

BETTER HORSES™



2019 Equifest

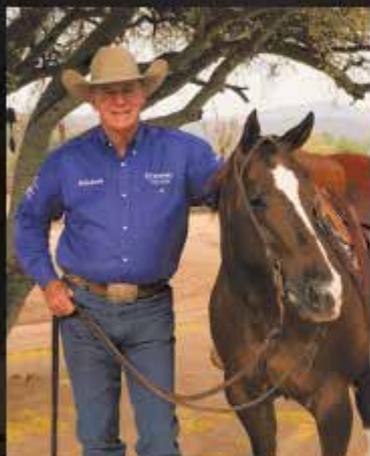
Offers Something for Everyone | Page 4



EQUUS CURITO EQUINE CENTER

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2019 CLINIC SCHEDULE



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JESSICA HUMBARGER CLINIC

MARCH 9TH

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APRIL 12TH, 13TH & 14TH

KERRY KUHN CLINIC

MAY 18TH & 19TH

BODY CONTROL CLINIC (AR)

MAY 18TH & 19TH

CAL NOYONS CLINIC

JUNE 29TH & 30TH



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"LETTER FROM ERNIE"



Hello Friends,

Here in Eastern Kansas where I am located, it has been a long cold, wet winter so far. However I am betting on Phil, the groundhog that spring is just around the corner. We have been busy growing and expanding Better Horses LLC with our Radio and TV networks continuing to pick up new stations and affiliates.

We are excited to pin down the date and location for the 20th Annual Dream Ride In The Flint Hills for 2019. We are going back to the Clover Cliff Ranch near Strong City this Sept. 6th, 7th, and 8th. It is going to be another great ride with lots of prizes, education, and great fellowship with friends. Contact Suzan Barnes at the Grand Central Hotel in Cottonwood Falls for more info at 620-273-6763 or email suzan.barnes@sbcglobal.net.

Have you visited our website, www.betterhorses.com? You can post your events FREE on our site and view our Better Horses TV Show and listen to our archives of the Radio Show. Did you realize we have two Radio Shows that air weekly? We have Better Horses Radio an hour program with me hosting and Dawn Dawson Co-hosting since it started 13 years ago. We have expanded with Better Horses-Connected a 30 minute show that originates out of Kansas City's KFKF 94.1FM. I host this show along with Ed Adams. Both of these shows are archived and available on podcast a couple of days after they air.

Better Horses is looking forward to attending and being a part of the 2019 Equifest of Kansas Feb. 22, 23, & 24th at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka. We are upstairs where we always are and have some neat stuff planned. So make sure you come upstairs to see us and register for some great prizes.

While at our booth at Equifest you can learn about the new Purina App and also get registered for their truck and trailer give away they are launching.

We are proud to have the following as sponsors for 2019: Purina Animal Nutrition, Standlee Forage, Heritage Tractor, Merck Animal Health, CSI Saddle Pads, Maynard Buckles, and Classic Equine.

Hopefully our trails will cross this year and we get a chance to meet if we haven't already. Let me know if there is anything myself or Better Horses can do for you. Don't hesitate to give me a call at 785-418-6047 or email me at ernie@betterhorsesradio.com.

God Bless & Happy Trails!

Ernie



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2019 Equifest Offers Something for Everyone

By Carolyn Kaberline

Need a new bit or other equipment for your horse? How about some Western décor for your home? Want to learn from leading clinicians from a variety of disciplines? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you'll want to visit the 2019 edition of Equifest of Kansas, February 22-24, at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka.

Now in its 22nd year, this year's Equifest has come a long way from its creation.

"Each year our greatest fundraiser, Equifest of Kansas, grows bigger, shows better, and runs smoother, enabling us to further our mission and objectives supporting and representing the equine industry," says Justine Staten, Director of the Kansas Horse Council.

"From a programming perspective, we have implemented a variety of competitions that serve to display various disciplines in the equine industry," Staten says. "Breeds on display vary from year to year to provide our audience exposure to many different breed types, both popular and rare. Our educational workshops will typically include

something timely in legislative updates or health related issues as well as what is popular, from trail riding experiences to sports psychology to horse health and nutrition information, or fundamentals of riding instruction."

When it comes to clinicians, plan to see Dan James of Double Dan Horsemanship, a natural horsemanship expert, who will teach fundamental skills on getting the correct lead and creating the desire to spin. In addition he will "simplify some of the stumbling blocks we may experience in our show ring goals," Staten says.

Mustang Maddie, will once again be on hand with her zebras and mustangs. As a liberty trainer, she will go through the steps of communication she uses in her training and show how she achieves bridleless riding goals.

Also on hand will be Tami Purcell Burkland, the winningest female jockey in Quarter Horse racing and a two time NFR Barrel Racing Champion. Not only will she share some of her life experiences, but she will also provide the tips and

tricks she has learned on the way to the top of both disciplines.

In addition, Kip Rosenthal, an accomplished jumper and horsewoman with a background in education and a PhD in sports psychology will show riders the steps they can take to improve their confidence.

Not only will there be top notch clinicians, but there will be a variety of well-known presenters. Among them will be Ben Masters, famous for his border to border journey and the film Unbranded; Tom Seay, the popular trail riding personality on RFD-TV and his team of Kristin Briscoe and Del Shields, who will be speaking on horse camping and places to ride both coast to coast and abroad; and Elizabeth James, a professor of equine science at the University of Kentucky who will speak on a variety of topics ranging from equine business management to equine anatomy and physiology.

There will also be several competitions for attendees to view during the three day event. Those competitions will include the Tim Trabon Memorial Ranch Rodeo



which will pit 14 teams of real life working cowboys against each other as they show off their skills in a variety of ranch events.

The R Bar B Top Horse Challenge will be back again this year. This competition will include a timed event, cattle sorting, jumping, an obstacle challenge and a free style final.

Attendees will also want to watch the equestrian drill team competition that will feature three teams going through precision patterns as well as the Equifest Driving Derby sponsored by the Carriage and Driving Society of Greater Kansas City, which will see ten teams vie for the fastest time on a course with a variety of obstacles. And, of course, there's the popular Kansas Farrier Association competition and the breed showcase where participants compete for the best dressed hospitality stalls.

Youngsters attending Equifest can watch Duni the Painting Horse in the stall barn. They can also visit the Mall of Equifest (Maner Conference Center) to rope dummies with the KSU Rodeo Club, ride a stick horse over pony jumps and meet rodeo queens and princesses.

Even if you are not a horse enthusiast, there will be more

Best of America by Horseback



America's Favorite Trail Riding Television Show



than 100 vendors with offerings of home décor, art, jewelry and clothing. You'll also have an opportunity to hear cowboy poetry readings and live music each day. And don't forget the Kansas Horse Council Foundation silent auction featuring gift cards and experience packages with the proceeds to be used for scholarships.

In short, mark your calendars for February 22-24 and plan to attend this year's Equifest of Kansas. Tickets and wristbands can be purchased online at www.equifestofks.com or at www.KSexpo.com. You can also purchase them in person at the Kansas Expo Centre Box Office. Daily wristbands purchased in advance are \$18 and \$25 during the week of the event. The 3-day wristband option is \$40 in advance or \$45 the week of the event. Wristbands are good for all day and all events. Kids 12 and under are free.



