

The Sound Advocate



**A Champion
for All Gaited
Horses**

Volume 7, Issue 3, 2024

Sound Advocate

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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 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.

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On the cover: Melisa Ribley aboard John Henry on the trail with husband Robert riding Chipofft-heoleblock at the 2024 Tevis Cup. Photo credit: Merri Melde

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From the President...



Dear FOSH Friends,

Well, the calendar says Autumn; however, the temps in my neck of the woods do not reflect the date. Despite the toasty weather, for many of us, it's great to see fly counts drop off, isn't it? Are you excited about some of our peak riding weather being around the corner? I know I am while being mindful that for some Autumn can bring strong hurricane storms.

At this time of year, I reflect on the our FOSH members who want to see the end of the big lick. I was encouraged this year by the USDA's crack down on the shows where soring continues. The final championship class at The Celebration last month only had four horses showing as six were disqualified. That would not have happened twenty years ago.

With the new regulations going into effect next year, this year's show may be the last time that horses are shown with chains and pads. I use the term "may" as the big lick faction and their lobbyists

filed a lawsuit to prevent the implementation of the regulations and attempted to gut funding for the new rules.

Speaking of twenty years ago, at that time I had been on the FOSH Board for only a few years; however, one person who I enjoyed getting to know on our Board was Maggie McAllister. She was a courageous sound horse crusader for years before I even owned a horse. Board members and others spoke highly of her annual sound show held in Virginia with some exhibitors traveling halfway across the country (I'm looking at those in Texas!) to support her efforts for showing sound horses. Maggie recently passed away; and you can read all about her in this issue.

Distance riding is an endeavor to which I've always aspired. Alas, it will always be a dream for me; however, that doesn't stop me from devouring news and information on gaited horses and their owners who enjoy this sport and compete against the leading endurance breed-the Arabian. Kudos to our editor, Stephanie, who always covers the Tevis and the gaited horses who participate as well as their history. You will enjoy catching up on the news about the much-loved John Henry.

I hope your days are cooler, the rains at night, and the mud not too deep on your rides and travels!

Happy Trails and Remember to Wear Your Helmet!

Teresa

Teresa Bippen, FOSH President
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From the Editor...



Hello FOSH Friends.

Our cover story for the Fall issue is of the great Tennessee Walking Horse John Henry. This amazing endurance horse was going for his sixth Tevis Cup completion in 2024 at age 24. This year's Tevis was incredibly brutal with the heartbreaking loss of two horses. John Henry had a difficult time on course as well, but there's so much more to the story than just how a horse finishes, so go read it starting on page 8.

We also include in this issue a few photos of FOSH Facebook friends

showing their gaited horses. We would love to see your (non-professional) photos as well so please feel free to send them to me at stephaniejruff@gmail.com. Please include the horse's name, rider's name, show, location and year.

There are two stories about infectious diseases and rabies. I'm going to hop on my soapbox for a minute. In the last few months we've seen a rise in diagnosed cases of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne viruses throughout the U.S. and Canada. Often these are seen in unvaccinated horses. The outcome of these stories is not always positive. Plenty of people lose their horses to these diseases, and they wouldn't have to if they would have vaccinated their horses. So please, talk to your veterinarian about at least vaccinating for core diseases and help your horses.

Of course, the last few months have been the depth of summer when mosquitos are at their peak. Now in September, cooler temperatures (and even some snow!) are killing off the mosquito population (except for here in Florida where it is still very much summer.) But just because it's cooler doesn't mean you can forget about Fall vaccines. Give them some though. Okay, I'm off my soapbox now. Thanks for listening.

Stephanie

Stephanie J. Ruff
Editor, editor@fosh.info

In Memoriam



Margaret (Maggie) MacAllister (née Walker) passed peacefully the morning of August 8, 2024 at Baldwin Park. She was 84.

MacAllister was an active board member of FOSH for many years. Teresa Bippen, FOSH president, said, "She had an incredible history of hosting sound (gaited horse) shows before FOSH was in existence."

She is predeceased by her husband of fifty-four years, Rocco (Mac) MacAllister, and survived by her daughter Jacqueline and her son Tom (Dipali), as well as her granddaughters Sarah and Rebecca and great-grandchildren Elijah, Gabriel, Elayna and Teddy.

A career teacher, she taught as a reading specialist at Buffalo Gap and Beverley Manor. She and Mac moved to Staunton from

Northern Virginia to pursue their dream of having a farm and raising Tennessee Walking Horses. They were active advocates for the humane treatment of horses and deeply involved in the horse community. She was a long-time member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church where she sang in the choir.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Mary Washington College and a Master's degree from George Mason University. She and Mac met on a blind date while she was at Mary Washington, and he was at West Point. Until Mac's passing, except for his tour in Vietnam during the war, they were rarely apart.

Burial will be at a private service at a later date in the columbarium at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 300 West Frederick St. Staunton, VA 24401 at a service presided over by Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church at <https://onrealm.org/EmmanuelEpiscop59419/-/form/give/ChurchSupport>.

John Henry Chases Horse Record in 2024 Tevis Cup

Story and photos by Merri Melde

Team John Henry arrived at the 2024 Tevis Cup loaded for bear. The Tennessee Walker was in top condition, tended by a crack crew, owned by a veterinarian, ridden by a veterinarian and 17-timer Tevis finisher, and cheered on by a massive fan club.

Now 24 years old, John Henry would be attempting his sixth Tevis Cup finish on July 20, 2024, which would set a record for gaited horses in this iconic 100-mile endurance ride across California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

2020 and 2021 in Review

Since we last visited John Henry in 2020, he and owner Susan Garlinghouse had compiled 3300 endurance miles and three straight Tevis Cups together (he finished an earlier Tevis with Bruce Weary, and the latest one with rider Lisa Schneider). A severe pasture fetlock injury (cause unknown) in September 2020 took six months of healing and rehabilitation.

Susan carefully returned John to the trails in 2021, and the gelding, now 21, looked and felt extraordinary enough by July to enter Tevis again. His scheduled rider was injured, and with only a few days of mental prep time, Jenny Gomez was handed the reins, though she'd never been aboard him for an endurance ride.

The team gave it their all and crossed the finish line in Auburn... 24 agonizing minutes over the 24-hour time limit, after dealing with, among other things, two lost hoof boots and a delay behind a downed horse on trail.

