SOUND ADVOCATE

The official publication

FOSH is a member of the American Horse Council

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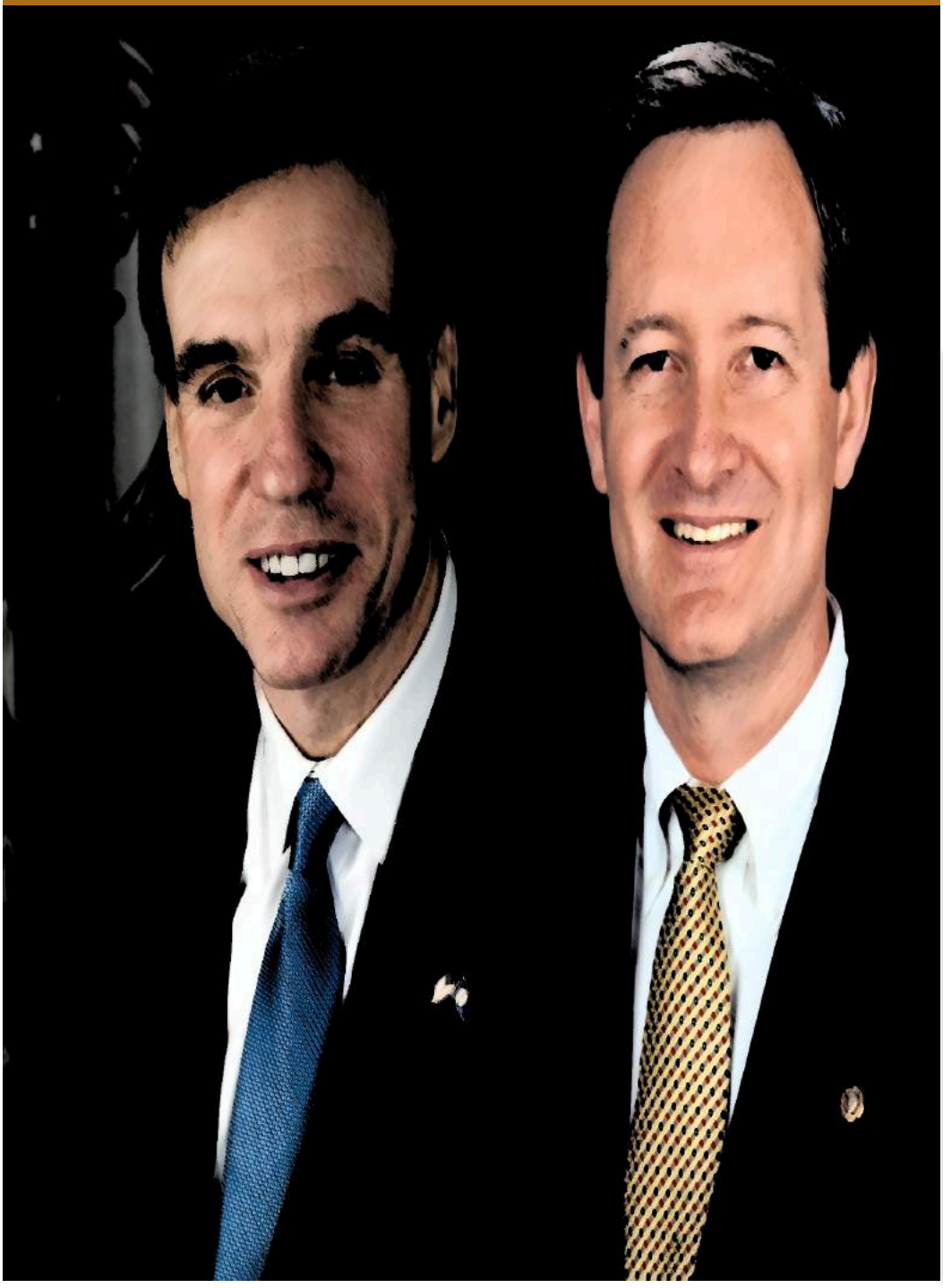

"…If we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt."

Anna Sewall in Black Beauty

COVER STORY

You Helped & Bipartisan Support Leads the Way

PAST Act Back

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Led by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), left, and Mike Crapo (R-ID), right, the PAST Act is now back on the legislative agenda of the Senate. Original co-sponsors Republican senators Moran (KS), Collins (ME), Daines (MT), and Toomey (PA) alongside Democrats Blumenthal (CT), Feinstein (CA), Markey (PA), and McCaskill (MO) joined the two sponsors. The bill number is S2957. Senator Amy Klobucher (D-MN) has also signed on since the reintroduction in May.

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Richmond, VA Times -Dispatch Publishes Powerful PAST Act Editorial

Driver Terrifies Welfare Advocates at Columbia, Tennessee, Horse Show

One Girl's Journey: The Story of Payten Rose and Gonzo

Special Offer from NAWD in co-operation with FOSH & much more

FOSH

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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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.

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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.

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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 2018 celebrating 20 years as the leading advocate for sound, naturally gaited horses

From your President: Happy summer!

Yes, some of us whooshed right through spring into a toasty summer beginning. I hope you are enjoying the long, warm days. This rider fails to see the appeal of heat and humidity so, therefore, I ride early—very early. I consider myself an early bird; however, at this time of year I am a VERY early bird.

I track the sunrise time as I know there is sufficient light to ride in my pasture 10 minutes before the official sunrise. It is certainly glorious at that time. No bugs and usually a light breeze. Shiloh has more energy in the morning, even though it is before his breakfast, as compared to early evening when it is warm. After riding, I head into my work commute with a big smile and at peace with the world.

All of us here at FOSH are very happy that the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) has been reintroduced in the Senate. Thank you Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Warner (D-VA)! At this time, we are encouraging sound horse supporters to contact their Senators and ask them to support the PAST Act. We have more information in this issue so keep reading.

I am pleased to announce our partnership with the North American Western Dressage Association (NAWD) continues to develop. Our partnership and coupons (!) allow our members to take a chance at Western Dressage by submitting a video of their test ride. Why not give it a whirl? You will have a licensed IJA and NAWD judge provide a written evaluation on your ride. The best part? All this is at YOUR convenience—no assigned ride times. We hope you decide to give Western Dressage a whirl and your trusty, gaited steed a chance to star in his or her own video.

Although warm weather means that most of us are able to enjoy many more hours riding our horses, it also means that big lick shows appear throughout the southern landscape. We know there have been protests at a few and we commend those that took the time to voice their disgust with the Big Lick. I have also been contacted by a few people about shows that were discontinued this year so it seems that the Big Lick world is shrinking.

On a more positive note, we hope to see you at several upcoming sound shows: the GaitWay Summer Hot FLASH on June 30 in Independence, MO, the Summer Celebration July 13-15, in Yadkinville, NC, and the Missouri State Fair, July 31-August 1, Sedalia, MO, with over $9,000 in winnings available for the gaited horse division.

Stay cool, wear your helmet, and enjoy your summer!

Happy Trails,

Teresa

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/our-opinion/editorial-warner-bill-could-help-reduce-cruelty-to-horses/article_aa24fa32-fa53-5f8e-a98c-38bdbc4c67d4.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Richmond Times-Dispatch
VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

Animal Welfare

Editorial: Warner bill could help reduce cruelty to horses

Editor's Note: A different photo from the one above accompanied this editorial in the Times-Dispatch, June 2nd, 2018.

In the Middle Ages, one form of public entertainment involved lowering a caged cat onto a bonfire. Today nobody would propose such a heinous amusement. Most people no longer consider amusement a sound justification for animal cruelty.

Yet abusing animals for enjoyment persists. One contemporary example: the soring of show horses. Soring involves the use of devices and substances applied to the legs of horses that inflict pain on them when they walk. This produces a high-stepping gait that looks as if the horse were prancing. It is, in short, animal cruelty for human amusement.

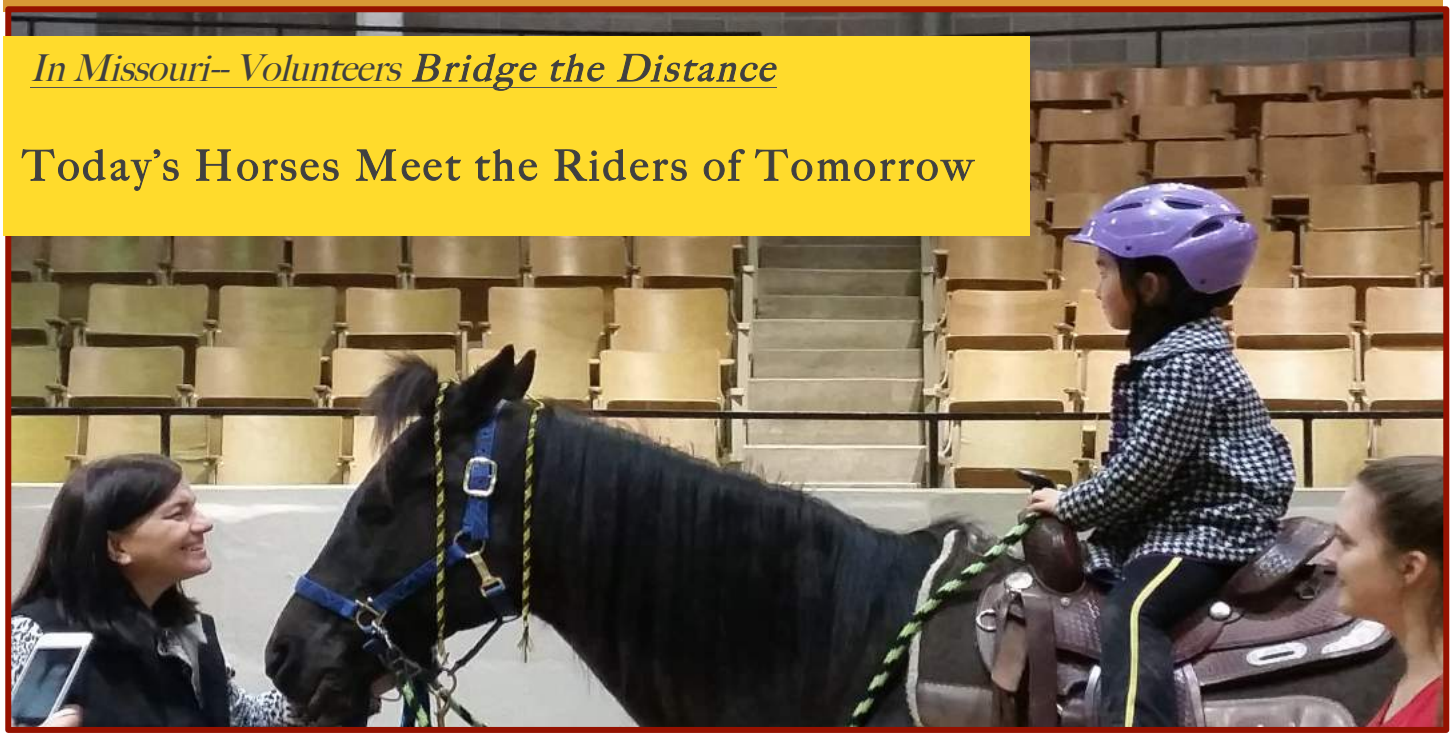
Federal law already prohibits soring. But enforcement is lax and penalties are light. That must change. Fortunately, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner has teamed up with a Republican colleague, Mike Crapo of Idaho, to tighten the ratchet.

