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Gratny Family Looks to Next Generation

By Carolyn Kaberline (Page 4)

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"LETTER FROM ERNIE"



Hello Friends! Where did 2017 go? I hope everyone had a great Happy Thanksgiving! This has been a pretty exciting fall for the Rodina's as we have been campaigning our gelding, Wimpy's Lil Fred in all the fall futurities. As I write this, we are focusing on this year's NRHA Futurity with my good friend and NRHA Million Dollar Rider, Brent Wright, at the reins. How rewarding this has been for me to have my best friend, Brent Wright, train and show Fred. In looking at this whole process with our horse, it is all about the journey.

We are so excited about launching our new name, BETTER HORSES, and our new website, www.betterhorses.com. Under the umbrella of Better Horses.com will be all the parts the Better Horses that make it happen. This includes our paper which just has finished its' 18th birthday and also our Calendar, Radio, TV, E-blasts, Direct Mail, Better Horses Properties, and event marketing. When it comes to marketing and advertising Better Horses has you covered. When you are looking for someone to help promote your business, make sure you contact Better Horses for the right package of marketing tools to get the job done. I am so thankful for our listeners and viewers of both our Radio Shows and Better Horses TV. As I always say, "Take me out of the equation" it is so rewarding and great that we have a Television show on a Major area TV Network that showcases our industry and passion right here in our own backyard. Also, we have a number of Radio Stations and Networks that support Better Horses Radio. We continue to grow in our media picking up new TV Networks and Markets along with more Radio Stations. If you sit on the bubble on whether to sponsor Better Horses or not, look at what we have to help promote our industry. As I always say, Better Horses is not Ernie Rodina's it is ours. You will soon see that Better Horses is bringing in new faces that is going to help take our Better Horses to another level. I would like to thank the Adams family, Tom, Ed, Tara, and Nick for all they are doing for Better Horses. What a great tremendous family they are. Ed, your ideas and leadership are over the top! We are so excited to announce we will have another year of Better Horses TV because of the hard work of Ed, Tara and Nick. Tom, we are so glad you got through your health crisis a month or two back. I understand now why you were such a great plant manager for Purina Animal Nutrition.

Have you marked your calendars for Feb.23rd ,24th, & 25th to attend this year's Equifest of Kansas in Topeka. We are so excited for the Better Horses Media Booth where we are planning a lot of great activities and we have really expanded. Equifest is a great way to kick off the new year. Please keep Pastor Frank Slaughter in your prayers as he is in a battle with his health. He is one tough cowboy and he needs our prayers. Hey, did you see Al Dunning will be coming back to the area with a 3-day clinic at the great EC Equine Center near Louisburg. See info on page 32 and make sure you get signed up for this weekend with one of the best in the industry.

I want to take this time to thank all of you for the support you have given Better Horses. If there is anything we can ever do for you, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by either emailing me, ernie@betterhorsesradio.com or giving me a call at 785-418-6047. I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and remember to keep our Lord, Jesus Christ, first in your life! Happy Trails,




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Gratny Family Looks to Next Generation

By Carolyn Kaberline

He was a junior in animal science from Kansas City, Kansas; she was a freshman in veterinary medicine from Cleveland, Ohio. The two met at a horse show put on by the Block and Bridle Club while attending Kansas State University: He was showing in cutting and she was showing in the more usual horse show events. The two hit it off and were married six years later in 1972, thus beginning one of the best known and most respected equine families in the region.

Mark Gratny had always had horses and as a youngster had been part of the Rodeo Kids; he'd even gone back East with trick rider J.W. Stoker when Stoker performed in Madison Square Garden; Linda had had horses since her eighth grade year—and had to learn to play the piano as a trade-off.

“Mark used to accuse me of going with him just because I liked his horse,” Linda said.

Since Mark graduated before Linda, he went to work for Orville Burtis, managing his herd and even going with Burtis when Burtis went to approve stallions and judge shows. While Mark's emphasis in animal science had been in feed lot management, he had always trained a few horses, so after Linda graduated the couple decided to set up a training and veterinary facility. They selected their current Leavenworth location because the Gratny family owned some land near McLouth, and Mark wanted to live where that land could be used.

Linda worked out of her car for the first three years they were in Leavenworth until the clinic was built. Mark started his training operation with a focus mainly on paints, even

standing a paint stallion owned by J.D. Ferrell. However, after Denny Hassett moved from Tonganoxie to western Kansas, some of Hassett's quarter horse customers brought their horses to the Gratnys and soon the switch was made to quarter horses although Mark continued to train horses of all breeds, winning numerous awards for their owners.



Austin Young, Maggie Gratny Young, Eric Carlson, Kelly Gratny Carlson (mounted), and Linda and Mark Gratny after Kelly's Amateur Reserve World Champion win in Ranch Riding aboard Roo Fifty Too.

During those early years, the Gratnys purchased their first stallion to stand: the 1975 stallion Dun Lucky Dee.

“I always wanted a stallion by Sonny Dee Bar,” Mark said, adding that the stallion was always underrated. Not only did the stallion himself earn a performance ROM and 31 points, his offspring won AQHA superior awards, ROMs, and high point awards as well as qualifying for the World

Championship Show in all divisions and winning national awards in AHSA competition.

Soon the Gratnys first daughter Kelly arrived in 1981 and it wasn't long before she had her own pony. It was only a few years after that in 1984 that Linda, whose practice had grown considerably, decided to make the switch from veterinary medicine

was able to attend school at KU and spend her pediatric residency there earning a neonatology fellowship at Children's Mercy. Linda then joined a practice group at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri, where she often worked with micro-preemies. When she had a chance to return to Children's Mercy Hospital, she took it and started a neonatal home ventilator program so many premature infants could go home and be treated there instead of spending so much time in the hospital.

While Linda was earning her medical degree, their second daughter Maggie arrived in 1988. Mark also began coaching the Park College equestrian team and taught a class in equine nutrition there too until the school sold off part of its land and discontinued the equine program.

While Mark continued to train for and show in a variety of events, earning numerous awards and honors for his customers including AQHA World Show placings, ABRA World show wins and too many state awards to count, his emphasis finally turned toward reining.

“I had always been interested in reining and used to ride with Bob Loomis,” Mark said. With the focus on reining the Gratnys later purchased Smart By Chick, an own son of Smart Chick O'Lena and now stand him and also their younger stallion Roo Fifty Two, a son of Gallo Del Cielo.

Over the years Kelly and Maggie also took an interest in showing and began their own careers in the arena.

Kelly began her career with Expectations Lad, who had previously been shown by Wendy White in youth competition. Together

to human medicine.

“Kelly was a preemie, and I got interested in some of the techniques,” Linda said, adding that “it was like high-tech veterinary medicine. Medical science is fascinating.”

From the beginning Linda was interested in neonatology which meant four years of medical school, three years of pediatric residency, and another three years of neonatology fellowship. For this she



*Linda and Mark Gratny with Kelly and Eric Carlson and Derek with Derek's pony at the Sunflower Slide in Topeka.
Photo by Maggie Gratny Young*

Kelly and Lad began to rack up wins in youth events. As Kelly progressed to other horses, the awards continued to come in: there were numerous state awards, all-around titles in ABRA competition and placings at the Quarter Horse Congress. One of her highest awards was a Reserve World Championship in Amateur Ranch Riding aboard Roo Fifty Two in 2014.

In addition Kelly was one of the original members of the K-State Equestrian Team, also earning reserve national championships in horsemanship and reining in collegiate competition and finishing in the top three of the national collegiate championships each year that she showed.

However, Kelly's show schedule slowed down as she entered K-State's Veterinary Medicine program, graduating in 2006 and completing an internship at Rood and Riddle in Kentucky and a residency at Texas A & M before returning to Rood and Riddle to work.

It was during her years at KSU that she met and married Eric Carlson, a fellow veterinary student who boarded his horse at the same stable as she did. Following the completion of Eric's residency in equine surgery, the two returned to the Leavenworth area and opened Heartland Equine Hospital outside of Tonganoxie in 2014 where they provide a wide variety of diagnostic and surgical services. The two welcomed their

first child Derek in May of 2016.

Maggie also had a successful show career as a youth, winning numerous state awards and placings at the Quarter Horse Congress in a variety of events. However, Maggie eventually turned her whole attention to reining by the time she was in high school. While she planned to follow in the family tradition and enroll at K-State, that changed when a coach from Texas A & M saw her compete in a reining competition in Colorado and invited her to visit the College Station campus.

After that visit, Maggie said. "They eventually offered a scholarship that I couldn't say 'no' to."

Although Maggie started her college career in pre-dental, she soon decided that was not for her and switched her major to animal science, earning her undergraduate degree in 2010 and her Masters of Agriculture degree the following year. During the course of her stay at Texas

A & M she competed successfully on the school's equestrian team, becoming a NCAA national champion in reining three of her four years on the team. She also won the limited non-pro class at the NRHA Futurity in 2013 on her good mare Wallywood.

Now working for Elanco in pharmaceutical sales, she met her future husband Austin Young, a commercial concrete superintendent, in 2013 at the NRHA Derby.

