



*The  
Sound  
Advocate*

A Champion for All  
Gaited Horses

Volume 7, Issue 1, 2024

# Sound Advocate

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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 in regards to the humane care for the emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, 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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**On the cover:** A stunning Icelandic horse in spring living among a field of lupine flowers north of Keflavik, Iceland. Photo by [Paula da Silva](#).

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# From the President...



Dear FOSH Friends,

What exciting news when we learned that Carl Bledsoe was awarded the Horseman of the Year award by the Humane Society of the United States. FOSH has appreciated Carl's support, knowledge and expertise as we battled the abuse of soring through the years. From calling out the industry for their abuse to attending equine events on behalf of FOSH to share his story and distribute our literature, Carl has always been right there for FOSH.

I was honored when Carl came to St. Louis several years ago and rode my Tennessee Walking Horse mare in the first ever Working Equitation clinic in our area. Carl stayed with us, and my husband and I got to know him on a much more personal level as compared to when he was exposing the tricks of the trade used by the big lick industry to cheat for those ribbons.

His personal journey has not been easy, and his lovely and strong wife, Tammy, has been by his side and supporting him every step of the way. I'm so happy I was able to meet Tammy in person several years ago. Carl is

a gifted clinician so make sure you follow him in case there is a clinic in your neck of the woods.

We are pleased to announce that the Senate reintroduced the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act on March 21 (S.4004). We thank U.S. Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) for their bipartisan support to end soring.

There are currently 50 cosponsors which is a strong backing for when a bill is first introduced. There are several organizations which are hard at work to keep the PAST Act alive in Congress, and their expertise and commitment is appreciated: American Horse Council, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association, Humane Society of the United States and the American Association of Equine Practitioners. A press release from Senators Crapo and Warner is in this issue to provide more detailed information.

With Spring moving forward faster than we would like, now is the time to consider offering an equine event or clinic this year. We're glad to once again provide financial support for sound horse offerings, and the form to complete is in every issue. After the form is completed and submitted, we will contact you with the amount. All that is required from you is submitting photos and an article describing your event.

We know what the next couple of months bring: lots of shedding horses, blooming trees and trail riding. Enjoy your days with your trusty steeds and don't forget to wear your helmet!

*Teresa*

*Teresa Bippin*  
*FOSH President*  
*Tbippen1957@yahoo.com*

## From the Editor...



Hello FOSH Friends.

We have another great cover this issue - this time of a rugged Icelandic horse taken by Paula Da Silva. In many parts of the country spring is starting to appear. There are places where winter still has a hold, and for myself and our warmer climate friends, we are almost through the worst of the tree pollen and summer is approaching fast.

This issue is unofficially an Icelandic issue. I have never had the good fortune to ride or even be around Icelandic horses. To date, my only trip

to Iceland was a layover at the Keflavik Airport in Reykjavik on my way to Europe. The USA Working Equitation's (USAWE) 2023 Gaited Horse Champion is an Icelandic horse, and there is also an article about the genetics of the Icelandic horse's gaits in this issue.

This year we'll be taking a walk down memory lane with an article from a previous *Sound Advocate*. This issue showcases the debut of gaited horses at the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show. Unsurprisingly, they were a big hit. We look forward to bringing you more memories throughout the year.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Carl Bledsoe, who was named the Humane Horseman of the Year by the Humane Society of the United State. I haven't had the pleasure of meeting Carl or his wife Tammy, but I've interacted with them online, and they are both an absolute pleasure. I've seen nothing but great things written and said about them. It is wonderful to have such a staunch supporter, and wonderful horseman, to support our beautiful gaited horses. Carl is making appearances at horse expos and his own clinics throughout the country. If you have the opportunity to go see him, I highly recommend it.

*Stephanie*

*Stephanie J. Ruff*  
*Editor, editor@fosh.info*

# Advocacy Update



## Crapo, Warner Reintroduce Bipartisan PAST Act to Prevent Horse Soring

Washington, D.C.--U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Mark Warner (D-Virginia) reintroduced the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act to protect horses from abusive show practices. Soring is a process by which horse trainers intentionally apply devices or caustic substances to horses' limbs to make each step painful and force an exaggerated high-stepping gait (called the "Big Lick") rewarded with higher marks in show rings. Although federal law prohibits soring, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Inspector General (IG) report found that some horse trainers continue this inhumane practice.

"I support the humane treatment of all animals and the responsible training of horses, said Crapo. "Equestrian sports have implemented rules to ensure the welfare of the horses, but changes are needed to address loopholes that allow the continued suffering of sored horses. Soring is an inhumane practice and the PAST Act

would finally end this horrible custom."

"Horses are a quintessential part of Virginia's culture and history, and they deserve comprehensive, enforceable protections from abuse of any sort," said Warner. "I am proud to reintroduce the bipartisan PAST Act to strengthen protections against horse soring and crack down on the perpetrators of this disturbing abuse."

The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act would:

- Eliminate self-policing by requiring the USDA to assign a licensed inspector if the show's management indicates intent to hire one. Licensed or accredited veterinarians, if available, would be given preference for these positions.
- Prohibit the use of action devices and pads on specific horse breeds that have a history of being the primary victims of soring. Action devices, such as chains that rub up and down an already-sore leg,

intensify the horse's pain when it moves so that the horse quickly jolts up its leg.

- Increase consequences on individuals caught soring a horse, including raising the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony, subject to up to three years' incarceration, increasing fines from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per violation, and permanently disqualifying three-time violators from participating in horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions.

In August 2023, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service proposed a rule to strengthen Horse Protection Act requirements and eliminate the use of horse soring at horse shows, exhibitions, sales and auctions.

"The AVMA strongly endorses the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act and is a longtime advocate for eliminating the cruel and inhumane practice of horse soring," said Dr. Rena Carlson, Idaho veterinarian and president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "The PAST Act would end the needless suffering of horses by providing enforcement mechanisms to preserve horse welfare. We thank Senators Warner and Crapo for their leadership on this critical issue facing the veterinary profession and urge Congress to swiftly pass the proposed legislation."

"Soring is an abject cruelty, carried out on the backs of horses by those seeking to call themselves 'grand champions,'" said Sara Amundson,

president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund. "The real losers here are the horses who have endured the 'Big Lick' for decades in spite of federal law meant to protect them. Fortunately, we have our own equine champions in Senators Crapo and Warner, leading the way by mobilizing half the Senate to demonstrate continued broad, bipartisan support for the PAST Act and encourage USDA to swiftly complete its rulemaking to fix weak regulations that have allowed this cruelty to persist."

"The cruel practice of horse soring--inflicting pain and injury in horses' legs and hooves to force them into an unnatural, high-stepping gait known as the "Big Lick" --has gone on for far too long while serial abusers have gamed the system and horses have suffered," said Nancy Perry, senior vice president of ASPCA Government Relations. "The PAST Act, widely championed by humane advocates and the equine industry, received overwhelming support last Congress, and we are grateful to Senators Warner and Crapo for reintroducing this critical bill to finally end this abuse once and for all."

"For many years, the American Association of Equine Practitioners has championed legislation to end this cruel practice, and the reintroduction of this important bill by Senator Crapo and Senator Warner to protect horses is vital," said Dr. Katherine Garrett, 2024 American Association of Equine Practitioners president. "We now will work for passage along with our more



than 9,000 equine veterinarian and student members and the industry.”

“On behalf of the American Horse Council (AHC) and its members, I offer Senator Mike Crapo and Senator Mark Warner our profound gratitude for their commitment and leadership in introducing the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act,” said Julie M. Broadway, president of American Horse Council & American Horse Council Foundation. “We hope that through their efforts, the 118th Congress will act and fulfill the promise and purpose of the Horse Protection Act which is to eliminate the horrific practice of soring. The current industry self-inspection model needs to be fixed as inspections by the USDA clearly and convincingly demonstrate that horses continue to be sored and mistreated. Adopting the PAST Act will restore public trust and confidence in competitions, auctions, and exhibitions featuring specific breeds of gaited horses.”