The pair have introduced legislation that would elevate soring from a misdemeanor to a felony, ban soring devices, and add muscle to animal-welfare inspections. Those are good steps in the right direction. An even stronger bill would incentivize the owners and managers of equestrian organizations by holding them responsible for infractions. If a circus, horse show, or similar enterprise were to face corporate penalties, from fines to the loss of operating licenses, show owners could not simply blame soring on individual, bad-apple trainers — and then hire new ones and move on.

The Warner-Crapo bill, however, still makes good sense. Virginia's proud equine traditions make the state a natural leader in the cause of horse welfare, and Warner deserves credit for leading the charge. ##

In Missouri-- Volunteers ***Bridge the Distance***

Today's Horses Meet the Riders of Tomorrow



University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (MUCVM)

Open House Breed Demonstrations and Instructional Rides

By Lucy Rangel

COLUMBIA, MO- Put five horses, a dozen volunteers, several university staff members and students, and a FLOOD of parents and children all together at the University of Missouri's livestock arena, and, if you can organize a system and keep it orderly, the result can be wonderful. So much learning, so much wonder took place on April 18, 2018.

This was the third year for GaitWay Horse Association's presentation of gaited horses at the University's Open House Breed Demonstrations. The first year, we brought two Pleasure Walking horses, just to test the waters. Last year, we increased to two Walking horses, a Spotted Saddle Horse, and a Missouri Fox Trotter, and gave some impromptu rides in the parking lot. This year, we brought a total of five horses, and formalized the instructional rides into part of the program. We were met with a barrage of unexpected enthusiasm.

By now, the Facebook pages have been inundated with photos and video footage from the hour-and-a-half-long session. The volunteers are soaking their feet in Epsom salts, and the horses are relaxing in home pastures. And I must write a big Thank You note to everyone who lent a helping hand, to make this effort work.

Darryl and Gina Vehige, and their horses, Redman and Moose; Anita Dunham, Cheyenne Dunham, and Cheyenne's friend Ethan, with their horses Darlin' and Peanuts; Glen and Joan Jungmeyer and Joan's horse Cisco. Patti Potts, Ashley Carter, and little miss Shelby Carter, Jessica Gifford and her friend Kelsey, who helped with leading horses and walking alongside, handing out, retrieving and wiping down helmets, getting waivers signed, keeping a steady stream of riders in and out of the arena, and helping kids on and off the horses.

A special Thank You to our wonderful gaited horses, which made us proud, keeping their cool in the middle of the fray, just as you would expect them to do.

Story and photos continue on page 16

Right: Parents and kids enjoy the chance to interact with the Gaitway meet and greet team.

What's Brewing?

Member News

Senator Lindsey Graham Named Humane Horseman of the Year by the Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has named U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, (R-SC), as its Humane Horseman of the Year. Each year, the group bestows the award on an individual who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to protect American equines. Sen. Graham is being recognized for his ongoing leadership to protect horses and burros from cruelty.

Since 2011, Sen. Graham has led efforts to pass legislation to ban horse slaughter operations in the U.S. and end the export of American horses and burros for slaughter in Canada and Mexico. He has also been a leader on legislation to prevent tax dollars from being wasted to open horse slaughter plants in the U.S. "Kill buyers" acquire healthy horses from random sources and truck them long distances often without food, water or rest. These buyers have also been known to steal or deceive unsuspecting horse owners to obtain horses to satisfy demand from foreign meat companies. USDA records show that the vast majority of horses going to slaughter are healthy and would otherwise be able to lead productive lives if given the chance.

Sen. Graham stated, "I'm grateful to be recognized by the Humane Society of the United States. But I would especially like to pay tribute to my late friend John S. Rainey, who was dedicated to ensuring the humane treatment of horses for many years."

Marty Irby, senior adviser at the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund stated, "We are pleased to honor Senator Graham for his continued commitment to protecting American equines, and applaud his tireless work and dedication. The Senator clearly recognizes that horses depend on us to protect them from the predatory horse slaughter industry, which 80 percent of Americans oppose, and is a hero to both the horses and equine enthusiasts alike."

The John S. Rainey Memorial Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act H.R.113/S.1706

This vital legislation would save millions of taxpayer dollars from being wasted to subsidize the needless slaughter and export for slaughter of America's horses and burros for human consumption. Additionally, meat from American horses can be dangerous to human consumers because of the unregulated administration of numerous toxic substances to horses over the course of their lives. American horses are not raised for human consumption, and they are routinely given hundreds of drugs and other substances, both legal and illegal, over their lifetimes that can be toxic to humans if ingested.

Horse slaughter is inhumane, cannot be made humane and is a terrifying end for horses. ##

Member News

Continued from page 7

AERC Awarded $20,000 Trail Grant by Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

A commitment to trails is vital to the sport of endurance riding, and the American Endurance Ride Conference is pleased to announce that a National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) grant has been approved in the amount of $20,000 for trails work under the auspices of AERC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The funding will develop and improve existing trail systems in the Wayne National Forest, Vesuvius Region, near Pedro, Ohio. This system is home to Elkins Creek Horse Camp and AERC's Black Sheep Boogie and Gobble 'Til You Wobble endurance rides. Although the ride names are whimsical, the rides of 25, 50 or 75 miles in length are a testament to the horsemanship and training of the participating riders and equines. In addition the Boogie, held the last weekend of June, **there are long-term plans in place to hold a 100-mile endurance event in 2019 and then host the AERC National Championship Ride in October of 2020.**

Monies from this grant will be used to provide the materials and equipment rental needed to improve areas along the entire eastern side of the main loop, a 25-plus mile section of trail. These improvements will ensure the sustainability of these trail systems for years to come.

The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, signed into law in December of 2016, calls for the U.S. Forest Service to create a way to catch up on back trail maintenance, and pairs with organizations like the Back Country Horsemen, American Hiking Society, American Trails and the International Mountain Biking Association to meet the country's trail maintenance goals.

The Trails Stewardship Funding Program awards funds to trails and stewardship organizations that then increase trail maintenance accomplishments and reduce deferred maintenance (trail backlog) on National Forest System trails. More than 100 proposals were received, requesting $1.4 million in funding, and a total of 42 projects were funded, totaling $402,000.

According to the NSWA, the Trail Funding program elicited over $1 million in matching cash, and over $2 million of in-kind matches. More than 5,300 volunteers, trail crewmembers, and nonprofit staff are expected to participate across the 42 selected projects. Over 1,700 miles of trail will be maintained, additional signing, structure repair, and many bridges will be replaced using these grant funds.

The volunteers at Elkins Creek Horse Camp plan on having most if not all of these improvements completed by December of 2018 and will be working steadily throughout the year.

"Endurance riders will appreciate the improved trail conditions, even under rainy conditions, in the Wayne National Forest, and the improvements will also be welcomed by the thousands of trail riders who visit the area each year," said AERC Ride Manager Committee Chair Mollie Krumlaw-Smith. This trail system has a wonderful group of volunteers who literally put thousands of hours each year into its development and maintenance.

"This grant will finally enable them to complete the 10-plus year project," said Krumlaw-Smith. "Additionally it's a wonderful help to the whole community in bringing more tourism to the region. By doing so we bring more revenue into local retail stores, restaurants, and other small businesses. The effect of the trail improvements will be felt community-wide."

Randy Welsh, NWSA's executive director who manages the program, said, "Trails connect people to the National Forests, and this funding will help these local groups and volunteers participate in caring for and managing their Forests. The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Partnership Funding Program will encourage a huge increase in the number of volunteers and public involved with National Forest trails."

Further information on the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding program can be found on the NWSA website at www.wildernessalliance.org/trail_funding. ##

Animal Welfare Organizations Assist Local Sheriff in Horse Seizure

Well-Known Walking Horse Trainer Arrested

Tullahoma, TN- Russell W. Keyser, a walking horse trainer known in both big lick and pleasure ranks, was arrested April 28, 2018, by Franklin County Sheriff's personnel operating under the direction of investigator Todd Hindman. Keyser was charged with animal cruelty after a raid on his Poe Road facility resulted in the seizure of horses, many in wretched condition. A video from the seizure showed one horse standing in a ramshackle stall wearing, what appeared to be, a new show style foot, complete with hoof bands.

One of the welfare groups called to help with the seizure was Horse Plus Humane Society of Hohenwald, Tenn. The group took 14 of the horses and now has ownership of them. They reported that there were also dead horses found on the grounds. The organization released both video and stills of some of the seized horses on its website. The 14 are available for adoption. Contact **kristen.b@horsehumane.org**

Keyser, who was an approved TWHBEA riding instructor, has operated in Canada, Germany, and the United States. He was formerly married to Denise Bader of Germany who was once the Vice President for Enforcement at the TWHBEA and showed big lick horses in the United States. Only flat shod horses may be exhibited in Germany. Keyser had also worked for WHTA Riders' Cup winner Charlie Green.

In 2000, Keyser made an unexpected appearance at the first FOSH sponsored North American to see exactly what the flat shod horse show was about and how well it was attended. The presumption at the time was that he was there to report back to Tennessee what was going on in Denver, Colorado for the first show nationally advertised for sound, flat shod - horses only.

Keyser's appearance and his arrest in 2018 are a far cry from his appearance in 2013 at the world famous Equitana held in Essen, Germany. He can be seen on YouTube showing a walking horse in- hand at the event for Josef's Walkaway Farms. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPGntoz6dEM

Photo (left) taken in 2007, Keyser is shown with European Halter Champion The New Sensation.

Keyser posted bond set at $7,500 and is presumed innocent until the case plays out. ##

UPDATE: Attempt to Attach Amendment to Farm Bill Unsuccessful

An attempt to attach a bipartisan amendment that would have reinstated the rule removing pads and chains from walking horses used in show ring performances failed after the House Rules Committee overruled its inclusion to the current Farm Bill. The first attempt at accomplishing the goal through rule making was made under the Obama administration and was negated when the Trump Administration was inaugurated. The attempt to attach an amendment to the Farm Bill was an administrative work around in which the HSUS and advocates for PAST played a part in rallying support. Pads and chains would have been illegal in 2020 had the effort been successful. Work continues. The Farm Bill itself went down to defeat after a revolt by conservative GOPers crossed party lines to join with Democrats in the House who unanimously voted against the Bill. The Farm Bill is a twice- a- decade effort. ##

" That's Why They Put Doors on the Courthouse."