SCHEDULE

presented by



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Landon Arena

- 9:45 Opening Ceremonies by Saddle & Sirloin
- 10:00 Dan James - Getting the Correct Lead
- 11:00 R Bar B Top Horse Versatility Challenge - Timed Event
- 12:00 Drill Team Competition - Precision
- 12:30 Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard
- 1:00 Breed Showcase
- 2:00 Mustang Maddy - Zebra Behavior 101
- 3:00 Carriage and Driving Society of Greater KC Driving Derby
- 4:25 R Bar B Top Horse Versatility Challenge - Cow Work
- 5:15 Break
- 6:00 Ranch Rodeo Opening Ceremonies
- 7:00 Tim Trabon Memorial Ranch Rodeo

Domer Arena

- 7:30 4-H/Open Horse Judging Contest
- 10:45 Opening Ceremonies by CGMCG
- 11:00 Mustang Maddy - Meet the Mustangs
- 12:00 Tami Purcell Burkland - Barrels
- 1:00 Dan James - Creating Desire to Spin
- 2:00 Breed Showcase
- 3:00 Tami Purcell Burkland - Bring Your Questions to Work Through
- 4:00 Crooked Creek Mule Co - Mule Jumping Demo
- 4:45 Kip Rosenthal - Flat Work
- 5:45 Break

THEATER ROOM

- 10:00 Ben Masters - Unbranded, The Journey
- 11:00 ELCR - Conserving Lands for Equine Activities
- 12:00 Best of America by Horseback - Trail Riding
- 1:00 Denise Farris - Big Rig Blues, DOT regulations for Equine Transport
- 2:00 Elizabeth James - Developing Career Paths in the Equine Industry
- 3:00 4H/Open Judging Awards
- 4:00 Mustang Maddy - 5 Golden Rules: Rules 1 & 2

WORKSHOP ROOM

- 10:45 Tami Burkland - Longevity of Legs: Recommended Support Measures
- 11:45 Billy Allen - Life & Times of a Legend
- 12:45 Kip Rosenthal - Our Inner Voice
- 1:45 Dr. Andy Hawkins - EIA Tests & Global Passport Updates
- 2:45 Dr. Jason Grady - Deworming & Parasitology
- 3:45 TB Racing Initiative - TB Racing Bill 2019
- 4:45 Crooked Creek Mule Company - Getting into Jumping Mules

SHAWNEE B/C MEETING ROOM

- 11:30 Olympia Kallman - Injection Free Stem Cell Solutions
- 12:30 Tom Tweeten - Grooming? Naturally of Course!
- 1:30 ELCR - Conserving Lands for Equine Activities

BOX OFFICE/DOORS OPEN

Friday 9:00 AM
Saturday 8:30 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM

VENDOR HOURS

Friday 9:30 AM - 8 PM
Saturday 9 AM - 8 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

DON'T MISS

COWBOY POETRY & ART

PONDEROSA ROOM (UP THE RAMP)

WALL TO WALL SHOPPING

EXHIBITION HALL &
MALL OF EQUIFEST (UP THE RAMP)

KHC FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION

MALL OF EQUIFEST (UP THE RAMP)

FORGING COMPETITION

FRIDAY | 9 AM - 12 PM | STALL BARN

DRAFT SHOE BUILDING COMPETITION

SATURDAY | 9 - 10:30 AM | STALL BARN

LIVE HORSESHOEING COMPETITION

SATURDAY | 12 PM | STALL BARN
TOP 3 FARRIERS FROM THE COMPETITION

KFB KIDDIE CORRAL

MALL OF EQUIFEST (UP THE RAMP)

DUNI THE PAINTING HORSE

STALL BARN

KIDS BREYER HORSE PAINTING

PONDEROSA ROOM (UP THE RAMP)

FOOD VENDORS

INDOOR & OUTDOOR



SCHEDULE



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Landon Arena

- 9:30 Opening Ceremonies by Saddle & Sirloin
- 10:00 Dan James - Getting the Correct Lead
- 11:00 Mustang Maddy - Liberty with Multiple Horses
- 12:00 Drill Team Competition - Patriotic
- 1:00 Breed Showcase
- 2:00 R Bar B Top Horse Versatility Challenge - UHCA Obstacles
- 3:00 Carriage and Driving Society of Greater KC Driving Derby
- 4:00 Breed Showcase
- 5:00 Break
- 6:00 Ranch Rodeo Opening Ceremonies
- 7:00 Tim Trabon Memorial Ranch Rodeo

Domer Arena

- 9:45 Opening Ceremonies by CGMCG
- 10:00 Kip Rosenthal - Gymnastics
- 11:00 R Bar B Top Horse Versatility Challenge - Jumping Event
- 12:00 Tami Purcell Burkland - Barrels
- 1:00 Dan James - Creating Desire to Spin
- 2:00 Mustang Maddy - Unlocking the secrets to bridleless riding
- 3:00 Tami Purcell Burkland - Bring your Questions to Work Through
- 4:00 Brandy Von Holton - Mounted Archery Demo
- 5:00 Kip Rosenthal - Ride Formula
- 5:30 Break

THEATER ROOM

- 9:45 Best of America by Horseback - Trail Riding
- 10:45 Ben Masters - Unbranded, The Journey
- 11:45 Denise Farris - Big Rig Blues, DOT regulations for Equine Transport
- 12:45 Mustang Maddy - 5 Golden Rules: Rules 3 & 4
- 1:45 Ben Masters - Unbranded, The Journey
- 2:45 Best of America by Horseback - Trail Riding
- 3:45 Top Horse Competitors - Meet & Greet
- 4:45 Tom Tweeten - Let Your Fingers Do the Talking & the Listening

WORKSHOP ROOM

- 10:00 Tami Burkland - Conditioning & Breezing your Barrel Horse
- 11:00 ELCR - Conserving Lands for Equine Activities
- 12:00 Elizabeth James - Genetics: Coat Colors
- 1:00 Dr. Chris Blevins - Bits & Pressure Points/Mouth Anatomy
- 2:00 Kip Rosenthal - Understanding the Learning Curve
- 3:00 Brandy Von Holton - Tools of Mounted Archery
- 4:00 Joy Miller - An introduction to Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies

SHAWNEE B/C MEETING ROOM

- 9:15 Tom Tweeten - Healthy Coat, Tail, & Hooves - At Your Finger Tips
- 10:15 Olympia Kallman - Cerule Plant Stem Cell Products
- 11:15 Tom Tweeten - Solutions & Tools for Healthy Coats & Hooves
- 12:15 Olympia Kallman - Injection Free Stem Cell Solutions

Landon Arena

- 10:00 Opening Ceremonies by Saddle & Sirloin
- 10:15 Carriage and Driving Society of Greater KC Driving Derby
- 11:30 Breed Showcase
- 12:30 Drill Team Competition - Freestyle
- 1:00 Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard
- 1:30 R Bar B Top Horse Versatility Challenge - Freestyle
- 2:45 Fun Surprise
- 3:30 Close

Domer Arena

- 9:45 Opening Ceremonies by CGMCG
- 10:00 Breed Showcase
- 11:00 Dan James - Marker Training
- 12:00 Mustang Maddy - Unlocking the secrets to bridleless riding
- 1:00 Tami Purcell Burkland - Barrels
- 2:00 Kip Rosenthal - Ride the Course
- 3:05 BLM Youth Freestyle Demo
- 3:30 Close

THEATER ROOM

- 9:00 Curtis Roudybush - COWBOY CHURCH
- 10:00 Best of America by Horseback - Trail Riding
- 11:00 Ben Masters - Unbranded, The Journey
- 12:00 Denise Farris - Big Rig Blues, DOT regulations for Equine Transport
- 1:00 Best of America by Horseback - Trail Riding
- 2:00 Mustang Maddy - 5 Golden Rules: Rules 3 & 4
- 3:00 Ben Masters - Unbranded, The Journey

WORKSHOP ROOM

- 10:15 Tami Burkland - Keeping Horses Healthy On The Road
- 11:15 Kip Rosenthal - Fear- Its Physical & Mental Obstacles
- 12:15 Elizabeth James - So You Want to Work with Horses?
- 1:15 KS Colleges Equine Programs - Review of College Equine Programs
- 2:15 PATH Int'l - PATH Int'l? How to Get Involved

SHAWNEE B/C MEETING ROOM

- 9:15 Tom Tweeten - Let Your Fingers Do the Talking & the Listening
- 10:15 Olympia Kallman - Injection Free Stem Cell Solutions
- 11:15 ELCR - Conserving Lands for Equine Activities

Dan James of Double Dan Horsemanship



Enjoy lots of
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JOHN DEERE

Heritage
TRACTOR

Renowned Quarter Horse Breeder Always A Cowboy Continues Work On Horseback

By Frank J. Buchman

It's impossible to keep a good cowboy off his horse.

