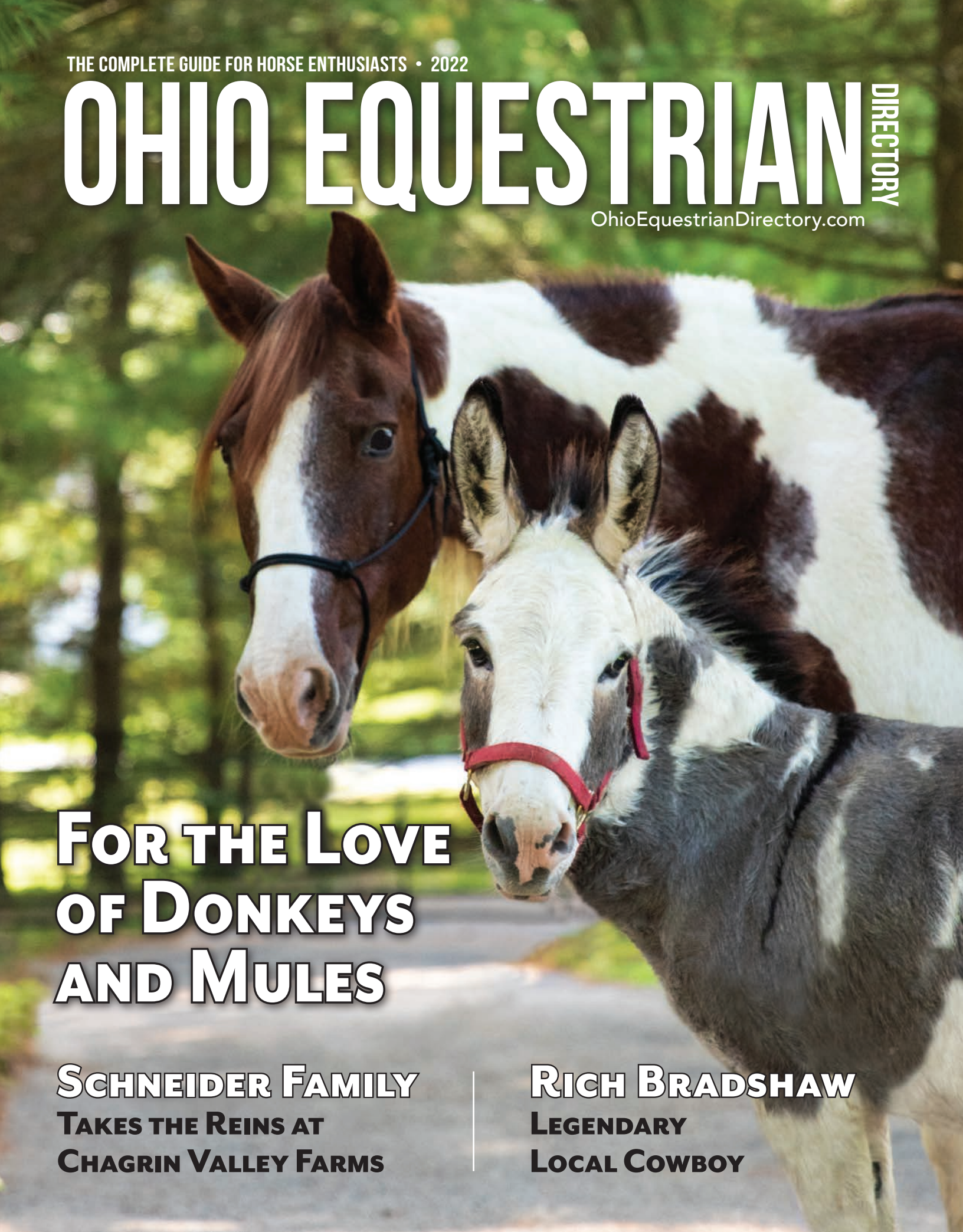


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OHIO EQUESTRIAN

DIRECTORY

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OF DONKEYS
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TAKES THE REINS AT
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About The Cover



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Skye, a 30-year-old Spotted Saddle Horse mare, and Jasper, an 18-year-old miniature donkey are best friends who live on a picturesque, 30-acre farm amid the rolling hills of Tuscarawas County, Ohio. According to owners, Mike and Joan

Fondriest, the two are inseparable, sharing a stall in the barn, and are never more than a few feet apart in the pasture. Jasper loves to come along on trail rides with Skye, at times darting playfully in and out of the trees without warning. You could say he is the best form of desensitization for any horse in his company! Jasper has also displayed a more “sensitive” side, happily serving as a comfort companion and “seeing eye” donkey for Joan’s blind gelding, Apache. Wearing a softly ringing bell on his halter, Jasper gave Apache the confidence to go down trail, knowing his best friend was leading the way. “Donkeys truly make a wonderful companion animal for horses, and their intelligence and faithfulness will warm your heart,” says Joan. If you have been considering adding a donkey or mule to your herd, or just want to learn more about these smart, sweet, and sometimes silly beasts of burden, you will want to read our feature, **For The Love of Donkeys, and Mules** in this issue.

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From the publisher

Welcome to the 2022 issue of *Ohio Equestrian Directory!*

Ohio Equestrian Directory was created for YOU - owners, riders, professionals, and businesses of all disciplines - to help you connect within the local horse community. More than just a business directory, it also features content on trending topics, the best practices and innovators in the industry, plus tips from the pros.

It is with much gratitude that we present you with this new issue.

The idea to delve into the topic of donkeys and mules is one that's been nagging at me for years. Exactly what IS the difference between a donkey and a mule? Are they similar to horses? Is their care the same? Our feature article, **For the Love of Donkeys and Mules**, looked into these questions and, ironically, discovered a shocking current global crisis faced by donkeys and those who depend on them for their survival. Sadly, millions of donkeys are being killed each year for their hides - for use in Chinese medicine. Appallingly, at this current rate of slaughter, **ALL** donkeys will be eliminated from the African continent by next year! Learn how you can become involved with the non-profits who are working tirelessly to protect them. And, perhaps, you might just decide that you have some extra room in your barn (and your heart) to rescue one of these gentle souls.

Speaking of tireless work, one family has been busy since 2018, transforming one of Ohio's longest running horse show facilities into a premier equestrian venue. Our feature, **Schneider Family Takes the Reins at Chagrin Valley Farms**, details the massive renovations and improvements being made at Chagrin Valley Farms by its new owners, the Schneider (yes, the Schneider Saddlery!) family. Their vision is to develop a first-class facility for local riders, become a destination spot for regional competitors, and to attract new people to horse sports by offering developmental activities for the entry level rider, and expanding competition opportunities for all ages and levels of riders. Read the history of the family who has had a huge impact on our horse industry for many years, and whose legacy will carry on for future generations of equestrians.

Another legacy that is sure to endure is that of Rich Bradshaw. Fondly referred to as "the only true cowboy in our area", by Ohio locals who have the pleasure to know him, Bradshaw's kindness and gentle ways bring out the best, not only in the horses he trains, but also in the people around him. Rich's generosity extends beyond friends and family, as he has also devoted much of his energy and talents to various non-profit organizations and therapeutic riding programs. A self-taught horseman with a lifetime of experience and stories to prove it, one of Rich's passions is to help people with their fears by teaching them how to have fun with their horses. We are very proud to share Rich's personal memoirs and shine the well-earned spotlight on him in **Rich Bradshaw, Legendary Local Cowboy**.

Special thanks to the equestrians who generously shared their stories and the businesses that enthusiastically supported this issue!

We hope you find this to be an invaluable resource and ask you to please support our advertisers, without whom this complimentary directory would not be possible.

—Erika Milenkovich, Publisher,

Ohio Equestrian Directory/Kentucky Equestrian Directory



Erika and Enso

Photo by Jessa James Photography



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AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE MEDIA

Why Choose a Fiber and Geotextile Arena Amendment?

by Barb DiPalma

Arena footing amendments come in many variations. Anything from crumb rubber additives made of tires, yoga mats, and chopped up sneakers, to recycled carpet fibers, and wood chips or sawdust, is available. There are also many misconceptions about the benefits of these types of additives.

Rubber can help to keep the surface aerated and provide some rebound, but tends to float to the surface in heavy rainfall, and it can be difficult to maintain an even application. Rubber also changes composure in extreme hot and cold climates and, while it can help thaw an arena with sunlight in winter, it can also degrade by grinding against the sand and horses' hooves. There can also be an odor with rubber.

Recycled carpet fibers are usually composed of nylon and, while these fibers can knit your arena surface to provide more stability initially, they tend to break down quickly and can add to poor air quality by becoming dusty. The same is true of wood chips and sawdust, which can initially provide an increase to moisture retention, but they degrade over time and add to an already dusty environment.

There are also many misconceptions about the higher quality fiber and geotextile amendments that many companies offer, with some consumers feeling that they are priced out of budget. One must consider the overall cost of inadequacies in their arena surface as it pertains to their horses' health and well-being.

When making comparisons of products and prices things can get very confusing. Today's findings, from



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scientific research on equestrian footings, combined with specialists' practical experiences, along with our own experience gained in over 20 years of supporting the equine community, indicate that the high-quality fiber and geotextile blends made from 100% polyester are the best solution – economically and environmentally – with long-lasting durability, and also help to prevent lameness of your horse and minimize veterinary bills by:

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- decreasing sand sheer and providing additional stability
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- supporting your horse's joints and ligaments
- facilitating a strong jump and secure landing

- improving the life span of the arena sand and shear strength of the arena surface for optimal performance.

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Regular maintenance of fiber and geotextile amended surfaces is vital to keep your arenas in perfect shape.

GGT-Footing™ needs regular irrigation to facilitate stability and uniformity, and to eliminate dust. Frequent deep watering is recommended to keep the surface moist throughout and should be monitored with a

moisture meter, depending on the season, wind, and sun exposure of outdoor arenas, and depending on the air temperature and humidity level indoors.

GGT-Footing™ requires a synthetic fiber compatible proper arena groomer with adjustable tines and teeth, as well as a roller to keep the footing mixed properly. With models available that are ATV compatible with a coverage area of 57 inches, to large tractor compatible models covering up to 98 inches, GGT has an arena groomer to meet your maintenance needs. We even have a Slim Model available with its own tow vehicle.

For a comprehensive consultation on any arena surface amendments, and more information on the benefits of a fiber and geotextile additive, please call Barb, GGT East Coast Retail Account Manager at 864-804-8664 or visit: ggtfooting.com. ♦

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Health & Wellness: Everything is Connected!

How to Make Change Stick with Small Steps

by **Ann J. Hornsby,**
MEd, RDN, LDN, CDCES, CLC

When you hear the word wellness, you think of healthy, good food, and exercise. These are all important areas of wellness, but it involves a lot more. We'll touch on a few areas of food, exercise, mental health, and social health. All of these areas are important to maintain good health. No matter if you are a horse person or someone who supports a horse person (equally as crazy!). This article will help with specific parts of your life that you want to improve!

One mistake everyone makes is they wake up one morning feeling really good, and they want to change everything in their life - eat better, exercise more, meditate, feel better, be more flexible, etc. Yep, that sounds wonderful, unfortunately, when we put too much on our plate, we get overloaded and it soon becomes a distant memory. So how do we change and make those changes stick? Start small - just like when you are asking your horse to learn a new skill, you don't ask him to jump a 6' fence, run barrels in less than 16 seconds, or cut cattle successfully - you start small with small tasks and consistently build on what he has learned. Humans are the same. We do much better when things are broken down in small steps with a big goal at the end (accumulation goal!).

To get started, think about an area that you would like to improve - identify the overall goal, and then make at least 3 small goals to accomplish in a certain amount of time. This is called the SMART method of behavior change. It is very important to write it down and keep it visible. Writing things down (goals, journaling, etc.) makes them more concrete and we seem to do better with written goals. Post them! Each goal should have these:

SMART GOALS:

S Specific
M Measurable
A Achievable
R Relevant
T Time-based

EATING LOTS OF COLOR!

What areas do you want to change? Let's say - eat better, less junk and fast food.

Set up your environment to encourage success. Get rid of the foods you are likely to snack and binge with. Put tempting foods out of sight - don't rely on self-control. Make sure to have healthy alternatives available to you at all times - quick, easy snacks that can be portable.

KEEP HEALTHIER SNACKS IN YOUR CAR, TRUCK, BARN OR OFFICE.

We all lead busy lives and sometimes swinging through a fast food restaurant is a must. It can be done! There are lots of options, so think about



Ann on
Shorty at Spur
for the Cure

the choices - BEFORE you choose. Here are my 4 FF rules:

- No cheese
- No deep fried
- No mayo
- All beverages need to be 0 calorie

Portion size is a big culprit - choose junior sizes, smallest sizes, and rein in your extra helpings. Many people tell me they eat well, they just eat too much food.

When you are rooting around for a snack - ask yourself - is it because I am physically hungry or emotionally hungry? Remember, we eat out of boredom/stress/anger/happiness so many times. Have an alternate activity available that helps you get your mind off of eating just to eat.

Think about what triggers you to eat high sugar, fat, fried, or whatever foods that you are trying to cut down. Understand the trigger and have a game plan for alternative behaviors. Example:

TRIGGER	REACTION	NEW PLAN
STRESSFUL SITUATION	CRAVE SUGAR	GO FOR A WALK DRINK A BIG GLASS OF ICE WATER

PHYSICAL HUNGER

VS.

EMOTIONAL HUNGER

Comes on gradually
& can be postponed

Can be satisfied
with any type of food

Once you're full
you can stop eating

Causes satisfaction,
doesn't cause guilt

Comes on suddenly
& feels urgent

Causes specific cravings,
Pizza, chocolate,
ice-cream...

Eat more than you
normally would.
Feel uncomfortably full.

Leaves you feeling guilty
and cross with yourself.

GET THAT HEART PUMPING!

We want to improve your cardio fitness and stamina. We ride horses, muck stalls, and carry heavy saddles - but this really doesn't contribute to cardio fitness. Getting your heart rate up for a period of time improves your stamina (you're not as tired at the end of the day!).

Consider walking to get you started. It's an easy way to start the exercise process - and slowly build on this easy skill. Start small - a 15 minute walk each day, and build on that until you are at a goal you are happy with.

There are so many things you can do in the barn for 15 minutes a day to help improve your fitness:

Do you have stairs in your barn? If so, (and they are safe) go up and down the stairs for 15 minutes each day.

Boxes, solid hay bales, or mounting blocks - step up and down using alternative legs to lead - 15 minutes each day.

Pastures - do you have hilly pastures? Inclines are great for improving fitness - walk up and down your hilly pastures for 15 minutes each day.

Again, the key is slowly increasing the time so you continue to challenge your body. When people complain they are stuck at a weight - called a plateau - your body has become accustomed to what you are doing and it needs to be challenged again - CHANGE IT UP!

During busy times, it can be more challenging to stick with new routines and habits. The key is planning your activity. PUT IT IN YOUR PHONE'S CALENDAR.

HEALTHY, HAPPY MIND

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. Our thoughts can do a lot of damage to our psyche and sometimes WE are our worst enemy.

Talk back to negative thoughts with positive thoughts. Ask yourself "what happened" so you can problem-solve.

PROBLEM > SOLUTION > MOVE ON

Don't wallow in worrying. Worrying is like sawing sawdust - no value! Focus on what you can control - take back control as soon as you can. If it is out of your control - move on. Don't dwell.

Reach out for support - we all need help once in a while - someone to listen, someone to encourage, or someone to just be there for us. Let people know you NEED them.

Focus on the positive changes you have made. You will have set-backs

- that is a given. Focus on what you ARE doing right and encourage yourself with the changes you've made. Change is hard and slow. Give yourself some grace!

Buddy up with a friend or family member to help you achieve your goals.

BE KIND!

It is a known fact that being nice to others improves your overall mental health and ability to achieve things in your life. Make time to be nice to someone, go out of your way to help someone, and pay it forward for the many times people have helped you!

Being angry and mean to others significantly increases the secretion of hormones that increase the risk of heart disease, obesity, high blood glucose, high blood pressure, and bone loss.

As we all know from working with horses and ourselves - this is always an evolution, you are never done. We will always learn, always improve, always have set-backs, but I know from so many of my wonderful horse friends, we will continue to move forward and be the best we can be! ♦

Ann Hornsby has been involved in health and wellness all of her career. She enjoys working with people to find their best self and help them to understand that they have the power to change. Good health is overcoming barriers both physically and mentally and finding your own strength. Her love of horses has been a lifelong passion. Growing up in Colorado she started her journey with a pony and has grown into her lifelong dream of owning her own farm. With her husband Michael, they have created Dragonfly Farm with 5 very happy horses in the barn! She enjoys trail riding and is now starting to learn more about Versatility Ranch Horse with her new horse, Badger!

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Think All Helmets Are the Same? Think Again!

Meet the Man Who's Raising the Bar on Helmet Safety

by Rhys Powell

With safety and technology paving the way of the future in other sports, the need to improve and raise the safety standards in equestrian sports has become more essential than ever before.

Four years ago while riding at our equestrian property in New Zealand, my horse spooked and I fell off at the walk, breaking my neck (C3). During the five days that followed while in the hospital, unable to move, I designed an equestrian helmet in my head, knowing that the severity of injury from my accident could have been prevented. The journey has been a real eye-opener, and I have learned so much more about a sport I am involved in. But most importantly, I learned about head injuries and ways to help minimize them.

I taught myself all about CAD and 3D printing, tooling, molds, different types of materials, you name it! I first started cutting helmets in half to see what they were made of; the majority were very disturbing and incredibly basic. Most are just plastic helmets that are very cheap to manufacture - just around \$10 US dollars! Even some of the very expensive European ones were not much better than the very cheapest (\$50) plastic ones on Amazon, they had just been well-marketed.

For the first two years, I focused purely on safety, as that was the reason I began this process in the first place. After two years of creating a prototype, despite it being really safe, I didn't believe many people would actually wear it - it looked a bit silly! The following two years, I focused on the fashion side and now

believe I have both, safety & fashion, which is a very difficult combination to achieve. I purposely didn't worry about material costs or the final price, as I didn't want that to be a factor influencing the decision process. I wanted the very highest safety standards, best possible materials, brain/concussion protection, (MIPS) safety features, etc. Our patented design and system include 78 individual parts.

The most concerning thing I learned through this process, is that the level of protection offered by the majority of helmets on the market is significantly lower than what people think - or are led to believe. And many riders assume helmet safety standards are pretty much all the same, but in reality, they are widely different, with most helmets



which is significantly higher than all other older standards, i.e., VG1, ASTM, PAS015.

2. MIPS : (Multi-directional Impact Protection System) - an additional liner incorporated inside the helmet, designed to add protection against rotational motion transferred to the head and brain. Rotational motion increases the risk for minor to severe brain injuries. MIPS can reduce rotational motion by redirecting energies and forces otherwise transferred to the brain.

3. Carbon Fibre and Kevlar - the very best materials to use in the outer layer of the helmet: both known for being lightweight but very strong; Kevlar is used in bullet-proof vests.

4. Detachable chin guard for facial and neck protection, this can be worn in dual mode, i.e., with or without the chin bar.

5. Removable and breakaway visor. The visor at the front is removable to meet any showing regulations, and breaks away to minimize forces/stresses, and hyperflexion of the neck.

6. Dual density EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) inner liner - to accommodate different impact locations on the head.

While no helmet or impact protection system can prevent a user from all injuries, ARRO helmets give you the confidence to follow your passion with horses in the best possible helmet available. ♦

For more information:
arro.nz

consisting of multiple lower standards, because they aren't designed to achieve the highest safety standards. I would estimate 99% of helmets (most being just plastic), including the majority of the most expensive European ones, cannot pass the highest safety standards found in our ARRO helmets.

Key points of this helmet:

1. Obtained the world's highest and latest safety rating - Snell "E2021", a new standard

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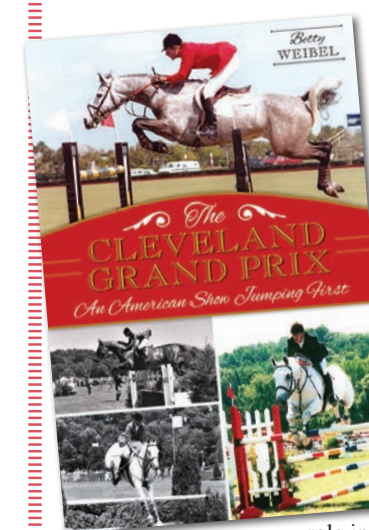
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Stan, Karen, and Eric Schneider, owners of Chagrin Valley Farms

Photo by Betty Weibel

Schneider Family Takes the Reins at Chagrin Valley Farms

Creating a premiere equestrian venue to offer everything from beginner lessons to competition opportunities for all riders

by Betty Weibel

One of Ohio's longest running equestrian/horse show centers is in the midst of a major transformation that will impact horse shows across the region. Thirty-five years after Chagrin Valley Farms was built in Northeast Ohio's Bainbridge Twp., the original owner sold the aging horse farm to the Schneider family. The transformation started in 2018 with improvements to the existing facility, and continued with expanded features and plans for new stable and arena additions that will ensure its longevity as a destination for horse shows of all levels. In fact, no Ohio equestrian center offers a full range of lesson and horse show opportunities from the beginner level rider through the top-rated competitor, including hunter/jumper, dressage, and cross-country disciplines.

"Our vision is to develop a premier equestrian center with dedicated space for entry level rider development activities such as lessons and camp programs, as well as separate space for stabling and riding arenas to host competitions for a range of disciplines. We want to attract new people to horse sports, which will create business for the entire local horse industry including trainers and instructors across the region, services such as veterinarians,

farriers, and feed stores, as well as equestrian equipment and supplies. We think it is a win-win business model for the horse industry," said Eric Schneider, owner of Chagrin Valley Farms and president of Schneider Saddlery.

"Northeast Ohio has so much rich history in the horse show world. The area hosted the first show jumping grand prix in North America in 1965 with the Cleveland Grand Prix, and the long-running Chagrin

Valley Professional Horsemen's Association (CVPHA) Horse Show, now known as the Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic (CHJC). Although this area has lost many riding stables and horse show facilities over the years, we feel it's not too late to regain some of our stature in the horse world," said Karen Schneider who, in addition to being part of the family that purchased Chagrin Valley Farms, has been a chairman of the CHJC.

LOOKING BACK AT HOW THE SCHNEIDER'S AND CHAGRIN VALLEY FARMS' STORIES INTERSECTED

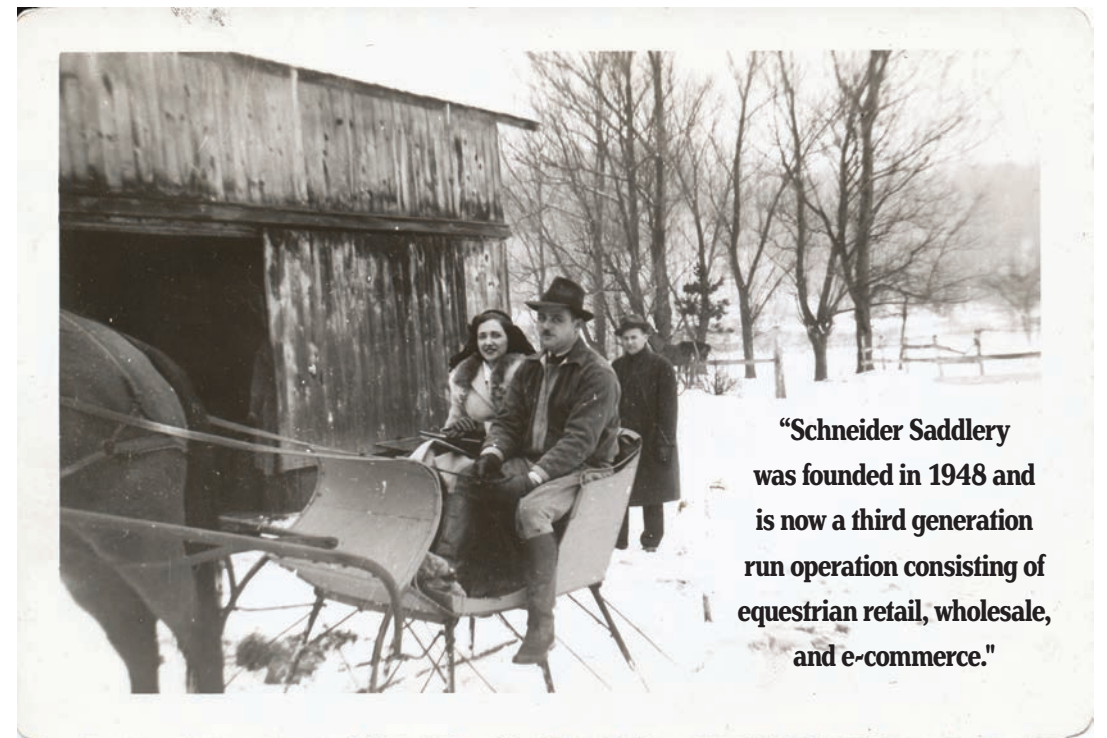
The horse industry has evolved from horses used as utilitarian transportation to their role in pleasure riding and sports including racing, polo, fox hunting, and horse shows. And where there are horses, there has been business to serve the four-legged athletes and their owners. That is where the Schneider family first entered the equine business in the 1940s.

