

Sonoma County

# *Horse Journal*

Volume 13 • Issue 4 • Fall 2016



*Published by the Sonoma County Horse Council*





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**Sonoma County****Horse Journal**

Volume 13 • Issue 4 • Fall 2016

*Published by the Sonoma County Horse Council – Home of the Equus Awards***Inside this Issue**

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**Cover Photo: Marcie Lewis**

"Newmarket Joy" owned by Lee Webster Ramensky  
ridden by Josh Barnacle

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## President's Message



Elizabeth and Greycie

I hope everyone enjoyed watching the 2016 Summer Olympic Games as much as I did. The equestrian events were all the more special, as you will read about in this issue, because participants and supporters from our own community were there in Rio, taking part in the Games!

Our joy was tempered, however, by yet another tragedy as fire again ravaged our neighbors to the north. While not as devastating in size as the Valley Fire last

year, the Clayton Fire was no less tragic to the people and animals directly affected. As this issue of the Journal went to press, the fire had ebbed and the evacuation orders had been lifted, but the full effect of the disaster won't be known for some time. People and their animals were once again displaced, some with only minutes

to evacuate, and the tireless work of volunteers was on display as several organizations sheltered people, treated animals, and reunited families.

This issue of the Journal includes a timely, and comprehensive, emergency preparedness article with extensive, informative checklists to assist you in developing your emergency and evacuation plans. As the Horse Council continues to work with Sonoma County Animal Services on its Large Animal Disaster Preparedness Plan—a complex, time consuming, and significant undertaking—the Clayton fire reminds us how critically important it is to be prepared. Your advance planning may save your life and lives of your horses and other animals at a time when you may only have moments to save what's most precious to you.

As always, thank you for your membership in and support of the Horse Council. We continue to move along the Gettin' Better Everyday trail, which includes an updated Facebook page and new website. Enjoy this issue, be safe, and happy trails.

Elizabeth Palmer

*President, Sonoma County Horse Council*

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Judy Weston-Thompson  
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*The Equine Esquire*

Column editor Patrice Doyle, Esq., Board of Directors

# Horse Ownership Syndication—A Useful Way to Finance the Purchase of a Competition Horse

Syndicates have been popular for the purchase of racing and breeding horses; however they are also a means for many top professionals to purchase competition horses that would otherwise be financially untouchable.

A syndicate is simply a form of horse ownership. A group of people join together to purchase a promising competition horse for a specified rider. Typically in this division of ownership each shareholder or member pays a portion of the cost to purchase and maintain the horse. The multi-investor syndication's legal form of organization is usually either a partnership or limited liability company (see the winter 2015 issue for my article, *Forming a Limited Liability Company for Your Horse-Related Business*.) This type of ownership is increasing, especially at the top levels of competition. The U.S. Eventing Team for Rio included two syndicate-owned horses, and three non-traveling reserve syndicate horses ([www.chronofhorse.com/article/usef-names-eventing-team-rio-olympic-games](http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/usef-names-eventing-team-rio-olympic-games)).

In the Rio Olympics, a syndicate was formed for the purchase of the three-day eventing sensation, Blackfoot Mystery, for the accomplished event rider, Boyd Martin, to compete on in the games. In his early years, the horse failed as a racehorse, but found his true talent under the guidance of event rider and trainer Kelly Prather (see page 6 of this issue.) Per the *Wall Street Journal*, the asking price was \$300,000 and a 12-member partnership was formed to make the purchase ([www.wsj.com/articles/buying-shares-in-an-olympic-dream-1470007756](http://www.wsj.com/articles/buying-shares-in-an-olympic-dream-1470007756).) The article also states that each participant put up about \$25,000, plus they pay \$5,000 annually for the anticipated costs of travel and care.

When forming a syndicate, probably the best prospective owners are going to be similar-minded friends. These are people with similar views about the sport, with similar and realistic expectations for the horse. Regarding Blackfoot Mystery, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that, "The syndicate members know each other through Boyd Martin and the competitive riding world, and they describe themselves as tight-knit: throughout the year, Martin sends out training videos and photos and updates on Blackfoot Mystery." (id.)