World renowned Quarter Horse breeder, horseman, always first a cowboy, Duane Walker, is the living proof.

"I tell you I haven't been riding every day since the cold weather set in," Walker admitted. "But I'll be on horseback when the sun shines."

That'll be riding pens checking 500 feeder calves at his internationally famous Tee Jay Quarter Horse Ranch in Canton.

"I depend on the younger ones to do the work, but I like to help when I can," Walker added.

Of course first credit for the 83-year-old cowboy's continuing industrious life goes to wife Jo. "She's always taking care of me," he credited.

Ranching chores are the responsibility of grandson cowboy, banker Trevin Prieb and his wife, cowgirl Kandee.

"They're in charge, and of course their children, our great-granddaughter Katy, 11, and great-grandson Wes, eight, are too" Walker insisted. "Those great-grandkids do their part on horseback and help us old folks out every day, always checking up on us."

With his most enviable Quarter Horse record, Walker has still had serious health issues that he's not let get him down. "I'm still better than I deserve. With most of the family nearby, seven great-grandkids within a half mile, how could life be better," he surmised.

Serious heart conditions remain a concern for Walker but modern

medical treatment got him so he could still ride. "I've had to be cautious and always will," he verified. "Then more than a year ago already, the great-grandkids and I were sorting calves on horseback when another issue came up."

It turned out to be upper leg ailments that required major surgeries keeping Walker off his horse longer than wanted.

"When I was about ready to get back on, my old gelding Ace was having his own health issues," Walker said.

Sadly, the 19-year-old trusty gray horse of Walker's breeding lineage succumbed.

"I didn't think there was another horse that an old cowboy like me would be able to ride," Walker said.

Interestingly, perhaps coincidentally all aspects considered, Trevin and Kandee had been again rebuilding the Tee Jay Quarter Horse breeding program.

"We've kept just a few mares going back to our main Jackie Bee lines, raising their colts," Walker noted.

With the senior cowboy's strong support, Walker's third generation grandson Trevin and cowgirl wife Kandee have partnered on a top stallion.

"He's a great horse," Walker insisted. "Sixes Sixgun is a 13-year-old gray with a proven performance record that won't quit.

"Now, I still get excited about breeding horses and this outstanding stallion, but it's the kids who're responsible," Walker said. "It's their initiative perhaps even

more so Kandee."

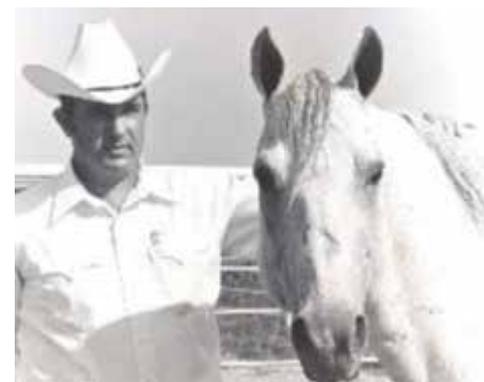
With daily chores, being a bank official, following two children to school and rodeo activities, Trevin is busy.

"Kandee is an outstanding cowgirl, trainer, horsewoman, she's taken ahold of this new stallion and breeding operation," Walker granted. "It's our facilities, but they're the ones making the decisions, doing the work."

Sixes Sixgun's arena successes have come with hard work, wet saddle blankets, yes training, but real dedication to ranch vocation.

"I've handled several top stallions, but this horse is as gentle as I've ever been around. Like a kid horse," Walker said.

Watching Kandee and Trevin ride Sixes Sixgun made Walker's adrenalin flow to mount up. "I just knew I could get along with him,"



Duane Walker and Jackie Bee are both in the American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame.

Walker said. "Trevin wasn't so sure, but I convinced Kandee and she helped me get started on Sixgun.

"He's so even tempered, easy going. Now, my personal mount even with Trevin's consent," Walker said. "That is unless Kandee or Trevin get their saddle on him first."

That said, saddling your horse can sometimes be an ordeal for a cowboy of Walker's maturity. A rigmarole brainchild of grandson Trevin solved any issues.

"Trevin contrived this electric

Continued on the next page



On the heading end, Sixes Sixgun has collected dozens of top working and ranch horse competition titles.

winch and pulley so I can saddle my own horse without much effort," Walker appreciated.

"Sixgun doesn't as much as twitch an ear when I saddle him," the cowboy added.

For more than 50 years, Tee Jay Quarter Horse Ranch has been recognized for "Good Lookin' Horses That Ride." As an inductee in the AQHA Hall of Fame, Walker and his Hall of Fame stallion Jackie Bee are synonymous with gray horses.

"It's a good thing Sixgun is gray," Walker chided.

Business partner Marty Vanier, DVM, has two Sixes Sixgun colts out of her Jackie Bee bred mare in training.

"Their disposition, confirmation,

and athletic ability influenced her to partner with Kandee and Trevin to stand Sixes Sixgun," Walker said. "They are grateful to the Crofoot Ranches for the opportunity to purchase him."

If Jackie Bee had been a man instead of a horse, he'd have been the one to partner with," Walker said. "The kind of man you'd be proud to call a friend."

Walker and Jackie Bee with outstanding foundation Quarter Horse mares started a new family of Quarter Horses.

"At that time, they really were unique in their look, consistent in size, structure, muscling, and color," Walker said.

Jackie Bee's legacy came to an

end in October of 1990 at the age of 28. "He's buried in front of the pen that had been his home for most of his life," Walker said.

The Tee Jay mares today all trace to Jackie Bee. "The blood gets thinner with each generation, but Jackie still shows through," said Walker, of their half dozen broodmares.

Under Kandee and Trevin's management of Tee Jay Quarter Horses, Sixes Sixgun spends the breeding season at Kansas State University.

"We have facilities here that were used for breeding mares from throughout the country," Walker said. "However, the college is better equipped for cooling, freezing and

shipping semen.

"We'll be taking our mares there to breed," added Walker, lifetime Quarter Horse and livestock leader. He's been recognized many times for his unyielding service.

"I've been blessed and continue to be," Walker said. "Being able to still ride a horse keeps me going emotionally and physically."



Duane Walker continues work on horseback now riding the new stallion, Sixes Sixgun, at his Tee Jay Quarter Horse Ranch, Canton. (Photo by Jennifer Theurer courtesy of the High Plains Journal.)



When the ranch work needs done this is the best team to call. Duane Walker and two of his great-grandchildren Wesley, eight, and Katy, 11, and grandpa's mount these days Sixes Sixgun keep watch on feeder cattle at the Tee Jay Quarter Horse Ranch, Canton. While experience comes with seniority, multiple rodeo championship trophy saddle winners the great-grandkids keep great-grandpa in line whatever the ranch task.



20th Annual FALL DREAM RIDE IN THE FLINT HILLS

Clover Cliff Ranch, Elmdale, Kansas

September 6 - 8, 2019 (Friday–Sunday)



Free Purina STRATEGY and EQUINE SR. horse feed. Water available. Bring your own hay. "VERY LIMITED" number of pens available at \$50 per pen for weekend. COME RIDE WITH CLINICIANS TO BE DETERMINED!

Friday, September 6, 2019 (No dogs allowed near any lodging or pavilion!)

1:00pm-7:30pm Check-in, pen assignment, free STRATEGY, set up camp. Pen Assignment for those that have rented pens. They will be numbered. **NO CHECK-IN AFTER 10:00PM. ENTRANCE GATE MONITORED!** Dinner and Entertainment at Grand Central Grill Courtyard! Friday Night Music Across From Hotel – Reservations Highly Suggested
Call Suzan Barnes, Grand Central Hotel and Grill for information.
Dinner Reservations Suggested. Call (620) 273-6763 or suzan.barnes@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, September 7, 2019

7:30am-9:00am Check-in continues. Breakfast Burritos and fresh fruit
7:30am-8:30am Horse care. Free STRATEGY
8:30am-9:00am Welcome and orientation. **DOOR PRIZES!**
9:00am-9:30am Horse Clinic – Safety on the Trail with Rex Buchman and Dr. Gardner, DVM
9:30am-Noon Ride - Saddle up for a ride in the Flint Hills (Approx. 2 hrs)
12:30pm-1:30pm Hot BBQ Brisket Lunch at Clover Cliff Pavilion
1:30pm-3:00pm Ride - Saddle up for a ride in the Flint Hills (Approx. 2 hrs)
3:30pm-4:00pm Horse Clinic – To Be Determined
4:00pm-4:30pm Horse Clinic – To Be Determined
5:30pm-6:30pm Feed and water horses. Free STRATEGY
6:00-7:30pm Entertainment with Savanna Chestnut
6:30pm Steak Dinner with all the trimmings with "Chef" Mark Burkdoll
7:30pm-8:00pm Announcements with Ernie Rodina — Better Horses Hall of Fame Inductees
8:00pm-9:00pm Benefit Program to be determined.
9:00pm-10:00pm Geff and Dawn Dawson Entertain us!