Milton Schneider would attend horse auctions as a hobby with friends to buy and sell horses and used equipment. When the barn where he kept his horses went out of business, Milt purchased the equipment and resold it at auction. The venture was a success that started him on a career path that has spanned decades. Milt's sons, Stan and Don, joined the business in the 1960s and went on to take the company to its next level of success.

"Schneider Saddlery was founded in 1948 and is now a third generation run operation consisting of equestrian retail, wholesale, and e-commerce. Our headquarters, warehouse, and 80,000 square-foot retail store are in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and we will celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2023," said Eric, who is the son of Stan and Karen Schneider.

HORSE SHOWS BECOME ESSENTIAL TO SCHNEIDER SADDLERY

Stan Schneider said it was in 1966 that Schneider Saddlery attended its first horse show. It was a great success for business and opened a new door for opportunity. As Stan talked with competitors, he learned



Milt and Sallie Schneider in 1942

Photos courtesy of the Schneider family.

"Schneider Saddlery was founded in 1948 and is now a third generation run operation consisting of equestrian retail, wholesale, and e-commerce."

more about what *wasn't* on the market, and the specialty products people wanted to see. Most of that early feedback came from the Arabian horse world, and although Stan didn't know how to get their requests made at first, he figured out how to get it done and turned around to offer the new products across the country. The new focus on product development and marketing was another boost to Schneider's success.

Horse shows continue to be an important part of the business for the company, and events such as the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, are major endeavors for multiple weeks as Schneider sets up shops that rival their permanent store in Chagrin Falls.

Schneider Saddlery continues its longtime tradition of sponsoring major Ohio horse shows, like the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show (CHJC) at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field. "Not only do we honor the rich heritage of the horse show, which started in 1949 as a fundraising event for the Chagrin Valley Trails and Riding Club, but Schneider has been one of the horse show's longest running sponsors," said Eric, who noted his mother



Eric's daughter, Anna, (with her pony, Stewie) started riding in lessons, camp, and horse shows at Chagrin Valley Farms.

Karen's longtime involvement with the show.

Karen, who went on to co-chair the CHJC from 1996 to 2016 shared, "I remember riding at the show as a junior and my mom worked on the hospitality committee. When I was dating Stanley Schneider, the store was still located in Beachwood and they wanted to get more involved in the hunter/jumper industry. I helped set up the Schneider Saddlery vendor

booth at the CHJC show in 1974."

In September of 2017, Linda Joseph, owner, operator, and founder of Chagrin Valley Farms (CVF) surprised the horse world when she announced she had sold her Chagrin Valley Farms to the Schneider Family. "Over the years I had inquiries about selling CVF, but for various reasons none of them came to fruition. When I was approached by the Schneiders, the opportunity fit perfectly; they shared a vision that I had when I created CVF and wanted an equestrian center that offered a full range of riding and competition for beginners just getting into the sport through elite equestrians. After years in the horse business as a retailer, they wanted to help continue to support and build the Northeast Ohio horse industry," said Linda. "I would never want to see the Farm turn into a development and that is always a concern when horse properties change hands."

Built in 1982, Chagrin Valley Farms is located at 9250 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, Ohio, on 87 acres and includes 75,000 square feet under roof with 200 horse stalls and two indoor rings, in addition to four outdoor rings, pastures, and

Continued on page 22



Original front show ring renovations and new footing



Photo by Heather Tordan.

Hunter ring improvements and schooling expansion

SCHNEIDER FAMILY

Continued from page 21

trails. Chagrin Valley Farms has been instrumental in developing new riders and building the local equine industry through its riding lessons for children and adults of all abilities and a full summer camp program for ages 4 to 16.

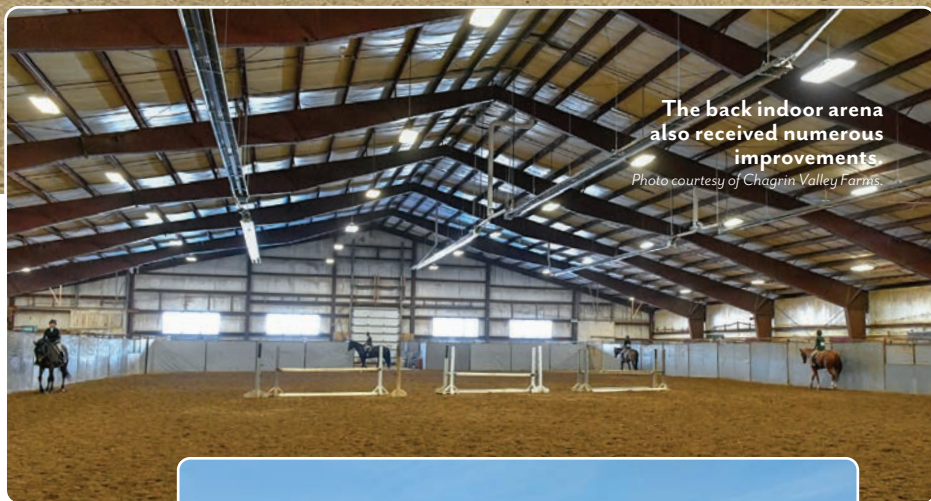
A long-standing popular horse show destination for regional schooling and academy horse shows for up-and-coming horses and riders, CVF is well known outside Northeast Ohio as well. They have hosted top level “A” rated horse shows, attracting competitors from around the country, as well as dressage shows.

PHASE ONE – IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITY

“When we purchased the farm, we began to invest in the renovation of existing facilities while continuing

to run the horse show schedule, riding lessons and camp programs, even through pandemic conditions, which slowed our progress. Linda Joseph and her team have continued working with us,” Eric said.

Soon after the acquisition, Chagrin Valley Farms launched a number of renovations in its first phase of improvements, including new arena footing from the New York company, Footing First™, for the front indoor arena, using the TravelRight™ signature blend. It is a completely dust-free footing that provides excellent traction, stability, and cushion for unrivaled shock absorption and performance. Also, in the indoor front ring they refurbished walls, patched and cleaned the ceiling and beams, upgraded lighting, and built a new judge’s box. Work continued around the barn with similar improvements and refurbishing of the indoor back



The back indoor arena also received numerous improvements

Photo courtesy of Chagrin Valley Farms.



Renovation of the jumper ring resulted in a 200’ x 400’ arena with new footing.

Photo by Linnea Swanson.

ring, main barn, and club room/ lounge.

In order to host events for outside organizations like the Northern Ohio Dressage Association (NODA) Championships, the Schneiders turned their focus outdoors and installed new footing from Footing First™ in the hunter rings. Then, to continue to attract top hunter and jumper competitions, they renovated the original limestone jumper ring in early 2021. The result was a new 200’ x 400’ jumper

arena with the same quality footing as the hunter rings, which made CVF an appealing rated horse show destination.

EXPANDING INTO MINI TRIAL TERRITORY

In August 2019, Chagrin Valley Farms entered new territory when they held their first mini trial on about 10 acres of land with newly constructed obstacles; there were about 125 entries. In 2020, they expanded by converting an upper field (about another 10 acres) from

a corn field to a hay field that could be used to extend the course. “In 2021, our Intro course (lowest level) was 820 meters, and our Novice course (highest level we offer) was 1,580 meters, and entries grew to 230 horses. At this time, we have roughly 65 to 70 cross-country jumps that we are able to ‘play’ with to make the courses. We are planning to add a water jump, bank and ditch in the near future, as well as adding more land to the courses,” said Linnea Swanson, CVF Equine Director. The mini trials are part of the Northeast Ohio Mini Trial Series.

HOSTING AND SUPPORTING A LEGACY

This past summer, Chagrin Valley Farms hosted a scaled back version of the traditional two-week AA-rated Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic (CHJC) when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the horse show to

Continued on page 24

Photo by Hannah Durr Equine Photography.



Jumper competition during the 2021 Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic hosted at CVF

A LOOK BACK: Chagrin Valley Farms Makes History in 1991

This wasn’t the first time Chagrin Valley Farms came to the rescue of the iconic national hunter jumper horse show when it needed a temporary home, according to the book, *The Cleveland Grand Prix: An American Show Jumping First* (Published by The History Press in 2015).

In 1980, when Leah Stroud was chairman of the Chagrin Valley PHA (CVPHA) Horse Show Board and Stanley Stone was co-chairman, the growing horse show became difficult to manage for the volunteer committees. Former Cleveland Eugene “Gene” Mische and his company, Stadium Jumping, Inc. became involved in managing the CVPHA. It was an era of growing sponsorship and unprecedented growth for the sport through the American Grand Prix Association (AGA) series, and Gene was the nation’s top operator. As Stroud and Stone lost authority, they decided to split from the Stadium Jumping operation. In 1983, they moved the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show to the George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center of Lake Erie College in Concord Township, to create a smaller, more manageable show with no grand prix. Gene continued to run his show and the Cleveland Grand Prix at the Polo Field.

Hugh Kincannon, who had Ridgewood Stables in Medina, managed the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show at Lake Erie College. After a few years there, Hugh and Leah were searching for a facility better suited to the show, so it was moved to Ridgewood Stables in Medina for a short time. That was too far away, and also lost the connection to the Chagrin Valley. By 1990, Chagrin Valley Farms in Bainbridge Township was growing and improving. Leah liked the facility and the idea of getting back closer to home, and the show’s origin, so they leased the facility for the Chagrin Valley PHA and, although the Cleveland Grand Prix remained at the Polo Field that year, the show held the new \$15,000 Chagrin Valley Jumper Classic. Chris Kapler won the class aboard his horse, Warrant,

Photo by Linnea Swanson.



A view of the course and some of nearly 70 obstacles

during the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show, newly relocated to the 175-acre Chagrin Valley Farms Horse Show Complex.

The following year, 1991, Stadium Jumping Inc. and the Chagrin Valley PHA packaged their two weeks under the National Equestrian Festival banner. The partnership was beneficial in boosting entries for both shows, as they attracted riders with two back-to-back AGA events less than 10 miles apart: the \$25,000 Cleveland Grand Prix at Chagrin Valley Farms on July 14, and the \$35,000 Michelob U.S. Open Jumping Championship presented by Johnnie Walker on July 21 at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field. It was the only time in its history that organizers ran the Cleveland Grand Prix at a location other than the Polo Field. The new location hosted thirty-eight horses, and the grand prix was won by Peter Leone aboard his chestnut, Oxo. ♦



Bethany Proch rides FF Burrough Hill in Adult Jumpers during the Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic.

Photo by Hannah Durr Equine Photography.



Mini trial action at Chagrin Valley Farm
Photo by Leslie Grimm.



Heather Terdan competes in a Chagrin Valley Farms mini trial aboard Dermontti.

Photo by Photography in Saddle.

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SCHNEIDER FAMILY

Continued from page 23

cancel due to event restrictions at its long-time home, the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field. After a year off and another one pending, the horse show Board decided to hold its local weekend and limited rated schedule at Chagrin Valley Farms' renovated outdoor show grounds.

Chairman of the CHJC, Rebecca McNish, explained, "It was very late in the game when the decision was made to hold an "A" show at Chagrin Valley Farms rather than no show at all for a second year in a row, but we were going to need to work at lightning speed to get it done! Manager, Phil Divita, was

hired to help plan the show at its new location, CHJC volunteers quickly mobilized to raise sponsorship support and find vendors, and Linda and the crew at Chagrin Valley Farms worked diligently to make lots of improvements to the property. The most daunting task was a complete renovation of the jumper ring which CVF owner, Eric Schneider, promised to deliver by opening day of the show. We are immensely grateful to the Schneider family and Chagrin Valley Farms for hosting the show this year, for being such a wonderful strategic partner, and for their willingness to work alongside us in these unprecedented times to keep the Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic alive." ♦



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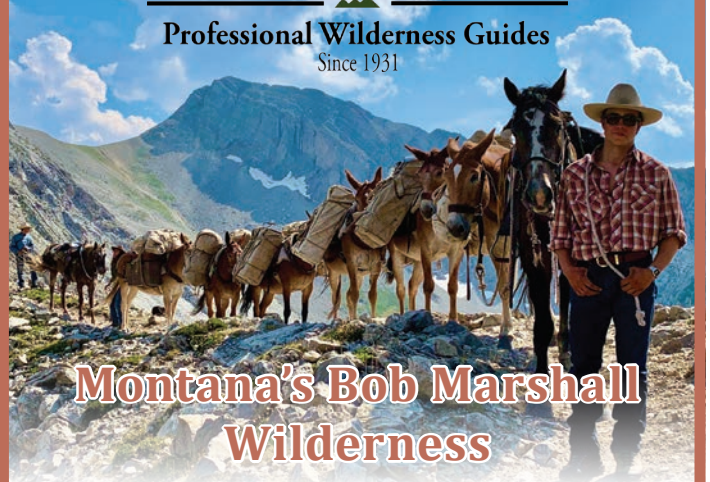
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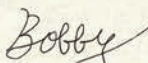
Almost exactly a decade ago, our mom, Laura Gentile, set out to create an all natural fly spray designed to be effective on horses and safe for riders applying it. What started as a personal quest, turned into a deep passion, one we are proud to carry on today. With Angela's background in English and Bobby's love for endurance riding, we are excited about the future of Guaranteed Horse Products and the entire product line. Our goals are consistent with our mom's, to provide high quality, non-toxic, equine products to horses and people who love them.

We continue on her legacy through this work, echoing what our mom would always fondly say, "Love your horse, love your planet!"

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Angela Jennings
Daughter & co-owner



Bobby Williams
Son & co-owner



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Centerra Co-Op: A Brief History

by Dena Cartwright and Jen Warden

Farm cooperation has been around forever. From helping deliver a calf or putting up a new barn, to swapping produce for a basket of eggs, farmers have been there for each other. Cooperatives (co-ops) were formally created to continue this mutual aid by improving buying power through joint purchases of supplies, equipment, and services. In the early 1900's, there were farm cooperatives in nearly every county in Ohio. According to Centerra Co-Op's CEO, Jean Bratton, Centerra's history begins in the 1930's, with Farm Bureaus, Landmark stores, and Farmers' Equities (similar to a co-op with more focus on grain and feed) in northeast and north central Ohio.

As the economy grew and competition increased, co-ops had to unite to continue their mission and remain viable. This merging of co-ops and resources created two main farm co-ops in northeast Ohio: Ashtabula Farm Bureau Cooperative Association and Geauga Landmark, and they eventually joined forces to become the Western Reserve Farm Cooperative in 1990. In 2003, Medina Landmark, AgriMark (Ashland County), Town & Country Co-Op (Lorain County), and Wooster

Equity merged to serve central Ohio - from Lorain County to southern Ashland County - under one name, Town & Country Co-Op. Throughout this time, these cooperatives expanded their service area and offerings to include:

- petroleum delivery and fuel islands
- propane delivery
- retail stores
- precision ag products and services (Ag Info Tech), as well as continuing to provide agronomy, feed and grain products and services to their customers.

In 2017, Western Reserve Farm Cooperative and Town and Country Co-Op joined forces, and became Centerra Co-Op.

Since then, Centerra Co-Op has added grain storage at the Mansfield and Andover locations, as well as a new robotic bagging system in Andover for the packaging of bagged fertilizer. Centerra's Propane service has also expanded to northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Fueling sites have been updated with new pumps that can accept all major credit and debit cards as well as the Co-Op's own fuel cards. Centerra partners with companies such as Purina, Corteva, and Scotts to provide the best products and services to its members and customers. These partnerships also allow for training opportunities that give Centerra's team members



Centerra Co-Op's Equine Nutrition Expert, Kathi Green, poses with two horses during the Spur for the Cure Benefit Trail Ride.

a deeper understanding of the products they sell.

Nine Centerra Country Stores serve Centerra Co-Op's retail customers, stocking everything from lawn and garden supplies to national brands of pet and livestock feeds, including Purina, Buckeye, and Triple Crown. In addition, Centerra Country Stores carry the Co-Op's own brands, such as Centerra's Nature's Blend, and their Sommer's Wild Bird Feed. Centerra also stocks Purina Impact Horse Feed, a line sold exclusively by core Purina Dealers. Speaking of horses, Centerra has a wide selection of equine supplies, including nutritional supplements, grooming tools, and show gear. In addition, several of the stores have convenient drive-throughs, where sales associates can load your feed, bedding, or fertilizer directly into your vehicle.

Kathi Green, the Co-Op's Equine Nutrition Expert, believes that "working together with Purina, Buckeye, and Triple Crown allows us to offer quality nutrition products. I am thrilled to help provide the best information for your horses'

health. Along with my years of experience, I work with PhDs, researchers, and veterinarians to ensure the highest standard of care for your horses."

Centerra is owned by 2,900 ag producers and over 9,000 active customers. The board, made up of local farmers, guides the business of the Co-Op. Roughly 350 employees carry out day-to-day operations at more than 30 locations. The Co-Op supports cancer research organizations, hosting two annual fundraisers, Fueling the Cure Golf Outing - Aug. 5, 2022, and Spur for the Cure Benefit Horseback Trail Ride - Aug. 27, 2022, which, in past years, have collectively raised nearly \$500,000 for this important cause. In addition, Centerra supports The United Way, and also provides sponsorship and educational opportunities for FFA and 4-H members.

Farmers still work cooperatively, helping others whenever needed, and Centerra is proud to be a part of this uniquely generous community of people.

To learn more about Centerra Co-Op, visit centerracoop.com, follow them on Facebook and check out their YouTube channel. For equine nutrition needs, contact Kathi Green at 440-321-9996, or kgreen@centerracoop.com. ♦

Source: W.T. Richie, B.S., M.S. "History and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Ohio," (Ph.D. dissertation, 1958, The Ohio State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster).

Photo courtesy of Debbie Petcher



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by Bobby Williams

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GHP was founded in 2011 by Laura Gentile, an avid rider and equine enthusiast.



In search of a solution to the flies and other insects that plagued her horse, Laura leveraged her biology background to create a non-toxic, effectual spray that she felt good about using. What began as a fly spray for personal use quickly developed into a company whose ethics are deeply rooted in horse, human, and earth stewardship. Laura's inspiration is realized by

Guaranteed Horse Products' motto, "Love your horse, love your planet." This passion is shared by her children, Bobby Williams and Angela Jennings, who have continued Laura's vision and now run the company together.

Guaranteed Horse Products continues to produce a robust and trustworthy line of natural and non-toxic equine care products. All products are cruelty-free and manufactured in the USA. To find out more about this inspirational, trendsetting company and their entire line of equine products, check out their website at: guaranteedhorseproducts.com. ♦



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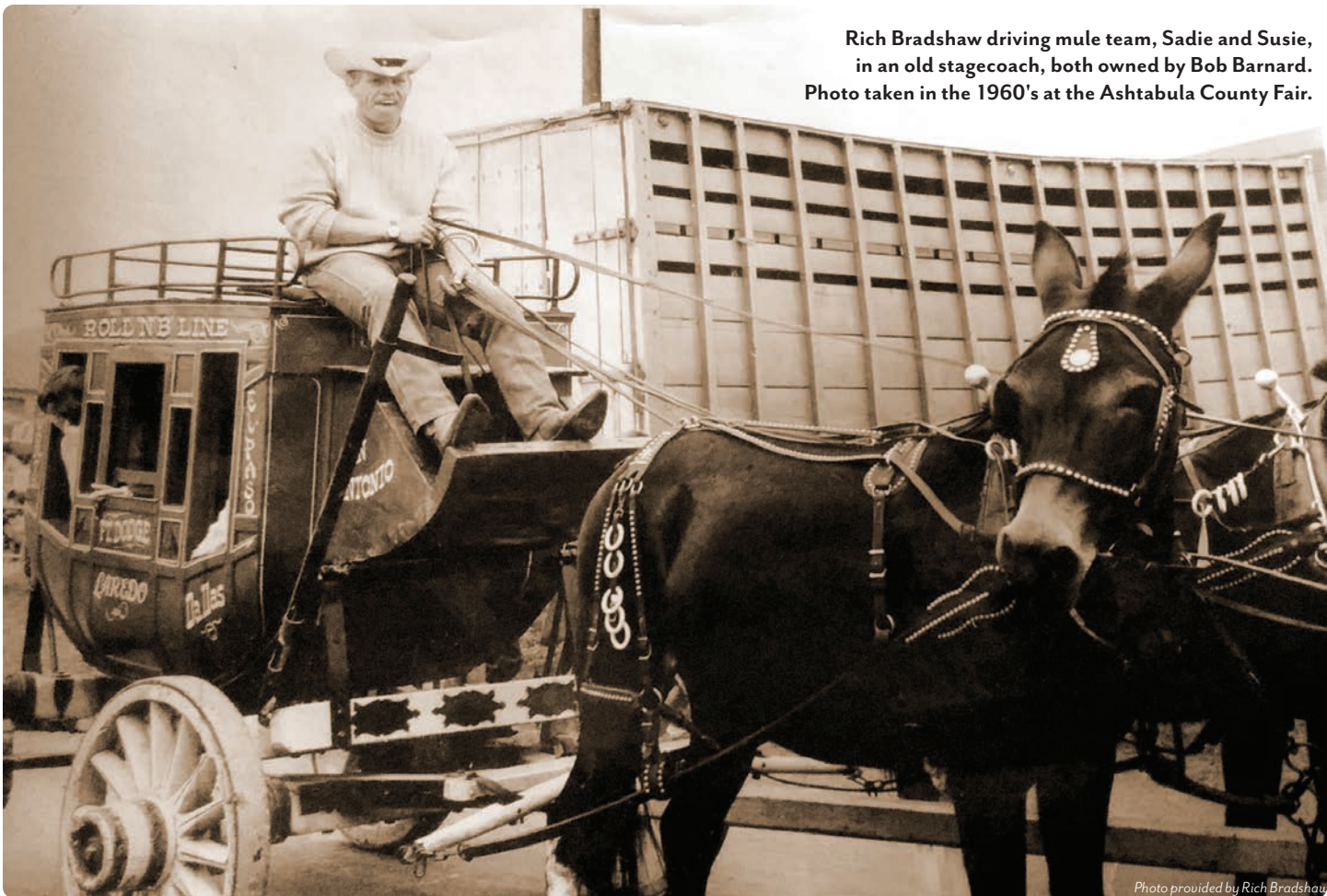
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Rich Bradshaw driving mule team, Sadie and Susie, in an old stagecoach, both owned by Bob Barnard. Photo taken in the 1960's at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Photo provided by Rich Bradshaw

For the Love of Donkeys and Mules

by Mandy Boggs

Donkeys are known for being affectionate and often comical animals. With their long ears, charismatic personalities, and laughter-evoking brays, they have captured the heart and soul of America for centuries. Thriving on attention, donkeys are social and playful, offering many unique qualities, despite the fact that people are often not quite sure what real purpose they have in today's modern world.

THEIR HISTORY IN AMERICA

Millions of years ago, both horse's and donkey's origins dated back to the same ancestors. Today's domestic donkeys have developed from African lineage, originally becoming domesticated over 6,000

years ago. Fast forward to the 15th century, the Romans began bringing donkeys to Europe as working animals, eventually reaching North America thanks, in part, to Christopher Columbus.