CCABLAC Protestors Win Another One

Big Lick exhibitor Richard Mitch of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and by extension his automobile insurance carrier American Family Insurance Group of Madison, Wisconsin, didn't anticipate what was coming. Mitch, in a seven- second fit of pique aimed his truck at CCBLAC protestors exercising first amendment rights to protest the abuse of big lick show horses outside a show venue in Tunica, Mississippi in 2016. The episode was caught on video; Mitch was subsequently served summons in the case as he exited The Celebration show ring August 28, 2017 with a ribbon for his performance onboard a big lick horse.

The service made the front page of the local Shelbyville newspaper, The Times-Gazette. It was the first time a group of citizen animal welfare advocates cracked the veil of silence that normally prevails in newspaper coverage of the walking horse business in the hometown of The Celebration,

The first case filed in United States District Court in Oxford, Mississippi against Mitch, on behalf of protestor Sandra Culbertson, resulted in a check for $25,000 being issued to her by his insurers. The second case, Bickerstaff v Mitch, filed in January 2018 by a second group of protestors that included Cathy Bickerstaff, Caitlin Glidden, Mario Chiazzo and Clant Seay, individually, saw Mitch served in February 2018 and resulted in a payment, again by the insurance company, of $25,000 in May of 2018. The total settlement for these two cases was $50,000.

Meanwhile, in another CCABLAC suit still ongoing in Tennessee, Columbia's sheriff, Bucky Rowland, agreed to sign a statement that he would not interfere with protestors' first amendment rights at the annual Columbia horse show held in June.

CCABLAC was also involved with the prosecution and conviction of horse trainer Jamie Lawrence for assault. In May of 2015, Lawrence aimed his truck at FOSH president Teresa Bippen protesting at the Columbia horse show held in Maury County Park. ##

Cover Story continued from page 1

An effort spearheaded by HSUS, supported by a variety of organizations including the American Horse Council, AAEP, and the AVMA, and buoyed by outreach efforts led by FOSH's secretary /treasurer Alece Ellis and Nya Bates and members of the Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club of Idaho, resulted in the PAST Act being reintroduced to the Senate on May 24th.

Before the reintroduction, Ellis reached out to FOSH membership in critical states to urge individuals to contact their senators in support of PAST and to ask their friends living in these states to do the same. Bates and Southern Comfort have long been instrumental in lobbying Senator Crapo for his support of PAST.

It is significant that PAST has continued to gather bi-partisan support in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1847) where it now has 281 co-sponsors. The current PAST legislation is essentially identical to the bills that have been sponsored in earlier sessions of Congress. PAST would remove performance -style stacked shoes and action devices from walking and racking horses and would increase penalties under the existing federal Horse Protection Act making soring a horse a felony.

After the introduction country music star Tanya Tucker penned an Op-Ed for The Tennessean and The Richmond Dispatch wrote a powerful editorial in support of the legislation.

Work will continue to build support for PAST in the Congress. If you are asked to help in the future, please lend a hand. ##

AHC Announces Safe Sport Code of Practice

The American Horse Council (AHC) is pleased to announce the adoption of a **Safe Sport Code of Practice**.

"The reputation and integrity of equestrian sports and all equine related programs and activities is maintained when all person's act, and are seen to act, in a way which is of the highest ethical standards," said AHC President Julie Broadway. "The #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have further brought to light the importance of maintaining a safe environment for all, and the equine industry is no exception to this."

This Code of Practice, unanimously endorse by the AHC Board of Trustees reads:

"To behave ethically necessitates an awareness of power differentials among all persons involved. This statement is intended to inform ethical judgments as persons consider asymmetric power relations among themselves and others they work with in professional roles. We recognize that this statement's strength and requisite influence depend on its circulation, discussion, reflection, and use by the equine industry. It is the industry's expectation that all equine organizations recognize "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017" and US Center for Safe Sport, and adopt programs to support these initiatives. "

The American Horse Council and its members are:

- Committed to contributing to an environment, which makes participation a positive and rewarding experience.
- Committed to creating and maintaining a community where all persons who participate in equine related programs and activities can work, learn and compete in an atmosphere free of all forms of emotional, physical and sexual harassment and misconduct.
- Committed to protecting the rights, safety, dignity, and well being of the persons involved in all aspects of our industry, thus condemning all forms of harassment regardless of whether it is based on age, ethnicity, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, religion or marital status.
- Committed to providing just treatment in cases of disputes and that there are proper and accessible mechanisms that are available in a timely manner to resolve disputed issues through due process.

A PDF of the Code can also be found on the AHC's website here: http://www.horsecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Safe-Sport-Code-of-Practice.pdf

A tentative presentation by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and a roundtable discussion was held at the AHC's National Issues Forum on Tuesday, June 12th in Washington, DC to identify best practices and tools to support this practice. Information about the National Issues Forum can be found on the AHC's website here: http://www.horsecouncil.org/events/ahc-annual-meeting-national-issues-forum-2/.

Right Horse Initiative and SPCA of Texas to Pilot Managed Admission Shelter Program

KATONAH, N.Y. – The Right Horse Initiative has awarded the SPCA of Texas with a $1.5 million, three-year grant to create a managed admission shelter program that will accept on a large scale owner-surrendered horses in transition. The program will expand SPCA of Texas's equine transition services and more than quadruple the number of horses they serve annually.

The SPCA of Texas, located in McKinney, serves the Dallas/Fort Worth and greater North Texas area as an intake and holding facility for horses seized from neglect and abuse investigations. Managed or open admission programs, which are widely available in the animal welfare community for dogs and cats, do not currently exist on a large scale for horses, leaving owners with few options when they can no longer care for their horse(s). With a lack of options, horses often end up at-risk.

Expanding the equine program will allow the SPCA of Texas to begin accepting owner surrenders in significant numbers, proactively preventing neglectful cruelty and other adverse outcomes. Expanding facilities, adding dedicated equine staff, and investing in training will increase adoptions and transfers by a projected 340% over three years while providing the horse community access to humane transition options. A key piece will be rehabilitating, retraining and matching adoptable horses with new owners.

"We have high hopes for this program to make a big impact in the region. It's an important step towards building the infrastructure to ensure owners will always have a humane option when they can no longer care for their horses **Continued on page 13**

House Natural Resources Committee Approves Recreation-Not-Red Tape (RNR) Act, Gives Boost to Recreational Riders on Public Lands

On April 18, the House Natural Resources Committee convened a "mark-up" to consider amendments to H.R. 3400, the Recreation-Not-Red Tape (RNR) Act, and ultimately passed the legislation by voice vote. A debate over an amendment offered by Rep. Elizabeth Cheney (R-WY) that would have removed a provision outlining a National Recreation Area System from the legislation preceded the vote on the final bill. The amendment, which Chairman Bishop opposed, failed by a vote of 27 to nine. Today's committee action gives the RNR Act the green light to advance to the House floor, on a date to be determined.

H.R. 3400 and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 1633, expand the scope of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (PL 114-245), signed into law in late 2016. While the RNR Act focuses on streamlined permitting to access public lands, the bill includes provisions that would authorize the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to enter into cooperative agreements with private parties to promote the role of volunteers in trail maintenance. **The bill also authorizes the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and BLM to develop an interagency trail management plan that will assure uniform maintenance standards for trails crossing jurisdictional lines between the two agencies**.

During recent months, the scope of the bill has expanded to include provisions of the "GO Act," which streamlines the permitting process for guides and outfitters operating on public lands; and the "21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act," which promotes the employment of veterans and youth to work on public lands projects. **To view a copy of a statement from Chairman Bishop applauding passage of the bill, please click here: https://naturalresources.house.gov/newsroom/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=404531** .

If you would like more information about the RNR Act and related lobbying activity, please contact Bryan Brendle at bbrendle@horsecouncil.org or 202-296-4031.

Take Note

House Approves $5 Million for Equine-Assisted Therapy to Aid Veterans

June 8, 2018 –The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 5895, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act; 2018 that included an amendment to increase funding for the Veterans Affairs' Adaptive Sports Grant Program for equine-assisted therapy. The amendment, introduced by U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) increases funding by $5 million for fiscal year 2019.

The funding will enable an expansion of services that use equine-assisted therapy in conjunction with mental health care treatment and services to veterans.

The recognition that horses can help veterans suffering from a variety of issues related to their service was recognized early on by HSUS. Under the auspices of its Now *That's* a Walking Horse! program, several grants have been made to non-profit programs specifically using walking horses to aid veterans in rehabilitation. The HSUS Legislative Fund greeted the announcement of the House approved amendment as "good news". ##

Timing is everything, so it's said. The irony that the PAST Act was introduced to the Senate on the same day as the first night of the annual Spring Fun Show, held in Shelbyville, Tennessee, wasn't missed. Just days before, Celebration CEO Mike Inman was telling the local paper that entries were the highest that they had been in five years, horses were selling again, and so was real estate. Thus, it didn't take the trade paper serving the industry long to respond to the news of PAST reintroduction, claiming, falsely, that the proposed Act was written by HSUS, and that the co-sponsors came from states where there was no walking horse involvement. Did they mean states like Virginia, Missouri, and California? In fact, these states are home to some of the bigger advertisers in their own newspapers, including homes to Celebration WC and WGC horses and trainers. It was a curious assertion, just like so many others the performance crowd has made when facts are not to their liking. ##

Transition continued from page 12

and need help transitioning them safely," stated Christy Counts, President of The Right Horse Initiative.
"This grant will allow us to say 'yes' to equine owners in need of support," said James Bias, President and C.E.O. for the SPCA of Texas. "There aren't many resources for equine owners, so this program will provide a much-needed service to our community and beyond to improve the lives of horses."

Working in partnership with The Right Horse Initiative, the SPCA of Texas anticipates an increase in adoptions and transfers from 75 to 330 horses annually at the end of the three-year project. The pilot will also serve as a model for potential similar programs in other areas of the United States. For more information, please visit www.therighthorse.org. ##

About The Right Horse Initiative
The Right Horse Initiative is a collective of industry professionals and equine welfare advocates working together to improve the lives of horses in transition through a dialogue of kindness and respect. The Right Horse is an initiative funded by the WaterShed Animal Fund, a division of the Arnall Family Foundation dedicated to improving the lives of companion animals. Our goal is to massively increase the number of successful horse adoptions in the United States by working together to reframe the adoption conversation and shatter the stigma surrounding horses in transition.