"He had a horse when we met," Maggie said, "and he's getting more into it."

The couple wed in 2015 and welcomed their daughter Josie in October of

this year. They reside in Elmore City, Oklahoma.

With Mark continuing his success in the show pen, Linda retired from the medical field, their daughters and their spouses established in careers, young Derek already owning a pony of his own and Maggie and Austin on the lookout for a pony for Josie, what's next for the Gratny family?

"More of the same," says Linda. "And we'll watch the next generation grow up and hope they continue the tradition. Horses have been great to us; that's for sure."



Maggie and Austin Young with Josie



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Dr. Maureen Sutter Attends Missouri Veterinary Medical Association

Fall Equine Dental Continuing Education Seminar

Dr. Maureen Sutter, DVM, practitioner at Red Oak Animal Hospital, Bucyrus, KS attended the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association's (MVMA) Fall Equine Dentistry Lecture and Wet Lab in Union, Mo.

The course was held September 9-11, 2017 at the Missouri Humane Society's Longmeadow Rescue Ranch and offered 18.5 hours of state licensing board-approved continuing education.

The course covered oral cavity anatomy/physiology; dental instruments and techniques; sedation techniques; dental pathology and treatment; and a hands-on dental wet lab utilizing rescued horses at the Humane Society's farm.

Veterinarian attendees performed

various dental treatments at no charge on 27 of the ranch's horses waiting for adoption. The dollar value of these services is estimated at \$4,000.

The expertise of these veterinarians underscores the need to involve a licensed veterinarian in equine dental care. Equine dentistry practiced without the involvement of a veterinarian is illegal, unauthorized, and without oversight by any state entity.

The presenters at the lecture were Dr. Dennis Rach and Dr. Bruce Whittle. Dr. Rach has over 30 years of experience in equine dentistry and is an active practitioner at Moore and Co. Veterinary Services in Calgary, Canada. Dr. Bruce Whittle is a predominantly large animal

veterinarian and co-owner of a mixed animal practice with his wife, Gayla, in Trenton, Missouri. He has a passion for dentistry and has been actively involved in teaching dentistry short courses at numerous veterinary colleges through the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) over the past ten years.

The lecture was sponsored by PowerFloat, Inc., Zoetis Animal Health, and the MVMA.

Continuing education courses such as this are conducted throughout the year to keep MVMA members informed about the most up-to-date techniques and procedures in veterinary medicine.

The Missouri Veterinary Medical



Dr. Sutter utilizing the PowerFloat dental device on one of Longmeadow Ranch's rescued horses.

Association is the society for veterinarians in the state, dedicated to maintaining the highest standards for professionalism and ethics in animal health care in Missouri. The association was founded to help the veterinarian better serve the welfare of animals and their owners.

*For More Information, Contact:
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Jesse the Crash Dummy

By Rex Buchman

My son Jesse showed up at the ranch a while back needing to make some money so I put him to work straight away. I had some colts that needed some catch up work. We saddled the two three year olds and sent them around the round pen for a couple circles. When we caught them up and started to get ready to get on, my phone went off and distracted me for a couple seconds. When I looked up Jesse was half way up on the Joker and that colt was nowhere near ready to be ridden. I started talking trying to get the situation under control which made Jesse nervous so he just vaulted on up there, loose reins and all. Well Jesse can get on and throw his leg higher over the cantle than most anyone I know. He lit in the saddle with a plop which was just the button Joker had ready for ejection mode. The boy made a pretty good ride for only having one stirrup and a death grip on the saddle horn. Four seconds later he was off and pulling himself up out of the sand without much permanent damage. Once he caught his breath we took some time to go over what happened before what happened.

That is not the first time I've seen that happen. I got to ride with my friend Buster on a ranch in Texas a few years back. There was a young puncher who crawled on a horse we nicknamed Snake. He got both stirrups but the ride didn't last much longer than Jesse's. I've seen it on trail rides. Folks will get on a horse in the middle of a bunch of people and trailers with no thought of what is fixing to happen, same results. Last time I witnessed that particular scenario we had to call

an ambulance. Now I know it is impossible to know all the time what is going to happen, but when you happen to be with someone who might know maybe you should ask for help or advice. I remember a time many years ago when I opened the barn door to show my Grandpa Keith a horse I was riding for a friend. He glanced in the door and told me I'd better watch that so and so (he used more colorful words ;-). Many a time I have had an old timer say to me, to pay attention because that horse is fixing to hurt you. My nephew Spencer has told me on many occasions that horse is not looking at you like that cause he loves you Uncle. People with lots of experience usually can see what is coming or at least have an opinion. Teresa's dad Jiggs rode a lot of bad ones. It made him nervous to watch the grand kids ride because he knew what could happen.

It is not always possible to know what the horse is going to do. I have a friend who has been accused of knowing exactly what the horse is going to do. I personally think that more often he just doesn't care and is willing to ride whatever the horse throws at him, but he does pick his place to start the event. A couple days ago I was on a colt that was looking for an excuse to try me. I knew it and was extremely careful. Mater of fact it was the same colt that bucked Jesse off, go figure. I got him rode in the pens and had him working good, but when I went out the gate I had to lean over and pull up on the gate to get it to latch. That was the excuse he was waiting for. I made the ride, he didn't buck that hard and I was ready. It is very

difficult to make a ride you are not prepared for.

Last week we hosted a Stoecklein Photography clinic. Well we decided to restart one of our 3 year olds for the cameras. Jesse got volunteered for the project. The colt was started but hadn't been ridden for a couple months. I thought Reiny would just lope around the pen like he did for his first ride. The excitement of the day and the large audience set Jesse up for more ride than I bargained for. I got him up and night latched in front and behind before I told him I was going to send him on a little journey and he should get ready. Well Reiny bucked two and a half laps around the round pen. I couldn't believe he went that far, but the motor drives on the cameras sent him off on each lap. Sure am glad Jesse loves me and that he made the ride. We did get some great pictures! On the second lap Jesse asked Drew Stoecklein if there was a magazine cover shot. I love the pictures. Several of them have Jesse's hair standing straight up to match Reiny's mane.

My advice is to make sure that your horse is at the very least standing still before you get on. Pay attention to what is going on around you and pick a place where you at least have some room for the horse to move without running into something or someone. If possible pick a place with decent ground. You may not be able to find a place with deep sand, but a hard road makes a poor landing place. In addition if you have any questions about your safety and there is someone there who could help you ask them. I don't know



anyone who would hesitate to keep you safe.

Back to my story of riding with Buster. Next morning when we were waiting in the round pen for Buster to bring in the horses, I offered this advice. When Buster McLaury offers to snub for you I might be because he sees something you haven't. I was the old guy in the pen so I thought it my place to offer. It wasn't necessary the boys had already decided to get help.

Here we are approaching the end of the year. Many of us have finished our show season. I've counted up my blessings, my win and my losses. It's time to make a plan for next year. Here's what I am planning to do. It comes from Hebrews chapter 12: Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

There it is~!~ Get a plan, put your faith in Jesus and get riding ;-)



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Avoid Wasting Your UlcerGard

By Dr. Katie Haukos



Equine gastric ulcer syndrome has become a hot topic with horse owners and veterinarians alike as evidence continues to increase linking gastric ulcers to numerous equine physiological and behavioral problems.

What are gastric ulcers?

Gastric ulcers are newly classified as two different diseases: Equine Squamous Gastric Disease (ESGD) and Equine Glandular Gastric Disease (EGGD). There are differences in causes, types of horses, and treatment options.

Let's take a step back and review the anatomy of the equine stomach. The equine stomach is divided by a band of tissue, the margo plicatus, into two regions: glandular and non-glandular (squamous). The glandular region is where hydrochloric acid is produced, with a pH environment of 1.5-3.0 (acidic) when compared to the non-glandular region that is weakly protected from the effects of hydrochloric acid with an average pH of this region is 7.0 (neutral to weakly alkaline). About 80% of gastric ulcers are found in the non-glandular region of the stomach.

Gastric ulcers form when excess acid from the glandular region irritates the non-glandular region. This condition

usually develops when acid-secreting receptors become activated due to diet or stress. When horses naturally graze, a continuous flow of acid is necessary for digestion; but when their diets are confined into twice-daily meals with concentrates (grain), there is excess acid produced between meals that can result in the formation of ulcers.