“We commend Senators Crapo and Warner for their unwavering commitment to protecting Tennessee Walking Horses and related gaited breeds that have been victimized for the sake of winning awards and cash prizes,” said Dr. Joanna Grossman, equine program director for the Animal Welfare Institute. “Soring involves a wide range of abhorrent and cruel practices that have persisted for decades. The PAST Act includes desperately needed reforms that would build on the legacy of the Horse Protection Act. As this legislation enjoys broad bipartisan

support, we urge Congress to pass the PAST Act quickly to protect horses from abuse.”

Crapo and Warner are joined in introducing the legislation by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-New York), Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Laphonza Butler (D-California), Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), Ben Cardin (D-Maryland), Robert Casey (D-Pennsylvania), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Chris Coons (D-Delaware), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nevada), Steve Daines (R-Montana), Tammy Duckworth (D-Illinois), Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), John Fetterman (D-Pennsylvania), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York), Maggie Hassan (D-New Hampshire), Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico), John Hickenlooper (D-Colorado), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tim Kaine (D-Virginia), Angus King (I-Maine), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota), Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts), Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon), Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut), Patty Murray (D-Washington), Jon Ossoff (D-Georgia), Alex Padilla (D-California), Gary Peters (D-Michigan), Jack Reed (D-Rhode Island), Jacky Rosen (D-Nevada), Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire), Kyrsten Sinema (I-Arizona), Tina Smith (D-Minnesota), Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan), Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland), Raphael Warnock (D-Georgia), Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), Peter Welch (D-Vermont), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island), Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), Bob Menendez (D-New Jersey) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin).

# In Memoriam

## James S. Scullin

James “Jim” S. Scullin, 79, passed away at Augusta Health in Fishersville, Virginia on Monday, February 19, 2024.

He was born in 1945 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to his loving parents Simon James Scullin and Margaret Anna Kreiger Scullin. His grandmother, Anna Scullin and his aunt, Anne Scullin played a significant role in his upbringing.

Jim embarked on his professional journey by working various locations throughout the A&P grocery store chain, before transitioning to a major Philadelphia bank during the era when computers emerged as the size of city blocks. His expertise lay in the intricate realm of financial computing, where he left an indelible mark through his precision and diligence. His career of over 50 years reached beyond the ages of many of his coworkers at Fisher Auto Parts.

A graduate of St. Joseph Preparatory School, Jim’s thirst for knowledge was evident throughout his life. An animal lover with a particular fondness for Tennessee Walking Horses, he found solace and joy in their graceful presence. He enjoyed a long-time passion for trains and trollies.



Among Jim’s many passions was his role as “The Dish Enabler” within the Fiestaware community—a testament to his generosity and warmth that touched countless lives. He also orchestrated the Virginia Gated Jubilee Horse Event with finesse and served as a former director of FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses), channeling his devotion to equine welfare into meaningful action.

Jim is survived by his longtime part-

ner, Rachel Hughes; his son, Jim Scullin and his wife, Christi; his daughter Susanna Hope and her husband, Chadd; his grandchildren, Gail Scullin, John William Hope, Makenzy Hope; the mother of his children, Susanne Scullin; his sister-in-law, Linda Parry and her husband, Mike Folkoff; his niece and nephew, Bev and Martin; and Vinny the Little Prince, his beloved pet cat.

“He was my rock,” says his daughter, Susanna Hope.

A celebration of Jim’s life will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to your local animal welfare charity.

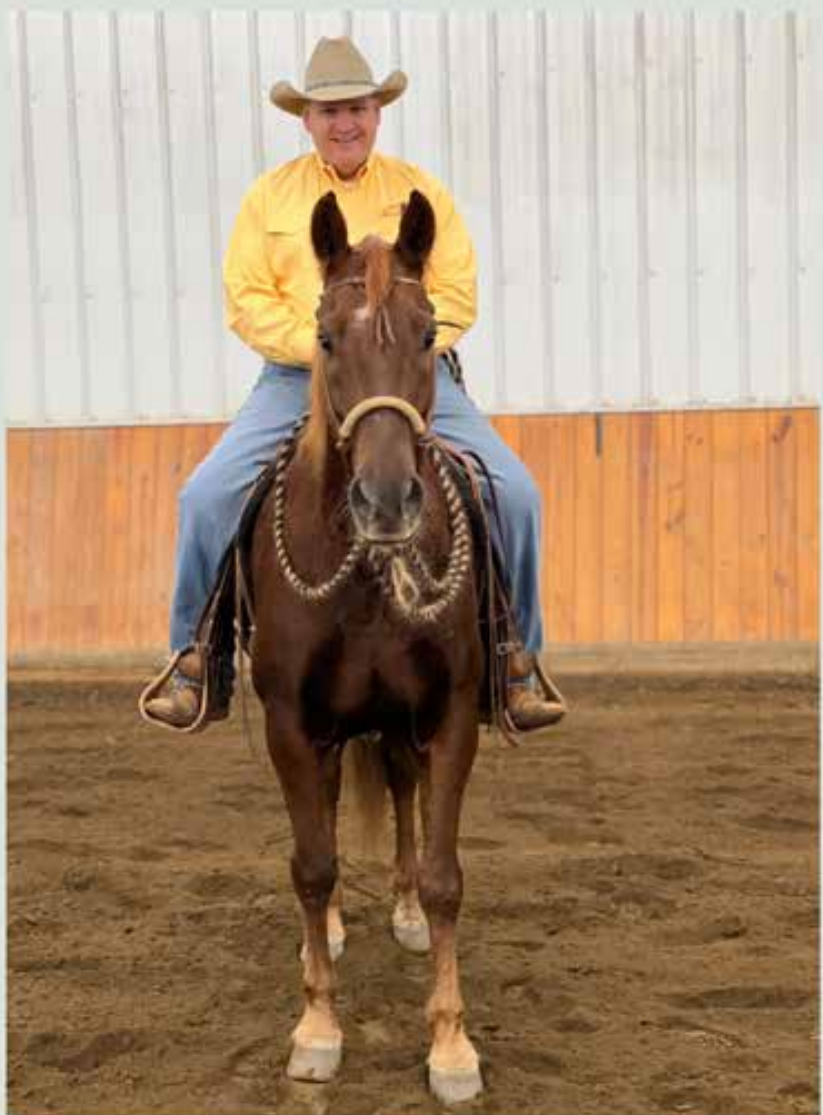
## Carl Bledsoe Clinic

**RIVER VALLEY LODGE  
29080 HAWK DR  
FARMINGTON, IOWA 52626  
OCTOBER 4-6, 2024**

Join us as we work on balancing and strengthening the natural movement of the horse through education and understanding of anatomy and biomechanics for a mentally and physically connected horse!

*All breeds  
welcome!*

**CONTACT:  
TAMMY BLEDSOE  
770-403-4635  
TLBLEDSOE2801@GMAIL.COM**





The USA Working Equitation (USAWE) recognizes champions in a variety of breeds. Annual breed performance award winners are the best amongst diverse horse-rider pairs competing across the United States in various tack and attire traditions. FOSH was proud to sponsor the gaited horse awards. A complete list of all breed sponsors and winners is located online. Visit [usaawe.org](https://usaawe.org) > Competitions > Awards Programs to learn more.

The 2023 Gaited Horse Champion award winner is:

## *Tígull frá Hrólfsstaðahelli (Icelandic)*

Owner: Carrie Kozuba  
Rider: Alexandra Venable





The 2023 Gaited Horse Reserve Champion award winner is:

## *Easter's Midnight Star (Missouri Fox Trotter)*

Owner: Lilian  
Jayne

Rider: Erin  
Fletcher



*Photo credit Julie Alonzo.*



The 2023 Unregistered Gaited Horse Champion award winner is:

## *Trooper (Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse)*

Owner and Rider: Maryellen Haggard



<https://www.bobbie-thompson.com/>

The 2023 Unregistered Gaited Horse Reserve Champion award winner is:

*The Texas Ranger*  
*(Missouri Fox Trotter)*

Owner: Sylvia Perry  
Rider: Jennifer Hadley



# Results from the 2023 National Equine Economic Impact Study Released

The findings of the highly-anticipated 2023 Equine Economic Impact Survey have been officially released by the American Horse Council (AHC). The results shed light on the significant and robust contributions of the equine industry to the U.S. economy. The survey offers a comprehensive overview of the economic impact and trends within the equine sector and highlights how it reaches far beyond the pastures and ranch land across the country.

