

Valley Equestrian News

May 2015



***The Lusitano
Horses***

***A Passion for
Art Appreciation:
Figaro R***

***Are You a
Rescuer?***

A Passion for Art Appreciation: Newly Imported Figaro R Standing in MN

By Kari Hagstrom

It is a contagious delight to talk with someone who is passionate about what they do. Margot Brady, of Brady Equestrian Center, in Downer, Minn. (near Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn.), is just such a person: she is passionate about what she does, and doesn't do things by half. When she decided to breed Beaucerons (a breed of French herding dog), she spent four years getting a degree in French so she could speak fluently with the French breeders. Brady has that same passion for Swedish warmbloods. After her Swedish warmblood stallion, Bayron 885, died in 2013, she went looking for another Swedish warmblood stallion.

Bayron 885 was a pure Swedish stallion, and the equivalent of a Secretariat in Sweden for desirability and prepotency. Having a keen appreciation for elite dressage horses and their bloodlines, Brady queried after the Swedish stallion, Bocelli (sired by Don Shufro), and out of Bayron's sister, Ballerina (by Bernstein 761). Bocelli had suffered an inguinal hernia, which the Swedish Warmblood Association considers a significant flaw, potentially passable to other generations, and therefore lost his breeding license in Sweden. Swedish standards are the most stringent in the warmblood breeding world. However, in the United States, an inguinal hernia is not considered serious enough to preclude the stallion from breeding.

The case for Bocelli was

appealed, and he was reinstated as a breeding stallion in Sweden. With Bocelli out of reach, Brady inquired at Gränsbo Stuteri as to which of their other stallions would be available for a potential purchase. While nothing was available at the time, a comment was made, "maybe Figaro," but the price was completely unattainable. Brady came to terms with the thought that there may not be another Swedish stallion in her life. That was one year ago, in April 2014.



Photo: Göran K Josefsson

Over the summer, while visiting friends in Sweden, Brady met with Per Runesson, one of the owners of Gränsbo Stuteri, just to meet the beautiful Figaro R 1085. During the tour, her 16-year-old daughter noticed a young stallion and she commented that he "looks like Master." Master was the stallion ridden by Kyra Kyrkland, who is comparable to being the Pat Parelli of dressage. Master won every one of his starts in Grand Prix competition. Runesson was impressed that Americans would be

that familiar with Grand Prix Swedish bloodlines, let alone that a 16-year-old girl would recognize it. That appreciation of the artistry in breeding helped to develop a friendship between Brady and Runesson. Brady left without Figaro R that trip, but Runesson later contacted her to offer the stallion for sale. He stated, "We want you to have him." Figaro R was bred by Michael Schenk and owned by Rose Mathisen and Gränsbo Stuteri (www.gransbostuteri.com).

Figaro R 1085 was and is everything and more that Brady was looking for in a Swedish warmblood stallion. Figaro, a Hanoverian born in Germany in 2001, is a first place approved Hanoverian stallion in Verden, Germany, in 2003. He gained his Swedish approval at four years old,

in 2005 at Flyinge, Sweden at the Swedish Stallion Performance tests—first place, beating out "pure" Swedish horses, with the highest dressage index ever achieved (22.0), and an unprecedented perfect 10 for rideability from two German test riders. He made it to Prix de St. Georges-level competition, but injured a ligament, and was retired to stud in 2013.

Now healed, Figaro is sound for riding and his incredible rideability is strongly passed on to his

offspring. Runesson stated, "even normal people (not professional) can ride Figaro." After not having been in work for two years, Brady's daughter rode him for the first time in the United States the last week in April 2015. He was like an old schoolmaster.

Figaro R is the sire of Faustino 1244, first place World Young Horse Championships Dressage winner, scoring 79.2, and approved Swedish warmblood stallion. Figaro R has 426 offspring in Sweden, with 120 in dressage. A son and daughter (full siblings), were both approved in Verden, placed first in Sweden, and were both finalists in the World Young Horse Championships. Figaro R was the Breeder's Trophy stallion of the year in Sweden for two years in a row. This is awarded to stallions that have produced the top-rated offspring in Sweden over the course of the year. Figaro R was awarded Premium A status as a breeding stallion as he was being transported to the United States in January, 2015, by the Swedish Warmblood Association, indicating his "above average heritability for dressage talent in his offspring. He was also upgraded to Approved breeding stallion status by the Hanoverian Verband in Germany."

With this level of achievement, Brady is delighted to stand an elite stallion such as Figaro R at her stallion facility, Brady Equestrian Center, near Downer, Minn. He has an "incredible temperament. Anyone can ride him," says Brady. After losing Bayron, and finding

Figaro, she says that she and her farm "feel alive again. The farm is about the stallions and the breeding."



Photo: Krister Lindh

Why Swedish warmbloods?

"Warmblood" is a comprehensive name. A warmblood can be a Hanoverian, a Holsteiner, or any of many other breeds—the definition goes by region: a Hanoverian is born in Hanover, a Holsteiner is born in Holstein, etc; regional breeds have regional names. The Trakehner, however, is a separate breed. Warmbloods have open stud books, whereas Arabians and Thoroughbreds have closed stud books. You can breed a Thoroughbred to a Hanoverian and it is considered a warmblood, for example. The warmblood is a type, therefore.

The Swedish warmblood is "not a breed, it is a breeding system," stated Bo Crabo, D.V.M., Ph.D., retired professor of animal science from the University of Minnesota. Originally from Sweden, Crabo is the former president and one of the founders of the Swedish Warmblood Association of

North America (SWANA), and Brady's mentor in her quest to breed Swedish horses. A Swedish warmblood is one not necessarily born in Sweden; such as Figaro R, who was born in Germany, is of the Hanoverian breed, but who meets the stringent criteria for the Swedish stud book. "The Swedish warmblood is the only type of warmblood that has ever been selected strictly for riding for the cavalry and not pulling artillery for war or plowing for agricultural uses. Due to this stringent selection, they have exceptionally comfortable gaits, especially the canter," says Brady. They are also known for exceptional temperaments and trainability.

Why import?

The reason to go the trouble of importing a horse is to "bring in new genetics to keep the gene pool open, and to avoid a genetic bottle-neck or 'popular sire syndrome,'" says Brady. "By selecting for certain traits you get better horses."

A breeding stallion is "approved" based on his prepotency—how well he passes on his traits, or "stamps" his offspring. According to Brady, the short answer on how to import is "call Tim Dutta." She recommends utilizing the Dutta Corporation, chaired and founded by life-long horseman, Tim Dutta, www.timdutta.com. "They do everything" in the importation process, says Brady, and save all the legwork of getting health certificates, arranging flights, transportation, and quarantine. Gränsbo Stuteri recommended Jenny Tholin to arrange transport of Figaro R. Her company got him from the stud farm in Sweden, to Amsterdam, to New York, where Dutta Corporation

Continued on next page



Figaro R

Continued from page 2

took over and got him to an official quarantine farm in Maryland. Tholin and Dutta Corp. often work in tandem. After the 30-day quarantine at a USDA farm, Brady arranged a hauler to bring Figaro to Minnesota. She said she had excellent haulers, who dodged the numerous snow storms hitting the upper United States this past winter. "They got him here in two days," said Brady. Brady hasn't learned Swedish yet, but plans to; she's busy working on her master's degree at the moment. She is a professor of biology at North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in Wahpeton, ND. She can be reached for more information about Figaro R 1085 or stud fees at Brady Equestrian Center, LLC, www.bradyequestriancenter.com, 218-789-7704, or at mturk-

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Our May 2015 cover photo is by Mallory Bourn of Bourn Photography, in the Brainerd/Baxter, Minn. area. We celebrate Mother's Day with her stunning photo.

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Horse
Industry
News

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Editorial: Could You Be a Rescuer?

By Kari Hagstrom

Recently, two pieces of commentary crossed my path. One was commentary from a woman who operates a rescue facility on her feelings and sensations on confronting a nasty rescue situation. The other was a string of comments on Face Book about rescues being a scheme for money, and that they shouldn't charge for the horses that are adopted. Personally, I found it hard to reconcile the two viewpoints; but could understand some, not all, of the reasons for the more negative comments.

This is what I read from Char Tuhy of High Tail Ranch and Rescue, on her experience at entering a difficult rescue situation with her daughter, Jordanne:

Tears, I cannot seem to get past the tears today. My heart hurts, I feel like I just cannot do enough.

We cut the halter off of a very cute little mini mule last night. It was 11:30, and I was tired... very, very tired. But how can you walk away from something like that? The smell was putrid. Gag...gag, swallow hard and keep working. I am guessing that my helpers were every bit as tired as I; yet they stayed, and they helped.

Cutting the halter that has grown into someone's neck is not fun. Neither is knowing that one horse drank five five-gallon buckets of water immediately when offered. Looking at a walking skeleton... hard...really hard.

The worst... being able to feel what is happening. Both Jordanne and I were in tears when we were within five miles of that hell hole. We had not yet seen it, and were told very little, but we could feel it. Sadness, grief, tears. Oh God, is this really a gift? Please help me not to feel it... it is so painful... take it back; I can't do this... take it back!

Arrival... junk strewn yard...don't dare drive in very close...too much garbage, too much pain. Hoping the horses will be willing...hoping the horses are strong enough to walk this far... hoping...