Differences between gastric ulcer diseases:

Equine Squamous (non-glandular) Gastric Disease (ESGD)

- Prevalence of gastric ulcers will increase with intensity of exercise
- Increased stress due to training, travel, and work will increase the likelihood of ulcers
- Even lesson ponies are at risk, as it has been shown that more than one rider can increase stress and prevalence of ESGD

Equine Glandular Gastric Disease (EGGD)

- The backyard horse is at risk as prevalence is not related to high intensity performance
- More likely to be found in retired horses or those in low-stress environments
- Use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory administration (phenylbutazone or Banamine) may be linked to occurrence of ulcers
- Strong association in Warmbloods
- Horses experiencing multiple colic episodes with an unknown origin have likely developed EGGD

Risk-Factors:

- Strenuous exercise
- Trailing
- Showing

- Stall-bound horses with limited turn-out
- Intensive training environment
- Fasting
- Intermittent water access
- Greater than 6 hours between meals

Clinical Signs (generally non-specific):

- Poor performance (found to be associated more with ESGD)
- Poor appetite
- Change in behavior (found to be associated more with EGGD)
- Colic (multiple mild episodes)
- Picky eating especially when choosing hay over grain
- Poor body condition (unable to gain weight)
- Poor hair coat

Diagnosis:

- Gastric ulcers can develop in as little as 5 days
- Gastroscopy is only way to confirm gastric ulcers
 - A procedure that is known as "scoping" allows a veterinarian to have a full view of the stomach via a tiny camera attached to a tube. The endoscope is placed through the nostril, down the esophagus, and into the stomach.
 - The horse will go under a low dose of sedation, and the procedure takes less than one hour.
 - The procedure will need to be repeated to confirm resolution before treatment is discontinued

Treatment:

- The gold standard for treatment of both EGGD and ESGD is omeprazole (GastroGard, from Merial)
 - This medication is a proton

pump inhibitor, which decreases the amount of acid secretion. There are multiple compounded forms of omeprazole on the market, but only the FDA-approved GastroGard is fully absorbed and effective in the horse.

- GastroGard is available through prescription obtained from your veterinarian and treatment is recommended for 28 days.

• Other treatment options available to be paired with omeprazole are:

- Cimetidine and ranitidine that are H₂ blockers used to block the action of histamine, which is known to stimulate production of stomach acid

- Sucralfate is useful for providing a protective layer along the mucosa of the stomach to block acid contact with areas of ulceration

• Previously, it was shown that ad libitum hay was needed to keep acid production at a minimum; however, studies now indicate that ad libitum hay impairs efficacy of omeprazole. It is currently recommended by researchers to feed from 6am to 10pm and allow horses to fast overnight to allow acid to be produced. A small amount of stomach acid is needed to turn on the proton pumps, which allows the omeprazole to fully block the pumps for the full period of treatment.

• To allow the omeprazole to have the full effect, it is recommended to feed 60-90 minutes after administering omeprazole.

• Plan to schedule a re-check with

Continued on page 13

World Champion Cowboy on a Roll...

By Koltin Hevalow

Koltin Hevalow of Smithville, Mo., the son of Kevin and Jenn Hevalow, was crowned the 2017 Missouri Junior High School Rodeo Boys all-around Cowboy.

This past season, Hevalow competed in boys breakaway roping, boys goat tying, team roping (heeler), ribbon roping and junior bulls. For the year end title, Hevalow was the champion in breakaway roping, team roping (heeler) and junior bulls. He was reserve champion in boys goat tying and ribbon roping in addition to being crowned the all-around champion cowboy.

Hevalow was also named to the Cinch Team as a representative for Missouri.

Hevalow then earned the a

position on the Missouri National Junior High School rodeo team and traveled with his fellow teammates to Lebanon, Tenn. for the 13th annual National Junior High School Finals Rodeo (NJHFR) held June 18-24, 2017. He competed in junior bulls, boys breakaway, team roping (with partner Cole), ribbon roping (with partner Campbell) and boys goat tying.

Featuring roughly 1,000 contestants from 43 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia, the NJHFR is the world's largest junior high school rodeo, and Koltin came out of top. Koltin was crowned the Reserve National Boys Goat Tying Champion, the World Champion Jr Bull Rider (his 3rd world title), and he finished 4th

overall in the boys all around.

Koltin and his family then traveled to Abilene, Texas for the 10th Annual Youth Bull Riders World Finals, July 31 through August 5, 2017. Here he competed in Sr. Riding against 50 other contestants. After three rounds, Koltin made it to the short go sitting in the number 1 position, and when the smoke and dust finally settled, he won the short go with a 70 point ride and was crowned the 2017 YBRWF World Champion Sr Rider, making this his 4th world title.

Koltin also earned a ticket to compete in Las Vegas, NV, December 7-9, 2017 at the YBR Cowboy Marketplace that is held during the NFR.

Koltin is continuing on his bull riding and roping career and is a

freshman at the Platte County High School in Platte City, MO. He is competing in the MO High School Rodeo Association vying for the Bull Riding state title at the end of the season.



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Prevention:

- Anticipate stressful events (travel, competition, or intense training)
 - Administer a protective dose (1/4 of a tube) of omeprazole (UlcerGard- used for prevention) during these times
- Exercise 30-60 minutes after feeding to decrease the amount of acid splashing on the squamous portion of the stomach
- Provide as much turnout as possible
- Provide continuous access to clean, fresh water
- Top-dress electrolytes on feed (avoid paste or water-soluble electrolytes)
- Have a good parasite control program (perform fecal egg counts annually to focus parasite treatment)
- Carefully use NSAIDs (please talk with your veterinarian when giving multiple doses)
- Utilize slow-feeder hay nets such as a Nibble-Net if horses are not on pasture
- Keep evening fasting to 6 hours
- Incorporate alfalfa hay into the diet – 1-2 pounds at 5-6 hour intervals (incorporate slowly)

Outlast:

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- It is shown to buffer the equine stomach for 30-60 minutes and can be given 2-6 times per day
- This product is designed to be top-dressed on your horse's regular feed ration and fed as a "snack" within one hour prior to engaging in a potentially stressful event such as exercise, traveling, confinement, etc.
- Purina's newest recipe of Ultium Gastric Care Horse Formula or Race Ready GT Race Horse Formula includes Outlast; thus, each meal will count as one Outlast treatment.

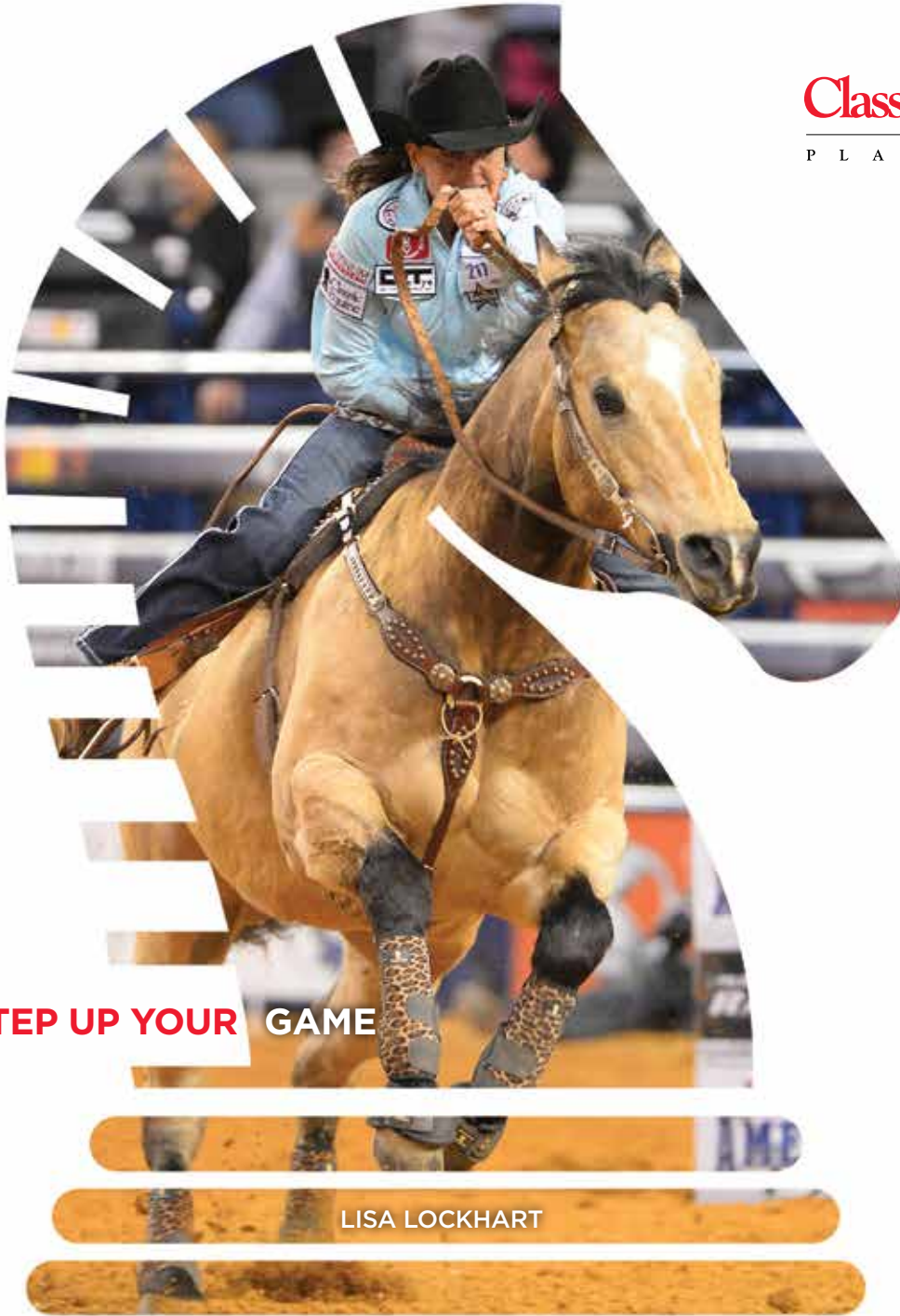
*Please talk with a veterinarian if your horse is overweight or has other medical conditions that require a restricted diet.