Key highlights of the survey include:

1. **Diverse Economic Sectors Impacted:** \$177 billion. That's the total value added in 2023 from the equine industry, up from \$122 billion in 2017. The equine industry's ripple effect extends beyond traditional sectors, influencing a broad spectrum of industries. From agriculture and tourism to veterinary services and technology, the survey showcases interconnectedness of the equine world with other economic realms.

2. **Employment Boost:** The survey reveals a substantial impact on employment with 2.2 million jobs linked both directly and indirectly to the equine sector. Not only are breeders, trainers, veterinarians, and farriers represented, but so are truck drivers, nutritionists, chemists, police officers, and journalists.

3. **Slight Downshift in Population:**

While there is a slight downshift in the total population of horses from 2023 (6.6 million) compared to 2017 (7.2 million), that's only a slight consideration compared to the growing numbers in jobs and expenditures.

The purpose of the survey is to demonstrate the value of the equine industry in the national and state economies by analyzing the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of horse ownership, recreation, and equine-related services.

Data collected will inform public and private investments in equine-related businesses, equine health care, education, land use decisions, tax policy, tourism, employment incentives, etc. The AHC expresses gratitude to all participants, stakeholders, and partners who contributed to the success of the 2023 Equine Economic Impact Survey. The results not only underscore the industry's economic significance but also serve as a foundation for informed decision-making and strategic planning within the equine community.

"The Economic Impact Study is the most effective tool in our advocacy quiver," says Julie Broadway, president of the AHC. "When the industry needs to take aim at an issue, this data is invaluable in helping us paint the picture of the contributions the





## 2023 Economic Impact Study *of the U.S. HORSE INDUSTRY*



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industry makes and the breadth & depth of its composition.”

More information about the 2023 Equine Economic Impact Study can be found here: <https://horsecouncil.org/economic-impact-study/>

Any questions can be addressed to American Horse Council President Julie Broadway at [jbroadway@horsecouncil.org](mailto:jbroadway@horsecouncil.org).

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# Humane Society of the United States Horseman of the Year

*The Humane Society of the United States presents Humane Horseman of the Year for leading advocacy in ethical horsemanship*

On February 29, 2024, the Humane Society of the United States honored Carl Bledsoe as its Humane Horseman of the Year at the Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The annual award honors individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to protecting America's equines.

Bledsoe's journey in the horse industry has been a remarkable tale of transformation and courage. As a second-generation trainer in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, he overcame a background steeped in the cruel tradition of horse "soring" to become a leading advocate for ethical and humane horse training.

His evolution from an active participant in soring to a vocal opponent of the practice stands as a testament to his bravery and respect for equine welfare, setting him apart as a deserving recipient of this award.

Horse soring is an undeniably cruel practice in which trainers slather the limbs of show horses with caustic chemicals, then wrap them with plastic to "cook" the chemicals into the horses' flesh. In training and competitions, trainers force the hors-

es to wear heavy, binding, high-heel-like shoes, and metal chains that knock repeatedly against their sored ankles to produce a pain-based, artificial high-stepping gait prized in some competitions. Some trainers even cut the hooves down to expose the live tissue and jam hard or sharp objects into the sensitive areas of the hooves to make the pain more excruciating with every step. For their entire show lives, these gentle horses suffer from abject cruelty—all for a cheap blue ribbon.

Despite the personal and financial challenges he faced in renouncing soring, Bledsoe emerged as a successful trainer and clinician, proving that it's possible to make a good living working with Tennessee Walking Horses without relying on cruelty. Advocating for education, understanding, compassion and empathy for horses, Bledsoe prioritizes kindness and harm-free treatment, demonstrating his deep commitment to equine welfare.

As the best-known Tennessee Walking Horse trainer to have made such a complete and impactful transition, he now uses his voice and status to advocate for meaningful, lasting re-

# d States Presents Humane

*orseman of the Year Award to renowned horse trainer Carl Bled-*

form, including the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act (H.R. 3090). When passed and signed into law, the legislation will finally bring an end to soring.

“Carl Bledsoe stands as a symbol of change and compassion in the equine industry,” said Keith Dane, senior director of equine protection at the Humane Society of the United States. “Renouncing harmful practices, he has established himself as a successful trainer and clinician, advocating for sound, ethical treatment of Tennessee Walking Horses and other gaited breeds. Carl now serves as a role model for ethical conduct in the horse world. His commitment to the well-being of horses proves that success can be achieved with integrity and respect for equine welfare.”

The Humane Society of the United States is proud to recognize Carl Bledsoe’s contribution to the field of humane



horsemanship. His work not only better the lives of horses but also elevates the standards of care and compassion in the equine community.

**Photos courtesy of Tammy Bledsoe**

# Ambling Horses Origins

The investigation into the historical prevalence of the ambling gait among domestic horses, particularly through the genotype analysis of ancient specimens, uncovers fascinating insights into equine genetics and cultural exchanges across Europe. The study, "The origin of ambling horses" published in *Current Biology* in 2016 focused on detecting the DMRT3 'gait keeper' variant, pivotal for alternative gaits in horses, across 90 ancient samples dating from the Copper Age (6000 BC) to the Middle Ages (11th century).

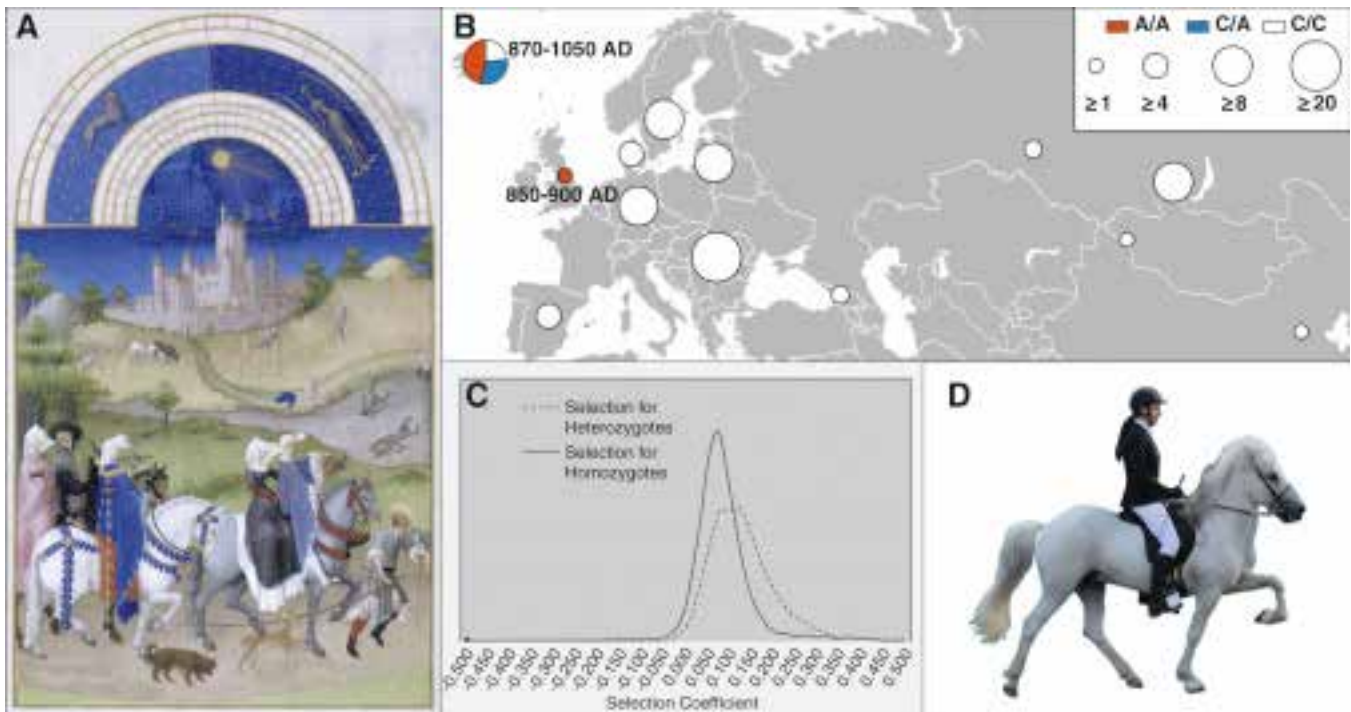
The findings present a notable presence of the DMRT3\_Ser301STOP mutation, associated with this unique gait, in specific locales and timeframes. Precisely, two horses from England around 850–900 AD and a significant number (10 out of 13) of Icelandic horses from the 9th to 11th centuries exhibited this genetic mutation. However, this allele was conspicuously absent in samples from mainland Europe, including Denmark and Sweden, highlighting a unique geographic distribution pattern.