Dogs chained to houses with log chains... dogs that are kind and loving and used... so used. Why can't they see that this is wrong? I am so, so sorry dogs; I am not here for you...I cannot help you...I want to, God, how I want to.

Go through this shed to get into the barn... silently screaming. Dead deer carcasses amongst junk piles of unidentifiable stuff. I do not want to walk in there...please tell

me there is another way. How can I go in there? Imaginary blinders. I go. Rabbits in small bare cages... all of them standing up on their back feet begging. No you sweet, soft bunnies, I am not here for you. God, how I want to stuff them in my coat and run. Goats sticking their heads in between an opening along side the door of their pen. Goats...lots and lots of goats. What is that!? Why do they have to live with a dead pony in their stall? Swallow hard...cannot throw up here.

Pigs...standing in a corner, one on each side...cold, hard concrete, no food, no water, no bedding...pigs, smart, compassionate, misunderstood pigs. I love pigs. Why would someone do this? Why not a bale of straw? Why not a \$2 bale of straw for them?

And then the horses. There they are. They cannot wait to get through the pile of junk... all of them, no hesitation, yes, they will walk by the dead pony, the pigs, the deer parts, the things that crack and give under their feet. They do not know what they are walking through; they do not care. Just get us out of here... through the excrement, death, filth and junk and onto the trailer. No hesitation, just get us out of here...now.

Leaving...other horses whinnying...hollering...wait, you forgot us...wait...come back! Oh, you poor horses, I am so, so very, very sorry; I am not here for you. I want to be; and it breaks my heart, but I am not here for you.

Tears. Broken heart, sadness, because I could not be there for them.

How many people could walk into such a situation? No matter how much we care for our animals, how many of us could handle such a situation and the after-care of rehabilitating badly wounded or starved-down animals and the emotional fallout later? In my opinion, walking into such a situation would be like being a fireman or EMT on 9-11 in New York. Facing disaster, trauma. Knowingly walking into the fire, not knowing the outcome, but trying anyway. Rescuers of horses, dogs, cats, other humans, etc., are our every day heroes. They face PTSD and possible injury just as surely as does a military, fire, emergency medical person, or police person: all service positions.

And why is it that very often the most sensitive, empathic and compassionate of us are the ones called to rescue? Being exposed to that depth of trauma, pain and fear are hard to shake. It affects you. But thankfully, there are brave souls out there that do choose to walk into hell to save another being.

So I find it hard to reconcile the attitudes of a segment of the population that choose

to be self-righteously judgemental of others. Perhaps it is a projection of their own fears, or fears of being called-upon, fears of inadequacy, that allows them to believe it is OK to cast negativity on those out there rescuing and being of service. It also seems that while people are quick to exercise their right to free speech, it seems like too many people jump at the chance to take that freedom as license to criticize and complain, without restraint, respect or compassion. Too many people clock in where they have not gone and have no experience. Go cut the halter or collar off of an animal where it has grown into the animal's neck, and then come back and tell everyone that rescues are just out for a buck. It's easy to talk about something when you haven't had to stand up for it. Go stand for something real and impactful, and then come back and see how you feel about those complaints and negative comments.

Some believe that rescues are out for a quick buck. And maybe some are. In all areas of life these days, we find people with ill-intent and greed. And some folks believe that most horses should be "free to a good home." Well and good. But first you have to find that good home. First you have to find that willing person to take on that horse. What happens when there is no place to turn to? Rescues seem like a good option to me. I don't believe that sending a horse to slaughter, while not as readily available as it used to be, though it still exists, is a viable option. That is treating another living being like a disposable item. When does someone go from being loved and valued to inconvenient and disposable? And why do we let that attitude and perspective occur? It is well-documented that how you treat your animals is an accurate reflection of how you treat others—both on an individual as well as societal/cultural level.

Maybe some horses do come with high price tags from some rescues. Most rescues are non-profits, which means they are allowed to make money; it just isn't the sole purpose of the organization. When donations are slim, and grant money near impossible to find, where are they to get their funding? Some horses are more relatively valuable because they know more stuff. Shouldn't a rescue be allowed to sell at market value? The flip-side being that some people will complain of the rescues undercutting the market with cheap horses. If we as a people with conscience believe that unwanted horses should and can be cared for until they are no longer un-

wanted, don't we owe it to ourselves to pull together to be of assistance and support to those who do the dirty work of helping at-risk horses and rehabilitating abused and neglected horses? We all know horses and their care are not cheap. And yes, there are those who take in horses to help them out that are not rescues. Great! All sorts of people are needed. Not everyone needs to or should run a rescue. Sometimes all that's needed is that stop-gap home for a horse until they find their next home. I applaud all who do such work. I note that they don't get criticized for selling one of those horses, though, whether they have put training on it or not. It apparently is OK for an individual to house and feed a horse that someone has given them because the horse needed a home, and turn around and sell the horse to "cover their costs." Yet rescues get criticized for the same behavior. We rush to donate to disaster relief, so why not support these ongoing, day-to-day smaller disasters?

To stand back and criticize openly or otherwise, those who are earnestly trying to help the life situations of horses and other animals (humans included), seems to be one of the ultimate low-blows. If you claim to like or even love horses, does that stop at just your horse? I guess it does with some people, but to me it seems that if you claim to care about someone or something, that there are no limits on that caring. I love my horses in particular, but I also love all horses in general. It transfers. It expands. It encompasses. Think about that next time you or someone else criticizes a rescue. Better yet, I invite you to go help out as a volunteer at a rescue—go actually live the experience. I don't think people criticized the NYPD or NYFD for getting paid to go rescue people during 9-11. Do you?

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Ellie

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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

Success Through Knowledge

By Charles Wilhelm

Whether your discipline is dressage, reining, Western pleasure or you simply enjoy a nice trail ride, your horse needs to be safe, responsive and obedient. There are many aspects to the training of a horse to accomplish this goal. Four in particular are important and should be recognized and understood.

These areas are the physical, mental, emotional and nutrition/health care of a horse. Think of a pyramid. The base of the pyramid has four points each representing one aspect, the physical, mental, emotional, and nutrition/health. Every tier or layer represents education, lessons, and practice that build from the foundation. The tip of the pyramid is the goal although I don't think the training of a horse is ever totally finished.

However, once a horse has reached a certain level of performance, we say the horse is finished. This doesn't mean we stop training. We should always have goals and should continue to raise the standard of performance. The issue is that if we don't have the knowledge and we aren't shown how to work with our horse, we can't progress to the tip. The result is that we will not have the quality of horse that we would like.

First, we must have physical control of the horse. The question is can you get your horse's feet to go where you want him to go? This is a basic requirement of safe riding. While I know that times are hard for many people now and lessons may not be economically feasible, I view them like maintenance of a car. You can pay the mechanic now to keep the car in good shape or wait and pay a higher price later when there are major problems. Training can be thought of as an ounce of prevention. It is better to pay for assistance with your horse than to pay a medical

bill when you are injured.

The physical part of training horses focuses on control. The horse must go forward, stop, back up and turn left or right at our direction. The ability of the rider to get the horse to do these things is important for every riding discipline and for basic safety. We also want to raise the standards and have the horse do more sophisticated moves such as lead changes and turnarounds. We want the horse to be responsive to a light cue.

Part of the physical aspect is also the physical shape of the horse. Gymnastic exercises to help develop the horse and get him to use himself properly. Probably 99 percent of the horses that come into the barn for training do not know how to use themselves. Most of the time horses are only here for three or four months. At the beginning of their training we start teaching them to come from the rear and start engaging. This means pushing and driving from behind instead of pulling themselves along from the front. We know the techniques and teach how to get the horses to do this.

Another aspect is the mental control of the horse. Can I get my horse to engage with me? It is

important to get the horse to focus on the exercise or task at hand. Many horses come in for training and focus on anything and everything except the task we are working on. Most of the time, we don't ask enough of our horses to require they engage their minds.

A simple exercise such as going forward on the lunge line, stopping the feet and changing direction, is part of very basic foundation training, and causes the horse to focus. Eventually we add to the basic cues and raise the standard. The expectation is that the horse will move forward in a relaxed manner. There will be a nice shape in the body, in other words, the horse will be bent to the size of the circle being worked. The shoulder will not be to the inside and the nose will be bent slightly in. It may sound easy but without the knowledge of how to accomplish this it can be difficult. Without a teacher or trainer to guide you, raising the performance standard can be a formidable task.

If you are a dressage rider, you do not want your horse looking around instead of being in a nice frame. If you are doing Western pleasure, you want to ride with a loose rein. If your horse is looking all

over the place, his mind is not engaged and he is not relaxed. Whatever the discipline, we need to get the horse's mind engaged, as much as it can. Some horses do better at tasks than others. Some have a better work ethic. With some horses it is easier to get their attention.

Once we have the mind working and engaged with us, we have to have the emotions under control. Some horses have a higher emotional level than others. Some have more fight instinct. I have a little mustang that I adopted a year ago. She has a very good mind and learns things very quickly but she likes to argue and fight about everything. My job is to continue working through her issues until she is compliant. Without the knowledge of how to get her to soften and relax, I would not get very far with her training. That doesn't mean we run the horse into the ground but hardy exercise doesn't hurt a bit. Through exercises we get the resistance or fight out of the horse. When a

horse is calm and relaxed, then learning can occur.