Equine gastric ulcers are a disease in which our knowledge and understanding is continually evolving. Ongoing research helps to provide insight on the best ways to combat this common condition through prevention and management changes. We want to help you avoid stomach ulcers in your horse; and when needed, to get the most benefit from gastric ulcer treatment.



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Alma Cowboy Follows Yet Young Lifetime

Goal Qualifying For National Finals Rodeo

By Frank J. Buchman

"I intend to make the National Finals Rodeo."

Cooper Martin of Alma, Kansas, was just 15 years-old when he made that quoted statement in a dateline, March 23, 2013, bylined story.

On October 2, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) 2017 yearend standings had the 20-year-old cowboy doing just that.



Cooper Martin, ranked 14th in tie-down calf roping, has qualified for the National Finals Rodeo (NFR), in Las Vegas, December 7-16.

That's for collecting \$85,438.03 (unaudited) in prize money roping calves across the United States during the past year.

Not to take away from such prestige, Martin's biggest fan, little sister Caxton Martin, 16, made a notable qualification, too. She'll be at the United Rodeo Association Finals, Topeka, November 3-5, in breakaway roping.

Caxton's collected sizeable junior high and high school rodeo awards on all levels in her young career.

She credits her brother for teaching her how to rope and anticipates cheering him on in Las Vegas.

"I wasn't sure I was going to be competing much this summer, because I didn't have a horse,"

Cooper admitted last month.

Outlook changed when two-time NFR qualifier Reese Reimer offered to let Martin ride his horse.

"That turned into a win," Martin evaluated. "Reese couldn't sell me that horse. But, he did sell me his practice horse, Payday, and it's been a perfect fit ever since."

Credit for his NFR qualification is given to the horse. "Payday is a 17 year-old gelding, and the best horse I've ever ridden. I knew it from the start."

Of course, much more is required than horsepower. Martin's dedicated to his sport; "champion roper" is all he's ever wanted to be.

"His dad Chris and I had no idea what to expect when our then three-year-old son Cooper swung a rope nonstop," Mom Candi Martin reflected.

"Then when he was eight-years-old, Cooper tied his first calf down. Cooper immediately declared that he wanted to be a roper when he grew up," Mom continued. "We sure didn't have the money, knowledge, skills, or a clue about how to help our son become a calf roper."

Cooper confirmed, "Neither of my parents competed in rodeos. They're Flint Hills ranchers, and Mom teaches school, too.

"But, they've always been very encouraging, even though they didn't realize it was going this far, or be this hard.

"I was fortunate to pick up the sport and learn from some great mentors," the NFR qualifier credited.

From junior high wins to a National High School Rodeo tie-down roping championship, to setting a record as the youngest to win the United



Shown on his 17-year-old gelding Payday at the St. Paul, Oregon, Rodeo during July, Cooper Martin, 20, Alma, Kansas, cowboy ended the 2017 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) season 14th in tie-down roping qualifying to compete at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, December 7-16.

Rodeo Association tie-down in 2012, Cooper has been dedicated. He spent his teenage years practicing rodeo skills.

Most obvious, Cooper said, "I like to rope all day. Sometimes I'll rope

and tie 100 calves a day. Other times, I may rope five or 10, and go to rodeos and roping jackpots every weekend."

Continued on page 17

FEBRUARY 23, 24, & 25, 2018

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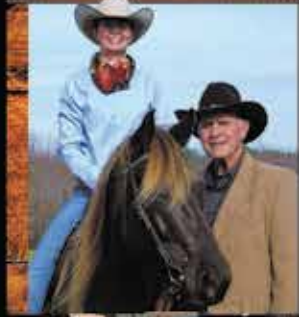
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Alma Cowboy: Cooper Martin

Practice time is more limited nowadays, with a full lineup of rodeos thousands of miles across the country. Yet, winning requires addition to horsepower and skill.

"Jake Pratt has been helping me all summer. He encouraged me to get a horse and travel with him this spring," Cooper acknowledged. "Jake's been entering me all season. Good days and not so good, Jake has been there all the way."

Claiming the Salinas, California, rodeo his favorite competition, Cooper won it as a rookie and was second this year. However, Reno, Nevada, gets credit as "the rodeo

that really got me going this season."

His biggest check, \$9,046, did come at Salinas, while second in the Reno average was worth \$7,520.

"There are several more reasons I've done better," Martin insisted. "I've entered more and am a lot more confident.

"It's not necessarily that I'm roping a lot better," he evaluated. "It's just that I knew what I needed to do after last summer. I got to go home and practice.

"It all just clicked a lot better," Cooper continued. "I also feel like I drew better calves this summer and was able to use them."

Cooper ended the regular season by winning Kansas City's American

Royal Rodeo in front of family and friends cheering him on. Just three years ago, he competed in the youth invitational rodeo there.

"We'd hoped Cooper might be able to come home now for a little time off," Mom said. "But the 2018 season has already started, and Cooper's going to the rodeos to qualify next year."

Other competitions include the high-paying All-American Rodeo Finals, where he's seeded to compete this week at Waco, Texas.

Additionally, Mom Candi credited those who've assisted the family through the years.

"Monty Dyer, Junior Lewis and Roy Durfey really helped Cooper

get started on this journey," she acknowledged. "There are so many I can't list them all, but we are grateful.

"Especially, thank you Cooper Martin for taking us on this wild ride while reminding us that roping wasn't all about winning," Mom attributed. "Thank you for staying true to your faith and your character when the road got hard. Thank you for never giving up on your God-given passion."

Actually, success is quite simple, according to Cooper Martin. "I just have to keep trying to tie them down. If I do, I'll get paid. If not, it's my fault."



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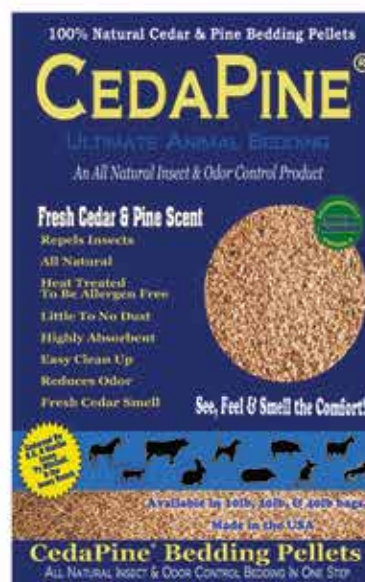
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Cinnamon Rolls

- 1 Cup Milk
- 3 Tablespoon Butter
- 1/2 -3/4 Cup Warm Mashed Potatoes
- 1/4 cup Sugar (may use more sugar for a sweeter roll)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 Package active dry yeast
- 1 Egg

In a small saucepan warm butter and milk to 120-130-degrees. In large bowl blend warm milk and butter. 1 Cup flour, sugar, yeast, and egg at low speed until moistened. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed. Stir in remaining flour to form a soft dough(I usually use about 3 1/4 cups). Knead until soft and elastic (about 2 minutes). Place dough in a large oiled bowl, cover, let rise till doubled (45-60 minutes). Roll dough out on a pastry sheet. Put chunks of butter on dough carefully

not to tear dough. Cover with sugar and cinnamon and roll tightly. Cut in pieces and put in a greased pan. Cover with a tea towel and let rise till doubled. Bake in a 375 degree oven for about 15 minutes. Don't over bake! Have frosting ready to put on rolls as soon as you get them out of the oven.

Peanut Butter Frosting

- 1/3 Cup Softened Butter
- 4 ounces Cream Cheese, Softened
- 4 Cups Powdered Sugar
- 3 Tablespoons Half and Half
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup Peanut Butter

In a large bowl cream butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add rest of ingredients until smooth and the right consistency. Spread over the rolls while they are still hot.

ENJOY!

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Walton Wisdom Tip

If you do not like your Veterinarian or Farrier:

Do not teach your horse how to stand while you take their temperature, let them kick you across the isles.

Do not teach your horse to keep his head down while you place your thumb in his mouth, simulating deworming. Let them raise their head, jerking you off the ground, and swinging you around like a limp rag.

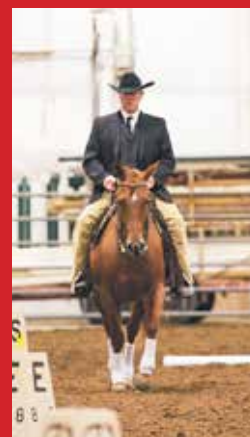
Do not teach your horse to trot beside you so the Vet or Farrier can evaluate his gait. Instead, you trot and let your horse walk or stop and let them evaluate your gait.

Do not teach your horse to lunge both directions. Let your horse stand still and you run or trot around them in a big circle. That way the Vet or Farrier can not only evaluate your gait they can evaluate your fitness as well.

Do not teach your horse to stand quietly. Let your horse keep moving and if they move into you, get out of their way or let them step on your toes.