This distribution suggests that the trait for ambling gait was present in Iceland shortly after its settlement by Norse individuals from Scandinavia - despite the fact that the Scandinavian samples lacked this mutation. This raises an intriguing question about the origin of this trait in Ice-

landic horses. The analysis suggests it is improbable that this mutation spontaneously developed in Iceland. Instead, it likely was introduced through the initial horses brought by the Norse settlers, selected for their ambling abilities, a theory supported by statistical analyses favoring positive selection of this trait.

Furthermore, the research prompts a re-evaluation of the historical narrative regarding the introduction of ambling horses into Iceland. Historical and genetic evidence points towards the British Isles, specifically medieval England, as the likely origin of the DMRT3\_Ser301STOP mutation. This aligns with records of Viking settlements and interactions in regions like York, which could have served as the initial contact point for Vikings with ambling horses, later transporting them to Iceland.

Their findings also speculate on the broader implications of horse genetics and the spread of specific traits. Despite a robust gene flow among Western European horses, the study did not find evidence of the ambling allele in continental Europe contemporary to the Iceland and British samples. This suggests a limited spread of this trait, which, coupled with our findings, points toward a regional, rather than a transcontinental, origin of the ambling gait in medieval times.



**Figure 1. History and phenotypic expression of the Gait-keeper mutation.**

**(A) August from 'Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry' by the Limbourg brothers (early 15th century) displaying two ambling horses. (B) Frequency of 'Gait keeper' mutation in European horses. (C) Posterior probability distribution of the selection coefficients for hetero- and homozygote horses. (D) Icelandic horse in amble (Photo: Monika Reissmann).**

[https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(16\)30752-7?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0960982216307527%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(16)30752-7?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0960982216307527%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

In conclusion, this study not only sheds light on the genetic origins of the ambling gait among horses but also underscores the intricate relationships between genetics, geography, and human cultural practices. It also opens avenues for further research into the role of specific genetic mutations in shaping animal traits that have been historically valued and selected by human societies.

Wutke S, Andersson L, Benecke N, Sandoval-Castellanos E, Gonzalez J, Hallsson JH, Lõugas L, Magnell O, Morales-Muniz A, Orlando L, Pálsdóttir AH, Reissmann M, Muñoz-Rodríguez MB, Ruttkay M, Trinks A, Hofreiter M, Ludwig A. The origin of ambling horses. *Curr Biol*. 2016 Aug 8;26(15):R697-R699. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2016.07.001. PMID: 27505236.

# From the Archives

## St. Louis National Charity Horse

**Each issue in 2024 will feature an article from an old *The Sound Advocate*. The following originally appeared in the September 23, 2017, *The Sound Advocate*.**

By Gina Vehige

Earlier this year, GaitWay Horse Association (GWhA, Inc.) of Missouri was approached by a board member of the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show (SLNCHS) about putting on a "walking horse show" at their prestigious annual event.

member approaching this organization many years ago, right after I got involved with walking horses and being given a polite but firm "no" as to involving the sound gaited horse. As I've come to learn, the SLNCHS still had a bad taste in its mouth from the "big lick" walking horses of years past and remembered the USEF's decision not to recognize walking horse shows because of the abuse. Fortunately, through the involvement of several sound horse supporters with the Missouri Horse Shows Association (MHSA),

I  
re-



# Equine Show Presents: Time to Ride®

more and more people are recognizing that not all walking horse owners sore their horses or support the “big lick” and that there is such a thing as a “sound horse” show.

Although deeply flattered, the board of GWHA did not feel that we could put on a quality smooth gaited horse show in the few months we had to prepare. At about the same time, Teresa Bippen, president of FOSH, shared information from the American Horse Council (AHC) about their “Time to Ride®” (TTR) events being held throughout the country.

The TTR events are designed to introduce people to horses, in hopes of promoting the equine industry. The American Horse Council Marketing Alliance has many supporting organizations and businesses, including FOSH, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Quarter Horse Association, Merck, Zoetis, Purina, and others. Boarding facilities, lesson providers, breed associations, as well as equine related industries, all benefit from introducing more people to equestrian sports.

Like all equine events, the SLNCHS has experienced up’s and down’s in participation, and also has struggled to figure out how to involve more people in their events as par-

ticipants, spectators, and sponsors. When I approached the SLNCHS board about doing a TTR event in lieu of another horse show as part of their larger event this year, most board members were very excited. A few were skeptical. How could we pull this off? What was the liability? Who would volunteer to help, as they need all the volunteers they can get to pull off their three weeks of shows for hunter jumpers and saddle horses? Have you ever done this before?

Well, to the latter, we could say “yes” as we have done several lead line sessions after our breed demos at the University of Missouri Veterinary Open House events usually held every spring. Volunteers? Well, I’d conscript every family member who owed me a favor (and there were more than a few of those...). GWHA members? Well, most are on the opposite end of the state, but what a great group of folks – they came en masse. Liability? Well, we’d have each parent or guardian sign a release, and put only one child WITH helmet (required) on a moving horse at a time – with the parent/guardian at their side if they were younger.

Apparently we satisfied most of the questions, and told the skeptics we’d just see how this went the first year and decide if it was a bang or a bust.

With about four months to spare, I set about planning an event that would be primarily lead lining, with a horse breed demo or two thrown in, and a "petting area" to keep the kids busy while they waited their turn. We'd add a "photo pony" so parents could get the all-valuable pictures. Please note – kids had helmets on whenever they were on a moving horse, but in the photo area when parents/guardians and rodeo queens were standing by, we relaxed that rule if the parents wanted. Then I started thinking big. What if a thousand kids showed up? Worse, what if no one turned off their electronic devices long enough to show up? I don't think I slept a whole night for most of the summer.

Getting out my calculator, I decided we'd do a morning and afternoon lead line session, started and separated by a horse breed demo, which would give us approximately five hours of ride time. If each child took thirty seconds to get up, thirty seconds to get down, and four minutes to ride (two laps around half the arena) – we could do ten to twelve rides per hour per horse, and we'd need about twenty horses in case up to a thousand kids showed up.

Now, doesn't that sound like someone who has never had children? You are right! It all turned out great, but we learned a lot. Those kids wanted to have more time to interact with the horse before they got on, and that made for some really heart-warming interactions. They were fine

with riding, even for a short time, but they also wanted to say "good bye" to "their" horse. Oh, and they scoped out another one for their next ride. Of course, that also took more than thirty seconds.

We used line tickets (the event was free) just to control volume, but eventually we just let twenty kids into the arena at a time as the last twenty exited, and it worked out fine. We let kids ride twice only if they got another ticket. We ended up with over 177 kids riding (and we slipped in a few adult guardians who asked nicely), and we gave over 366 rides. We were busy walking kids right up until closing time. We had a few kids who needed to "try" a few times before they finally got on a horse, but eventually, everyone rode and everyone was smiling. We had special needs and autism spectrum children riding. They may have started out withdrawn, but all ending up with ear to ear grins.

Only one child slipped off while a horse, who was behaving beautifully, just stopped to shake. The little girl cried only briefly while "Cody" the horse nuzzled her, and she got right back on – and rode three more times. She was uninjured and her mother was unfazed.

