SOUND ADVOCATE

The official publication

FOSH is a member of the American Horse Council

JAN-FEB 2019

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

"…If we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt."

Anna Sewall in Black Beauty

Cover Story

Join the riders who took part in the co-sponsored FOSH and NAWD virtual dressage show this past fall. Missouri's Sara Patton (left) shown here with her Missouri Fox-Trotter named Rex, joined with many other gaited horse enthusiasts across the country to video tests and receive useful feedback from the score-sheets they received after completing their rides. (Best of all, they didn't have to leave home to do it.)

Coverage of this special event begins on page 5 and continues in the issue.

INSIDE:

Some years are good; very few are amazing. We have a new national champion in our midst. P. 24

No Excuses! Put on Your Woolies and Ride, p.14 *and much more*

Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

FOSH MISSION STATEMENT

To promote all "sound", naturally gaited horses, with a specific emphasis on Tennessee Walking Horses. (In this context, sound means not "sored".)

Importance is placed on education, regarding the humane care for the emotional, mental and physical well-being, training, and treatment of all gaited horses.

FOSH will only support flat shod or barefoot horses, and will never endorse any event that uses stacks and/or chains as action devices, or any mechanical, chemical, or artificial means to modify the natural gaits of the horse.

To these ends, FOSH focuses on three areas for gaited horses:

1). educating people about sound horse training principles

2). supporting sound shows, events and activities

3). working to end soring.

FOSH is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your donation to support the FOSH mission is needed to advance the goals set forth by FOSH in conjunction with its formal mission statement.

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MEMBER'S ADVERTISING RATE CARD

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Directory	$25

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SOUND ADVOCATE Magazine

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Submission of Articles, Calendar Dates, News and Photos: Send to tbippen1957@yahoo.com Information must be received as a WORD document. Photos may not be embedded in text and must be submitted as jpeg format, minimum of 300 dpi. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the preceding month when the issue is to be released. **Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline but may be carried over to another issue.** Submissions will not be returned to the submitter.

Advertising: All ad payments must be made out to FOSH and mailed to 6614 Clayton Rd. #105, St. Louis, MO 63117. All advertisements must be paid in advance by check, money order, or credit card. Advertising rate discounts are available. See the Rate Card in this issue.

Since 1998, FOSH has been the only national organization dedicated to the promotion of the sound gaited horse, emotionally, mentally, and physically; to fair competition; to humane treatment, training, and education, regardless of gaited breed or discipline.

Publication Guidelines

The Sound Advocate is a digital publication published bi-monthly by Friends of Sound Horses, Inc. Reproduction of any article is prohibited without the express written permission of FOSH.

FOSH accepts unsolicited submissions but reserves the right to edit any and all submissions for content, style and space constraints. FOSH further reserves the right to refuse advertising for any reason.

At no time shall the publisher's liability exceed the total cost of the revenue from advertising in the issue involved in any dispute.

All show suspensions and show results are printed as they are received from the reporting agencies. FOSH does not guarantee their accuracy.

FOSH does not endorse the content of any advertisement in this publication, nor does it warrant the accuracy of any advertisement. Readers are urged and cautioned to use due diligence and to thoroughly research, including asking for references, before following through with any transaction.

FOSH does not endorse any trainer, educator, clinician, style of natural training, tack, or horse equipment to the exclusion or preference of any other. Each horse is an individual and may respond differently to particular methods.

Articles published by FOSH reflect the views and opinions of the writers and do not reflect, necessarily, those of FOSH.

Ads for the SOUND ADVOCATE will be accepted in pdf or jpeg formats. Text will only be accepted in WORD. Microsoft WORD documents with photos embedded in the text will not be accepted. Photos must be e-mailed separately at 300 dpi. Camera-ready ads are e-mailed at 300 dpi.

In 2019 beginning our third decade as the leading advocate for sound, naturally gaited horses

Dear FOSH Friends,

First, HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is with a glad heart I share some very good news on the PAST Act. We have reached 290 cosponsors in the House, including Congressman Yoho, who introduced the legislation. We realize the PAST Act will not pass this session; however, we are off to a great start to have so many cosponsors beginning in 2019. In addition, the House of Representatives has agreed to a Rule change whereby any Bill with 290+ cosponsors will be allowed to come to the Floor—no more being held up in a Committee to never see the light of day. In the Senate, we are at 46 Cosponsors, which is a tougher battle; however, we hope the overwhelming support in the House will put pressure on the Senate to consider the Bill.

My next bit of good news is our FOSH Working Equitation Clinic in Missouri in April. You can read more about the clinic in the ad below; however, in addition to the clinic, we learned that Working Equitation United changed their rules last month to accommodate gaited horses! When I contacted Erica and Howard Peek, our clinicians, they were fully aware of the rule change, and are they ever excited to have our gaited horses at their Working Equitation competitions! I look forward to meeting each and every one of you who attends, whether as a rider or auditor. For more on Working Equitation, you'll especially enjoy reading about Kris Blacklock's wins on her Rocky Mountain Horse, Gambler's Jackpot at the national show.

For those of you wanting some warmer rays this winter, please consider coming to Ocala, Florida February 8 & 9 for the Southern States RMH Club Gaited Charity Event. We would LOVE to meet you!

Stay warm, and ride safe. *Teresa*

FOSH
Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

Introduction to Working Equitation for Gaited Horses Clinic--April 13 & 14, 2019

Featuring: WE Experts Howard and Erica Peet ("r" Judge with WE United)
Open to all gaited breeds—Both English and Western riding
Held at the beautiful Meritage Farms, Robertsville, MO

SATURDAY, DAY 1, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Getting to know riders and horses
Learning about Working Equitation
Introduction to WE Dressage-Individual Coaching
Ride a Test--Fix-a-Test
Explanation of Obstacles

SUNDAY, DAY 2, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Working obstacles with relaxation and confidence
Applying Dressage Principles to Obstacles
Walking an Obstacle Course
Ride an Obstacle Course
Closing Gathering

FOSH thanks the Humane Society of the United States and Sara Patton of Meritage Farms, Robertsville, Missouri for without their generous donations, our clinic would not be possible.

Fee: $250 includes stall and daily lunch (Clinic limited to 9 participants) Auditor fee: $20/day, $30/weekend

Contact: Teresa, tbippen1957@yahoo.com, 314-409-3861 (text or phone call)

It was a Success by any Measure

First FOSH Sponsored Virtual Dressage Show

In 2015, a partnership between FOSH and North American Dressage (NAWD) was established to promote and encourage the sound and humane training and exhibition of gaited horses through Virtual dressage competition.

This partnership was strengthened in 2017 with an agreement that provided reciprocal membership between NAWD and FOSH to gaited horses that were entered in any NAWD Virtual Show. In addition, to the membership, dressage tests submitted by riding gaited horses would be judged by individuals dually licensed with the FOSH Independent Judges Association and NAWD.

In 2018, FOSH collaborated with NAWD to launch the Gaits Wide Open area on the NAWD website – an area that focused on gaited horses. To encourage and reward gaited horses' entries in virtual dressage shows, FOSH initiated "One To Get Ready and Two to Show". Under this program, FOSH provided $50 credit to the owner of any gaited horse entered in any NAWD show and the first FOSH sponsored "Gaits Wide Open Virtual Show" exclusively for gaited horses. As an added bonus, every gaited entry in NAWD shows would be entered in the FOSH Gaited Sport Horse Dressage competition in the virtual category and be eligible for FOSH annual awards.

The first FOSH sponsored Gaits Wide Open Virtual Dressage Show was held from October 1 to October 15, 2018. Submissions included tests selections from IJA, USEF Western Dressage (WDAA) and NAWD entered in three NAWD divisions – Adult Amateur (AA), Open and Youth. Entries included Paso Finos, Missouri Fox Trotting Horses, and Tennessee Walking Horses. To ensure fair competition and comparisons, placings were determined by the test ridden and division. In some instances, the difference between first and second place was less than 0.4 %. **Show Results may be found on page 8**

Breaking News - A FOSH sponsored Virtual Dressage show will be offered in 2019. Watch for details

Feedback from a Happy Rider

"I really enjoyed this!!! My little horse, Magnolia, is still very new to the sport, as am I, and we really have had fun learning the basics of dressage. I found a trainer from Finland that was training here locally, who specializes in classical dressage. She agreed to take on her first gaited horse, and together the three of us attempted to tackle gaited dressage over the course of several lessons. My little horse was often very confused about what we were trying to ask her to do. I basically bought her right out of a pasture with no idea of her past. We still have a long, long way to go but preparing for this event was a wonderful experience. I am truly amazed at how far Magnolia, "Maggie", has come over the last year. Unfortunately, my trainer just moved away to Connecticut, but I feel like preparing for this event with her, laid the groundwork for us to really grow in the field of gaited dressage! What a wonderful opportunity!!!! Thank you, Marion Milner"

The Rest of Marion's Story

" FOSH's Dianne Little has been a wonder mentor. She has been a great resource for me and is always willing to answer any questions I have!

Gaited horses and dressage both have been foreign concepts to me. I grew up riding hunter jumpers and only did a small bit of dressage with our local pony club. One of the only times I ever competed in dressage was in Kentucky at the USPC rally. My pony thought the white rail was a jump and jumped out of the ring, thus we were disqualified. I never really had the appreciation for dressage as a child because I think I was too immature. Now that I am grown and have gotten back into horses, dressage has a whole new meaning! And it is tough!!!

As far as gaited horses go, my husband took me on a date over 10 years ago before we got married to the National Bird Dog Championship in Grand Junction, TN. Tennessee Walking Horses are a necessity in this event to keep up with the dogs and to enjoy a smooth ride for an extended period of time. Fast forward 10 years, now my husband and I own that same horse I rode on that date along with two other gaited horses. I know my husband is still kicking himself for taking me on that date, but I am so glad he did!! I have a bad back with a herniated disc, thus jumping is no longer for me. I turned to dressage as a new outlet, and have been amazed at what it can do for any breed of horse. I found a classical dressage barn in the area, Massar Stables, and contacted their owner Kathy Massey to see if their trainer, Kirsi Nevalainen, would be willing to take on a gaited horse. Kathy told me Kirsi was very patient and to contact her.
Thus, I did, and both she and the stables were very welcoming to Magnolia and me. " ##