Do not teach your horse to pick up their foot and let you hold it until you put it down. Let your horse, jerk their foot out of your hand and stomp your toe or let them sling you across the isles, slamming you into the wall.

All kidding aside, my point is: Your Vet and Farrier did not go to school to become your trainer.



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Hearty Grub with Mark Burkdoll

Chili

- 1 1/2 lbs ground beef
- 1 medium chopped onion
- 1/2 chopped green pepper
- 1 -15 oz can cut tomatoes
- 1- 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 1-6 oz can tomato paste
- 1 -6 oz can V-8 tomato juice
- 1/2 cup catchup
- 1/2 cup good red wine
- 2 tbs Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbs vinegar
- 1 package William's chile seasoning
- 2 tbs instant espresso coffee
- 2 tbs dark chocolate
- 2 can pinto beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 can red beans (drained and rinsed)
- salt and pepper

Brown the beef with a little salt and pepper add the peppers and onions and cook until tender add the wine and Worcestershire sauce and cook a few minutes then add all the rest of ingredients bring to soft boil then reduce heat to low simmer for at least 1 hour.

Arkansas Cornbread

- 2 cups corn meal
 - 2 cups butter milk
 - 2 cups sweet corn
 - 1/2 cup chopped green onions
 - 1/2 tsp baking soda
 - 3 tbs flour
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tbs salt and pepper
- mix all the stuff together well
1/2 cup bacon drippings (for coating the skillet)

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees in cast iron skillet heat the bacon drippings to smoking hot.

Pour the mixture into the hot skillet leave on the high heat for a couple of minutes then put in the oven 30 to 45 minutes or until a tooth pick

comes out clean serve best with honey butter because this is a savory cornbread not a sweet one.




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Dusty Labeth joins EC

By Courtney Baldwin

Susan and Bob Brennan, owners, and Ashley Purdin, Head Trainer, are pleased to announce that retired Professional Bull Rider Dusty Labeth has joined our team at EC Equine Center in Louisburg, Kansas as Barn Manager and Business Director.

“As our business has grown and become very successful under Ashley’s leadership, it became increasingly apparent that we needed to augment Ashley’s strengths with additional resources” said Bob Brennan. “We wanted Ashley to have both the time and the ability to singularly focus on her world class talent of training horses without the distraction of managing the barn operations. We could not have found a better partner for Ashley than Dusty.”

Dusty grew up in Stanley, Kansas on a 200 acre horse boarding facility. At 18, Dusty joined the PBR, “the toughest sport on dirt.” During his 16 year career he qualified and competed in the American and Canadian Finals many times, scoring



a career high 95.5 points on the fearsome Promiseland. “Dusty’s career with the PBR is an excellent testament to his tenacity, capacity for hard work and his desire for excellence in all he sets out to do” stated Bob Brennan. “The man’s got grit.”

Dusty is also experienced in running a barn and event management with previous stints in both areas, having worked at Saddle and Sirloin in Kansas City and Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri. With his wife, Callie and two year old son, Calvin, Dusty resides in Drexel,

Missouri, a short, 15 minute drive from EC.

“We strive to provide the highest level of care for the horses at our facility” according to Susan Brennan. “Our approach is informed by the best practices in the industry and we thoroughly research and stay on top of the tried and true as well as the newest innovations. Dusty shares our passion for world class horse care and we are confident that he will both deliver and improve on our standards.”

As Business Director, Dusty is responsible for increasing the number of riding instructors utilizing our facility and increasing the number of events. Instructors and event managers interested in access to superb indoor and outdoor arenas and 70 acres of trails through timber, creeks and ridges should contact Dusty at ecequinecenter@gmail.com.

Finally we are pleased to announce that Ashley was the trainer of both horse and rider, Avery Howell on the mare Gabby, the two time

World Champion at the 2017 EXCA World Finals in Hamilton, Texas. And Beth Olson, EC’s Colt Starting Specialist, won the 2017 IN IT TO WIN IT Colt Starting Challenge held in Mount Vernon, Missouri. Beth has been an outstanding addition to our team at EC.

EC Equine Center is located at 30504 Metcalf Road in Louisburg, Kansas. More information can be found at ecequinecenter.com and on Facebook.



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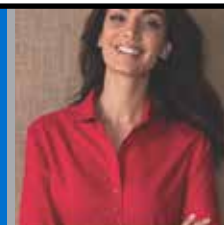
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Anheuser-Busch opens Warm Springs Ranch for Holiday Lights Festival

For the first time, guests are welcome to view lights and celebrate the holidays at the breeding farm of the Budweiser Clydesdales

ST. LOUIS (Nov. 13, 2017): Warm Springs Ranch, the 300-plus-acre

breeding farm of the Budweiser Clydesdales in Boonville, Missouri, welcomes guests to partake in the farm's inaugural Holiday Lights Festival. Every Thursday through Sunday from 5-8 p.m. beginning Nov. 24 and running through Dec.

30, visitors to Warm Springs Ranch will be able to view thousands of twinkling lights, have their photos taken with a Clydesdale and shop for the holidays.

Clydesdales and the iconic Budweiser wagon hitch, guests will be able to enjoy beverages and snacks for purchase on the grounds overlooking the stables.

"Viewing the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales up-close while surrounded by holiday decorations and festive music is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit," said John Soto, supervisor of the Warm Springs Ranch. "It's a magical time of year at Warm Springs Ranch, and we're excited for guests to join us in what will surely become a holiday tradition."

Admission to Warm Springs Ranch Holiday Lights Festival is \$5 per person, and there is no charge for children 2 years old and younger. Admission to the festival includes two complimentary Budweiser samples for guests 21 and older and access to the Warm Springs Ranch stables and gift shop, featuring unique holiday Clydesdale and Anheuser-Busch items found nowhere else. No reservations are required.

In addition to photo opportunities with the

Warm Springs Ranch is conveniently located off Interstate 70 in Boonville, Missouri. The ranch is available for special events and private holiday parties. More information can be found at www.warmspringsranch.com.

About Warm Springs Ranch: Resting on 300-plus acres of lush, rolling hills in the heart of Missouri, Warm Springs Ranch is a breeding farm for the Budweiser Clydesdales.

Established in 2008, Warm Springs Ranch features a mare/stallion and foaling barn, veterinary lab and 10 pastures, each with a customized, walk-in shelter. The facility is home to more than 70 Clydesdales ranging from foals to stallions. To learn more, visit www.warmspringsranch.com.

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YOU HAD A GREAT LIABILITY RELEASE – LAST YEAR

You think you are doing everything right in your equine business. You have the statutorily mandated warning signs posted so you can get immunity under your State's Equine Limited Liability Act. You make every participant in every activity at your barn sign liability waivers. You have boarding contracts drawn up with

liability releases. You think you have covered your bases and you are immune from liability. And maybe you were last year, but this year might be a whole new ballgame.

Most stables and boarding facilities require participants to sign liability waivers prior to participating in any riding activities, or boarding their

horse at the facility. Many use a waiver they have found online, or gotten from a friend, or even from an attorney for some non-horse related activity. Without a review from an equine attorney licensed in the state in which you are doing business, however, many of those forms can be worthless.

1. Liability Waivers are Strictly Construed Against the Drafter

Liability waivers and releases are generally disfavored by the courts. Simply stated, a liability waiver is a way to move responsibility for negligent conduct away from the person actually responsible for the negligence and onto another person. Some states refuse to enforce liability waivers at all, finding them contrary to public policy (Connecticut, Louisiana and Montana). Virginia refuses to enforce a liability waiver, except for those signed at auto races. The states that allow liability waivers will as a general rule interpret them strictly against the person seeking to enforce the waiver, and will invalidate the waiver if it is unclear or ambiguous, or if it does not strictly comply with the law.

2. What Strict Constructions Means

Strictly interpreting the waiver means that the courts will examine the release closely with several things in mind:

- First, is the waiver of liability clear, unambiguous and not hidden in the fine print?
- Second, does the waiver contain explicit language waiving a person or entity's liability
- Some states (including Kansas and Missouri) have statutes that set out the specific language necessary for a waiver. If your waiver language

does not meet the statutory standards, it is unenforceable. As discussed below, a recent change to Missouri's law requires updating your waiver!

- Third, is the intent to waive "negligence" clearly and expressly set out in the agreement?

- Many states require specific language that the participant is waiving any claims that arise from the "negligence" or "fault" of the equine professional or stable.

- Last, was there a "knowing" waiver of the risks and liabilities?

- In other words, was the person signing the release sufficiently informed as to the potential risks of the activity and the liabilities that might arise?

If there is a problem in any of these areas, the courts will generally refuse to enforce the liability waiver.

3. Annual Review of Your Forms is Always a Good Idea!

Even if you have previously had your contracts and waivers reviewed by an attorney, it is a good idea to have those reviewed by a competent attorney on a yearly basis. For instance recent amendments to Missouri's Equine Activity Liability Act have changed the required wording in your liability release and contracts. Older versions are incorrect where they do not include language that includes "a livestock activity sponsor, a livestock owner, a livestock facility, a livestock auction market, or any employee thereof". If you have the correct wording, this sounds like a great thing, and even broader immunity, right? You can just sit back and relax, right? Wrong.