Sunday, September 8, 2019

7:30am-8:00am Coffee's on. Horse care. Free STRATEGY.
8:00am-8:30am Cowboy Church
8:30am-9:30am Hot Breakfast Served! Prepared by Mark Burkdoll and team
9:30am-Noon Ride - Saddle up for a ride in the Flint Hills (Approx. 2 hrs)
Noon-1:00pm Break camp. Happy Trails!

**COST: Four Beautiful Rides, Great Food, Great Fellowship, Great Entertainment
Valuable Door Prizes, STRATEGY © Horse Feed,**

\$200.00/rider \$85.00/non-rider

\$50.00 Per Person for Saturday Night Steak Dinner only.

Directions: From Strong City, West on Hwy 50 – 826 West Highway 50, Elmdale, Kansas. Watch for Purina Flags!

Lots of Camping Space! (No Hookups) Bring Your Lawn Chairs! Over \$2000 in Great Door Prizes! TRAIL RIDE LIMITED TO 75 RIDERS. NO STALLIONS. NO DOGS. SHOES RECOMMENDED. NEGATIVE COGGINS TEST REQUIRED.

FOR INFORMATION CALL: SUZAN BARNES 620-273-6763 OR suzan.barnes@sbcglobal.net Please make checks payable to Dream Ride and mail to Suzan Barnes, Grand Central Hotel, 215 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845. Dream Ride does not accept credit cards. Registration occurs upon receipt of your check.

Euthanasia – A Tough, But Merciful Decision to Prepare For

Molly B. Doyle, DVM • Wilhite and Frees Equine Hospital
21215 S. Peculiar Drive • Peculiar, MO 64078
(816)-779-0100 • www.wilhiteandfrees.com

Horses are amazing creatures - whether you perform at the international level or simply enjoy your horse as a companion, they have an incredible way of touching our hearts and changing our lives. They give us all of their talent, happiness, love, and companionship; in return, we pour our time and energy (and money) into caring for their every need, making sure they are comfortable at all times. One of the most important final responsibilities we have as a loving horse owner is to choose humane euthanasia when the necessary time comes. Sometimes this is a decision you feel impending for months or years, but more often than not, it is one that needs to be made due to a sudden, unforeseeable tragedy and the decision comes during a high stress, emotional situation when you may not be thinking clearly. By understanding the euthanasia process, discussing circumstances that warrant euthanasia, and having a plan in place, you can set yourself up to make a more informed decision when needed – ensuring the least amount of suffering for your horse and the most peace of mind for you.

What is Euthanasia?

The word euthanasia is derived from the greek word euthanatos - “eu” meaning “good” and “thanatos”

meaning “death.” So by definition, when you chose humane euthanasia for your horse, you are choosing a “good-death” for them. The American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) has designated procedures that are classified as humane ways to euthanize a horse. The most commonly used method is for a veterinarian to administer an overdose of an anesthetic agent. An overview of this process and what to expect is described below – it is important to ask your veterinarian what technique they use and talk through the process so you know what to expect.

- The euthanasia solution is a large volume (~120 mL) administered intravenously, which can take 30-45 seconds to administer. Your veterinarian may choose to place an intravenous catheter first to ensure quick and proper administration of the full dose. They may or may not decide to sedate the horse prior to administering the euthanasia solution.
- This drug causes the horse to lose consciousness 15-30 seconds after the solution has been administered. At that time the horse will be unaware of its surroundings and will no longer be experiencing any pain.
- If the horse is standing at the start of the procedure, it will lose stability with the loss of

consciousness and will fall at that time. The veterinarian will try to guide the horse down as much as possible, but there is no way to know how or where the horse will land. This part of the procedure is very dangerous for those in close proximity; it is very important for your safety that you are at least 25 feet away and allow the veterinarian and their staff to be the only personnel around the horse until it is safely laid down.

- Once the horse has laid down, it may take 2-3 minutes for its heart to stop.
- Every horse physically responds differently to the euthanasia solution, so it is important to prepare yourself for what it may look like. Once down, some horses may look like they are paddling their legs, some take big “agonal” breaths, some will kick a leg(s) or jolt their head, and others will never have any muscle reaction once they are laid down. To reiterate, the horse is no longer experiencing any pain at this time; these are muscle reflexes and a response to the dropping oxygen level.
- Your veterinarian will listen to the horse’s heart to help know when it is gone. The last reflex to leave is the corneal reflex. This is checked when the veterinarian presses on the horse’s eye, which can be startling to an owner if you are not prepared for it. Once the horse no longer moves it’s eyelids, then it has fully passed away.
- Plans should be made for immediate removal and disposal of the body. This is especially important when chemical euthanasia solution is used, as it can be fatal for mischievous dogs, cats, and wildlife. If the body

cannot be removed immediately, a tarp should be placed over the entire body and secured with large rocks to prevent wildlife from getting underneath it until transportation arrives.

When do you know is it “time”?

While this looks different for every individual and every situation, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) outlines 5 big take-homes that apply to every horse, no matter the age, discipline, or monetary value.

1. No horse should have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.
2. No horse should have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.
3. No horse should have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.
4. No horse should have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.
5. No horse should have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.

It is also very important to note that if the only options available to stabilize or manage a horse’s suffering is beyond the financial means of the owner, that is a very valid and responsible reason to consider euthanasia

What can your veterinarian do to help you?

It can be overwhelming to think that the responsibility to decide life

Continued on the next page

or death for your horse is completely on your shoulders. Please rest assured that the weight of that decision is equally shared between you and your trusted veterinarian. You should be able to find comfort that if your veterinarian (a medical professional who has taken an oath to always put the wellbeing of the horse above all else) is recommending euthanasia, then he or she truly feels that is the best option. While veterinarians can help make the decision with you, they cannot make the decision FOR you.

To help you determine if your horse fits into one of the 5 categories listed above, your veterinarian can determine the severity of the situation and give a more accurate prognosis in the face of chronic illness or acute injury. If you are not 100% sure that is the best option for you, you should ask for a second opinion - second guessing your decision is something you want to deal with before making any decisions, not afterwards.

Making a plan:

Whether you schedule a humane euthanasia several days out or have to make the decision on an unexpected, emergency basis – having a plan in place will limit the suffering for your horse and

help ease the process as much as possible for you:

- 1.) Is the horse insured? Make sure you fully understand your insurance policy on euthanasia. Each one is a little different and some require specific treatment options to be attempted before they consider euthanasia a reasonable next step.
- 2.) Make it known and documented in your medical record who you trust to make medical decisions for your horse. That way, if you are unable to be reached in an emergency, a quick decision can be made to limit profound suffering.
- 3.) Make plans well in advance for proper disposal of the horse's remains:
 - a. Burial: It depends on your city or township whether or not you are able to bury a horse. If legally able to bury the horse, arrangements should be made with an individual able to create a grave deep enough to prevent wildlife or domestic animals from having access to the remains by digging. Specific attention should be made to nearby water sources to avoid the risk of contamination under the soil over time. Contact your local city or health authorities to know

your options well in advance.

b. Cremation: There are several respectful, well trusted companies in the Kansas City area. They offer both private and communal cremation options. It is important to speak with your veterinarian to know the options in your area, the prices, and make your wishes known.

c. Rendering facility: this is no longer an option in many parts of the United States.