As children exited the riding area, every one of them got a special "St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Presents: Time to Ride<sup>®</sup>" blue ribbon. Parents were thrilled. Many were asking about lessons and other



riding opportunities, and we had a vendor area where barns, pony clubs, and breed associations were represented.

The petting area and “photo pony” (what a patient equine soul!) areas were very popular as well. The rodeo queens who showed up to help in the photo area were also a big hit. Who can resist a crown?

You can't do something like this without an army of volunteers. Because so many folks locally were tied up with the big St. Louis National Charity Horse show in the timeframe, I was saved by a trainer in Columbia, Missouri (Kris Wallace) who brought eighteen horses and all of her students and parents, as well as over twenty helmets in various child sizes. Combined with the GWAH folks and other local conscripts (uh, volunteers), we had over 102 people helping at the event.



Because it was a long day of walking horses, I asked each person who brought a horse to lead line to bring at least two or three handlers so they could switch off. We had ten different breeds represented in our demonstrations, including our local spotted saddle horse, Moose (shown by Darryl Vehige), and a Tennessee Walking Horse, Mac's Little Rascal (shown by Cheyenne Dunham). Both were very popular mounts with the kids as well. Other breeds included were Gypsy Cobs, American Saddlebreds, Quarter Horses, Pony of the Americas, Mustangs, Mini-Horses, and Morgans. Some did rail work while others, including the Mini, demonstrated over fences.

Our petting area contained mostly equines, with a mother and baby fainting goat thrown in for good measure. The St. Charles City Mounted patrol brought their three horses; a Tennessee Walking Horse/Clydesdale cross, a Shire, and a quarter horse. Elizabeth Jones brought her Walking Horse, Miracle, for a hoof care demo, and my cousin brought his granddaughter's mini-horse, Sweet Pea, for lots of love and petting. Add in the two mini-donkeys and we had quite a display to keep the kids busy while they waited their turn for the rides.

Because we had such a good amount of lead line horses, though, no child waited more than ten minutes to ride, which I'm sure was a relief to the parents. We also had free crayons (courtesy of GWAH) and color-

ing pages (courtesy of FOSH and the American Saddlebred Association) for kids to use onsite or to take home with them.

So, did we get a thousand children to ride? No, thank heavens, but we did introduce a LOT of kids to horses and ponies. What would our REALISTIC capacity be for next year? Probably more like five hundred rides, but that is still impressive. Everyone who came to help was excited and willing to "do it again next year," so perhaps we will.

Because we didn't charge admission for the kids, we did take donations from parents who wanted to give, and vendors who came out to meet a willing crowd of newly minted horse enthusiasts. We raised about three thousand dollars for the SLNCHS, whose donations this year will go to Therapeutic Horsemanship of St. Louis and Stray Rescue. I'm told we also won over the skeptics on the SLNCHS board as many of them came to see firsthand what this crazy "sound horse lady" was trying to do.

Special thanks to GWAH and FOSH supporters who helped out, including Teresa Bippen, Lucy Rangel, Chris Beasley, Mony Rowlings, Vicci Eaton, Anita Dunham, Cheyenne Dunham, Patti Potts, and Darryl Vehige. Thanks as well to the remainder of the over one hundred volunteers who just "showed up" to plant the seeds to grow another generation of horse lovers.

# Summer Celebration

Come celebrate the wonders of the gaited horse world in  
a fun and safe show venue!

**May 18th, 2024**

**Lone Hickory Arena  
Yadkinville, NC**

Classes offered for Paso Finos, Rocky Mountain Horses,  
and open gaited classes for any breed.

Rescue and unregistered horses welcome!  
No association membership required.

See full class list and prize list at  
[www.heritagefarmandstables.com](http://www.heritagefarmandstables.com)

Show Manager:

Milda Minter

336-225-0214

[pasofinotrainer@gmail.com](mailto:pasofinotrainer@gmail.com)



# Spring Grass Will Soon Be Here It's Time To Start

Spring is just around the corner and with it hopefully comes the luscious bright green grass that our Equus love to graze in their pastures. Now is the perfect time to get ahead of the game in regard to equine metabolic issues. We all know that when it comes to medical concerns, preventative care is better than remedial treatments.

Enjoy this straightforward 'to do' list and spring into action now. In this way you can protect your beloved equine partner from suffering the consequences of equine metabolic disturbances, and also decrease the risk of experiencing a metabolic flare up in horses that are prone to metabolic disease.

## **The Horse Hay Belly and Winter Overfeeding**

It's human nature to want to feed animals more food than usual during blasts of cold weather in an effort to help sustain them. As the digestive process in a horse produces helpful heat energy benefits when they ingest forage such as hay, this caregiving extra ration can result in winter overfeeding. Usually this reveals itself as a horse 'hay belly',

where the winter blanket unveiling may make your gelding appear like a pregnant mare late in her gestation period. Replacing the blanket to cover it up obviously does not solve the overweight horse issue.

Exercise options for riding, longing and driving our horses and the availability of suitable spaces for them to exercise themselves are often limited during winter months. Horses may not have the opportunity to move properly due to snow or ice cover, mud mayhem or smaller overwintering paddocks close to the barn. Enforced periods of equine inactivity cannot be helped in many cases, but as Spring approaches enacting a strict exercise protocol that increases daily energy output in the Equus can be a boon to the animal losing unwanted weight.

Hand-walking or free longe work or work in hand on the line is easy to accomplish in a confined space. When you consider that in days gone by dressage trainers have successfully 'dressed' their dressage horses from start to finished Grand Prix horses using just a 20-meter circle, it's hard to argue the case for not

# Here Spring Into Action

Text and photo by [Nikki Alvin-Smith](#)

having enough room to work your horse. Even an animal that is no longer rideable, can benefit from regular walks. Not to mention the horse handler here, who likely will also benefit from the physical activity.

## **Add Bloodwork To The Spring Shot Schedule**

An up-to-date metabolic panel of bloodwork is a great way to ensure you are starting off the season on

the right hoof. A winter hiatus from work under saddle, a change in forage and feed provided at a livery barn, a swap in hay supplier etc. can all result in unexpected changes in the equine's metabolic health.

It's likely your vet is scheduled to visit the barn and administer Spring vaccines, complete Coggins forms and perform dental checks. While adding a metabolic work-up to the



list will cost you now, it can save you much heartache and expense later.

For horses already on the radar for risk of metabolic disturbance issues, and for those that have already exhibited the assorted diseases (Equine Metabolic Syndrome, Insulin Dysregulation or Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction, Laminitis, Founder), an updated blood panel and veterinary examination is essential.

### **Foot The Bill**

An imperative aspect of horse care as we know is hoof care. Have your farrier examine and trim/shoe your horse as appropriate to help defray any chance of hoof vulnerability to damage from long toes and heels, that may predispose the horse to foot soreness and bruising.

Foot the bill now to start your horse off on the best possible track as you begin increasing his exercise level. Optimize Your Horse's Gut Health Review your regimen for equine feeding and forage needs. Grass in pastures can be tested for nutritional content the same way that hay supplies can be tested. Mail-in options are available where you can send in samples throughout the grass growing season if necessary. Review results with your vet to compose a balanced diet that services each individual horse's needs.

Make sure you are not guilty of over-feeding grain or feed supplements. Remember that over-supplementation of horse feed supplements is

commonplace. Are you guilty of not just wasting your money, but causing your horse a metabolic health concern or gut microbiome imbalance that is putting him at risk for other health issues including metabolic disturbances?

The better your knowledge of what your horse is eating, the better chance you have of minimizing the likelihood that you inadvertently cause a health disturbance in your horse.

The reins are in your hands. If you haven't done so already it's time to take hold.