It is highly recommended that the terms and conditions of the venture be memorialized in an effective and enforceable agreement. A specific LLC is commonly created, which then provides liability protection and an operating agreement to set forth the rights and obligations of the members. When owning a horse through a syndicate, be prepared for things to go wrong with the horse, rider, and relationships among everyone involved. Clear syndicate rules go a long way in giving direction on how these difficulties are to be resolved.

## Basic considerations are:

- **Syndicate shares:** Ownership interest purchase price? What percentage ownership will each person have? Price of each fractional interest? Annual maintenance fee? Transferring ownership interest?
- **LLC Management:** Who manages the LLC? Paying of expenses? Maintaining records, bookkeeping, accounting, and taxes? Marketing the syndicate? Communication with members? What are the financial powers of the LLC's manager (bank accounts,

purchasing insurance, entering into contracts, etc.)? Holding ownership meetings? What happens when a member wishes to leave the syndicate? Recourse for an member's default on financial obligations to the syndicate? Death of a member?

- **Care, custody and control of the horse:** Who manages the care and training of the horse? Veterinary decisions? Decisions regarding competitions? Sale of the horse (and what if not all members wish to proceed with the sale?)? Visits by members?
- **Prize money:** How will syndicate prize money be handled? Paid out in equal sums or by ownership percentage? Retained to fund future costs? Paid out immediately or at the end of the show season?
- **Dissolution of the LLC:** Under what conditions is the LLC to dissolve? Winding up steps such as selling the horse, filing dissolution documents, distributing proceeds and other LLC assets, etc.?
- **Contingency planning:** Do members clearly understand that unforeseen and tragic events sometimes occur in equestrian sports? Circumstances necessitating euthanasia? Injury and/or illness to horse forcing retirement of the horse? Rider is unable or unavailable to manage the horse?

This list is in no way exhaustive. It is intended to outline some of the material issues and topics for consideration/discussion when taking the beginning steps in forming a syndicate.

A syndicate can be a rewarding and exciting form of horse ownership. For the competitive rider, it provides funds to purchase and compete a horse that would have otherwise been unobtainable. For members, it allows them to enjoy the thrill and sense of camaraderie of owning and participating in a national or international quality competition horse, all at a shared cost.



Patrice Doyle is a senior attorney at Kornblum, Cochran, Erickson & Harbison, L.L.P., and has been an avid horsewoman since childhood. She can be of assistance in guiding you through equine-related legal issues. Contact her at (707) 544-9006 or [www.kcehlaw.com](http://www.kcehlaw.com).

The above article is provided free and offers general information on the topic of syndicates. Neither the author nor the publication intend this article to be viewed as rendering legal advice. If legal advice is sought, readers should seek competent legal counsel regarding their particular circumstances.

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*Readers Write***Three Day Eventing**

by Josh Barnacle



Photo: Kiberly Steinbuch

*Josh Barnacle on Celtic King, Galway Downs International CCI\*\**

Photo: GRC

*Josh Barnacle on Florestan Du Serin, Fair Hill International CCI\*\*\* 2008*

I was eight years-old when I had my first formal riding lesson. It was at the European Pony School, which was part of Oakridge Training Stables at that time. I had driven past it several times a week for years, gazing out the window at all the beautiful horses and wondering what all the logs and weird wooden things were. I always liked animals and especially horses, and when my aunt, Jan, offered to buy me riding lessons as a Christmas present, it was all over. I was lucky to have an aunt who had a secret obsession with horses.

And so it began. The Christmas present turned into weekly lessons that turned into leasing a pony and then a horse. My whole family pitched in to purchase my first horse when I was 13 years old. Abraham Darby was a quirky, spooky, OTTB (Off the Track Thoroughbred) who had no tail and still found a way to whip your eye out with it if you weren't careful. He was a challenge to learn on. He taught me to win and lose, and definitely kept me humble. I was a go-getter from the start, competing two horses at one time at the young age of 13. With Darby and Mickey, a horse we leased, I finished my first full year of eventing in 2000 as the Area 6 junior preliminary rider of the year.