THE TRAINING FORUM

Making the Most of Summer

Hooray! Summer is officially here. After the dismal winter and iffy spring that riders experienced across the country, even the heat that comes with July and August is a welcome alternative. At last, all riders and horses, even those without covered riding facilities, can get back to serious, steady work, work that will be productive when guided by a plan. (Surely we had plenty of time to think about what we wanted to accomplish when the weather finally did improve, even when we weren't able to actually get out there and do it.)

Dressage Master Karl Mikolka wrote several years ago that nothing could come of working a horse, no matter how well- intentioned the rider, if there was not only a plan for accomplishment, but also a criterion for measuring how well the plan had been executed. He purposed that long before riders start thinking about "movements" that they think not only about the "what" that they hope to achieve, but more importantly about the how, the basis that the horse must have before he is asked to do more advanced work.

The basics are, as Mikolka points out, the most frequently overlooked requirements in today's horses, probably because so few people really understand what true basics are.

To this end, Mikolka advises that we ask two questions: **what do we want** from our horses and **how can we help** to achieve them. His answers constitute the basics of training.

"What do we want from our horses?"

- That they learn to be obedient, safe, and easy to ride;
- that they develop trust in us and confidence in themselves;
- that, through proper training, they gain in strength, flexibility, stability, balance and mental mobility;
- that they become equine athletes capable of utmost sensitivity;
- and finally, that they become an extension of the rider's body and mind.

"What can you do to help?"

- Your main task is to refine your feelings.
- Study yourself and know your most common mistakes. Be determined to eliminate them.
- Gain complete relaxation and independence in your seat.
- Become aware of the slightest changes in weight pressures, through reins, legs or seat.
- Acquire a balanced seat, a quiet and relaxed hand, a sensitive leg, and a relaxed heel.
- Optimize your tools: legs, riding crop, spurs, reins, bit and body weight.
- Use your tools discretely, starting with soft aids and gradually adjusting as necessary. "

A horse is always a horse but not necessarily a trained horse, just as a person who rides is not always a rider with a plan designed for training.

An honest appraisal, no excuses, of where the horse, as well as the rider, begins, and where the rider and horse would like to be at the end of a period of time, is the place to start.

It's time to put the longer days of summer to good use in executing a training plan. When you do, you'll discover how wonderful it feels to shine in the sun knowing that, with goal-oriented work, not only have you helped your horse, you've improved yourself as well. ##

To access exercises designed to improve the basics go to www.mikolkadressage.com

Thoughts: What's Worth Saving?

By Lucy Rangel

Ebay--what a shopping Mecca! My friends all know I love old metal trophy toppers. I buy them on Ebay, clean them and, if they are in good enough shape, put them on new bases and give them away each year at the GaitWay Summer HOT Flash Horse Show.

Some, however, are so lovely, so unique, I can't bring myself to part with them. These I place lovingly in a curio cabinet in my library and try to imagine the time when they were produced, when horse shows were elegant evening affairs out in the country, or in small town or suburban parks, on soft summer evenings.

It occurred to me that they must have thought more of their horses and horse shows back then, or no one would have taken the time to hire an artist like Gladys Brown to sculpt a horse, nor would a foundry like Dodge, Inc., have bothered to cast the sculptures in metal, and have them plated, sometimes in gold. Nowadays, the cheap plastic toppers sometimes resemble fat dogs, and there is very little detail, if any.

Recently, I bought an old Saddlebred topper, about 5" tall. It was almost black, covered in what looked like tarnish. Antique enthusiasts love to crow about "patina", but in this case, "patina" just amounted to gunk that made the trophy appear ugly, neglected, left in an old barn somewhere to decay. I decided to risk a little finish in order to try to improve its appearance.

A bottle of brass cleaner, several soft cloths, and a whole afternoon later, a gorgeous rosy color appeared from under the gunk. When I saw that the cleaner was working, I kept going, watching as all the lovely details, from his double bridle and curb chain, to the ribbons in his forelock, emerged. I decided that I wouldn't stop until every sinew on his body, every fetlock bone, every lock of his long mane and tail, were showing their original glory. Yes, he has a "set" tail, something that is falling by the wayside as we grow in respect for the feelings of our horses, but this topper came from an artist's work in the 1940's or 1950's. The horse's head is high, and therefore, his tail was made high.

Why go to all this cleaning trouble-- because so much work, time, and money went into creating something that isn't valued anymore? That brings me around to another thought: why do we make such an effort to fight soring and bring back the natural Walking horse?

In this day and age of social media, the "dirty little secrets" of the "Big Lick" industry can no longer operate without exposure. The trends in breeding toward pace and more pace, plus the habit of "inbreeding" and "line breeding", have brought the Tennessee Walking Horse to the point where the gene pool is very narrow and the family trees no longer have many branches. These factors would eventually implode the Walking Horse breed. It is no secret that the majority of Tennessee Walking Horses today barely resemble the horse developed in the late 1800's. That horse had strength, lots of bone, a natural running walk (the gait that gave the breed its name, long before there was a registry). **Wilson's Allen, out of a Standardbred mare, sired Haynes' Peacock, the 1940 and 1941 Celebration World Grand Champion**. He was a farm horse who pulled a plow and wasn't even registered until 1940, when he was 12.

***That* horse is worth saving**, if we can take the time, and find the intestinal fortitude it would take to bring him back. But I believe he is worth it.

Above: Hidden, a rose gold stunner, compared to the more common brass plated example, waited patiently over many years for someone to take the time to rediscover him and bring him back to glory.

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.

Instructional Rides continued from page 7

Counting how many FOSH coloring books we gave away, packages of crayons, and waiver forms (we ran out of all of these), we introduced a total of 58 young and enthusiastic horse fans, along with their parents, to the joy of gaited horses.

Who knows? Any one of these young children who came out for a demonstration ride may one day become an advocate for sound horses, a senator who introduces legislation to protect them, or a USDA inspector who enforces the law?

Even if all we've done, however, is given a child a happy memory, that's enough.

Thank you to all our volunteers, their horses, and to Alyssa Davis, the MUCVM Student who organized the event. See you next year! ##

Above: The act of putting on a helmet, especially a violet one, becomes magical when the person helping with the head- gear is a real life western princess with a crown of her own.

Left: Gaitway handlers Cheyenne Dunham (front) and Gina Vehige were two of the volunteers that kept up the pace so that children could experience the thrill of connecting with a horse, perhaps for the first time.

Vet Care: From the Inside Out

UK Research Will Gauge Effect of Indoor Arenas on Horse and Human Health

By Holly Wiemers

Lexington, Ky., – Little research has been conducted on indoor riding arena environments. To remedy this gap in understanding the effects on horse and human health from indoor arenas, a graduate student in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering is conducting a survey to learn more.

Master's degree candidate Staci McGill intends to gather information on how environmental exposures and arena design impacts heat transfer, air quality and the health of both horses and riders. **The survey will be available through July 24 at** https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cGxVEkR25RbJdmR.

The survey asks owners, managers and riders about air quality, conditions, arena footing and associated health outcomes in horses and humans. It also includes questions about arena design, such as footing, maintenance, number of windows and doors, the arena environment and if horses are stabled in the same building.

"I am a rider who has always been conscious of the fact that our horses are athletes. We ask them to do so much for us, and yet I've seen so many who are coughing or tripping and just not performing to the best of their ability," McGill said. "I wondered if the environment they are in affects them, and I wanted to learn more."

According to McGill, the survey will examine if there are common characteristics or designs used in the construction of indoor riding arenas, determine what ventilation is used and if there are areas of concern from a health perspective. The accumulated date will ultimately result in advice on better design to provide the healthiest environment for horses, riders, trainers, instructors and spectators of equine sports.

Morgan Hayes, livestock systems extension specialist and McGill's advisor, said, "We suspect there are some common environmental challenges in arenas like dust levels and moisture management. Quantifying the percent of arena owners and occupants with environmental concerns will assist with prioritizing research needs."

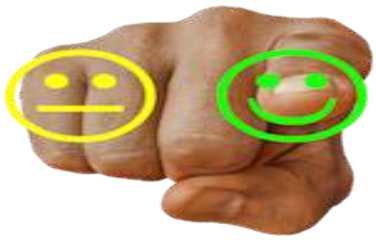
Another of McGill's committee advisors, Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs, explained the importance of the research.

"In spite of the association of horse arenas with human and equine health, they continue to be built based on experience rather than science. This engineering research will help inform efforts within the industry to develop a more systematic understanding of the materials and designs of equine arenas," he said.

Kimberly Tumlin is also one of McGill's master's degree committee members. **Continued on page 20**

OPINION

Scam Shows Why Responsible Owners Need a Real Plan Rather than Belief in Convenient Fantasy



In late April WYFF News 4 brought a horrible story to the attention of its viewers in Williamston, NC. The channel did a service to the public with its report because it alerted the unwary and the desperate to a multi-state fraud that resulted in horses heading to the slaughter pipeline, unbeknownst to their trusting owners.

According to Channel 4, Fallon Blackwood, a 23-year-old vet student in her third year of school at Tuskegee University in Alabama, allegedly used the same scam on owners in five different states. The owners, for a variety of reasons, had all been looking to divest themselves of aging, unneeded, or unsound horses in order to deal with their own personal life issues.

Some had fallen on financial hard times; others were in failing health; some had work requirements that no longer allowed them to keep a horse---but all of them turned their horses over to Blackwood, according to the allegations, because they believed she was going to provide them with a "forever home with green pastures, as a companion horse for her own barrel racing horse."

Telling the owner that, while she could not pay for the horse, she could guarantee a good life in retirement, horses were voluntarily turned over in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. She picked them up and, in every instance, the owners were told that she would not sell the horse, would send pictures of the horse in its new home, and promised to keep in touch with the owners. She went so far as to tell one owner that her horses had done "great" on a ride, when the only ride they went on was to a slaughter facility. In what became a pattern, after taking a horse she stopped responding to inquiries from the owners, while un-friending and blocking others on Facebook. The scam might have gone on longer if Net Posse had not become involved in trying to find some of the horses.

Blackwood was arrested in April in Macon County, Alabama. She was charged with obtaining property under false pretense, a felony. Extradited to North Carolina, the first state to charge her with a crime, charges are also anticipated in other states. A North Carolina judge lowered Blackwood's bond from $10,000 to $5,000. Her first court appearance was on June 11th. Karma hopes that she gets the justice that she did not give the horses that were so trustingly given to her. There is, however, plenty of blame to place at the feet of the owners for lack of diligence in placement.

