

The Sound Advocate



A Champion
for All Gaited
Horses

Volume 7, Issue 4, 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.

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.



Publication Guidelines

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

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

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

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

FOSH does not endorse the content of any advertisement in this publication, nor does it warrant the accuracy of any advertisement.

Readers are urged and cautioned to use due diligence and to thoroughly research, including asking for references, before following through with any transaction.

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

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

Publication Information

Subscribers: The Sound Advocate is a benefit of membership. To ensure that you receive your issues, be sure that your e-mail address is current. To change an e-mail address, contact gvehige115@gmail.com.

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

Member's Advertising Rates

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Half page \$75
Quarter page \$60
Business Card \$25
Directory \$25

Discounts for Multiple Issues
2 issues - 10% off total fee
4 issues - 20% off total fee
6 issues - 30% off total fee

Ads will be accepted in pdf, tif or jpeg formats. Text and photos must be e-mailed separately by the 10th of the month when the issue is released. Photos must be 300 dpi. Camera-ready ads are emailed at 300 dpi. Materials should be emailed to editor@fosh.info.

All advertisements must be paid in advance by check, money order, or credit card. Payments should be made out to FOSH and mailed to:

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St. Louis, MO 63117

More FOSH information can be found online. Find us at www.fosh.info.

Like us on Facebook.



On the cover: Apache, a 17-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse owned by Lori Burroughs in his snowy pasture in Missouri. Photo courtesy of Lori Burroughs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Features

The Rocky Mountain Horse: A Breed Like No Other	8
USAWE News	11
10 Essential Tips for Cold Weather Horse Care	12
2024 FOSH Supported Events	14
Carl Bledsoe “Just Gait” Clinic	16
NAWD - A Fond Farewell	20
Adjusting Horse Care Routines for Senior Horses	22
Signs of Strangles	27
Are You Wasting Money in Your Horse Care Budget?	28
Winter Water Consumption	31
Murdoch Minute	32

In Every Issue

From the President	5
From the Editor	6
Spring Data Sheet	34
FOSH Scholarship Form	18
FOSH Sound Principles	38
FOSH Sound Directory	39
Our Forever Friends	40
FOSH Membership	42

From the President...



Dear FOSH Friends and Supporters,

What a feel-good issue this is! New regulations going into effect in 2025 may mean that 2024 is the last year horses will be exhibited with stacks and chains PLUS the learning opportunities that happened in 2024 and those coming up 2025 will make us better teachers, riders and partners with our horses.

We're excited about the opportunities for gaited horses with Working Equitation. Everyone seems to love the clinics and the individual judging. After observing the decline in local horse shows across the country, it is great to see a discipline that is pulling people back into the show

ring in such large numbers and the level of interest in fostering a better relationship with one's horse.

One sad note is that North American Western Dressage (NAWD) has decided to retire their program. We know many of you enjoyed trying dressage for the first time due to our partnership with them to bring dressage to more gaited horse owners.

What are your plans for 2025? More groundwork? More trail riding? Or clinics? Where do you want to be a year from now with your horse? Is there any new tack that excites you or that might be worth a splurge? What about new habits for you and your horse? (Boy, establishing new habits can be tough!) Or, habits you just want to quit!?! Maybe you're looking at a new barn or renovating it? Or, developing your knowledge on your horse's nutritional and healthcare needs? So many ideas on where you may want to be in a year.

With all those questions in mind, I hope you are able to get some new ideas from our issues on steps to advance your relationship with your trusty steed and your riding skills in 2025.

Happy Trails and Remember to Wear Your Helmet!

Teresa

*Teresa Bippen, FOSH President
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From the Editor...



Hello FOSH Friends.

Recently I was invited by Kym Holzward to stop by her Spotted Dance Ranch for her clinic with Carl Bledsoe. Everything I've heard sings Carl's praises so I looked forward to meeting him. I had to get ready to attend the AAEP (American Association for Equine Practitioners) Convention in Orlando, but I decided to make time to take the 30 minute drive to Brooksville.

I arrived towards the end of a session. It only took a few minutes of listening to understand that Carl ab-

solutely has the best interest of the horse in mind. He worked well with the riders and explained both the how and the why of what they were asking the horse to do.

Carl and Tammy both took time during their lunch break to talk to me. They are genuine people who have obviously worked very hard throughout their lives and are now trying to give back to the horse community (while still making a living).

The Bledsoe's have expressed an interest in working with FOSH at a greater level in 2025. Various plans are still in discussion, but one event will be a clinic in Missouri in September 2025 sponsored by FOSH. It looks like next year is going to be an exciting one.

As I write this the holidays are upon us. They always seem to come and go in a rush. Then many will head into the long winter days. This issue has stories to help you manage your horses and property through the worst of the winter weather.

As we plan for 2025, I'm curious what you would like to hear more about. Please send any ideas to editor@fosh.info or stephaniejruff@gmail.com. Happy New Year!

Stephanie

Stephanie J. Ruff
Editor, editor@fosh.info



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

The Rocky Mountain Horse: A Breed Like No Other

The Rocky Mountain Horse, often referred to as the “chocolate horse,” is a breed celebrated for its stunning appearance, smooth gait and amiable disposition. Originating in the rugged terrain of the Appalachian region, this horse has become a symbol of versatility and endurance. Whether you’re a trail enthusiast, a show competitor, or simply an admirer of equine beauty, the Rocky Mountain Horse offers something extraordinary.