*Contact your veterinarian for a complete list and description of options available in your area *

4.) Consult with your veterinarian regarding a cost estimate for the procedure, and know the options and resources available to you (care credit, payment plans, emergency savings, etc), so you can be financially prepared.

5.) Allow yourself and other pasture mates of the horse to grieve:

- a. Consider allowing the other member(s) of the herd to see the horse after it has passed. This can help pasture mates, especially when it's a small herd, to understand why its friend did not return.
- b. Make sure you have someone you trust to talk to before and after to help cope

with the grieving process. Your veterinarian may be able to provide numbers and names for grieving resources. One such option is provided by the University of California, Davis; the College of Veterinary Medicine's Pet Loss Support Hotline (530) 752-4200.

We prepare ourselves and our horses for every ride, every show, and every season change, but arguably the most important obligation is to prepare for them to pass with peace and dignity. The decision to do so can be hard enough; help give yourself peace of mind and reduce the stress by making a plan today.

For more information, contact your veterinarian, or see the American Association of Equine Practitioner's website at <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/euthanasia-most-difficult-decision>.



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Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford



Hey folks, good to be with you again, it's a new year, the busyness of the holidays are behind us, but the credit card bills are in front of us! Yikes!

Just like you all, I do love the holidays, first there's Valentines Day, then Memorial Day, there's the 4th of July, the beginning of college football (this should be a national holiday), let's not forget Thanksgiving and Christmas, and then it's New Years Day.

And why do we all like this holiday so much? Because of what it says, a New Year, it marks a chance for a new beginning. Starting over. A re-do. Play it again Sam.

And what is our favorite thing to do for the new year? Well besides eating, and watching college football? It's making a New Year resolution of course. And what do we say we're going to do this year? Eat less - no chance! Exercise more - even less of a chance! The only exercise I want, is getting up to go to the buffet at my favorite restaurant. Some of us will say that we are going to church more often (oh how I do wish that one was true!).

But for some, it marks a time of renewal, a fresh start. I remember when I was a kid, one of the most popular toys was an Etch a Sketch. Remember those? You could draw anything and all things on that screen, and if you made a mistake, you simply turned it upside down, shake it, and WHAM, it was clean. You could start all over, make another mistake? Just shake it,

and it's a miracle, clean, new, start again. Don't you wish life, our past, the mistakes we make, was that easy to deal with?

You know the Bible even talks about a chance to start over, listen to this. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says this, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."

Did you here that!? When we come to saving knowledge in Christ, Father God says that we become new, we get to have a fresh start.

We get a clean slate, no blemishes, no black marks, clean and fresh. Yahooooo! Kind of like He takes us, turns us upside down, and gives us a good shakin, and just like that Etch a Sketch, blank slate. Isaiah 43:18 "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing." I really like this promise of God. You know there's something refreshing about a new year, the last year has been scarred with our share of failures, heartaches and disappointments, but this new year gives us a sense of a clean slate.

A New Year with all its excitement, its potential, and all its possibilities. We all crave this opportunity, and Father God gives it.

But first we must ask God to forgive us of our sin, and ask Jesus to come into our heart, and save us from the penalty of sin. And when we come to Christ, we're not just turning over a new leaf, we're beginning a new life under a new Master - his name is Jesus.

Hey this is Steve Stafford, I am the pastor at Risen Ranch Cowboy Church, and a very proud member of the Better Horses Network. If your ever in the Carthage, Mo. area, stop on in, the coffee pot is always on, we'd love to meet you.



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A Cowboy's Faith

By Frank J. Buchman

Slow Better Than Ditch

"Weather can change in the blink of an eye."

Forecasts had been fairly consistent for several days from one predictor to the next.

"It'll be above freezing with rain turning to snow."

Exact timing when transitions were to take place varied moving later in the day with the snow.

"If it starts snowing or the sky looks like it's coming soon, hit the road." That was the plan.

Nearly everybody had already left the office early with the holiday weekend.

With most work done best possible and procrastinating on the reminder headed out the door 45 minutes early.

It was raining, had been off and on, throughout the day, now steady, yet not all that hard. Dashboard temperature gauge read 36 degrees.

Obviously others had followed trend leaving work ahead of time with highways pretty much jam packed.

It was moving fast and smoothly with cruise fixed well above posted signs but generally allowable by the cherry top. (That's what they used to be called when law enforcement was readily identifiable like Andy and Barney.)

Driving with little thought other than get riding done as soon as at the ranch, eat supper and do nothing.

All of a sudden out of nowhere seemingly passing a semi-truck, the

roadway became covered with snow and apparent slickness.

Foot off the throttle instantly, two hands tightly on the steering wheel, driving immediately became treacherous. Everybody was slowed down, there were blinking lights, red, blue, white, yellow all ahead.

Traffic was moving at a crawl bumper to bumper, a couple cars pulled over to the side of the highway.

Then one in the ditch on the right and another in the median strip caution flashers everywhere.

Ice treachery increased when at least 15 cars went off the road into the ditches. All within an eighth of a mile distance.

Eyes straight ahead trying best to see any little track. Fortunate other drivers were observant and courteous to allow lane changing at least twice.

Off interstate headed south 16 miles to go sweating all the way despite 32 degrees outside. Almost impossible to see moving in the snow.

Whew, made it safe. The 45-minute drive took two hours. Better than ditch.

Reminded of Job 37:10: "No one can escape the weather. It's there. And no one can escape from God."

+++ALLELUIA+++
XIII--5--1-27-18



Self Wrichteous

The Horse Of A Lifetime

By Danielle Barker

in awe just with his stout, tall build and his overly friendly attitude. He had a habit of flapping his lips. This wasn't a horse you'd find just anywhere. He wasn't that everyday reining horse. He was a horse you come across once. He walked into a show pen and was noticed by everyone. Ernie was a Level 4 open caliber horse and he had over \$67,000 to his name. In 2011, he was an NRHA Open Finalist, tied for 15th in the Level 4, 6th in the Level 3, 3rd in the Level 2 and 3rd in the

Level 1. He brought home a total of \$48,704.07.

We purchased Ernie in 2016 and he came home March 8, 2016. In April it was already time to go show Ernie for the first time since I got him home. It was amazing. When you went into the show pen, he was like a whole other horse. He could turn like no other horse I'd ever ridden and no matter the speed, he would give you a smooth big stop. We showed two or three times at that

event before, at 3:00 am, Ernie had colicked. For the rest of the show, he stayed at the Idaho Vet Clinic. It was a very humbling experience to be at a show watching everyone else show, but having to take care of a horse you were unable to show.

The time I had him could never have been better. While I never fully "mastered" Ernie in the show pen, it didn't mean that we didn't have tons of fun. In October 2016, at the Low Roller Reining Classic in Idaho, we qualified for Non Pro and Youth NRHA Finals. I had scored my highest score yet, a 71! That winter, things went pretty smoothly and the next show season rolled around rather quickly.

In 2017, Ernie and I found out that we had taken home a year-end award for the ORHA Show Circuit in Youth 13 & Under, ending 2016 in 5th place for year-end. In 2017 we had many successes, multiple 4th and 5th places and we set a new high score of 72. In 2018 things weren't as good or us. Ernie started having troubles with soundness.

Over winter I'd also gotten another horse and as time went on, it began to feel more and more like Ernie wasn't my horse anymore. I didn't ride him as much due to being sore. And then when it came to the shows, they didn't go well. We weren't thriving in the show pen like we had been for two years. I decided it would be best for my sister to take Ernie. It broke my heart to say goodbye to that once in a lifetime horse, but things just weren't right with Ernie. He just seemed to always be at least slightly sore. More vet bills and



March 8, 2016 - The day I got Ernie.



May 20, 2017 - My last show with Ernie.

more tests found nothing. It came down to the one test we hadn't done. The MRI. I was scared to say the least. Although scared doesn't even sum up how I felt.