When you list horses for sale for $300 you invite a kill buyer to show up in your front lawn. Don't check a person's references or go to visit a location before placing a horse? You're asking for trouble for the horse. Willingly believe the fantasy that someone else is going to take your old friend, or a younger horse with medical problems, or a horse that is no longer usable as a riding horse and take over the medical bills, the shoeing bills, keep the horse forever and never sell it, because they simply ***love*** to provide old horses with a home, your favorite song must be " When You Wish Upon a Star" or you believe that a Nigerian prince is holding your lottery winnings.

It sounds harsh but it would have been better for all of these horses if the owners had, if there was no other responsible recourse, humanely euthanized them and paid the last bill of kindness before doing the easier thing and letting someone else simply take the horses off their hands. Out of sight does not translate into out of responsibility; an owner is duty bound as the custodian of a living being that cannot fend for itself to make choices in the best interests of the horse. You assume a moral obligation for a life when you take on a horse.

The road to hell, they say, is paved with good intentions and here the easy way led to slaughter. The owners are heartbroken, but what should they have expected in the real world? If you don't have a good plan for your old horses, your sick horses, or your horses that have become a burden rather than a blessing, know that chances are good someone with few scruples may come along and will have. The former owners say they have been traumatized. As they headed to their deaths, the horses were traumatized, too. Have a Plan. Don't take the easy way out. ##

FOSH Recommended Events

JULY

Gaited Horsemanship Larry Whitesell
July 6-8
Exeter, RI
Contact: Darlene, 401-742-3970
contactdarlene@gmail.com

Oak Rise Pleasure Show
July 8
Oak Rise Farm, Goffstown, NH

Annual IJA Judges Training Seminar
July 12-13
Yadkinville, NC
Contact: Dianne, 403-271-7391
ddlittle@telus.net

Summer Celebration
Gaited breed specific and open gaited breed classes
July 13-15
Lone Hickory Arena, Yadkinville, NC
Judge Debbie Rash. Chino, CA
Contact: Milda, 336-225-0214
pasofinotrainer@gmail.com

Gaited Horsemanship Larry Whitesell
July 13-15
Horsefeathers Farm, Mason, NH

Gary Lane Clinic
July 15-17
Newell Farm, Burdett, NY
Contact: Stasia Newell, 606-279-1881

Oak Rise Pleasure Show
July 22
Oak Rise Farm, Goffstown, NY

116th Annual Missouri State Fair
Society Horse Show
July 31-August 1
Classes for TWH, SSH, OGB (Flatshod or Barefoot)
Available Winnings: $9,520

AUGUST

Gary Lane Clinic
August 4-5
Little Trails, Martinsville, IN
Contact: Stacy Howe, 317-529-3020

Oak Rise Pleasure Show
August 5
Oak Rise Farm, Goffstown, NY

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell
August 6-8
New Columbia, PA
Contact: Sheri, 570-234-5084, sblose@ptd.net

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell
August 10-12
Augusta, ME
Contact: Teresa, 207-557-0476,
teresa@whisperingwoodsstables.com

Oak Rise Pleasure Show
August 12
Oak Rise Farm, Goffstown, NY

Calendar continues on page 29

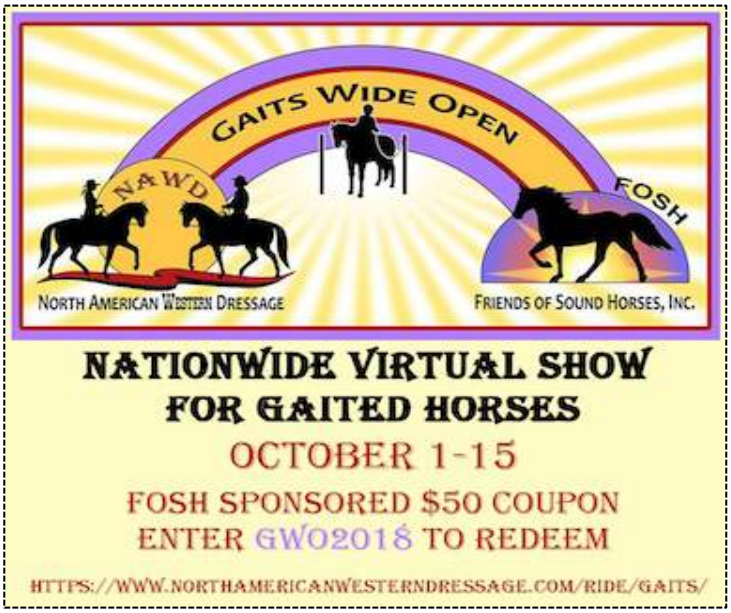
Our Forever Friends

FOSH Lifetime Members

Jo Anne Behling, Wauwatosa, WI
Ester Bell
Pamela Brand, Carlisle, PA
Sarah Bushong-Weeks, Denver. CO
Julie Church, Pagosa Springs, CO
Mary & William Church, Pagosa Springs, CO
Luella DeBono, Eden Prairie, MN
Beverly Foster, St. Augustine, FL
Nancy Gillespie, Pullman, WA
Cristine Holt, Dubuque, IA
Jane Howlett, Pocatello, ID
Marty Irby, Semmes, AL
Marjorie Lacy & Walking Horse News, Edson, Alberta
Sue De Laurentis, Dripping Springs, TX
Bobbie Jo Lieberman
Dianne Little, Calgary, Alberta
Debbie Locke, Mack, CO
Ann Loveless St. Robert, MO
Patricia Mayer, East Aurora, NY
Maggie MacAllister, Staunton, VA
Janelle T. McCoy, Prague, OK
Frank Neal, Nashville, TN
Lori Northrup, Ellicottville, NY
Anne Northrup, Ellicottville, NY
Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, MT
Denise Parsons
Anita Rau, Catlett, VA
Debbie Rash, Chico, CA
Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club, ID
Bucky & Nancy Sparks, Cortez, CO
Marcy Wadington, Canon City, CO
Leslie Weiler, Pagosa Springs, CO
Laura Wyant, Chesire, OR
An Anonymous Donor
Yankee Walkers of New England

What's This?

Complete Information on page 31



It's what they do; it's who they are

Driver in Corporate Car Terrifies Protestors

COLUMBIA, TN- For the second time, an individual bound for the annual Columbia Horse Show, sponsored by the Maury County Horsemen's Association, apparently decided to show his displeasure at the presence of protestors using a vehicle to make his point. In 2015 trainer Jamie Lawrence aimed his pick- up truck at FOSH president Teresa Bippen, who was holding a protest sign, in an attempt to intimidate her. Charged with assault he was later found guilty by a jury.

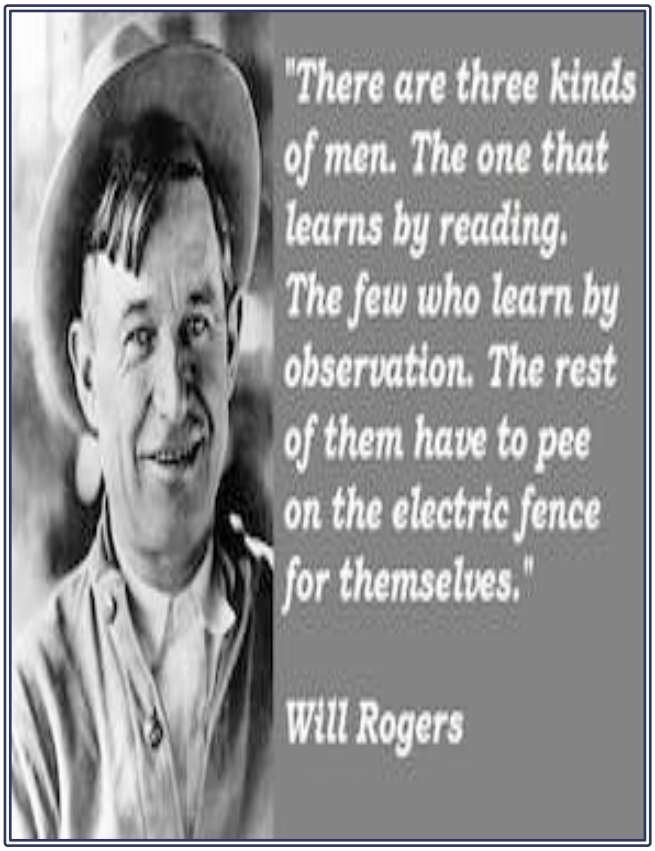
On June 2, Kent McGary, a district manager for Five Below, Inc., driving a Ford Escape registered to his employer, allegedly left his lane to cross to the opposite lane and appeared, according to witness statements, to take aim at the group standing on public property. He then proceeded to purchase an admission ticket to the horse show. McGary is himself an exhibitor in the performance division. His actions, his license number, and his face were recorded on video and turned over to the Columbia sheriff's department. They located him on the show grounds. The show had been preceded by extensive coverage of CCABLAC's intent to protest, through a news story, a boycott advertisement placed in the local paper, and by a petition with 13,000 signatures in opposition to the show presented by advocates from the local area to the local Chamber of Commerce. More information will be published when it becomes available. ##

Indoor Arena and Health continued from p. 17

"Environmental and occupational health are fundamental aspects of public health, and this research touches on both in the equestrian population. I am delighted to collaborate on a project that will provide a framework to potentially improve health outcomes across both occupational and recreational use of indoor equestrian arenas," said Tumlin, assistant dean in the UK College of Public Health. "This survey combines one of the first lines of assurance of environmental and occupational health, the design and engineering controls to minimize or eliminate environmental exposures. The participants in this survey will help us understand how design factors impact health outcomes, particularly in temperature and respiratory exposures."

McGill's area of concentration is livestock systems engineering and controlled environment engineering. Other advisors on McGill's committee include Joseph Taraba, bioenvironmental engineering extension specialist, and Bob Coleman, extension horse specialist. ##

Cowboy Wisdom



A Complete Guide to Horse Health, Lameness & Performance

By Thomas Schell, D.V.M, CVCH, CHN

Nouvelle Research, Inc. in conjunction with Secondvet Equine Consulting is proud to announce the release of Dr. Schell's new book, **Seeing the Whole Horse**, available directly from **www.secondvet.com**.

This equine manual is targeted towards the horse owner that is truly seeking answers regarding health and lameness concerns in their equine companions. Dr. Schell applies his years of clinical and research experience and takes the time to detail simple and more complex topics in easy to understand terminology. This approach takes the horse owner deep into the existing problems, seeing it on a different level. Through this level of insight and understanding, Dr. Schell hopes to open new options for therapy that target the problem at hand, helping to unravel the sequence of events that contributed to its creation.

Only through the concept of 'Seeing the Whole Horse' can we truly make a difference in horse health and lameness recovery, stepping outside our traditional boundaries limited by western medications.