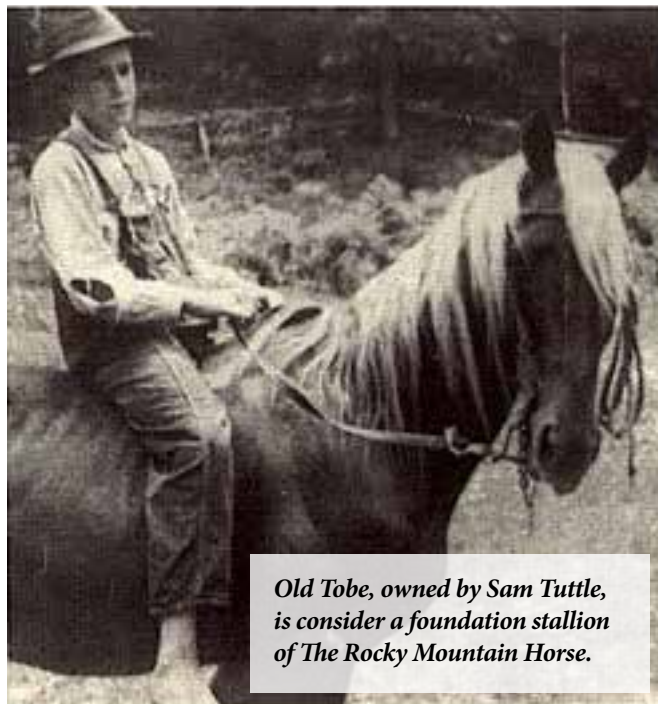
In this article, we’ll delve into the breed’s history, characteristics, uses, and care needs, highlighting why this horse is cherished by owners and riders alike.

Origins and History

The story of the Rocky Mountain Horse begins in the late 19th century in the Appalachian region of the United States, particularly in Kentucky. Unlike many modern breeds, its history is rooted in the practical needs of mountain farmers rather than aristocratic breeding programs.

A stallion brought from the Rocky Mountains to Kentucky around 1890 is believed to have sired the first Rocky Mountain Horses. This foundation stallion passed on unique traits, including a smooth, natural gait and a calm temperament. The breed was refined over generations by local farmers who valued a horse capable of navigating steep terrain while carrying riders or pulling equipment.

Sam Tuttle, a Kentucky horseman, is credited with preserving and popularizing the breed during the 20th century. His stallion, Old Tobe, became a key progenitor of the modern Rocky Mountain Horse. By the late 20th century, enthusiasts recognized the need to preserve the breed, leading to the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Horse Association (RMHA) in 1986.



Old Tobe, owned by Sam Tuttle, is considered a foundation stallion of The Rocky Mountain Horse.

Physical Characteristics

The Rocky Mountain Horse is instantly recognizable due to its unique combination of elegance and strength.

1. Coat and Color

One of the most striking features of the Rocky Mountain Horse is its chocolate coat, often paired with a flaxen mane and tail. While the chocolate coloration is iconic, the breed also comes in other solid colors, including bay, black and chestnut.

2. Size and Build

Rocky Mountain Horses stand between 14.2 and 16 hands at the shoulder, making them a medium-sized horse. They are sturdy and well-muscled, with a compact frame suited to rigorous activity. Despite their strength, they exhibit a refined head and graceful proportions.

3. Gait

Perhaps the breed’s most distinctive feature is its four-beat, lateral gait known as the “single-foot” gait. This smooth, natural movement allows riders to travel long distances comfortably.

Temperament and Personality

The Rocky Mountain Horse is renowned for its gentle and friendly demeanor. These horses are highly intelligent, eager to please, and adaptable to various riders, including beginners and children. Their calm disposition makes them reliable partners in diverse settings, from tranquil trails to bustling show arenas.

Owners frequently praise the Rocky Mountain Horse for its loyalty and ability to form strong bonds with humans. This quality, combined with its manageable size and smooth gait, makes it a particularly popular choice for families and older riders.

Uses of the Rocky Mountain Horse

Despite its name, the Rocky Mountain Horse is not confined to mountainous terrain. Its versatility allows it to excel in a variety of disciplines and settings:

1. Trail Riding

The breed's sure-footedness and endurance make it an excellent choice for trail riding. Its smooth gait allows riders to spend hours in the saddle without discomfort, making it a favorite for long-distance treks.

2. Show Competitions

Rocky Mountain Horses often compete in gaited horse shows, where their smooth movements and striking appearance stand out. They are judged on their gait, conformation and overall presentation.

3. Therapeutic Riding

Thanks to their calm temperament, Rocky Mountain Horses are frequently used in therapeutic riding programs. Their smooth gait provides a stable and comfortable experience for riders with physical or emotional challenges.

4. Driving

Some owners train their Rocky Mountain Horses for driving, where their strength



The Rocky Mountain Horse makes a great show horse, trail horse and overall family horse. By Heather Moreton, Louisville, Kentucky.

The Rocky Mountain Horse is known for its stunning chocolate brown color. Photo courtesy Rocky Mountain Horse Association.



and responsiveness are assets in pulling carts or carriages.

5. Family Horses

The breed's gentle nature and versatility make it an ideal family horse, suitable for riders of all ages and skill levels.

Preservation and Challenges

Despite its growing popularity, the Rocky Mountain Horse remains a relatively rare breed. Breeders and enthusiasts work diligently to preserve its unique characteristics, maintaining strict standards for registration with the RMHA.

One challenge facing the breed is the risk of inbreeding and genetic bottlenecks due to its small founding population. Responsible breeding practices are essential to maintain genetic diversity.

Why Choose a Rocky Mountain Horse?

For many, the decision to own a Rocky Mountain Horse is about more than practicality; it's about forming a lifelong

partnership with an extraordinary animal. Whether you're drawn to their striking appearance, smooth ride or kindhearted nature, these horses leave an indelible mark on those who work with them.

Their versatility ensures they can adapt to a variety of lifestyles, from competitive arenas to quiet trails. Moreover, their calm temperament makes them approachable for riders of all experience levels.

Take-Home Message

The Rocky Mountain Horse stands out as a breed that seamlessly combines beauty, functionality and personality. Its rich history, unique gait and adaptable nature make it a cherished companion for many riders.

As stewards of this breed, owners and enthusiasts play a vital role in ensuring its legacy endures for future generations. By appreciating its history, meeting its care needs and celebrating its unique traits, we honor the spirit of the Rocky Mountain Horse—a true gem of the equine world.