"We might not have achieved that sixth buckle or broken that long-standing record, but he DID go the distance," Jenny

said later. "Mr. Henry is an amazing spirit. He is a champion and a warrior. He went the 100 miles, giving me all that I asked for and more."

Injury in 2022; Comeback in 2023

In 2022, after never taking a lame step in his fifteen-year, 4,700-mile endurance career John stepped in a squirrel hole in his pasture and pulled his flexor tendon. While it wasn't a devastating injury, it was significant enough to put a question mark on his career. Pondering whether to bring John back again as an endurance horse, or as a trail horse, or retire him as a pasture pet, Susan opted to give him every chance to heal, and leave the rest up to John.

Since tissue doesn't mend for an older horse like it does for a youngster, John spent a year at a rehab facility where he was brought along slowly and carefully. The gelding preferred running around outside, but he was restricted to boring hand-walking, aqua-treadmill, and Euro-ciser walking. After more than a year of slow and steady physical therapy, he was as sound as he was going to be. It was time to see if John was still capable of, and interested in, returning to the endurance trails.

Extremely busy as an ER veterinarian, Susan had little spare time to condition John. She asked the Ribleys if they would be interested in doing it - that is, Melissa and Robert Ribley, AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) Hall of Famers, with over 65,000 ride miles and 35 Tevis Cup buckles between them.

Susan said, "At first, they were a little bit concerned because of John's age, but I said, 'Why don't you give it a try, and if

it's just not working, no harm no foul.'" With the Ribleys living in Grass Valley, California, in the summer, and Dunellon, Florida, in the winter, with its endurance rides and excellent training conditions of heat and humidity, it seemed like the perfect situation.

"We really thought about it," Melissa said, "because we were in somewhat unknown territory. We had not conditioned a horse of that age before, so that was a little concerning, and we'd not conditioned a gaited non-Arabian before. All of this was new to us, but we decided it was a good challenge, and we'd give it a try."

The Ribleys picked up John Henry from the rehab center in the summer of 2023 and took him home to Grass Valley to start slowly re-conditioning him for endurance. Melissa recalled, "When we picked him up, Robert and I were somewhat

dubious, because we thought this horse would never do Tevis. He just looked nothing like an endurance horse. He looked like a Quarter horse that should be in a ranch string or a dude string at a rental place. But the more we rode him, the more his true ability came out. And that's when we become so impressed with him."

John was doing so well that the Ribleys took him to Florida in the fall of 2023 to continue his training. John and Melissa easily completed two 50-mile rides in Florida in January and March 2024.

Another Tevis Try

As July approached, and one more try at Tevis looked very possible, Susan and the Ribleys discussed a Tevis rider. Susan had been hoping she'd be in the saddle, but it was an impossibility with her work schedule and with a knee that was unfortunately bothering her.



John Henry and Melissa Ribley put on their game faces for the 2024 Tevis Cup.



When Melissa willingly volunteered, Susan knew it was the perfect choice. "The analogy I make is that some little garage high school band needs a substitute guitar player for the Saturday night dance and Eddie Van Halen shows up."

And so Team John Henry arrived at Robie Park in the forest above Lake Tahoe on Thursday before the 68th running of the Tevis Cup. While John Henry vetted in on Friday afternoon, Susan approvingly watched her horse. "They've got him in absolutely perfect condition, perfect weight, his boots were glued on, we got his saddle tweaked, he had a perfect tune-up on Thursday, we've got super crew helping us, so we're beyond detail-minded this year. He's ready."

Saturday morning, 5:15 AM, John Henry and Melissa Ribley lined up among the 137 horse and rider teams at the starting

line. John knew this trail and he was on fire. "The first 15 miles was a real upper body workout for me trying to keep his pace slow," Melissa said, "because he really wanted to go. But I thought we did an excellent pace."

"He looked fabulous at Robinson Flat (the first one-hour hold, at 36 miles). He felt very strong. Leaving Robinson I still had to hold him back." Melissa and John rode with her husband Robert and Chipofftheoleblock, that pair trying for their third straight Tevis finish.

Used to riding Arabian horses in all her Tevis completions (including, one year, a second-place finish and a Haggin Cup for Best Condition), John Henry gave Melissa a memorable ride.

"He's such a confident horse. There are some pretty scary sections on the Tevis

trail, but John is so sure-footed and solid, I never had a concern. In fact, on a normal horse, an Arabian, I don't even look at the views. I just focus on the trails, because I don't even want to look at the edges. So, this is the first horse I've ever ridden that I saw the views and the vistas of the canyons. It was amazing."

The Tevis Cup is always hot, but this would be an exceptionally hot and humid year, which certainly affected the number of pulls. This year's finish rate was 40%, well under the average of over 50%.

Everything continued smoothly for John and Melissa until the Deadwood vet check at 55 miles. "That's when I think the heat started getting to him. We spent extra time there letting him eat and cooling him off, but he started to not be as enthusiastic about eating. And I knew that was the first sign of a problem with him, because he has a voracious appetite."

Next came two deep canyons, where the Ribleys led their horses down and tailed back up. ("Tailing" is letting the horse walk ahead, with the rider walking on foot behind the horse, holding onto a rein and the tail, getting pulled along. It is useful on long, steep, hot climbs as it gives the horse a break moving forward and upward without weight.)

"It was incredibly warm in the canyons, because there used to be a lot of shade under the trees, but since the burn, now they're quite exposed. Coming into Michigan Bluff on top (at mile 62.5), John was again starting to get a bit overheated."

Michigan Bluff is not a vet check, but riders can stop and meet crews to cool their horses and let them eat and drink as long as they need to. John again just picked at his food.

At the next vet check, Chickenhawk, John Henry took more time than usual to re-

cover to the required pulse of 64 beats per minute, despite splashing him liberally with ice water.

"The vets weren't happy about how he was looking, and neither was I," Melissa said. "And that's when we all made the decision it was not his day to go on from there. But John would have kept going because he has that much try and that much go."

And so at mile 64 on the Tevis trail, the quest for a record six Tevis finishes for a gaited horse ended for the great Tennessee Walker John Henry. While his name won't go in the record books for such a unique accomplishment, sometimes a horse shows his greatness in defeat.

"I was of course disappointed that John and Melissa didn't finish Tevis to give John that sixth buckle," Susan said. "Only one other gaited horse besides John has finished Tevis five times, and that was almost fifty years ago. That's already pretty rarified air for a gaited horse that has no business being an endurance horse, but he does it anyway."