In 1785, mules made their mark in the United States with credit to George Washington. He projected breeding the revered large Spanish donkeys of Spain with his finest (horse) mares, hoping to create the ultimate animal for transportation and agricultural work. The donkey's usefulness, durability, and strength, paired with the athleticism of a horse, would certainly create a powerful animal that could outperform the existing breeds of horses of that time.

Gifted from King Charles III, a jack (male donkey) Washington named



©Brooke, Action for Working Donkeys and Horses

"Royal Gift", and two jennets, or jennies (female donkeys), went on to create the American mule. By the early 1800's there were approximately 855,000 mules in the United States.

In 1883, William Tell Coleman's company started using a 20-mule team to haul borax from Death

Valley, California to Mojave on 20-day trips across treacherous desert terrain. Over 20 million pounds of borax was moved and not a single mule was lost – an almost unbelievable feat – proving the heartiness of these animals. In 1894, a steam engine replaced the borax mules but wasn't nearly as strong as



Photo by Laura Palazzolo

Whitney Barnard on Alan (Alan A Day's Work), her Appaloosa pony mule, cantering through the water in 2017 during cross country schooling at the Kentucky Horse Park.

the team. Ironically, the locomotive broke down and was drug back to town by the mules!

By the 19th century Gold Rush, donkeys rapidly arrived in large numbers along with optimistic miners dreaming of wealth. It wasn't long before the miners' use for them fizzled out and the donkeys found themselves discarded and turned loose to roam the abandoned land; the miners heading home with nothing but remnants of gold dust lining their pockets. Today, there are around 9,000 wild burros remaining in the United States, ancestors of those original donkeys.

Miniature donkeys found in the U.S. today came from the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia, where they were used for powering small grinding stones for crops. Miniature donkeys are often said to have the biggest personalities! Like a tiny chihuahua bossing around bigger dogs, mini donkeys are totally unaware of their small size and will even act as a herd leader, keeping larger livestock, horses, and other animals in line.

The first Mediterranean Miniature donkeys came to the U.S. in 1929. Imported by Robert Green, a Wall Street stockbroker who brought six

jennies and a jack to his farm in New Jersey.

A famous quote by Green affirms, "Miniature donkeys possess the affectionate nature of a Newfoundland, the resignation of a cow, the durability of a mule, the courage of a tiger, and the intellectual capability only slightly inferior to man's."

Due to their strong, hearty, yet docile nature, donkeys and mules have always proven their value from coast to coast, offering endless uses for everyday life over centuries. From farming, transportation, mass labor, and even as heroes in countless wars, these animals have continued to prove just how critical they have been in American history.

WHAT MAKES THEM SO DIFFERENT?

Over thousands of years, donkey bloodlines were blended as they began spreading across continents, creating the diverse breeds, sizes, and colors we have today.

Donkeys come in a variety of colors from grey dun, brown, black, white, and spotted. A donkey's specific height determines how they are classified

in most donkey registries here in the U.S., versus horses that are typically registered based solely on their particular bloodlines. From miniatures up to mammoth donkeys, and standard mules up to mammoth and draft mules, there are many types of donkeys and mules.

The hooves of donkeys and mules are extremely durable, more upright than a horse, and can hold up to rough terrain without chipping, bruising, or slipping as compared to most horses. They only tend to need trimming every 6-12 weeks, unlike a horse that needs to be done every 4-8 weeks. They also do not typically require shoes. Donkeys can see all four of their feet at once, allowing them to be more sure-footed. This is one of the many reasons they are used in mountainous areas, such as the Grand Canyon, for packing, trail riding, and tourism, as well as around the world for transportation and agriculture.

WHAT MAKES A MULE?

Horses have 64 chromosomes, mules have 63, and donkeys, 62. A donkey is its own species, just like a horse. A mule is a hybrid, where the species of a horse and species of

a donkey are crossed. A male mule is known as a "jack" (stallion) or a "john" (gelded) and a female mule is called a "molly".

- MULE** = male donkey X female horse
- Male mules are called "john or jack", females are "molly"
- Closer physical appearance to a horse
- Have donkey-shaped ears/head - but more similar to a horse
- Typically have patience, endurance, strength, and intelligence from the mule with the athletic ability and beauty of the (female) horse.

If the above breeding is reversed - it results in a "hinny".

- HINNY** = female donkey X male horse
- Appears more like a donkey and has the same diet
- Tends to move slower than a mule
- Can be better in rocky terrain - not tire as easily as a mule
- Gaited hinnies are known to make excellent trail horses

Due to the mismatched number of chromosomes, mules are 99.9% sterile. However, there have been a

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**DONKEYS
AND MULES**
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few rare cases where a molly mule did, in fact, have a foal, confirmed with DNA samples, which has baffled both scientists and mule owners!

CARING FOR DONKEYS

While very similar to horses and ponies in many ways, donkeys are much easier keepers, almost so easy that most owners are not aware of the best way to feed or care for them. When taken care of properly, donkeys can live anywhere from 25-50 years, offering many years of joy; whether as pets, working animals, or used for equestrian sports.

FEEDING DONKEYS

Being from dry, desert, climates, donkeys do not require the amount of higher quality grazing, hay, or grain like a horse. In fact, they can have serious health consequences, such as obesity, laminitis, and hyperlipemia (a serious condition caused by elevation of lipids in the blood), by gorging on rich grass or consuming too much food.

As many areas in the U.S. are

warmer, wet, climates with lush grass compared to desert areas, it is a common issue that donkeys kept with horses will become overweight in what can seem like just the blink of an eye. It is very difficult for donkeys to lose weight once they become obese, developing “fat pads”, or even a crest on their neck so large it can flop over permanently.

Donkeys typically do not need any additional grain if they have access to hay, salt, loose minerals, and fresh water. Straw can be fed to donkeys that are obese, or at risk of becoming obese, to keep a great source of fiber in front of them without the added calories. In the case of having a donkey that is not at an ideal body weight, your veterinarian can give advice on how to help a donkey, safely and properly, lose or gain weight.

SHELTER AND FRIENDS

Donkeys are herd animals and need to have companions. Donkeys can become very depressed, enough so as to cause dangerous hyperlipemia if kept alone, or in the event they lose their only friend. Donkeys form strong lifelong bonds with their herd mates. Some will do well living with a horse or pony, but



Whitney and Alan at the 2018 Paul Frazer Combined Test at the Kentucky Horse Park, Hosted by Central Kentucky Riding for Hope.

they must always have a friend. Jacks and geldings are often more playful and do best with at least one other male they can roughhouse with. Jennies tend to be more laid back and enjoy having another jenny friend. Donkeys should have plenty of space to move, usually at least 1 acre of land for a pair of donkeys, with a dry lot, or a way to fence off rich pasture. Shelter, whether a barn or 3-sided shed, needs to give protection from the elements.

As desert animals, they have coarse hair, but dry skin that cannot deter water as compared to horses, who have natural oils on their skin that help repel rain and snow. Being so “fluffy”, many owners assume their donkeys are protected from the cold, however, donkeys living in Ohio, Kentucky, and similar climates require proper shelter or waterproof blankets, to prevent them from getting cold or sick.

DENTAL CARE

According to Kelsey Roderick, a donkey/mule owner and equine dentist from Woodsboro, Maryland, they tend to be easy keepers when it comes to dental care.

“They’re the same as horses overall as far as the structure; their mouths are a little “better” than horses, not having as many malocclusions. Because they were wild longer, Darwinism came into play weeding out a lot of the bad genetics,” she

explained. “Their larger heads make them less prone to (dental) crowding as well.”

HEALTH CONCERNS

Donkeys and mules are typically quite hearty and very stoic. The problem lies in that they often hide symptoms of pain or illness until they are very sick. Many donkey owners will agree, “a dull donkey is an emergency”. From colic, disease, respiratory issues, and hyperlipemia, once a donkey shows symptoms as a horse would, it can be too late. Knowing your donkey’s “normal” behavior is important in recognizing even the slightest abnormalities.

Respiratory illnesses such as viruses, equine flu, and pneumonia can become life-threatening quite quickly, and can run rampant in sale/ auction barns. It is important to vaccinate. If a donkey has a snotty nose, labored breathing, or coughing, they need a veterinarian immediately. Donkeys don’t get sick often, but when they do, it’s serious business!

Hyperlipemia is a life-threatening condition for donkeys, resulting in organ failure, or even death. It can be caused by extreme stress, illness, rapid weight loss/gain, or sudden changes in eating habits - such as going off their feed. Hyperlipemia should be treated quickly by a veterinarian.

Deworming your donkey is also

important, just as with horses. Lungworms, specifically, are very common in donkeys and can spread to horses. Deworming programs can help keep your donkeys and your horses healthy.

LIVESTOCK GUARDIANS

Against a common myth that donkeys are great livestock guardians, it is not recommended to have them for this purpose. Donkeys are usually afraid of predators and have been known to chase small animals, such as dogs, out of fear. However, they are not big enough or strong enough to defend themselves, or other animals, if the predator means harm. There have been many cases where donkeys have been severely injured or killed, from just one single domestic dog attack. Instead, Great Pyrenees guardian dogs are often used to protect donkey herds!

**WHAT CAN YOU DO
WITH THEM?**

Donkeys and mules are enjoyed by people of all ages, both as pets or in equine sports, in nearly every discipline that you can enjoy with a horse!

Numerous states such as Tennessee, California, North Carolina, and Maryland, have “Mule Day” celebrations. These annual celebrations have been around since the 18th century and began as meetings for mule breeders, to sell their donkeys and mules, and for farmers to trade or buy new ones. Today, these gatherings attract thousands of visitors and mule owners, competing in a variety of events, parades, and also, to show off

their love of mules.

The phrase, “stubborn as a mule” tends to cause people to shy away from the idea of riding a mule but, in fact, donkeys and mules are not truly stubborn. Their high level of self-preservation that has allowed them to survive causes them to stop and think about situations more than a horse. Donkeys and mules are extremely intelligent. A study in 2013 by The Donkey Sanctuary in the U.K. found that they can learn and problem solve at the same pace as dolphins and dogs! They remember both good and bad memories, even years later.

Most trainers that work with mules and donkeys will say you need to have a mellow personality, patience, and use kindness to train them. They are obedient when the questions asked are logical to them, with a sequential method. For this reason, along with their kind and gentle nature, they have become popular in therapeutic programs for children and adults. You can’t force a mule or donkey to do anything that they feel isn’t in their best interest.

SPOTTING MULES

Whitney Barnard was raised in Columbus, Ohio and attended the University of Findlay, before moving to Lexington, Kentucky. Growing up riding horses in hunter/jumpers, Barnard soon found herself at a trail obstacle event in Kentucky, where a long-eared mule left her in awe.

“There was this woman there with a mule and he was just sooo cool,” said Barnard, “I found out her name was Lori Montgomery. I reached out to her and we talked for a really long time about mules.”

Montgomery, a well-known passionate mule trainer, competes in a variety of disciplines from mounted shooting, driving, pleasure, and jumping to just about any event she can go to. She even ponied racehorses at Turfway Park with her mule named Rocket. She had a friend with some young mules for sale and suggested Barnard go take a look.

“Long story short, I found Alan (Alan A Day’s Work). He was nearly unhandled. I put him on the trailer and figured if it doesn’t work out, I can sell him,” shared Barnard. “He was 4 years old. He is 13 now. If you use kindness, patience, and they trust you, they’re willing to do a lot more for you.”

Alan, at just 13.3 hands tall, is an Appaloosa pony mule, blanketed in spots. Barnard spent time training Alan slowly and positively, starting in dressage, then teaching him to jump. As hunter/jumper shows had rules that wouldn’t allow mules to compete, she found a local eventing organization that welcomed her with open arms. They started by jumping one log, then another, then adding a coop, building his confidence.

It comes as no surprise that mules are talented in jumping disciplines. Mules are quite athletic when it comes to jumping, being known to have the ability to clear fences of five feet and higher, from a *complete standstill*. Mule owners around the world compete in the popular sport of “coon jumping”, originating from raccoon hunters using mules, often needing to jump high fences in their way.

When asked what she likes about

mules compared to horses, the answer was enough to convince any horse owner to consider a mule, “Alan is very sound with very few health issues—very convenient,” she chuckled. “I never worry that he is going to get sick or injured. I heard that’s a mule thing, not just an Alan thing!”

Together, they compete regularly at The Kentucky Horse Park and other eventing shows in Beginner Novice, with the goal of moving up to Novice (max height of 2’11”) this coming year.

“In 2022, USEF/USHJA is going to finally start allowing mules to compete in the jumpers. I am yreally excited to focus our efforts there this summer,” she explained. “Showing people that mules really can jump well, and that most horses are not even afraid of them, is what I look forward to. I like educating people about their differences and similarities, capabilities, and how much fun they are!”

WHERE TO GET ONE?

If you’ve considered adding a mule or donkey to your life, there are excellent resources and groups you can get involved with to learn more about picking out the right one for your lifestyle. Facebook has numerous groups for donkey and mule lovers with experienced owners happy to help educate new enthusiasts.

With the popularity of donkeys as pets, an entire market of brokers is gathering up large amounts of miniature donkeys from the western

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DONKEYS AND MULES

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states, taking them to auctions to sell them for a high price. Unfortunately, many novice donkey buyers are finding themselves getting taken advantage of, or getting unvaccinated donkeys that become very sick or do not survive, with no repercussions to the sellers. Scams are flooding some groups on websites and social media, only for buyers to find out their money was stolen, and there is no cute donkey foal waiting to be picked up.

Nationwide registries such as the American Donkey and Mule Society, American Mule Association, National Miniature Donkey Registration, and American Donkey Association are some of the largest organizations that have a wealth of information and a network of reputable breeders and rescue groups.

The Midstates Mule and Donkey Society (MI, IN, OH, IL, KY), Kentucky Mule and Donkey Association (KY), and Donkey and Mule Association of the Western Reserve, Inc. (located in Northeast Ohio) would be great starting points at connecting with some local donkey and mule lovers that may live near you.

There are also numerous rescues and organizations working hard to help in-need donkeys and mules that have abundant numbers of adoptable donkeys available nationwide. Many come from neglect or abuse cases, or as unwanted donkeys, mules, or wild burros gathered up from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that are now in need of new homes.

Some of these rescues, such as Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (PVDR), the country's leader in rescue, sanctuary, and adoption for donkeys and wild burros, also work directly with the federal government to help get BLM wild burros into their program. They are looked over by their veterinarians, tamed, taught to lead, and have their feet trimmed. PVDR has satellite adoption centers across the U.S., including both Ohio and Kentucky. The Lost Meadow Mule Refuge (LMMR) is the largest dedicated mule rescue in the U.S. and works closely with PVDR. Located in



Olive and Crouton, miniature donkeys owned by writer, Mandy Boggs. A "lifelong lover of long-ears", says Boggs, "they have no real purpose or skills other than making us laugh every day and keeping our horses company."

Texas, LMMR also adopts across the country.

DONKEY WELFARE AND A GLOBAL CRISIS

Donkeys in America are growing in popularity, from being used as a companion for other animals to enjoying life as an easy keeper for the family that loves horses but doesn't have the property needed for full-size horses. As therapy animals, they bring smiles to people's faces, and there are many catching on to the fun activities you can enjoy with your donkeys. Sadly, however, life for donkeys and mules is not all sunshine and selfies outside of the United States.

In some of the poorest countries worldwide, donkeys and mules are needed for people's survival. Suffering from hardships, poor conditions, neglect, abuse, starvation, and things worse than most can imagine, these animals depend on some incredible organizations working hard to make changes and help save and improve their lives.

According to Brooke USA, a non-profit organization located in Lexington, Kentucky, 100 million horses, donkeys, and mules support 600 million of the world's poorest people.

They have made it their mission to improve the welfare of working horses, donkeys, and mules across the world, reduce their suffering, and make sustainable improvements to their lives, and the lives of the people that depend on them.

The Donkey Sanctuary (TDS) in the U.K. is also one of the largest donkey welfare organizations in the world, helping over 40 million donkeys across the globe, with over 20,000 donkeys in sanctuary care.

Both of these groups have brought light to a global crisis causing millions of donkeys to be slaughtered every year for their hides, due to the demand for Ejiao, a by-product made from boiling donkey hides to make a substance used in traditional Chinese medicine.

There were 11 million donkeys in China at one point, now less than 6 million remain. According to TDS's report, the population has decreased by 76% since 1992. Due to the growing demand, skin traders are going to other countries and stealing, slaughtering, and selling the hides. Families in areas where they cannot survive or carry out their daily chores, such as collecting water, or making money to feed their families, without their donkeys are waking up to find their donkeys killed. They cannot afford to replace them. This has turned into a global crisis, not just for the donkeys but the people that need them, literally, to survive themselves.

Over 4.8 million hides are needed per year to meet the current demand. At the current rate of slaughter, all donkeys will vanish from the African continent by next year. The Donkey Sanctuary has launched a campaign working directly with legislation in these countries to stop the trade,

educate on alternatives to Ejiao (such as lab-created options) and the link between illegal trade rings, such as rhinos and tigers, to the donkey skin trade.

Whether you are a lifelong donkey or mule lover, are thinking about adding one to your equine family, or want to get more involved in donkey rescue and welfare, there are thousands of people out there just like you. Next time you are at an event, horse show, state fair, or a Mule Day celebration and see a pair of big fuzzy ears and kind, soulful eyes, stop by and take a moment to ask the owner about their mule or donkey.

You never know, you might just find yourself bringing one home. Oh, wait! – make that bringing two home. You can never have too many long-eared friends! ♦

Mandy Boggs is a lifelong equestrian, passionate for the sport and equine industry. Mandy grew up in a multi-generation family involved with Thoroughbred racehorses, breeding, and showing in the hunter/jumpers. She is a published writer, volunteers for various non-profit organizations, while running her marketing and design agency, Aristo Marketing, LLC. She enjoys spending time with her family and many animals.

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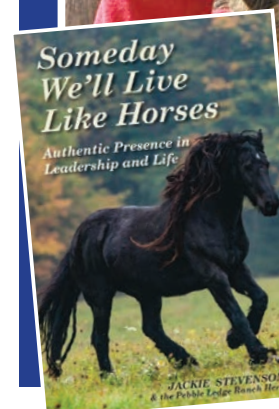
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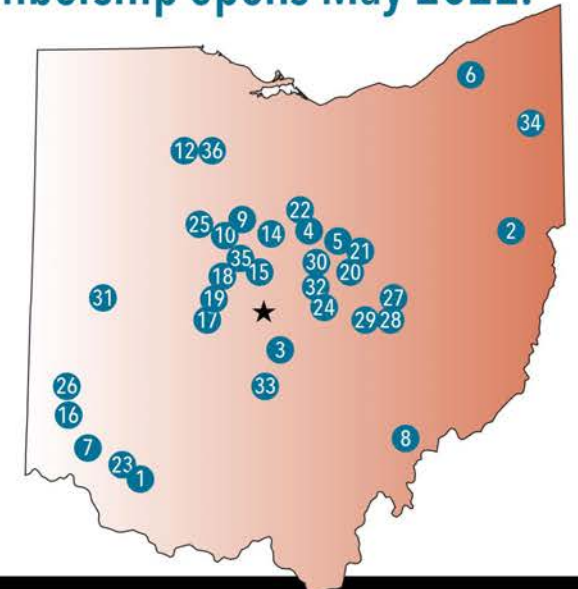
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Ohio is part of IEA Zone 5. The map shows current teams (2021-22 season). Membership for the 2022-2023 season opens in May 2022 with competitions running August 2022 to June 2023 (depending upon discipline).

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 Photo by Ron Schwane Photography	4 Sylvan Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Centerburg, OH (614) 778-8967 Coach: Alisha Metcalfe	13 Fiery Manners' Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Galena, OH (614) 371-3073 Coach: Paige McCaslin	21 Fairy Tale Farm Discipline: Hunt Seat Johnstown, OH (614) 286-0281 Coach: Meghan Swad
5 Fiery Manners' Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Sunbury, OH (614) 371-3073 Coach: Paige McCaslin	14 Foxridge Farms Discipline: Hunt Seat Galena, OH (631) 245-7619 Coach: Heather Jarvis	22 Walnut Hill Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat & Dressage Marengo, OH (330) 347-9206 Coach: Keri Myers	29 Yinger Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Pataskala, OH (614) 348-5915 Coach: Lindsay Yinger
6 Synergy Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Chardon, OH (440) 478-6893 Coach: Lindsay Skully	15 Colter Equestrian Discipline: Hunt Seat Plain City, OH (330) 524-8525 Coach: Carrie McCurrah	23 Childress Rodgers Stables Discipline: Hunt Seat Milford, OH (513) 252-6004 Coach: Erin Washburn	31 Sunnybrook Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Troy, OH (937) 510-5972 Coach: Madeline Davis
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8 Stonegate Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Coolville, OH (740) 336-0345 Coach: Jennifer Bowe	17 Dare Equestrian Team Discipline: Western & Hunt Seat Hilliard, OH (614) 580-2758 Coach: Linda Dare	25 Duzan Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat & Dressage Ostrander, OH (614) 271-2732 Coach: Molly Wirtz	33 Hold Your Horses Hunt Seat, Western & Dressage Ashville, OH (740) 974-0759 Coach: Ariana Mathias
1 Bridle Run Riding Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Batavia, OH (513) 477-3447 Coach: Trish Sanders	9 Autumn Rose Equestrian Team Discipline: Western Delaware, OH (614) 207-9043 Coach: Debbie Griffith	18 Limerick Lane Discipline: Hunt Seat Hilliard, OH (614) 332-2074 Coach: Linda Dare	26 Miami University Jr. Redhaws Discipline: Hunt Seat Oxford, OH (937) 610-8117 Coach: Amanda Wasser
2 Double B's Equestrian Team Discipline: Western & Hunt Seat Bloomington, OH (443) 433-2533 Coach: Benjamin Boyd	10 Concord Equestrian Center Discipline: Western and Hunt Seat Delaware, OH (740) 361-9411 Coach: Jessica Daniels	19 Sid Griffith Equestrian Club Discipline: Hunt Seat Hilliard, OH (614) 570-6389 Coach: Allison Applegett	27 Bookmark Farms Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Pataskala, OH (614) 805-6920 Coach: Courtney Newby
3 Warrior Equestrian Discipline: Western & Hunt Seat Canal Winchester, OH (614) 214-2588 Coach: Katie Griffiths	12 KM Equestrian Black & Purple Discipline: Western Findlay, OH (614) 306-8797 Coach: Katie Morehead	20 Empress Equestrian Team Discipline: Hunt Seat Johnstown, OH (614) 537-0067 Coach: Jamie Mills	35 Hilary Carlson, LLC Discipline: Hunt Seat Dublin, OH (614) 589-7434 Coach: Hilary Carlson
		28 West Licking District Discipline: Hunt Seat & Dressage Pataskala, OH (614) 989-5717 Coach: Nancy Arledge	36 Jumper's Hollow Equestrian Discipline: Hunt Seat Findlay, OH (440) 479-6489 Coach: Lacie Yeager

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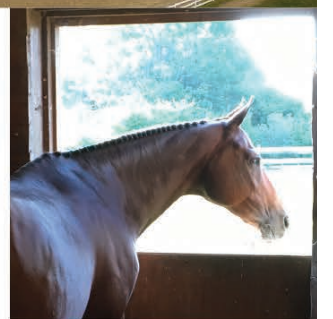
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New Vocations' Lexington facility is located on a portion of historic Mereworth Farm, which was established in 1924 and was once one of the leading Thoroughbred breeding and racing farms in Central Kentucky,

30 Years of New Beginnings

by Erica Larson

From a single Ohio horse farm, New Vocations has grown into the largest racehorse adoption organization in the country, serving more than 500 horses each year. Here's how they got there and where they're going.

When Dot Morgan brought her first retired racehorse home from the track in 1992, she had no idea her pet project would become a nationally recognized charity. She didn't know it would become the largest organization of its type in the United States. And she certainly didn't think it would allow her to work alongside her two daughters every day.

But things have a funny way of working out when passion and the desire to do good are driving forces. What started with a few horses on a small farm in Laura, Ohio, has developed into New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, the oldest and largest retired racehorse adoption agency in the nation, which has found new homes and purposes for more than 7,500 Thoroughbreds

and Standardbreds over its 30-year tenure.