NEWS

Training the Judges Eye

The 2025 Licensed Officials Seminar
With Claudia Elsner Matos

January 17 – 19, 2025

Hyatt Place Las Vegas
at Silverton Village
Las Vegas, Nevada



Open to Licensed Officials, Professional Instructors and riders from any level.

Registration opens soon! For more information visit: usawe.org.
Claudia Elsner Matos

Ms. Matos has been involved in the World Association of Working Equitation since its creation in 1996. She is considered to be among the most highly rated judges in Working Equitation. Her impressive credentials as a WAVE 3* Judge/TD and FEI 3* Dressage Judge document the depth of her expertise.

10 Essential Tips for Cold Weather Horse Care

As temperatures drop, horse owners must take extra steps so their equine companions remain healthy and comfortable. Cold weather poses unique challenges, from maintaining body heat to ensuring adequate hydration. Here are 10 tips for proper horse care during winter months:

1. Provide Shelter from the Elements
Ensure your horse has access to a sturdy, dry shelter, such as a barn or a run-in shed, to shield them from wind, rain and snow. The shelter should be well-ventilated but not drafty to allow airflow while keeping the cold out.

2. Monitor Body Condition
Horses use more energy to stay warm in cold weather, so regularly assess their body condition. Keep an eye on their ribs and overall fat coverage, and adjust feed as needed to maintain a healthy weight.

3. Increase Forage
Hay is a horse's primary heat source during winter as digestion produces warmth. Provide ample hay all day to help them stay warm. A general guideline is 1.5–2% of their body weight in hay daily, but they may need more in extreme cold.

4. Ensure Fresh Water Availability
Horses may drink less water when

it's cold, leading to dehydration and colic. If possible, use heated water buckets, insulated buckets or tank de-icers to prevent freezing and ensure water remains at an optimal drinking temperature (45–65°F).

5. Blanket Appropriately
Not all horses need blankets, but older, underweight or clipped horses may benefit from one. The blanket should fit properly, is waterproof (for turnout) and allows freedom of movement. Remove and check under the blanket regularly to prevent rubbing or skin issues.

6. Maintain Hoof Care
Don't neglect hoof maintenance in winter. Pick out hooves daily to remove ice, mud and manure, which can lead to thrush or injuries. Discuss with your farrier whether your horse should go barefoot or continue using shoes based on their workload and environment.

7. Provide Windbreaks in Pastures
If your horse spends time outdoors, make sure the pasture has windbreaks, such as natural tree lines or man-made barriers. These protect horses from harsh winds and help them retain body heat.

8. Avoid Overworking in Extreme Cold

Limit heavy exercise when temperatures plummet, as horses can struggle to recover their normal breathing in freezing air. When you do exercise them, completely cool down and dry the horse before returning him to the pasture or stall.

9. Groom Regularly

Grooming helps maintain a healthy coat by distributing natural oils that provide insulation and waterproofing. Avoid over-bathing, as it can strip these oils. Use grooming sessions to check for signs of skin conditions or injuries hidden under a winter coat.

10. Be Prepared for Emergencies
Winter storms can disrupt routines, so stockpile feed, hay and bedding. Have a first-aid kit ready and check that your horse trailer is in good working order in case of emergencies. Additionally, keep contact information for your vet and farrier on hand.

Caring for horses during cold weather requires attention to their specific needs and thoughtful preparation. By following these tips, you can ensure your horse stays healthy, warm and comfortable all winter long.

A healthy haircoat will help keep a horse (or pony) warm in the winter. Photo credit: Photos.com



2024 Sound Horse Clinics & Events Supported by FOSH

Date	Location	Sponsor/Contact
4/1/2024	Troy, Missouri	Good Old Days
6/7/2024	Ava, Missouri	Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed A
6/15/2024	Kansas City, Missouri	Jeanna Clanton
6/15/2024	Foristell, Missouri	Brenda Wasser
7/26/2024	British Columbia, Canada	Alisha Johnson
10/3/2024	Farmington, Iowa	River Valley Lodge
10/11/2024	Minnesota	Jenny Trainor, Minnesota Walking H
10/12/2024	Ionia, Michigan	Morning View Farm
11/9/2024	Mississippi	Molly Nicodemus



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Sep



Association (MFTHBA), Dunham

orse Association (MWA)

Type

Show/w flat-shod classes

Versatility

United Pleasure Walking Horse Association
(UPWHA) Classes

Working Equitation Clinic

Carl Bledsoe Clinic

Carl Bledsoe Clinic

Gaited Clinic

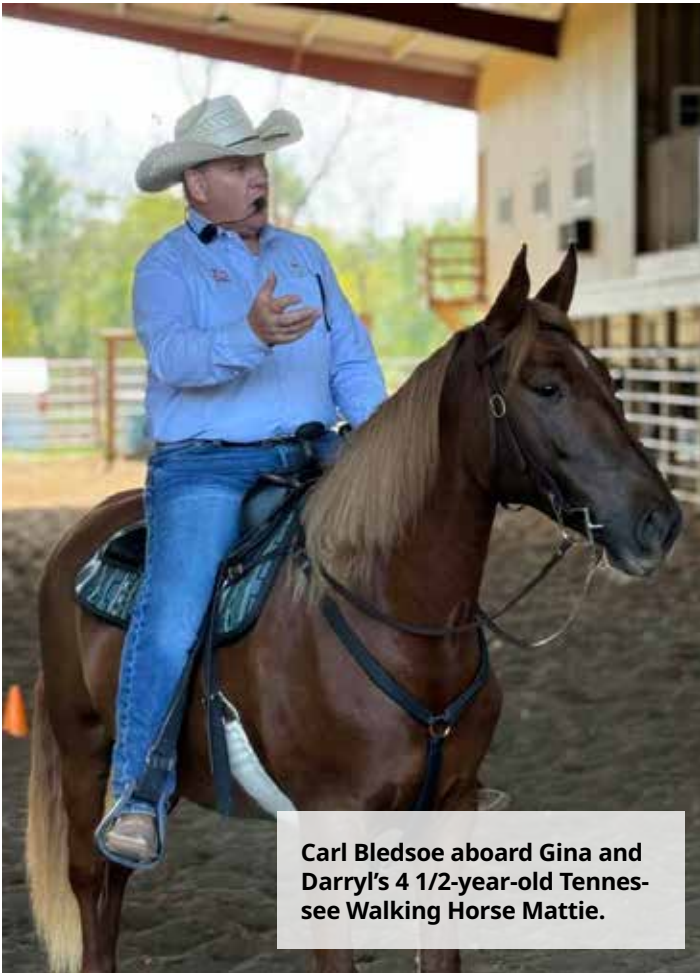
Carl Bledsoe Clinic

4H Judging Clinic

Carl Bledsoe Clinic onal Equestrian Center ke St. Louis, Missouri ptember 19-21, 2025