Continued on page 30



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Liability Release

4. Ask Whether Additional Steps are Required Under Your State Law

Both Missouri and Kansas animal activity act statutes require that every equine or livestock professional post signs with specific and current statutory language. Thus, after the amendment to the Missouri statute, YOUR OLD WARNING SIGNS ARE NOT VALID! Further, that sign must be displayed conspicuously and in black letters on a white background, and each letter has to be an inch high at least. Every written contract entered into by an equine or livestock professional must also have the specific statutory language and be in clearly readable print.

If you are still displaying a sign with the waiver of liability language from the previous version of the statute, and/or your contracts have liability waivers with language from the previous version of the statute, you are no longer in compliance with Missouri State law, and your waivers are legally invalid! It is time to get them reviewed!

A liability waiver can be an essential element of doing business as an equine professional, and extremely helpful in obtaining insurance for your business venture. You should utilize waivers and releases to the full extent allowed by law. However, be sure to consult with a licensed attorney to ensure that you are getting all of the protection possible from it. Do not assume that because you found your release on the internet, and the internet says it is good in all states, that it is valid and enforceable in your state. Most states have very specific language that is required before a waiver will be enforced, and that language can change as statutes are

revised. You don't want your release to be thrown out because you missed a portion of the warning that needed to be given, or because your release was drafted too broadly and runs afoul of other state laws that might apply.

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Rhonda K. Levinson practices equine and veterinary law, and civil and appellate litigation in the Kansas City area. She has argued numerous cases in front of the Kansas Court of Appeals and the Kansas Supreme Court. She is a member of the North American Trail Ride Conference, American Endurance Ride Conference, and the Middle of the Trail Distance Riders Association, among other organizations.



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Surviving Training Slumps

By Ashley Purdin

Whether you are a professional trainer or a recreational rider, you will at some point experience a training slump. A training slump, most easily defined, is where a horse suddenly loses progress in training. It may manifest as a plateau in training, or come out as a problem behavior. Many times training slumps seem to come out of nowhere.

All of this can be frustrating and make you doubt your horse, the training program or even yourself. The questions begin: "Did I choose the right horse? Is this the right job for this horse? Do I have what it takes to get this horse to the next level?" It doesn't matter if your goal is a World Championship or a calm trail ride; a lack of progress can wreck your dreams and discourage your efforts.

Training slumps can be caused by many different factors. Physical limitations are the most common cause of training slumps I encounter in my barn. They are the best place to start when determining the cause of your issues. Examples of physical limitations are as follows:

- Flaws in confirmation. Not every horse is built for every discipline. Know the confirmation required for the job.

- Soreness. A horse exhibiting any kind of soreness can explain numerous behavioral issues or lack of progress. A horse can not give its best performance while in pain. Having a recommended equine chiropractor take a look at your horse can save you a lot of time when evaluating soreness. If the soreness is not a chiropractic issue they may be able point you in the right

direction.

- Dental Issues. Lack of proper dental care can cause behavior issues such as mild to violent head tossing, bit chomping, rearing, hollowed out top line and more. If your horse is having any issues with the bridle it may be time to have their teeth checked by a qualified veterinarian.

- Ulcers. Symptoms of ulcers include cinchy behavior, tail swishing, nipping during the saddling process, soreness in the loin and cinch areas and various problem behaviors under saddle. Ulcers are very treatable with an omeprazole compound from your veterinarian.

Here is a little secret. Even good trainers ride with other trainers when they get stuck in a slump. If you have made it down the list of possible physical limitations and still do not have an answer to your problem, it may be time to seek out professional opinion from someone who has been there before and has a fresh set of eyes to evaluate your situation and make a recommendation.



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Giving THANKS for the GIFT of a FRIEND.

By Pastor Steve Stanford

Well here we are, it's that time of year, temps are cooler, folks just seem happier, why, because the holidays are quickly approaching. We all love this time of year, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then a fresh chance at things, a New Year.

One we give THANKS for all that God has provided in our lives, the other we give GIFTS to the ones that we care about, and then we make a bunch of promises to ourselves that we can't keep. I think they call those New Year's resolutions, I call them "NOT FOR ME."

The thought of eating less and exercising more - Ernie and I simply say - "NOT FOR ME!"

We give thanks for all that God has given us, whether big or small. Thanks for my health, my job, family & friends (hopefully our family is our friends), thanks for my way of life,

kids & grandkids. So much to be thankful for. And then there is Christmas, the giving of gifts. I think one of the greatest gifts that we can give is ourselves, our friendship to someone else. That's what Father God did for us, when he gave his "one and only Beloved Son", as a gift for all humanity. Luke 1:30-32 the angel said to Mary, "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Well I say - Merry Christmas to us all, and for this we should all be thankful.

I have been blessed so many times in my life, in receiving the GIFT of friendship from some very special people. People

like Ernie & Connie Rodina, and Geof & Dawn Dawson, my Better Horses Family. I have been the recipient of their gift of friendship for a whole lot of years. I appreciate the friendship that I have with my wife, she tells me the truth, even when I don't want to hear it. Oh how I do love that woman. But the greatest friend I have is Jesus! He Loves me unconditionally, forgives me when I don't deserve it, went to a cross on my behalf, for sins that He did not commit - I did. He came, He lived, He died, He lives again - all so that we might do the same. Oh what a gift - to be thankful for. The gift of Himself. So this holiday season, take a moment, tell your family you love them, gather up the little ones in your arms and give them a big squeeze, give a gift of your friendship to someone, even if they don't deserve it, and take a moment to just tell Jesus a big THANK YOU for all that He has done, all that He is doing, and all that is yet to come.

So from Miss Debbie, myself, and all our family (two legged and four legged), we wish you and yours a most wonderful Holiday Season.



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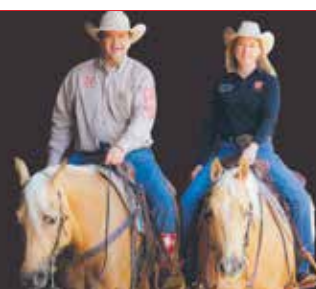
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Kansas Cowgirl Clinches Extreme Cowboy Association Young Guns World Championship for 2nd Time!

By Beth Olson

Avery Howell may look like a normal 12 year old, but don't judge a book by its cover. Avery has been riding horses since she was two years old. She started off in the hunter jumper discipline and competed locally in the Kansas City region. Four years ago, Avery decided to ditch the wool show coat and breeches for jeans and spurs, and started riding in cowboy races. Avery now competes in races throughout most of the year in local, regional, and national events put on by the Extreme Cowboy Association (EXCA) and its various affiliates.

The largest cowboy racing organization in the Midwest is the Ultimate Horseman's Challenge Association (UHCA). According to the UHCA's website, cowboy races "challenge both horse and rider to maneuver through a series of obstacles, while demonstrating skill, finesse, horsemanship and speed. A score is given for each obstacle on the course and riders are judged on overall horsemanship." Most of these obstacles are the type of everyday things that a working cowboy would encounter such as opening gates, crossing bridges, roping, and cow sorting. There are also some general performance maneuvers such as roll-backs/double backs, side passes, flying lead changes, spins, barrel patterns, and jumps that are often part of the course. The UHCA hosts eight races in Kansas and Missouri from April-October, and points earned during UHCA races apply towards EXCA year-end status. In addition to the UHCA races, Avery gets to many EXCA-specific races

throughout the year.

In general, riders from all across the world compete to hone their horsemanship skills and to accumulate enough points to qualify for a chance to compete at the EXCA World Finals, held in Hamilton, TX the last few years. These riders' singular goal: bring home a championship buckle. In order to earn a world title, you first have to qualify to ride in the final round. To qualify to ride in the final round, you must place in the top 10 in your division over the first two rounds of competition. Avery, a veteran Young Guns rider, had even higher goals: bring home her second championship buckle and the coveted "go round" buckle. The "go round" buckle is awarded to the rider with the highest cumulative points over the first two rounds of competition.

Winning both buckles would take a dominating performance over the entire weekend.

This year, Avery qualified for EXCA World Finals on two different horses (Gabby and Jesse), and in two different age divisions: Young Guns (ages 7-12) and Youth (ages 13-18). Avery's horse, Gabby, is a 12-year old AQHA mare, that according to the entire family

is the best horse ever. Gabby and Avery have been competing together for four years with a 2015 World Championship and the 2017 National Championship under her belt going into this year's World Finals. Her other horse, Jesse, is owned by her aunt, Ashley Purdin. He is a 6-year old AQHA gelding that Ashley has owned since he was 18 months old. Both of these horses are kept at Ashley's boarding facility, EC Equine, in Louisburg, KS. Avery primarily trains with Ashley, but will also ride from time to time with Josh Rushing and Genna Gallaher.