"My goal in seeing if just maybe John had one more Tevis completion in him wasn't just for bragging rights. John has always drawn people to him to say hi, take selfies with him, or just point him out at rides for being the horse that isn't supposed to be there doing what he does."

"I also wanted people to see just what a blue-collar, unpapered, gaited horse can do in sports against breeds with far more metabolic advantage. Sometimes more than the royal pedigree, it just takes heart and want-to."

"Most importantly, I wanted people to share in seeing that for his entire career, John has done his job happily, even gleefully, and has never, ever had to know what stacked shoes, or a gigantic curb bit,

Melisa and John Henry on the trail with husband Robert riding Chipofftheoleblock.



or diesel fuel on his legs feels like. He did it because it's what he loves to do, and it's just an extension of what these horses were originally bred to do, covering long distances efficiently and comfortably."

2024 and Beyond

Unfortunately for his fans, John Henry won't tackle 100-mile rides anymore. He and Susan will compete in the occasional 50-mile ride if John is willing.

But he'll continue to enchant his supporters. The Ribleys fell under the spell of the gelding that many identify as almost part human. "John is an amazing horse personality-wise," Melissa said. "He has so much character in that he's incredibly wise. Robert and I always joked that when we couldn't figure something out, our go-to was, 'Ask John, because John knows everything.'

"And he's incredibly gentle. We had five-year-old kids come visit, and they climbed all over him and rode him all over the property, and he was rock solid gentle. They're not going to get hurt. And yet when a competitive rider gets on him, he's all go.

"If there were ten more John Henrys at age nine, I would take them all. He is that good of a horse. He is phenomenally athletic. His pulse recoveries were so amazing, and his soundness at age 24 is incredible. That speaks volumes as to his conformation and to Susan's good care. He just doesn't look like an old horse, and he doesn't act like an old horse.

"I feel so lucky to have had him in our care, and so fortunate and honored to have ridden such a great horse."

Gaited Friends Showing Off Their Fabulous Horses



Mary Collins and Painted in the Stars at the North American Trail Ride Conference CTR "Without a Trace" Leisure Division-Experienced. Barefoot and Bitless. Photo credit to John Nowell.



Mary Schoenheit on July Del Norte and friend Juliana Foley on Moreno Del Norte, July's son. Oregon State Fair, 2019 Paso Fino Pleasure Championship.



Ann Thomas on Skip, an Argentine Criollo gelding. Very gaited and smooth. Showing at the Midwest Horse Company show, taking a 1st place ribbon. He was recently laid to rest due to cancer.

Understanding Reportable Diseases



Edited Press Release

For a horse owner, receiving a positive test result from your veterinarian for an equine infectious disease can be scary and overwhelming. What is the disease? How did my horse contract it? What happens now? What is the role for state and federal animal health officials in disease control management? Because some infectious diseases can cause significant number of sick horses and deaths and are easily spread, individual states and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) act on reportable diseases to prevent disease spread.

Upon receiving the positive result, a horse owner might ask themselves what is a reportable disease? A "reportable disease" is defined as having the potential for significant equine health and economic impact on the equids of the United States. The list of reportable diseases is based on international, national, and local diseases of concern. At the international level, the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) determines diseases of significant impact which countries must report. At the country level, the USDA must report detections of those diseases

and determine if there are additional diseases of concern for the United States which must be reported by the individual state veterinarians. Lastly, state veterinarians with input from their equine industry determine what diseases of concern should be reported within their state.

The list of WOAH reportable disease can be found at https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-diseases/?_tax_animal=terrestrials%2Cequine, while the USDA list can be located at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nlrads-nahrs-disease-list.pdf>. The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) provides a list of reportable and actionable and reportable and monitored diseases in each 50 states plus Canadian Provinces on its website at <https://equinediseasecc.org/report-adisease>.

"Each state is different because each state assesses their own risk and determines what disease they think are important to control from a regulatory standpoint," said Dr. Katie Flynn, current senior veterinarian for equine health and biosecurity at US Equestrian and former Kentucky State Veterinarian.

It might seem easier at first glance to create a standardized list of reportable diseases for all states, but Dr. Heather Roney, Wisconsin state animal health official, said, "There are diseases that are common in other states that would be novel or unreported in Wisconsin. So, this (standardized list) is likely not practical or useful. There are some diseases that are federally reportable, our list of reportable diseases would be inclusive of those on the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases from the USDA."

To determine what diseases are placed on their reportable and monitored list Washington state animal health official, Dr. Ben Smith, said his office works alongside diagnostic labs and the department of health, along with the WOAH guidelines, and includes diseases that are contagious and infectious and of economic importance to the state.

Individual states break their reportable diseases into classifications such as Reportable and Actionable, Reportable and Monitored, and Not Reportable. For example, WOAH and USDA require equine infectious anemia (EIA) to be reportable so that is on all lists in each state. Strangles is reportable and actionable in Kentucky but is not considered reportable in Indiana or Texas. Both Virginia and Florida consider eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) as reportable and monitored but not actionable. Pigeon fever is not reportable



in Maryland but is reportable and monitored in Washington. Because this can be confusing, owners and veterinarians should be aware of diseases reportable in their state.

Some reportable diseases are on the list for monitoring or surveillance purposes only, meaning the state and the USDA are monitoring the disease occurrences for early identification of any changes in the disease such as increased in clinical disease, change in geographic occurrence of the disease, or change in frequency of detection. For example, some reportable disease lists contain equine influenza as a monitored reportable disease. Equine influenza is caused by a virus that can mutate and change how it affects horses. By being on the reportable disease list, animal health officials can monitor for any changes in the clinical manifestations, frequency of detection, seasonality of detection or geographic distribution.

Once the infectious disease diagnosis has been given to the owner by the veterinarian, who reports it and



to where? And what happens to the horse and premises where it is kept? Some state laws require the veterinarian and laboratory to report while other states' laws mandate anyone who has knowledge, such as the horse owner, to report the suspected reportable disease.

"The general recommendation is for anyone suspecting a reportable disease to contact a local, state, or federal animal health official — a representative of the state veterinarian's office or of the local USDA — Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services," Flynn said.