Some horses have a high flight instinct. Most horses will bolt when they are frightened. Horses are prey animals and they are born with that instinct. If the horse has a high flight instinct, we need to bring that emotional level down. This is all important because you are not going to have a good performance horse unless the emotions are under control.

A healthy diet along with proper medical, dental, chiropractic and hoof care is important to the physical condition of a horse. The type of feed also affects the emotional level of the horse; the hotter the feed, the higher the emotional level. When you know more about these aspects, you are better able to ensure the good physical condition of your horse.

Success in all areas of horse management comes through knowledge. There is a great deal of opportunity to learn. Knowledge can be gained by having a trainer, attending clinics,

reading, watching a DVD or demonstrations at a horse exposition. If you have a great trainer doing a demonstration at an exposition, you can learn a lot from just watching. Even watching a more experienced rider can be helpful. You will have more success working with your horse by increasing your knowledge. Work your horse with consistent exercises and you will be able to see if he is improving. I like to watch and work with a trainer for 20 to 30 minutes and then go and practice by myself. Everyone has a different way of learning and you need to find the formula that works for you.

To be successful you need to gain the knowledge that will give you a better relationship with your horse.

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The Lusitano Horse

Pt. 1- Prehistoric Iberian Heritage

By Janice Ladendorf

Cave paintings in the Iberian Peninsula go back to 30,000 B.C. They show two general types of horses who have coexisted for thousands of years. The first type inhabited the north while the second type originated in the south. Each type evolved into three modern breeds. One of the southern breeds is the Portuguese Lusitano.

The Garrano, Galician, and Asturian

The first type is well represented in the Iberian cave paintings. It began with the Garrano and came to include the Spanish Galician and Asturian. Most experts believe these breeds derived from horses who drifted south to escape from the ever expanding glaciers. When the Conquistadors took a few of them to New World, they traveled even farther.



The Garrano is the pony shown in these cave paintings and is thought to be the remote ancestor of both the Spanish Galician and Asturian. The modern home of the Garranos is in northern Portugal and they are mostly used as a pack ponies, especially in mountainous areas. They are hardy, tough, and surefooted, but do not have a docile temperament. In recent times, an attempt has been made to improve this ancient breed by introducing some Arabian blood into it.

The home of the Asturian is on the northwestern coast of Spain. In classical times, these amblers were known as Asturcones and greatly valued for their easy gaits. In medieval times they

were called "haubvini" in France, palfreys in England, and hobbies in Ireland. The ancient kingdom of Asturia, including Galicia, was never conquered by the Moors.

The Galician is now almost extinct, but its original home was in the northwest corner of the Iberian coast. Along with the Garrano, it is thought to be the ancestor of the Mexican Galiceno. This cross produced small horses who are hardy, brave, gentle, intelligent, easy to train, and have great stamina. Since they are easy gaited and have a natural running walk, the Asturian may also be another one of their ancestors.

Modern DNA analysis has shown breeds from northern Iberia are closely related to the British pony breeds, especially the Exmoor. When the Celts migrated across Eurasia, they took their fine horses

Left to right: A Garrano, an Asturian, and a Galician.



with them, some of whom were gaited. On their travels, they left many gaited breeds behind them. When settled in northern Iberia, most experts believe they bred their stallions to native mares to produce the Galicians and Asturians. The Celts who settled in England also used their horses to improve many of the British pony breeds. They soon established trading routes between northern Iberia and England or Ireland.

At this time, there is no evidence linking any of these breeds to the modern Andalusian or Lusitano, but breed purity and registries are relatively modern. In earlier times, there may well have been some crosses between these two types

of horses. Sylvia Loch is an internationally known authority on the Spanish and Portuguese Andalusian. She believes such crosses may explain why the dished face of the Garrano occasionally appears in the southern breeds.

The Spanish Andalusian, the Portuguese Lusitano, and Sorraia

The other type of horse shown in the cave paintings originally lived in the fertile valleys of the Tagus River in Portugal and the Guadalquivir River in Spain. From these southern centers, this type spread throughout Iberia. It probably began with the Sorraia or a similar type of wild horse, but soon came to include the Iberian Andalusian. Modern DNA analysis has shown the Iberian Andalusian is closely related to the Barbs

of North Africa. Some experts believe the equine species initially migrated to Africa

from Iberia while others believe the migration went from Africa to Iberia. All agree horses have often been moved back and forth between these two geographic areas.

Five million years ago, the Mediterranean Sea did not exist. Instead a deep valley linked the two continents and a barrier held out the Atlantic Ocean. The existence of this bridge is one of the reasons why there are so many similarities between the plants and animals found in southern Spain and North Africa. Some experts suggest horses may have crossed back and forth over this barrier or bridge; but when it existed, the true horse ("Equus caballus") had not



Left to right: The Sorraia and two Lusitanos.



yet evolved. After it eroded or broke, water flooded into the deep valley. The Straits of Gibraltar are not shallow, but they are less than nine miles wide. Horses could easily swim across them or be shipped over them by humans.

The Sorraia has recently been recognized as one of the ancient Iberian breeds. In medieval times, it was called a "zebro" in Portugal and a "Marismeno" in Spain. In the 20th century, a few were discovered in wild herds and some dedicated horsemen set out to restore this primitive breed. They hypothesized it could well have been one of the prehistoric ancestors of the Andalusian, the Lusitano, and possibly the Barb. Although the tarpan is now extinct, other experts believe it is the remote ancestor of the Iberian horse. Attempts have been made to recreate it by breeding back from modern horses. The Sorraia and the tarpan share the same primitive colors and have other characteristics in common.

Modern DNA analysis has established the Sorraia carries a unique set of maternal genes. No similarities were found between them and the Spanish Andalusian,

but in modern times, the Spanish have introduced both Arabians and thoroughbreds into their bloodlines. The Portuguese have stayed much closer to the classic type of Iberian horse and the Lusitano does share one of its mare lines with the Sorraia. Author Arsenio Raposo Cordeiro describes some Sorraias who still work as cow horses in Fontalva, but they were not included in this DNA research. Whether or not the Sorraia was the prehistoric ancestor of the Iberian horse, the cave paintings show animals with similar characteristics.

Domestication and Specialized Breeding

Considerable controversy exists over when humans domesticated the Iberian horse. Most experts agree this event occurred between 4000 and 6000 B.C., but others argue that it occurred much earlier. To support their theory, they describe the large quantity of halberds and lances with counterweights found in prehistoric sites. These weapons are normally used by mounted cavalry. So far, no evidence has been found to indicate any use of chariots in Iberia.

In Iberia, horses of the southern type have traditionally been used for hunting, herding cattle, and war. All of these tasks require a handy horse who can easily be collected. Selective breeding for horses with these abilities may have begun as soon as they were domesticated. By 2000 B.C., what evolved is a horse who is naturally balanced and readily works off his hindquarters. According to author Sylvia Loch, they had then the characteristics described below.

- Head – slightly convex or straight profile, olive shaped eyes, and relatively long ears.
- Neck – powerful, set deep at the base with natural arch. Heavy forelock and mane.
- Withers – Relatively high.
- Body – short coupled with wide powerful loins. Rib cage is deep and inclined to be flat. Back appears rounded. Sloping croup with low set, heavy tail.
- Hind legs – positioned well under the body to produce excellent hock action and forward impulsion.
- Gaits - powerful, lively, and springy with rounded action.

Continued on page 10

Equine Herpes Virus detected in four Oregon horses

Four Oregon horses have now tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) with two of the horses showing neurological symptoms, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It was confirmed last week that a Marion County horse had tested positive for EHV-1 and had developed neurological symptoms. The second horse that developed neurological symptoms resided at a stable in Polk County with about 40 other horses and was taken to the Large Animal Hospital at Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine over the weekend. The Polk County stable has been placed under quarantine and the remaining horses are being monitored by the stable manager and a veterinarian.

In addition to the Polk County stable, two Marion

County farms remain under quarantine due to exposure to EHV-1. The infected horses and other horses exposed at the quarantined facilities attended an Oregon High School Equestrian Team (OHSET) meet at the Linn County Fairgrounds on April 16-19. ODA is currently investigating the potential of any additional exposures at this time. In addition, ODA is working to notify owners of horses that have been potentially exposed and has notified Oregon equine veterinarians.

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people. The virus is naturally occurring and widespread in the equine population. It is a common virus and may lie dormant for long periods of time and then re-activate during a period of stress, which can result in clinical disease. EHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, abortions in pregnant

mares, neurologic disease, and in severe cases, death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The virus can also spread through 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.

As a reminder, State Veterinarian Dr. Brad LeaMaster advises horse owners to practice strict biosecurity measures and hygiene if they travel to shows and competitions with their animals. Concerned owners should contact their veterinarian if they have questions.

Williamson Joins American Horse Council Staff

(Washington, DC)- Cliff Williamson has joined the American Horse Council (AHC), www.horsecouncil.org, as the Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs. His responsibilities will include equine health issues, welfare issues, and state, federal and international requirements regarding the movement of horses. He will be the principal AHC contact to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I am very excited to be given the opportunity to assist the Horse Council, and I hope my experience with the USDA exporting animals, my farming background, and my animal health education will help me promote and protect the horse industry and the movement of horses, which is critical to the growth of our industry," said Williamson.

