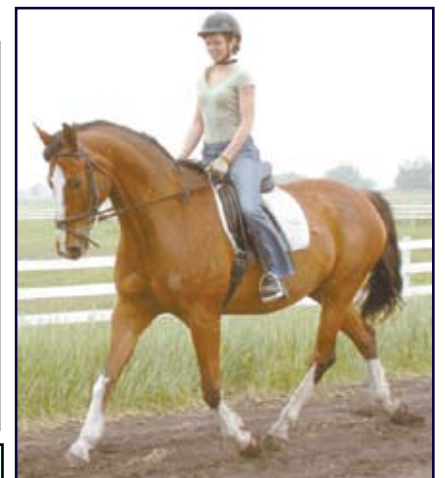
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Tucker: Swedish Warmblood gelding by Galapard; age 14; 17.2 hands; schooled through 4th level and PSG; both the beginner and advanced rider will appreciate this horse! Ridden by Stephanie Swiers

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