Riding with Precision

My FIRST TIME VIRTUAL COMPETITION (PART TWO) by **Teresa Bippen**

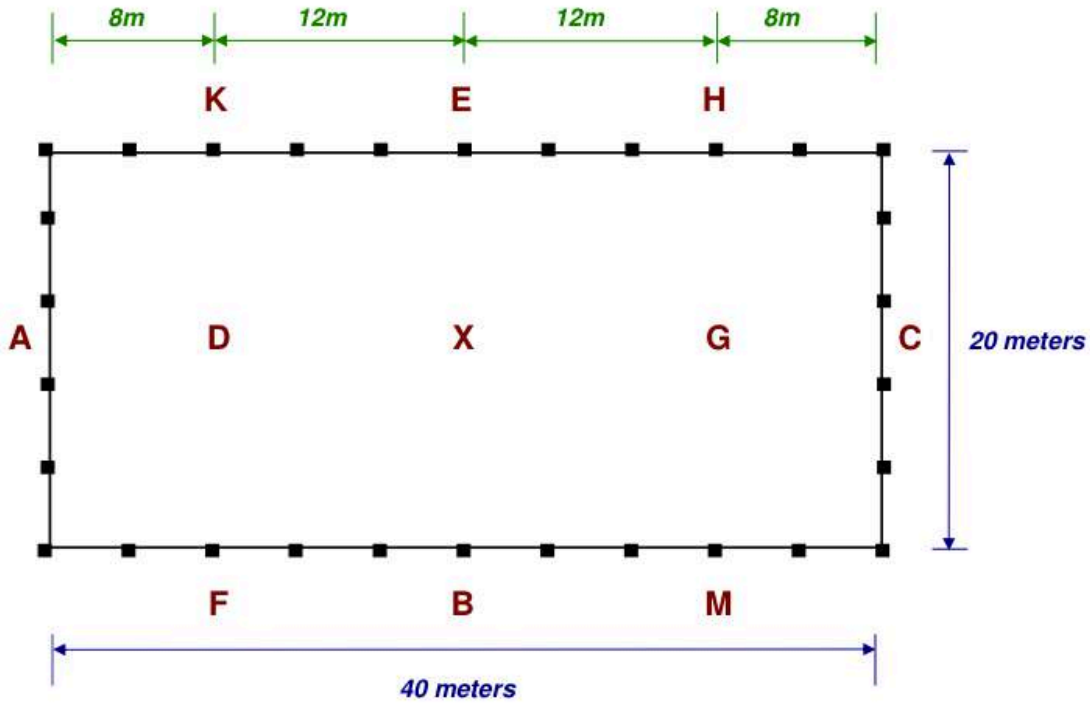
In the previous Sound Advocate, I shared my attempt at participating in FOSH's first virtual dressage show that was offered in conjunction with North American Western Dressage (NAWD). After receiving my test score, I opted to reprint my scorecard so our readers could understand what happens in virtual dressage. (To make this easier to understand, a dressage ring with the marked letters is included.) The **Test** column of my scorecard provides directions of what movements the rider and horse are to make at the dressage ring letters.

The test I rode is from the IJA Manual for Gaited Dressage that provides tests designed for both long and short strided gaited horses. Because I like to be prepared, I memorized the test in advance. Some people prefer to "wing it" and have a friend call out test directions. Before riding a test, one should know the definitions of the various gaits called for. My test had two: Working Walk and Free Walk. (The definitions are in the boxed area).

There are additional gaits defined in the IJA Manual; however, this was an Intro Test and there were only two. Also note that it does not matter what breed of gaited horse one rides, the definitions of Working Walk and Free Walk would apply to all breeds. The IJA Dressage Manual is universal for all gaited horses so a breed specific test is unnecessary when using an IJA test.

Next, look at the "**Guidelines**" column on my test scorecard. As you can see, it is not all about obedience! The test is about rhythm, relaxation, balance, tempo and quite frankly, isn't that what you like about riding a gaited horse? The Guidelines are what helped me understand that riding my horse in the pasture could pro video plenty of training for dressage—even a hilly pasture with grassy bumps and lumps.

Continued on page 8



A standard sized dressage arena is 20 meters by 40 meters in dimension. This illustration shows the markings and distances for a test ridden in a standard/small-sized arena. Lower level tests are ridden in the small arena. Upper level tests are ridden in the large/ Olympic size arena.

What's Brewing?

Member News

Annual IJA Training Seminar Comes to Santa Rosa, California

IJA (Independent Judges' Association) is pleased to announce the 2019 IJA Judges Training Seminar will be held in Santa Rosa, CA, in combination with the Spring Edition Horse Show sponsored by the Bay Area Fox Trotter Association. The Spring Edition is the first of a series of three shows sponsored by BAFTA for the past five years. The training seminar and show will be held at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds on April 5 to 7, 2019.

This two-day show is a reflection of many shows today. It is a multi-breed horse show that features gaited horses, non-gaited horses, a trail obstacle challenge, free events for kids and benefits one of several chosen charities. The Spring Edition is designed to attract all horse enthusiasts, gaited and non-gaited.

Multi-gaited shows are gaining popularity as gaited breeds join together to showcase gaited horses. Multi-gaited shows provide an opportunity for gaited horse owners to compete in breed specific classes and to compete against other gaited breeds in open gaited breed classes. With their education and experience with many gaited breeds, IJA judges are the ideal choice to officiate such shows.

The IJA judges' seminar will focus on the elements of judging open gaited breed classes as well as the elements of judging Trail Obstacle.

For more information on the IJA seminar contact ddlittle@telus.net. For more information on the Spring Edition Horse Show see www.Bayareafoxtrotter.com.

Reminder!

If you compete in the FOSH end of year awards program, the deadline is looming. Don't miss out. Get your paperwork in.

The Absolute Deadline is January 31st, 2019. Submissions/questions to Diane Little, ddlittle@telus.net

First Time Virtual Test continued from p. 6

In my opinion, the best part of the scorecard is the **Remarks** column. How cool to have a gaited judge with an expert eye provide such detailed feedback about one's ride? Do I know what I want to work on with Shiloh? You bet. Also, below line 11, there are general test requirements (called Collectives) that are "Gaits, Impulsion, Submission and Rider's position, etc." Note that the scores in this area have double value as compared to the individual movements.

So, on to my test results. If one is unfamiliar with dressage, my score of 55.5% may shock you. Actually, that is considered fine for a first test. I was happy with it because I was nervous while being videoed and was dealing with some unexpected cold weather. **To see my actual score sheet please turn to page 13.**

Here is the explanation of the meaning of the numeric scores:

Dressage score meanings (for rider's convenience)

0-not executed	5-sufficient
1-very bad	6-satisfactory
2-bad	7-fairly good
3-fairly bad	8-good
4-insufficient	9-very good
	10-excellent

Another beneficial aspect from a virtual test ride is that I can view the video on my computer and refer to the judge's notes to see where we did well and could improve. Quite frankly, for me that is much better than a live competition, where the scorecard cannot be simultaneously reviewed with a video of the ride.

As this was a dressage show, my first place ribbon in my division will be mailed to me that is an exciting outcome for my first horse show. What is more exciting for me though is how much I want do this again! To keep our conversation moving along, our next Sound Advocate will provide information on how to set up your own dressage ring inexpensively, and on other virtual competitions offered by NAWD such as Ranch Horse, Long Reining and many more.

If you are trying Virtual Dressage in 2019, why not register your gaited horse in the FOSH Gaited Sport Horse program? You submit your dressage scores all year and will be measured against the other gaited horses in the program. Visit **www.FOSHGaitedSportHorse.com** for more information. ##

For Some Tips from what I learned in preparing for my first virtual test, please go to page 16

Virtual Show Results

FOSH congratulates the following first, First Place winners!

AA division

Harriet Hulings & Sophie riding IJA/FOSH 2 Gait A

Marion Milner/ Magnolia riding IJA/FOSH 2 Gait B

Teresa Bippen & Shiloh riding IJA/FOSH Intro 2

Jennifer Wallace & Bodacious Blue riding USEF WD Basic 1

Jennifer Wallace & Bodacious Blue riding USEF WD Basic 3

Michelle Christiano and Seabreeze Intrepido riding USEF WD Intro 1

Open division

Julie Lamberton and Chance riding IJA/FOSH Intro 4

Julie Lamberton and Seabreeze Savaje Vaquero riding NAWD Conn 1

Julie Lamberton and Seabreeze Savaje Vaquero riding NAWD Conn 3

Sara Patton & Chief riding USEF WD Basic 1

Sara Patton and Rex riding USEF WD Intro 1

Youth division

Audrey Stiegler and Angelina Del Rio riding IJA/FOSH 2 Gait A

Audrey Stiegler and Angelina Del Rio riding IJA/FOSH 2 Gait B

Maddie Christiano and Touché riding USEF WD Intro 2

USDA Announces New Strategic Plan

Dear Stakeholders:

On any given day, APHIS employees are working on many fronts to respond to pest and disease outbreaks, review important trade documents, prevent damage to crops and livestock by invasive species and predators, inspect field trials of genetically engineered plants, and protect certain animals, such as those used in research, that fall under our oversight. It's a vast mission that is carried out by approximately 8,300 dedicated employees stationed across the country and around the world. While this day-to-day work is extremely important, we can't lose sight of the long-term goals that help steer the direction of this Agency and ensure we continue to meet the needs of the many stakeholders who depend on our services.

I am pleased to announce a new version of our Strategic Plan that includes tangible and specific goals that will guide APHIS through 2023.

Secretary Perdue's seven strategic goals, including his priority on providing the best customer experience in the federal government, are the foundation for the Strategic Plan. They will guide all of our programs as we adapt to changes in the world around us and continue our efforts to deliver the most value and best service to our stakeholders and the American public. Our three strategic goals are:

- Deliver efficient, effective, and responsive programs.
- Safeguard American agriculture.
- Facilitate safe U.S. agricultural exports.

These goals include 14 objectives and many proven tactics to achieve them.

When I became APHIS' Administrator in 2013, I told you my core beliefs, which remain the same today. I still believe that healthy and profitable agriculture is good for America; it provides food and clothing for countless people worldwide and is a key pillar to a thriving economy. I also believe that Government's role is to do collectively what no one of us can do for ourselves. Finally, I believe that our special responsibilities to care for vulnerable animals are noble and worthy of the attention we give them.

As we work to achieve these goals, we remain committed to delivering our programs and services efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and a strong focus on customer service.

Kevin Shea, APHIS Administrator

Rocky Joins New Hampshire Beach Patrol

HAMPTON — Hampton police have introduced their newest member of the Mounted Patrol Unit, bringing in 9-year-old Rocky, a Tennessee Walker, while retiring Bolt, a 5-year department veteran.

Rocky joins a unit that has patrolled the beach for the last 37 years, serving a dual purpose of public relations and crowd control. The unit was the first in New Hampshire and is one of just a few remaining among Granite State police departments, according to Dennis Pelletier, former Hampton deputy police chief who started the unit with retired sergeant John Galvin.

Rocky arrived in October 2018 from Karnes Horses in Columbia, Kentucky, a farm that has provided horses for Hampton police for the last 25 years. Bolt, 20 years old, was not quite cut out for police activity, according to Police Chief Richard Sawyer, as horses must retain a lot of training over the winter while waiting for the summer season to start. The department decided to send him back to the Kentucky farm where he will live out the rest of his life.

Rocky and the department's other horse, Butch, in the Mounted Patrol Unit will start patrolling the beach in June. Rocky will stay on the day shift at first but will undergo training at the Hampton Falls farm where the unit's horses live. He will be exposed to police sirens, lights, fireworks and the sound of blank guns without bullets in them as part of the training that will make him "bomb-proof," or prepared for the loud action that can come with police work.

Pelletier started the program with Galvin in 1981. He said Hampton Beach's growth from a "tougher town" to a family vacation spot over the last four decades has led to fewer violent calls to which horses respond each summer. Back in the early 1980s, he said police were making 50 to 100 arrests in a given night and that having horses on the beach helped with rowdy crowds and reduced the number officers it took to break up fights. He said walking a line of four or five 1,200-pound horses through a crowd not only stops fights but also creates a path for emergency vehicles to get through a sea of beachgoers.