In the Young Guns division, Avery had a slow start during the first day of competition at World Finals. However, she showed that she was up for the challenge on day two by placing her horses first and second. So after the first two

rounds of competition, Avery had finished in first place on Gabby and fifth place on Jesse. This qualified her to compete in the finals on both horses, and achieved one of her goals: "go round" buckle! The riding order to determine World Champion was ordered in reverse of standings (i.e., the tenth-placed rider is the first to go, and the first-placed rider is the last). This meant that Avery rode 5th and then 10th. She put together very nice rides on both Jesse and Gabby in the championship round on a course that contained some challenging obstacles. They rode hard and gave it everything they had.

Riding up in the Youth division, Avery was sitting in 11th place on Gabby and 14th place on Jesse, over the first two days. She had missed the top ten so she wasn't planning on riding in the Youth



Avery on Jesse in 2nd round at World Finals



Avery on Jesse in the first round at World Finals

finals. Unfortunately, a friend who had qualified a horse in the top ten discovered that his horse had come down with colic overnight and would be unable to race. Fortunately, her friend's horse is going to be ok. This moved Avery into the 10th spot, meaning that she would be the first rider in the Youth division finals.

Avery had time to allow Gabby to rest before she raced again in the Youth division since it was later in the same day, right before the Pro division.

Gabby and Avery had a great ride on a very difficult course that included ponying another horse through obstacles, jumps, sorting cattle, and various other tasks. It was the same course the professional riders would compete on, and several obstacles even gave the pros trouble!

The hardest part of the whole week of racing was the wait at the end!

No results are posted throughout the final day. Everyone finds out how they placed at the awards ceremony that takes place after the last division has finished. This is fun tradition in the EXCA, and everyone gets together and celebrates each other after going head to head in the arena.

Young Guns was the first to be announced, and it was a nerve-racking few minutes hearing all the names called from tenth place on down. Fourth place was called and Avery's name had not been called yet, so she knew that she had two of the top three spots. She was ecstatic! Then they called, "Third place: Avery Howell" for her ride on Jesse!

Reserve Champion was called and it was her friend, Madison

Branham. Avery had achieved both goals! She and Gabby repeated as World Champions in the Young Gun division and she also earned the "Go Round" buckle on Gabby. Avery could not be more proud of her accomplishments.

In the Youth division, Avery and Gabby ended up placing sixth in the finals. This was a huge accomplishment as the competitors in that division are all older than Avery. Placing in the finals was a great confidence builder for her, and let her know that she won't be outmatched in the Youth division next year. The Youth division is full of extremely talented young riders who give the pros a run for their money. Great young rider Stephanie Walters claimed the Youth World Champion buckle.

At World Finals, Avery was coached by Josh Rushing, who is also a World Champion and an exceptional horseman. Having Josh there to help warm up, go on walk throughs, and help with course strategies was extremely helpful. Avery wants to be sure he knows how much she appreciated his help!



Avery on Gabby at World Finals

Josh commented, "It was my honor to work with her at finals. Avery Howell has a very talented trainer and team back home (including her parents) that has made her the champion she is. It's been awesome watching her grow in to a fine young lady. Her attitude in or out of the arena was amazing. A champion on and off a horse in my book." Josh not only coached 2 young riders, but he also competed in both the Pro division and the Futurity division where he brought home the Reserve Championship buckle on the

gorgeous mare, Miss Kitty, owned by CC Metzler. Avery would like to thank Josh and Holly Rushing who stepped up and helped her out when she really needed it.

Avery would also like to thank Ashley for training her throughout the year on Gabby and Jesse, and for loaning Jesse to her for the various competitions. Jesse and Avery figured out how to work as a team over the course of the year. They came a long way and really found their groove over the last six weeks. World Finals was a perfect time for all of their hard work to come together. Ashley had this to say about Avery's accomplishments: "Winning a world title is a big accomplishment, but winning two, at such a young age, is a huge deal. Avery has put in the hard work and effort it takes to become not only an accomplished competitor, but an accomplished horseman. I couldn't be any prouder to see all of her hard work pay off and to be a part of it as her trainer. It means a lot!"

Now it's time to start training for next year's challenging Youth division...



Avery on Gaby at World Finals

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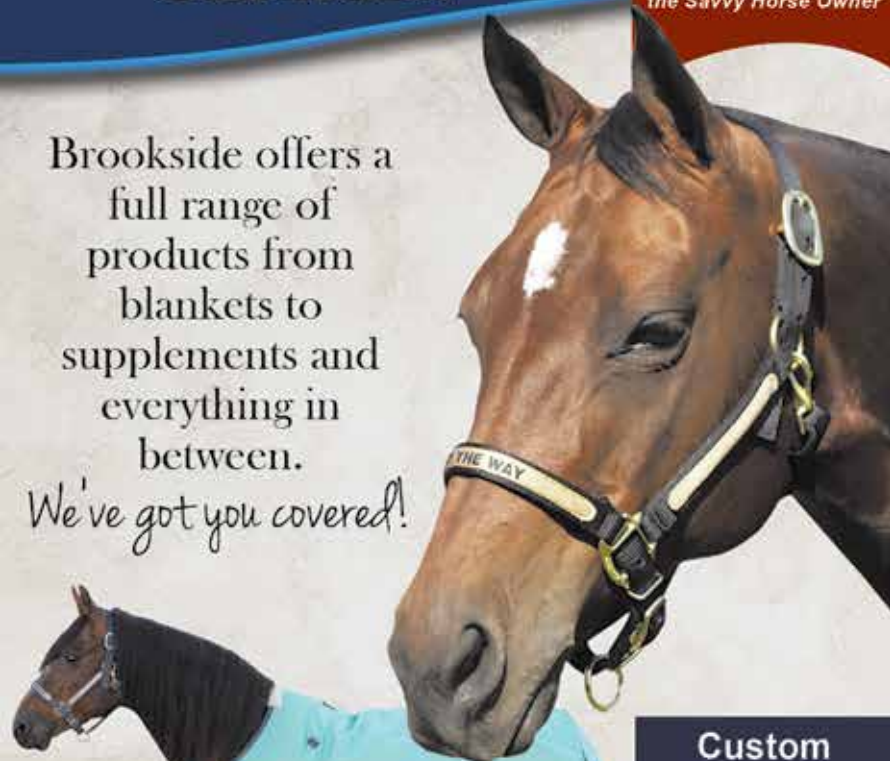
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Jim Raines comes from a 20-year real estate background on the heels of professionally training quarter horses and

hunter jumpers. He is Lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association and holds multiple world champion, reserve world champion, and national titles in the Quarter Horse Association. In his 20 years in real estate, he has sold over 75 farms/horse properties and 400+ homes in 6 states including entertainer's high profile properties. His largest sale to date is \$15M in Nashville.

Shanan Steere Raines also has a 20-year career in real estate and a prior 7 years in the pharmaceutical sales industry. The first 8 years in the KC metro area she sold around 500 homes then launched a Keller Williams Realty franchise in the Shawnee area. Since that spark in leadership, she became a trainer with Keller Williams Realty International traveling North America training to over 3400 realtors a 7-week sales/mind-set course. She re-launched her team in early 2016 and Shanan Realty Group was formed. Jim joined SRG in February 2017.

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- 20 Ac Horse Center which is operated completely off the grid.
- Solar Equipment professional done by Sunny Island SMA
- 40,000 Gallon Rain Catch system
- Fodder System Room and all Equipment
- 1500 Gal. Culligan water filtration system
- 3 Custom Built Wood Barns with Classic Equine Stalls all with water and Electric
- Brown barn has a Loft with kids playhouse
- Red Barn has hay loft
- Main Barn has partially completed apartment 3 bedroom with office
- Main Barn has Radiant heated floor in the barn and individual watering spicket on each stall
- 240x180 Indoor lighted arena limestone/sand/magnesium base for (no dust)
- 300x180 Conditioning outdoor arena with risers
- 8 large turnouts can convert to a Derby Field
- Round Pen
- Pond
- Borders Johnson County undeveloped Park area
- Blue Valley School District

183rd St is currently under development for access from Mission Rd to Metcalf and will be paved. Property has been granted two access drives and a turn lane for this property.

\$2,500,000



Janet Turney

Horse and Rural Property Specialist
Keller Williams Diamond Partners, Inc.

p: 913-322-7500 m: 913-485-7075

a: 13671 S. Murlen Rd. Olathe, KS 66062

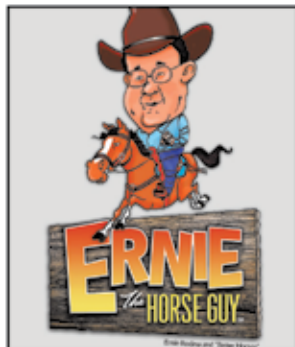
w: CowGirlAgent.com e: Cowgirlagent@gmail.com

KW DIAMOND PARTNERS^{INC}
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

*This property is part of the Better Horses
"Ernie the Horse Guy" program.*



Ernie the Horse Guy and The Property Shop Team Present for Your Consideration...



JP Ranch - Cleveland MO

Beautiful PRE-INSPECTED brick ranch 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home nestled on 46+/- acres w new 75x150 steel frame stable w 6 stalls & indoor arena. Stunning acreage with privacy & tranquility. 2 Ponds. Mixture of pasture and timber. Fenced and cross-fenced. Offered at \$500,000

Custom built home boasts 2500+ sq ft with an open floor plan, main floor master suite, kitchen with breakfast bar, 2nd bedroom with bathroom, vaulted ceilings, tile floors, main floor laundry/mud room, 2 screened porches, deck, 3 car garage, lower level bedroom with bathroom & so much more. Bonus 3 bedroom manufactured home is great for family guests or rental income!