We had taken Ernie's emotional support horse, Brownie, who got me started in reining. During most of the vet visit, I stayed with Brownie, because in that moment, Brownie was my support horse as well. The MRI was done and then it was back to waiting. It felt like that's all we could do, just wait, wait, and wait again. I can't really recall when we finally heard back but the results didn't bring any good news. Ernie had Degenerative Joint Disease.

That day confirmed all of our worst fears, there was no way to fix him. No way to really even help him.

The disease is like a time bomb. You can't stop it from getting worse you can only try to make them comfortable until they aren't comfortable any longer. He was in pain and worse than putting him down was the thought of how bad he was suffering. On December 11th we peacefully laid Ernie to rest after it was decided nothing we could do would help Ernie with his pain.

He never seemed to be disheartened. Even toward the end he'd still nicker at you and try to seem so happy. The decision



August 13th 2016 ORHA Summer Show

wasn't easy for anyone to make. When a horse makes an impact on everyone as big as Ernie did, you know you're not going to find one again. He took part of me with him when he passed. There really aren't words to tell anyone how it felt. At first I felt nothing, just numb. Numb to everything about what happened. It didn't seem like it could be real to lose him so early in his life. I know he meant a lot to everyone he met. Even to the people who just hauled him.

I am extremely thankful I had the chance to call Ernie mine and get to show and enjoy him for as long as I did. The best things in life leave the soonest with the hardest goodbyes.

We just have to remember how lucky we are when we meet someone or something that's hard to say goodbye to.

Self Wrighteous "Ernie" 2008-2018



Hearty Grub with Mark Burkdoll



Pan Fried Hamburger Steak

Make the hamburger steaks into an oval shape so they fit the skillet better.

Don't over work the beef getting it shaped or it will get tough. Now push your thumb into the middle of the patty to make a thinner spot in the middle to help it cook more even.

In a screaming hot cast iron skillet put a few drops of canola oil.

Salt and pepper the one side of the beef and put the seasoned side down. Now season the top side and don't touch it !!! Don't be mashing it ,or turning it or anything!!!! Just let it cook!

In about three minutes you can look, if it's ready to turn now you can, and lower the heat and finish cooking to desired doneness.

Hey Topeka! You can now watch Ernie the Horse Guy Sunday Mornings at 6am!



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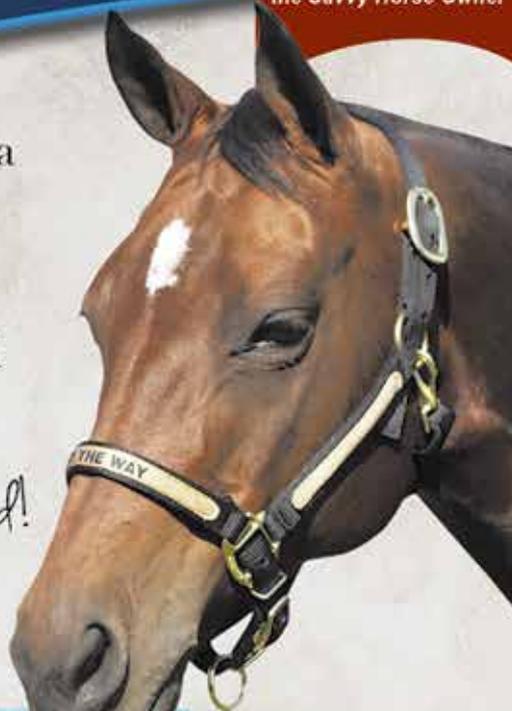
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Cowboy Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups butter
- 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cup white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 Tablespoon soda
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
- 3 cups old fashioned oats
- 2 cups coconut
- 2 cups pecans

Mix butter and sugars together till
creamed well.

Add eggs and vanilla, cream.
Add flour, baking powder, soda,
salt, and cinnamon, mix until well
blended. Add chocolate chips,
coconut, oats, and pecans and
mix well.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
bake for about 15 minutes.



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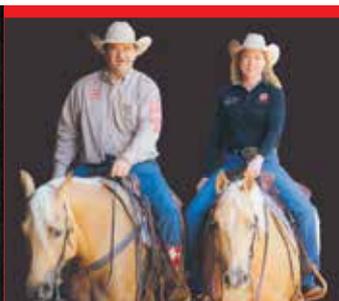


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Doc Rock's Repro Tips

Mares with attitude: Estrus suppression of the performance mare

By Dr. Kendra Rock, DVM, DACT, Board-Certified in Equine Reproduction

Over the years I have had many discussions with clients on this topic. Not to be blunt, the best way to keep a mare from cycling is to ride a gelding. In response, many people who are dedicated to their mares say a good mare will outwork your best gelding any day! Since great mares are favored for their good work ethic, we are challenged with finding a viable solution for the mare and owner to get them through the peaks and valleys of the breeding season.

Let's begin with some facts. The mare's cycle is typically 21 days. Anywhere from 4-7 days out of the 21 day cycle the mare is "in heat". In our part of the country most mares will begin cycling in mid-March to April. That can vary depending on stage of grass and sunshine from year to year. About 25% of mares will not "shut down" or become anestrus in early fall meaning they will continue to cycle year-round. Each mare is a little different. Some mares become bad actors when they are in heat. This may be attributed to the physical enlargement of the ovarian structures creating sensitivity or tenderness over the lumbar area and regions between the last rib and hips. Increased levels of estrogen at this time may also affect the mare's behavior making her anxious or stubborn. Other mares may display the opposite behavior and be much more tolerant and sociable around other horses when they are in heat. These mares may be more irritable and aggressive around other horses when they are out of heat. The two scenarios are considered normal behavior for cycling mares. Behavior

such as frequent cycling less than every 18-21 days or stallion-like behavior may signal an abnormal condition and an evaluation by your veterinarian is warranted.

In finding a solution for your mare keep in mind nothing is perfect. It's hard to overcome or completely suppress the natural order of reproductive behavior but let's give it a try in the following discussion. First things first, it's important to determine if your mare's bad attitude is due to general orneriness or she actually is a victim of her own reproductive nature. After going over history and performing an exam of course, I usually start with placing a mare on Regumate for two weeks, an analog of progesterone. Its administered daily in the form of an oral syrup. Its effect is generally within 24 hours. If the mare's behavior improves to an acceptable level to the owner then we have just figured out how much her behavior is attributed to cycling verses general orneriness. Regumate therapy is especially important if an owner is contemplating removing the ovaries in order to permanently prevent the mare from cycling. It would be disappointing to go through the cost and effort of removing the ovaries just to find out that the mare is just a stinker unrelated to her cyclicity. Regumate is also the best option if estrus suppression needs to happen immediately due to showing or working. In many mares it is the most consistent form of estrus suppression. Its negative drawback is it must be administered daily.

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Currently there are a few long-acting progesterone formulations available from every two weeks out to once a month administration. Progesterone is the hormone naturally produced by the mare following ovulation. The ovary naturally produces the hormone in preparation for pregnancy. Its action is both quieting to the uterus, ovary and sexual receptivity behavior. A mare under the influence of progesterone generally does not show interest in the stallion.

Along the same line, the practice of placing a glass marble inside the uterus to "trick" the mare into thinking she is pregnant utilizes the same principle of encouraging "progesterone state of mind". The glass marble has decreased in popularity over time due to decreased fertility in some mares from glass splintering, inherent expulsion from the mare's uterus at an unknown period of time causing her to cycle, and decreased

pregnancy rates due to an undetected marble in an otherwise normally cycling mare. Oxytocin therapy is another option aimed at encouraging pseudopregnancy or prolonged intervals between cycling. Oxytocin therapy has been shown to increase the time between heat cycles to 30 days. Oxytocin therapy along with ovulation inducing agents such as hCG or Deslorelin employed to hasten the time she's in heat require cycle management by the veterinarian. It is important to note ovulation inducing agents do not extend the time between cycles. Ovulation inducing agents are used to decrease the number of days a mare is showing heat.