State animal health officials work with private practitioners to ensure they know when and how to report positive test results to the state veterinarian's office. Smith said his office provides educational training and outreach to veterinarians to

limited resources," Roney said. "Additionally, some reportable disease results for endemic diseases are reported by the testing laboratory, and we may or may not reach out to the private practitioner for more information about the case."

Once the disease has been reported, each state determines how to respond, specifically whether the disease detection will be actionable or monitored. Actionable responses typically involve a quarantine and movement restrictions while a monitored response focuses implementation of biosecurity and monitoring of disease progression where the horse is located. There is no standard response for any one disease as each response will be dependent upon the disease agent detected, the equine population, and the environment.

It is important for horse owners to work with their state animal health

review the reporting process and to answer any questions about what and how to report.

Private practitioners are not required to report non-reportable diseases to the state offices. "Reporting all non-reportable diseases would overwhelm our

officials in advance of an outbreak to know what you can expect if a reportable disease were to occur. Working in advance with these officials will ensure prompt and coordinated response at the time of detection. Delay in initial detection and isolation of the sick horse shedding the infectious disease agent, typically leads to increased number of horses exposed and sick as well as longer duration of disease outbreak.

The goal of any response to a reportable disease is to stop spread of the disease pathogen to protect equine health. The three core pillars of response are: 1). Early identification of infected horses with health monitoring and diagnostic testing; 2). Immediate isolation of horses suspected or confirmed with a reportable disease pathogen; and 3). Enhanced biosecurity to reduce bacteria or virus in the environment and to prevent further transmission.

To best protect the health of equines, isolation, and movement restrictions of horses' sick with an equine infectious diseases are essential, especially for highly contagious diseases. It is critical for a horse shedding an equine infectious disease agent to be isolated to prevent exposure to other horses.

To effectively monitor and mitigate the spread of infectious disease, the EDCC reports on confirmed cases and diseases that have been submitted by state animal health officials or an attending veterinarian.

Veterinarians are encouraged to report all cases with a confirmed diagnosis of an infectious or vector borne disease, including outbreaks and cases of non-reportable diseases.

This is particularly important when there is an increased risk of disease spread due to commingling of horses at equine events. The cases are then published on the EDCC website <https://equinediseasecc.org/alerts> and shared to the EDCC Facebook page. The EDCC issues alert notification emails to subscribers at the end of the day.

Attending veterinarians or SAHOs can easily submit a case to the EDCC website at <https://equinediseasecc.org/report-a-disease>. The EDCC is an industry-driven information center which works to protect horses and the horse industry from the threat of infectious diseases in North America.

The center is designed to seek and report realtime information about diseases similar to how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center (CDC) alerts the human population about diseases in people.

The EDCC is based in Lexington, Ky. At the American Association of Equine Practitioners headquarters, with a website and call center hosted by US Equestrian. The EDCC is funded entirely through the generosity of organizations, industry stakeholders, and horse owners. To learn more visit www.equinediseasecc.org.

Begin at the Beginning and Keep Learning

By Lucy Rangel

Before the Tennessee Walking Horse (registry started in 1935), there was the American Saddle Horse (registry started 1891, now referred to as the Saddlebred). Before the American Saddle Horse was the "Kentucky Saddler" (no registry, as this was a fine type of gaited riding horse used by gentlemen on plantations in the south). A huge number of these horses were killed during the Civil War, as gentlemen volunteering for the armies of their respective Confederate States usually took their most comfortable riding horses with them. However, enough survived that the Saddle Horse registry could be started with a full complement.

The Kentucky Saddler

The "Kentucky Saddler" was developed from a combination of breeds, the Narragansett Pacer (now extinct in the United States), the Morgan, the Thoroughbred, and the Trotter (what we call the Standardbred, for which the registry, established in 1879, is operated by the National Trotting Horse Breeders Association). So, too, was the Tennessee Walking Horse, from a combination of the same breeds, but including sever-

al American Saddle Horses in their foundation stock and adding more Canadian pacing stock via Tom Hal, for a longer stride. If you look at the first sixty foundation horses in the 1935 Walking Horse stud book, eight were already registered as American Saddle Horses (A.S.R.). Several more were first-line descendants of American Saddle Horse sires. The remainder were either themselves registered as American Trotters, Pacers, Morgans, or Thoroughbreds, or direct descendants of sires of those breeds. A few were of unknown heritage, as they were abandoned or captured during the Civil War.

It is important to recognize the relationship between these breeds, and the relationship between these two and the Missouri Fox Trotter, also a partial

descendant of the American Saddle Horse, whose bloodlines have been somewhat corrupted by the addition of Walking Horse lines after Zane Grey won the 1968 World Grand Championship at Ava, Missouri. Zane Grey was sired by a Tennessee Walking Horse, so the next twenty years of the Fox Trotting Horse Breed Registry (which had begun in 1948) saw the influx of a large number of Walking Horse stallions. It is now rare to find a Missouri Fox Trotter that isn't at least 50% Tennessee Walking Horse by blood.

Why is it important to know about these relationships? Twofold:

1. To understand why some Saddlebreds, Walking Horses, and Fox Trotters are pacer than others of the same breed: it depends from which ancestors and bloodlines that

horse was derived, not so much in which registry the horse is titled.

2. To understand why, every time humane organizations lobby and cajole legislators into finally doing something about soring, pads, and chains on Walking Horses, the other breed associations have a hissy fit. All these horses are related. Their stud books are full of horses from each other's stud books. To question the treatment of one breed is to draw attention to the others.

Understanding Gait

Now, let's talk about where this "gait" thing comes from. No, horses don't have "manufactured gaits." A horse's gaits can only be improved with proper training and thoughtful trimming and shoeing (or positively destroyed with the opposite). I am not talking about six-inch toes, stacks, chains, or even weighted shoes. The 1975 edition of *Elements of Farrier Science*, the text book used at farrier colleges at that time, has one page, near the back, that discusses gaited horses, and gives instruction on "smoothing out a trot" and "breaking up a pace."



The famous Missouri Fox Trotter Zane Grey was sired by a Tennessee Walking Horse.

I have personally witnessed a horse go from almost a dedicated pacer to a lovely flat-walker, simply by allowing the front feet to remain a ¼ inch longer and three degrees lower than the back feet, which were at 55 degrees and 3 and ½ inch length, excluding the shoe. In addition to this minor change, I was also instructed to work the mare in circles, leg yields, figure-eights and over ground poles.