Pelletier, who rode horses growing up in Missouri and has continued to ride all his life, suggested the department add a mounted patrol unit after learning they were being used effectively by Massachusetts State Police and the Boston Police Department. He started reaching out to those departments and others that had horses while approaching town officials about adding the unit.

Selectmen at the time said they supported the idea but told Pelletier there was no funding for a mounted police unit that year. They said an outside organization could fund the creation of the unit, so Pelletier and Galvin reached out to numerous groups like the local Rotary and Lions clubs and raised $25,000 in six months. The first five horses - Rasta, Magic, Sundance, Peacock and Billy Lee - cost $3,000 each, and the rest went to the horses' boarding.

After one summer with the horses on the beach, he said voters approved permanent funding for the unit at the next Town Meeting. Residents liked seeing the horses on the beach, and Pelletier said he had an "awakening" to the difference it makes for officers to interact with the public from the saddle of a friendly horse.

"I think I sort of had... a cynical outlook with people until I got on a horse," said Pelletier. "We'd talk about it after. 'Man, they look at us in a different way.' It's more positive."

Pelletier said there were plenty of times horses helped him and other officers in tough situations.

Sawyer recalled the night Jerry Garcia died in 1995 and how Grateful Dead fans descended on the Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom that evening where the guitarist's old band mate, Bob Weir, was performing. The horses were called into position on the back steps of the Casino where Sawyer was positioned in front of a large crowd in case fans became unruly.

Many departments in the country have disbanded mounted patrol units, including in Boston where the police department had the oldest mounted patrol unit in the country.

Town officials considered doing away with their own program due to budget constraints, but residents voted at the 2011 Town Meeting on a warrant article to keep funding the unit. Pelletier said he is hopeful the town will continue supporting the program so horses like Rocky can continue to roam the beach each summer. ##

Story by Seacoastline.com via Google Alerts

Everyday NEWS

Everyday News continues on page 12

From the world of equestrian sport

Emergency Funds Needed to Help Equine Victims of California Fires

LEXINGTON, KY — Recent low humidity, dry conditions and warm fast-moving winds have created ideal conditions for blazes to spread across California. Tens of thousands of acres burned, hundreds of homes and barns, and images emerged of horses being evacuated, roaming free or fleeing approaching fires. The situation was and remains devastating.

Stories of courageous rescue volunteers and makeshift shelters are unfolding throughout ravaged California communities – all focused on helping abandoned and displaced equines. The rescue efforts are complicated. Often, animals caught in fires flee or hide, especially when injured.

DONATE NOW

California's equines need your help now, and they will need your help in the weeks to come as they are reunited with owners or relocated to new homes. Feed, medical supplies and veterinary care are necessary to help manage this critical situation.

"Every time there's an emergency affecting horses, the equestrian community rallies together," said Emily Dulin, executive director of Brooke USA. "It's complicated and challenging, but I am always impressed with how this community jumps in and helps. These generous people move heaven and earth to make sure horses are safe."

Brooke USA is committed to helping. You can make a difference! Donate to our California Equine Emergency Fund and stay tuned for more information. Funds raised will be donated to organizations directly helping relief and recovery efforts. ##

ABOUT BROOKE USA

Brooke USA's mission is to significantly improve the welfare of horses, donkeys and mules and the people they serve throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America by raising funds and responsibly directing them to the areas of greatest need. Through the programs funded, Brooke USA helps equine owners, service providers and governments in the developing world to implement scientifically proven, practical, sustainable and culturally relevant solutions to enormous animal welfare challenges.

Brooke USA raises funds to support a wide variety of programs for working horses, donkeys and mules to help them become (and remain) healthy and happy, now and in the long-term. The programs also benefit families who depend on working equines to help them earn a living. Brooke, the world's largest international equine charity, directs most of the programs funded by Brooke USA: the leading experts on working equines around the globe. Through a worldwide staff of approximately 1,000 (primarily nationals), Brooke currently operates in 11 countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, and Brooke USA supports many of those programs in addition to others.

To learn more about Brooke USA, please go to www.BrookeUSA.org or contact or 859-296-0037.

Continued from p. 11

Improved Map of the Horse Genetic Code

Researchers fill gaps in equine reference genome to guide new approaches in fighting disease

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Research led by scientists at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky has produced a more complete picture of the domestic horse reference genome, map researchers will use to determine the role inherited genes and other regions of DNA play in many horse diseases and traits important in equine science and management.

By re-analyzing DNA from a thoroughbred named Twilight, the basis for the original horse reference genome, scientists generated a more than ten-fold increase in data and types of data to correct thousands of errors in the original sequence that was released in 2009. Since then, there have been dramatic improvements in nucleotide sequencing technology and the computational hardware and algorithms used to analyze data. It is now easier and less expensive to build a reference genome.

The new equine reference genome, known as EquCab3.0, was published in **Communications Biology**, representing the work of 21 co-authors from 14 universities and academic centers around the world. The horse reference genome is **publicly available** through the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

Genome sequencing allows researchers to read and decipher genetic information found in DNA and is especially important in mapping disease genes – discovering diseases a horse might be genetically predisposed to developing. Data gathered from future genetic and genomic studies of horses will use the new reference as a basis, which also has implications for tackling serious diseases in humans, said principal investigator Ted Kalbfleisch, Ph.D., of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the U of L School of Medicine.

"Because we can sequence a horse and map it to the reference genome, we can know what genes might be affected by a mutation and come up with a hypothesis for what went wrong," Kalbfleisch said. "Looking beyond the horse, we all want to cure cancer and other diseases that affect humans. Being able to accurately generate reference genomes gives us the tool that we need to map an individual's genomic content. Having a high-quality reference genome makes it possible for us to know where an individual has a mutation and personalize therapies that will be right for an individual and the specific disease they have." Senior author James MacLeod, V.M.D., Ph.D., of the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center added, "Increased accuracy of the horse reference genome achieved through this work will greatly facilitate additional research in many aspects of equine science. …" ##

Unwanted Horse Coalition Transitions to New Name and Focus

The American Horse Council's Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) will be renamed and rebranded as the *United Horse Coalition*. The changes reflect the industry's unity around the importance of aftercare and the progress and extensive resources that have come to fruition since the UHC's inception in 2006. The UHC's new mission statement reads, "Through industry collaboration, the UHC promotes education and options for at-risk and transitioning horses."

"The industry has responded with significant resources dedicated to aftercare, and so the UHC is poised to move to a new phase by focusing on serving more as a clearing house for education and options available to help at-risk and transitioning horses," said AHC President Julie Broadway. "The power of the coalition has long been its ability to promote and encourage industry collaboration, so it's a natural evolution that we now embrace that role more fully given the programs offered by organizations such as Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, The Right Horse, EQUUS Foundation, and Thoroughbred Charities of America, and more locally through ASPCA, state horse councils, and others."

The UHC will refocus its services by redesigning its website as a single source to help horse owners learn about resources and options available to place horses in need of new homes. The website also will provide information to potential adoptees including how to adopt, best practices when adopting, places horse are available for adoption, and owning responsibly. ##

Teresa Bippen & Shiloh's IJA Intro Test 1 (Western) from the Virtual Show

		TEST	GUIDELINES	POINTS		TOTAL	REMARKS
1.	A X	Enter at Working Walk Halt & Salute Proceed at Working Walk	Straightness on Center-line Quality of Gait, Transi-tions, Immobility	5.5	1	5.5	Fairly straight; rhythmic; unbal-anced steps to halt. Halt not square but immobile.
2.	C	Track left	Willingness to move forward, Quality of Turn	6	1	6	Some neck tension at C but other-wise nicely done!
3.	E	Circle Left 20 m	Quality of Gait, round-ness, bend	4	1	4	Not a 20M circle! Otherwise, bend and balance are nicely shown.
4.	A	Halt 5 seconds, proceed Working Walk	Balance & smoothness of transitions Immobility	6	1	6	Hold halt for full 5 seconds. Oth-erwise lovely transition to immobile halt.
5.	FXH H	Change rein, develop Free Walk on long rein Working Walk	Relaxation and Stretch Freedom of gait Responsiveness to aids	5	1	5	Nice stretch shown initially but loss of rhythm at X to H; maintain rhythm!
6.	B	Circle Right 20m	Quality of Gait, round-ness, bend	4	1	4	Not a 20M circle
7.	A	Halt 5 seconds, proceed Working Walk	Transitions Immobility	5	1	5	Hold halt 5 seconds; halt was im-mobile and square but not main-tained
8.	KXM M	Change rein, develop Free Walk on long rein Working Walk	Relaxation and Stretch Freedom of gait Responsiveness to aids	6	2	12	Better effort this direction; encour-age/allow greater stretch
9.	E	Turn Left	Quality and balance of turn Steadiness of tempo and gait	5.5	1	5.5	Rushed before E
10.	X	Turn Left	Quality and balance of turn Steadiness of tempo and gait	5	1	5	Maintain tempo through turn; this will result in better balance also
11.	G	Halt, salute	Transitions Immobility	5	1	5	Sideways steps to square immobile halt
			Gaits (freedom & stead-iness)	6.5	2	13	Kudos to you and Shiloh! Overall, tempo is regular and rhythmic with freedom shown
			) Impulsion (willingness to move forward, sup-pleness of back & steps)	6	2	12	Occasional loss of rhythm as Shiloh anticipates. But – willing!
			Submission (attention, confidence, lightness & ease of movements, acceptance of the bit)	5.5	2	11	Occasional loss of attention. . work to maintain Shiloh's focus on your support throughout the entire test! No "looky-looky"
			Rider's position & seat, correctness & effect of aids	6	2	12	Work to continue to use seat/legs with aides. Your contact is nicely done.
			Subtotal			111	
			Less: Errors				Errors (Describe Below)
			Total			111	
			Possible			200	
			Percentage			55.5%	

6 Reasons Why You Should Pull On Your Winter Woolies And RIDE!

Reprinted with permission from Kathy Farrokhzad,

THE TRAINING FORUM

While it's true that your clothes will be bulky, and the temperatures will drop, the winter can be a great time of rest, renewal and growth for you and your horse. I'm here to tell you to get your thick breeches on, put on the two extra jackets; grab your hat and head to the barn anyway! Here's why.

1. You don't get nearly as hot.
After the hot, hot summers we've been getting, it's such a relief to get to ride in cooler temperatures. The extra layers you put on when you first get to the barn will likely get dropped onto a jump standard (hopefully not onto the sand) and you'll end up riding in a couple of the lighter layers you've worn underneath.

Your horse will benefit too, as long as it isn't too cold (in which case, the lungs could be irritated, so better not to ride on those days). There is nothing better than a little exercise to warm up the muscles, get the heart and lungs working, pound the feet on the ground for some circulation in the legs, and do the walk/trot/canter that they can't do most of the time in turn-out because of poor footing.

2. Bouncy bouncy energetic horses.
What great fun it is when the horses are happy to move! These are the days when you can really work on your - and your horse's - conditioning, do longer trots and canters without the accompanying foam and soaking wet saddle pads of the summer. Listen to your horse's heartfelt snorts, feel the spring in his steps, and ride along with all that positive energy!