*About Grand Meadows: Founded in 1989 by visionary Angela Slater, Grand Meadows is a leading horse health product and equine supplement manufacturer driven by the guiding principle of providing affordable, extremely high-quality science-backed horse products to help ensure horses look and feel their best.*

*Grand Meadow products are widely used and trusted across the entire horse community from Olympic medal winning competitors and successful horse racing trainers to backyard horse owners. Their equine supplements are highly regarded for their excellent quality resourced ingredients and completely accurate labeling and effective formulations. Learn more at <https://www.grandmeadows.com/>.*

# Spring Forward Horse Health With Vaccinations

*By Tony Hawkins, DVM, Valley Vet Supply Consulting Veterinarian*

“Healthy as a horse” starts with spring vaccinations. As horses are exposed daily to the environment, wildlife and mosquitoes that transmit the five core equine diseases, it’s important to follow the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) core equine disease vaccination protocol. Make sure horses are vaccinated yearly against Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, rabies, and tetanus.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) defines core vaccinations as those “that protect from diseases that are endemic to a region, those with potential public health significance, required by law, virulent/highly infectious, and/or those posing a risk of severe disease.” Vaccinations are the foundation of your horse’s preventive health program, accompanied by deworming of course, which as a general best practice adult horses should be dewormed twice yearly – during spring and fall. Vaccinating horses during the spring helps to safeguard them ahead of peak activity from carriers of such diseases, like mosquito-transmitted diseases threatening horses with mortality rates up to 90%.

The three big equine diseases transmitted by mosquitoes are West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, and Western equine encephalomyelitis. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis isn’t typically a problem in the United States, but there have been years with outbreaks in specific areas. These diseases can attack and inflame a horse’s nervous system.

It is important for your horse to be protected, so let’s look at the basics of vaccinating horses.

**Vaccine selection** – Every horse should receive the five core vaccinations, Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, rabies, and tetanus, a minimum of once per year. Additionally, horses with compromised immune systems (systemic diseases such as Cushing’s) or those in high-risk areas (long mosquito vector seasons) might benefit from twice-yearly vaccination.

In addition to the core vaccines, there are risk-based vaccinations available. There are several available, but the most common risk-based vaccinations protect against rhino, influenza, strangles, and Potomac horse fever. It might seem obvious, but determining whether

your horse should receive these vaccines depends entirely on their risk of exposure. For example, Potomac horse fever occurs most commonly in certain geographic areas, so if your horse resides in a historically endemic location, then they should be vaccinated. Similarly, rhino, influ-



Photo credit: iStock

enza and strangles are all respiratory illnesses that are spread by exposure to other horses or fomites contaminated by other horses. If your horse never leaves your farm and isn't exposed to horses outside of your farm, then they may not need protection against these diseases. If you regularly travel, send your horse to a trainer, go on trail rides or board your horse, then your horse would benefit from vaccination. If you have any questions in deciding whether your horse would benefit from any risk-based vaccines, your veterinarian would be a great resource.

**Storage** – It's important to read and follow the vaccine's label for proper storage and handling for the vaccines you select for your horse. In general, however, vaccines should be stored at a temperature of 35 to 45 degrees F and never frozen.

AAEP's "Vaccination Guidelines" and "Vaccine Storage and Handling"

serve as an excellent resource for horse owners. In the Guidelines, they offer great tips well worth mentioning here, including:

- Monitor vaccine fridge temperature
- Keep vaccines in the middle of the refrigerator for temperature consistency, not in the door or far back
- Organize vaccines according to expiration date.

**Where to stand** – When we are administering injections, I always recommend that the horse be held by a handler and not tied up. You want your handler standing on the same side as you, so if the horse jumps off to the side, both you and the handler are safe.

**Needle size** – When we're talking about needle selection for intramuscular injections – depending on the thickness of the medication or vaccine that we're administering – we typically use an 18-to-20-gauge, 1.5-inch needle.



**Injection site** – For injections, my preferred site is going to be the neck, and we want to stay within that injection triangle which is in front of the shoulder blade, above the vertebra column and below the nuchal ligament. If the injection site is dirty, we want to make sure to brush and clean that off before we administer the injection. We don't need to use alcohol or disinfectant over the injection site before we administer the vaccine. (Photo at right.)

Some horses don't like to get poked, so sometimes I'll recommend that you remove the needle from the syringe before you administer it and using your hands, kind of desensitize the area within the injection triangle with some vigorous rubbing, scratching and tapping. You'll want to have the needle in your hands when you're doing that so with one swift motion, you can poke the horse as a practice run. After you have desensitized the area following the steps above, you can attach your syringe to it and administer the injection in the same area. Another trick is that if you don't want to remove the needle, to desensitize the area you can pinch some skin to help distract the horse and administer the injection.

**Safety** – Vaccines go through rigorous testing for safety before being brought to the market and they serve as an important precaution against disease risks. After receiving a vaccine intramuscularly, it is possible for some horses to demonstrate lethargy, fever, swelling and soreness



Photo credit: IStock

in reaction to the vaccine (much like people). The reactions that horses develop to a vaccine are due to the horse's immune system responding to the vaccine. They are generally mild, self-limiting and often don't require treatment. Forcing exercise for 20 to 30 minutes twice daily for three days after vaccination will help to minimize muscle soreness. If your horse has a severe reaction, such as severe lethargy, hives or abscess formation, you should contact your veterinarian immediately. Horse owners can submit vaccine reactions to vaccine manufacturers, too.

Keep these thoughts in mind as you shield your horse from disease risks. Visit [ValleyVet.com](http://ValleyVet.com) to continue learning about horse health.

*Valley Vet Supply is the dedicated source for customers' horse, live-stock and pet needs. [ValleyVet.com](http://ValleyVet.com).*



# Soring DATA SHEET



*“That just looks wrong.”*

— 10-YEAR-OLD BOY WHILE WATCHING VIDEO OF A “BIG LICK” HORSE SHOWN IN STACKS AND CHAINS, JUNE 10, 2011.

## WHY IS THIS ABUSE DONE?

Soring is practiced to get gaited horses to artificially enhance their step to win in shows. A winning image is rewarded with ribbons, cash, recognition, future breedings and training fees.

## ENFORCEMENT TO END SORING

There is a federal law called the Horse Protection Act, which prohibits soring at shows and sales, enforced by the USDA. However, most inspections are self-regulated by HIOs (horse industry organizations licensed by the USDA.)



*“The topical samples from Tennessee Walking Horses had the highest incidences of positives (of illegal substances from gas chromatography samplings) that I’ve ever seen in my life.”*

— DR. TOMAS TOBIN, LEADING VETERINARIAN IN DRUG CONTROL AND TOXICOLOGY IN COMPETITION HORSES, NOVEMBER 5, 2010  
www.thomastobin.com

## WHAT IS SORING?

- Soring is deliberately inducing pain to exaggerate a gaited horse’s movement for the show ring. A variety of devious and cruel methods have been devised over the years.
- Soring violations also include many methods used to avoid detection. Soring is against Federal law and is subject to fines and penalties if detected at a public show or sale.

- Soring includes the abuse of chains, foreign substances and chemicals, illegal shoeing to change the natural hoof angles, length of toe, weighted shoes, pressure shoeing, as well as the insertion of blocks and other devices between the hoof and the shoe stack to place pressure on the frog and sole of the foot to create pain in the front end of the horse. These methods all cause the horse to attempt to avoid the pain by picking up his front feet faster and higher, and shifting his weight back onto his hocks. Slang for an obviously sore-going horse is “going too deep.”

*Soring violations ... bilateral sore ... unilateral sore ... scar rule ... foreign substance ... illegal shoeing ... falsifying records ... pressure shoeing ...*



## Pressure Soring

Pressure soring causes pain in a horse's front feet, so when each front hoof hits the ground, the horse will "snatch" the foot off the ground, resulting in an unnatural, high, dramatic step.

### HOW IT'S DONE

- Grinding the hoof sole down so thin "beads of blood show" and the sole gets spongy and super-sensitive.
- Taking the hoof wall down slightly shorter than the sole, so it provides no supporting protection, called "rolling the sole."
- Inserting hard objects between the shoe or pad and the tender sole, such as bolts (removable for inspections), half a golf ball, hardened epoxy, or a dried piece of hoof.
- "Blocking," which is standing the horse for hours on wedges duct-taped to the hoof.
- Purposely foundering a young horse (called "the natural fix" and "nature's way of soring").
- "Road foundering" the horse by riding fast on a hard surface such as a paved road.
- Extreme tightening of metal hoof bands to cause pain from excessive pressure on the hoof.