But I digress. The reason some horses are “gaited,” is the mutation of the gene identified as DMRT3 in 2012 by a Swedish professor of functional genomics names Leif Andersson. He later led a study at Texas A&M University that confirmed DMRT3 as the “gait keeper” gene. The gene carries the codes for spinal-cord nerve cells. The mutation creates a disconnect in coordination between front and back legs, allowing the horse to gait.

This makes perfect sense to me, since Walking horses who are ridden “hollow” tend to pace. Riding a horse “hollow” creates further stress on those already-mutated spinal nerve cells. When the horse is trained and worked in a manner that develops a strong topline (with exercises that bring the back up, such as working over ground poles), much of the pace can be mitigated.

Improving the Gaits

Because the Walking Horse, Fox Trotter, and Saddlebred share the same heritage, the same training theories can be used to improve the gaits

in all individuals. I have seen many a Fox Trotter that, when ridden in dressage fashion, with a strong developed topline, will “square trot.” They compete in Western Dressage without having to use “gaited dressage” tests. The recognized gait of this breed is “trotty” to begin with, riding for a strong topline makes him even “trottier.”

If we follow along the DMRT3 thought processes, it becomes apparent why some Walking horses have a hard time picking up a canter. If they are bred “pacey,” those spinal nerve cells may not be sufficient to coordinate those front and back legs. It hurts me to think what those “big lick” trainers are doing to force those pacey horses to canter, without the natural gait tendency to do so.

Also, along those lines, anyone who has been to a couple of harness racing sessions will tell you that you almost never see a

pacer break into a gallop, while the trotters do so regularly. (Fun fact: pacers are faster than trotters, which is why, when harness racing was in its infancy in the U.S., pacers were barred.)

Horse folks are the most opinionated folks in the world. You can’t get two of them to agree to a deworming program, let alone a training method. All horses are slightly different, and our opinions are based on our experiences with horses. I have owned horses



since I was a teenager and Walking Horses for over 30 years. My philosophy is “Keep learning and never give up.” Read, study, take lessons, attend clinics and apply what you learn. That’s the advice I offer to everyone. Our biggest enemy (and that of our horses) is ignorance.

The American Saddlebred (above) and Tennessee Walking Horse (left) are two breeds found in many of the gaited horse breeds. Photos Adobe Stock.

Hoizon Structures Presents Series: Where and How to Site Your Run-In Shed

By Nikki Alvin-Smith

The humble run-in shed enjoys a ubiquitous presence on most horse farms for good reason. A field or paddock without one present means resident equines are without shelter from the heat of the sun and summer insect annoyance, which is when most horses use them most. And certainly a herd of horses vying for space to take cover under a large deciduous tree during summer months that may offer shade, is not the perfect solution for shelter during lightning/thunderstorms and heavy precipitation. The question is, once you've bought the run-in shed where should you put it?

Plan Ahead

The beauty of a prebuilt run-in shed is its portability. While you won't be able to pick it up and carry it under your arm, a small tractor or decent sized UTV/ATV can move it quite easily using the pre-installed heavy duty tow hooks at the base of the structure that can be chained up to a machine to drag it from one place to another.

The prebuilt run-in shed can also be moved from farm to farm in just the same way it magically appeared on site in the first place. Useful if you move horse farm home.

So plan ahead and buy a run-in shed that offers portability. Other aspects of your forward planning should be how the base at the site of the run-in shed will be constructed as well as where it will live.

Site Selection Factors to Consider

A level area is a necessary starting point, so to a certain degree this may govern the

site for its final landing spot. The manufacturer of the prebuilt barn is able to place it to within inches pretty much anywhere if they use a 'mule' machine, so as long as you have the access width and height wise (watch those tree boughs), you will be good to go. Make sure you select a manufacturer that knows what they are doing delivery and set up wise. While delivery is always an extra cost, set up should be included for free.

Site preparation may include the need to add a compacted material to avoid pot-holing inside the structure with heavy use over time. A well-drained base will also help preserve the structure from water damage. Whether its wood or metal-sided, no building does well if it sits for any length of time in standing water. And neither do horses. A gravel base with a compacted stonedust overlay is a perfect solution, with French drains cut around the structure if the natural soil cover or geography of the terrain does not offer good natural drainage. Rubber mats placed inside can become slippery when wet, so consider your options carefully before adding any grid systems or matted surfaces.

Consider all aspects of geography in the site choice. Proximity to neighbors, other animals on site or nearby, fence lines, high access areas such as alongside roadsides, i.e. the human geography factor as well as regional influences such as prevailing winds and direct sun. Here's a quick tutorial on Geography 101 that is helpful. Plan your site selection around your horses' lifestyle. For example, if your equids are two donkeys and a pony that you own for your children to enjoy, then siting the run-in shed close to your residence might

be a good idea where you can keep an eye on proceedings. On the other hand, if you run a large boarding stable where small herds of horses are turned out together, then you may need to place two run-in sheds in different areas of the field to allow horses lower in the pecking order the opportunity to shelter without being bullied by their more dominant colleagues.

Avoid creating small corridors or tight spaces such as corners in paddocks where horses can become 'stuck'. While having a run-in shed placed centrally in the field can be a good idea, as even the back wall can create shade from the sun and shelter from the wind at certain times of day, a run-in shed that is placed within the fence line can protect three sides of the structure

from nibbling and chewing, kicking and other horsey damage.

Consider how you are going to keep the shed clean. Regular mucking out will be necessary to keep the fly population at bay (pine shavings make a good deterrent to summer bugs if regularly refreshed) and to keep the space hygienic for use year around. Placement of the run-in shed a huge distance from the entrance gate to the field will be hard to navigate in poor weather and annoying to traverse without the aid of machinery.

The run-in shed is an inexpensive way to shelter horses and offers a versatility for other needs too. Often used as a storage solution for hay supplies and bedding, the



Photo: Courtesy Horizon Structures

structure is a mainstay on a horse farm for good reason.

If you are planning to buy a run-in shed to bring your horse home, update your farm and replace tired unsightly creations that presently don't add grace to your farm, or simply need a bit of extra winter storage for supplies, check out online sales lots and sign up for discount deals and exhibition offerings for best prices.