Mr. Williamson comes to the AHC from the animal export industry, serving as both the Associate Director of Animal Logistics for T.K. Exports and the owner of Williamson Livestock Logistics, where he coordinated and supervised the documentation, testing and delivery of nearly 75,000 animals.

He grew up outside of Culpeper, Virginia on his family's farm raising horses and sheep. Mr. Williamson is a 2008 graduate of Virginia Tech, receiving a

degree in Animal and Poultry Science, with emphases in Production Business and Equine Science. He is a current Class II fellow of Virginia Agricultural Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) and a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, serving in Nicaragua's Food Security Program.

"Cliff comes to the AHC having practical experience dealing with the USDA and a familiarity with the federal rules on importing and exporting horses. He is also involved in various other agricultural activities. When you add his growing up on a horse farm, that is a great package for the AHC," said AHC president Jay Hickey.

About the American Horse Council
As the national association representing all segments of the horse industry in Washington, D.C., the American Horse Council works daily to represent equine interests and opportunities. The AHC promotes and protects the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests each and every day.

The AHC is member supported by individuals and organizations representing virtually every facet of the horse world from owners, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, breed registries and horsemen's associations to horse shows, race tracks, rodeos, commercial suppliers and state horse councils.

Quest for the Silver Mustang An Historical Western for Horse Lovers

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The Lusitano Horse

Continued from page 8

g) Hooves - small, round, and high.

h) Constitution - strong, hardy, and does well on modest feeding.

i) Temperament - courageous, level headed, anxious to please, easy to train, and gentle.

According to author Juan Llamas, the canon bones of all Iberian horses should be rounded in front. This rule applies to all four legs. Under their forelocks, some Spanish Andalusians have a small, round hole in their skull where once a horn could have grown. The first Andalusian I saw had this



characteristic. Some like to believe this feature suggests there might have been unicorns somewhere in their ancestry.

After 2000 B.C., the Phoenicians and later the Carthaginians settled in southern Spain. They soon began crossing their Oriental horses with the native stock to develop what became known as Andalu-

sians. What they brought to Spain could not have been the Arabian because this breed did not yet exist. Their horses came to ancient Persia from Turkmenia. When they reached Mesopotamia, the Assyrians further developed this ancient breed before Phoenician traders introduced it all along the African coast. Ori-



ental blood gave the Iberian horses more refinement and size, but did not change their basic conformation. The common people mostly continued to use the hardy, inexpensive native stock while the Andalusians became the mounts of choice for the nobility. At this time, the Spanish Andalusian and the Portuguese Lusitano



had not yet become different breeds.

Summary:

For thousands of years two different types of horses have coexisted in Iberia. The northern breeds are the Garrano, Galician, and Asturian. They are related to the British pony breeds and have had little impact on the southern breeds. The

southern breeds are the Spanish Andalusian, Portuguese Lusitano, and Sorraia. Some experts believe the Sorraia was the ancient ancestor of the Andalusian, Lusitano, and Barb.

Others give this honor to the tarpan. In Iberia, horses were domesticated as soon as 6000 BC and used for hunting, herding cattle, and war. What evolved was a naturally balanced horse who readily works off his hindquarters. Well before the birth of Christ, the nobility used Oriental blood to give some of the native horses more size and refinement.

To Be Continued:

In part 2, the story of the Portuguese and Spanish Andalusian will move on into recorded history.

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Illustrations:

Photographs 1-4 and 8 are courtesy of Wikipedia.

For over fifty years, Janice Ladendorf has been studying horsemanship and training her own horses. She is the author of four books, Human Views and Equine Behavior, A Marvelous Mustang, Quest for the Silver Mustang, and Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers, as well as many articles about using humane training methods to build a partnership with your horse.

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Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Returns

On April 29, 2015, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, confirmed a finding of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) infection in a horse in New Mexico. This

was the 2015 VSV index case for the United States. As of May 4, 2015, additional cases of VSV have been confirmed in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Sodbuster Association Holds Annual Planting Event

The Fort Ransom Sodbuster's Association is a 501 C3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the lifestyle of our settlers for future generations. The first Sodbuster Days event was held in August 1984, which was the 100th anniversary of the settling of the Sunne Farm by Andrew and Johanna Sunne.

This farm, within Fort Ransom State Park, which is located south of Valley

On planting days, teams come to Ft. Ransom and specifically the Sunne farm, to work the ground and plant the crops. This year corn, potatoes, and alfalfa were planted. Sodbuster Days show visitors how farming was done in the olden days. They have a black smith's shop, small engines, a grainery, summer kitchen (jelly bismarcks are made in there), a cook car (corn muffins are made in there) and lefsa, ice cream,

rommegrot, and pie-making over a fire in the ground. In the music building, old time music is played during the day. There is food provided for purchase on the grounds during the day; it's a real family event.

"When I was a child I remember my dad, Dave Utke, and grandfather, Paul Utke, threshing with horses," says Lori Steedsman, West Fargo, ND. "After I purchased my first team of Haflingers two years ago, I wanted to try my hand at farming. Helping out at Sodbuster Days has provided me with that opportunity." Steedsman is one of many that help the organization bring a successful Sodbuster Days to Fort Ransom State Park.

Photos by Kim Utke and David Steedsman



City, N.D. and northwest of Lisbon, is where 20 teams of horses and over 150 volunteers demonstrate to the public how farming was done around the turn of the century.

Sodbuster Days are always held the second full weekend in July and the weekend after Labor Day. The 2015 dates are: July 11th and 12th and Sept 12th and 13th.

Top photo: Lori Steedsman rakes the field with her Haflinger team, Nevada and Chance.

Top right: Driving the team and potato planter is Bruce Prinz, Sisseton, S.D.

Bottom right: Driving his 4-up-drilling the field is Neil Nelson,



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A Significant Victory in a New Tax Court Case

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

A new Tax Court case involved several million dollars of losses from 2004-2009 in an Arabian horse farm owned by Henry and Christie Metz. [Metz v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 2015-54.]

The Metzses specialize in Straight Egyptian Arabian horses and established their horse farm in 1991, at a time when prices of quality Arabians had dropped significantly from the 1980s. The Metzses believed that prices had reached their bottom. Mrs. Metz worked full-time on farm advertising, marketing and promotion, drawing on her fine-arts background.

In 1995 the taxpayers bought a farm in Naples, Florida for \$550,000, and viewed this as an ideal location. However, costs kept increasing and losses continued to mount. They sold the Naples property for a profit and moved operations to Santa Ynez, California, with its large concentration of Arabian horse farms and a steady flow of buyers. Despite millions in losses, the Metzses remained optimistic about their farm's future. Since 2008 they had significantly reduced their expenses and increased revenue. In 2011 they achieved a profit for the first six months by selling five horses at an average price of \$70,000.

The judge, in analyzing the Metzses' intent, made

the following findings:

The Metzses kept records in a businesslike manner, using Quickbooks, and their CPA prepared monthly bank reconciliations, accounts-payable listings, and profit-and-loss statements. They used an attorney's prepared contracts for horse and semen sales. Some sales contracts to foreign buyers were unsigned by the buyer, which led the IRS to argue that this "is not the kind of problem an intelligent businessperson would leave unaddressed." However, the judge found that especially with customers from a different culture, "pristine perfect preset paperwork" may not always accompany every business transaction.

The Metzses maintained potential customer lists, with records of contacts made with relevant details of their discussions; and sent out professional-quality promotional materials with copies of articles featuring the Metzses' horse activity.

They had annual written business plans that included goals, job descriptions, policies and procedures, a description of each horse, and proposed advertising and promotion opportunities for the upcoming year.

The judge rejected the IRS's argument that the plans lacked detailed information on methods to decrease costs or increase revenues, saying the IRS was

attempting to substitute its own business judgment for the Metzses'.

There was extensive advertising and promotion, including ads in trade journals, and an attractive website. The Metzses regularly reviewed analytics to track which pages were most often read as well as the location of visitors. A high percentage of contacts came through the website. There were dozens of horse sales between 2004 and 2009, including some for six figures, even up to \$250,000.

The IRS argued that the Metzses failed to track expenses on a per-horse basis and that this was a clear indication their books and records fell short of businesslike standards. In other words, the lack of individualized records shows a lack of profit motive. The judge disagreed that a horse-by-horse breakdown is required to indicate a profit motive.

The judge found that the Metzses used their records to assess economic performance and identify cost-reducing strategies. Their records were far more organized than others found to be adequate for section 183 purposes.

The judge found that the Metzses made changes in an effort to improve profits, most notably deciding against staying in Naples, Florida and relocating to Santa Ynez for the increased

foot traffic and lower costs. The Metzses also responded to the increasing interest in the Arabian horse market from the Middle East, networking at large shows in the

Middle East. The five horses they sold in 2011, at an average price of over \$70,000 per horse, were all to foreigners.

Henry Metz was president of the Pyramid Society, a society dedicated to breeding Egyptian Arabians, and he was involved in the merger of AHRA with IAHA, and "was also recognized within the industry as a businessman who had the skills to turn around not just his own farm but a very troubled Arabian horse industry."