3. Cozy indoors and good footing.
Inclement winter weather is nothing to worry about if you have access to a comfy cozy indoor arena. It's a special kind of contentment when you can walk into the barn and leave the snow-covered winter wonderland behind long enough to prance, dance and frolic (and ride!) on delightfully clear sand footing on those days when there's no chance for real movement otherwise.
Plus there's the added bonus of being able to stay on a fairly regular riding schedule despite weather changes - something that helps keep both you and your horse physically and mentally fit over the long winter months.

4.Gorgeous outdoors, clear white snow, brisk get-yer-circulation-going wintry air.
Or better yet, keep those many layers on and head out into the bright sunshine-y winter day and revel in deep snow, and white, open fields. Watch your horse's breath as it lingers visibly in the fresh air. Thrill in the crunchy snow underfoot and the eye watering wind that stings your cheeks but makes you feel so alive.
Make it even better and go with a friend!

5. Plenty of Time for some delightful "homework"
Did anyone say, "homework?" Not the kind that you hate to do. This kind of homework is the stuff that great riding is built on. The winter season is by far the best time to hunker down, stay at home, and work toward achieving those goals that you kind of glossed over during the summer. Get nit-picky and improve step by step.
Add some laterals, some tempo changes, changes in circle sizes - and you'll find that you might end up doing more over the winter months than you did in the summer. **Continued on page 5**

FOSH Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Southern States RMH Club Gaited Charity Event
Gaited Breed Specific and Open Gaited Breed classes
February 8 and 9, 2019
Florida Horse Park, Ocala, Florida
Contact: Melissa, Phone or text 520-873-774

Kansas Equifest
February 22-24, 2019
Kansas ExpoCentre, Topeka, KS
TWH Breed Demo and Booth

Horse World Expo
February 28-March 3, 2019
Harrisburg, PA

MARCH

Jillian Kreinbring's Equine Biomechanics Course
Lectures, hands-on and "developing your eye" labs
March 8 – 10, 2019
Lenoir City, TN
Contact: Alece at 336-225-0214, Alece@earthlink.net

Four States Ag Expo Larry Whitesell, Clinician
March 14-16, 2019
Cortez, CO

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell 5-Day Clinic
March 26-30, 2019
Sacramento, CA
Contact: Jackie at 209-748-2402, jlsbarton@aol.com

APRIL

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell 5-Day Clinic
April 2-6, 2019
Pryor, OK
Contact: Larry @ 918-633-9288, l.lees@sbcglobal.com

Midwest Horse Expo Larry Whitesell, Clinician
April 12-14, 2019
Madison, WI

FOSH Clinic- Introduction to Working Equitation for Gaited Horses
Featuring Erica Peet (R Judge) and Howard Peet
April 13 & 14, 2019
Meritage Farm, Robertsville, MO
Contact: Teresa, tbippen1957@yahoo.com

Winter Woolies, continued from page 4

6. Even when it's cold, you know you'll warm up anyway!
And this is the best part of riding in the winter. The cold becomes less of an obstacle because you get to move - even if you do ground work with your horse, even while grooming and tacking up, and especially if you ride. It's all exercise and you will warm up as you go along. On the other hand, sometimes there's nothing better than taking time away from riding, or away from the barn altogether (that is, if you aren't the one feeding-and-cleaning-and-turning-in-and-out).

Sometimes it's the intensely cold weather, and other times it might be the holidays or special winter events that keep you away from the barn. But the winter gives you space to breathe and time to slow down and take it easy without feeling like you HAD to make it for that next ride.
And you will be energized and enthusiastic the next time you go out.

Here's to a wonderful winter, full of horsin' around, to come! ##

About Kathy Farrokhzad. *Ms. Farrokhzad is an EC coach and author of the* Horse Listening *book collection, and* Goal Setting For The Equestrian: A Personal Workbook. *Check out her new online program:* Practice Sessions. *Get riding from day 1! If you liked what you read here, check out her blog at HorseListening.com for many more articles about horses, riding and life in general.*

The Minute Meditation

" The importance of passing through the four corners of the arena should not be ignored since one bad corner can have a destructive effect on the rest of the training. What is a bad corner? A bad corner is one that is not planned by the rider but left to the horse."

Karl Mikolka

Don't Roll the Dice with Training.

The Train the Trainer program is designed to assist individuals from different disciplines who may not be familiar with the gaited breeds. The program will assist trainers, owners, and riders to recognize and achieve correct gaits in both American and Spanish gaited breeds.

Clinics, lessons, and equine training are all tailored to individual situations, locations, and the needs of individuals or groups. Clients can bring horses to the ranch in Idaho or I will travel to off- site locations.

For more information contact:

Nya Bates 208.559.2755

www.batesgaitedhorses.com

Don't just hope you'll get lucky.

Get results.

Train with a trainer who is a proven expert with gaited horses.

Some Tips from My First Virtual Dressage Show

By Teresa Bippen

Object of Dressage for Gaited Horses

The **object of dressage** is the ongoing education of horse and rider. ·

The **result of dressage** is a calm, supple, loose and flexible horse that is confident, attentive and keen. These qualities result in perfect understanding between horse and rider.

Working Walk:

• The walk that the horse would naturally offer with some contact.
• The working walk is a slow, even four beat walk.
• The head and neck are lowered as the horse stretches into the rider's hand showing relaxation and acceptance of the bit.
• The horse is calm and relaxed.
• The horse moves in an energetic but calm way, with stride length between collected and medium movement.

Compare the Working Walk (which was most of my test) with the Free Walk that is called for twice as we change rein and ride across the diagonal of the ring:

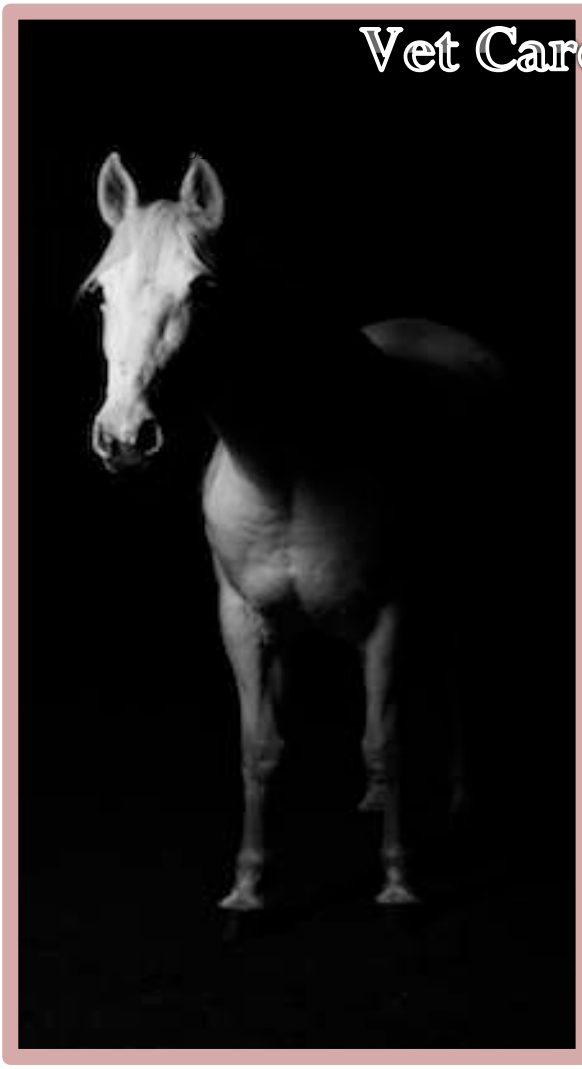
Free Walk

• The horse is allowed complete freedom to lower the neck and head and allow stretch through the entire top line. The horses' stride and frame are lengthened to the maximum natural ability of the horse.

• If the movement is on a long rein, some contact is maintained. If the movement is on a loose rein, there is a loop in the rein and there is no contact except that which the horse maintains.

If you are wondering about the term "Change Rein," it means to change direction by riding diagonally across the ring and then turning in the opposite direction. ##

Vet Care: From the Inside Out



Older Horses and Stiff Joints in Winter by *Uckele Health & Nutrition*

Retired seniors that are holding weight and getting around comfortably in the warmer months can experience greatly reduced strength and mobility in the cold, to the point they may have difficulty getting up. The explanation for this involves many factors.

Reduced exercise: Use it or lose it is very true. Horses may be stalled more in winter and if outside, seek shelter and stay there. Very hard frozen ground or slippery conditions also restrict movement and play.

Reduced strength: It's well known that even healthy racehorses run slower in the cold. Blood flow to muscles is reduced. The body also makes energy generation less efficient so that more of the calories burned are going to heat, a process known as **non-shivering thermogenesis**. Human studies have shown even dexterity is affected by cold, although it is unclear whether this is a muscular or neurological issue (or both). Shivering is also a drain on muscular energy, so shivering horses have even less strength.

Tissue Stiffness: The flexibility and elasticity of connective tissue, tendon and ligament decreases with age. Cold doesn't help. Studies have shown greatly increased muscular and tendon stiffness with cold exposure.

Arthritis and Bone Health: Not every older horse is arthritic although the majority probably has at least one easily identified arthritic joint that gives them problems from time to time. As the condition progresses, pain, soft tissue scarring, loss of cartilage and bone changes restrict the movement of the joint. Although the mechanism is still unexplained, weather conditions have been confirmed to influence arthritic pain. **Musculotendinous stiffness** in cold also restricts the mobility of joints, "locking" them into smaller ranges of motion.

Fractures: Finally, the hormonal changes of aging and of PPID lead to weakening of bones. This predisposes the horse to fractures in the event of a fall. Fractures in areas such as the pelvis or hip can be difficult to identify but significantly influence the horse's mobility.

General Health: Cold is a significant stressor and cold exposure can lead to all the consequences of severe stress including immune system compromise, hormonal imbalance, poor appetite and depression to name a few. Young animals can deal with this much better through homeostatic mechanisms that keep them in a balanced state, but seniors typically do not have those reserves.

How to help:

- Relocating to Florida would be nice, but barring this, keep the horse as warm as possible. This means shelter from wind and precipitation, blanketing, wrap the lower legs or use lined shipping boots, neoprene wraps for knees and hocks overnight.
- Make sure the horse has an area to lie down that has ground insulation, good footing, and is easily accessed by a small tractor or front-end loader in the worst case scenario of the horse needing help to get up.
- Expand your joint regimen from the usual glucosamine, chondroitin and hyaluronate to supplements that include proven antioxidant activity and herbals which can interact with gene activity to enhance normal homeostatic repair
- and balancing functions in joints. **Continued on p. 18**

Stiff Joints continued from page 17

These useful substances include Yucca, Devil's Claw, Turmeric, Boswellia, Golden Rod, Astragalus, White Willow, Perna Mussel, Cat's Claw, Golden Rod, Phellodendron, Fever Few, Egg Shell Membrane, Hydrolyzed Collagen, fatty acids, Silica, Boron, Vitamin C, essential amino acids, B vitamins, copper, zinc, Bioactive Whey, MSM, Resveratrol and other flavonoids abundant in brightly colored fruits.

- The above nutrients also support bone health in the older horse
- Consider a mild adaptogen to support the horse's hormonal system in dealing with the stress of cold weather. Jiaogulan is an excellent choice.