Sponsored by FOSH

Carl Bledsoe “J



Carl Bledsoe aboard Gina and Darryl's 4 1/2-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse Mattie.

participants represented the trail as well as the rail (show) world and were interested in improving their ability to help their horse gait. There were seven riders and several auditors. Breeds represented included the Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, Missouri Fox Trotter, and Rocky Mountain Horse.

The clinic consisted of groundwork, under saddle work and short and informative lectures on anatomy, physiology and neurology of the horse. Gait identification and foot-fall patterns were also covered. All aspects of the clinic tied in to allowing the horse to freely use his body and engage from the back end with rhythm and self-carriage, promoting longevity and relaxation to achieve optimal gait.

I attended the Carl Bledsoe “Just Gait” Clinic at River Valley Lodge in Farmington, Iowa, October 3-5, 2024. Carl was named the Humane Horseman of the Year in February by the Humane Society of the United States. He provides classical horsemanship training for horses and riders of all disciplines, with a specialty in gaited horses. At the clinic, the

My husband Darryl rode Mattie, our 4 1/2-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse, while I took copious notes. I picked up a lot of information this way and particularly enjoyed some of the sayings I heard. From the late Australian horseman Ken May, “the only bit that will improve your horse is a bit more knowledge” to “anxiety is trained into the horse, then

Just Gait" Clinic

By Gina Vehige

blamed on the horse" (Carl). I also liked "do not punish curiosity" as well as "manipulating the head makes them heavy on the front" and "relax at the poll, don't break at the poll." I think there were many other lines that I will refer to from my notes to reinforce the excellent points that were made.

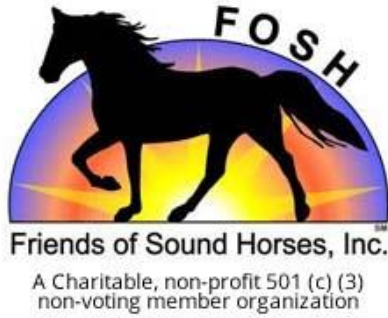
Darryl was particularly impressed with the riding tips Carl and Tammy reinforced during the clinic. Many gaited riders have not had formal riding lessons, so this work with the riders significantly contributed to "getting out of the way of the horse" and improved their results.

All the moves practiced started on the ground with an emphasis on making a mental connection with the horse. I copied down the patterns and have already set up the cones and courses at our home round pen and arena so we can continue to keep all our horses relaxed and flexible. An arena would not be necessary to continue the beneficial maneuvers that we learned, so anyone can benefit from them.

As an Independent Judge's

Association (IJA) judge, I was very impressed with the positive changes I saw in every horse in attendance. Some horses were quite anxious, pacey and/or trotty on Day One, but by the end of the clinic everyone was riding a nice pattern with their horses designed to reinforce suppleness and correct movement. Everyone remarked on the improvements they noted (and I saw) in the way their horses were gaiting. Even working from the ground, I've gained confidence from Carl and Tammy's teachings and have already been working with Mattie to apply what we've learned. I fully intend to attend another one of their clinics, and this time I'll be riding.

Please view their website at www.carbledsoehorsemanship.com and follow them on Facebook at "Just Gait" to keep up with their schedule. I'm going to try to organize one of their clinics in Missouri in 2025 so hopefully more information on that will be forthcoming shortly. If you want to organize a clinic, remember that FOSH has a program to support sound events and clinics. The request form can be found in this edition of the Sound Advocate.



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***

North American Western Dressage

The following was posted on the NAWD Facebook page. All of us at FOSH are sorry to see the program end and thank everyone for their hard work promoting Western and traditional dressage and including gaited horses in their programs.

To Our Valued Members, Partners, and Community:

It is with a mixture of gratitude and heartfelt emotion that we announce the closing of North American Western Dressage (NAWD) at the end of this competition and award season. Our TRAX and Stars for Life commitments will be fulfilled and we will be awarding the prizes we have left in stock at our NAWD Finale Show that runs through October 31, 2024. Double-Up for TRAX will be held as scheduled and prepurchased tests must be used by the end of 2024. This decision has not been made lightly, as we reflect upon the incredible journey we've had together in fostering and promoting Western Dressage.

From the very beginning, our mission was to create a community celebrating the bond between horse and rider through a shared passion for this beautiful discipline. Our mission was to show how dressage can serve as a foundation to make every horse better at his job while preserving long term soundness of mind and body.



We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together: the countless shows, educational programs, friendships, and unforgettable moments spent learning and growing side by side.

We are deeply thankful to each one of you who believed in this vision and helped bring it to life. Whether you were a competitor, coach, volunteer, judge, sponsor, or supporter, your contributions made NAWD a vibrant, welcoming place for Western Dressage enthusiasts of all backgrounds.

Because of your dedication, passion, and unwavering support we were able to build something truly special.

While this chapter is coming to a close, the spirit of NAWD will live on through the many lives we've touched and the community we've

ie (NAWD) - A Fond Farewell

cultivated. We hope that the knowledge, skills, and relationships formed here continue to inspire and empower you as you pursue your horsemanship journeys.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our board members, volunteers, and supporters who have dedicated their time and energy to ensure that NAWD's mission was fulfilled. Your unwavering commitment and belief in this organization have made all the difference.