IN THE BEGINNING

Morgan's journey into transitioning horses from the track to second careers began in the early 1990s.

"In 1990, I learned about the fate of retired racehorses and other unwanted horses in this country: 500,000 horses were being slaughtered each year," she says. "I'd been in the horse business my entire life; I was around people that had been in the horse business their entire lives and we didn't know where these horses were going.

I was appalled because, at the same time, I had a 4-H club of 15 kids that were just passionate about horses, and they would have given their right arm to have one of these horses to develop into a really nice riding horse."

She decided she couldn't stand by idly, and instead, took her first step into bridging the gap between the track and pleasure or sport homes for retiring racehorses.

"It was my own personal mission," she recalls. "I had no desire to turn



Photos by Equisport Photos/Courtesy New Vocations

Dot Morgan (right) founded New Vocations in 1992 from her family's farm in Laura, Ohio, and still serves as the charity's executive director today. Her daughters, Anna (left) and Winnie (center), joined the effort and currently serve as the Thoroughbred program director and Standardbred program director, respectively.

it into a charity; it was the farthest thing from my mind. I just wanted to serve some horses. I'm married to a fifth-generation harness horse trainer. Horses were my life and my passion. So, I ran a little ad in the back of *The Blood-Horse* that said, 'Please, don't let your horse go to slaughter. Contact me, I've got good

homes. I'll help find a home for your horse."

The first person to respond to the ad—trainer Diane Alexander, who worked for four-time Eclipse Award-winning owner John Franks—sent four retiring Thoroughbreds to Morgan, all the way from Louisiana, for rehoming. ("I didn't realize the

significance of it at the time, but John Franks was a visionary," she says. "He saw a need for aftercare options for his horses before 'aftercare' was a thing.")

It didn't take long for Morgan's project to gain traction. She spent the first several years caring for and re-homing horses, keeping records, and sending updates to racing connections all by herself. But another Thoroughbred industry mogul—E. Paul Robsham, who bred and raced such stars as Grade I winners, Pretty Discreet, and her son, Discreetly Mine—knew it was time for New Vocations to start growing.

"He knew we needed to take care of our horses beyond racing," she says. "He told me at the time, 'If you turn it into a charity, Dot, it will become a national organization.'"

Initially, she resisted, "I was really happy with my personal mission!" she recalls. But Robsham persisted and promised support, reminded her there were even more horses she could help, and ultimately convinced Morgan to apply for nonprofit status. After 18 months of applications, forms, and planning, she says, "the charity was born."

"Once we became official the horses started pouring in," she says. "I was pretty much overwhelmed. I did not anticipate that it'd get that big, that quick. But I'm certainly glad that we did it. I felt like I was being led by divine intervention the whole way."

(By the way, Robsham and his wife Joyce stuck to their guns in supporting New Vocations' and Morgan's mission over the years. Not only were they founding supporters in the 1990s, they also created New

Vocations' endowment fund in 2005 and made another \$500,000 contribution to the fund via their estate in 2021.)

GROWING PAINS AND FRUITS OF LABOR

Once New Vocations gained nonprofit status, Morgan had no trouble finding horses to help. She had so many retiring racehorses

became Anna's mission, too."

When it was time for Ford and her husband to move, she opted to stay involved with New Vocations but proposed splitting the work: "I said I'd continue helping, but you do the Standardbreds here and I'll take the Thoroughbreds with me to the Columbus area."

And so New Vocations' first

"That's when I realized how much New Vocations had grown, she was taking in and re-homing more than 100 horses a year on her small property with no help administratively and barely any help in the barn."

—Anna Ford

seeking new careers that she wound up needing help herself. As fate would have it, her daughter, Anna Ford, and her husband, moved home to the farm for a few months at precisely the right time.

"That's when I realized how much New Vocations had grown," Ford says. "She was taking in and re-homing more than 100 horses a year on her small property with no help administratively and barely any help in the barn. I knew she needed help and, because she's so driven, I knew I was probably the only person around she'd let help her. So, I offered to help while we lived there."

Morgan says she agreed to the help, "and after about a year it

expansion was set. Ford moved the Thoroughbreds to a farm in Hilliard, where they continued pouring in from tracks and training centers across the East Coast. And, while Morgan no longer had Thoroughbreds on her farm, the number of horses on her waiting list never decreased.

In 2004, her other daughter, Winnie Nemeth, saw an opportunity for her and her husband's farm in Saline, Michigan. "Five major harness tracks were racing at the time, and the need to take in the horses was really great. I resigned from my six-year position as an Equine Specialist with Purina Mills, and started taking in and rehoming

five or six Standardbreds at a time."

And the expansions didn't stop there. Thoroughbred facilities popped up in Pennsylvania and New York ("Every few years we seem to add another facility," Morgan says), and all the Standardbreds eventually moved to Ohio when Nemeth and her family moved closer to home.

It was only a matter of time before New Vocations opened a facility in Lexington, Kentucky, which bills itself as the Horse Capital of the World; they initially did so in 2009, and it wasn't long before the nonprofit found a partner that would alter its future in the commonwealth.

"In 2013, the Susan S. Donaldson Foundation learned that we were looking to expand," Ford says. "At the same time, they were working to get historic Mereworth Farm back to what it used to be."

Mereworth Farm—established in 1924 by Walter Salmon Sr., a New York real estate mogul and racehorse owner—was once one of the leading Thoroughbred breeding and racing farms in Central Kentucky, producing and campaigning Classic and graded stakes winners for years. The farm passed through the family for years until Susan Salmon Donaldson, Salmon Sr.'s granddaughter, acquired it in 1986. She continued the family legacy, breeding and racing Thoroughbreds from the farm until she died in 2011.

Long before she died, Donaldson had established a foundation with the mission of providing lifelong care for horses that might otherwise face an uncertain future, whether due to age, soundness issues, or a variety of other issues (think of broodmares

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Lexington's purpose-built training facility—which includes two 15-stall barns, indoor and outdoor arenas, and a variety of turnout options—opened in April 2016 and is also home to New Vocations' main office.

Photo by Equisport Photos/Courtesy New Vocations



NEW VOCATIONS
Continued from page 51

no longer able to produce foals, or equine athletes that are comfortably pasture sound but unable to sustain a sporting career and maintain soundness). Since her death, the foundation has been caring for nearly 170 retired horses enjoying days at pasture, and working to renovate Mereworth to fulfill her vision.

“The Foundation realized they had more land than they were using for the horses in their care,” Ford said. “They decided they wanted to partner with an equine adoption group that could utilize some of the land and ultimately help more horses than they ever could alone. They researched some different local groups before reaching out to see if we were interested in a partnership and long-term lease on a portion of Mereworth Farm.”

After some negotiations, the Foundation and New Vocations reached an agreement in 2015. A groundbreaking on a new purpose-built training facility—which includes two 15-stall barns, indoor and outdoor arenas, and a variety of turnout options from round

pens and small paddocks to large pastures—took place later that year and the facility welcomed its first horses in April, 2016. The Foundation also granted New Vocations use of a barn and turnouts across the street from the new facility to house horses rehabbing injuries.

“The partnership with the Susan S. Donaldson Foundation and Mereworth Farm has been instrumental in allowing us to help more retiring racehorses than ever before,” Ford said. “We’re so grateful for the opportunity and, with more plans to expand the Kentucky facility in the future, we hope to continue helping more racehorses transition to their second careers in the heart of the Bluegrass.”

Even with the new facility in full swing, it was clear there was still room for expansion. In 2019, retired Breeders’ Cup and Kentucky Oaks-



Wakizashi Hanover, who earned nearly \$1.5 million on the harness racing track before retiring to New Vocations in March 2020. He found his perfect home with Larry Kidd, who pleasure rides “Waki” and enjoys catering to his every whim.

*Photo by Christy Beaver Photography
Courtesy New Vocations*

winning jockey, Rosie Napravnik, worked with New Vocations to launch a facility in Louisiana, where she said aftercare options were much needed.

“And we’re still going,” Morgan says. “We have plans in place to open a facility in Ocala, Florida, soon.”

THREE DECADES IN

It’s bigger. It helps significantly more horses. And it’s now known as one of the leaders in retired racehorse aftercare in the U.S. But, by and large, the way New Vocations carries out its mission hasn’t changed very much in the past 30 years.

“We still take horses straight from the track or layup farms, we still keep our adoption fees low, we still update every donor about every horse that’s adopted, and we still love watching our grads excel in their second careers,” Ford said.

Today, New Vocations has Thoroughbred-specific facilities in Lexington (the Mereworth facility’s three barns, and a dedicated rehab barn across town); Hummelstown,

Pennsylvania; Medina, Ohio; and Covington, Louisiana (the next Thoroughbred facility is expected to open soon in Ocala, Florida). It also has three Standardbred facilities in Hamilton, New Carlisle, and Richwood, Ohio. And it rehabs and trains both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds from Gansevoort, New York.

At any given time, trainers and barn staff care for, rehab, and train roughly 150 horses across all the facilities. All the stalls are generally full and there’s often a short wait for incoming horses to enter the program—once a horse is adopted, another generally fills the vacant stall promptly.

Horses are donated to

Currently, New Vocations retrains retired Standardbred racehorses—like Angel Muffin (left) and Arts Abbey(right)—from three facilities in Ohio and one in New York.

Lydia Davis Photography/Courtesy New Vocations

New Vocations by their racing connections and often come with a donation; there are some cases in which grants that New Vocations receives can help offset a horse’s expenses when connections can’t afford to send a donation. Some horses head straight to the training program once they’re evaluated to ensure they’re in good shape, while others require rehabilitation from injury or surgery, and others just need R&R time to decompress.

“We’ve started taking on more rehab cases in the past few years,” Ford says. “Not all aftercare facilities are able to, especially for cases that will take quite a while to heal, so we’re lucky to have the resources to give the horses the time and treatment they need.”

Whether in training or rehab, horses receive any and all health care they need. For instance, in 2020, New Vocations horses had more than 3,000 radiographs and ultrasounds performed to diagnose issues and monitor healing. They received more than 530 doses of vaccines and dewormers, and farriers applied nearly 1,300 sets of shoes (including some special or therapeutic shoes to keep horses as comfortable as possible as they transition from life at the track to time on the farm).

Each New Vocations trainer has an individual process so the precise steps will vary once a horse is ready for training. But, generally speaking, horses in the program often start with some groundwork and longeing before proceeding to under saddle work. How far a horse progresses in training depends on how quickly they’re adopted. The vast majority are adopted “green broke,” meaning they have a handle on the basics—walk, trot (or pace for Standardbreds), canter (some Standardbreds don’t develop a canter before they’re adopted), back, halt, and steering—but haven’t gotten much past that. Horses that aren’t adopted as rapidly and remain in training for a longer time might learn some more advanced skills, like jumping low fences or trail riding.

Once a trainer is satisfied with how a horse is working and progressing, the horse becomes

available for adoption. Adopters must submit an application and be approved by New Vocations before speaking in-depth with trainers about specific horses, visiting the horses, and bringing them home. “This isn’t to discourage potential adopters,” Ford says. Rather, “it’s to ensure a retired racehorse is a good fit.”

“We know that ex-racehorses aren’t for everyone,” she says. “At this stage in their lives they generally

has a lifetime membership, so to speak: If a horse that’s gone through the program needs a home for any reason, regardless if they’re still with the original adopter or have been sold to another individual, they’re welcome to return to New Vocations once arrangements have been made with the organization.

“It’s another way we do our best to ensure our horses always have a safe place to go, even if it’s years down the road,” Ford says.

“When Dot started it, there really was nothing like it—there was no handbook or guidelines to follow,” Nemeth says. “The idea of horse adoption wasn’t a thing at all. The biggest thing now is that we have a proven model we follow that makes it all work.”

And work it does. In 2020, despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization served more than 600 horses; at the end of the year,



In 2020, despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization had its largest year to date, serving more than 600 horses.

Photos by Equisport Photos/Courtesy New Vocations

have little or no pleasure riding experience and have only ever been handled by professionals. Even after a period of transitional training, many won’t be suitable for children, inexperienced equestrians, or timid riders. We want everyone to succeed in adoptions—the horses and the adopters. Our application process is one of the ways we can help ensure the horses end up in experienced, appropriate, and loving homes as they transition from racehorse to riding horse.”

And, she adds, if a horse doesn’t end up working out the way an adopter had hoped, the horse can return to New Vocations within 60 days of adoption for an adoption fee credit. Further, New Vocations



New Vocations takes in retiring racehorses of all ages and experience levels. Some have been racing for years while others, like Black Nite, have been in race training but never made it to the starting gate.

While some aspects remain similar to how they started, it’s not lost on anyone how much New Vocations has grown to where it sits today.

501 had departed New Vocations facilities and 117 remained in rehab and training.

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NEW VOCATIONS
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The Next 30 Years

Looking forward, Morgan, Ford, and Nemeth agree that while they're grateful for New Vocations' growth and current abilities, there are still more horses to help and more goals to achieve.

"We've always stuck to our mission to rehab, retrain, and rehome retired racehorses, and we won't stray too far from that."

"We've always stuck to our mission to rehab, retrain, and rehome retired racehorses, and we won't stray too far from that," Ford says. "We definitely want to keep expanding our facilities because there are horses at tracks in many different areas that will benefit from our services."

Particularly, she says, she thinks the Lexington facility will continue to grow. "The sky's really the limit here."

Meanwhile, Morgan says, "I look forward to the day—and it's coming quicker now that the momentum has picked up—when owners and trainers retire these horses earlier rather than later, knowing that they're going to have a second career. When they're already anticipating while they're racing them, 'What will this horse be good at next?'"

"The awareness has grown so much," she says. "It's been fueled by the success stories that have been put out on social media and magazines. Now they're starting to think that way. It's a whole change in awareness and that's the future that excites me." ♦

Erica Larson holds a degree in journalism from Michigan State University and has been covering the equine industry in varying capacities for nearly 15 years. A Massachusetts native, she currently resides near Lexington, Kentucky, with her two off-track Thoroughbreds, Eldorado's Tune and Sniper Shot.

Lydia Davis Photography/Courtesy New Vocations

The Horses: Still The Most Important Part of New Vocations

Dot Morgan founded New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program for the love of the horse and, since 1992, she's seen more than 7,500 horses find new lives and purpose after racing. And while all those horses were either racehorses or in race training, many New Vocations graduates couldn't be more different from each other.

For instance, Goren—a Thoroughbred adopted from Lexington in 2019—sold for \$1.1 million at Fasig-Tipton Florida as a 2-year-old. Tintern Abbey—a Thoroughbred adopted from the now-closed Xenia, Ohio, facility in 2020—made 61 starts without once finishing first. Wakizashi Hanover—a Standardbred adopted from Hamilton, Ohio, in 2020—was the 2015 North America Cup champion and earned nearly \$1.5 million during his racing career. Another Standardbred—adopted from Gansevoort, New York, in 2021—came to New Vocations with track training but without even being officially named. The organization held a naming contest and, before he went to his new home, the unnamed 2-year-old was officially dubbed New Vo Joe with the United States Trotting Association.

Another thing they all have in common is that they're forever in the minds and hearts of the people they encountered at New Vocations.

"There are a few really memorable horses that have come through over the years," says Standardbred Program Director, Winnie Morgan Nemeth. "While in Michigan, I placed a horse named Wally Tabor, who really just raced at the fairs. He was a big, kind horse. His owner loved him dearly but wanted him to have another career. Wally was placed in 2005 and then a few years ago, due to a death in the family, he was returned to us. He now lives in the Susan S. Donaldson Foundation's retired horse herds at Mereworth Farm. I have always felt connected to him."

Another Standardbred Nemeth remembers fondly is millionaire, Special Report.

"I was in New York for the Hambletonian and his trainer, Larry Stalbaum, reached out to me and asked me to come see him and his friend, Four Trumps A," she says. "When I met Report, I knew he was special. He also was by Keystone Raider, a stallion from Michigan, and I'd had the chance to place many of his foals over the years. Report and Trumps arrived at our farm and, with the help of then-Standardbred trainer,

Most New Vocations graduates (like Impressive Way) leave the program with a good understanding of the riding basics: walk, trot, canter, halt, back, and steer.

Jennifer Daniels, we showed both horses in October at the Standardbred World Show, and they both won classes less than four months off the track. It was pretty remarkable. The harness industry really loved this story. Report was then adopted and still lives with Jennifer. Trumps also was adopted, but later returned due to soundness and is retired at Mereworth Farm, as well."

For Morgan, her most memorable horses are the ones that might have seemed least memorable upon arrival.

"We've gotten our million-dollar winners," she says. "We've gotten Jug contenders, the ones that have won big races. But the standout horses to me are the ones that come in just a plain brown wrapper. There's nothing distinguishing about them. Sometimes they have some unsavory habits and characteristics, like cribbing, kicking the stall, pinning their ears at people, playing rough with their pasture mates, or becoming overly attached. And you think, 'Golly, I don't know how easy it's going to be to adopt this horse.' But then the right people step up and those horses bloom; they rise to the expectations of their adopter and far exceed what I could have imagined. Those are the standout horses to me. They are the poster children for our mission." ♦



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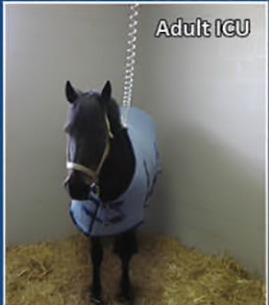
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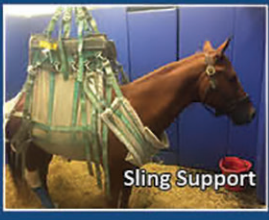
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Foals 101 - When to Call the Vet

by Laurie Metcalfe, DVM

Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital

Unfortunately, foals are not just tiny horses. Early intervention is critical in the prognosis of many conditions, but oftentimes veterinarians cannot make a diagnosis and start treatment unless owners bring certain changes/observations to their attention. Here are some things foal owners can look for:

FEVER- The single most effective, inexpensive diagnostic tool that owners and farm managers have, literally at their fingertips, is a rectal thermometer. Normal temperature for a foal is 99-102 degrees F. Anything over 102 is considered a fever, and if consistent, should be investigated by a veterinarian. Temperatures can run warmer when ambient temperature is high, or the foal has been active or out in the sun, but if it's still running high inside a cool barn, this may indicate a problem (specifically, an infection). Often, this will be the first clinical sign of impending disease, even if the foal seems otherwise normal. Taking the temperature of your foal at least once a day for the first few months is an important way to identify problems early.

NURSING- Newborn foals should nurse the mare within 2-4 hours of birth and never look back. Mare's milk is the perfect food for foals and their instinct and desire to nurse should always be very strong. Foals typically nurse every 20 minutes or so, consistently emptying the mare's udder. If a mare's udder ever becomes tight or starts dripping, or even spraying milk, it is an indication to call your veterinarian. Conditions that may lead to a foal going "off

the bag" include GI diseases such as colic, gastric ulcers, and imminent diarrhea, as well as orthopedic conditions preventing the foal from ambulating well enough to nurse. In young foals, failure to nurse can also indicate neurologic conditions such as maladjusted foal syndrome (affectionately known more commonly as "dummy" foal syndrome). General malaise secondary to other infectious diseases can also cause a foal to quit nursing. The younger the foal, the more of an emergency this is, as milk is the only source of glucose/energy and fluid for neonates. Foals will become weak and dehydrated rapidly if not supported. This is especially concerning when diarrhea accompanies a slowdown in nursing, and fluid loss is even more profound.

RESPIRATORY CHANGES- Foals are very good at disguising respiratory disease, so when they show any signs, you should always take note and enlist the help of your veterinarian. Signs to monitor are coughing, increased respiratory rate and effort, nasal discharge, milk coming from nostrils, and any pharyngeal noise/tracheal rattle. Normal respiratory rate for foals is 20-40 breaths per minute. Foals with respiratory disease may have rates upwards of 60-80 breaths per minute, however, some may have normal rates and still have severe disease. With or without a fever, all these signs could indicate potential bacterial/viral pneumonia or upper respiratory tract disease. Your veterinarian will listen to the lungs and upper airway, check for abnormalities in blood work, and possibly use ultrasound or an endoscope to diagnose any issues.

LAMENESS- Lameness in young foals is difficult to diagnose because the potential

causes range from benign hoof bruising to potentially life-threatening septic joints. It is always best to call your veterinarian for any foal lameness, but more importantly, if accompanied by a fever or significant swelling or effusion (fluid in joint).

Lameness is often difficult to discern in young foals as they have a somewhat awkward gait while they figure out what to do with their long legs. Your veterinarian will assist in diagnosing the cause of the lameness using a physical examination as well as radiograph and ultrasound tools.

Countless things can go

wrong in those first few weeks and months of life, and the signs in foals are often very subtle and require diligent observational skills to catch as many potential issues as soon as possible. Knowing when to call a veterinarian is crucial for the health and well-being of the foal! ♦

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Rich Bradshaw

Legendary Local Cowboy

by Mandy Boggs

The scent of fair food saturates the air while a mixed medley of carnival sounds echoes through the night sky. A large crowd gathers along the arena fencing, separating excited children and curious parents watching expectantly from the sand footing, as it surrenders to a thundering stampede of horses during the grand entrance. It's a September night at The Great Geauga County Fair, Ohio's oldest state fair, and Rich Bradshaw is about to capture the attention of everyone walking by. One of his two-night annual events, the Ranch Cow Sorting Championships and the Horse and Rider Obstacle Challenge are so popular that many local riders practice all year just for these two nights under the lights.

For over thirty-five years, this local cowboy has ignited a love of horses among many of these spectators of the fair, simply by doing what he does best – showing people how much fun you can have with horses.

The spurs on his boots *ca-chink, ca-chink, ca-chink* as he walks over to the tack room, stopping to wipe shadows of dirt from his neatly buttoned shirt. He tosses his saddle up on a rack, then leads a training horse back to his stall after finishing a ride. Leaving just enough time for a quick lunch before his next lesson arrives, he heads towards the barn door. Rich is everything you would expect in a cowboy, only instead of a long southern drawl, his native Ohio

accent fills the air.

“Come on, let’s grab a bite to eat and catch up,” he says, while pulling out the keys to the large diesel truck attached (*of course*) to a cattle trailer. Having the chance to sit down with him is something anyone lucky enough to know him, *treasures*. Not just for the conversation, but the stories and words of wisdom hidden among those tales that stick with you forever, when coming from Rich Bradshaw.

“Being a cowboy was something I took very seriously,” says Rich Bradshaw, a lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio. “Growing up, I didn’t buy the big, tall boots and fancy hat to be looked at like a cowboy, I wanted to prove that I *was* one.”

Now, about to turn 76 years old, Bradshaw has

lived his cowboy status for over fifty-two years. He has been renting the same barn at the Geauga County Fairgrounds in Burton, Ohio, for the last forty-nine years, where he has operated his business of training and selling horses, as well as teaching lessons

Photos courtesy of Rich Bradshaw



Rich Bradshaw

Photo courtesy of Jessie Bradshaw-Brown

to riders of all ages.

He earned himself a loyal following over the years, often attributed to his willingness to help just about any horse or rider with any problem they were facing. Early on it was the difficult horses, transitioning later to fearful riders that were desperately hoping to rekindle the enjoyment they once had for riding.

“I was at another local farm and

had to move. I ended up at the fairgrounds, not really intending to stay; I just needed a temporary place to go, but I’m still here and it’s worked out quite well,” states Bradshaw.

With many cowboys coming in from Texas and the traditional states that come to mind when someone thinks of a *true cowboy*, it’s become a predictable pattern for them to pack



(Above) Rich, calf roping in his early career, something he's always really enjoyed - competing and teaching others how to rope.

Rich at 14, with Frosty and her colt - the first horse trade he ever made.

up and move on after a few months in the Buckeye State. Bradshaw can always be found riding at the same address whether you stop by in 1973 or 2022.