If you choose a company with a nation-wide footprint you can find just what you want styled and sized as you'd like it from

the comfort of your couch. And the 'to the penny' pricing and finance options make the purchasing process straightforward. While the quick delivery makes a magical almost 'instant' appearance on site a reality. A perfect shopping solution for the busy horse owner.

For additional information about Horizon Structures or their product line, please visit their website at www.horizonstructures.com.

To contact author Nikki Alvin-Smith, visit www.horseinakiltmedia.com.

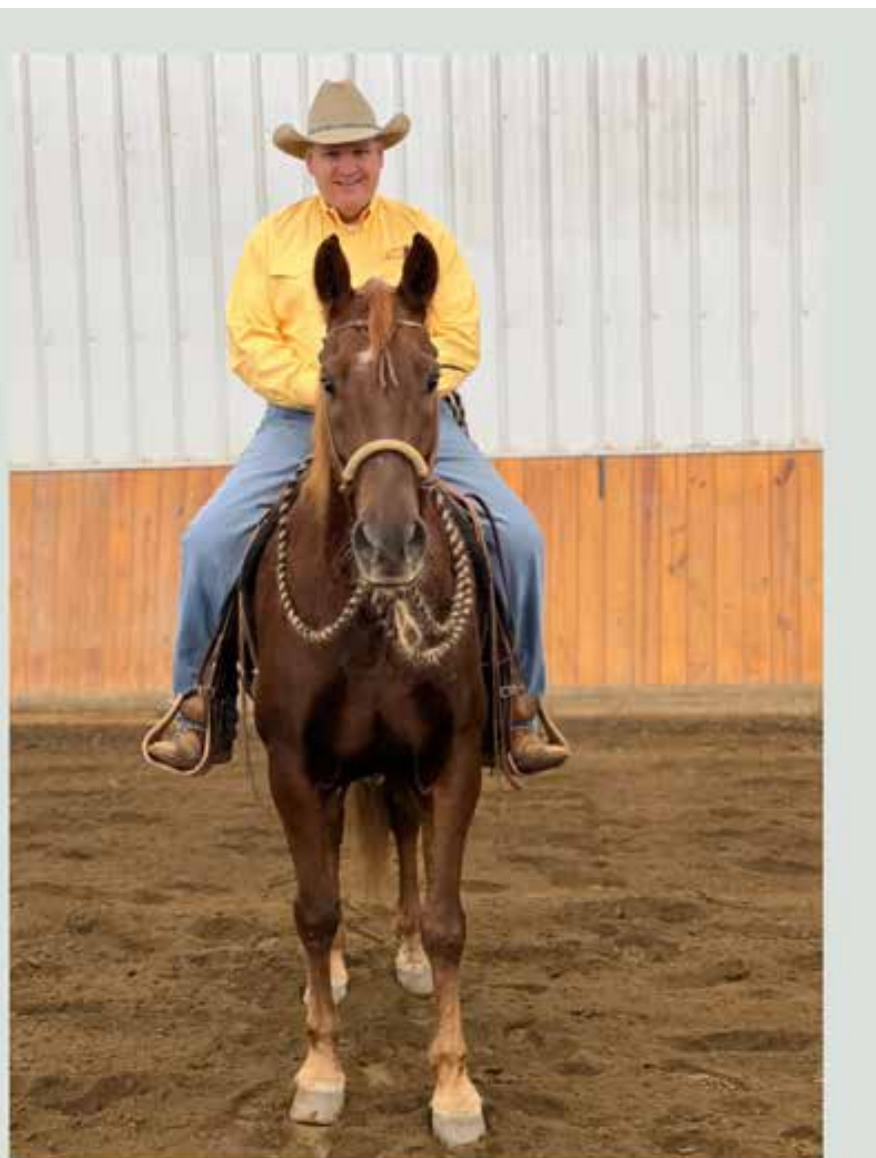
Carl Bledsoe Clinic

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

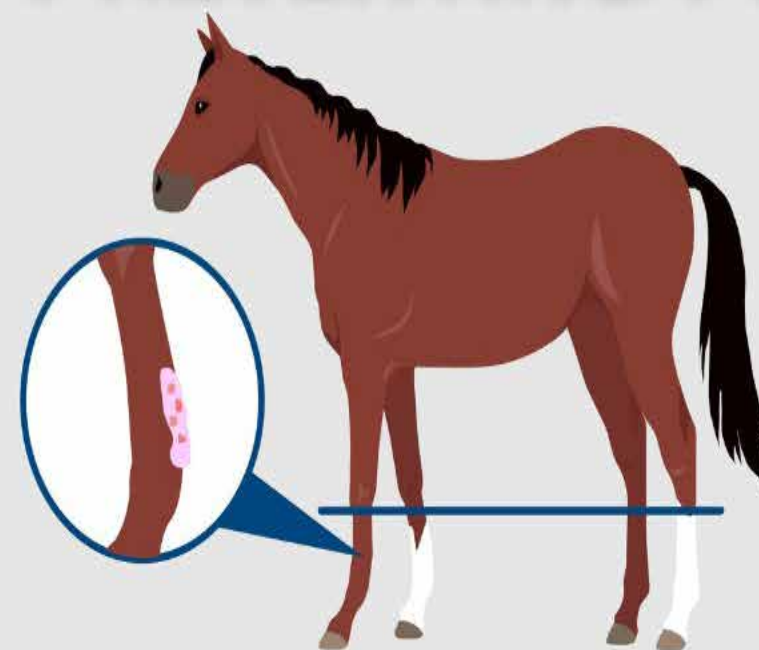
Join us as we work on balancing and strengthening the natural movement of the horse through education and understanding of anatomy and biomechanics for a mentally and physically connected horse!

All breeds
welcome!

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



PREVENTING PROUD FLESH



WHAT IS IT?

Granulation tissue is the pebbly or granular appearing tissue which develops in healing wounds anywhere on the horse's body. Granulation tissue is a very important and necessary part of wound healing in the horse. However, there can be problems when **the horse develops too much granulation tissue** — which is more commonly known as proud flesh.

Horses are more prone to proud flesh than other species, especially when it comes to wounds on the distal limbs. (Distal limbs = lower limbs, below the knee/carpus or hock/tarsus.)

WHAT CAUSES IT?

It is believed that some of the main contributing factors are:



Excessive **wound movement**



Persistent inflammation and **infection**

In addition:

- Minimal soft tissue coverage around the wound.
- Reduced blood supply.