An avenue that may become increasingly dependable in time is the use of vaccines which target ovarian activity and fertilization. The development and refinement of these vaccines are mainly focused on population control without permanent sterilization in

the feral horse population. These vaccines are a work in progress and are not readily available in the US. These vaccines are not labeled or recommended for use in animals intended for breeding due to the potential for extended ovarian suppression. Not covered in this discussion is the use of alternative therapies such as auricular acupuncture and herbal therapies. So far empirical evidence is lacking in the use of these therapies. Anecdotally these therapies have been reported by some owners to be useful and may have a place in your mare's treatment regimen. In summary, ideal estrus suppression should be safe for human handling, cause little to no side effects to

the horse, long acting there by decreasing administration frequency, and not compromise future fertility. Oh, I almost forgot...and be cost conscious. As the breeding season is fast approaching, I suggest consulting with your veterinarian concerning undesirable behavior in your mare. There are several options out there and each mare and owner will probably need to do some experimenting to see what works best for their mare.



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- Fecal Exam with Egg Count
- Strategic Deworming
- Coggins

Fall – September/October

- Physical Exam
- Vaccines – Rhino/Flu
- Strategic Deworming

Performance Horse Plan:

Spring – March/April

- Physical Exam
- Vaccines: Rhino/Flu, Core EQ Innovator (EWT, West Nile, Rabies), Flu Avert
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The Art and Science of Equine Lameness

By Dylan Lutter, DVM MS DACVS-LA
Clinical Assistant Professor
Equine Emergency and Surgery
Kansas State University

Anyone in the horse industry knows a lame horse when they see it. The trouble is, lameness means something different to each and every one of us. This ranges from the new horse owner who has never even heard the word but knows their horse isn't moving normally on up to the veterinary specialist who sees it in nearly every horse that he/she examines. So, what exactly is lameness?

At its' simplest, lameness is a sign of a problem that is causing a gait abnormality. Although there can be many causes of a gait abnormality, usually we associate lameness with pain from an injury. In some cases, the horse presents with an easily observable head nod, a substantially shortened stride, or even unwillingness to bear weight on the limb. But, what does it mean when your horse is running the barrel pattern a half second slower, fails to switch leads, pops out of its slide early, or refuses a jump? All of these behaviors, and more, could be attributed to lameness and should be investigated. This is where a lameness exam comes into play.

The skills needed to perform a lameness exam have changed very little over the centuries and can be learned by anyone with patience and a keen eye. The problem is that these skills are not easy to teach, vary with each person, and must be learned through practice. The key lies in making careful observations and taking note of any asymmetries

found. Here again, difficulties arise in sorting out the clinically relevant (aka problem causing) asymmetries from the incidental findings and normal variations. While there is no concrete way to go about a lameness exam and each case has its own plot twists, let's take a look at the process of a typical lameness examination and discuss some of the options that come along.

In a lameness exam, a horse's entire musculoskeletal system is examined through palpation, range of motion, limb flexion and general observation for abnormalities. Following observation and palpation at a standstill, horses are observed at a trot on a hard, level surface both on a straight line and in a circle. Some veterinarians also prefer to see the horse move on a softer surface, such as in the grass or an arena. Typically, we look for the horse's lame limb by looking for subtle head nods, shortened stride length, reduced impact and flexion of one limb compared to the opposite side, or asymmetries in movement of the shoulder, hip, or pelvis. The adage "Down on Sound" is a good one to remember. If a horse hurts on its right front leg it will put less pressure on that limb and more pressure on the left front as each respective foot impacts the ground. The result is the entire front end of the horse bouncing further down on the uninjured (sound) leg and raising or jerking its head up when the lame leg lands. "Down on

Sound." This is how the head nod that is associated with nearly every front limb lameness develops. The same principle can be applied to the hind limbs, although movement of the pelvis and flexion of the hind limbs can make this observation more difficult. In fact, with difficult hind limb lameness, studies have shown that even skilled equine lameness experts may disagree up to 50% of the time. To add to the challenge, it is very common for a horse to be lame in more than one leg. Some horses will demonstrate a secondary that develops when they compensate for a lameness in another limb. When the horse is lame in multiple legs, it is important to identify the most severely affected.

To help combat the challenges of lameness identification, veterinarians have some tools that they can draw upon. First, most clinicians use hoof testers before watching the horse trot in an effort to detect soreness in the feet and head off any straight forward diagnoses such as hoof abscesses or sole bruises. These odd looking instruments are used to selectively apply pressure to each area of each foot and watch for a flinch or response from the horse. Second, after observing the horse in motion to establish a baseline lameness, horses undergo limb flexions in an effort to establish the absence or presence of pain in the upper or lower limbs. There are many variations to these flexion tests but, in general, lower limb flexions incorporate the fetlock, pastern and foot regions whereas upper limb flexions incorporate regions of the knee or hock and above. With these flexions, the veterinarian will hold a region of one limb in maximum

flexion for a period of time (range 10 seconds to 1 minute) and then trot the horse off to see if lameness worsens or stays the same. If the lameness worsens, the flexion test is said to be "positive". If the lameness stays the same it is said to be "negative". Finally, we rely on diagnostic regional analgesia (aka. Nerve and joint blocks) to systematically identify the problem causing region. These blocks are applied starting low and workup the limb. After each block, the horse is trotted to see if the lameness improved. If it has, then all or at least a portion of the horse's injury is attributed to the region below the block. If the lameness has not improved and we are sure that the block took effect, then we can confidently say that the problem is not in that region and we can move on to the next block higher on the leg. While many varying opinions exist regarding the best way to use these blocks, it really depends on the individual preferences of each veterinarian, owner, and horse as to which blocks are performed and in what order.

Once the lame limbs have been identified and the regions of suspected injury are localized, further options can be discussed. Since osteoarthritis is the #1 cause of lameness in horses, radiographs (x-rays) are the first step in diagnosing an injury. This is a good way to rule out major problems with the bones and joints in the affected region. Radiographs can also provide some rudimentary information about soft tissue problems. Ultrasound is frequently the second step. Tendon and ligament injuries are also among the top causes of lameness in the horse. Ultrasound is a good diagnostic

tool for these injuries. Most injuries can be diagnosed using these two imaging modalities and subsequently the treatment administered on the same day as the lameness exam.

In difficult cases, more advanced tests may be necessary to fully diagnose the injury and make the best treatment recommendations for the animal. This might mean that a computerized gait analysis system is needed early on in the exam to fully understand which limbs are lame and need to be blocked. In the case of a lameness that has been unable to be localized with block, a nuclear scintigraphy exam (aka a bone scan) may be the next best step. Perhaps, a CT scan is indicated to fully assess an injury for medical treatment or surgical planning. Or, maybe a lameness has been fully localized with blocks but conventional imaging has not yielded a diagnosis. In this case, an MRI would be the best route in order to assess bone,

cartilage, and tendons/ligaments in high detail. Arguably the best example where advanced diagnostic imaging has revolutionized the management of equine lameness is the use of MRI to diagnose injuries that were formerly known as “navicular syndrome”. Through MRI, navicular syndrome has moved from a mysterious and poorly understood disorder to a myriad of specific diagnosable injuries, each with its own best treatment and prognosis.

Through this basic framework, most lameness can be identified, localized, diagnosed, and treated. While not every diagnostic and treatment options will be used on every horse, every horse can benefit from the knowledge gained through the use of these technologies. Though simple in principle (“Just look for the most-lame leg.”), the diagnosis and management of equine lameness is not a simple task. The process described

here brings up several important questions which, unfortunately, are beyond the scope of this article.

Here are just a few:

1. Why can't you just radiograph a certain area?
2. Is it really necessary to use diagnostic imaging?
3. Do nerve blocks have to be performed?
4. Could you elect to just treat the horse without reaching a diagnosis?