### HOW TO DETECT

#### Observations:

- Horse lies down in stall and groans in pain.
- Horse is crampy and unwilling to move.
- Horse warms up into motion with a "praying mantis stance," with abnormal weight thrown on his hind quarters to avoid front end pain.
- Horse stands in classic "standing in a bucket" pose to alleviate pain in front legs (photo above).
- Response to hoof testers (ideal if shoes are pulled first).
- Digital radiography (x-ray will show extreme thinness of sole, any foreign objects, or excessive coffin bone rotation).
- Thermography to detect hot spots from pain.



Horse in pain at a May, 2010 horse show.

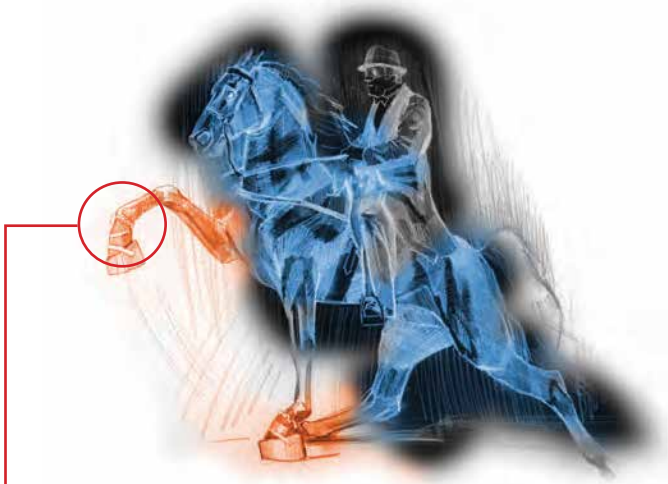
### Methods Used to Avoid Detection at Inspection

- **numbing agents** that wear off between inspection and show time (such as injected anesthetic, "the shot," or surface application of Lidocaine).
- **"stewarding":** teaching the horse at practice inspections that flinching or reacting will cause worse pain, such as a beating or using a "hot stick" or electric prod.
- **distraction devices:** a nerve gum cord, bit burr under the saddle, hand twitch, alligator clips on sensitive genital tissue, or surgical staples under the mane, applied just before an inspection to cause distracting pain elsewhere during the inspection.
- **horse switching:** providing a substitute horse for inspection under false paperwork, and then switching and putting the sores horse into the show ring.

*fixing ... pressure soring ... "putting the fever in the foot" ...  
 pressure shoeing ... "pinching the toes" ... bolting ... blocking ... "under pressure" ...  
 "in a bind" ... quicked ... hot nailed ... "tightened up" (for bands) ... cranking ...  
 "fixing below the pastern" ... going too deep ... concussion foundering ...  
 "peak point" describes the maximum pain point in the weekly soring process ...*

*“Without the chains, there would be no need for a scar rule.”*

– HUMANE ACTIVIST, MAY, 2011.



Artwork by Victoria von Kap-herr [www.vonkapherr.com](http://www.vonkapherr.com)

## Chemical Soring

Chemical soring is the application of painful, caustic liquids to tenderize the horse's pastern area (ankle), so the repeated strike of a chain is painful and causes the horse to snatch his foot higher with each step. The chain, a crucial part of this show horse style, is termed an “action device,” and the exaggerated gaits cannot be created without this chain.

### HOW IT'S DONE

Chemicals are applied to the horse's lower legs, then the leg is wrapped in plastic for days. This causes the chemicals to “cook” into the flesh. This creates highly sensitized front pasterns that are painful when the chain strikes with every step. Examples of soring chemicals used:

- kerosene
- GoJo hand cleaner
- diesel
- WD40 oil
- croton oil
- mustard oil

With the increased scrutiny of soring-related scars, another cruel practice is used to remove the telltale scarring. The horse's legs are covered in a chemical stripping agent, which burns off old scar tissue through a very painful process.

### HOW TO DETECT

- Palpation
- Gas chromatography or “sniffer”
- Thermography
- Blood or saliva tests
- Drug-detection trained dog
- Visual inspections for:
  - scarring and inflammation, signs of soring insults.
  - wavy, rippled, curly hair on the front legs, an indicator of repeated chemical soring with leg wraps.
  - cording, a type of scarring caused by the plastic wrap sliding down and tightly bunching around the pasterns.
  - checking for application of foreign substances, by walking the barns and trailers at a show.



USDA scar rule violation photos, 2009



*Fixing ... Touching ... “putting them in a bucket” ... Soap ‘em ...  
Fly spray (a term owners use so they can avoid admitting knowing that an illegal  
substance has been used on their horse) ... getting them right ... brushing them ...  
square ‘em up ... head shake in a bottle ... dropping them ...  
Mojo (commonly used by people referring to GoJo hand cleaner) ...*



2-year-old in training with cruel mechanisms



Spotted Saddle horse hoof sheared off by band at show



The "big lick" package



2-year-old in training at renown stable

## What Can Be Done to End Soring?

### WHAT WOULD HAVE THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON ELIMINATING SORING?

- ✓ More money allocated to the USDA's enforcement. At present, USDA's inspectors attend only 7% of the shows, due to budget constraints. Relying on "self-policing" with industry inspectors has not been effective over the past decades.
- ✓ Severe penalties for those guilty of soring. Substantial fines and mandatory, serious suspension periods for trainers and owners, including lifetime bans and prison time, would deter soring.
- ✓ Federal ban on "pads and action devices," commonly termed "stacks and chains."

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP END SORING?

#### Learn More

- [www.StopSoring.com](http://www.StopSoring.com) for latest news and facts on soring
- [www.SoundHorseConference.com](http://www.SoundHorseConference.com) for presentation lectures on soring
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Horse Protection [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/hp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/hp)
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) [http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/tenn\\_walking\\_horses](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/tenn_walking_horses)

#### Get Involved

- Run for a Board of Directors' position with the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) and effect change from within.
- Propose changes to the TWHBEA bylaws that preclude anyone from holding leadership

positions who has had soring violations within recent years.

- Join FOSH or the HSUS.
- Volunteer for FOSH projects to end soring.

#### Voice Your Concerns

- Tell your Congressmen that you demand full enforcement of the law and adequate HPA funding.
- Inform traditional show venues and their sponsors that you will not support them because these shows encourage soring.
- Demand that the USDA and the industry inspectors enforce the law effectively.

#### Report Soring to the USDA, HSUS, and FOSH:

- Document soring incidences observed at barns or shows with photos or video and submit personally or anonymously.
- Report barns and trainers engaging in soring practices.
- Report scheduled "outlaw shows" organized without licensed HIO inspections.

#### Friends of Sound Horses, Inc. (FOSH)

Lori Northrup, President  
6614 Clayton Road #105, St. Louis, MO 63117  
716-474-7580 • [Lori@Northrup.com](mailto:Lori@Northrup.com)

#### The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

Keith Dane, Director of Equine Protection  
700 Professional Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
301-258-3076 • [kdane@hsus.org](mailto:kdane@hsus.org)

#### United States Department of Agriculture, APHIS (USDA)

Dr. Rachel Cezar, Horse Protection Coordinator  
Dr. Chester Gipson, Deputy Administrator  
4700 River Road, Suite 6D03, Riverdale, MD 20737  
301-734-5784 • [Rachel.Cezar@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Rachel.Cezar@aphis.usda.gov)

*"Call it what it is. This is torture."*

— INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWN CLINICIAN, FEBRUARY, 2011

*... stinging ... rolling the toe ... bubble gum (use of commercial sole support product to cause sole pressure) ... putting a button in ... screwing it down ... jack bolts ... pressure plates ... screws ... bolts ... cranking ... heel spring helper (heel spring with a foreign object used to cause pressure at the apex of the frog)*



## Friends of Sound Horses, Inc. Scholarship Request Form

*Please print or type information below*

Student Applying: \_\_\_\_\_ (name) Age: \_\_\_\_ (yrs)