PREVENTION

Prevention of proud flesh involves **good wound management**. Bandaging and rest are vital to wound healing, as continuous wound movement and contamination cause persistent inflammation, which complicates the process.



TAKE-HOME:

For the best healing, **identify and treat** distal limb wounds in horses **quickly**. **Involving your veterinarian in wound evaluation and management** is paramount to appropriate wound healing.



World Rabies Day 'One Health' Approach and the Horse Owner

By Jackie Bellamy-Zions, Equine Guelph

On September 28, 2024, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) coordinates World Rabies Day and this year's theme is "Breaking Rabies Boundaries." In the "One Health" approach, every sector takes responsibility in the effort to tackle rabies.

Rabies is a viral infection of the nervous system known to be problematic in carnivores and bats, although it can affect any mammal. Rabies cases in Canada are low but the disease does persist in wild animals (often found in the habitat neighbouring your horse paddocks). The need for rabies prevention and control programs are ongoing. The virus is found in the saliva of affected animals and are transmitted to other animals and people typically by a bite. Rabies is among the core recommended vaccines in horses in Equine Guelph's Vaccination Equi-Planner healthcare tool (TheHorsePortal.ca/VaccinationTool) due to the deadliness of the disease.

Canada's prevention and control programs include vaccination of domestic animals, wildlife management, and public education. Rabies is monitored in the human population, our animals, and wildlife to understand

and control its spread. Import regulations are in place to reduce the prevalence of this deadly disease. In Canada, rabies in animals, is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. This includes the equestrian community! All suspected cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which conducts tests and posts summaries of the results online.

Recent posts cite bats as the most common carriers of rabies accounting for 79/113 cases of rabies reported in animals in Canada for 2023. Cases of rabies in skunks have been reported in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Raccoons in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick and foxes in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and northern parts of Quebec, Manitoba and Labrador. Continuous surveillance and international collaboration are just two facets of our "One Health" approach that have made us global leaders in rabies prevention and control.

The horse owner's role in the "One Health" approach includes:

Vaccination of your horse(s): Scheduling an annual rabies vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the chances of your horse contracting the disease. Equine Guelph's

Vaccination Equi-Planner healthcare tool can help you with your immunization plans for both core and risk-based vaccinations (TheHorsePortal.ca/VaccinationTool)

Vaccination of other animals: Vaccinate dogs and cats that have access to your horses. Most dogs are vaccinated against rabies without question, as they may encounter rabid wildlife. Therefore, they can also potentially transmit the virus to horses.

Cleaning up attractants: Seal up entry points to buildings, especially those that house food sources or inviting bedding. Secure trash which may act as bait for wildlife.

Knowing the signs: animals who have contracted rabies may exhibit sudden changes in behaviour, depression, incoordination, drooling and difficulty swallowing.

Monitoring wildlife: Keep an eye out for wildlife behaving unusually, such as nocturnal animals active during the day and do not hesitate to alert the local authorities.

Rabies is the deadliest among the five core equine diseases, which also include Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), Western equine en-



cephalomyelitis (WEE), tetanus and West Nile. Horses are continually exposed to wildlife and mosquitoes that transmit core equine diseases. Whether kept in a barn or pasture, horse owners should not consider their horse 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.

The Rabies booster remains part of the core vaccines horse owners mark on their annual immunization calendars for good reason. Core vaccines provide protection against diseases that have a significant health impact (including death) for the horse and/or to humans. To help tailor annual immunization plans, Equine Guelph provides a free, interactive, Vaccination Equi-Planner healthcare tool (TheHorsePortal.ca/VaccinationTool).

Kindly sponsored by Zoetis, the Vaccination Equi-Planner is designed to explain the risk factors and then provide a print-out personalized to your horse's vaccination needs. This is a great way to get the conversation started with your vet.

"Core vaccinations are critical for the protection of horses from serious viral and bacterial toxin diseases. We are fortunate to live in a region of the world where highly effective vaccines are readily available and can turn the risk of deadly disease into a preventable concern," says Tamara Quaschnick, DVM, equine technical services veterinarian for Zoetis Canada. "The threat of rabies to both horses and humans is real and the course of disease is brutal and invariably fatal. The stakes of leaving your horse unprotected are high."

Rabies is easily prevented by vaccination. Following an initial booster series, Rabies vaccines are administered to horses annually, and they must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.



Further Reduce Your Risk of Sickness and Disease

After checking the free Vaccination Equi-Planner healthcare tool (TheHorsePortal.ca/VaccinationTool), take a deeper dive into preventing sickness in your horse with Equine Guelph's short course, also kindly sponsored by Zoetis, Sickness Prevention in Horses.

Based on the Canadian standard for equine biosecurity, the Sickness Prevention in Horses short online course breaks down important information into easy, practical tips you can use right away.

Maintaining health is everyone's responsibility and for only \$95 tuition, this important short online course could save you well over triple the cost in veterinary bills.

Register today for Sickness Prevention in Horses offered Mar 31 – April 7, 2025. For further information, visit www.equineguelph.ca.

AFTER-HOURS CARE: How Horse Owners Can Help Ease the Strain



SAVE
NON-EMERGENCY
ISSUES FOR THE
NEXT DAY



If you have your veterinarian's cell phone number, please be judicious about when you use it and **don't text with non-urgent questions after normal business hours.**

UNDERSTAND THE
HEALTH ISSUES
WHICH REQUIRE AN
AFTER-HOURS CALL



Talk with your veterinarian about the health concerns which should be considered an emergency. **Understanding when a call is needed helps you feel more confident in assessing situations.**

WELCOME THE
VETERINARIAN WHO IS
ON CALL AS IF THEY
WERE YOUR OWN



As veterinarians begin to form emergency cooperatives with other veterinary practices or designate a single member of their team to respond to emergencies, chances are your regular veterinarian won't be the one responding to your after-hours call but that **won't impact the care your horse will receive.**

aaep.org

Murdoch Minute

No. 57: Anatomy of Bareback Riding

By Wendy Murdoch

Reprinted with permission.
www.murdochmethod.com

Do you enjoy riding bareback? Do you ride in a treeless saddle? Do you wonder how your horse can understand small movements in your seat when you ride? Here's a quick tip to have insight into bareback riding.

I had the opportunity to photograph my 5'4" skeleton on top of a fully articulated horse's skeleton with a little help from Brad. He got the job of holding it in position. It was quite educational to see how the two skeletons mesh.