Moving forward, our website and social media platforms will remain

active until we have fulfilled our advertising and award commitments, and we will be sharing updates on the transition process as we move toward our closure. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. As we say farewell, we do so with full hearts and deep appreciation. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this incredible community, and we are forever grateful for the impact you have had on us, and each other.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The North American Western Dressage Team



Horizon Structure

Adjusting Horse Care Ro

Senior horses, just like human senior citizens, appreciate some special care and attention. The key to enjoying a good quality of life in retirement is paying attention to staying healthy and changing up routines where necessary to accomplish the task.

Are you doing enough to make that possible for your senior horse? Here are a few guidelines to help set you on a positive course.

On the Move

Common ailments in vintage horses include respiratory issues, metabolic disorders and arthritis. While a regular veterinary exam and blood workup of the horse will diagnose disease and medical concerns and offer some remedial actions, basic management techniques can also go a long way to mitigating the effects of these issues. It can provide important support that can help prevent, possibly even resolve problems, and at the very least help maintain a decent quality of life for the senior horse.

Freedom of movement is an essential component to the mental as well as physical well-being of all horses. Provision of Dutch doors on the exterior wall of a stall that exit to a

turnout paddock or dry lot offers the resident equine an opportunity to choose for himself where he prefers to be in any weather.

Gentle exercise is important in helping horses' mental health as well as aiding in keeping joints lubricated and lessening the effects /speed of decay related to arthritis. Similarly exercise helps horses with metabolic disorders from becoming overweight, often a key causative factor in these diseases.

The overhang area of a barn also provides a handy in/out space for the horse to enjoy. If you are building new, including an overhang in the design is a relatively inexpensive way to add shelter and storage options to a building.

Horses can be encouraged to spend time in the fresh air, away from shavings or other bedding that may irritate respiratory passageways, by offering a high-quality forage source outside in an equine hay feeder. Not only does a hay feeder save money with less wastage of hay supplies, but its use also encourages healthier eating habits because it slows down the pace of ingestion. If you select a model with a roof it also protects the hay from becoming

es Presents Series: outines for Senior Horses

By Nikki Alvin-Smith



Having access to shelter in the pasture gives horses a choice of where they can hang out. Photo courtesy Horizon Structures.

wet or moldy. An equine hay feeder also prevents the forage becoming manure infused and keeps any hay detritus such as dust and seeds out of the confined stable area where there is less passive airflow. This is very helpful for horses with respiratory issues.

Note: Be certain to use a hay feeder designed specifically for horses to avoid injury and accidents that cattle feeders can inflict on equines.

Provision of more turnout time and space for horses is helpful for both their mental and physical well-being too. And if the option exists to offer free range on well-managed pastures then as long as there is some form of shelter such as a carefully placed and sized run-in shed, the horse can enjoy more freedom.

Nutrition Matters

A balanced diet for the senior horse is not attained by simply switching the feed bag to a grain mix designed for 'senior' horses. Proper nutrition is a major component to good health. Horses were never designed to eat grain of course. The addition of a high-quality equine feed supplement can help support the well-being of the horse's microbiome and can help defray the likelihood of issues with ulcers and hind gut acidosis.

Test your pastures and hay or other dry forage each year so you know what the horse is actually eating. Try to avoid forage treated with

chemicals and preservatives as these may cause inflammatory and skin issues, especially in animals with weakened immune systems or prone to inflammatory metabolic disorders.

Check the product labels for duplication of components on grain and supplements and look for stabilized high-quality ingredients and formulations. It pays to be educated on the horse's digestive process if you want to choose the right products to feed to keep a horse happy and healthy.

For gut health it is a great idea to feed smaller more frequent meals to the horse than one or two a day. If it is practical consider adding a midday meal and treat your senior horse like a performance horse.

It should go without saying that fecal worm counts and deworming, dental and hoof care should be on the schedule for all horses, but most especially for the older horse who is likely to have more issues due to the infirmities and exposures of old age.

Avoid Home Alone

As we all know horses are herd critters, so be certain to provide companionship in some form. That might be a donkey, mule, miniature horse or another horse. It could also be a goat or two, or other animal. Social activity is an important cognitive stimulation for all mammals including horses. So try and avoid

leaving your horse home alone, even if you spend much time in the day with him.

It is kinder to allow a senior horse to enjoy same or similar company once you've found a good companionship program than to keep endlessly switching things about, as re-establishing the pecking order in a relationship can add unnecessary stress to the older horse's life. For example, try not to use the older horse simply as a babysitter for rambunctious youngsters that are switched for turned out periods throughout the day while the senior equine is the mainstay occupant of a paddock.

Comfort in Routine and Environment

As we age we all appreciate the benefits of following a routine. Meal times that are kept on schedule help to keep our digestive processes optimized and aids in keeping our glucose and other metabolite levels balanced (given the diet is composed appropriately for the individual's specific needs). Similarly, horses appreciate routines as it helps assuage any fears of food deprivation or worry of changes in the herd's care dynamic. Even changes in who feeds and handles the horse can be a stressor for some animals.

New environments can often cause stress to older horses, who may have impaired senses such as vision loss or simply feel more vulnerable due to their age. Try and minimize

lifestyle changes and environments where possible.

Exercise Options

Riding is great way to exercise your horse if your equine partner can manage it without pain or discomfort. A horse that has enjoyed the companionship and interactive experience of being ridden, will always welcome the continued experienced, though it may need to be conducted at a slower pace or lesser level.

Other exercise options include free longing, long lining (which is kinder on the equine joints that longing on a circle), ponying from another horse and hand walking. Being hand-grazed is a wonderful pastime for any horse, who can feel secure with his person on the end of the rope while experiencing some fresh herbs or grasses outside of the regular pasture.

Regular grooming of the horse is also a very beneficial endeavor as it helps to maintain his muscle tone while providing a bonding experience. It is also an opportunity to check over the horse's physical health points such as picking out hooves to check frog health, identifying and treating any superficial wounds, swellings or injuries. Additionally any changes in the mental health of the horse can also be ascertained.