My personal favorite cold weather comforting measure is to pack the feet with a warmed poultice or pine tar packing, wrap in a few layers of heavy plastic wrap and boot them. Ahh.

The benefits go beyond pampering. The goal here is to minimize the effects of aging and cold weather on your senior so he can enjoy yet another spring.

Uckele Health & Nutrition, maker of CocoSoya®, offers formulas to promote healthy joints for senior horses.

Arthroxigen is Uckele's most potent joint formula, providing complex joint support to enhance the functions of joint and connective tissues with over 30 active ingredients. Arthroxigen pellets help maintain equine joint mobility, strong bones, cartilage, and structural integrity and function.

With maximum potency Glucosamine, Chondroitin Sulfate, MSM, and Hyaluronic Acid, plus added support from Devil's Claw and Vitamin C. A rich array of plant polyphenols and flavonoids Resveratrol, Quercetin, Astragalus, Boswellia, and Yucca promote a healthy inflammatory response.

Devil's Claw Plus is a powerful herbal and antioxidant blend supporting free and easy movement for horses with joint or muscle injury or flare-ups. Devil's Claw Plus promotes healthy joints and flexibility to ease joint stiffness associated with normal daily activity.

Promotes joint strength and mobility with Boswellia, Resveratrol, and Yucca to support joint and muscle discomfort following intense exercise.

Ortho CD provides broad-spectrum support for the skeletal system for the pregnant mare and growing horse. Palatable protein, vitamin, and mineral supplement supports bones, joints, and connective tissue to promote healthy development and strength.

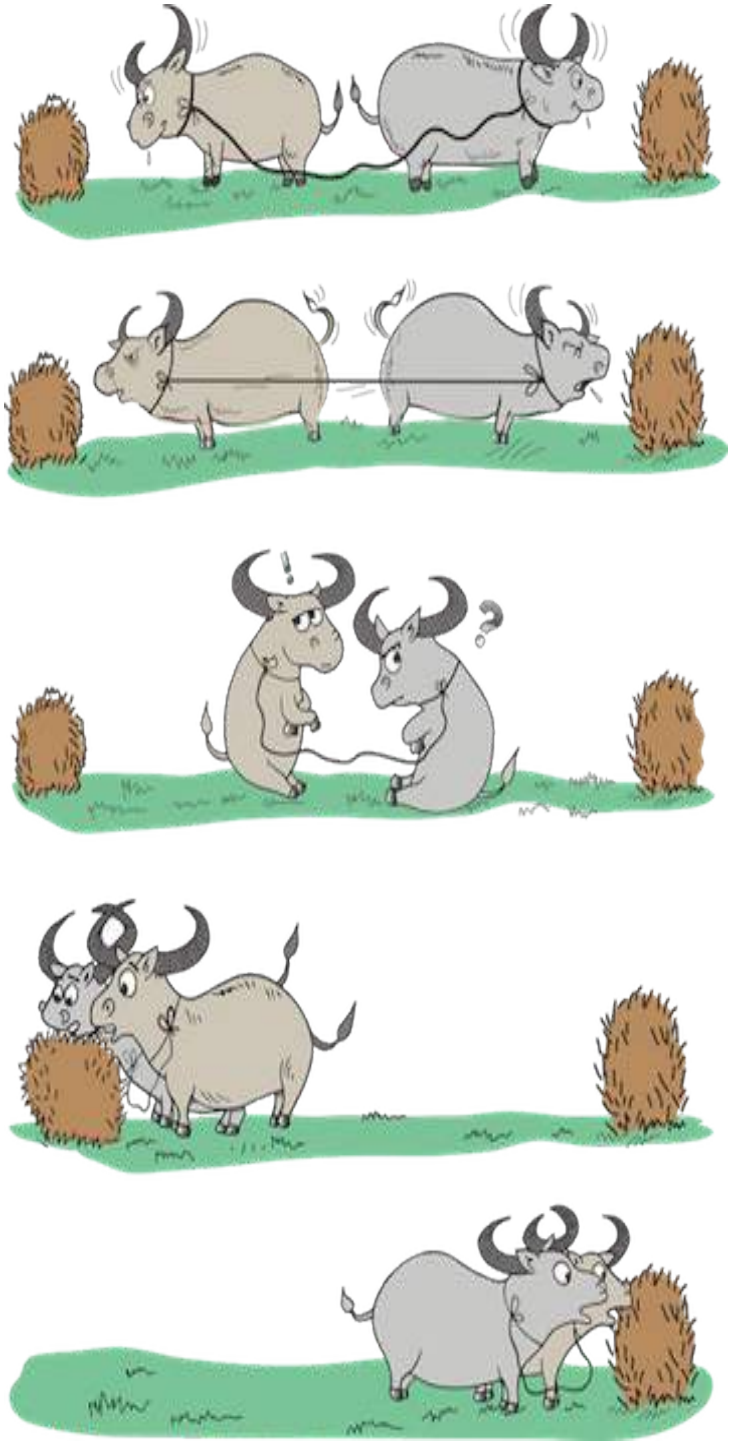
Jiaogulan supports circulation in the feet, and helps maintain clear airways. Also supports healthy immune responses, muscular function, circulation, and respiratory function. Jiaogulan has potent antioxidant potential via increased levels of the enzyme Superoxide Dismutase (SOD), which also supports immune system cells. Jiaogulan supports homeostasis, normal cellular function and interaction between organ systems, and normal organ functioning when horses are under stress. ##

About Dr. Kellon

Dr. Eleanor Kellon, staff veterinary specialist for Uckele Health & Nutrition, is an established authority in the field of equine nutrition for over 30 years, and a founding member and leader of the Equine Cushing's and Insulin Resistance (ECIR) group, whose mission is to improve the welfare of horses with metabolic disorders via integration of research and real-life clinical experience. Prevention of laminitis is the ultimate goal. www.ecirhorse.org

Uckele Health & Nutrition, maker of CocoSoya, is an innovation-driven health company committed to making people and their animals healthier. On the leading edge of nutritional science and technology for over 50 years, Uckele formulates and manufactures a full spectrum of quality nutritional supplements incorporating the latest nutritional advances. www.uckele.com.

Hay Humor



IT'S NO BULL!

EVERYTHING WORKS BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

CONSIDER BECOMING A FOSH LIFETIME MEMBER

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FOSH Lifetime Members

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Ester Bell
Pamela Brand, Carlisle, PA
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Julie Church, Pagosa Springs, CO
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Luella DeBono, Eden Prairie, MN
Beverly Foster, St. Augustine, FL
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Jane Howlett, Pocatello, ID
Marty Irby, Semmes, AL
Marjorie Lacy & Walking Horse News, Edson, Alberta
Sue De Laurentis, Dripping Springs, TX
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Anne Northrup, Ellicottville, NY
Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, MT
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Anita Rau, Catlett, VA
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Yankee Walkers of New England

New Organization Accentuates the Positive

The Ladies' Horse Society. Making a Difference for Horse Women

Co-founder Randi Thompson, states, "The Ladies Horse Society" ™ is growing quickly. We are now gaining over 200 new members a week! Our ladies are making a difference for each other. From the start we created guidelines that the members voted on. No politics. No religion. No ads. No bashing or bullying. This has created a safe place for them. Many of our members are professional horsewomen, others either own horses or have come to a point in their lives where they are not able to ride, yet they still want to be around horses and horse people." The Ladies Horse Society is what they have been looking for."

Co-founder, Paddy Downing-Nygard adds, "I have been in the horse industry most of my life as a USEF Hunter/Jumper/Equitation judge. I am watching what is happening with the Ladies Horse Society and love how everyone is connecting with each other. Check out what we are doing on our Facebook page, (https://www.facebook.com/ladieshorsesociety) and our community. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/ladieshorsesociety

These are quotes from some of our members.

"Imagine my surprise to find a social network of horsewomen who support each other's dreams! Finally, A social outlet where they do not care if your seat is not totally secure, that your position is not perfect or that your horse is not perfectly trained. If asked, they will share their knowledge without criticism. Finally, a safe place where we ADMIRE and SUPPORT each other because we are, and you are—The Ladies Horse Society." –Ginger LaBarre (Labarre Training Center)

"It's all about women promoting and supporting other women. Women who can post about their beloved horses, and the passion they have for them that non-horse folks just don't quite understand. Supporting without negativity is so refreshing. No matter the breed of horse, or the discipline you ride. Women connected by these magnificent animals, supporting each other. A place where you can post a picture of your horse and yourself and have open dialog with like-minded Women!" - Margo Conners

"I enjoy the positive tone here and appreciate that we are all horse lovers. I used to think I had to be an Olympic Champion. Today I am just grateful to be able to ride and to be around the barn (just like when I was a kid.) I am an 'R' judge for Hunters, Hunter Breeding, Jumpers, and Equitation. Here's to horse crazy girls!" - Gardner Powell

"I am most definitely not a lady yet I feel completely at home and accepted at Ladies' Horse Society. We gather to exchange war stories and to support each other through whatever life throws at us. We commiserate on achy body parts and "fresh" horses. It's a community in every sense of the word." - Terra Mikkonen (Ray-An Farm)

"The Ladies Horse Society is a group of positive, empowering horsewomen. We all need somewhere safe to land and it is that safe place for me and many other women." -Amanda Wallace ##

Confessions of a Timid Rider Wins Best Literary Non-Fiction at Equus Film Festival

Confessions of a Timid Rider, the memoir by equestrian author and blogger Heather Wallace, wins Best Literary Non-Fiction- English at this year's Equus Film Festival. The memoir details one woman's insights into being an anxiety-ridden but passionate equestrian. After returning to riding like a mother, Heather is determined to follow her dreams despite the self-doubt she somehow lacks talent or ability. Available www.timidrider.com and Amazon.

Heather Wallace says, "To share my innermost hopes, anxieties, and passions to the world through this book was terrifying. But I know that I am not the only person who has these same feelings. It's okay not to be perfect or to have a bad day. Earning the WINNIE award means I can reach a wider audience and hopefully help them become more confident. I am truly honored." ##

Keep Your Pastured Horse in Harmony with the Grass with the Revolutionary Harmany Grazing Muzzle

Dr. Joyce Harman, integrative veterinarian and founder of Harmany Equine, was named Inventor of the Year at the 2018 American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association conference in November. She was recognized for developing the Harmany Muzzle. While you may not be thinking of the perils of lush pastures in January, it's not too soon to be filling up the tack trunk for the green seasons ahead.

"I hold my AHVMA colleagues in such high esteem, so it's quite an honor to be recognized for the Harmany Muzzle," Dr. Harman said. "My life has been about finding ways to help horses live more natural lives, grazing in pastures with friends. This muzzle is my contribution to horses to help make their lives happier."

Dr. Harman, who has devoted a good amount of her life's work to equine insulin resistance, often prescribes grazing muzzles to her clients. After learning that it was necessary for her own horse to wear a muzzle, she set forth to find a better system than the restrictive, heavy muzzles currently available.

The Harmany Muzzle is unique because it is the only breathable, customizable grazing muzzle on the market. It comes pre-molded in four sizes (mini, pony horse and draft) and ready for spot customization.

Not only can the muzzle be spot-adjusted to better fit a horse's face shape, but it can also be customized to dictate the amount of grass a horse gets.