“I guess I’ve always had an interest in horses and cows. Growing up our entertainment on the weekends was getting in the car and going for a drive. My dad would say, ‘You look out the window on that side, and I will look out on this side’. We would point out the horses and cows we passed,” Bradshaw reminisces. “I was probably nine years old when I started riding our neighbor’s horse, and twelve when I got my first horse. My parents paid \$125 for the horse and \$60 for the saddle. That’s the last horse they ever bought me, from then on I figured out how to trade for them.”

In 1966 he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He spent two years away from horses, the only time in his life since he was twelve years old that he had been without a horse.

“I gave a lady my horse while I was gone, she said she would take care of it for me. I came back and she had sold it. A few months later I got enough money together to buy myself a new horse,” says Bradshaw.

Bradshaw grew up working and riding for Bob Barnard, another well-known cowboy in the area. Starting in the mid 1950’s, Barnard raised cattle, ran a food concession and pony ride business, and was one of the leading horse traders in Ohio during that period, averaging 100 horses for sale at any given time. Bradshaw started riding any horse or pony Barnard asked him to swing a leg over.

“Bob would take me to a horse sale and have me get on these green ponies, and I would just hang on as long as possible, hearing the bids climb from \$1,000, then \$1,200, just going up and up at those sales,” laughs Bradshaw. “I just started riding anything and everything back then. I didn’t have a clue how to train a horse at first.”

One year while at the Ashtabula County Fair, Bradshaw, just a teenager at the time, was driving a stagecoach pulled by a pair of mules, Sadie and Susie. The boot broke on



Photos courtesy of Rich Bradshaw.

the wagon, hitting the mules on the rump, causing total chaos to follow as they headed full-speed towards the pony rides. The ticket booth was in their direct path, rocking back and forth as the ticket seller locked inside was frantically trying to open the door as the runaway mules and stagecoach approached. Bradshaw got the frightened team under control just in time!

As any true cowboy, taming unbroke colts, controlling runaway stagecoaches, and trying to make it to 8 seconds on the back of an angry bull was all in a day’s work.

“My blacksmith back then, Chuck Cooper, put me on my first bucking bull and bucking bronc,” says Bradshaw. “I really loved the rodeo stuff. It wasn’t something I was going to make a living off, but it did help really start my business. I wasn’t the best rider or best trainer out there, I was learning by the seat of my pants, there just wasn’t any competition around here back then. I was the only guy that would ride the unbroke or bad horse. Everyone used to say, well just call up Rich Bradshaw, he will ride that one for you. I wanted to make it in this horse business so that was just the guy I had to be for a long time in order to do that.”

Over the years, Bradshaw trained everything from barrel horses,

western pleasure, halter horses, and saddle seat, before really falling in love with calf and team roping events. He competed and won a lot over the years, especially with his beloved late horse, Dundee, the only horse he ever refused to sell. His business typically stayed close to home as traveling to all the big horse shows just wasn’t something he ever really was able to get into long-term.

“Barrel horses were a big deal for a while there for me. I remember the first big futurity in Oklahoma City had something like 600 horses in it,” recalls Bradshaw. “You got two runs and the top 50 horses came back. A horse I trained missed being in the top 50 by one hundredth of a second. It’s one of those things, I’m like that little fish in a big pond sometimes. Raising my family and having training horses that people are paying you to ride every day, you can’t travel around and go far from home, it’s just how my business worked here. The rodeo stuff I really loved, so I kept that for me, but training horses, teaching lessons, and doing my horse sales and trading was how I made my living.”

If there was one thing he mastered in the horse-trading business, it was the art of the trade. The first horse trade he ever made was for one horse plus a summer’s worth of work, exchanged for a mare named

Frosty, who later foaled his very first colt. Bradshaw, fourteen years old at the time, raised that foal. Over the years he’s made some *unique* trades. He once traded forty rubber stall mats for a wedding ring, later trading a horse for a flashy new ring for his wife, Linda. One customer had a horse that just wasn’t working for her and convinced him to buy the horse at a good price, plus a case of beer. The problem? She unwittingly showed up with a 12-pack, and he had to explain she *still* owed him *another* twelve bottles of beer for the deal to be done. And when the local funeral director was looking to buy a horse, you can bet Mr. Bradshaw made an agreement to have a certificate for “two burial services” to be included on that deal. And what happened when that funeral home changed hands? Sure enough, Rich went to find out, and he and the new owners saw it written in the books – still waiting to be honored.

“One thing I am really proud of is finding different horses for different people. I wish I could tell you how many people have called and told me, ‘I still have the horse we bought from you 22 years ago, he’s 28 now, we’re ready to buy another one’ or, ‘we sure do miss your horse sales’” shares Bradshaw. “It’s just a fun thing to know that not only did you help

Continued on page 62

At the Great Geauga County Fair, 2016, telling the crowd about all the fun they're about to see at the Horse and Rider Obstacle Challenge.

Photo courtesy of Rich Bradshaw

all seem to have the love of horses in them just as much as he does. For many years, Rich has supported therapeutic riding programs in honor of his oldest daughter, Diana, who passed away eleven years ago. Diana also loved to ride. Rich believes that anyone can love and enjoy horses, and he truly has a gift when it comes to sharing that excitement with others.

The Therapeutic Riding Center at Fieldstone Farm in Chagrin Falls, Ohio shared a story about a time Rich came to teach some campers about roping. He gave each person a turn at learning how to throw the rope over the plastic steer, guiding their arm so they could experience the thrill of making a catch. One little boy was enthralled with this real-life cowboy and continued asking for another turn. Rich presented the boy with his rope to keep. His smile lit the sky as he carried that rope around every single day for the remainder of camp week.

“There was a time my Dad was leading my sister, Diana, out of the arena and he forgot to tell her to duck. She bonked her head on the top of the gate and, although she couldn’t speak, her dirty look said plenty!” Pam recalled.

“I like that my daughter, Pam, has her own barn and customers. She never wanted much advice but

will call me up and say what do you think about *this*, Dad?” says Rich. “I will tell her something like, ‘Well, I had a horse one time that did that, and I did this’, but I won’t tell her what to do. The last few years my biggest enjoyment has been going trail riding with Linda. I can take a young horse with me, and she knows when to go behind, in front, trot, slow down. If you take the wrong person with you when trying to break a colt, it can be a disaster. So, I really enjoy that a lot, along with riding with my grandkids and great-grandkids now!”

For those that have met Bradshaw, the locals in Ohio regularly refer to him as *the only true cowboy in our area*, with a genuine following of lifelong friends, from local business owners, students, and customers to

other horsemen who have developed a great respect for Bradshaw over the years. It is likely safe to assume that everyone in Burton, Ohio knows who he is, as evident when seeing him walk into any local coffee shop or restaurant to grab a bite to eat. He’s always met with a friendly wave or nod. If there is such a thing as a local *celebrity-status cowboy*, it’s Rich Bradshaw!

His sense of humor combined with a gentle kindness seems to bring out the best, not just in horses, but in the people around him. You can find horsemen around Ohio in the most unrelated disciplines, and they’ve likely heard of Mr. Bradshaw and always share the same words of endearment about him. He’s known to not care what type of rider you are, what kind of horse you have, how long you’ve been riding, or if any ribbons hang on your wall. As long as you love horses you’ve already won in his book.

“My biggest thing these days is just helping people with their fears. Maybe they have a nice horse but this fear keeps them from doing anything with it,” explains Bradshaw. “How do you help them know that the fear is *always* there, but isn’t a bad thing. It keeps us from doing all kinds of unsafe things, like stepping in front of a moving car. The trick is how you deal with fear and when to know to ignore it. I would say three-quarters of what we work on in the barn and my lessons is overcoming fear. Not being afraid to admit it, either - whether you are a guy or a gal - gaining confidence so you can enjoy your horse – that is what matters most to me.”

Bradshaw teaches lessons from small children to adults, including those well beyond the age that they ever imagined they would be learning to ride, or returning to the saddle. Tuesday nights, there’s a group of ladies, plus some men, whose ages range from 16-75 years old, with Paso Fino gaited ponies, Quarter Horses, and even a 17.2 hand warmblood in an English saddle. Often referred to as the “Ladies Social Hour”, it was a way for this group of riders to have fun together and get over their fears in a way that made it easier – with

less pressure. Some riders have fear just being around the horses on the ground, while others have tried to ride for years, and it just never clicked with them. His obstacle challenge and cow sorting practice nights welcome every type of horse and rider to come try something new.

One customer had a dressage horse that was becoming difficult to ride, let alone compete. Frustrated, the owner reached out to Bradshaw on the recommendation of “sending the horse to a cowboy”. Rich was able to make great improvement once the horse started gaining some confidence by being introduced to new things, learning to enjoy time in the arena again. Before long, the owner was attending these obstacle and sorting nights, even a parade, dressage saddle and all.

Another story of a college student raised in a family of equestrians, who, frankly, never understood the excitement about the whole horse-thing. Numerous attempts at riding left her frustrated and fearful. Someone suggested she try riding

with Rich. She explained to him that she had no intention to canter, as trotting alone had been scary enough, and she didn’t understand the whole concept of “heels down, thumbs up”, while steering at the same time.

Bradshaw told her, “Today we are having fun. If you’re not having fun, you’re not going to want to ride. I don’t care about your heels today.”

If it wasn’t for his encouraging, laid-back teaching method, that lesson could have ended just as poorly as each previous attempt. Instead, she was cantering in less than an hour and eventually got herself a horse whose favorite thing was to canter! She shared years of memories riding with her family and truly enjoying the *horse-thing* because of just one lesson with Bradshaw.

“Just seeing people enjoy their horses, you can’t beat that. When I was a kid, you could keep a horse for next to nothing. Today, it’s so expensive, many people don’t get to enjoy them now,” Bradshaw says, empathetically. “I want people to have fun with their horses. I do these

cow sorting nights and we will have dressage horses, Thoroughbreds, show horses, gaited horses, all these people coming, worried because they’ve never done this before. I just say, ok, we will see where it goes. We don’t set goals. So many people have enjoyed the cow sorting so much over the years! They just get so amazed at what they can get their horses to do when they just relax and have fun.”

As a self-made horseman with a lifetime of experience, Rich Bradshaw has shown an incredible ability to connect with people, whether they are lifelong riders sharing the same passion, or are feeling their heart beat a little bit faster as it matches the rhythm of the horse moving underneath them on their very first

ride. The wisdom and inspiration he generously shares with the world is just part of what makes up the *legendary cowboy* that is Rich Bradshaw. As he always says, “just get on, and go enjoy your horse.” ♦

Mandy Boggs is a lifelong equestrian, passionate for the sport and equine industry. Mandy grew up in a multi-generation family involved with Thoroughbred racehorses, breeding, and showing in the hunter/jumpers. She is a published writer, volunteers for various non-profit organizations, while running her marketing and design agency, Aristo Marketing, LLC. She enjoys spending time with her family and many animals.

Photos courtesy of Rich Bradshaw and Fieldstone Farm.

BRADSHAW
Continued from page 61

people, but you helped find the right horse for them long term, and that’s a really hard thing to do.”

His horse sales business has been another popular milestone in his career. For many years, local horsemen, trainers, or those just getting started, would come to his horse sales to see an arena full of beautiful riding horses going to the highest bidder. Many knew they could trust his judgment and reputation for quality, well-broke horses, when looking for that right match. Sometimes, the match wasn’t just for the horse . . .

“My sweet 16th birthday, March 19th, 1988 fell on his Maple Leaf Horse Sale. My Dad’s horse sales, for

me and many others, ran a close second only to Christmas,” shared his daughter, Pam Bradshaw. “I got to ride the first horse into the sales ring, I felt like royalty! I ride in, my Dad explains the rules, welcomes the hundreds of people, and then... he says, ‘Pam turns 16 today, so if there are any young men out there willing to clean stalls and brush horses that would like a date with her, there are applications in the office.’ The good news, I did get a date from that little speech, so I guess it was worth the embarrassment!”

Raising his two daughters, Diana and Pam, have, of course, been one of the greatest joys in Bradshaw’s life, especially as he has been able to share his love for horses with his family. His wife, Linda, daughter, Pam, grandkids, and great-grandson



Rich Bradshaw teaches campers the ropes at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center.



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5 Reasons Electric Braided Fence Might Be the Right Solution for Your Farm

by Lisa Kiley

When it comes to choosing the right fence for your horse, there are many options to consider. Usually, the two main concerns that come to mind are: Is the fence horse-safe, and how expensive is it? Even though safety should be the number one priority, it doesn't mean that you can't look for an economical solution as well. If you are planning a new fencing project or thinking of adding on or upgrading, electric braided fence is a smart choice. Let's look at why this style of fence may be a perfect fit for your farm:

Safety – The braided structure is durable and strong, but the softer material provides cushion on contact. When tensioned properly, it provides 'give' while still being able to bounce back into place. If your horses do bump into it, they are much less likely to sustain injury. When horses are properly introduced to electric fencing, they are not likely to test the fence. The safest enclosures for horses are the ones that they do not touch, so the electricity should be kept on consistently. Using at least three strands also reinforces a visual barrier.

Economy – The pricing per linear foot for electric braided fence is one of the lowest you can find. It's not just because the fencing materials are reasonably priced, it is also because there can be longer spacing (up to 50 ft. in some cases) between fence posts. This leads to a huge savings in post material, time saving during installation, and reduces the amount of insulators and hardware needed. However, all braided electric fencing is not the same so be sure to invest in a quality



Photos courtesy of Cashmans

brand that will hold up well over time.

Ease of Installation – One of the best features of this style of fencing is that it is easy to install on your own. Putting the fence in yourself will save a tremendous amount on installation costs, and the headache of finding a reputable and reliable contractor. Additionally, you will learn how the system works, so if you decide to add on to the fence, or repairs need to be made, it is something you can handle yourself. DIY fence projects go in on your time frame and work around your schedule and budget.

Ease of Maintenance – When installed correctly, this type of fencing is very resilient. This means that even if a tree branch falls on the fence or deer run through it, it will bounce back. For this reason, look for products that have a breaking strength of at least 1,300 lbs. This also means that there is less likelihood that horses will have the opportunity to get out of the fencing if these circumstances occur. Should the fence



become loose it can be re-tensioned, and in the rare case that it does break, it can be easily spliced to mend.

Flexibility – While you may appreciate the aesthetics of a board fence, an electric braided fence can be used to help mitigate the cost. Even if you have board fencing at the front of your property or near the barn, electric braided fencing works great for larger areas, expansion projects, or splitting pastures. In areas where you do have a board fence, adding a top line of electric braided fence can help protect against chewing, cribbing, and pushing. This fencing can also be used for a variety of livestock, not just horses.

There are a lot of great

reasons to choose electric braided fencing. Selecting the right product means choosing a quality brand. While there are many different options, picking the best one will determine how long-lasting, safe, and reliable it will be. Look for a braid with several strands of copper wire to increase connectivity. The copper wire should also be tin coated to prevent oxidation, which will add to the longevity of the fence. Another critical consideration is knowing that the supplier will offer support during the project. They should help you plan, select the correct materials, and answer questions along the way. ♦

For more information on fencing, visit: cashmans.com.

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Photo by V. Madelung 2016

It's *Just* Thrush, What's the Big Deal?

by Resources of
the International
Association of
Professional Farriers

It is important that the horse owner understands, a hoof with any amount of thrush is **NOT** a healthy hoof! Thrush is a microbial invasion of the sulci, or the grooves surrounding the frog, that often leads to an infection in the tissue of the frog. The discharge associated with thrush is usually black in color and characteristically has a highly unpleasant odor. Infection of the frog and surrounding tissues often leads to lameness. High humidity or wet environments predispose horses to thrush. Once the organisms begin dividing in the frog sulci, the stage is set for a progressive invasion and subsequent infection of the frog tissue. Other factors that cause a hoof to be predisposed to thrush include: unclean stall environments, lack of oxygen to the frog, poor hoof maintenance, and/or poor trimming.

The health of your horse's hooves is not your farrier's responsibility alone. Treating and preventing thrush will take a joint effort from both you and your farrier. Thrush, and other hoof problems, will likely continue to develop and never resolve if you are not involved in the daily responsibility of caring for your horse's hooves. The responsibility of preventing thrush can be broken into three parts.

First is maintenance. There is more to hoof maintenance than scheduling your farrier every four to six weeks. Proper hoof maintenance is a daily objective that the horse owner must manage. This includes



picking feet daily, which will help reduce an environment conducive to thrush. Also, keeping a regular farrier schedule allows your farrier to spot early signs of thrush and assist in treating thrush. Be mindful that caustic chemicals are not be used for thrush treatment as they can create additional hoof damage where bacteria can thrive!

Second is nutrition. Nutrition plays a vital role in the development of a healthy hoof. A healthy hoof is more

resilient to the bacteria that causes thrush. As the horse owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your horse receives a balanced diet that supports hoof health. A quality hoof supplement can assist in developing new and healthier hoof growth. The nutrients provided will also strengthen the hoof, making it more resilient to chips and cracks which act as entry points for the microbial invasions that lead to crumbly hoof horn, White line disease and thrush.

This new growth will also quicken the recovery time of the hoof.

Third, but also very important is environment. Even with proper maintenance and nutrition, the environment can wreak havoc on your horse's hooves. Most cases of thrush are predisposed by environmental conditions. Leaving your horse in wet, mucky areas or unclean paddocks can quickly destroy the hoof. You will promote chronic thrush if your horse is regularly being exposed to these environments. It is important to consistently manage the environment surrounding your horse. To help prevent thrush, keep stalls clean/dry, limit exposure to wet/muddy paddocks, and apply conditioner to maintain hoof moisture balance.

When left unchecked, thrush can become a serious issue, even leading to lameness. It is important to act at the first signs of thrush and not wait until it becomes more serious. Through proper hoof management horse owners can not only treat current cases of thrush, but can also prevent future cases from developing. Always consult your farrier and veterinarian if your horse develops any hoof related issue. ♦

NOTE: *The International Association of Professional Farriers have created bi-lingual 11" x 17" posters on the topics of "Thrush 911" and "Laminitis 911". Through the support of IAPF Educational Partners they are able to make these posters available to horse owners, trainers, grooms, and others at no charge (including postage). To order your posters, please visit their website: professionalfarriers.com*

Questions to Ask When Hiring a Farrier

*A List of Questions
Compiled by the Members of
the International Association of
Professional Farriers (IAPF)*

Are they a member of an international, national, state/provincial, or regional trade association?

While we hope they join the IAPF, we want to encourage all farriers to belong to a farrier organization which provides them with professional support.

What is their annual commitment to continuing education?

IAPF Accredited Farriers® must commit to earning a minimum of 24 IAPF continuing education credits each year. They earn these CE credits by attending educational events, watching webinars, listening to podcasts, reading books, mentoring with other farriers, and earning accreditation/certification credentials.



Does your farrier subscribe to a code of conduct?

IAPF Accredited Farriers® agree to conduct themselves and their businesses in a professional and ethical manner.

Is your farrier a team player?

IAPF Accredited Farriers® are committed to forming positive partnerships with other equine professionals including owners, veterinarians, trainers, riders, and grooms in order to provide the best hoof-care for



the horse. IAPF farriers also agree to provide assistance to ill or injured members at no cost to the ill or injured farrier.

Does your farrier have a support team?

IAPF Accredited Farriers® belong to a global family of farriers who are willing to share their knowledge through mentoring – regardless of their age or years of experience. If there is a question about your horse's hoof-care, an IAPF Accredited Farrier® can find the best solution.

Does your farrier carry liability insurance to cover her/himself, your horse, and you, as the horse owner?

IAPF Accredited Farriers® are eligible for financial discounts for liability insurance. They are encouraged to take advantage of this program so as to provide coverage for the horses and horse owners for which they serve.



Other considerations:

Do they show compassion to your horse?
Take an appropriate amount of time?
Fully explain their planned treatment plans?

Have lameness expertise?
Display a pleasing demeanor?
Provide explanation of fees?
Value the opinion of the horse owner, trainer, rider, and others? ♦



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Gastric Health: The Key to Your Horse's Best Self

by Kelly Vineyard, M.S., Ph.D.

Senior Nutritionist, Equine Technical Solutions
Purina Animal Nutrition

Did you know that the prevalence of gastric discomfort in active horses is high? Studies indicate that the prevalence of gastric ulcers in performance horses is 90% or more.

Gastric discomfort may negatively affect a horse's health, attitude and performance. Fortunately, recognizing signs of discomfort and providing proper management can help support your horse's gastric health.

What causes gastric discomfort?

As grazing animals, horses are made to steadily eat a forage-based diet throughout the course of an entire day. This constant slow-feed intake naturally regulates the acidity of the horse's stomach contents. Additionally, the saliva a horse generates through chewing naturally buffers the acid.

Modern horse-keeping practices often limit feeding to two or three daily meals. Unless a horse is turned out to graze or barn staff frequently refills the hay supply, the horse doesn't receive more hay until the next feeding.

Even though the horse isn't eating, his stomach still produces acid. Without chewing, there isn't a steady source of saliva and natural enzymes to help protect the stomach. An overabundance of acid and a lack of saliva means the stomach's natural pH level drops too. These factors create the trifecta for gastric discomfort.

Stress can also put horses at a greater risk for gastric discomfort. Rigorous exercise, long-distance travel, a new environment and confinement can contribute to lower gastric pH levels.



What are the signs of gastric discomfort?

Gastric discomfort can present differently in individual horses. Common signs of equine gastric discomfort include:

- Poor appetite
- Picky eating
- Poor body condition
- Weight loss
- Chronic diarrhea
- Poor coat condition
- Teeth grinding (bruxism)
- Changes in behavior, including aggression, nervous behaviors, side biting and "girthiness"
- Acute or recurring colic
- Poor performance

Research has shown continuous acid production and low gastric pH can contribute to the development of gastric ulcers and Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome. Fortunately, there are things you can do to minimize your horse's risk for developing ulcers and manage a horse with gastric discomfort.

1. Recognize factors or events known to cause gastric discomfort.

Some factors include:

- Environment stressors
- Lack of turnout
- Injury
- Fasting
- High starch diets
- Inadequate forage
- Prolonged use of NSAIDs
- Travel
- Elevated exercise, training, showing or racing

2. Recognize the signs of gastric discomfort.

Common signs are listed above, but individual horses present discomfort in different ways. Become familiar with your horse's normal behavior to help determine if behavior changes are a sign of discomfort.

3. Seek help from your veterinarian.

Work with your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment if you recognize risk factors or symptoms. Gastrosocopy is the only way to confirm the presence of gastric ulcers, and prescription acid suppression therapy may be required to heal ulcerations. If treatment

is necessary, work with your veterinarian to determine the best medication for your horse.

4. Manage gastric discomfort.

Develop a management program to minimize the factors contributing to gastric discomfort. Provide ample turnout and continuous access to fresh water. Anticipate stressful events, such as traveling or showing, and use Purina® Outlast® Gastric Supplement to support and maintain gastric health and proper pH during those times.

5. Adjust nutrition.

Choosing the right feed products and implementing good feeding management practices are vital in managing your horse's gastric health.

- Never allow more than six hours of fasting and provide frequent access to good quality hay and/or pasture.
- Incorporate alfalfa into your horse's diet.
- Feed higher fat and fiber concentrates and avoid high starch and sugar feeds. The Purina horse feed lineup includes many appropriate options
- Support optimal gastric pH by feeding Purina® Outlast® Gastric Support Supplement along with concentrate meals. In addition, feed Outlast® supplement as a snack before you ride, trailer or show to maximize gastric support during these activities.

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Dare to Dream!

OBX - Small Ohio Breeding Farm Achieves National Acclaim



HPM Wingina OBX
(Wamberto x Brimming)
with Don Kapper.

by **Regina M. Sacha-Ujcz**

Most people recognize the “OBX” initialism to represent the Outer Banks, a 200-mile string of narrow barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina and a portion of Virginia. Just as OBX is filled with friendly charisma and allure, so too is the quiet and peaceful farm located in East-Central Ohio, unusually named “OBX Farm.” Read on to discover why and appreciate the magic of life and love dwelling within....

Amidst lush grass, cornfields, and Amish buggies in Beach City, Ohio, is the uncommon “OBX” sign, inviting visitors to a welcoming driveway of this unique Farm. There is no beach and certainly no barrier islands. However, it is home to OBX

Farm, the small but renowned and nationally recognized sport horse breeding farm of Don and Dee Kapper, the culmination of their life-long passionate dream.