The part of the horse we sit on is the ribcage and back. The horse has 18 pairs of ribs each of which attaches to a vertebra collectively known as the thoracic vertebrae, which is between the cervical (neck) and lumbar (lower back) vertebrae.

The thoracic (T) vertebrae have spinous processes, which angle either towards the tail (T1 – 13) or (T15 – 18) the head. The place where the direction changes is called the anti-clinical moment and approximately the

The rider's pelvis is sitting on the 13 – 14 thoracic vertebrae. The rider's leg naturally angles forward to the narrower part of the ribcage.

13 – 14th thoracic vertebrae. You can roughly determine where this is by looking for the deepest point in your horse's back.

The height of the 1st spinous process is fairly short but they rapidly increase to a maximum height at T3 – 4 and then gradually decrease towards the latter part of the thoracic spine. The withers are considered the spinal processes of T 5 – 9. The ribs are much thicker and narrower at the front where the shoulder blades lay against them, becoming thinner and broader towards the back. Each rib has a distinct curve shape that turns



Notice how the ribs are more upright narrow towards the head. The shoulder blades rest on the foremost ribs horse's rib cage determines how you sit when riding bareback.

down and in towards the spine. The horse's back muscles fill in the space

between the curve of the ribs and the spine. The shape of the horse's ribcage determines how you will sit when riding bareback.

The slope, height and length of the withers determines the placement of the rider's seat, which on this skeleton is approximately T13 – 14 (the anticlinal moment). But the shape of the ribcage at this point is quite broad while the ribs further towards the head are narrower and more upright. Most people don't have the ability to comfortably straddle this shape due to the narrowness of the human pelvis and hips. The rider's leg naturally goes forward when riding bareback where the ribcage is narrower.

The rider's weight is born on the seat bones, which rest on the horse's back on either side of the spine. There isn't much room between the seat bones

and the spine as is evidenced from Photo 3. If the horse is fleshy or has low withers this area will be broad and flat. But if the horse is thin or has high withers it can be a bit painful because there is less padding. A treeless saddle can make this a bit more comfortable but if the horse's spine tends to stick up above the flesh you have to be careful you don't put pressure directly on the spine. The purpose of the gullet in a saddle is to ensure that there isn't any pressure directly on the spine, which I am sure you can appreciate if you have ever hit your shin on the leg of a table.

The horse can feel small changes of weight and shifts in your body position when riding bareback. Bareback riding is also a way to develop a sense of balance, but it is important that you feel comfortable and safe. But if riding bareback is painful or frightening I suggest you stick with your saddle. And always remember to – enjoy the ride!



The withers appear as a straight line down the middle while the spring of the ribs is more obvious. Observe how narrow and close to the spine the rider's seat bones are.



Soring

New law coming in 2025!

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

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



Artwork by Victoria von Kapferr www.vonkapferr.com

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 ...



Artwork by Victoria von Kap-herr 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
- diesel
- croton oil
- GoJo hand cleaner
- WD40 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.

"Without the chains, there would be no need for a scar rule."

— HUMANE ACTIVIST, MAY, 2011.

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



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 renowned 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 for latest news and facts on soring
- www.SoundHorseConference.com for presentation lectures on soring
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Horse Protection www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/hp
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) 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)

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United States Department of Agriculture, APHIS (USDA)

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"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)

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) ...



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 (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.

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

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 or jacquiecowan@comcast.net

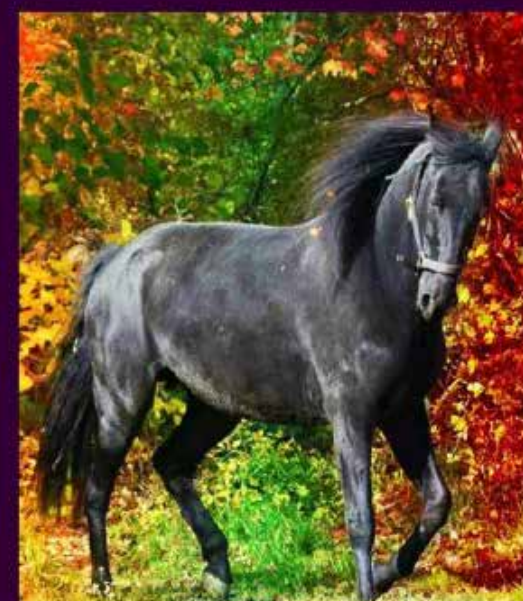
Breeders

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



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FIND YOUR FOREVER HORSE!

Gait, Inc is a 501c3 all gaited breed rescue. Rescue done right with a focus on training & adopter support. Volunteer run and funded by generous donations! We adopt to qualified homes in the Mid-Atlantic & So. California regions. GAIT, Inc. 14515 Chrisman Hill Dr. Boyds, MD 20841 (240)-720-4545

Pony Tales



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 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
 Debbie Locke, Mack, CO
 Ann Loveless, Ashtabula, OH
 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, Chino, 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
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Gaited Distance Program

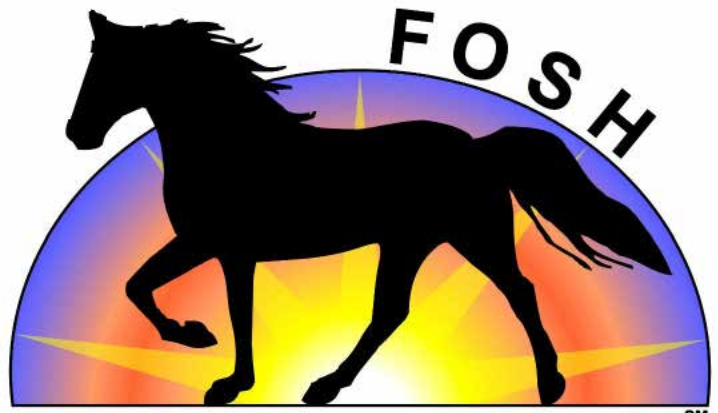
Honoring and recognizing the achievements of gaited horses who compete in the sport of veterinarian supervised distance rides. These horses, riders, and owners exemplify the spirit of the FOSH Sound Principles.



INTERNATIONAL Heritage Walking Horse ASSOCIATION

Preserving the Past to ensure the Future

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.

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? _____