The judge emphasized the importance of expertise of the taxpayer and consultants not only in animal husbandry, but in the economics of the activity, and concluded that the Metzses demonstrated expertise in the economics of the activity.

The judge noted that the Metzses devoted their full time to the activity and that "their management and development of [the farm] has been aimed at breeding horses to sell, and they've worked personally and with great effort."

The judge also concluded that the significant appreciation of the taxpayers' assets -- the farm property, their horses and frozen semen -- suggested a profit motive along with the other evidence.

Finally, the judge held that the long history of losses was explainable as due to customary business risks and reverses, and some of the Metzses' problems were industrywide. The judge also rejected the IRS's argument that the Metzses could never recoup their losses, stating that "if a taxpayer can expect to generate an overall profit from the current year onward, then it can't be said that he lacks a profit objective simply because he will never generate an overall profit over the lifetime of the activity."

This is an extremely important case, and will have long-range ramifications

Cowboy Poetry With Orv

CINDER-ELLA'S NOISY BROTHER

THINGS THAT GO "THUMP" ON THE FARM
I will tell you that Mother's name is Ella.
A year later, came this baby fella.
She carried the ashes and hauled the coal;
Alas, they had no hearth for her to sweep.
Long before midnight, she was fast asleep.
A wrap-around porch but, was no villa.
Guess she might seem like a "Cinder-Ella."

HEATING WATER TO WASH DAIRY EQUIPMENT
They had so many farmyard chores to do;
Get behind schedule and the cows would moo.
Back then, parents would "pick up" on that sound,
And suspect their workers were not around.
So where could they be? Playing in the snow?
Not in the barn, they would assume that's so.
The farmer's son and the farmer's daughter
Hadn't started the fire for hot water.

HURRIEDLY STOKING THE STOVE
How'd you hurry the heat? With some dried hay?
Stuff the stove with kindling, was the worst way.
Next he'd torch it with a big farmer's match.
Should he open, or close, the chimney latch?
His bad judgment would compound those mistakes.
A noisy, explosive blast is what haste makes?
A milk-house by the water tank and well;
A younger sister was sworn not to tell.

HOW'D HE GET THE NICKNAME?
She recalls a very, very loud BOOM
That shook all the shingles on that milk room.
Blown out the door by the force of the blast,
He sped to the water tank, moving fast.
A sooted face and his eyebrows were singed.
And then, this bad choice of Ollie's folly,
Earned him the nickname of "Cinder-Ollie."

THIS INCIDENT INVOLVED LUCK AND HUMOR
Perhaps, he was busy inventing things,
Which from his fertile imagination spring.
His Grandfather and Father worked at first
As immigrant blacksmiths, so he was well versed
In the use of any tool. Broken pipes
And singed eyebrows became just minor gripes;
A learning situation. But golly,
What's a minor burn ... For "Cinder-Ollie."

His name was Oliver.
My Aunt, the source of this story.

Orv Alveshire, © 1993

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John Alan Cohan is an attorney who serves the horse, livestock and farming industries. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, or email at johnalancohan@aol.com. His website is JohnAlanCo-



Federal Court Dismisses State of Wyoming Cattlemen's Anti-Mustang Lawsuit Second Anti-Mustang Lawsuit Dismissed in Recent Months

Cheyenne, WY
April 21, 2015, the U.S. District Court in Wyoming dismissed a lawsuit filed by the State of Wyoming against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeking the removal of wild horses from public lands across the state. Earlier this year, the Court granted intervenor status to the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC), The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom, and wild horse photographers Carol Walker and Kimerlee Curyl. Intervenors promptly filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit against the BLM.

The Court stated in its decision that "the Court agrees with BLM and Intervenors. At this time there is no discrete action required by BLM and the management of wild horses on federal land throughout Wyoming is properly left to the sound discretion of BLM without judicial entanglement."

"We are pleased that the Court declined to allow this blatant attempt by the State to scapegoat the small number of wild horses that remain in Wyoming to benefit ranchers. The Court reaffirmed the BLM's discretion to determine what actions are needed to achieve the agency's objective to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and that removing horses is not mandated," said Caitlin Zittkowski of Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal, the Washington, D.C. public interest law firm which represented AWHPC, The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom,

Ms. Walker and Ms. Curyl in the case.

Just last month, the Federal Court in Nevada granted AWHPC's motion to dismiss in a similar lawsuit filed on behalf of ranchers that sought the removal of thousands of wild horses from public lands. That case was dismissed with prejudice.

The State of Wyoming lawsuit sought the removal of hundreds of wild horses from public lands in Wyoming, a state in where fewer than 2,500 wild horses remain. Statewide, Wyoming's wild horse population levels are far below the high "Allowable" Management Level of 3,722 wild horses, a number established by BLM land use plans.

National opinion polls indicate that 72 percent of Americans support protecting wild horses on public lands while just 29 percent want public lands used for livestock grazing.

In Wyoming, wild horse numbers are dwarfed by the number of livestock grazing on public lands at taxpayer expense. Fewer than 2,500 wild horses remain on just 3.2 million acres of public rangeland, while hundreds of thousands of livestock graze 18 million acres of public land in the state. Put another way, wild horses are present in Wyoming on just 2 percent of the BLM land grazed by livestock.

The American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC) is a coalition of more than 50 horse advo-

cacy, public interest, and conservation organizations dedicated to preserving the American wild horse in viable, free-roaming herds for generations to come, as part of our national heritage. www.wildhorsepreservation.org

The Cloud Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of wild horses and burros on our Western public lands with a focus on protecting Cloud's herd in the Pryor Mountains of Montana. Cloud is the subject of Foundation founder Ginger Kathrens' groundbreaking PBS/Nature documentaries. www.thecloudfoundation.org Return to Freedom (RTF) is a national non-profit dedicated to wild horse preservation through sanctuary, education and conserva-

tion, and also operates the American Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, CA. It is also AWHPC's founding organization. www.return-tofreedom.org

Carol Walker, www.livingimagescw.com, and Kimerlee Curyl, www.kimerleecuryl.com, are renowned wild horse photographers who regularly photograph the wild horses of the Adobe Town, Great Divide Basin and Salt Wells Creek HMAs. Walker is also a board member for the Wild Horse Freedom Federation.

The American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom, John Steele, and Lisa Friday are being represented by the public interest Washington D.C. law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, www.meyerglitz.com.

10le! Join us for a Spa n' SAW!

May 30th, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Help us bathe, groom, trim and fix to keep everyone and everything at Rainbow Meadows in pristine condition! It's sure to be a great time!

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Introducing State Animal and Agricultural Response Team

State Animal and Agriculture Response Teams (SAART) are interagency state organizations dedicated to preparing, planning, responding and recovering during animal emergencies to the United States. A SAART is a public-private partnership, joining the government agencies with the private concerns around the mutual goal of addressing animal issues during disasters. SAART programs train participants to facilitate a safe and efficient response to animal emergencies on the local, county, state and federal level. The teams are organized under the umbrella of state and local emergency management utilizing the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS).

The Incident Command System (ICS) has been recognized by the Department of Homeland Security as the most effective system for managing emergencies. This system has been universally adopted as part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).



MN SAART: WHY SHOULD I BE INVOLVED?

SAART brings together individuals and organizations from a broad range of animal and agricultural interests who are united around the mutual goal of preventing and responding to animal emergencies. SAART entities recognize the critical role of animals in our society and their value. SAART helps to focus these efforts on common goals that unite these groups. MN SAART will utilize the principles of the Incident Command System developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and involves a coordinated effort of government and animal organizations. Using ICS as a set of core principles, MN SAART will develop units to address all aspects of disaster response.

The MN SAART coalition will be managed and operated under the direction of an elected executive board made up of member associations.

Minnesota Horse Council is an important partner in this endeavor. Information will be distributed to all interested parties as fall meetings are scheduled. We want your input and expertise.

For more information or further questions, please contact: coordinator.Mnmv.mrc@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information.

Cutest Foal Contest

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper's 3rd Annual Cutest Foal Contest!

Send us your cutest foal photos!
Winners selected by readers!
VEN Subscriptions given to the top three selected!

Each entry must include: name, address, contact information such as phone number and/or email address.

Submissions due by May 20th!



•Photos must be high resolution (300) DPI and at least 4x6 inches.
•Photos will not be returned and may be used to promote upcoming photo contests
•Photos will be printed in the June issue of the VEN
•Send your submissions to:
PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580 or digital copies may be sent to:
thevenews@gmail.com or our Facebook page:
www.Facebook.com/VENews

Cutest Foal Contest



Visit us online at www.cowboyupride.com for more information on all our events and to find out how you can help.