To understand OBX’s success, one must first know Don and Dee. Don is a soft-spoken, even-tempered, unassuming man who possesses a wealth of knowledge regarding horse nutrition, development and breeding. Most everything that he undertook in life has become fruitful. But beyond his many achievements, Don has created a sterling professional and personal reputation and character, replete with caring, trust, humility and modesty. One of his favorite sayings to live by is, “They won’t always remember what you said but

they will ALWAYS remember how you made them feel.”

Don has a way of making you and your questions HIS priority. His generous sharing of knowledge and problem solving has earned him a reputation as the “go to” man with answers always delivered with tact, calm, clarity and optimism. He has the ability to translate the complex into a way that lay people can readily comprehend. Dee, his wife, and partner of more than 55 years, is the perfect hard-working, talented, warm, caring, and supportive complement to Don. Together they pursued their dream journey.

Charming, pristine and manicured to perfection, OBX Farm, created in 2004, includes a wonderful open floor design ranch home with

picturesque windows inviting the serenity and beauty of this 10-acre breeding farm and gorgeous pasture views to permeate within. Four oversized, bright and airy foaling stalls (14’ x 24’) have seen the miracle of birth of 27 amazing Hanoverian warmblood foals destined for sport horse greatness. Don proudly claims an 85% live birth per breeding. This award-winning operation has many national acclaims and accolades. In 2013, OBX was ranked 21st out of 400+ warmblood breeding farms in the USA. They earned the Born in the USA Breeder’s Award at Devon twice for breeding the Prospect Champion Dancing Moon OBX in 2016 and again for Dare to Dream OBX in 2021. Don is proud to tell

that, at the American Hanoverian Society Inspections, “OBX Farm received several Top Foal of the Day (2013, 2016, 2017, 2018), AHS Yearling Futurity Champion (2018), Elite and Hanoverian Premium Mare (2011), 2nd in the AHS Mare Performance (2016), and 2016 Benchmark Farm Perpetual Award winner for the highest combined jumping score of 9.0 in the Mare Performance Test (MPT) in the United States.” Plentiful photos of winning progeny and five Elite Mare plaque awards are hung with love and pride in their home hallway as reminders of their national breeding and showing achievements.

The USA 2021 Olympic Dressage Team Silver Medal winners had pedigrees of Sandro Hit, Donnerhall, and Ramiro Z in two of the three representing horses. These sires have been the main lines of the OBX breeding program for the past several years. Three award-winning full siblings, bred by OBX Farm, were sired by Doctor Wendell MF (Don Principe (Donnerhall)/Sandro Hit) and Dam’s Line: Rotsporn/Ramiro’s Son II (Ramiro Z)). Showing that small breeding operations selecting top winning breeding stock CAN

- Dancing Moon OBX – 2016 AHS Top Filly of the Day, Ohio Region; Born in the USA “Breeder’s Award” for the highest scoring filly at Devon (80.8%); won the Get of Sire Class at DaD with her full brother, Debonair MF (80.0%)
- Diplomat OBX – 2017 AHS Top Colt of the Day, Michigan Region; 2021 Tryon Spring Dressage, Training Level-Test 3 (76.466%)
- Diamond Skye OBX – 2018 AHS Top Filly of the Day, Pennsylvania Region

This collection of accolades is impressive but the cachet of OBX Farm is the realization of a couple’s passionate dream to raise foals who are bred on a small, hands-on farm and able to compete and WIN among the top sport horses in the country. According to Don, “The hallmark of an OBX bred Sport Horse is that they are healthy, stay sound, and possess great minds with a ‘people-pleasing’ attitude – perfect lifetime companions.” Mission accomplished!

These achievements are not surprising considering that Don and Dee are no ordinary horse breeders. Both are extraordinary people in so many ways. Don is a highly experienced and internationally recognized equine nutritionist, who

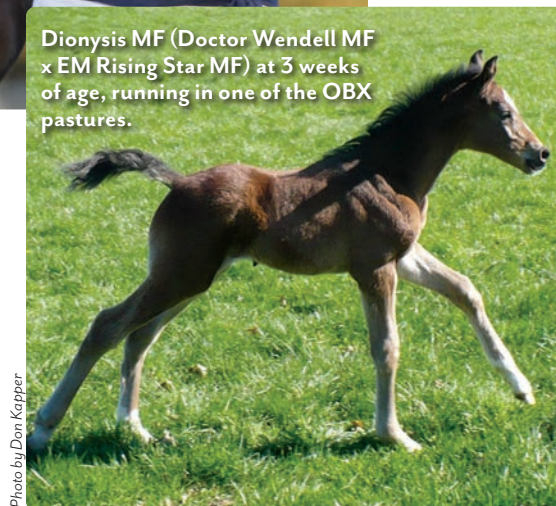
published in the veterinary textbook, “*Equine Internal Medicine*”, 2nd edition, in the chapter, “Applied Nutrition”, as well as in several trade journals. He consults with industry leaders and has lectured throughout the world to horse owners, trainers



HPM Caron OBX, (ES Contucci x SPS Komtess V, aka Rivita) as a suckling, with Dee Kapper in the pasture.

retired after 24 years with Buckeye Equine Nutrition as their Equine Nutritionist, and later, Sr. Vice-President; and subsequently 12 years as the Director of Nutrition and Technical Services for Progressive Nutrition and their ‘VeterinaryCare’ line. Before retirement in 2015, he served one year as Equine Technical Consultant for the Cargill Equine Enterprise Team.

You can’t mention equine nutrition without someone referencing the expert, Don Kapper! He is the “answer man” for equine nutrition and readily and patiently shares his knowledge for the betterment of the horse. Prominent Ohio equine veterinarian, Ray A. Hephner, DVM stated, “Don is the best hands-on practical equine nutritionist in the past 40 years.” No wonder. In 1980, Don was instrumental in developing the first equine computer ration balancing program and utilized it as a member of the Metabolic Bone Disease Research Team for three years at The Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. He introduced the first “Ration Balancer” into the United States in 1986. He is



Dionysis MF (Doctor Wendell MF x EM Rising Star MF) at 3 weeks of age, running in one of the OBX pastures.

and veterinarians. His list of writings and lectures for applied nutritional expertise is numerous. For several years he was the exclusive Equine Nutritionist for the North American Sport Horse Registries: 100-day Stallion Performance Test.

Don always thought in non-traditional ways, and his “out of the box” thinking led him to formulate a “free choice mare’s milk replacer” product for orphan or rejected foals. Sarah Ralston, DVM, PhD, a renowned researcher from Rutgers has stated that Don is the “best applied equine nutritionist that she’d ever worked with.”

Don graduated high school at age seventeen and had several

choices to define his path. Pre-Veterinary studies were on his radar, as well as music (Don is an amazing singer too!). He followed his heart and was the youngest graduate from “Bob Gerkin School of Horseshoeing” in Houston Texas. He knew that he could earn a good living to support his future college studies. He apprenticed with Buck Worsip, a farrier from Cincinnati, and subsequently set up a mobile “traveling blacksmith shop”, thriving on corrective trimming and shoeing. Don worked six days a week and more than 14 hours a day and was never at a loss for work. This learning and experience at diagnosing and assisting angular limb deformities paved his way to being the Corrective Farrier for the College of Veterinary Medicine at OSU in 1973-74. In 1983-86 he was led back to OSU as a member of a research team to study what is now

called “Developmental Orthopedic Disease” in horses. Don would spend the next 30+ years trying to understand the causes, prevention, and treatment of this management, genetic and nutrition related problem.

Don’s farrier career, which spanned 1964 to 1974, would be incomplete without mention of his time as Assistant Farrier, assigned to the US Army’s “Old Guard” at Arlington Cemetery. One of his best memories are of the visitors wanting to see the famous “Black Jack,” the stunning black Caisson Horse (riderless horse), seen in the funeral procession of John F. Kennedy. The poignant silhouette of

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OBX

Continued from page 75

that steed with the backwards-facing riding boots is etched in millions of people's minds who witnessed that procession in November of 1963. Don also valiantly served in Vietnam and received "The Bronze Star" in 1970, and was also a member of the Veterinary Unit receiving "The Presidential Unit Citation".

Don graduated from The Ohio State University in 1974 with degrees in Farm Management and Nutrition. After graduation he managed a rehab center for Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses. Don then assumed the position of Organization Director for the Ohio Farm Bureau, spanning four counties in southwestern Ohio, receiving recognition for membership achievement. From 1976 to 1979 he oversaw the agriculture production, breeding, foaling, conditioning, and training of race horses at a Thoroughbred farm in Dover, Ohio. He attained his credentials as a Professional Animal Scientist (PAS) by passing the exam from the National Certification Board of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, the first year of its existence in 1996.

But Don has not accomplished all this alone. He and his wife, Dee, are a match made in Heaven. In fact, they are more than high school sweethearts, meeting in the 5th grade while competing in the District's Declamation Contest. Don tells us, "Later, Dee was a cheerleader and I concentrated on sports. Dee was Captain of the cheerleader's and I was Captain of the Basketball team. We sat together on the bus to and from games, and the rest is history." They were married in 1966 and welcomed their son, Shawn, in 1972, who is now a practicing Chiropractic Doctor in Dover, Ohio. If you ask Don, he will say that their son, Shawn, was their "4H project!" On a more serious note, Don stated, "The progeny I am most proud of is our son, Shawn."

Shawn agrees that he "hit the lottery" being born to Don and Dee. Shawn comments that his Dad is "literally known throughout the

world for his knowledge of horses. He is a farrier and a singer, etc., but I am the only one in the world who gets to call him Dad. And he accomplished all this while being the best Dad and Grandpa." According to his son, "Dad was always there for my activities. He coached or led most of them." The biggest lesson Don taught him was "a great work ethic." Shawn and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Carolina, a student at High Point University in North Carolina, and Grady, an athletic (baseball and soccer) high school student.

Don and Dee do everything together including the development

and management of their farm. The story of OBX's purchase and naming is an interesting one. Don and Dee were slated to go to the Outer Banks on vacation. As chance would have it, the property they were interested in was being auctioned that very week. They made a joint decision to forgo the vacation and attend the auction where they obtained this gorgeous 10-acre parcel and aptly named it, "OBX", since it was in lieu of their OBX vacation! OBX in Ohio makes perfect sense! Today OBX has grown to a total of 95 acres, 85 farmed and leased to a neighbor.

You can't think of Don without Dee. Don and Dee just go together

since it is their inextricable efforts and partnership which shaped their 55+ year marriage and garnered achievement of their dreams. Their son, Shawn, notes, "the support from home is what allowed him (Don) to be who he is and do what he loves to do, and have the life that he has." Dee is the perfect match to Don. She is an LPN and Master Gardener. Her horticultural skills are evident in the gorgeous flowers and immaculate beds that beautifully frame OBX. When Don was traveling for work, it was Dee he depended upon to tend to the mares and foals. According to Shawn, "Dee took care of the house, attended to me, made

Photo by Bethany P Photography.



Naomi Parry and Dare to Dream OBX receiving Prospect Championship at Devon, 2021.

Don ready for his next trip - and still had a nursing career - all while attending to the farm." Dee is warm and humble, whose smile radiates support for her husband of so many decades. Effusive in her praise for Don she says, "He has love for the betterment of the horse. He is so gifted in the knowledge he has of all aspects of the horse. Don cares about people as well as the horse and will not leave anyone with a problem without assuring they have all the management knowledge that they need." To sum it up, of all the successes, Dee is "proudest of Don"!

Horses were always a part of Don's entire life. As a child, he had fun and numerous achievements riding Taffy, his Morgan mare. Subsequently, as a member of the Dalton 4-H Equestrians, they won the State of Ohio Drill Team competition and performed at the State Fair. Don won many horsemanship awards, including Grand Champion

Sr. Equitation - taking home the coveted trophy. Don states the "most athletic horse I ever rode was an Arabian." Dee rode as well, but later not as continuously as Don since she focused on the breeding operation and the family.

Although Don and Dee were partners in their dream, Don's dream began early. At the tender age of 10, Don wrote down three wishes for his teacher:

1. I wish I had a horse farm.
2. I wish I had an electric lawnmower.
3. I wish I had a real nice barn.

Wishes do come true! But not without education and applied learning and, of course, sweat equity. They set out to prove that a small sport horse breeding facility could produce top quality sport horses with a focus on dressage and jumping. Don would integrate his nutrition work and acumen into his breeding program. Stallion

selection (genetics), management, and nutrition are part of the equilateral triangle of importance to produce exceptional performance horses. Don analyzes and measures everything (exact weight, height, body condition, topline evaluation, etc.) to obtain optimal nutrition in developing horses to minimize growth issues. He created a growth monitoring chart and mares milk analysis procedure to aid clients and vets in minimizing orthopedic disease.

At OBX, Don and Dee proved that mare pre- and post-natal nutrition, applied throughout the entire pregnancy, positively affects conception rates, stronger foals, and higher quality milk production. It also impacts stronger skeletal structures and soft tissue development. The foals are weighed every week until four months of age, monthly after that, and their feed is adjusted or

supplemented to complement forage quality and individual growth rates. The analyzing and monitoring of everything they eat and drink is necessary to assure all of their nutrient needs are met to produce optimal cartilage and its transformation into mature functional bones.

Let's not forget that Don is also a farrier and also uses that knowledge to his breeding, training, and showing advantage. It's no wonder that OBX is such a stand-out breeding operation!

Don and Dee have realized their dream and have generously expanded it to include the "family of OBX horse owners." Don states, "raising foals is our passion, but to have owners fulfill their dreams on an OBX-bred horse is what breeding and raising horses is all about."

Every "miracle of birth" is exciting

Continued on page 78



HPM Caron OBX, (ES Contucci x SPS Komtess V, aka Rivita) as a suckling, with Don Kapper in the pasture.

Photo by Sarah Gentry Photography

OBX

Continued from page 77

to Don and Dee. Because of the quality and notoriety of their foals, most are sold “in utero” as Don guarantees a healthy, viable foal at three days of age, and after a complete physical by the attending veterinarian. The purchaser then takes ownership. The sale price includes the care of their foal for one month after weaning to ensure nothing is overlooked as the foal remains under optimal supervision.

New owners are hospitably invited to stay at OBX and witness the birth of their new foal. This extended family feel is atypical in the breeding world. One case in particular was for an owner who said it did not matter if it were a colt or filly or what color the foal would be. After seeing it was a black foal, she confessed that she was praying for a black colt with white markings. When she took a look, she broke down in tears. She had received everything she had hoped for! Today, this foal is ranked 3rd in the United States of all four-year olds based on scores he has achieved in the dressage ring. Diplomat OBX is his name.

Don is most proud that OBX is a family-centric operation, producing foals winning at the national level. This literally means they are producing “USA-bred sport horses who are competing well against the imported warmbloods from Europe. And probably one of the most interesting facts is that this was all accomplished with two Hanoverian broodmares at a time!” Their foundation mare, Brimming, excelled at “motherhood” and passed along a great “between the ears” attitude. Don recounts her stats easily, “Brimming produced thirteen foals, nine fillies, eight of them are Elite or Hanoverian Premium Mares with the other being Elite Eligible. Another of our mares, SPS Komtess V (aka Rivita), produced 100% Elite or Hanoverian Premium Mares. Another mare, EM Rising Star MF, produced two approved stallions as well as mares winning in the performance arena. Her younger foals are now being shown in the lower dressage levels. This has been very exciting and satisfying.”

As a small breeder, Don and Dee took an active part, participating in the AHS Mare and Foal Inspections. They

watched the owners as the OBX horses earned their Elite Mare, or what is now called, Hanoverian Premium Mare Awards

One extended family member who is “grateful to call them friends” is Heather Soones, owner of Saddles 101. She is the lucky owner of Deveroux OBX. Heather claims, “since the day I bought Deveroux OBX, they warmly welcomed me into their lives.... they have gone above and beyond my wildest dreams and expectations in teaching me all they can about the breeding industry and answer any questions. They allowed me to experience the birth, first hand, of a special foal and also how to handle the foals from day one.” In fact, the “imprinting” process that is conducted on all their foals is vitally important to the future of that foal. Don and Dee are ready to imprint or desensitize the newborns within the first thirty minutes of life, exposing them to a host of experiences (touching, lifting hooves, noises, tactile sensation, etc.) that allow them to grow into very stable and well-mannered horses.

As in all successful endeavors, there are a host of people that help along the way. Years ago, Don had several top trainers of sport horses as clients. He approached them for assistance in getting started. It was Scott and Susanne Hassler who first assisted Don in finding two broodmares to start the OBX breeding program. Scott is an internationally respected trainer, competitor, in-demand master clinician, and owner of Hassler Dressage, based at Poinciana Farm in Florida. Susanne is an accomplished FEI rider and competitor and founder of Rivergirl Dressage, and also CEO and founder of THRIVE-Body*Mind* Spirit.

Being fortunate to consult with top breeders and competitors, Don was also assisted by Maryanna Haymon and her late husband,

Wendell, owners of Marydell Farm, International Dressage Breeders of FEI Competitors and top-quality Hanoverians for over 30 years. They stand FEI Grand Prix stallion Don Principe (Donnerhall/Prince Thatch xx), who has won the coveted title of Champion Dressage Breeding Sire twice. Maryanna declares that Don is the “go to” person for Nutrition. In fact, she describes Don’s influence on their

breeding program and credits “1/3 of their success” to his contributions, and “designing of custom feeding programs for each horse.” Don originally came to Marydell Farm in 2003 for a nutrition consult for Progressive Nutrition. Maryanna credits Don as being a “cornerstone”

of the success that Marydell Farm has achieved over the last eighteen years. Don and Dee’s commitment to the highest standard of care, their love for their horses, and kindness to others gave us confidence to send one of our top mares to them. They are an outstanding couple who have committed themselves to learning as much as possible about the bloodlines that work to produce high-quality performance and breeding horses.” As a result of this association, Maryanna and Wendell introduced Don and Dee to their famous stallion, Don Principe (Donnerhall/Prince Thatch xx), and a few of his offspring. Don says, “They imported two mares, sired by Rotspon, who became their foundation stock. The cross was magical!”

Melinda and Kevin Kelly, owners of KFX Farms are also effusively complimentary about Don and Dee. Melinda comments, “Don and Dee Kapper mean the world to us. We first met when we visited OBX farm through mutual friends and bought three of Don’s horses!” Melinda states, “Don and Dee have become our mentors as well as becoming family.” As others have expressed, Melinda says that “Don and Dee are always ready to answer questions about nutrition or raising foals, or the

health of our horses. And I ask a lot of questions.” Don and Dee offered to help ease the burden on Melinda and Kevin and care for two of their mares and foals at OBX Farm while they were attending to family medical issues. Melinda says with certainty, “Don and Dee are wonderful people - funny, trustworthy, and caring - always there to lend a helping hand. They are family.”

OBX Farm is a shining example that dreams really do come true. As mentioned earlier, Dare to Dream OBX, owned by Naomi Parry, ironically supports the title “Dare to Dream!” by winning the four-year old Prospect Championship at Devon in October, 2021, and, as a result, OBX Farm was presented with the “Born in the USA, Breeder’s Award”.

As of this writing, Don and Dee are embarking on a new chapter of their lives; retiring from breeding. After 17 years of exemplary breeding and unimaginable success and lasting impact, they are selling their special OBX Farm and moving forward in pursuit of new dreams and adventures.

Don and Dee Kapper continue to Dare to Dream! We are anxious to see what’s in store for this unique Dream Team. ♦

Regina Sacha-Ujczko is a USDF Silver and Bronze Medalist devoted to the pursuit of dressage excellence and one score shy of her Gold Medal. Formerly VP of HR for FedEx Custom Critical, she now leverages her communication, equestrian, and people skills as a Freelance Writer for horse-related website, features and reviews. Her writing has received national recognition from USDF. Regina is married to Ed Ujczko and is “mom” to a robust animal family of three dogs and four dressage horses. She and her husband reside in Seven Hills, OH.

Sources:

Memories, (Honoring the Dreams, Successes and Memories of a 40-year career) - Kelly Ann Graber

United States Equestrian Federation (USEF.org)

Bio of Donald R. Kapper, prepared by Don Kapper for the American Hanoverian Society, Spring, 2021

The American Hanoverian Society (hanoverian.org)

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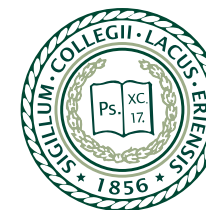
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Choosing a horse trailer is not an easy task. There are a million things that cross a horse owners' mind before purchasing a new trailer. Of course, there are plenty of used trailers sitting on lots that you could go pick out and take home today. The problem with choosing a pre-built trailer is that you never get *exactly* what you want. Why? Because *you* didn't design it, someone else did! Maybe it's just a minor issue, but you choose to settle and "just deal with it" so you can go ahead and get a trailer. This can cause major issues down the road. Horse trailers that are being built today are really built to last, so it's important that you take your time in the buying process.

Here are a few basic things you should think about before purchasing a horse trailer:

What vehicle are you towing with?

One of the most common misconceptions about horse trailers is that you can just hitch up to any old truck and you're ready to hit the road. This is where we see a lot of dangerous situations happen. In comparison to other trailer manufacturers, our trailers are

extremely lightweight. Double D Trailers feature chassis (frames) that are constructed with a patented Z-Frame technology. Unlike standard aluminum or steel trailers, Z-Frame is both strong *and* lightweight. However, this does not mean that you shouldn't consider other factors when choosing which horse trailer that you want. Other aspects come into play with safe towing such as tongue weight and weight distribution. Here at Double D Trailers, we call these factors the "Magic Gs of Towing."

GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) – Maximum weight # allowed for your tow vehicle. This includes trailer tongue weight, passengers, and tow vehicle weight.

GCVWR (Gross Combined Vehicle Weight Rating) – Maximum allowed loaded weight of the trailer and tow vehicle combo.

GAWR (Gross Axle Weight Rating) – Maximum weight the axles on your tow vehicle are able to haul.

Determining the Magic Gs of your tow vehicle will likely influence the next question.

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a little simpler, check out the above, quick reference chart.

What size are your horses?

When thinking about horse size, it's crucial to consider the size of your smallest horse AND your largest horse. The horse trailer that you purchase needs to be able to fit whatever combination of horses that you will be hauling. This is another major issue that arises when purchasing pre-built trailers – all the stall sizes are the same. Say that you own both a pony, and a larger 17 hand horse. A standard manufactured trailer with 2 standard size stalls won't get the job done for your horses. When you design a custom horse trailer with Double D Trailers, you can specify the sizes of your horses in your customization process, and we'll build the stalls to

accommodate them. We'll make sure all of your horses are comfortable and, most importantly, that they are safe.

What do you really want in a horse trailer?

Remember this: it's okay to be picky with such an important purchase. Do you want a pink trailer? Bright and airy living quarters? A trailer to match the color of your truck?

At Double D Trailers our motto is, "If you can dream it, we can design it." Choosing to design a custom horse trailer that will fit all of your (and your horses') wants and needs is really the ideal option, because the right trailer will be a lifetime investment.

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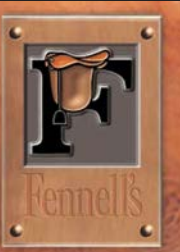
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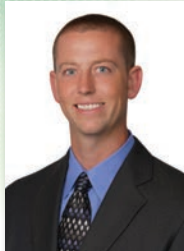
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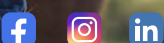
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BORN IN OHIO

National Reining Horse Association

(L-R): Bill Horn, Sr., Dale Wilkinson, brothers Bill and Paul Horn

Photo courtesy of Rick Weaver

by Elaina Eppinger

When thinking of reining you may think of Texas first, but did you know that reining has deep roots in Ohio? The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) was started and first registered in Ohio. Today, reining is one of the fastest growing horse sports, gaining attention from all over the world and earning new investors in the sport. Why? It is entertaining and exciting for even a non-horse enthusiast to watch. There are purses as high as a million dollars and even the popular new television show, *Yellowstone*, includes reining horses. More than that, though, people love the western lifestyle and family atmosphere of the shows. And once you ride a reining horse, it's pretty hard not to be hooked!