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (postal code) \_\_\_\_\_ (state or province)

\_\_\_\_\_ (country)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last FOSH show participation\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copy of acceptance letter and note date on letter here: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (postal code) \_\_\_\_\_ (state or province)

\_\_\_\_\_ (country)

*Note: Checks will be made out to [Institution Name] for the benefit of [Student Name] and will be sent to the attention of the Financial Aid department. If you are chosen to receive a scholarship, you will be notified within 90 days of applying.*

Please EMAIL this completed form to: [president@fosh.info](mailto:president@fosh.info) (faster) or mail to:

FOSH                      6614 Clayton Rd., #105                      St. Louis, MO 63117

For FOSH use only... Amount provided: \_\_\_\_\_ Date sent: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Guidelines are on the following page (and do not need to be submitted with this form).**

# FOSH Scholarship Guidelines

1. Students must submit an essay (minimum 500 words) with the application. The essay should describe how they have supported the FOSH vision/mission statement and how they have personally supported horses emotionally, mentally, and physically. Essays MAY be published in the Sound Advocate and remain the property of The Friends of Sound Horses.
2. Students with a declared major in an Agriculture, Equine, Veterinary (or pre-veterinary) Medicine, or Journalism related field will be granted preference over students with majors in other programs.
3. Student must be between the ages of 16 and 24 to apply.
4. Only one scholarship per student will be awarded.
5. Scholarship requests must be made at least 90 days prior to the start of the academic semester for which the request is being made. This can be prior to any semester in the program.
6. Scholarships are for Baccalaureate programs only.
7. Schools must be accredited by or members of one of the following:
  - a. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
  - b. New England Association of Schools and Colleges
  - c. New York State Board of Regents
  - d. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
  - e. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
  - f. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
  - g. Western Association of Schools and Colleges
  - h. Membership in Universities Canada
8. Scholarship money available and the number of scholarships available each year may vary at the discretion of the board.
9. Scholarship awards are payable in U.S. Dollars by check to the school for the benefit of [student name] and not directly to the student / parent / guardian.
10. All decisions of the FOSH Board are final and cannot be appealed.

***\*Participation may be as a rider, worker, or volunteer and is not a scholarship requirement***

# FOSH Sound Principles



## **Principle #1**

All FOSH events adhere to the requirements of the Horse Protection Act.

## **Principle #2**

Horses are to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

## **Principle #3**

Horses must be presented as sound in both body and mind.

## **Principle #4**

The preferred way of going is natural, correct, and without exaggeration.

## **Principle #5**

Shoeing is intended only for the protection of the foot and its structure. Where practical, barefoot horses are both welcomed and encouraged.

## **Principle #6**

Handlers and riders are expected to use training techniques and equipment that conform to the highest humane standards as recognized by the general equestrian community.

## **Principle #7**

Exhibitors have a duty to conduct themselves in an orderly, responsible, and sportsmanlike manner.

FOSH is a national leader in the promotion of natural, sound gaited horses and in the fight against abuse and soring of Tennessee Walking Horses. For more information about FOSH or to become a member, please visit [www.fosh.info](http://www.fosh.info).



## FOSH Directory

### Gaited Clubs

#### **Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club**

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. [www.gaitedhorseclub.com](http://www.gaitedhorseclub.com)

#### **Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club**

The Chesapeake Club is celebrating over 25 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](http://Cpwhclub.wordpress.com) or [jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)

### Breeders

#### **Summerwind Marchadors and Future Foal Breeders**

Plan for your next lifetime partner! Come breed with us! Offering frozen semen (12 stallions in 2020) 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! <http://futurefoal.net> or call Lynn @ 602-999-3915

#### **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](mailto:gaitedmorgans@missourimorgans.com)



*Shane to Rescue*

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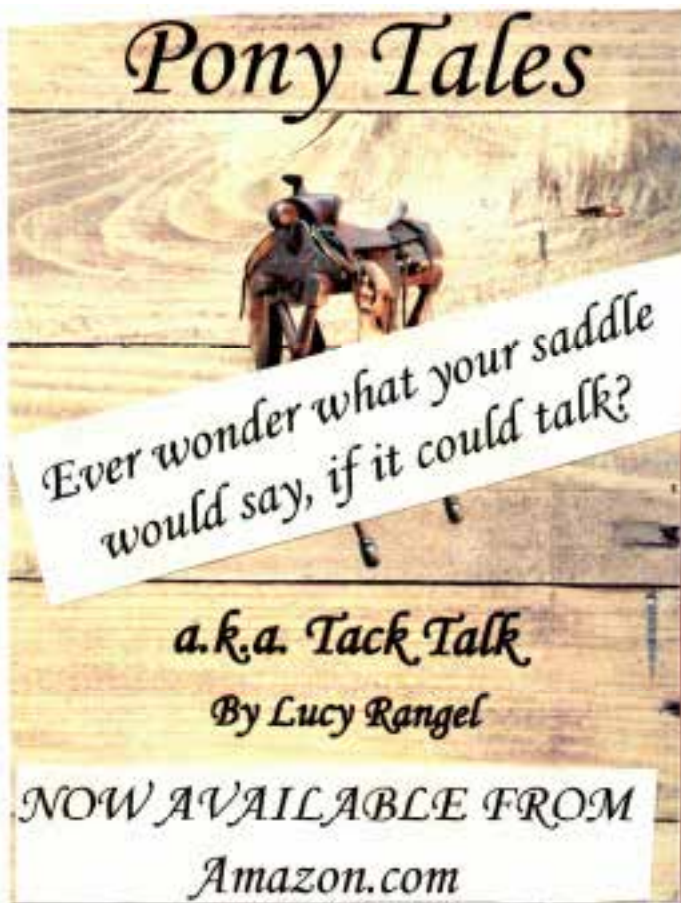
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**VOLUNTEER TIME OR DONATE**

*Adopt to Ride*

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## OUR FOREVER FRIENDS

### FOSH Lifetime Members

Jo Anne Behling, Wauwatosa, WI  
 Esther L. Bell, TN  
 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  
 Marjorie Lacy & Walking Horse News, Edson, Alberta  
 Sue De Laurentis, Dripping Springs, TX  
 Bobbie Jo Lieberman  
 Dianne Little, Calgary, Alberta  
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 Lori Northrup, Ellicottville, NY  
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 Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, MT  
 Denise Parsons  
 Anita Rau, Catlett, VA  
 Debbie Rash, Chino, CA  
 Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club, ID  
 Bucky & Nancy Sparks, Cortez, CO  
 Marcy Wadington, Canon City, CO  
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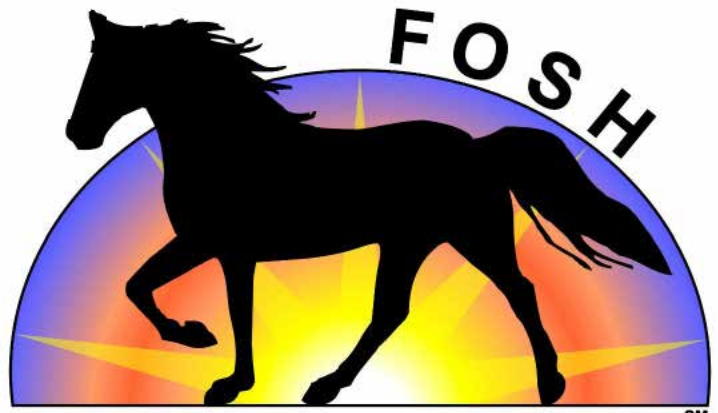
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*Heritage  
Walking Horse*  
ASSOCIATION

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Please consider adding FOSH to your list of worthy causes in making a tax-free charitable deduction or help us to promote legislation, education, and training that protects and helps gaited horses, simply by renewing your own membership or giving a gift membership to a kindred spirit.



Friends of Sound Horses, Inc. <sup>SM</sup>

We know you have many choices when it comes to giving. Thank you for considering FOSH.

## 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 Lifetime \_\_\_ \$600

Organization Membership (for your gaited horse club or association) \_\_\_ \$50

Please print neatly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about FOSH? \_\_\_\_\_