"**Seeing the Whole Horse**," offers:

- 274 pages, 31 chapters in a spiral bound format for ease of use
- Multiple full color images to detail 'how to's' and demonstrate clinical significance
- Basic physical exam to vaccines, laminitis and metabolic conditions, to COPD and allergies

Full details and "look inside format' available to view at:
https://secondvet.com/product/seeing-the-whole-horse/

This is a must have for any horse owner and should be a staple in every barn! Limited copies are available!

For purchase information, please visit: **https://secondvet.com/product/seeing-the-whole-horse/**

For further information about Nouvelle Research, Inc., please visit www.curost.com. Further questions and comments may be directed to Dr. Tom Schell via email at tschelldvm@gmail.com. ##

YOU! I'm looking at YOU!

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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

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

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

The TOP 10 Myths of Distance CTRs

By Tammy Vasa, NATRC

Reprinted with permission by Hoof Print, the official publication of the North American Trail Ride Conference (Winter 2017/2018 issue)

Right: Tammy Vasa and Windy, photo by Andy Klamm

Recently on Facebook, I quickly tried to debunk some of the myths and concerns associated with competitive trail riding (CTR). Am I an expert? No. But I was once the person who had these same fears. My desire to try the sport finally prevailed, as most of the worries were a non-issue. As a casual competitor with just under 800 competition miles, I have been involved with the sport for over a decade and am heading into my fourth year as a ride manager.

Here are the Top 10 reasons that concerned me about competing and here's what I learned from the sport itself, which debunked those fears.

1. My horse will NEVER do THAT (fill in the blank)!

From lunging, picking up her feet to standing at mounting -- even at 15- years -old, my mare still has a mind of her own. Or perhaps she still has my number (most likely). She has never been an easy horse, or perhaps I have never been the best rider. However, when I look at where we started -- kicking out at the touch of a stethoscope to almost running a judge off the trail – she managed to pull off a few wins and enough points to garner the 2015 Region 6 Novice Champion.

She didn't do it on her own; we did it as a team with me as her leader. We practiced at home. We practiced while pleasure riding. Some of it was probably subconsciously planted by the sport and we improved. All horses are smart, and as owners we need to find the way to communicate better with our equine partner. Through competition I learned how much we lacked in this department, and because of the sport itself, I became a better competitor.

2. OMG I have to tie my horse to the trailer overnight! She will die! She needs to rest and lie down and stretch her legs and exercise and roll! I will not risk my horse's health or my beautiful trailer having her tied up overnight!

If tied correctly, the horse is as safe as it would be in a stall or corral, and trust me, the horse doesn't want to exercise any more than you will following a ride. Coming back to the trailer at the end of the ride is the horse's happy place, and, tied correctly, your horse can lie down if she chooses. Sure, you might feel movement on the trailer at night, but it's not like she is tap dancing on the side of the trailer. If the horse does get in trouble, you will be the first to hear or feel it, unlike being cast in an unfamiliar corral or pen.

Have you ever seen all the rodeo horses standing tied to an arena? Our horses are competition horses, and like those rodeo horses, they know it is their resting place. You will be surprised. In addition, you never have to worry about where to stable your horse in an emergency because they can stand safely at your trailer.

Continued on page 27

(Empty) Fields Everywhere—Why Movement is So Important

By Dr. Juliet M. Getty

Driving in Kentucky recently, I passed breathtaking farms – acres and acres of meticulously manicured pastures, lined with black Kentucky-style four board fences that seemed to travel for miles. What struck me, however, was their barrenness.

Where are all the horses?

Placed high on mounds in the distance were spectacular barns – horse "hotels" where horses reside – some just during the day, some for most of the time.

While this may be convenient for the horse owner, standing in a small area for hours on end (even if part of it is outdoors) takes its toll on your horse's mental and physical health, to such a great extent, that it dramatically diminishes his quality, and length, of life. ***Horses need to move.*** Ever tried staying in a small room for most of the day? And we *like* cozy places! *Horses do not!* Their very survival depends on their ability to flee at a moment's notice from dangers, real or perceived. Trapped, they eventually succumb to their fate, appearing as though they are accepting and perhaps even appreciating their solitude. But the stress takes its toll on their immune system and hormonal responses, leading to a vast variety of health issues.

All body systems, including cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, neuromuscular, and skeletal systems depend on exercise to remain sound. If the horse cannot be ridden every day, many will benefit from simply being lunged or worked in a round pen. And all horses benefit from free exercise by walking around in a large pasture (or large dry lot with hay available).

Consider potential problems

Obesity. The reason is obvious -- too little activity, combined with too many calories. Minimizing or even removing concentrates from the diet can accomplish reducing calories, but forage must never be restricted. Doing so starts a hormonal cascade that actually keeps the horse overweight.[i]

Porous bones. Skeletal bones are made of living, dynamic tissue that is constantly being subjected to changes in mineral and protein content. The horse's large size helps him build bone mass simply by moving. Inactivity can make horses' bones porous, potentially leading to fractures when only a slight demand is placed on them.

Poor feet and hair coat. Inadequate blood circulation reduces the flow of nutrients and oxygen to the extremities and hair follicles. Don't be fooled by the shiny coat that results from added dietary fat – that is simply a result of more oil secretion from the skin's sebaceous glands. Truly healthy hair and hooves require exercise to delivery necessary nutrients.

Digestive disorders. Horses allowed to graze on pasture 24/7 rarely develop ulcers. Stall confinement is a significant cause of this painful condition, especially when forage is not available 'round the clock. In addition, digestive tract muscles suffer from lack of activity. A steady, consistent supply of forage will help exercise these muscles.

Physical activity increases blood circulation and stimulates gastrointestinal motility, keeping the entire digestive tract in good shape, lessening the chance of torsions, impactions, and intussusceptions that lead to colic. Fiber digestion is also improved. What is so disheartening is that within two weeks of changes to stall confinement (such as experienced by horses transported to training facilities), the vast majority of horses will develop ulcers and more than half of them will develop colon/cecal impactions.[ii]

Mental well-being. The stress of stall confinement and isolation often leads to unattractive behaviors, consistent with trapping any animal – weaving, stall-walking and circling, pawing, wall-kicking, chewing, head-bobbing, self-biting, and even cribbing (which is more than just a bad habit – it is generally done to alleviate the pain of an ulcer).

Horses are social animals, requiring time with each other in a herd environment to provide protection, comfort, and mutual grooming.

Metabolic impacts. Sedentary horses lose muscle mass and can become insulin resistant. Muscle uses a large amount of glucose for energy; the more muscle mass your horse has, the more glucose transporters are produced, leading to increased insulin sensitivity. Therefore, exercise not only burns calories, but also reduces insulin resistance. Exercise also helps reduce leptin resistance.

Continues on page 25

Movement continued from page 24

Fitness decline. Reduced exercise results in loss of muscle and bone mass, which significantly impacts the horse's fitness level and performance ability. Researchers at Virginia Intermont College[iii] found that horses on stall rest for 14 weeks lost fitness and even more interestingly, pastured horses were able to maintain the same fitness level as horses that were stalled and exercised five days per week.

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Growth retardation. A growing horse requires exercise for cartilage and overall bone and joint development. Restricting exercise can result in injury, under-conditioned joints, contracted tendons, deformed legs, and osteopathic disorders.

Accelerated aging. When the immune system is suppressed, the horse becomes more susceptible to catching infections from other horses, developing insect-borne diseases, and exhibiting allergic responses to the environment. Weariness from confinement increases oxidative stress, resulting in free radicals that damage healthy tissues, inhibit repair, and alter DNA. What we once thought as age-related conditions such as degenerative arthritis, and equine Cushing's disease, now appear in horses at far younger ages.

Possible solutions

We need to think "outside the box" (pun intended). We need to find ways to offer our horses a safe environment that encourages movement and grazing time, as well as respects their innate physiological need for forage flowing through the digestive tract at all times.

One innovative approach is to transform an area into a "Paddock Paradise[iv]" where horses seek out new batches of hay while walking from place to place. This concept is quite versatile, allowing for even small sizes of land.

Relaxing standards that require keeping a horse stalled so he will stay clean and well-groomed, in favor of having a happier, more naturally kept horse will cut back on maintenance requirements and allow more time for enjoying your horse. Think of creative ways to let your horse outside to be with other horses.

Continued on page 26

Good to Know

An intermediate host, the oribatid mite that lives on pastures, transmits tapeworms. While grazing, horses can ingest the mite and become infected. Once infected, it takes the tapeworm about two to four months to mature inside the horse.

"As horses begin to get out and graze, they may become infected with tapeworms, which can lead to ic." says Hoyt Cheramie, DVM, MS, DACVS, Senior Equine Professional Service Veterinarian, Boehringer Ingelheim.

One study reported that 81 percent of the ileal impaction cases were tapeworm associated. Tapeworms can cause many other kinds of problems in the digestive system. For instance, **tapeworms attach to the ileocecal area and may cause inflammation, ulceration and bowel obstruction.** In young horses, tapeworm infections can cause a potentially life-threatening condition known as **intussusception, which is the telescoping of the intestine into itself**.

Cheramie warns that these health concerns aren't just for a particular age or geographic area. **Tapeworm infections can occur in all ages of horses greater than 9 months of age, and tapeworms are common in grazing horses across the country**. In one U.S. survey, more than half of the horses were infected with tapeworms. In fact, **infection rates were as high as 95 percent in the upper Midwest[4] and as high as 82 percent in Southern states** were reported.

Products like **Zimectrin Gold** are effective against tapeworm. ##

Movement continued from page 25

If some stall time is unavoidable, be sure to provide at least two places where hay is always provided. If your horse tends to eat very quickly, start by providing hay free choice. Once he gets the message that he will not run out of hay, he will start to slow down his eating and be more relaxed. Commercially available "slow feeders" are a good option for many horses, if they are introduced gradually, to avoid frustration.[v]

Shelter from harsh weather is a must. This can best be accomplished by *offering your horse the option to make choices*. Barn stalls with open gates that can be entered at will, allow your horse to decide what is most comfortable.

Bottom line

Confining a horse to a stall or small outdoor area without the ability to exercise leads to an animal that is mentally stressed and physically limited. Exercise, walking, grazing, socializing, and freedom to flee from perceived dangers are essential parts of what makes your horse, a horse. ##

[i] Please read – "Restricting Forage is Incredibly Stressful" and "Respect the Power of the Horse's Instincts, available in the Library at www.GettyEquineNutrition.com.
[ii] Loving, Nancy S. 2010. Consequences of stall confinement. www.thehorse.com
[iii] Graham-Thiers, Patricia M, Bowen, L. Kristen. 2012. Improved ability to maintain fitness in horses during large pasture turnout. *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science, 33,* 8, 581-585.
[iv] Jackson, Jaime W. 2007. *Paddock Paradise – a Guide to Natural Horseboarding*. Star Ridge Publishing.
[v] Please read "The Correct Way to Use Slow Feeders," available in the Library at Getty Equine Nutrition library.