How It Started

Before there was a club exclusive to reining horses, known today as the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), reining enthusiasts used to show at open shows, jackpots, and state fairs. The state fairs were a really big deal and most of the reining horses were shown in several disciplines, such as halter, pleasure,

cutting, barrels and, of course, reining classes. Every discipline and breed of horse was seen at the state fairs, which were then the lifeblood of showing horses. The quarter and stock horse shows were usually where you found a lot of the reining horses. In Ohio, there were three major shows put on by the Ohio Western Horse Association,

including: Spring Horse Show, Midwest Horse Show and the Fall Round Up. The Fall Round Up is what we know today as the All-American Quarter Horse Congress, which was first held in 1967, a year after NRHA formed. The first NRHA Futurity was held in Columbus, Ohio in 1966, continuing there until 1972, when it moved to Sedalia,

Missouri. It was moved back to Columbus the following year to be part of the All-American Quarter Horse Congress. In 1994, the NRHA Futurity moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where it is now held at the end of November and first week of December. (source - NRHA Historical Archives)

It is important to mention a few

of the people who influenced and supported the formation of the NRHA: Dale Wilkinson, brothers, Bill and Paul Horn, Dick Pieper, Stretch Bradley and son, Clark, Dr. James Glenn, his wife, Mickie, and Clayton Woosley. They all came from the Columbus area.

Dale Wilkinson, known as the "father of modern-day reining", is among the original innovators in the sport and was the first inductee to NRHA's Hall of Fame. Dale was born near Tiffin, Ohio, in 1925, the son of a farmer. On October 18, 1947, he married his wife, Lucy, and they had 3 children. Dale was gifted at empowering others, and instinctively knew who would be good at tasks in order to 'get something going' for the reiners. James and Mickie Glenn were his clients at the time, and with Dale's direction, Mickie became a driving force in getting NRHA started. He gave Mickie the information and she did the footwork to help get NRHA up and going. What drove James' and Mickie's passion was their horse, Continental King. Mickie wanted him to be a cutting horse, but Dale thought he would make a better reining horse. Continental King was turned over to Dale's assistant trainer, Bill Horn, to ride and train.

On October 30, 1965 there was an AQHA show, but it wasn't just the show that caused all the excitement, but rather the *reining jackpot class* held afterwards! Carroll Brumley, the judge from earlier in the day, was asked to stay and 'place' the jackpot class for them. Carroll placed Continental King first, creating a lot of excitement, especially for owners, James and Mickie. They were absolutely thrilled about this jackpot winning! Mickie called Dale and said they needed to create something just for reining horses. Dale didn't say much or get fired up, but did suggest, "why don't you come up and we will talk about it?" Dale helped point Mickie in the right direction, suggesting who she should talk to. She contacted the president of the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), AQHA public relations, and other reining enthusiasts. The following year, 1966, the National Reining Horse



Association (NRHA) was born and first registered in Ohio, with Dr. James Glenn as its first president. But the NRHA didn't stop there... even more momentum picked up for the association and, in 2000, the FEI (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) welcomed reining as its first western discipline. In 2002, reining debuted at the World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

Currently the number one NRHA rider hails from Springfield, Ohio. Shawn Florida, famous for wearing his 'green shirt' while showing, has won numerous reining titles, NRHA Futurities, and Derbies, with winnings in excess of \$6.5 million dollars - ultimately earning five gold medals in reining at the World Equestrian Games. Today, reining is still strong in Ohio, and you can participate in reining throughout the state with clubs hosting shows in Jackson, Springfield, and Findlay - as well as during the first weekend of the prestigious All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

If you are interested in learning more about Ohio reining here are links to reining clubs and events in



Ohio:
buckeyereiningseries.com
centralohioreining.com
ovrha.org ♦

Elaina Eppinger, a Penn State graduate with a degree in Animal Science, is the Northeastern Inside Sales Specialist for Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC. She is a member of the National Reining Horse

Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. Elaina started showing reining horses in 2016 - after she took one for a spin, she was addicted! In 2021, Elaina started taking photos at NRHA events on the east coast. Elaina lives in Butler, PA with her husband Eric, on their 25-acre farm.

Source: NRHA 2021 HANDBOOK

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Equine Appraisals

What You Need to Know

by Sara Ballinger

Equine appraisers are personal property appraisers who specialize in valuing a horse's current worth. Banks, attorneys, nonprofits, accountants, horse owners/trainers, and estate planners, are among those who may use equine appraisal documents. Determining the Fair Market Value of a specific equine can be tricky. No sales regulations exist within the equine industry, and finding sales prices of comparable horses is necessary to comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP).

Each appraisal is different depending on circumstances and its intended use. It may be needed for litigation, insurance fraud, or even a donation to a non-profit; consequently, required documents will vary. Basic factors to consider when appraising a horse are age, health, pedigree, lameness/injury history, competition records, training, and any attitude issues. Also included and factored in may be the horse's purchase price and costs invested in training. If available, I also evaluate the horse overall in person while matching up registration paperwork. When available, competition videos are also reviewed.

How do appraisers determine values on horses? When conducting an equine appraisal, the important factors to focus on may vary. Horses must be appraised as they are current day. Let's say a top Grand Prix jumper worth \$500,000 is being donated to a nonprofit because of its advanced age and inability to be competitive any longer at that higher jumping level. The horse may, however, still

be comfortable jumping at a lower three-foot level. The horse would then be evaluated and appraised as the lower three-foot level jumper that he/she is currently. In this particular case, I would include the horse's Grand Prix record in the appraisal, taking into consideration the level the horse has accomplished; however, his value would be based at the lower three-foot level of jumping, the requirement of his donation. As required by USPAP regulations, comparable sold horses with the attributes closest to those of the subject horse on the day of donation would need to be found. In order to accomplish this, appraisers may need to reach out to breeders, private sales, and auctions. Once comparable horses are found, a grid system is used to determine the subject horse's value. I assign a sliding scale of numbers to each attribute that I feel is important in each case. Next, a dollar value per point is determined. The sale prices of all comparable horses are added up and the total is divided by their cumulative scores - yielding an average value per point. That number is then multiplied by the points scored by the subject horse. This will then give a rough estimate of the subject horse's worth. Appraisers may adjust from here to determine the educated estimate of value based on supporting facts.

Another case example would be an insurance claim. A trailer accident resulting in the death of an equine may necessitate an appraisal of the deceased animal. In this case, the date of the loss of the equine would be the effective date of the report; evaluating the horse as it was just before time of death would be necessary. Since the horse is no longer available to be evaluated in person, an



appraiser would have to rely on the owner's records and any competition records in order to value the horse before death to obtain an insurance claim. Even if a horse was insured at a certain price on the effective day of the policy, that doesn't mean the horse is worth the same price at the time of the accident. An appraisal would help justify the horse's worth at the time of the accident.

Another scenario may be an uninsured horse involved in a trailer accident that was

caused by another driver. The horse would need to be appraised for its worth on the day of the accident for the insurance companies to decide the settlement.

Overall, investigating and determining the key factors of the subject horse's worth, and finding comparable sold horses which are the most similar to the subject horse are critical in determining a regulated equine appraisal. ♦

For more information:
sebequineappraisals.com

Head Injuries 101:

What They Are and What to Do When They Happen

by Jen Roytz



Knowing how to identify and immediately attend to a concussion or more severe traumatic brain injury can make the difference in how fast and completely one recovers after a head injury.

Sports-related head injuries have been a topic of increasing concern among participants and their parents, media, and medical professionals alike. Typically, football, hockey and other popular high-intensity contact sports receive much of the attention, but a 2016 study published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery* identified equestrian activities as having the highest percentage of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) among adult participants.

The study looked at data collected between 2003 and 2012 and found that 45.2 percent of the sports-related TBIs were related to equestrian activities, while the second highest cause – falls or hits from contact sports – was just 20.2 percent. A second study focused on adolescents found that equestrian activities were the third-leading cause of TBIs (427 reported) behind contact sports (1,444) and skateboarding and roller skate falls (806).*

It is no surprise that equestrian sports carry a heightened inherent risk of injury when compared to other sports. When a human navigates terrain and obstacles aboard a thousand-plus pound animal who is, at best, mannerly and respectfully trained and, at worst, working against said human in a number of ways, the potential for accidents and injury are an assumed and understood risk.

When the unexpected occurs and a head injury is suspected, taking the proper first steps to identify the severity of the injury and, if necessary, to provide critical care in the minutes and hours following the incident can make the difference in the long-term recovery and lasting effects from the injury.

CONCUSSION VS. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

A concussion comes as a result of a blow or jolt to the head causing a short-term loss of normal brain function. The rapid movement can



EQA Initiative simulates riding and can assess many factors such as balance and reaction time necessary to return to riding.

“Equine sports are extremely high-risk activities for head injuries due to the sheer size, speed, and strength of the horse and the vulnerable position of the rider or caretaker.”

cause the brain to move within the skull, damaging or even changing the shape of brain tissue and, in turn, can cause chemical and metabolic changes within the brain cells. Since the brain is the body’s control center, an injury to this organ can affect a person’s ability to function and communicate.

While a common circumstance of a rider experiencing a concussion could come from a fall in which the rider’s head impacts the ground, an obstacle or the horse’s hooves, it is important to note that the concussion does not result from a hit to the head itself, but from the brain’s impact against the inside of the skull. As such, a rider could experience a concussion from a whiplash effect or even landing on one’s feet with force.

“The CDC labels a concussion as a type of traumatic brain injury, and references that most clinicians use the word concussion to discuss a mild form of TBI,” said Dr. Brian Adkins, an emergency physician at the University of Kentucky Chandler Emergency Department and also a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

Adkins also serves as the medical director for UK Athletics EMS, as well as the medical director of the UK HealthCare EMS team at Keeneland Racetrack. His experience dealing with sports and equine-related head injuries is deeper than most.

“My time at the University of Kentucky has exposed me to countless

Continued on page 92



Checking balance using a Bosu ball

HEAD INJURIES

Continued from page 91

head injuries suffered from a wide spectrum of mechanisms,” said Adkins. “Equine sports are extremely high-risk activities for head injuries due to the sheer size, speed, and strength of the horse and the vulnerable position of the rider or caretaker. We certainly see a significant number of traumatic brain injuries that result from equine athletics, as well as leisure riding and simply caring for the animal.”

CONCUSSIONS CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO THREE TYPES.

Grade 1 (Mild) - Symptoms last less than 15 minutes; patient does not lose consciousness

Grade 2 (Moderate) - Symptoms last for longer than 15 minutes; patient does not lose consciousness

Grade 3 (Severe) - Patient loses consciousness

While concussions are a mild form of TBI and not typically life threatening, they are to be taken seriously. Those who saw the injury happen or find the person soon after the incident occurred should take an active interest in checking to see if the person is okay and help them seek medical care if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- Loss of consciousness
- Difficulty with balance
- Nausea
- Glazed over look in their eyes
- Delayed response to questions
- Confusion or a sense of being “dazed”
- Peculiar expression of emotion (*laughing or crying*)

It is also important for someone to immediately attend to the injured individual and guide them through a self-assessment of their symptoms. It is equally important for the concussed individual to continue to self-assess for symptoms in the days and weeks after a concussion.

Concussion symptoms can fall into four categories. It is important to remember that in the case of a child who has suffered a concussion, they may not be able to clearly articulate the symptoms they’re feeling due to their age and limited vocabulary, as well as the fact that they have



UK Photos by Mark Cornelison

experienced a brain injury.

SOMATIC (PHYSICAL) SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Light-headed/Dizziness
- Nausea
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Cognitive Symptoms
- Difficulties with attention
- Memory problems
- Loss of focus
- Difficulty multitasking
- Difficulty completing mental tasks
- Sleep Symptoms
- Sleeping more/less than usual
- Having difficulty falling asleep
- Emotional Symptoms
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Panic Attacks

If a concussion is suspected, it is important not to allow the person to get back on their horse or operate a motor vehicle until they have been assessed by a medical professional.

Based on the presentation of symptoms, this can range from a simple neurological exam to check the patient’s vision, balance, coordination and reflexes, to more involved diagnostics, such as an MRI or CT scan to identify signs of bleeding, inflammation, or skull fracture.

Limiting physical activities, and sometimes activities that require significant concentration or critical thinking, until all symptoms have subsided is imperative. Not only will that allow the brain time to heal, but it will also help to prevent the onset of additional or more severe symptoms.

“If you or someone you know suspects they are suffering from a concussion, the first recommendation would be to cease participation in the activity that caused the trauma,” said Adkins. “A person with a concussion is very vulnerable to sustain a repeat injury because of the neurological and functional impairments from the previous trauma. Following stopping the high-risk activity, a person suspected to have a concussion should seek an evaluation from a knowledgeable health care provider.”

Traumatic brain injuries are essentially head injuries that exceed the scope and severity of simply being deemed a “concussion.” A TBI is the result of sudden trauma to the head, such as a violent hit or when an object pierces the skull and makes contact with the brain.

When a person experiences a suspected TBI, it is important to seek emergency medical attention immediately, and if the person is unconscious, do not allow them to be moved until a medical professional is present.

Doctors and emergency personnel’s immediate objective will be to ensure proper oxygen flow to the brain, and control blood flow and pressure within the skull in order to prevent further injury to the brain. Imaging, such as X-rays and CT scans, will show any fractures to the skull or spine, brain contusions or hematomas, and surgery may be needed in order to relieve pressure or treat ruptured blood vessels.

RETURNING TO RIDING AND NORMAL ACTIVITIES

Head injuries, and the speed with

which one will recover from one, can vary greatly. Age can play a critical role in recovery. Often, but not always, a younger person will be able to recover and return to normalcy faster than someone of a more advanced age.

“The speed of recovery of a traumatic brain injury is extremely variable,” said Adkins. “The age and health of the patient plays a role, as does the severity of the injury, presence of previous similar injuries, access to appropriate medical care, and social factors (including the patient’s continued activities and profession) in the recovery outcomes and timing.”

Numerous studies have shown that patients with previous brain injuries are often more prone to future head injuries for a variety of reasons. This research also indicates that with each additional TBI a person suffers, the amount of time they need to fully recover increases and the force required to cause a concussion decreases.

After a head injury, it is important to return to normal activities slowly and methodically as symptoms subside. While symptoms may appear to be fully alleviated while at rest or doing less-taxing activities, they may reappear as one’s cognitive and physical activity level rises.

“Before someone returns to riding following a concussion, that person should seek the advice of a qualified medical professional,” said Adkins. “One very important part of this assessment is to evaluate whether the patient has symptoms during circumstances that simulate riding or other intended activities. Often, patients will feel comfortable because they are symptom-free at rest, however, when they exert themselves mentally or physically, or resume the positions and balance necessary to ride, they will sometimes recognize they are not ready to keep themselves and others around them safe.”

Resuming regular activities too soon can also put a person at risk for Second Impact Syndrome (SIS), which can occur when two concussions happen within a relatively short period of time, before the brain has fully healed. This can cause the brain to lose the ability to self-regulate pressure and blood flow and cause rapid and dangerous swelling, pressing the

brain against the skull and putting the patient at risk of serious brain damage or even death.

While helmets cannot prevent a head injury from happening, they can significantly lessen the severity of the injury. Using an American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and Safety Equipment Institute (SEI)-certified helmet that is properly fitted and secured can significantly reduce the severity of a head injury resulting from an equestrian-related accident.

“A properly fitted and certified helmet can limit the severity of a TBI by reducing the likelihood of a skull fracture, brain bleed, or other forms of life-threatening structural damage,” said Adkins.

The University of Kentucky offers the Saddle Up Safely app, which helps equestrians navigate what to do when a person experiences a head injury. Available for download wherever apps are sold, Saddle Up Safely offers an Injury and Concussion Assessment

Test, which guides the user through a list of questions aimed at evaluating the severity of a TBI, giving directives for next steps based on answers. The app also offers a Return to Riding protocol that users can follow to evaluate their readiness to return to equestrian sports and other physically and mentally intensive activities, as well as other useful tools and checklists related to equine activities, such as trailering, showing, horse shopping, and more. ♦

Equestrian Athlete Initiative

The Equestrian Athlete (EqA) Initiative is one of four research initiatives housed within the University of Kentucky’s Sports Medicine and Research Institute. Launched in 2020, EqA focuses on defining and describing the health and wellness of equestrians, using both sports medicine and public health models.

Dr. Kimberly Tumlin, PhD, who is an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky and the research director for EqA, explained the compounding factors that can cause an equestrian to return to riding too soon after a head injury, as well as the risks involved with doing so.

“Often a desire to continue competition, cultural pressure for riders to get back on following a fall, or a lack of recognition of mild symptoms, results in continued riding which can delay recovery, as can factors such as mental health, perception of social support, and well-being deficits,” said Tumlin.

Equestrian sports are unique in that the nature of the sport involves creating a partnership and bond with the horses.

“These attachments [to the horses] have been associated with improved psychological health,” said Tumlin. “Removal of an equestrian athlete from the sport, even temporarily due to injury, likely presents a unique and greater concern for increased depressive symptoms post-injury, because that natural psychological support structure is broken to a greater extent than in other sports where team members can interact with and encourage the injured athlete.”

This past year, Tumlin and her team collaborated with Keeneland to study the effect a head injury can have on a rider’s reaction time to things like a horse tripping or spooking, or in the case of jockeys, to navigating their mount in close quarters at racing speed.

“A total of 41 percent of jockeys reported having suspected at least two concussions but did not seek medical attention. With suspected concussions, 79 percent of jockeys reported that they continued working horses, and 57 percent continued non-horse activities such as driving a car; however, only 35 percent reported continuing standard exercise activities,” said Tumlin. “When concussions were diagnosed by a medical professional, only 31 percent of jockeys continued working horses, while car driving activity declined to 31 percent.”

“Although this information is preliminary, it demonstrates the need to address medical diagnosis of concussion in equestrians, and that more research is needed on when it is safe to return to riding-specific activities following suspected head injury,” she added.

Jen Roytz is a marketing and communications specialist based in Central Kentucky with a professional background in Thoroughbred racing and aftercare. Jen is a partner in Topline Communications, a Lexington-based marketing, communications and PR firm serving small and medium-sized businesses. She and her husband, Dr. Stuart Brown, own Brownstead Farm, a 115-acre Thoroughbred breeding, sales, racing and sport horse facility in Versailles, KY.

Jen remains a passionate advocate for Thoroughbred aftercare and regularly speaks on the topic at both the local and national levels. A lifelong equestrian, Jen enjoys competing in the hunter/jumper arenas and specializes in the transition and retraining of Thoroughbreds into amateur-friendly show and recreational mounts. ♦

*Source: Winkler, E. A., Yue, J. K., Burke, J. F., Chan, A. K., Dhall, S. S., Berger, M. S., Manley, G. T., & Tarapore, P. E. “Adult sports-related traumatic brain injury in United States trauma centers,” and “Pediatric sports-related traumatic brain injury in the United States trauma centers,” *Journal of Neurosurgery*, April, 2016.

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Are Grazing Muzzles Safe?

by GG Equine

If your horse has never worn a grazing muzzle before, concerns about safety are perfectly natural. Like any other piece of tack, a muzzle is as safe as the work you put in before you turn your horse out. The better you prepare your horse, the more easily he will transition to wearing a grazing muzzle.

There are three major aspects to grazing muzzle safety: *comfort, security, and ability to graze.* The most important factor is comfort. Your horse should feel at ease and comfortable in his muzzle and halter. Secondly, the set-up should be secure enough to keep him safe in his environment and among herd mates. Finally, a horse should graze naturally in a muzzle. When you can check all of these boxes, you can turn your horse out with confidence.

Comfort

Your horse's grazing muzzle and halter should be as comfortable and normal as any

other piece of tack he wears. Safety begins here. There is nothing less safe than putting a completely new rig on a horse and five minutes later turning him out for a full day. A grazing muzzle and halter are not like a computer part you can plug in and expect to function. If the horse has a halter he's already comfortable in and used to, that's a built-in advantage.

Introduce a new grazing muzzle to your horse gradually to make it an easier adjustment. Start by showing it to him. Put a high-value treat inside the muzzle basket and allow your horse to explore it on his own. Let your horse get used to the sight, shape, and feel of the muzzle near and on his face for a few minutes at a time to begin with. In time, some horses even come to associate the muzzle with treats or turnout, and offer their heads to the muzzle willingly and eagerly every morning.

Security

Horses are curious and playful creatures who love



Photo by Kara Musgrave

exploring the world around them. Their environment includes fences, barns, and other structures; any of which may have stray nails, loose wires, and things that can catch on a passing halter or muzzle. Your horse may also have mischievous herd mates who enjoy biting or tugging on any loose piece of tack.

With that in mind, a critical part of muzzle safety is breakaway components. Make sure your horse's muzzle is attached to their halter with leather straps, baling twine, or something that will give way with the right amount of pressure. The same goes for the halter itself, which should have a breakaway crown or leather tab that will release if it gets caught. Tack is replaceable, horses are not.

The Grazing Muzzle Learning Curve

If your horse is comfortable and safe in their set-up, all that's left is grazing. Learning to graze in a muzzle calmly and naturally depends on a variety of factors, from

a horse's personality and history, to the amount of time you can put in to help him get accustomed to it. It can take anywhere from five minutes to five days for a horse to learn to graze comfortably in a muzzle.

Plan to spend at least ten to fifteen minutes a day over several days familiarizing your horse with the muzzle, especially if they've never worn one before. Give your horse a treat when you put the muzzle on. Put treats on grass that is three to five inches high so that they get grass while working for the treats. Poke handfuls of grass up through the holes in the bottom of the muzzle, getting closer to the ground each time.

With a comfortable, safe muzzle set-up, and a little time to get used to it, grazing in a muzzle will become second nature to your horses, and you can rest assured knowing they are as safe with a muzzle as without one. ♦

For more information visit gg-equine.com.



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Horse Hunters, Consider Adoption as a First Option

by Kelli Summers Sorg

The search for your next equine partner can be a long and expensive process. It's hard to know if you really are a good fit with that flashy, fancy horse that has captured your attention (and often your heart) before you ever open your wallet. Even then, after paying several thousand dollars, it takes time for both you and your new horse to settle into a good working relationship. People don't often consider rescue horses because they assume that the horses are in the rescue system through some fault of their own. This is very rarely the case. Horses that have been surrendered by their owners often come from homes where they were loved and well treated, but the family fell on financial hardship. Even

horses that are surrendered from more difficult situations often receive the training they need to fill in any training "holes", making them more solid equine citizens after their time at a rescue facility. That is the case for horses and other equines that pass through the barn doors of the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center (KyEAC) in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Situated on 72 rolling acres in the heart of the Bluegrass, KyEAC is the largest all-breed equine rescue in the state. At any given time, approximately half of the 50+ equine herd are thoroughbreds. The rest of the equines range from the biggest draft horses to the smallest miniature ponies, with donkeys, mules, and other breeds of horses making up the balance. Horses come to the

Center from all four corners of Kentucky, sometimes with dramatic stories of neglect and abuse. More often, however, they are stories of horses and people caught in difficult life situations – family crises, financial woes, job loss, or any of life's transitions that could mean a beloved horse needs to find its next forever home. KyEAC is home to the FastTrack program, where off-the-track thoroughbreds come to the Center within 3 years after the end of their professional racing career. They are evaluated by a veterinarian that specializes in thoroughbreds and their particular set of issues. After a season of rest, and nutrition suited to their individualized needs, their retraining begins with a trainer whose interests and strengths are suited to this

special breed. Off-the-track thoroughbreds are natural athletes and the horses that come through KyEAC's FastTrack program are exceptionally suited to go on to other disciplines where their athletic abilities, quick reflexes, and agile minds will be assets to their human partners. The Kentucky Equine Adoption Center only accepts horses from within the state of Kentucky, but places horses all over the United States. For more information and to view ALL currently available horses, not just thoroughbreds, please visit: kyeac.org. ♦

KyEAC is a 501c3 that operates on donations from the public and private foundations. Donations can be made through PayPal and through our secure website.

Our History, Our Future

Ohio Horseman's Council Celebrates 50 Years!



by Mary Alice Kuhn

Fifty years ago, equine visionaries from Warren County got together with state and local land managers to establish bridle trails on public land and improve show facilities. Word spread, and with each subsequent meeting held, more people with the vision of enjoying their horses in the outdoors participated from all over the state. In 1973, four trail rides were held with over 1,000 riders.