2015 Cowboy Up Events

- May 16 - VFW - Dilworth
Cruising For The Cure
Motorcycle Run & Cowboy Up
Kickoff Celebration
- June 15 - American Legion -
Moorhead, MN
Burger Night 5:30-7:30pm
- June 20 - Wyndmere, ND -
Muddin' Up for Cowboy Up
4 Wheeler Run 11am - The Well
- June 27 - McLeod, ND -
Miss Cowboy Up Pageant
12pm interviews open to the public
at the Silver Prairie Saloon
4:45 Coronation Ceremony at the
McLeod Stampede
- July 10 - Leonard Country
Club - Leonard, ND
Swing For A Cure Golf Tournament
- August 14 - McLeod, ND
Trail Ride, Ranch Rodeo at the
Rodeo Grounds, Silent Auction &
Street Dance with TBA
- August 15 - McLeod, ND Trail
Ride, Silent & Live Auctions &
Pitchfork Fondue
Street Dance with SILVERADO



Cowboy Up History 2005-2015

3478 - Registered Riders
\$15,000 - American
Cancer Society
\$480,855 - Roger Maris
Cancer Center



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while they last!

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All Proceeds Benefit the Roger Maris Cancer Center.

Saturday May 16th, 2015



VFW Post 1223 Men's Auxiliary Day
1505 W. Center Ave, Dilworth, MN 56529

Come out & join us in the fight Against Cancer

5th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Kick Off

Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 AM

Silent Auction from 8 AM - 7:45 PM

Cruising for the Cure Motorcycle Run
Registration 9 - 11 AM, Ride starts at 11:30 AM

Lunch is served 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Dinner is served 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM



Cost is only \$6.00 Children 6 & under free

Troy, Josh & Friends heads shaved for Cancer - 6:30 PM





Karaoke from 8:00 - 12:00,
Entertainment provided by VFW Post 1223
& the Men's Auxiliary

Proceeds from Lunch, Pulled Pork Dinner, Motorcycle Run & Silent Auction Benefit

SANFORD Roger Maris Cancer Center

Check out the web site for more information @ www.cowboyupride.com

Some Kids wish

To be a Cowboy 
To be a Princess 
To be a Chef 
or a Farmer 
Other kids wish
FOR A CURE
so they can GROW UP

Schelonka Named Reserve Champion in Individual Novice Class Nationally

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.- The University of Minnesota Crookston had three riders compete at the 2014-15 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Nationals April 30-May 3 at the Eastern State Exposition in Springfield, Mass.

Emily Steeley (Jr., Portsmouth, R.I./Equine Science) started out the weekend competing for the National Cacchione Cup, which she won a chance to compete in due to winning the Regional Cacchione Cup for the second-consecutive season. Steeley was challenged with a tough draw but still pulled out a fantastic round in Equitation Over Fences. Even though she did not make the callback for the Equitation



on the Flat portion, Steeley rode her heart out and worked extremely hard to get to this point for the second year in a row in her riding career.

On Sunday, it was the chance for western riders to compete. Chloe Nelson (Sr., Little Falls, Minn./Animal Science) competed first in

Danielle Schelonka the Individual Advanced Horsemanship class. Nelson had a fantastic pattern accompanied with flawless rail work allowing her to finish third in the nation. Danielle Schelonka (So., Randall, Minn./Health Science) was the last class of the day competing in the Individual Novice Horsemanship class. Schelonka had great rail work and then proceeded to lay out a beautifully executed pattern really setting the bar high in the class. Schelonka finished as Reserve Champion in the nation.

All three riders worked extremely hard to get to this point in their riding careers. Each and every year, the teams continue to set their goals one step higher. Both Coach Leininger and Coach Krueger are extremely excited to see what next year has in store for these athletes.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UM-CAthletics.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a NCAA Division II university located in the Red River Valley of Northwest Minnesota. UMC sponsors 11 intercollegiate athletic teams with membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate conference (NSIC) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The NSIC is a 16-team conference with schools situated in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

How to Feed a Severely Neglected Rescue Horse

By Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

When we can offer a safe, caring home to a severely neglected horse, everyone in the horse world cheers. If you have recently adopted a rescue horse, let me first commend you for your actions. Saving a horse that is in desperate need of care and nursing him back to health can be one of the most gratifying experiences a horse owner can have. But you must be committed to giving him a lot of time and attention. The transition period is critical. He'll need to be moved in and out of pasture throughout the day, fed hay nearly every couple of hours, and given frequent supplemental meals until he gets to where he can hold his own.

If your horse is very thin due to starvation, you will want to proceed slowly and with caution, giving his body a chance to adjust to change with each step. Some horses are in such poor condition they are unable to eat. In this extreme situation, your veterinarian will use a stomach tube to feed the horse. This is a short term procedure with the goal of getting your horse interested in eating again.

Ulcers can complicate the rehabilitation process. Retired race horses almost invariably have ulcers. Your veterinarian may prescribe an ulcer medication, but this can only be used for a month or so. The three long term components of healing an ulcer are: chewing on hay or pasture at all times, plenty of water, and reduction in stress.

Your ultimate goal is to allow your rescued horse to graze

freely, as much as he wants, on hay and/or pasture. You'll want his forage to include a legume such as clover or alfalfa. But take your time — you can't just put him out on pasture right away if he's been severely deprived. No matter how gratifying the sight of him grazing 24/7 will be, you must allow time for his digestive tract to adjust to the influx of food. The microbial population in his hindgut is not adequate for fiber digestion; too much, too soon and he may colic or founder.

Here is my recommendation for an 1100 lb horse (his normal weight):

- Give him a probiotic, at a double dose, every day for approximately one month; then reduce the dosage to a maintenance level.
- Start with 1 lb of grass hay every two hours, or pasture grazing for 30 minutes with an hour break in between. At night, leave him with 4 lbs of hay, plenty of water, and a plain, white salt block along with granulated salt, offered free-choice.
- After 3 days, increase the amount of hay to 2 lbs per every two hours and give him 8 lbs of hay at night.
- By the end of two weeks, he should be able to have hay available free-choice or graze on pasture 24/7. Be sure he has enough at night to last him throughout the night. There should be some hay left over in the morning.
- Starting at week three, add alfalfa to his hay ration. Start with 1 lb per day for 3 days, and add one more pound every three days, until you reach a total of 8 to 10 lbs per day. If you're not able to obtain alfalfa hay, get hay cubes. Break

them into small pieces and let them soak for a few minutes. Feed them as a snack throughout the day.

• Also starting at week three, you'll want to begin feeding him six small meals each day. You can use a commercial senior or performance feed that contains 14-16 percent protein, at least 18 percent fiber, and at least 8 percent fat. Each meal should contain:

- ◆ 4 cups feed (weighs approximately 1 lb or .5 kg)
- ◆ 1/4 cup (60 ml) flaxseed meal (stabilized, commercial product is best)
- ◆ 200 IU Vitamin E (you can get capsules in your local pharmacy)
- ◆ Probiotic (double dose, spread over 6 meals)
- ◆ 500 mg of Vitamin C

Gradually decrease the number of meals, every two weeks, but increase the amount of feed in each meal so that by the end of one month, in addition to a full ration of forage, you are providing two to three meals per day, with no more than 4 lbs of feed per meal. Maintain supplements and if your horse is older than 16, provide additional vitamin C.

The upside to the time and attention—in addition to seeing your horse regain his health and vibrancy—is that you will get to know your new horse very well, and together you will enjoy many good years ahead.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an independent equine nutritionist with a wide American and international following. Her research-based approach optimizes equine health by aligning physi-

ology and instincts with correct feeding and nutrition practices.

Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book, "Feed Your Horse Like a Horse," is available at www.GettyEquine-Nutrition.com—buy it there and have it inscribed by the author. Or get it at Amazon (www.Amazon.com) or other online retail bookstores. The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered "Spotlight on Equine Nutrition" series are available with special package pricing at her website, and also at Amazon in print and Kindle versions. Dr. Getty's books make ideal gifts.

Find a world of useful information for the horseperson at www.GettyEquine-Nutrition.com: Sign up for Dr. Getty's informative, free e-newsletter, "Forage for Thought;" browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. Reach Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com. She is available for private consultations and speaking engagements.



AQHA Continues to Promote Animal Welfare

The health and well-being of the American quarter horse is the American Quarter Horse Association's utmost concern. In accordance with AQHA's mission statement, the American quarter horse shall be treated humanely, with dignity, respect and compassion at all times. It is the goal of AQHA to educate members and non-members on this issue.

The AQHA Executive Committee continued to make huge strides for the benefit of the American quarter horse at its April meeting in Amarillo. The committee's actions exemplify the Association taking a stand on animal welfare for the protection of the horse and for the future of the breed.

These welfare topics were discussed and reviewed by AQHA members, the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission, the AQHA Show Committee, AQHA Show Council, the AQHA Racing Committee and AQHA Racing Council. The recommendations from each of these bodies were sent on to the Executive Committee for its review and final decision.

In addition to the approved recommendations, AQHA has also developed a new Animal Welfare page on its website (www.aqha.com/animalwelfare). The animal welfare webpage contains lists of violations and suspensions, along with the newly approved fines and penalties. The animal welfare page further discusses additional animal welfare initiatives including the AQHA Stewards Program, owner responsibility and more.

"AQHA's goal is to educate both members and non-members on the issue of animal welfare," said AQHA Executive Vice President Craig Huffhines. "It is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our horse — the American quarter horse."

AQHA will periodically publish news releases on AQHA's website with the names of people who have broken AQHA's rules pertaining to inhumane treatment and unsportsmanlike conduct, as well as recommendations approved by the Executive Committee.

For more information on animal welfare and unsportsmanlike conduct, visit www.aqha.com/animalwelfare.