Thermoregulation Concerns

It is important to manage the environment for senior horses in the

same way you would for a foal or young horse. The two ends of the age spectrum both invite problems with body temperature management, as thermoregulation is more difficult to optimize for the very young and the older mammal.

Blanketing or sheeting a horse may not be necessary in general circumstances if the equine has shelter from hard rain/snow blizzards and hot sun. But keep the 'weather eye' on the older horse who may not cope as well with extremes of temperature, inclement weather or adverse environmental conditions such as high winds in bitterly cold weather or extreme heat and (in particular) humidity.

When building a new barn consider including plenty of electrical outlets for attaching commercial grade fans (motors on commercial fans are sealed which helps mitigate the risk of dust infiltrating the motors which can cause fires). Incorporating cupolas and passive or mechanical exhaust fans can help with temperature and moisture management in a building.

Also consider installation of rubber matting in stalls to improve the comfort level of the equine residents. It makes it safer for older critters to get up and down and helps protect their joints from the impact and dampness of a dirt or concrete floor.

When The Time Comes. It Will

It is an honor to be able to keep a senior horse through its golden years. Most especially if he has given you a part or all of his life as an active partner. Now is not the time to give him up.

But the time will come when you have to show him the last great kindness and make the difficult decision that it is time for euthanasia. The definition of the word comes from the Greek words 'eu (good) and "thanatos" (death), but that does not make it an easy decision.

The reality is that aging up is a good thing when you consider the alternative. And every day a blessing. When you take steps to maintain your horse's well-being you are making decisions for him that he is obviously unable to make for himself. Take comfort in knowing that you have done the best by him.

Courtesy of [Horizon Structures](#).

*About Horizon Structures:
One horse or twenty, there's one thing all horse owners have in common...the need to provide safe and secure shelter for their equine partners. At Horizon Structures, we combine expert craftsmanship, top-of-the-line materials and smart "horse-friendly" design to create a full line of sheds and barns that any horse owner can feel confident is the right choice for their horses' stabling needs.*

CAN YOU RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF STRANGLES?

Strangles is caused by bacterial infection with *Streptococcus equi* subspecies *equi* (referred to as *S. equi*). The bacteria typically infect the upper airway and lymph nodes of the head and neck.

FEVER

(temperature >101.5F)

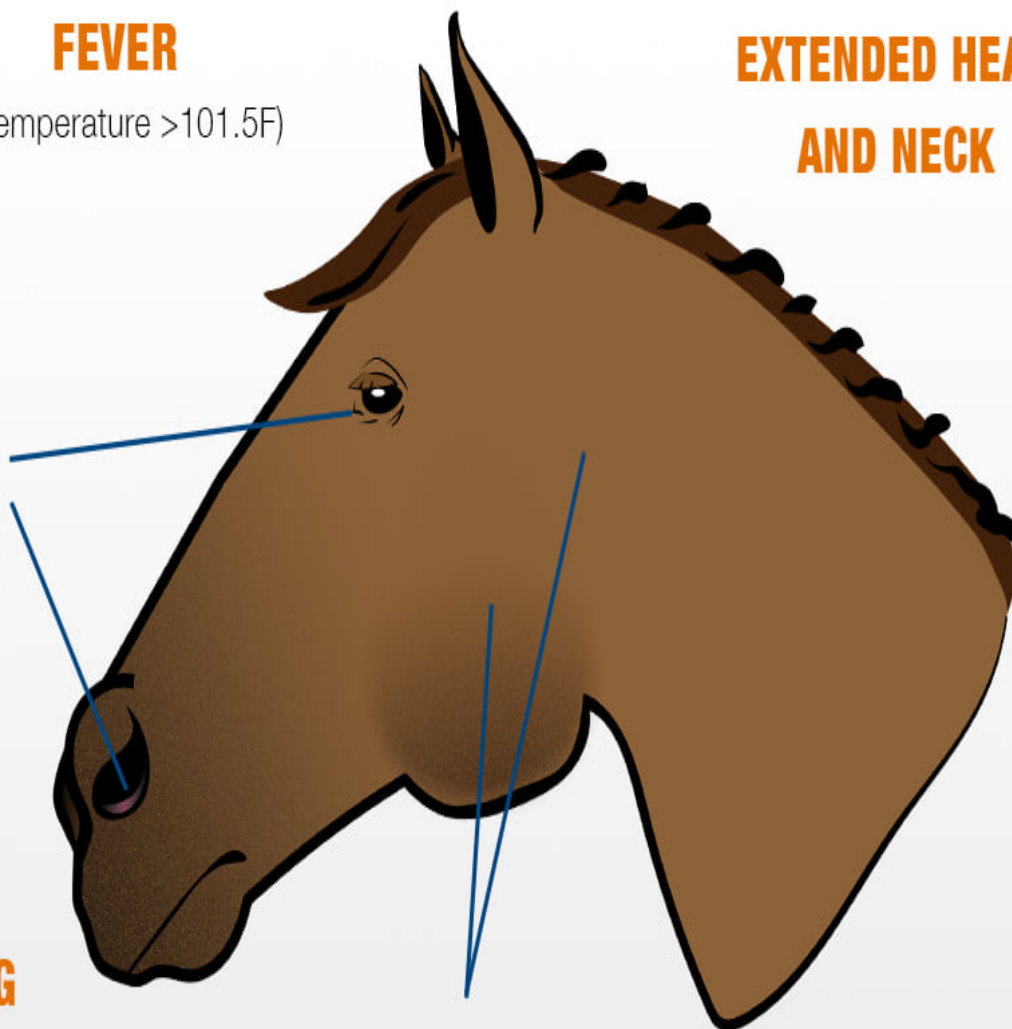
EXTENDED HEAD AND NECK

PURULENT DISCHARGE

DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING

SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES

which ultimately abscess



If you suspect a strangles outbreak, **be sure to involve your veterinarian right away** to determine the diagnosis and the best control practices for your particular farm. Strangles is a reportable disease in some states, and the state veterinarian may need to be notified as well. *Contact your veterinarian for more information.*





Many horse owners are faced with budget concerns as we head into winter months. The management and care expenses of horses will likely increase at this time of year. If there is an option where money can be saved while actually providing better care for the horse than thought then why not take advantage of it. How? Stop wasting money on unneeded equine feed supplements by cocktailing and duplicating vitamins, minerals, and other nutritional ingredients in your horses diet. But do feed what's required. More is not better but it could actually be worse.