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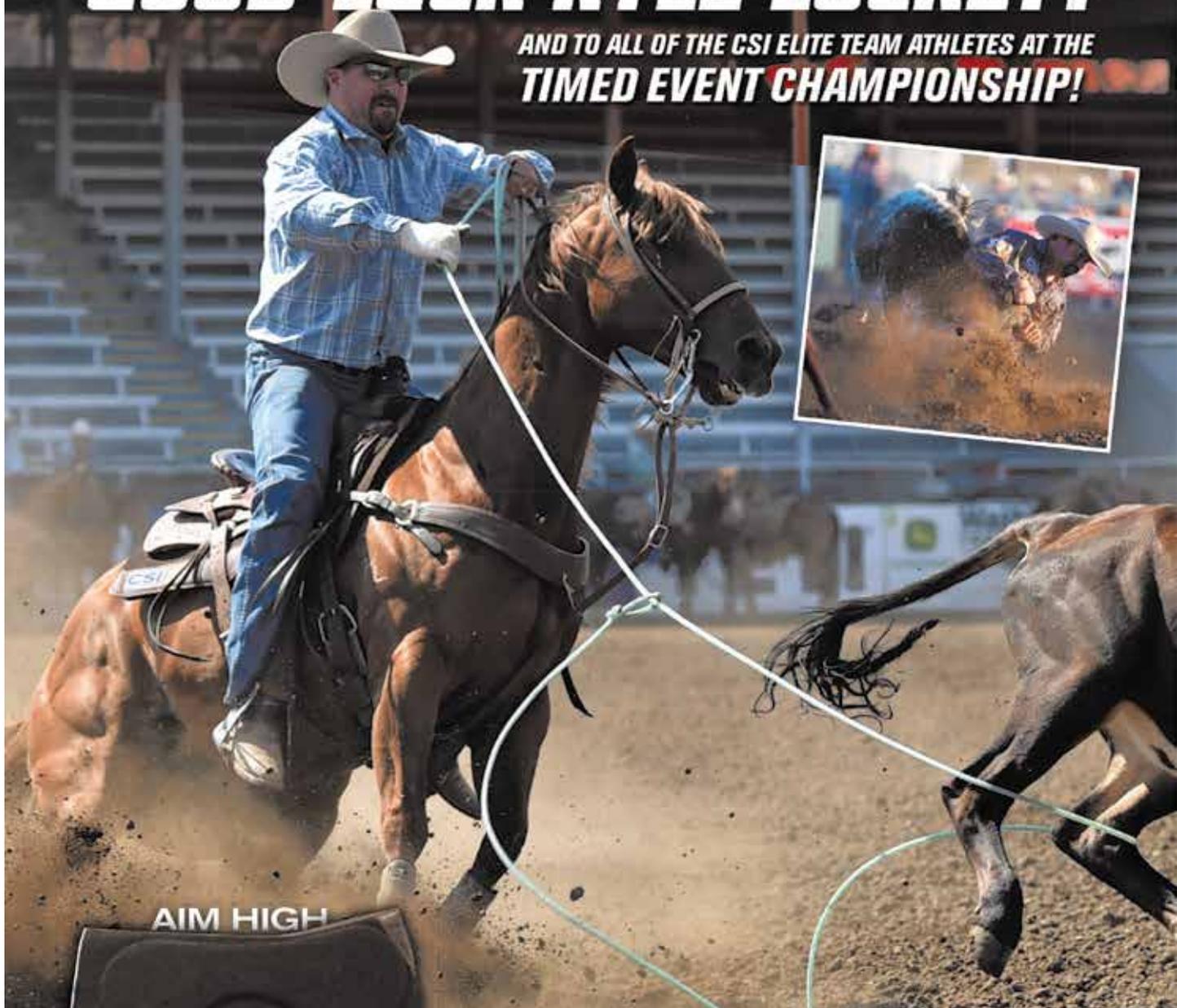
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June 22, 23 Dressage at RIO I and II, USEF Level 3
July 13 Schooling Dressage/Combined Test
July 20 KCPHA and KHJA Schooling Hunter/Jumper Show
Aug. 17 Schooling Dressage/Combined Test
Sept. 14 Schooling Dressage/Combined Test
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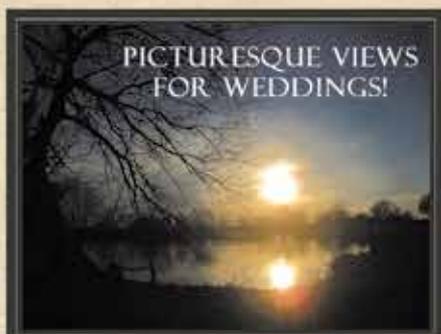
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Stephanie Shapland, Broker/Owner 620.874.5002
Maranda Cersovsky, Sales Associate 620.874.8332

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Living: Main Home is approximately 2800 square feet including 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen with island, dining 2 living rooms, enclosed patio/family room, breezeway & utility room

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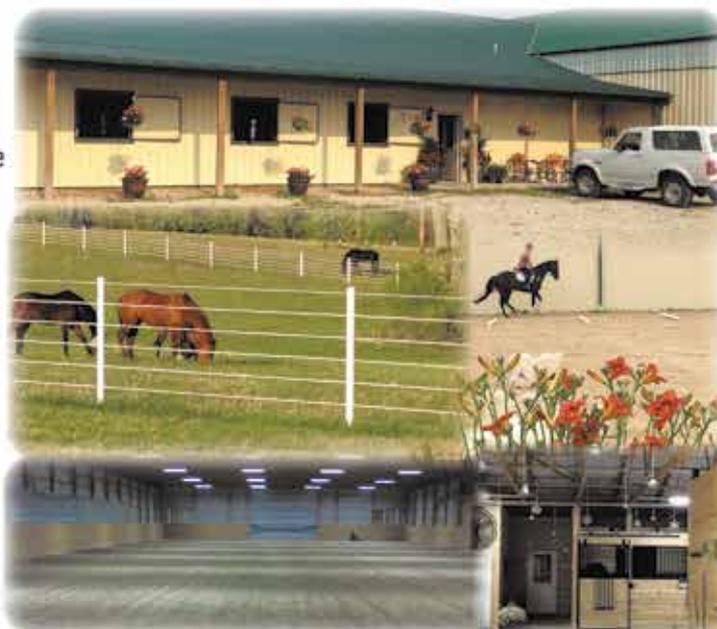
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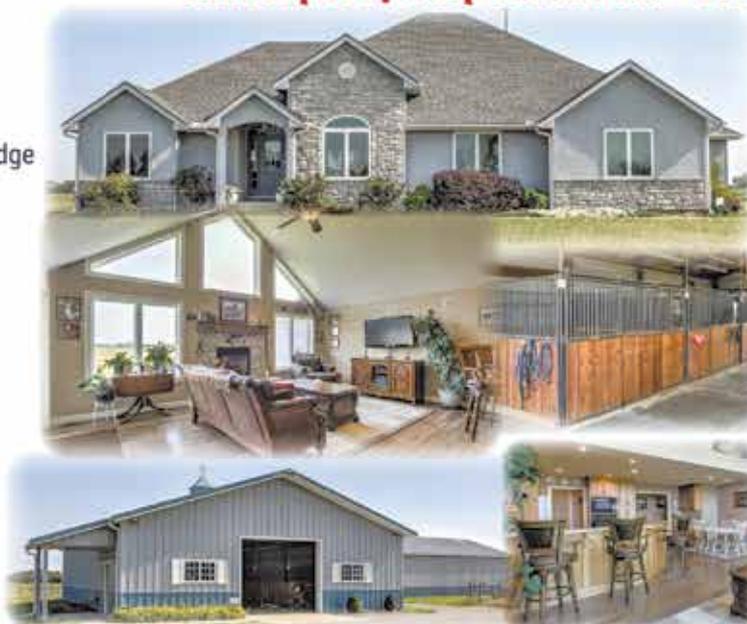
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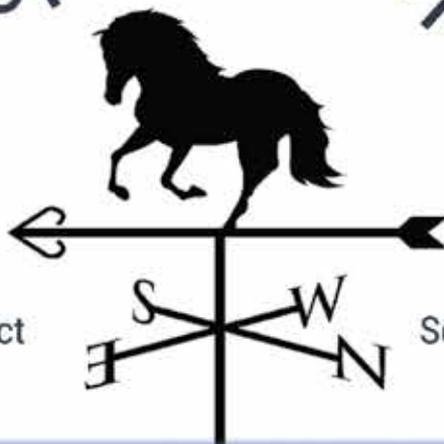


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