The Harmany Muzzle is different than other grazing muzzles because it is:

- Engineered to have 25-50 percent more breathing space than traditional muzzles
- Comfortable and effective- Does not retain water or dampness that could cause mold
- Open, airy design more comfortable in hot weather
- Easy to drink water
- Slows eating yet allows horse to get exercise, be with buddies in the pasture
- Easy to clean; doesn't harbor germs and bacteria

Dr. Harman also developed a customizable breakaway halter, called the Harmany Halter, to use with the Harmany Muzzle. See the Harmany Muzzle or Harmany Halter here.

While you were making people smile in December, did you forget to give a gift or renew a membership?

Not to worry! FOSH will be delighted if you take action in January or February!

FOSH Membership Application and Order Form

All annual memberships include a digital, bi-monthly issue of the Sound Advocate & educational packets.
Mail to: FOSH 6614 Clayton Rd. #105, St. Louis, MO 63117

Type of Membership (check one)

Annual: Single ___$30 Annual Family ___$50 Annual Youth <18 ___$20 Life-time__$600
Organization Membership (for your gaited horse club or association) ___ $50

Please print neatly

Name:
_____Address_____
City: _____State: _____Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Breed (s)_____

Additional donations __$20 ___$30 ___$40 ___$50 ___Other $_____

Total Enclosed: $_____ How did you hear about FOSH?

Doing Good through Having Fun, that's Southern Comfort Riding Club

The Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club is a club catering to all gaited breeds of horses in southwestern Idaho. This club offers educational seminars and a variety of clinics throughout the year. Lately, they have included gait training and cattle/ranch work along with formation riding, all to improve our personal riding and to benefit our horses.

Club members regularly participate in parades, even winning prize money several times. We also participate in horse shows, competitive and recreational trail. The club now has two gaited drill teams, a Spanish group and an American breeds group. These drill teams perform at Expos, charity events and as the entertainment at horse competitions.

The club also gives gait seminars and breed demonstrations at our Idaho Horse Expo to promote all of the gaited breeds in our area. We have Mountain, Kentucky, Rocky, Tennessee Walking and Missouri Fox-trotting, Spotted Saddle horses, as well as Paso Finos and Peruvian horses.

Annually, the club also hosts a fundraising benefit ride to raise donations for such worthy organizations, including Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH), Ride For Joy and other rescue and therapeutic riding organizations. ##

Above: Members of Southern Comfort enjoying the descent during wildflower season from Bogus Basin in Idaho. **At right:** Southern Comfort's parade group made a patriotic impression at the MacKay Parade in 2018.

An Amazing Year brings a Championship Ending for Boon Ocean Blue and Gambler's Jackpot

Story (and riding) supplied by Kris Blacklock of Wisconsin

Above: Kris Blacklock and her mountain horse Gambler's Jackpot, as well as her other mount Boon Ocean Blue, have been on a roll in multi-breed competition. Here, she lifts a pitcher on high taken from a stand at a working equitation competition. The Brits call riding to win a trophy " pot hunting", and Blacklock, now a National Champion, won the "pot" of her lifetime after what was an amazing year. **Read all about it and enjoy the photos that chronicle her achievement.**

Embrace the unexpected. Things we never saw coming took us to places we never imagined – IA, IL, KS, MO, NE, OK, OR and TX all in one year! 2018 holds special memories and new friendships. Who knew this would happen after acquiring a first horse at age 45…then at age 57 starting a 15-month-old youngster…. to now age 61 earning national championship accolades on a 5-yr old blue roan Quarter Horse mare 'Boon Ocean Blue' and an 11-year old gaited Rocky Mountain Horse gelding 'Gamblers' Jackpot'! We discovered Working Equitation includes ALL ages… ALL levels… ALL breeds…in classical-dressage based training with practical application thru (4) trials - dressage, ease of handling obstacles, speed and team cow working all wrapped up in one discipline, that's why this sport appealed to me as a gaited horse owner/rider.

Yep…. after a year of Working Equitation training (really only 6 months due to the limited Midwest riding season), Boon Ocean Blue and Gambler's Jackpot both earned qualifying scores and we accepted the Confederation for Working Equitation's invitation to participate in their 1st National Working Equitation Show October 19-21, 2018 at the magnificent show facility Haras Hacienda in Magnolia TX. Our goal was to use this experience as an opportunity to evaluate our training and partnership. Travel logistics alone were a bit daunting. It was our longest journey ever. 21 days on the road in extreme weather conditions – heat, humidity, rain and turbulent wind. In one day alone, temps went from 60 degrees to 98 degrees and dropped to a low of 36 degrees! Hubby Dale hauled us over 3,500 miles from Wisconsin to Kansas to Nebraska to Oklahoma to Texas and back home thru Missouri with rest stop layovers along the way. **Continued on page 25**

Above: Jackpot and Kris work cows at the National Championships, while **below** Boon Ocean Blue works the camera with championship ribbons and his delighted owner/rider aboard.

Left: In dressage circles a perfectly executed, straight, square, immobile halt is as elusive as the Holy Grail. Here, Boon Ocean Blue at the Nationals demonstrates that textbook perfect halt.

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Yes, Working Equitation is serious but FUN training for ALL ages… ALL levels… ALL breeds (including gaited) regardless of one's traditions tack or attire. Boon Ocean Blue earned 1st place Dressage, 1st place Ease of Handling (obstacles) and Adult Amateur Overall L1 Introductory Champion. Gambler's Jackpot continues to open 'gaits' for fellow gaited horses/riders/owners and dispels 'just a trail horse' gaited stereotypes by demonstrating gaited horses are excellent partners who excel in dressage-based disciplines. He earned 8th place Dressage, 3rd place Ease of Handling (obstacles) and Adult Amateur Overall 5th place plus 1st place in Team Cow Working.

What did we learn? Ride every stride! Bottom line...Continue to have FUN, learn, grow and enjoy lifelong partnership, horsemanship and sportsmanship! Thank YOU to all who host educational opportunities and encourage lifelong learning and partnerships along their journey. ##

As always, special appreciation to hubby Dale and brother-in-law LeRoy for their support.

Above: Winning the roses means that first you may need to pass through the sunflowers. These just happened to be the perfect shade to compliment Gambler's Jackpot. Handsome is, as handsome does and this mountain horse can do.

Advocacy in Action

Advocating for the Sound Horse: Finding Opportunities for Raising Awareness

By Esther L. Roberts

Growing up in East Tennessee, one of the highlights of my childhood summers was attending the local "Civitan Horse Show" and watching the beautiful Tennessee Walking Horses move around the ring to music. Their gleaming coats, flowing manes, and brilliant eyes were breathtaking to behold. I did not understand the large pads on their front feet, but, when I asked someone, was told, "it just helps them step bigger and balance themselves." I did not understand the long-shanked bits, but was told, "it helps keep them 'in the bridle.'" I did not understand the tail braces, but was told, "it makes them look prettier, and it doesn't hurt them."

Even a naive ten-year-old, however, can understand that breaking a horse's tail to accommodate the "tail set" was cruel and inhumane. Thus, while I loved the beauty and strength of these fine animals, once I understood some of the torment they endured, I stopped attending the annual show. Over time, the local show had such low attendance it ceased entirely.

Fast forward to 2013. I am on an early flight and headed to Washington D.C. for the day to volunteer and support the "WALK ON WASHINGTON" event. This event highlighted the Prevent All Soring Tactics (P.A.S.T.) Act.

Despite hundreds of co-sponsors in Congress, widespread support in the public sector, and near-unanimous endorsement by all the major veterinary organizations throughout the United States, the P.A.S.T. Act never made it to either the House or Senate floor for a vote. Each year hence, the P.A.S.T. Act has been reintroduced to committee, and, year after year, the Act dies there.

The Congressional powers that be – namely Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, and Marsha Blackburn [then in the House, now elected to the Senate from Tennessee] – have close, lucrative ties with the faction of the Tennessee Walking Horse organization that supports the abuse known as, "the big lick." Those politicos will not risk losing their re-election war chest donors on the "mere" matters of morality and animal welfare.

In 2015, some members of the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA), myself included, formed a working group for an Animal Law Section of the Bar. By 2016, this Section was approved by the TBA and I agreed to serve as the inaugural Section chair for the 2016-2017 year.

The TBA Animal Law Section is designed to include Tennessee attorneys on all sides of animal law issues. There are section members, myself included, who advocate for the humane treatment of all animals. There are other section members who represent corporate farming and similar clients. All perspectives are welcome in that forum, as we discuss various issues that touch upon animal welfare, food sourcing, and agriculture-based jobs within Tennessee.

During this time, along with running my own law firm which specializes in intellectual property matters and pet trusts, I was also serving Continued **on page 27**

Advocacy continued from page 26

as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law (UTCOL). In summer, 2016, UTCOL invited me to be a visiting professor for one semester, to teach in place of a full-time faculty member who was taking a writing sabbatical.

In preparation for that visiting professorship, and with the thought that I might perhaps enjoy a full-time teaching career, I decided to write a law review article. I wanted to advocate for the Tennessee Walking Horse in this article – but how?

Majority co-sponsorship of the P.A.S.T. Act had been unsuccessful, so I knew advocating for a political solution would be fruitless. Instinctively, I felt it would be similarly fruitless to try and tackle the issue of soring from a medical perspective; after all, some veterinarians make their living working to keep "big lick" horses sound enough to compete.

One quiet summer evening, I was sitting alone, deep in thought and feeling rather hopeless as to how to end the torture known as the "big lick." I pondered how my unique set of diverse skills could somehow combine to find an avenue of advocacy for these lovely animals.

Out of nowhere, the lyrics of an old and beloved Christmas carol came to mind. "In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone . . ." It certainly seemed to me in that moment that the hearts of those with the power to end soring were "hard as iron" and "like a stone."

I was surprised by the odd turn of my mind, yet the song continued in my head: "What can I give [Christ], poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give him my heart." (- Christina Rossetti, 1872).

And I knew, in that moment, there was new perspective to bring to bear on the fight to end the cruelty known as the "big lick."

One of my specialties as an attorney is the area of trademark law. In an oversimplified nutshell, United States trademark law is designed to protect consumers from fraud. For example, if you purchase a Ralph Lauren polo shirt for $80.00, you – as a consumer - have certain expectations as to the quality, fit, durability, comfort, and price point of that garment, based upon your expectations related to the brand "Ralph Lauren." You would not

Some years ago, the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEA) had fought to protect their trademarks against any unauthorized use, because TWHBEA, like any brand owner, understands their product is only as good as their branding. But what if one could charge TWHBEA with fraud and get their trademarks cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)?

When that idea popped in my head, I knew I had to "give [the horses] my heart" and I delved into the research with great enthusiasm. I completed my article http://ssrn.com/author=2564420 in record time and submitted it to several preeminent law reviews around the country. I was honored and delighted when the signature equine law review in the United States, the *Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Law*, accepted it for publication.

The article, in sum, takes a three-fold approach to dismantling the TWHBEA trademark portfolio. First, an entity may not trademark illegal activities. Soring is illegal under the Horse Protection Act of 1970 (HPA), yet many of TWHBEA's Board of Directors have personal HPA violations. If those governing the organization have committed illegal acts, and condone such illegal acts, one can argue they are purveyors of illegal acts under their brand portfolio.