Why Does Winter Increase Horse Keeping Costs?

There are many reasons for this:

- Horsekeeping expenses rise due to lack of green pasture and supplies of hay or other dry forage being needed.
- Harsher weather means many equines will be spending more time stabled increasing bedding costs.
- Colder weather often means upping the grain rations as well as hay rations.
- For some horse owners their animals will transition to a livery yard with permanent stabling and a useful indoor training option from less expensive backyard paddock care.
- Horse owners opt to increase feed supplementation during winter months to provide additional quantities of vitamins, minerals, amino acids and other equine dietary components for specific wellness support due to lack of their availability to the horse without grazing green pastures. This perception that cold winter weather means significant changes are needed in daily horse care has inspired many myths about what is actually necessary. We can bust 9 winter horse care myths for starters.

Here is a quick read seasonal horse

Grand Meadows Care Series: Money in Your Horse Care Budget?

By [Nikki Alvin-Smith](#)

care checklist for tips on what to consider as nature transitions through the year particularly as we head into winter.

More Is Not Better But It Could Be Worse

Grand Meadows owner Nick Hartog has keenly educated his clientele (that includes Olympic level competitors through to weekend amateur riders) for years that over supplementation with equine feed supplements can do more harm than good. Hartog's decades of experience in the feed supplement realm, including being a co-founder of the prestigious NASC { National Animal Supplement Council}, have always been grounded in the mission of the company to provide horse supplements based on science, proven research, and ethical formulations that help horses grow, recover, thrive, develop, and feel their best.

Part of that ethical mantra is spreading the word that when it comes to equine feed supplementation more is not better but it could be worse for the horse. It may seem counter-intuitive to have the leading producer of horse feed supplementa-

tion pushing this message, but it is so important that Hartog will not ignore it. The aim to educate the horse owner so they can make the best choices for wellness support for their wee beasties has spawned his latest ongoing Instagram series, "Supplement Savvy." His frank and sometimes irreverent opinions and sincere knowledge and advice may surprise even the most jaded horse professional who believes they know more than they do.

It's a good idea to understand where over-supplementation can do harm.

Stop Throwing Money Away In The Feed Bucket

The kicker about all the equine feed supplementation marketing that we all receive as horse folks is that we fall for it. Instead of taking the time to do some listening to professionals in the world of horse supplements that have proven their integrity before we pick up a pot or tub of what we believe is best option and spend our hard-earned money often unnecessarily.

As Hartog explains, "What you put

into your horse is critical to their health now more than ever. Make smart choices and don't take things at face value. Do the research."

That is not to say that we shouldn't feed any supplements at all. But if we wish to stop wasting money and even more importantly, do the best as our horses' guardians, then we should buy top quality products at reasonable pricing that are correctly formulated and offer comprehensive wellness support.

Not Your First Rodeo

The awful news that hit the press a few weeks back about the death of over 70 horses likely due to contaminated horse feed reminds us as horse owners that knowing the provenance of our horse feed and equine supplements is as important as knowing which formulations are needed and which are not. As experienced horse owners we can easily become too comfortable in doing what we have always done, and not properly investigating what we are feeding our horses or doing to train them. An open mind is very much a necessity if you want to improve your horsemanship skill set and knowledge is always power.

Confidence in provenance of ingredients, the standard of their manufacturing standard operating procedures as well as accurate formulations and labelling should also be high on the priority list when it comes to feeding an equine supplement. The stellar auditing process

of the NASC, which Hartog helped to develop and earnestly follows at Grand Meadows is testament to the fact that he worked to abolish false advertising claims, miscreant activities in production protocols and make the feed supplement business a better place.

Trust But Verify

Another huge area for overspending on horse supplements can simply come from buying lesser quality products or ones that do not actually contain what their label claims they do. SO we are back to the NASC benefit and however small the image of the seal it may be on a manufacturer's label we should look for it before making any purchase and educating ourselves as to which ones are best formulated. And yep, that comes back to buying science-backed products and trusting but verifying the manufacturer. Remember your horse trusts you to be his guardian – should he?

Stop Wasting Money

Your budget saving answers are right here. All you have to do is take some time to check them out.

Article courtesy of 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.



WINTER WATER CONSUMPTION

What are the risks of decreased water intake?

Because horses drink less water in the winter, they are at risk for **impaction colic**. This type of colic occurs when hard or dry fecal matter accumulates in the colon.

How can I encourage my horse to drink more in the winter?



Always provide access to

fresh water. The average horse drinks 10 gallons a day.



Studies show horses drink more during cold weather if water is **heated**, but only if the heated water is their **sole water source**.

Refill buckets at or after feeding time, as horses drink the most after eating grain or hay.

aaep.org

Murdoch Minute

No. 117: Close the Lower Front Door

By Wendy Murdoch

Do you have difficulty opening your hips in rising trot? Hollow your back? Sit on the front part of your seat bones? Is your horse on the fore-hand? Many riders hollow their back when riding but this tips the pelvis forward and down, sticks the seat bones out behind, closes the hip angle and puts the horse on the fore-hand. Flattening the lower back and closing the lower front door to keep the pelvis bowl in a level position level will make you more secure and allow your hips to open correctly in rising trot and canter.