Maggie Stonecipher
ReMax Excel
913-908-6992
ThePropertyShopTeam.com
Licensed in Kansas & Missouri



Ernie the Horse Guy and The Property Shop Team Present for Your Consideration...



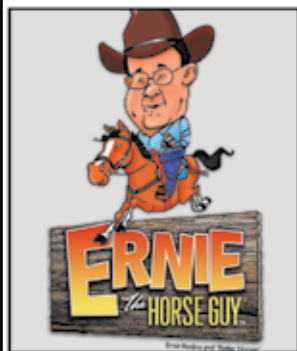
Pierce Ranch - Berryton, KS

New price! Custom built 4 bedroom, 3 bath estate home offering 3876 sq ft of beautiful living on 39.29 acres. Open floor plan with stunning vaulted great room featuring lovely hardwood floors & stone fireplace with hand carved running horse mantle. Offered at \$669,000

Large master suite with tiled bath & private door to back patio. Meticulous construction w 2x6 exterior walls. Lower Level office could be 5th conforming bedroom with addition of closet. Morton stable w 6 stalls, heated, auto waterers, tack stall & stock. Run-in sheds in pastures. Fenced & x-fenced! Rare find on blacktop with grand entry perfect for country living yet 5 min access to I-70 for easy commuting!

Maggie Stonecipher
ReMax Excel
913-908-6992
ThePropertyShopTeam.com
Licensed in Kansas & Missouri





Ernie the Horse Guy and The Property Shop Team Present for Your Consideration...

Prairie Wind Ranch - Lawrence KS

New Price!!!! Home now offered with 47 acres of country living just 20 minutes to KU. Beautiful Pre-Inspected 6 bedroom family home is perfect for enjoying outdoor living with family and friends. The home has a great open floor plan w banks of windows throughout. \$624,500



Outdoor living includes a wood burning stone oven, a pool for hot summer days, barns & fencing for livestock, wrap around porch and patios for sipping iced tea in the summer and hot chocolate on chilly nights. Perfect for horses, cattle, livestock, motor sports, hunting, fishing or just enjoying the incredible prairie views and outstanding sunsets! Move-In Ready and a new roof 4/17! Home also available with 150 acres.

Maggie Stonecipher
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If you are thinking about listing your horse or rural property, contact Ernie Rodina at Keller Williams. He will hand select you a realtor that will utilize his tools that will help you reach the finish line in selling your property.

As a seller you will not be charged for any of the services of Better Horses Properties. It is part of the referral fee between your agent and Better Horses. This is a real "No Brainer" and a way to get every Better Horses tool working for you and your agent to help sell your property for the top dollar! So call me or email and let's get your property listed.

- BETTER HORSES NETWORK PUBLICATION** in its' 18th year distributed regionally to over 15,000 horse owners five times/year and also available electronically.
- BETTER HORSES WEBSITE** www.betterhorses.com
- BETTER HORSES NETWORK MONTHLY EBLAST** Your message eblasted out to over 20,000 horse owners. Will share analytics!
- BETTER HORSES DIRECT MAIL** Utilizing a database of over 40,000 horse owners, we can custom a message to be mailed out.
- BETTER HORSES RADIO – REGIONAL RADIO** In its' 12th year of existence, Better Horses Radio Show is an upbeat weekly/hourly radio show that will showcase the Horse Industry. Presently broadcasted on 25 AM/FM Radio Stations.
- BETTER HORSES RADIO WORLDWIDE!** A weekly/hourly podcast averaging 3300 downloads/week. This show is hosted by Ernie Rodina and is available ON DEMAND 24/7 through BETTER HORSES NETWORK, the Digital Channel.
- BETTER HORSES NETWORK –THE CHANNEL** An opportunity to be a part of the new Digital Channel that hosts over 20 different Equine Shows both Audible and Visual OnDemand 24/7 and it is FREE ON ALL MOBILE APPS. Your commercial will play within every individual show.
- BETTER HORSES PROPERTIES** Are you selling or buying a new Horse Property? Let "Ernie The Horse Guy" and Better Horses Properties help select you the RIGHT REALTOR and put Better Horses to work for you in helping reach your potential in crossing the finish line in either selling or buying your property. AVAILABLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
- BETTER HORSES TV with "Ernie the Horse Guy"** This weekly 30 minute television show is available in the Kansas City area, soon to be aired across the whole state of Kansas. Better Horses TV is available on the Better Horses Network Channel on Demand 24/7. Watch previous episodes at www.betterhorsesnetwork.com.
- BETTER HORSES ROAD SHOW-EVENT MARKETING** Better Horses is on the road scheduled for a minimum of 25 events. Better Horses applies "Edutainment"! We deliver education and entertainment at these selected events to gather YOU important data.



**IN SUMMARY WE GOT YOU COVERED
IN EVERY DIRECTION!**





8950 EDGERTON ROAD, DE SOTO
OFFERED AT \$1,150,000

This private gated retreat is perched on 20+ beautiful acres located minutes from Overland Park and Lawrence. Breathtaking panoramic view of a private fully stocked 2+ acre lake. Come relax on a sprawling deck complete with hot tub and gazebo with fire pit. Enjoy the many spectacular features of this home from the uniquely luxurious kitchen overlooking the great room with stone fireplace, 20+ ft ceilings and doors that open out to the deck overlooking unparalleled lake views of morning sunrises and evening sunsets.

OUTDOOR AMENITIES

- Large Boat dock w/ Storage & Bench
- Shooting Range off of Lake
- Golf Driving Range
- Sand Volleyball Court near home
- Large deck w/ Gazebo & Hot Tub
- 12 Zone Lawn Sprinkler
- Extensive Landscaping
- Detached Garage w/indoor-outdoor heated dog kennels & water source
- Post & Rail Entry Fencing w/ Gated Entry
- Covered Patio w/ Potting Shed & Sink

INDOOR AMENITIES

- Entertaining Chef's Kitchen updated w/ Knotty Alder Cabinets, High End Kitchen Aid Appliances, Large Kitchen Island, Wall of Pantry w/ Pull Out Shelves, Sub-Zero Wine Refrigerator, Serving Bar, Down Draft Cooktop, and Amazing Views!
- All Baths have been updated! Master even features Heated Floors and Towel Rack
- Finished Walk-Out Basement with Office and Hidden Safe Room
- Giant Laundry Room with Lockers & Sink
- Workshop in Basement with Garage Door



SHANAN STEERE RAINES
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Shanan@kw.com



JIM RAINES
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JimRaines@kw.com

This property is part of the Better Horses "Ernie the Horse Guy" program.

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KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

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We've Grown!!

Introducing The Property Shop Team!

Thank you to all my clients that have allowed my business to grow and expand! I am thrilled to announce Stacie Marshall Coder & Tara Myers have joined my team and we look forward to our continued success in serving you!

"The KC Property Shop" is now "The Property Shop Team". We are licensed in both Kansas and Missouri! Check out our most recent listing below and give us a call for a tour today!

We look forward to serving our clients with professionalism and integrity. We are the trusted source for your property needs!

Maggie Stonecipher - (913) 908-6992
Stacie Coder - (913) 370-2752
Tara Myers - (913) 669-1983



Just Listed in Basehor You will fall in love w this Pre-Inspected 5 bdrm, 4.5 bath renovated home w 4100+ sq ft of living space overlooking the picture-perfect pond all situated on 13.8 acres. 2011 total home update added gorgeous hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, beautiful great room, lovely bathrooms & so much more! Heated Barn offers 4 stalls, wash rack, huge tack room, 3 overhead doors, work benches & ceiling fans. Outbuilding provides 2 stalls & equipment storage. Huge professionally installed outdoor arena. Fenced & cross-fenced. Offered at \$765,000.

Beautiful 17 acre country ranchette nestled S of Lawrence in Lawrence School District. 4 bdrms, 3.5 bath with 2600+ sq ft of living space. Enjoy the beautiful porch overlooking the stunning landscaping or watch your horses graze in the fenced and cross-fenced pastures. The 60x30 barn offers 5 stalls, tack room, laundry, full bath and an attached 120x60 indoor arena. 180x70 outdoor arena. Pastures share 30x50 barn providing run-ins, 2 stalls & storage. Great location with privacy but still just 10 minutes to Lawrence. Offered at \$599,900.



Beautiful 30 acre country farm nestled just south of Basehor in the Basehor-Linwood School District. Pre-Inspected 1 1/2 story home with 4 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half bath offering over 4000 sq ft of living space. New carpet! Main floor master, office & laundry. Enjoy the XXL patio overlooking this private property while watching your horses or livestock graze. Three ponds! Two outbuildings! 30x45 brick garage with 3 overhead doors & attached carport with electric & water. Would be easy to convert to stabling with a run-in shed! 20x30 barn with electricity. Offered at \$525,000.