Racing violations and suspensions can be found at www.aqha.com/racing.

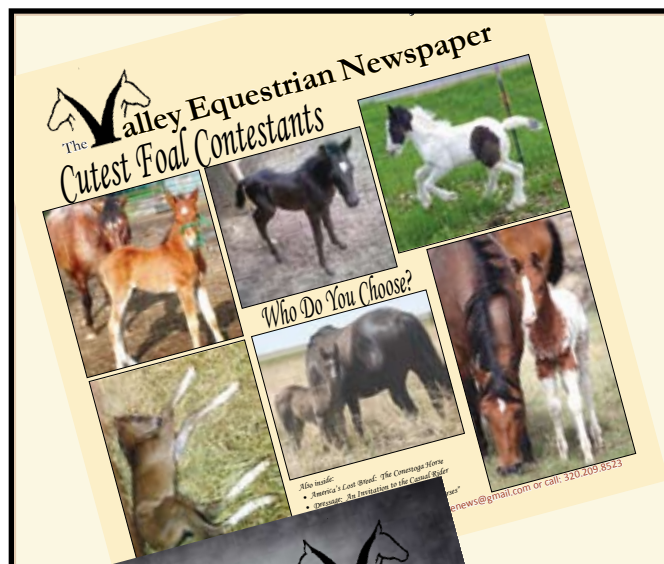
AQHA news and information is a service of the American Quarter Horse Association. For more information, follow @AQHANews on Twitter and visit www.aqha.com/news.

Founded in 1940, the American Quarter Horse Association is the largest equine breed organization in the world. With headquarters in Amarillo, Texas, AQHA has a membership of more than 260,000 people in 86 countries and has registered more than 5 million horses in 95 countries.

Stories From YOUR Valley!

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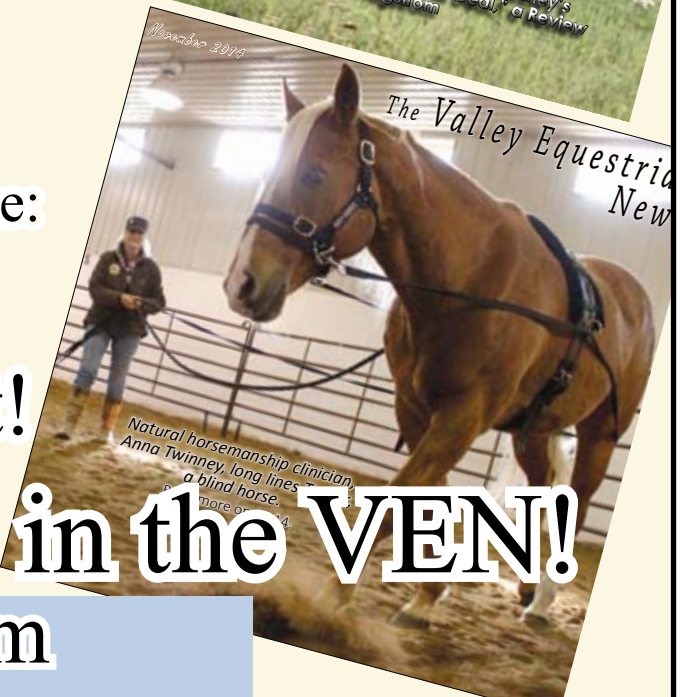
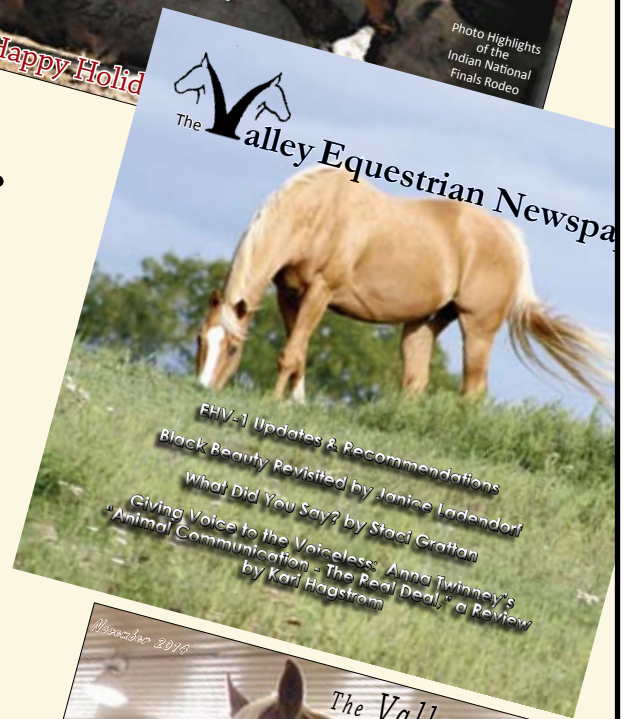
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MN Horse EXPO



Photos from left center clockwise: Pat Parelli demonstrates bonding techniques with Darlene and her horse, Sir; top right: walking a white Luisitano is Jennifer Collman; top center: a beautiful Friesian braid; right center: a Norwegian Fjord being driven by David Lusty; middle photo: Craig Cameron demonstrates how to take your horse through obstacles; bottom photo: a polo match between The Twin City Polo Club (Maple Plain, Minn.), and the St. Croix Polo Club (Baldwin, Wisc.) April 24, in the Coliseum of the Minnesota Horse Expo in St. Paul, Minn.



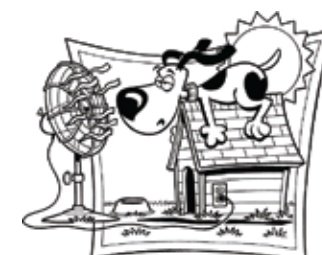
Heat Alert!



The Valley Equestrian Newspaper reminds you to protect your horse, dog, cat and small children who travel with you this summer.



- ◆ Park in the shade.
- ◆ Be sure to keep trailers, trucks and cars well ventilated -- open those windows. The best option: Leave them at home. Vehicle interiors can become dangerously hot in minutes, resulting in the death of your loved one.
- ◆ Take pets along only when going to the vet, or a known destination where they can exit the vehicle.
- ◆ They don't need to go shopping with you!
- ◆ Err on the side of caution. Live to enjoy another day!



Intercollegiate Dressage Association Nationals Welcomes Platinum Sponsor: Custom Saddlery

Westerville, Ohio (April 20, 2015) — Custom Saddlery, the Official Saddle of the U.S. Dressage Team through the 2016 Olympics, believes that every equestrian champion of all levels deserves first-class recognition. That's why Custom Saddlery is returning as a platinum sponsor of the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA)

school riding programs, and IDA quickly grew to become what it is today. The organization is affiliated with the United States Dressage Federation and adheres closely to the United States Equestrian Federation rules. The IDA relies on companies and sponsors such as Custom Saddlery to support their efforts and support



National Championships this year. Custom Saddlery has sponsored the IDA Nationals in the past, including awarding handcrafted, custom-fit saddles to the first-place competitors of four levels of individual and team competition. The stakes are high for the 2015 competition, as the country's best Intercollegiate Dressage Association riders and teams strive for victory. Through its sponsorship, Custom Saddlery encourages the riders at IDA Nationals to continue growing in the sport of dressage by allowing them to gain a feel of what advanced dressage competitions on a higher level are like.

The host of this year's Intercollegiate Dressage Association National Championships is Otterbein University's Austin E. Knowlton's Center for Equine Science in Westerville, Ohio. The competition takes place on April 24-26. Founded in 1995, the IDA began as a small competition among a few colleges and secondary schools in the northeast. As dressage gained popularity, the sport developed within college and secondary

the country's rising stars in dressage.

Ginger Henderson of Averett University, a sponsor and strong supporter of the IDA Nationals, is excited to have Custom Saddlery return this year as a platinum sponsor. "It is important to the association to award top prizes that exemplify the same quality and dedication to excellence that our riders strive for. To have Custom Saddlery— one of the most sought-after saddle manufacturers— as a platinum sponsor shows our competitors that their accomplishments in the ring are truly worthy. Custom will provide a combination of donated and significantly discounted saddles to IDA Nationals. Eight saddles will be awarded to the first place finishers at each of the four levels on the individual competition day, and four saddles will be given to the winning team on team competition day," Henderson explains.

Henderson recognizes the efforts that the students put into preparing for Nationals. "They spend hundreds of hours riding, practicing, and working out, all in order

Oakland Horse Sanctuary to Host Rare Open House

Meet the Duchess Sanctuary herd, all horses rescued from abuse and neglect who will never know cruelty again

Duchess Sanctuary will open its doors on May 30 so visitors can meet and learn about the more than 190 formerly abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless horses cared for at this oasis in Oregon. Although not regularly open to the public, the sanctuary invites attendees to meet the resident draft horses, mustangs, ponies and other equine residents.

Guests will take farm tours of the 1,120-acre facility while learning about equine welfare issues and discovering ways to become involved by learning about current volunteer opportunities and more.

Admission to the open house is free, but tax-deductible donations are appreciated. Everyone is welcome, but pets must stay at home for safety purposes.