***About the Author: Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D**. is an independent equine nutritionist with a wide U.S. and international following. Her research-based approach optimizes equine health by aligning physiology and instincts with correct feeding and nutrition practices. Dr. Getty's goal is to empower the horseperson with the confidence and knowledge to provide the best nutrition for his or her horse's needs.*

*Dr. Getty's fundamental resource book, **Feed Your Horse Like a Horse**, is available in paperback as well as in hardcover and Kindle versions. All except the Kindle version are available at www.GettyEquineNutrition.com -- buy the book there and have it inscribed by the author. Print and Kindle versions are also available at Amazon (www.Amazon.com); find print versions at other online retail bookstores. The seven individual volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered "Spotlight on Equine Nutrition" series are available with special package pricing at her website, and also at Amazon in print and Kindle versions. Dr. Getty's books make ideal gifts for equestrians!*

*Find a world of useful information for the horseperson at www.GettyEquineNutrition.com: Sign up for Dr. Getty's informative, free e-newsletter, Forage for Thought; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum archives; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars and interviews. Find top-quality supplements, feeders, and other equine-related items, at her online Free Shipping Supplement Store[i]. **Reach Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com***

10 Myths continued from page 17

3. Obstacles. You want me to do WHAT (fill in the blank)?

I could get myself into quite a tizzy worrying about obstacles. When riding with my husband, I couldn't figure out if he should go first or if I should go first; my heart would pound. However, if you look closely at your horse's scorecard, it is more important to be healthy and sound than it is to back between two trees. My horse can sometimes ace the metabolic checks and soundness. She might not side pass pretty over a log, but has won because she is fit and healthy.

I went from fear of obstacles to looking forward to them and being a bit disappointed if we don't see the judge as often as I hoped! The horsemanship card helps me to be a better rider. We can't look in the mirror when riding down the trail, but we can be seen in an expert's eyes and be provided with useful feedback.

4. I could never ride that far and that fast!

Novice competitors ride about 15 to 20 miles each day. The speed varies over terrain but most generally not more than 4 mph. A good trail horse can easily walk a 4 mph pace if asked. When I ride with my pleasure-riding friends, we usually average around 2.5 mph (yawn), and my legs and back are feeling it by the end of the ride. I enjoy changing gaits to keep my body in motion. I mix up my pace with walking and trotting and maybe even lope if I find the perfect spot. Most riders will keep it at a walk and occasional trot. Time goes very fast on the trail, and you will be surprised when the ride is over.

5. The entry fees are too pricy.

Unless you are riding at home, anytime you haul a horse off the property, there are expenses. When riding CTR, you will incur camping fees, health papers charges and ride fees. Not to mention fuel and necessities while camping. If you were going to a barrel race or roping, you would most likely incur those same fees, and your ride would only last a few seconds. You might get a few minutes in the arena at a horse show and pay an entry for each class. Our sport keeps you on your horse for 2 days and is money well spent.

You can't put a price tag on the judges. A licensed veterinarian judges the horses. It will receive a thorough soundness exam at check in. The vet will check for hydration levels, gut sounds and other metabolic conditions and will do it all over again at check out. During competition they will continue to check soundness and condition on the trail when the horse is working and will check for soreness following the ride. The pulse and respiration crew will record the horse's vitals twice during each day. You will learn how to get your horse to relax, to get into the zone for a good recovery. Your horse is under the eye of a vet from the time it checks in until it checks out. Your entry fee is cheap when you consider the rewards.

The horsemanship judge will judge you on your equitation, in-hand presentation, grooming, stabling, safety and courtesy, and your tack and equipment. That doesn't mean they are going to tell you to buy a new saddle, but they may note if your breast collar is too tight or your latigo so cracked and worn that it might be a safety issue. They might offer suggestions for saddle adjustments to alleviate possible pain or galling on your horse, and you might lose a point for being heavy in the saddle or hindering your horse's movement. While his or her job is to distinguish your horsemanship from that of another rider, you should also look at it as having a personal trainer helping you to become a better equestrian.

All this training and education is included in the cost of the ride. You will go home with your scorecard serving as your "homework" – a part of making you more successful as a rider in general as well as in this sport.

6. Snobs! All the riders are prima donnas!

"Do not judge a person too harshly as you don't know what battle they may be fighting." Perhaps a little melodramatic but you know what I mean. Maybe the person who snubbed you just found out their horse is lame. Or perhaps they are in competition for a national award and plotting their ride or most likely just in their own zone. Don't let the actions of one or two be indicative of our sport. Ride managers like to pair new riders with a mentor, and many of our seasoned riders love mentoring. And don't be shy! Ask questions! We are here to help.

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10 Myths continued from page 27

If you get your feelings hurt, brush it off and move on. Look for the positive. This is not the sport for the passive aggressive! There is a camaraderie among riders that is second to none. You will get to know the riders not only from your region but others regions as well. The first ride is the toughest. Take that first step.

7. All I have is a western saddle!
I started out in my western saddle, a horn bag, a hoof pic, a wind-up watch, a knife, a granola bar or an apple, a rain slicker and a couple bottles of water. I pretty much ride the same way today, sans the horn on my saddle and added a GPS. My husband still competes with his western saddle with a horn and a rear cinch and a cowboy hat. You will see English saddles, endurance saddles and treeless saddles. It doesn't matter as long as it fits you and fits your horse. You will also find riders trading gear all the time! I don't think I have bought a new piece of tack in a long time but have traded and bought and sold online.

8. I can't ride for 2 days.
Easy. Pick a ride that has a B-Ride, which is a 1-day competition. It will give you the feel for the competition and expectations, and I bet before long, you will pull a 2 day-er!

9. I don't ride an Arabian!
Neither do I! I ride a Quarter Horse. We have successfully ribboned out of the Novice Division and have competed in the Open Division at a couple of rides. We may land in Competitive Pleasure this coming year, but I am pleased that with the right conditioning, my horse can compete in all divisions of this sport. You will see Arabians on the trail. You will also see Missouri Fox Trotters and Mustangs and Appaloosas. Just this last weekend, the first place novice horse was a draft. It's a sport for any horse or mule; they can all be athletes.

10. I will never have the fastest horse in the competition. I am not even competitive!

Competitive trail riding is NOT a race. It is NOT an endurance ride. It IS a timed event. Riding at pace, you have a 30 minute window to complete the ride. It does not matter if you are first in that window or last in the window – your scorecard will not reflect your order across the finish line – only that you completed it in the time given. And if you are late, it will cost you some points, but you will still be in the game. And while getting from Point A to Point B, you will see some beautiful trail along the way.

By the same token, competitive trail riding is not *just* a trail ride. It is a competition – a sport – that established rules and guidelines 57 years ago. Like any sport, tweaks are made along the way, but the foundation of this sport has passed the test of time. The expectations of a good trail horse exist today the same as they did in 1960.

You may not think you are a competitive person but in our sport, you will start competing against previous scorecards just to see yourself improve. If you bring in a placing as a result, that is gravy!

If you want to go on a simple trail ride – great! Grab some friends and hit the trail.

But, if you want to bump it up a notch, consider our competitive trail riding.

It is exhilarating and the lessons you will learn are priceless. ##

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

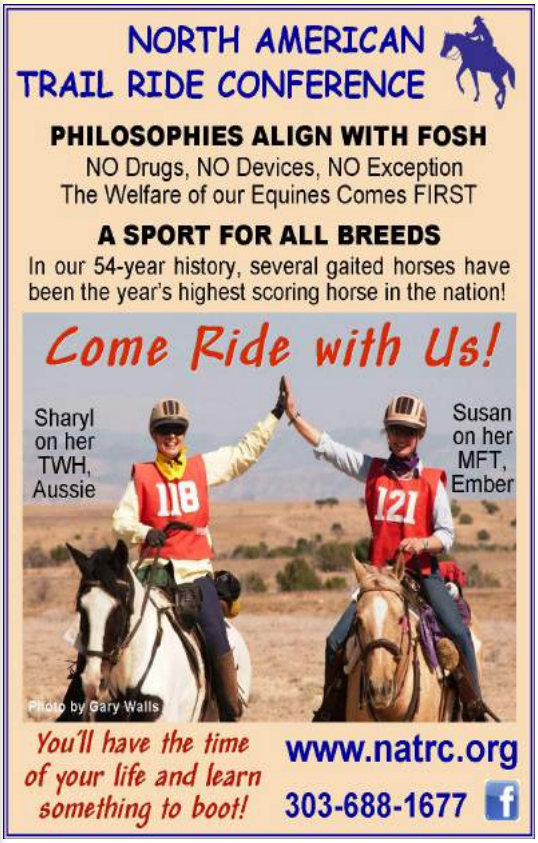
Breeders

Summerwind Marchadors and Future Foal Breeders
http://futurefoal.net or call Lynn @ 602-999-3915 Plan for your next lifetime partner! Come breed with us! Offering frozen semen (12 stallions in 2017) or reservations for Future Foals "do Summerwind" The Marchador is Brazil's national horse, harking from Iberia, but bred there for 200 years. Expect to be impressed!

Missouri Morgans
Easy gaited in color. Rare gaited Morgans located in the Heart of America near beautiful Lake of the Ozarks; for photos, videos and available horses. Talk to Jim or Vali Suddarth at 417-286-4720 or gaitedmorgans@missourimorgans.com

Trainers

Bates Gaited Horses
(FOSH 2010 Trainer & Breeder of the Year)
Nya Bates, Melba, Idaho 83641 Phone: 208-559-2755 www.batesgaitedhorses.com Training and gait repair of all flat shod gaited breeds for pleasure, trail, hunting, and field trial uses. Will travel to do clinics, lessons and individual education/work and train horses. Sales of well -bred young stock and gaited, educated, willing mounts.



Calendar continued from page 19

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell
August 17-19
St. Croix Falls, WI
Contact: Patty, 715-483-9292, patti@rnrranchandtack.com

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell 5-Day Clinic
Aug 20-24, 2018
St. Croix Falls, WI
Contact: Patti 715-483-9292
patti@rnrranchandtack.com

Oak Rise Pleasure Show
August 26
Oak Rise Farm, Goffstown, NY

Gary Lane Clinic
August 26-27
Pure Country Campground, New Bergin, NY
Contact: Jim Weidman, 607-373-5510

SEPTEMBER

Gaited Horsemanship with Larry Whitesell
September 7-9
Milford, MI
Contact: Karia, 413-281-2407, Karia0429@yahoo.com

Don't Miss Out!