Second, a trademark portfolio may be cancelled if the owner of the trademarks fails to oversee the portfolio to maintain the brand's standards – such standards in this case being absolute compliance with the HPA. By turning a blind eye to the numerous violations of the HPA that occur throughout the walking horse industry every year, one can argue TWHBEA has effectively neglected their own brand to the point where TWHBEA can no longer claim ownership of the brand. This concept is called a "naked license" and it effectively eviscerates a brand owner's rights in their own trademarks.

The third approach that of refusing or the 2017 United States Supreme Court ruling in the "Slants" case has largely negated cancelling a trademark based upon its disparagement of a protected group of individuals.

Yet the first two approaches remain viable, and there is some "wiggle room" even in the disparagement arena of the law.

In the spring of 2017, I was invited to attend the Third Annual Animal Law Summit, based upon my position as Chair of the TBA Animal Law Section. Those organizing the event invited me to speak, Continued **on page 28**

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to provide an update on animal law issues in the state of Tennessee.

Because of my law review article just being published, and because of my desire to help build the national support base to ban soring, I decided to speak about soring and the slaughter pipeline – for many Tennessee Walking Horses whose pasterns have broken down from the tremendous strain on their bodies from performing the "big lick" often wind up in the local slaughter auctions, where they are sold and shipped to Mexico or Canada to be processed for human consumption.

Those in attendance at the Animal Law Summit were shocked and appalled to learn about soring. Most attorneys outside of the Tennessee/Kentucky region were completely unaware such an abusive practice existed. I was grateful for this opportunity to help educate the national bar, and especially those who are animal advocates.

I met many wonderful animal advocates at this Summit and I returned to Tennessee full of appreciation for all their combined efforts towards the humane treatment of animals of all types – from laboratory rats to whales whose breeding seasons are disrupted by human-produced sonar.

This autumn, a colleague from the Illinois State Bar contacted me and invited me to come to their state bar and present on the issues of soring and slaughter. I am deeply honored by this invitation and look forward to attending their annual meeting in February 2019. This opportunity will educate many more attorneys about the horrible abuse known as "soring."

While the political roadblocks to the P.A.S.T. Act are disheartening, I encourage everyone who loves the sound, healthy Tennessee Walking Horse to not lose hope! Rather, we should take any and every opportunity presented to each of us to educate others about this wretched practice of abuse.

As we expose this cruelty and educate the general population about the suffering "big lick" horses endure, eventually sufficient public pressure will bring about the economic and political pressure required to end soring forever. These beautiful animals deserve no less than our individual and collective best efforts to, as the social media hashtag says, #BanTheBigLick. ##

Editor's Note: Esther Roberts will continue her story in the March- April issue of Sound Advocate. Look for it.

Meet the author of the intriguing article in this month's Advocacy section,

Esther L. Roberts

Esther Roberts is a writer, musician, equestrian, attorney, and animal advocate. A graduate of the College of Law of the University of Tennessee, Esther's background also includes a Master of Music in piano, and concurrent Bachelors degrees in Biology, Botany, and Piano. She worked as a professional pianist and music teacher prior to entering the field of intellectual property law. Esther's publications include books, law review and journal articles, and pieces for equestrian journals. She is a weekly writer for HorseNation.com. Her most recent book, "My Friend Sam" was released in autumn 2018. Esther serves as staff musician at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Clinton, TN, and she volunteers as a Chaplain for the Knoxville Police Department. Esther lives in the foothills of east Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains with her horses and other animals. ##

Just for Fun: A guy is walking through the country when he spots a sign that reads, "Talking Horse for Sale." Intrigued, he walks up to the stable to check it out.
"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the horse.
"I've led a full life," the horse answers miraculously. "I was born in The Andes where I herded for an entire village. Years later, I joined the mounted police force in New York and helped keep the city clean. And now, I spend my days giving free rides to underprivileged kids here in the country." The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the horse's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of such an incredible animal?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

FOSH Directory

Gaited Clubs

Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club

www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Southern Comfort promotes activities highlighting the smooth ride and versatility of all gaited breeds. Pursuits include trail riding, competitions, shows, exhibitions, clinics and many other equine activities. The club promotes horse safety and friendship for all that are interested in horses. Owning a horse is not a requirement.

SCGHC is based in southwestern Idaho and is a flat shod exclusive club with members contributing and supporting various interests using sound, natural horses.

Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club

The Chesapeake Club is celebrating 26 years of promoting the versatile, naturally gaited, horse. As a member of the Maryland Horse Council, we have been the voice of the gaited community and through demonstrations, clinics and guest speakers, a resource for other disciplines to learn about the gaited breeds in our region. Members enjoy monthly trail rides, newsletters, parades, clinics, social gatherings, and friendly help. We welcome all breeds, riding styles, and experience levels from beginners to professionals. cpwhclub.wordpress.com or jacquiecowan@comcast.net

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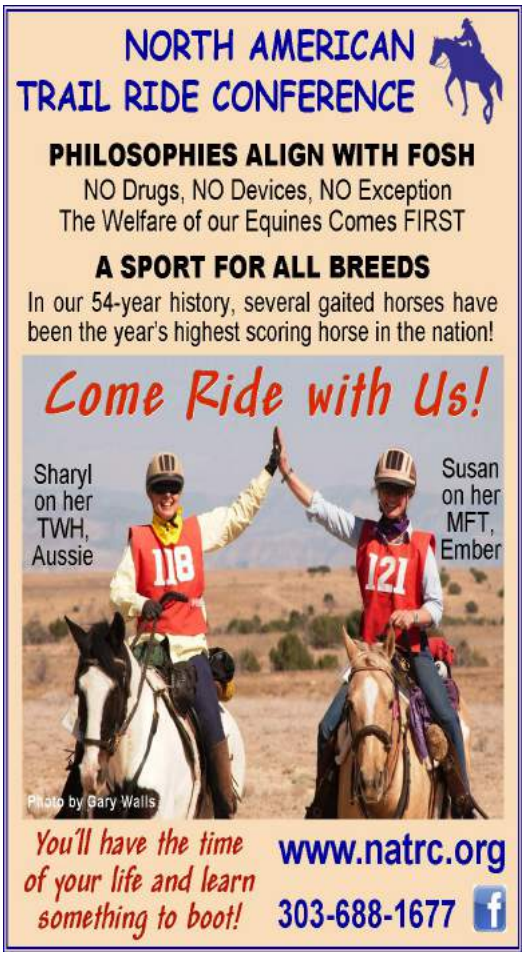

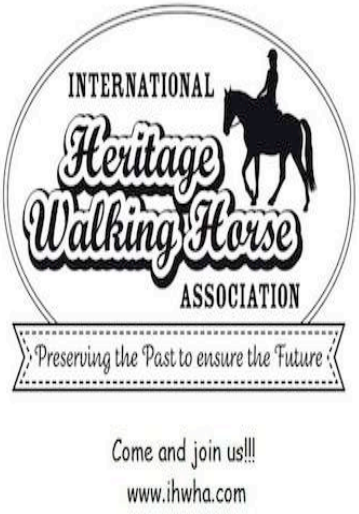

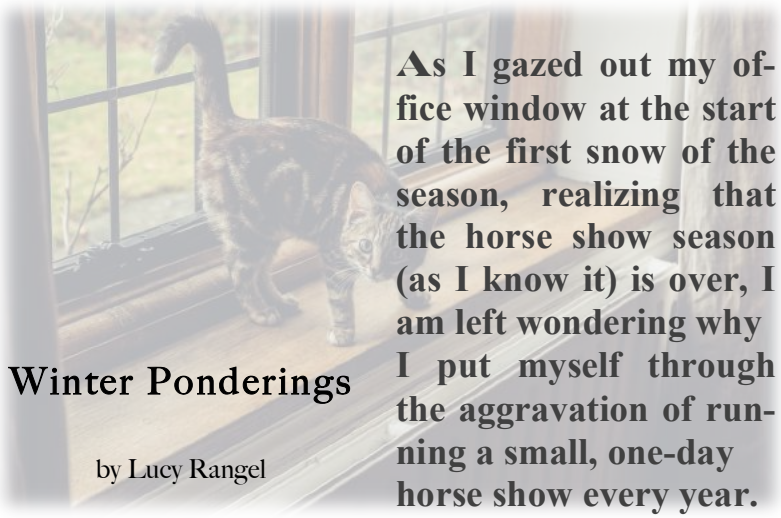

Winter Ponderings

by Lucy Rangel

As I gazed out my office window at the start of the first snow of the season, realizing that the horse show season (as I know it) is over, I am left wondering why I put myself through the aggravation of running a small, one-day horse show every year.

It certainly isn't the money, for I spend much more on this endeavor each year than I do on clothes, and get much less use out of it.

There is a certain satisfaction that hits me in the heart, when all the pieces finally fall together on show day, and the exhibitors come, enter the ring, win their ribbons and trophies, get their pictures taken with huge smiles on their faces in front of center ring. It's especially heartwarming when it's a child winning his/her first ribbon or trophy, and Mom and Dad are standing proudly next to the young one on his/her horse, in center ring. Because of this sense of satisfaction, I have to wonder why more people don't put on small horse shows.

There is the time factor, of course. Organizing and managing even a small horse show eats up blocks of time. Things like developing a show bill/prize list, locating and contracting a facility, and a qualified judge (and other personnel), rounding up volunteers, ordering ribbons and trophies, all these things require hours of focus, phone time, and computer time. The facility itself will require some drive time, as you certainly wouldn't want to contract a location you've never seen.

Sometimes, the facility you rent will dictate the style and spirit of the prize list. For example, if you rent the arena at a local riding academy, it would be a "good thing" to add several classes just for those riding students.

To say that managing a horse show has a "learning curve" is a vast understatement. This last year (2018) marked my sixth annual horse show, and I am still making mistakes. Although the mistakes now appear to be less visible, they have, without a doubt, just as devastating an effect on the outcome and results.

Let me offer this anecdote: For one of the shows at a nice local riding academy, I added several classes for younger folks and beginners, which, of course, had the desired result of adding more entries to the classes. However, because most of the horses brought onto the grounds for the show that day were current show horses, the lesson horses on which the resident riding students entered could not compete, and therefore, did not win many first places. When I later contacted the manager of the facility, to plan the following year, she informed me politely that the owners had decided not to host any more "outside" shows. So, I was once again put on the road to hunt for another affordable facility, of which every year there are fewer and fewer.

For anyone who would like to start a small, one-day show (I say "start", because I hope it will be an annual deal), please e-mail me at fgslr@usa.net, and I can give you enough advice to get you started. For those who have a good idea already, let me offer you the mistakes I made every year, so you can benefit from them. I will preface this by stating the show has always been mid-summer:

YEAR #1 – at a newer private barn. The place looked good: lots of pasture area for trailer parking, several free stalls available for exhibitors needing them, a good-sized indoor arena, with a lovely climate-controlled concession area and bathrooms. Previously, when I had attended other shows/events at that location, the sound system seemed adequate. It was a struggle to get someone from the facility to sign a contract, so I agreed to a "handshake", paid the rental up front, and planned the show. Big mistake. HUGE mistake. All the "promised" features (someone to run the concessions, for example) fizzled out.