WHAT: Duchess Sanctuary, operated by The Fund for Animals, an affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States, will host an open house for the public where visitors can experience one of the largest horse sanctuaries in the Pacific Northwest.
WHEN: Saturday, May 30 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

to compete at IDA Nationals. IDA provides collegiate riders with an awesome opportunity. Many riders grow up never participating in other sports, and this may be the only time they get to be a part of a team— which is really the heart of IDA," she states. "The experiences they have are innumerable, from spending hours in vans traveling to horse shows together, to learning how to evaluate a horse in ten minutes before they ride a test, to having the opportunity to ride and learn from so many talented and generous

WHERE: The Fund for Animals
Duchess Sanctuary
1515 Shady Oaks Lane
Oakland, Ore. 97462

The Fund for Animals operates the nation's largest and most diverse network of animal care centers. An affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States, The Fund for Animals provides hands-on care and safe haven for more than 3,000 animals representing 150 species each year, including those rescued from cruelty and neglect, victims of the exotic pet trade, injured and orphaned wildlife, refugees from research labs, and many more, and works to prevent cruelty through advocacy and education. For more information visit fundforanimals.org.

The Fund for Animals' animal care centers include: Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas, Fund for Animals Wildlife Center in California, Cape Wildlife Center in Massachusetts, and Duchess Sanctuary in Oregon.



After a young horse fell on James on March 6, 2015 and crushed his lower right leg, the professional reiner's riding career could have easily been over. Luckily,

Photo: Omega Alpha Ambassador and champion reiner Dan James (Photo courtesy of Double Dan Horsemanship)

Omega Alpha Ambassador Dan James Rises Again with Incredible World Championship Performance

Lexington, KY (May 4, 2015)— When the spotlight found Dan James beside his horse, IRA Top Gunner, during the recent Kentucky Reining Cup Freestyle World Championship, it appeared at first that James could hardly walk— and the crowd wondered in anticipation how James would possibly be able to ride.

But step-by-step with his trusting steed, James leaned on his crutch as he approached the center of the ring — a very different image than what audiences saw last year as he galloped down centerline dressed as the Lone Ranger, and won the 2014 Kentucky Reining Cup Freestyle World Championship.

fate had other plans. "God's grace, wonderful surgeons, nurses, and amazing friends have helped lead to a speedy recovery," James announced before the Kentucky Reining Cup Freestyle World Championship in the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Inspired by those who have fallen and risen again, James found the courage and the strength to rise again himself. He was cheered on from the audience by countless fans and supporters, including representatives from Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Omega Alpha— a producer of natural, science and research-based health supplements for humans, horses, and other animals— is as strong of a believer in the ability to heal as James is. The company's representatives were filled with pride to see Omega Alpha Ambassador Dan James step bravely into the World Championship arena. As James asked his horse to lay down in order for him to be able to mount, it was clear he was riding for so much more than to defend his 2014 championship title. And as IRA Top Gunner loped off with James aboard, the audience cheered — amazed at the act of determination and faith.

James's incredible bridless performance won him the People's Choice Award— awarded to him for the second time in a row at the Kentucky Reining Cup Freestyle World Championship. Patti Hanco, Director of Business Development for the equine division of Omega Alpha, watched in awe as James beat the odds right before her eyes. "It was just magical," she said. "I cried! We were all so happy for him."

Dedicated equestrian professionals like Dan James make sure to keep Omega Alpha products on hand. To learn more about Omega Alpha, visit www.omegapharm.ca or call 1-800-651-3172.

in our sport and brings out the best in these young professionals."

Custom Saddlery offers top-quality saddles like those to be awarded at IDA Nationals. The company has countless ways to customize a saddle specifically for an individual horse and rider's needs and preferences. Saddle fitting services and accessories are also available.

For more information about Custom Saddlery, visit www.mysaddle.com or call 1-800-235-3865.

horses."

Cary Wallace, president and Master Saddle Fitter at Custom Saddlery, proudly states "it is an honor to support and sponsor the next generation of our talented dressage riders, and to be able to provide them with the quality tack they will need to make it to the next level." Henderson agrees, stating "the camaraderie and networking that happens during their IDA years stay with them forever. I support IDA because to me it showcases all that is good

American Horse Council's 2015 National Issues Forum

Forum to Feature "Protecting and Promoting the Horse"

(Washington, DC)- The American Horse Council has announced that its theme for this year's National Issues Forum, sponsored by Luitpold Animal Health, is "Protecting and Promoting the Horse." The issues that the horse industry has faced over the last decade have changed, but there are several consistent challenges. These include federal regulatory challenges, attracting newcomers to horses and equine activities, maintaining equine activities that we enjoy, and welfare initiatives to protect our horses. But as with any challenges, they also create opportunities. The Forum will focus on how the industry is dealing with them.

Of great importance to the horse industry is its relationship to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Most horse owners don't understand how and where and why the Department of Agriculture intersects with the horse community," said AHC President Jay Hickey. "Federal authority – and protection and assistance - extends over

the horse industry not only on the breeding farms, but also on horses when they race, show and are used for recreation."

The AHC's National Issues Forum will focus on answering such questions with high-ranking representatives from USDA responsible for the programs that affect the horse industry present to explain how they view the industry, what they do, how federal programs are changing, and what the Department's new five-year plan has in store for the horse industry.

Programs like the American Horse Council's Time to Ride and its 2015 \$100,000 Horse Challenge and others are underway. Updates will be provided that can teach attendees how they might institute similar programs to attract people to the horse industry in its various forms. The Unwanted Horse Coalition is celebrating its tenth anniversary and plans a special update on its current activities and initiatives over the last decade to protect horses. More importantly, this will provide an opportunity to review how the horse community has instituted new programs for horses during that period.

This year's National Issues Forum will be held on Tuesday, June 16, in Washington, DC during the AHC's annual convention, which will run from June 14 to 17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill.

The AHC's convention will also include the AHC's Congressional Reception, the Congressional Ride-In, meetings of all AHC committees and the Unwanted Horse Coalition. As always, the AHC's annual meeting brings together the horse industry's leaders, stakeholders, service providers and individuals to discuss common issues of importance.

The AHC's Congressional Reception will be Tuesday night, June 17, on Capitol Hill. This is an opportunity for the horse community to visit informally with Members of Congress to renew old friendships, make new ones, and discuss industry concerns.

The annual Congressional Ride-In will take place all day Wednesday, June 19. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected representatives and federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. All members of the horse com-

munity are encouraged to participate, even if they don't attend the AHC convention.

The Ride-In puts a face on the \$102 billion horse industry and the millions of Americans who are part of it. Congress deals with various issues that impact the horse industry, including taxes, gaming, immigration, welfare issues, access to trails and public lands, diseases, and interstate and international movement of horses. This is an opportunity for the horse community to come to Washington in force and meet with their Senators, Representatives, and staffs. The Ride-In literally illustrates the goal of the AHC to "Put More Horsepower in Congress."

More information on these Forums and the entire AHC annual meeting, including registration and hotel information, can be found on the AHC's website, <http://horsecouncil.org/events.php> or by contacting the AHC.



Dr Greiner points out a joint to be fused on a horse's leg. Note the bone clarity in the radiograph.

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218.849.2451

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Calling all Minnesota Horse Owners, Horse Business Owners, Horse Enthusiasts, and Equine related Organizations !!

Here is a chance for each of us to make a difference and support the
Minnesota Horse Industry.

Contact your local legislator (<http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>) and encourage them to support the Minnesota Horse Industry by supporting a bill now before the Minnesota State Legislation. This bill, SF 152 and HF 216, will benefit horse farms and ranches by helping keep them immune from liability from accidents related to livestock activities.

MHC attorney Allison Eklund recommends that we use this wording when we contact our state representatives:

I want to encourage you to support SF 152 and HF 216 granting immunity from liability for "agritourism activities," with the additional amendment of Minn. Stat. § 604A.12 to remove the word "nonprofit" so that the new law and current law do not conflict. This is important to the viability of the horse industry in Minnesota.

Figaro R

Hanoverian, approved Swedish

All Under Saddle Photos: Göran W. Jonsson



Friendship (by Floristan I) - SPS Florida/Feiner Stern
16.1 1/2 H, 2001 (Reg. Figaro R 1085)

Why should Figaro R
be **1st** on your stallion list?

1st time offered in the United States of America!

1st place, Hanoverian Stallion Approvals, Verden, Germany, 2003.

1st place Swedish Warmblood Stallion Test, Flyinge, Sweden, 2005
with the highest dressage index EVER. Perfect 10 for rideability
from TWO German test riders.

1st Sire of Faustino 1244, (Figaro R/Bernstein)
place World Young Horse Championships Dressage
winner with the score of 79.2. Approved SWB Stallion.

This year, make Figaro R your **1st** choice for proven success!



Figaro R is a highly successful stallion with over 425 offspring in Sweden, 100 of which are sporthorse competitors. He was awarded "Premium A" status by the Swedish Warmblood Association indicating his above average heritability for dressage talent in his offspring. He was also awarded Premium stallion at the Hanoverian Stallion Approvals in Verden. Stud fee: \$1250 (\$250 booking fee includes first collection.); \$1000 payable when Live Foal Stands and Nurses. Standing at Brady Equestrian Center, LLC • Fresh cooled semen.
www.bradyequestriancenter.com • Margot Brady - 218.789.7704 • mturkish@msn.com