See page 31

Be Sure You Safeguard Your Horses against Rabies

While dogs are vaccinated against rabies without question, the majority of equines—often at higher risk—are not vaccinated

According to veterinary research published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Horse Council, horses are nearly four times more likely to contract rabies than dogs. Across the U.S., the majority of horses are not vaccinated for rabies and often run a higher risk of exposure than dogs, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Everybody is at risk for developing rabies," said Bonnie R. Rush, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Interim Dean at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. "[Horses are] at higher risk for being exposed probably at pasture, but being in a stall does not preclude exposure. The consequences of interacting with a horse that has rabies are significant."

Horses can be exposed to rabies most commonly through bats, raccoons, foxes, and skunks. **Two examples of public equine rabies cases include the 2008 Missouri State Fair; and the 2006 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, which required the notification of more than 150,000 people for potential rabies exposure.**

Rabies is the deadliest among the five core equine diseases, which also include Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, tetanus, and West Nile. Horses are continually exposed to wildlife and mosquitoes that transmit core equine diseases. Whether kept in a barn or pasture, remind horse owners that their companions are not spared from dangerous disease risks. As such, core disease vaccinations are recommended annually as part of overall equine wellness, according to the American Association of Equine Practitioners core vaccination guidelines.

"Any of the core diseases can be a death sentence for an exposed horse—and alarmingly, with exposure to an animal infected with rabies—family members, friends, and any other persons exposed are also at risk of losing their lives to rabies disease, which is always fatal," said Kevin Hankins, DVM, MBA, senior technical services veterinarian with Zoetis. "A horse owner's best defense against these devastating diseases is through annual core disease vaccination." ##

DRESSAGE TEST OFFER FROM FOSH

FOSH has teamed up with NAWD (North American Western Dressage) to bring you a special offer! FOSH is sponsoring a coupon to the first 50 registrants to receive feedback on their dressage work with their gaited horse through a virtual dressage test! Use coupon code GWO2018 to take advantage of two free dressage tests for your gaited horse sponsored by FOSH!

- **Use one test to "get ready" by submitting a virtual dressage test ANYTIME or during any NAWD virtual show that offers dressage**
- **Use the other test to show in our Gaits Wide Open National Virtual Dressage Show for Gaited Horses Oct 1-15, 2018.**
- Sign up at www.nawdhorse.org

Choose your own test – IJA, NAWD, WDAA, or NWHA
IJA and NAWD tests are available to be ridden western or "traditionally"

GAITS WIDE OPEN NATIONAL VIRTUAL DRESSAGE SHOW FOR GAITED HORSES
Tests must be ridden/recorded/submitted October 1 - 15, 2018
Sponsored by FOSH
www.northamericanwesterndressage.com/ride/gaits/

For help in navigating use of your coupon or any other questions, contact gaitswideopen@gmail.com

TIP FOR RECORDING YOUR VIRTUAL DRESSAGE TEST
Host a "Virtual Dressage Test Play Day" - Set up a dressage arena and have a "play day" to record each other's tests! Hints for successfully recording a dressage test are available on the NAWD website.

Your dressage arena doesn't need to be fancy but assure your dimensions are correct!

Video tape from C. Make sure you don't obscure the judges' review of the entire horse (remember to be far enough back at C that when the horse comes by C, the judge is able to visualize the entire horse. Remember to keep the camera in focus!!!

With virtual testing
You will be able to review the judges' comments while watching your originally submitted video!
It's a great way to improve your skills.

Get Your Savings Coupon on page 20 of this issue

One Girl's Journey

By Tish Rose (written about her daughter Payten)

"Buy a horse", they said; "It will be fun," they said. As anyone who has horses already knows, buying them is the cheapest thing you will do.

For Payten it was love at first sight when she went to her first horse camp. I have to say that she learned a lot about horses at camp but what came next is where her learning experience really started. She went from a little girl who did not know anything about horses to getting a true lesson in what it is to have a horse in just 6 short months.

Payten did not have the chance to be a normal kid like her friends since she suddenly had a lot of responsibility after we bought her horse, Gonzo. Payten was his forever little girl and she was in love with him. Since he was at a boarding barn, Payten had to clean stalls twice a week to cut down on his board and fill in when needed at the boarding barn. After school she would have to go to the barn and muck out eight stalls, wash out eight water buckets, fill the water buckets and put new shavings in all eight stalls. She then had to grain all eight horses, give them all hay, then sweep the barn and help dump all of the horse poop out in the field. Quickly she learned what is was like to have a lot of responsibility. She did not do this all on her own - she had the help of her parents. This was not just a journey for her; it was a journey for her parents as well. As a family, we started this journey with no horse experience, no clue what this was going to look like or what we needed to help her achieve her goals and dreams. All we knew is that we wanted to make her dreams come true one way or another.

Soon we learned about Tennessee Walking Horses and learned more than what we wanted to when we found out that the Tennessee Walking Horses were the gentlest and forgiving horses which in turn also made them targets for humans that were not so kind. We learned about soring and what some people do to TWH's to enhance their steps so they step really high and drop their hind end. It looks unnatural for the horse and if anyone would stop and look into the horse's eye they can see that the horse is in pain. What shocked us the most is what they put the horse thru to get that high step. They wrap their legs in kerosene, acid, and other chemicals and then wrap rags around them so it burns them. They put large pads and chains on the feet and ankles so the chains hit the spots that are burned. It is one of the cruelest things to see. You can look up "The Big Lick" to see what they do to these majestic animals. And then we learned where Gonzo came from - yep you guessed it! In Tennessee he was part of this horrible treatment, which explains, a lot about his behavior. It explained why when my daughter put her leg into him that his head went really high and he would take off like his tail was on fire. Need less to say he was hard to handle at times, as his bad memories would come rushing back even though we had never done any of that to Gonzo.

Thank the good Lord for all of his blessings and the family he blessed us with or we would not be where we are today. There is one other person that he put in our lives that, at the time, we did not realize would change our lives forever. If anyone ever tells you that one person can never make a difference, I am here to tell you that is wrong. God makes a path and puts people in your life for a reason and we were about to get the biggest blessing of our life.

There was someone who saw a girl that was struggling at a horse show and did not know what to do to help her horse. This little girl was in tears and was very frustrated because she was a new rider with a previously abused horse who just as frustrated. Not a good combination.

Then this beautiful person appeared and said come with me and let's figure this out. Her name is Anita Dunham.

Continued on page 33

One Girl's Journey continued from page 32

Without wanting anything in return she took our daughter and her horse in the arena with Anita's son and another student and they started to work and work and work. Anita worked with her until they kicked everyone out of the arena so they could get the arena prepared for the show to start.

It was time to get ready for the show so I took Payten to get her show clothes on and get her hair done. This beautiful girl was scared to death as to what was going to happen in the arena and to add extra fun to our day she was sick. She woke up with a 102.5 fever, sore throat and a migraine headache. But she was a trooper and was not going to miss her classes. So, I got her ready and kept her in the truck until right before her class was to start. Her dad got Gonzo ready and stood there and waited until right before the class started and waved at me to bring Payten so she could get on Gonzo. I got her out and took her over and dad put her on the horse and I went to take pictures. And of course that beautiful person that came out of nowhere to help was also there to cheer her on.

Anita gave her instructions as she went by the gate and Payten was looking so much better. It turns out with Anita's help she won the championship and we could not thank Anita enough for her help. A stranger out of nowhere who never met us before just stepped up and took our daughter and helped her. Little did we know at the time this was just the start of our journey with Gonzo and Anita Dunham.

It has been a struggle trying to take a rehab horse and start over. Gonzo does not have a mean bone in his body but his past haunts him from time to time. His past does not matter to his owner, Payten. You have to know Payten and know that she has a huge heart and is wise beyond her years for her age. She may have only been 11- years- old at the time she started with Gonzo, however she understood where he came from and what he had experienced in his 11 years of life and she said that "he is going to be with me forever no matter what". Payten was dead set nobody would ever hurt Gonzo ever again - she just could not let that happen to her beautiful boy. She knows and understands that he may never be all the way whole again but she will do everything in her power to work with him and do anything she can to help him with the help of Anita.

Anita is not quick to give up either. Anita has spent countless hours working with Gonzo on her own and working with Gonzo and Payten together. They have made huge progress with Gonzo.

I am in awe of Payten each and every day. Her heart of gold, her will to help her horse one day at a time and one ride at a time is absolutely commendable. There are not many kids that would devote all their time and energy to a horse that had thrown her off more than once. She is a kid who worked all summer at the barn to work off board and an additional lesson so she could have two lessons in a week. It is so inspiring to her dad and me that she took on this responsibility and continues to work really hard. ##

"He is going to be with me forever, no matter what."

Payten Rose, 11, speaking about her Gonzo, also 11

In Conclusion: **Did you know that August is Admit You're Happy Month ?** As gaited horse people tend to associate August with the cruelty that comes with the annual Tennessee Celebration Horse Show, it's easy to be bummed each year about the dying days of summer. But what if this year you knew about **31 OTHER Official Honorary Days** in August; would that make you a little less hot under the collar? Take a look at what's available and find events to observe or learn about that speak to you.

1 Girl-friend's Day	2 Nat'l Coloring Book Day	3 Water-melon Day	4 Nat'l Mustard Day	5 Nat'l Under-wear Day	6 Nat'l Fresh Breath Day	7 Light-house Day
8 Interna-tional Cat Day	9 World's Indige-nous People's Day	10 Paul Bunyan Day	11 Nat'l Bowling Day	12 World Elephant Day	13 Int'l Left Hander's Day	14 V-J Day ends WWII
15 Best Friends' Day	16 Nat'l Roller-coaster Day	17 I Love My Feet Day	18 Nat'l Fajita Day	19 Root Beer Float Day est. 1893	20 Coco Chanel Day	21 World Mosquito Day
22 Nat'l Tooth fairy Day	23 Rudolph Valentino Day	24 Vesuvius Day	25 Nat'l Whiskey Sour Day	26 Women's Equality Day	27 Just Because Day	28 Nat'l Bow Tie Day
29 More Herbs, Less Salt Day	30 Franken-stein Day	31 Love Litigating Lawyers Day				

FOSH

6614

Clayton Road

#105

St. Louis, MO

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Frankenstein Day? Just Because Day? **Now you're pulling our legs, right? Here are descriptions from the official websites.** *"This day is in honor of author Mary Wollenstone Shelley who was born on August 30,1797. She wrote the book "Frankenstein " in 1818."* and *"Finally, you have a chance to do something without a rhyme or reason. Most often in life, we do things because we have to, or we want to, or it's expected of us. None of those reasons apply today. "*

(This year perhaps Vesuvius Day should be renamed Kilauea Day.)