In 1974, OHC joined with the American Horse Council (AHC) to ensure OHC had a voice at a national level. Membership grew and OHC organized into county chapters, governed by a state OHC board of elected and appointed positions. Chapters were able to work with local land managers to enhance equine knowledge and advocate for trails that OHC volunteers would help build and maintain in order to enjoy the great outdoors.

Today, OHC members represent all breeds of equine, riding disciplines, and ages of riders. Some ride trails, some compete, and some drive. Members volunteer their time to show their passion for horse-related activities. While other states charge riding fees, you do not have to pay to ride Ohio's trails, and your OHC membership fee provides its volunteers

the opportunity to continue to build and preserve trails for all to enjoy, as well as fund events and activities that members support. At a state and national level, OHC continues its commitment to and engagement with AHC, and is a founding member of Ohio Trails Partnership (OTP), where all non-motorized users collaborate as trail visionaries.

Partnering with other trail users and legislative leaders is just as important as having a partnership with your equine.

Ohio Horseman's Council is actively engaged in all parts of the political process by participating in numerous partnerships:

- The Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus (OLTC) – Started in 2017, was the first of its kind in the nation at the state level. This informal group of like-minded state legislators, from both parties and both chambers of the Ohio legislature, is co-chaired by Rep. Catherine Ingram and Sen. Steve Wilson. OLTC will work to advocate for all issues involving the development, maintenance, and preservation of all Ohio's

non-motorized trails. Ohio Horseman's Council is one of several trail user's groups who joined immediately, knowing there is a need for a coordinated effort at the state level to develop and maintain Ohio's trails system. There are an additional 47 bi-partisan members from both the Ohio House and Senate along with trail user groups such as Buckeye Trail Association, Rails-to-Trails, and Ohio Mountain Bike Alliance, as well as land managers representing US Forest Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and National Park Service.

- Trails Vision Plan – Ohio Department of Natural Resources embarked on a project to develop a 5-year trails plan of which OHC played an active role on the Trails Advisory Committee, providing guidance as the plan was written, covering all trail systems throughout the state. OHC members were able to provide input into the plan, covering issues, concerns, and desires for equine trails and camping in Ohio.



Tomorrow is in the hands of all equine visionaries.

- Coalition of State Horse Councils (CSHC), affiliated with American Horse Council, the CSHC is a long-standing committee that makes recommendations to the American Horse Council regarding the position of respective state horse councils on pending federal legislation/regulations. American Horse Council advocates for the social, economic, and legislative interests of the United States equine industry.

Tomorrow is in the hands of all equine visionaries, whether you enjoy riding trails, competing, participating in parades, or just the company of your equine companion. The future is determined by your involvement with your respective local government, land managers, and community. ♦

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Joan Promen/Colleen Holton
8824 Morse Road, SW
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740.964.2601
BookmarkFarms.com

Cessna Stables
Shannon Cessna
7651 Friendsville Road
Lodi, OH 44254
330.461.2318
CessnaStables.com

Chagrin Valley Farms
9250 Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.543.7233
ChagrinValleyFarms.com

Cornerstone Farm
6809 Beach Road
Medina, OH 44256
330.696.4304
CornerstoneFarmOhio.com

Creekside Eventing Complex
3084 Sleepy Hollow Road
Brunswick, OH 44212
303.907.7129
CSEventingComplex.com

Ellrick Farm
Susan Channing-Lloyd
10286 Wilson Mills Road
Chardon, OH 44024
440.285.4556
EllrickFarms.com

Equine Differences
Ric Weitzel
11911 Leavitt Road
Oberlin, OH 44074
440.822.4685
EquineDifferences.com

Free Spirit Farm
Kris Ropp
13987 Watt Road
Novelty, Ohio 44072
440.338.4203

Handle Hill Farm

Mary Mehwald
11244 Handle Road
Strongsville, OH 44136
440.238.4541
HandleHillFarm.com

Hawthorne Hill
Holly Helbig, DVM
7480 Badenoch Road
Dublin, OH 43017
330.807.2643
RideWithHawthorneHill.com

Hinckley Equestrian Center
Stephanie Framer/Tammy Cagno
1575 Ledge Road
Hinckley, OH 44233
330.239.6878
HinckleyEq.com

Kate Coleman Equestrian
3084 Sleepy Hollow Road
Brunswick, OH 44212
216.246.5136
KateColemanEquestrian.com

Ledge Hollow Stable
Jean Fashempour
982 Ledge Road
Medina, OH 44256
330.416.2338
LedgeHollowStable.com

**Pure Gold Stables & Eque-
trian Facility**
Laura Ann Kosiorek-Smith
3325 State Route 45
Salem, OH 44460
330.565.6844
PureGoldStables.com

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Novelty, OH 44072
440.636.3813/440.708.3023
QuietMeadowFarmOhio.com

Red Tail Equestrian
Richwood, OH
RedTailEq.com

Sand Hill Stable

Elizabeth Shaw
4311 State Route 303
Mantua, OH 44255
330.221.8819
SandHillStable.com

Stealaway Farm
Angela Moore
9317 Johnstown-Alexandria
Road, NW
Johnstown, OH 43031
614.989.9029
StealawayFarm.com

Stone Gate Farm
Jackie Smith/Kyle Smith
31407 Schneider Road
Hanoverton, OH 44423
330.277.6964/330.277.6592
StoneGateFarm.org

Topline Stables At Walden
Janeen Langowski-Grava
1109 Aurora-Hudson Road
Aurora, OH 44202
440.666.6182
Topline-Stables.com

White North Stables
Jill Klepeis-Brick/Elizabeth Porter
3160 Chagrin River Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
216.598.6826
WhiteNorthStables.com

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Ballyhigh Show Stable
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320 Pinckard Pike
Versailles, KY 40383
859.948.2632
BallyhighShowStable.com

Circle T Farms
Jason Thompson
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Paris, KY 40361
Facebook.com/
CircleTFarmsParis

Cloud Nine Farm

Stevie McCarron Wigley
480 Lansing Lane
Midway, KY 40347
859.537.7324
TheCloud9Farm.com

Cornerside Stables
Michelle & Laura Shea
460 Tarr Road
Paris, KY 40361
860.268.3714/860.933.2006
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Bailey Armour
2400 Fords Mill Road
Versailles, KY 40383
DogwoodHillKy.com

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3006 Bryan Station Road
Lexington, KY 40516
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GritEquine.com

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Lexington, KY 40324
270.847.3856
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Ashley Watts
2108 Huntertown Road
Versailles, KY 40383
859.221.9085
LiftoffEquestrian.com

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505 Millersburg Cynthiana
Road
Millersburg, KY 40348
MossLandingKY.com

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2878 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
859.338.3592

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Sandra Middleton
4864 Bryan Station Road
Lexington, KY 40516
859.983.3251
KYHorseBoarding.com

**Pine Knoll Center for
Integrated Horsemanship**
4901 Iron Works Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
859.339.1158
PineKnollFarm.com

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Georgetown, KY 40324
702.885.1263

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3085 Troy Pike
Versailles, KY 40383
859.489.0481
RiverMountainFarm.com

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Townsend Springs Farm**
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Paris, KY 40361
917.609.9663
ScottKellerLLC.com

Shawhan Station Equine
Emily Brooks
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Georgetown, KY 40324
502.592.8560

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Lexington, KY 40511
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StoneColumnsStables.com

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Nicholasville, KY 40356
610.613.1576
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Valley View Farm
Jim & Katie O’Brien
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Midway, KY 40347
920.819.1103
ValleyViewFarm.online

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847.602.3427
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WestWindKy.com

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330.722.7781

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Olive Hill, KY 41164
606.286.6588
SmokeyValleyFarm.com

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SpyCoastFarm.com

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234.804.8735
CADSDressage.org

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Equine Experiential Education Association
PO Box 33912
Reno, Nevada 89533
775-376-2530
E3Assoc.org

ELCR

Equine Land Conservation Resource
4037 Iron Works Pkwy, Suite 120
Lexington, KY 40511
859.455.8383
ELCR.org

ETS

Equine Trail Sports
512.538.1580
EquineTrailSports.com

IEA

Interscholastic Equestrian Association
877.743.3432
RidelEA.org

IHSA

Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association
844.307.4472
IHSAInc.com

KHC

Kentucky Horse Council
859.367.0509
KentuckyHorse.org

LUCK

Leg Up For Cleveland's Kids
Luck4Kids.org

MODA

Mid-Ohio Dressage Association
MidOhioDressage.com

NODA

Northern Ohio Dressage Association
NodaRider.org

OHC

Ohio Horseman's Council
614.600.1972
OHOnline.com

OPHA

Ohio Professional Horsemen's Association
OPHA.org

YEDA

Youth Equestrian Development Association
ShowYEDA.com

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Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

Brad Tanner, DVM, DAVDC-EQ
2150 Georgetown Road
Lexington, KY 40511
859.233.0371
RoodandRiddle.com

Valley Equine Dentistry

Gian P. Gargiulo, DVM
440.356.9550
ValleyEquineDentistry.com

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Warren's Spirited Kitchen

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Burton, OH 44021
440.273.8100
WarrensSpiritedKitchen.com

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Wilmington, OH 45177
937.382.0985
WorldEquestrianCenter.com

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400 E. College Street
Georgetown, KY 40324
502.863.8000
GeorgetownCollege.edu/
equinescholars/

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Painesville, OH 44077
855.467.8676
Lec.edu

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512 E. Stephens Street
Midway, KY 40347
800.952.4122
Midway.Edu/Equine

Ohio State University

281 W. Lane Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
614.292.6446
Osu.edu

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614.890.3000
Otterbein.edu

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Findlay, OH 45850
419.422.8313
Findlay.edu

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410 Administration Drive
Lexington, KY 40506
859.257.9000
UKY.edu

University of Louisville

2301 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40292
800.334.8635
Louisville.edu

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SEB Equine Appraisals, LLC

Sara E. Ballinger
419.348.3771
SEBEquineAppraisals.com

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Central Kentucky Riding For Hope

PO Box 13155
Lexington, KY 40538
859.231.7066
CKRH.org

E3A

Equine Experiential Education Association
PO Box 33912
Reno, Nevada 89533
775-376-2530
E3Assoc.org

Fieldstone Farm

16497 Snyder Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.708.0013
FieldstoneFarm.org

Hope Meadows Foundation Center For Healing & Equine Therapy

Locations: Bath and Richfield, OH
PO Box 31862
Independence, OH 44131
216.232.3656
HopeMeadowsOh.org

Kentucky Equine Adoption Center

1713 Catnip Hill Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356
859.881.5849
KYEAC.org

Pine Knoll Center for Integrated Horsemanship

4901 Iron Works Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
859.339.1158
PineKnollFarm.com

Spirit of Leadership

9796 Cedar Road
Novelty, OH 44072
440.338.1752
Spirit-Of-Leadership.com

True North Veteran Support

7575 State Route 521
Sunbury, OH 43074
740.272.0612
TrueNorthVeteranSupport.org

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Flemingsburg, KY 41041
606.845.7311
AgProCompanies.com

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Delaware, OH 43015
740.363.6073
Cashmans.com

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Mt. Orab, OH 45154
937.444.2609
Reveal4-N-1.com

Willandale Golf Cart Sales

111 N. Wooster Avenue
Strasburg, OH 44680
330.663.3824
WillandaleGolfCartSales.com

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330 E. Schultz Avenue
Dalton, OH 44618
800.417.6460
BuckeyeNutrition.com

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8550 OH - 534
Windsor, OH 44099
440.272.1900

Cashmans Horse Equipment Outlet

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Delaware, OH 43015
740.363.6073
Cashmans.com

CENTERRA Country Stores:

CenterraCoop.com

OHIO Locations:

Ashland Country Store
1290 Middle Rowsburg Road
419.281.8423

Chardon Country Store
12285 Ravenna Road
440.285.3143

Cortland Country Store
312 South Mecca Street
330.637.4015

Grafton Country Store
717 Erie Street
440.926.2281

Jefferson Country Store
161 East Jefferson Street
440.576.3010

Medina Country Store
6701 Wooster Pike (SR 3)
330.721.0852

Ravenna Country Store
467 Cleveland Road
330.296.3424

West Salem Country Store
40 Equity Street
419.853.4027

Wooster Country Store
1009 Old Lincoln Way West
330.264.9925

Farmers Exchange:
FeedForLess.com

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Berea Farmers Exchange
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Berea, OH 44017
440.243.6505

Medina Warehouse
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330.618.6854

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330.706.1359

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Newbury Township, OH 44065
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Purina Animal Nutrition
OH Equine Expert - Kathi Green
440.321.9996
PurinaMills.com



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Seville, Ohio 44273
330-722-7781
jandlharvey@gmail.com

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Mount Sterling, OH 43143
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WitmersFeed.com

OHIO Locations:
Berlin
3398 Berlin Plank Road
Berlin, PA 15530
814.267.4124

Columbiana Mill
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Columbiana, OH 44408
330.482.4321

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15970 Front Street
Salem, OH 44460
330.537.4631

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502.741.0241
502.221.3525
Duralock.com

RAMM Fence
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Swanton, OH 43558
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Sugarcreek, OH 44681
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SwissValleyFence.com

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Secretariat.com

Betty Weibel
Equestrian Non-Fiction Author
BettyWeibel.com

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Novelty, OH
440.338.4203

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859.533.1465
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888.994.2070
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Guaranteed Horse Products, LLC
Fly Bye! Plus
Columbus, OH
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GuaranteedHorseProducts.com

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817.477.0017
HandsOnGloves.com

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253.363.7801
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Sam Sechler, MS, PAS
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SSechler21@gmail.com

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Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
ChagrinHunterJumperClassic.org

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9250 Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.543.7233
ChagrinValleyFarms.com

Equine Affaire
Ohio Expo Center
717 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
740.845.0085
EquineAffaire.com

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Lexington, KY 40511
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EquitanaUSA.com

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845.246.8833
HITSShows.com

Kentucky Three-Day Event Kentucky Horse Park
4089 Iron Works Pkwy
Lexington, KY 40511
859.233.2362
KentuckyThreeDayEvent.com

World Equestrian Center
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Wilmington, OH 45177
937.382.0985
WorldEquestrianCenter.com

World Equestrian Center
1390 NW 80th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34482
352.414.7900
WorldEquestrianCenter.com

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JarvisInsurance.com

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Grove City, OH 43123
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Massillon, OH 44647
440.781.7412
Rachael.Geissinger@Ameri-
can-National.com

HDI Global Insurance
Equine Division
380 S. Mill Street, Suite 205
Lexington, KY 40508
HDIEquine.com

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Aristo-Marketing.com

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TeamTopline.com

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CEMT
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330.352.3341
BeautyAndTheBeasts
Massage.com

FlexPEMF, LLC
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Northeast OH
330.229.5157

Wendy L. Shaffer, MMCP
Masterson Method Certified
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Bodywork
724.815.5236
AgileEquineBodywork.com

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KentuckyEquestrian
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Jessa Janes Photography
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Lori Spellman Photography
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LoriSpellmanPhotography.com

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MaryVedda.KWRealty.com

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258 Shannon Run Road
Versailles, KY 40383
859.873.9955
Kesmarc.com

Spy Coast Farm
3700 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
859.280.3063
SpyCoastFarm.com

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Evergreen Farm
13297 Durkee Road
Grafton, OH 44044
440.781.5060
AngelsHavenHorseRescue.org

CANTER Kentucky
PO Box 2996
Louisville, KY 40201
312.513.1259
CanterUSA.org/Kentucky

Copper Horse Crusade
3739 Glenn Highway
Cambridge, OH 43725
740.601.2752
CopperHorseCrusade.com

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary
5623 New Milford Road
Ravenna, OH 44266
330.296.5914
HappyTrailsFarm.org

Kentucky Equine Adoption Center
1713 Catnip Hill Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356
859.881.5849
KYEAC.org

Maker’s Mark Secretariat Center
4155 Walt Robertson Road
Lexington, KY 40511
859.246.3080
SecretariatCenter.org

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program
OH, KY, PA, NY Facilities
937.947.4020
NewVocations.org

Old Friends
1841 Paynes Depot Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
502.863.1775
OldFriendsEquine.org

Retired Racehorse Project
2976 Solomon’s Island Road
Edgewater, MD 21037
410.798.5140
RetiredRacehorseProject.org

Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance
859.224.2756
ThoroughbredAftercare.org

Thoroughbred Charities of America
859.276.4989
TCA.org

SADDLES/SADDLE FITTING

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Robert Barnes
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BarnesTackRoom.com

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SMS Qualified Saddle Fitter
135 Hunt Road
Portersville, PA 16051
240.431.1318
Saddles101.com

The Saddle Tree
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Box Springs, GA 31801
706.575.5153
HeritageEquineEquip.com

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13150 Airport Highway
Swanton, OH 43558
800.434.8456
RammFence.com

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Leola, PA 17540
877.389.0844
SunsetValleyMetalcraft.com

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BuckeyeNutrition.com

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Dover, OH 44622
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FeedDac.com

SmartPak
800.461.8898
SmartPakEquine.com

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BigDWeb.com

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502.961.8468
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859.299.TACK (8225)
CentralKentuckyTackandLeather.com

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8574 Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.708.0674
ChagrinSaddlery.com

Chagrin Saddlery at World Equestrian Center
4095 State Route 730
Wilmington, OH 45177
937.382.0985
ChagrinSaddlery.com/WEC.net

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12930 Chippewa Road
Brecksville, OH 44141
440.526.2965
Clip-ityClop.com

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Cincinnati, OH 45236
513.792.0901
DoverSaddlery.com

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Lexington, KY 40511
859.721.3535
EmpireSaddlery.com

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Avon Lake, OH 44012
440.653.5343
EquineEssentialsAvonLake.com

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740.549.4959
EquusNow.com

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513.630.1197
EquusNow.com

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234.248.4245
GreenMountainHorse.com

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Versailles, KY 40383
859.873.4707
HorseCentsInc.com

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140 Venture Court, Suite 1
Lexington, KY 40511
859.253.9688
KBCHorseSupplies.com

Luckett's Tack Shop
3735 South 4th Street
Louisville, KY 40214
502.363.4131

Mare Modern Goods
404.791.3882
MareGoods.com

PHS Saddlery
The Bitless Bridle by Dr.Cook
5220 Barrett Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80926
719.576.4786
BitlessBridle.com

Parada Junction
100 W. Main Street
LaGrange, Ohio 44050
440.309.1746
ParadaJunction.com

Pinkston's Turf Goods
1098 West High Street
Lexington, KY 40508
859.2252.1560
Pinkstons.com

Quillin Leather & Tack
1929 Main Street
Paris, KY 40361
859.987.0215
Quillin.com

Rod's Western Palace
3099 Silver Drive
Columbus, OH 43224
866.326.1975
Rods.com

Saltwell Western Store
2000 Seven Mile Drive
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
330.343.0388
SaltwellWesternStore.com

Schneider Saddlery
8255 Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
800.365.1311
SStack.com

Skylight Supply
2906 Axton Lane
Goshen, KY 40026
502.228.0070
SkylightSupply.com

SmartPak
800.461.8898
SmartPakEquine.com

The Tack Shop of Lexington
1510 Newtown Pike, Suite 124
Lexington, KY 40511
859.368.0810
TackShopofLexington.com

The Tacky Horse
171 N. Alpha Bellbrook Road
Beavercreek, OH 45434
937.427.0797
TheTackyHorse.com

Wise Choice Tack
1019 Georgetown Road
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859.224.8976

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GingerichHorsemanship.com

Dora Hebrock
Certified Straightness Training
Instructor
330.803.2043

Laura Kosiorek-Smith
A Stone's Throw Farm
Northeast Ohio
814.434.0914

Angela Moore
Stealaway Farm
9317 Johnstown-Alexandria
Road, NW
Johnstown, OH 43031
614.989.9029

Stephanie Portman
Shirley Krames-Kopas
Quiet Meadow Farm
Novelty, OH
440.636.3813
QuietMeadowFarmOhio.com

Poulin Dressage
Kate Poulin
Chagrin Falls, OH
386.624.3968
KatePoulin.com

Puthoff Performance Horses
Lynne Puthoff
3275 South Shiloh Road
Laura, OH 45337
937.546.1505

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International Air Transport
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EquiJet.com

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Choteau, MT 59422
406.466.2245
SevenLazyP.com

Horse Country
Lexington, KY
859.963.1004
VisitHorseCountry.com

Smokey Valley Farm
Bob & Jane Coleman
5183 KY-2
Olive Hill, KY 41164
606.286.6588
SmokeyValleyFarm.com

TRUCK/TRAILER SALES & SERVICE

Altmeyer's Trailers
771 State Route 307 East
Jefferson, OH 44047
440.624.0206
AltmeyerTrailers.com

Chuck's Custom Truck & Trailer
750 West Smith Road
Medina, OH 44256
330.723.6029

Double D Trailers
PO Box 10490
Wilmington, NC 28404
DoubleDTrailers.com

Ganley Ford
2835 Barber Road,
Norton/Barberton, OH 44203
800.942.6305
GoGanleyFord.com

Leonard Truck & Trailer
12800 Leonard Parkway
North Jackson, OH 44451
800.455.1001
LeonardTrailers.com

TRUCKING

Shuman Specialized Transportation
2925 Columbus Avenue
Springfield, OH 45503
937.324.4429
ShumanTransport.com

VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS/ HOSPITALS

Bella Vista Equine Veterinary Services
6320 Darling Road
Blacklick, OH 43004
614.540.0040
BellaVistaEquineVet.com

Buckeye Veterinary Service
16295 Claridon-Troy Road
Burton, OH 44021
440.834.8821
BuckeyeVet.org

Cleveland Equine Clinic
3340 Webb Road
Ravenna, OH 44266
330.422.0040
ClevelandEquine.com

Countryside Veterinary Center
Laurie Gallatin, DVM, DACVIM
2232 State Route 61
Sunbury, OH 43074
740.965.8111
CountrysideVetCenter.net

2022 Business Directory

Equine Specialty Hospital

17434 Rapids Road
Burton, OH 44021
440.834.0811
EquineSpecialtyHospital.com

Hagyard Equine Medical Institute

4250 Iron Works Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
859.255.8741
Hagyard.com

Hagyard Pharmacy

4250 Iron Works Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
859.281.9511
HagyardPharmacy.com

Hawthorne Veterinary Clinic

Holly Helbig, DVM
Kaylin Van Dorn, DVM
10435 Jerome Road
Plain City, OH 43064
330.807.2643/614.359.9020
RideWithHawthorneHill.com

Ohio State University Large Animal Services at Marysville

16410 County Home Road
Marysville, OH 43040
937.642.2936
Vet.OSU.edu/Marysville

Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center Galbreath Equine Center

601 Vernon L. Tharp Street
Columbus, OH 43210
614.292.6661
Vet.OSU.edu/VCM/equine

Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital

2150 Georgetown Road
Lexington, KY 40511
859.233.0371
RoodandRiddle.com

Rood and Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy

2150 Georgetown Road,
Bldg. 25
Lexington, KY 40511
859.246.0112
RRVP.com

The Apothecary HB A Boutique Mobile Pharmacy

Holly Helbig, DVM
614.706.8935
TheApothecary.VetsFirstChoice.com

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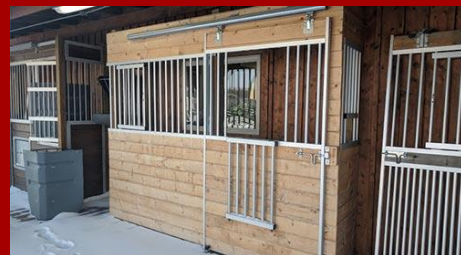
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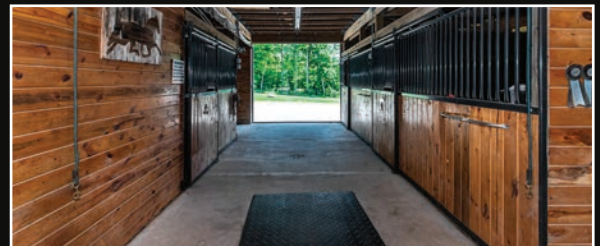
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