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They had a "sound technician" named "Spud" (okay, not really, but close) who "downloaded" all their music to a hand-held thingy and plugged that into a loud-speaker on the second floor that sputtered and spooked half the horses as they entered the ring.

I ended by hiring my brother-in-law (a DJ) and his huge system to run the music and announce. The system was too big to get up the stairs, so he was located in the main aisle. That proved problematic, as spectators walking by thought he was there to do "requests", and kept interrupting him. Finally, the sound could not be heard outside the arena, in the trailer parking area. I spent my afternoon running outside and yelling what class number was in the ring.

Lesson learned: Sound system. Sound system. Sound system. After this debacle, I purchased two portable amplifiers and a power horn with a range of one mile. And went on the search for a new facility.

YEAR #2 – at a historic outdoor facility that is a local favorite. Everyone LOVES it. It is very picturesque, with rolling green hills, a beautiful show ring, a huge dressage arena, a cross country course, a smaller warm-up arena, over 100 stalls with electricity at every stall, and handy water hydrants and outdoor wash racks. An enclosed, air-conditioned show office with restrooms, concessions stand available with refrigerators and sinks. It appeared to have all the bells and whistles.

PROBLEMS: The property was actually owned by the county, but the management was left to a private non-profit association, which received the proceeds, but provided no support whatsoever. The facilities were rented piecemeal, with extras for renting the concession stand (nobody to run it), stalls (you manage, you collect, then pay with one check), electric lighting at night (you figure out

where the light switches are), their mandatory EMT (they pick, you pay), and the watering tank and trailer (you provide the pulling vehicle and hitch). Everything was "self-service", even the arena watering. My husband, following the advice of a management rep that was allegedly "in the know", put the wrong size hitch ball on our truck. The trailer holding the water tank came loose and rolled downhill into a fence. All the support I expected to get from management was non-existent. And the county demanded an astronomical amount of insurance, making the place very unaffordable for my little show. Finally, I was very happy that I had purchased the sound equipment the year before, as the dedicated sound system failed the first 1/3 of the show. The weather then turned ugly, and I was forced by county regulations to cancel the last 1/3 of the show. The beautiful picturesque facility was a dead failure once the lightning started.

Lessons learned: If you need to rely on good weather, get an indoor facility with plenty of stalls and an arena big enough to accommodate a warm-up area. Make sure the contract includes SUPPORT EXPECTED, such as grooming and watering the arena, turning on and off of lights, stall rentals, and concession stand operation. That way, you can plan on using your volunteers for the more central part of the show. And finally, SOUND SYSTEM. Make sure you've got enough battery-powered amplification that, even if the whole place goes dark, you still have a system for public address. At a bare minimum, you should have a way to tell everyone to go home.

YEAR #3, 4, and 5 – The indoor rodeo arena. After the calamity of the previous year, I set out on a hunt for a professional indoor arena, one with the basic needs of a small horse show and management that would support it. There aren't as many of these as you would think. Once I located this one, I stayed for three years, until the facility changed hands and the price went up to the point of unaffordable.

PROBLEMS: It is a RODEO arena. The footing is dirt. Deep dirt. The gaited horse people and drivers of miniature horses complained "it's too deep", and if it's packed too hard, the Quarter horse people with tiny-footed-halter-champions-turned-pleasure-horses complained "it's too hard".

At first, this was the only footing issue. Later, I was to hear complaints of crushed beer cans and bottle tops in the arena footing, and had to send my volunteers, the morning of the show, and after it was groomed, to pick up the shrapnel. I later found out the owner was renting the arena for musical "concerts", and selling beer, the refuse of which ended up in the dirt of the arena. As one year followed the next, the problem got worse.

Another problem was that it wasn't "pretty". The metal corral panels that formed the arena railing became progressively chipped, dirty, and the photographer had a hard time finding a good "photo spot". It's hard to make memories, when the photo taken at the moment of victory includes a mud-spattered metal gate as a background. I tried to alleviate this by renting some white picket fencing, buying lots of flower garlands, and making a "center ring" foam board sign in a bright yellow.
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It was "something" for the winners to pose in front of, for the victory shot. But this didn't help the "action" photos.

The final problem, and one that deserves mentioning, was LOCATION. It is true that horse show folks will drive long distances to a show, but this is not so true for one-day shows. Also, this rodeo arena was out in the boonies on a gravel road, and wasn't even on an online or GPS mapping system. You had to know where it was. The closest thing I could offer was the berry patch business next door, which was online and in the mapping systems. Getting lost on a country road with a horse trailer is unpleasant, and I lost many an exhibitor due to the remote location of the facility.

But for those three years, my little show was safe from weather issues; I had a working sound system. I had someone to rent the stalls, water and groom the arena, and run the concession stand. I had an air-conditioned office and bathrooms, and good lighting when I moved it to an evening show. If the ownership had not changed, my show would still be there.

YEAR #6 – Another private barn, this one with a riding academy. At the start of this article, I mentioned one of the mistakes I made. But this was just my mistake from inexperience. The location was very good, with wide- open paved roads leading right to the driveway, which was terrific for trailer hauling. The outdoor arena was sand-footed, in an acceptable depth, and they had sufficient equipment for building a simple trail obstacle course. The area around the outside arena was pretty, with rolling green hills. The arena fence was of ubiquitous metal corral panels, but those could be dressed up with flower garlands in spots for the photographer.

PROBLEMS – They ran out of stalls, so that exhibitors who truly needed them had to stay away from the show. The bathroom situation was sparse. I solved this by renting portable toilets.

Yes, they had an indoor arena, but it was somewhat small and dark, with no place for an announcer, and the sound system in there was questionable in reliability. The manager had only been on the place a year, and only used the indoor for small clinics and lessons. Unless rain was forecast, we would use the bigger outdoor arena.

It did not rain, although it threatened once. However, the temperature was 95 degrees when the show started, with the "heat index" at 107. And it got windy, very windy. My first "center ring" pop-up gazebo tent, although zip-tied to jump "uprights", blew down and was crumpled into a huge metal spider web the morning of the show. I ran to the nearest sporting goods store for a newer, sturdier one. The outdoor arena had no shade; neither did the trailer parking area. Spectators and exhibitors started getting sick, and leaving in the middle of the show.

There was no arena watering system. At half time, the long-suffering manager went out with a long garden hose and did her best to stifle the dust, created by a very dry summer and Santa Ana-style winds.

The announcer's table was located in a covered picnic shelter, next to the arena, complete with tables. Here, I laid out the ribbons and trophies. Unfortunately, this was also where family, friends, and spectators gathered, parked their lawn chairs, gabbed, and for hard-of-hearing grandparents, yelled instructions and opinions. No one bothered to go to the show office to ask questions, they just interrupted the announcer.

In spite of the problems, I decided to use the facility again, but move the show to a later date, away from the hottest part of the summer. Unfortunately, as I said earlier, the same location is not available.

2019 Update – I found a new place, with all the required bells and whistles. I have a contract, and my hopes are high.

The Bottom Line: Saved in my hard drive, and on CDs and flash drives are hundreds of photos from the six years of horse shows I've managed. Pictures of happy faces, of beautifully groomed and presented horses of all breeds, on the rail, working trail obstacles, and receiving prizes at center ring. Pictures of the ribbons and trophies, of the volunteers, and judges, and show secretaries, people I've learned to respect and love. In my file drawer are the records of the shows, with contact information on all the exhibitors, to send show bills for next year. This thing is like a deep armchair, easy to get into, hard to get out of. Yes, it's hard to run a show, but once you've learned how, it gets much easier, and you like it much more.

For those of you reading this saga, and thinking of starting a small show, I hope you can use the bits and pieces of information, suggestions, experiences, and advice. BE FEARLESS!

The Moral of My Story: **Running a show is a thankless job, and you have to "make your own happiness" out of the results. You have to love it for its own reward. But if you do, it's wonderful.** ##

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FOR MORE INFO:
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IN CONCLUSION: It's Not Too Late to Winterize Your Horses and Your Farm

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One minute we were worried about fly spray and scorching heat. Then we blinked and it was late fall. How a season that comes every year still manages to sneak up on horse owners is a mystery, but more than a few of us will wake up one morning very soon to find pastures covered in hard frost and a winter to-do list that has suddenly taken on new urgency.

If the season has crept up on you this year, don't worry. There's still time to prepare for the frigid, snowy conditions that may lie ahead. From checking the fit of blankets, to ensuring your tractor is cold weather ready, there are many winterizing chores you can still get done before the temperatures drop. Dedicate a weekend now to working down this list. When the worst weather hits, you'll be glad you did.

To do: Review your blanket situation

If any of your horses will wear blankets this winter, now is the time to ensure they are in good repair and still fit. Even if you checked carefully before storing blankets this past spring, it's worthwhile to spend a few minutes giving them a once-over… It's important to check fit, even if the same horse wore that very blanket last year. A horse's shape changes with age and fitness levels, and the body he had last winter may not be the body he has now. …

Finally, offer the horse a treat at ground level and watch to see if the neck hole of the blanket restricts his ability to reach it. A blanket that pinches high on a horse's chest may be so uncomfortable that it limits how much hay he will eat over the course of the winter.

To do: Check the condition of older horses

Most horses manage cold weather just fine. They are very good at keeping themselves warm by consuming large amounts of hay, fueling a metabolic "slow burn" that produces internal heat. With plenty of hay most horses can keep warm without sacrificing their insulating fat stores to use as energy. Older horses, however, can lose this ability.

When dental challenges make it more difficult to adequately chew stemmy forage, an older horse may be unable to eat enough hay to stoke his internal furnace. In that situation, the horse can quickly lose body condition, leaving him less protected from the cold… You can head off this winter weight-loss cycle now, before the temperatures drop. Start by determining the body condition score (BCS) of your older horses. A visual and hands-on assessment of fat deposits at strategic locations on the body (for a full explanation, visit www.equusmagazine.com), BCS is ranked on a nine-point scale, and an older horse will ideally have a BCS of 6 or 7 going into the winter months. This will allow for slight weight loss if the weather becomes frigid without putting his health at risk…

To do: Winterize your farm

Frigid weather and precipitation can take a toll on the structures and equipment on your property. Just as you might prepare your home for the coming season, you'll want to take steps to winterize certain areas around your farm. Start by cleaning out gutters and drainage ditches. Debris blocking the path of water can cause rain and snowmelt to back up onto roofs and around the foundation of your buildings. If that water freezes, "ice dams" may form, leading to structural damage.

While you're at it, "harden" high traffic areas of your pastures, such as around gates and troughs, with a layer of gravel. This will help keep mud in check through a wet winter season. If you have the time and financial resources, you may want to look into having a geotextile fabric professionally installed in chronic problem areas.

Take a few hours to walk your fence line, shaking posts and inspecting boards as you go. Carry a hammer and wire tensioners with you so you can make minor repairs and mark areas that need more attention with surveyor's tape. Then plan to address those tasks before the worst weather arrives….

To do: Stock up on supplies

Running out of anything in the winter months can be annoying, but being without certain items on a farm during rough weather can lead to significant and difficult-to-solve problems. Take some time now to inventory these crucial items and replenish if necessary. Make sure you have all medications, supplements, anti-ice formulations, flash lights and batteries, heated water buckets and tank heaters always on hand and accessible. …

Winter is never easy with animals, but it's easier if you are prepared. ##

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