Correctly ridden, rising trot is a swing motion. With your back flat and pelvis level (not tipped forward down at the top) the horse pushes you up out of the saddle as he pushes off the ground with his hind foot. This keeps you close to the horse as you swing forward/up. Your weight in the rise phase is born on your thigh not your stirrup. You are able to regulate your horse's trot by the amount and speed of your rising swing motion. In this position you are stable and secure through the entire rise and sit phase because your pelvis remains level underneath you.

If your pelvis is constantly changing position during rising trot from tipped forward to tipped back as you rise and sit you will not be secure and will fall back into the saddle, which is most unpleasant for your horse! To keep from pitching forward you will have to brace or push against the stirrups and lead with your chest to get out of the saddle. When your pelvis is level you will be able to swing upward with less effort because you are in a position to receive the push from the horse's hind feet to send you up in rising and are never falling back.

A simple way to help keep your pelvis level especially during transitions is to remember to keep your lower front door closed. In Traditional Chinese Medicine the pee hole is referred to as the lower front door. The other one is the back door. You may remember this as #1 and #2 from elementary school. Many riders have the buttocks too tight and need to let go back here because contraction in the gluteal muscles externally rotates the thigh and tips the pelvis forward/down. Relaxing the back door and closing the lower front door tones the muscles just above the pubic bone, tips

the front of the pelvis up, leveling and completing the pelvic bowl in front, which allows you to sit on the widest part of your seat bones and remain secure in the saddle.

Practice closing the lower front door when off your horse. Place one hand just above your pubic bone as you close. You will feel an increase in tone. When riding, repeat closing the front door while walking. Feel how this changes the position of your pelvis. Lengthen your lower back and then close the lower front door especially just before for a transition. Notice how you stay upright instead of falling forward and your horse lightens his forehead.

Use this [Murdoch Minute](#) to level your pelvis and lighten your horse's forehead during transitions. Practice closing the lower front door when off your horse to improve the tone of the muscles that complete the pelvic bowl and always remember to enjoy the ride!

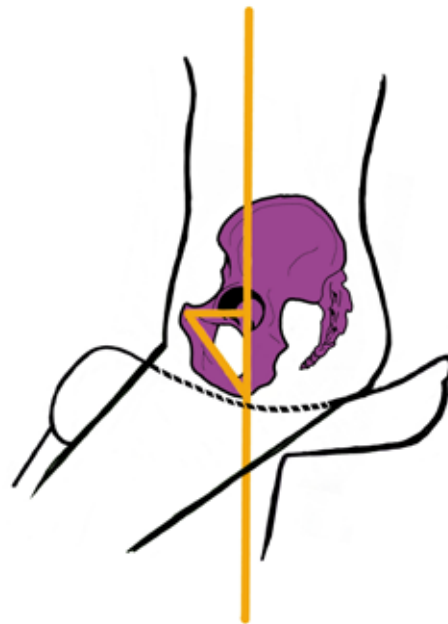
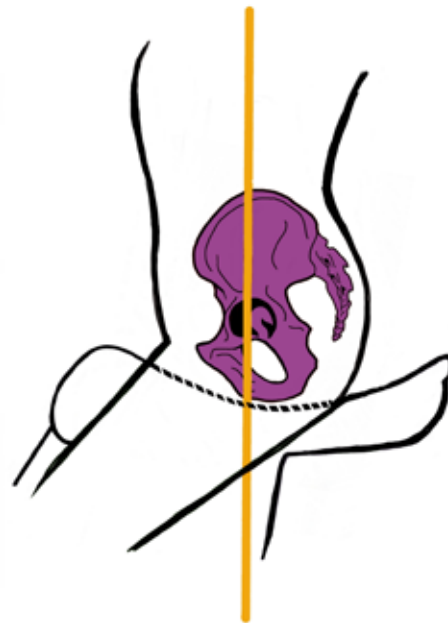
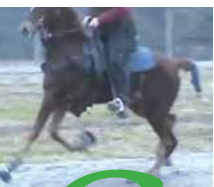


Fig. 1 The pelvis viewed from the front. The pelvic bowl is comprised of three bones, the two halves of the pelvis and sacrum (triangle shaped bone at the back). Muscles (not shown here) complete the bowl in the front, which keeps the contents from spilling out.

Fig. 2. The pelvis is tipped forward/down at the top with the lower back hollowed. The rider sits on the narrow part of the seat bones and pubis. The widest part is pointing toward the horse's hindquarters.

Fig. 3 The lower back is flat and the pelvis is level with the widest part of the seat bones in the saddle. Closing the lower front doors helps to maintain this position at all gaits.



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

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.

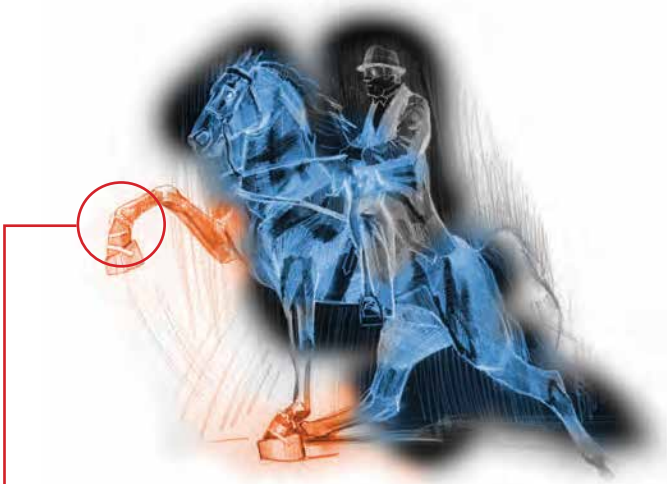
Methods Used to Avoid Detection at Inspection

- **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

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 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)

Lori Northrup, President
6614 Clayton Road #105, St. Louis, MO 63117
716-474-7580 • 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

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

"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)

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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Donate to Rehab

VOLUNTEER TIME OR DONATE

Adopt to Ride

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

Ever wonder what your saddle would say, if it could talk?

a.k.a. Tack Talk
By *Lucy Rangel*

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 Esther L. Bell, TN
 Pamela Brand, Carlisle, PA
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 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
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