As the years went by it became more and more apparent that horses and the sport of three-day eventing would be a huge part of my life. At 15 I had to make the tough decision to give up my other passions of basketball and baseball to focus entirely on riding. I was training with the one and only Yves Sauvingnon by that time, and he and my aunt agreed that it was time to find my next horse. We kept our boy Darby for the rest of his life, but he had reached his limit as a prelim horse. So off we went to shop for horses in Yves' native country, France. We came home with a very large bay Selle Francais, named Florestan Du Serin. He lived on a pig farm in northern France, and we had only hoped that he would be a good young rider mount for me to build confidence at the next level of competition.

Little did we know, he would get me to the top level of the sport.

Florestan—Flo—and I formed a partnership and became quite competitive on the California eventing circuit. He didn't have the ideal size or shape to be an upper level eventer, but that didn't hold him back. He had, and still does have, a heart of gold and the desire to run and jump. I've learned over the years that the best event horses aren't necessarily the most physically gifted, but the ones with heart. Flo taught me this, and the importance of the bond and trust needed between horse and rider, to tackle a big, cross country course. We tackled many BIG courses, including our first CCI3\* at Fairhill International in Maryland. We were also invited to participate in winter training sessions three times with USET developing rider coaches.

After Fairhill in autumn 2008, I made the decision to stay back east and prepare to have a go at the pinnacle of my sport, Rolex Kentucky three-day event. Unfortunately we didn't make it to Rolex due to an injury Flo sustained while training in Florida that winter. I ended up spending four years traveling between Florida and Virginia, developing and competing my young horses in the heart of eventing country. I learned from some of the best riders and trainers in the world.

At the end of 2012 I made the move back to California to be closer to my family and enjoy the mild climate. I was eager to start a training business and share the knowledge I had gained. Since moving back I have done just that as well as producing another horse, Celtic King, through the 3\* level. I have come to love teaching riders almost as much as teaching horses, and I currently have students at the introductory level up to the preliminary level. In addition to my clients here, I have also started importing young talented horses from Europe, for myself and for sale. I am very excited with my clients, owners and, of course, the horses, and can't wait to see where it takes us from here.

*Josh Barnacle of Barnacle Eventing is located at Fairwind Farm in Santa Rosa. He is available for sales, training, clinics, and coaching. You can find him on Facebook at Barnacle Eventing, or contact via email [barnacleeventing@hotmail.com](mailto:barnacleeventing@hotmail.com), or call 707-217-8093.*



## Readers Write

## Eventer Kelly Prather

by Colette Lydon



Photo: Karen Young

Kelly &amp; Pippa at Rolex 2010



Photo: Shannon Brinkman

Kelly &amp; Blackfoot Mystery at Jersey Fresh 2015

Kelly Prather was born into a family of equestrians in Bodega, CA, and she was riding before she could walk. Her mom would put her in a backpack and go for rides, and she would fall asleep to the rhythmic stride of the horse. Kelly entered her first lead line show at three years-old and at four she started riding at Oakridge Pony School as one of its youngest students. At age 10, Kelly joined the team of Andrea and James Pheiffer at Chocolate Horse Farm. She arrived with a hand-me-down, runaway Appaloosa pony named The Mighty Thunder. Through hard work and determination (and a new bit!), she was winning her first Area VI Novice Championship at 12 years-old. Kelly rode with the Pheiffers until she graduated from high school.

After graduation Kelly worked in England, then Ireland, where she spent the next three years as head rider for Carol Gee with Fernhill Sport Horses. While in Ireland she spotted the three year-old Irish Sport Horse mare, Ballinakill Glory. Anderea Pheiffer purchased the mare and they brought "Pippa" home to Petaluma. This began Kelly's, Pippa's, and the Pheiffers' amazing journey across the U.S. and Europe. Kelly and Pippa had many championships through the years, including two-time winner of the Rebecca Farms CCI \*\*\* in Montana in 2007 and 2009. The pair won the Gold Cup

Award in 2009 and received the Jack LeGoff Grant to travel to the World Cup Eventing Finals in Poland, where they finished 19th in their first experience abroad. In 2010 and 2011 the talented pair competed at the Rolex Kentucky 4\* 3-Day Event.



Photo: Ed Lawrence

Kelly &amp; Thunder at Murrieta 1995

With a thirst for more knowledge and experience, Kelly headed across the pond yet again in 2012, this time to take a position as head rider for William Fox-Pitt. This was also the year of the London Olympics. The experience was amazing, and the privilege to work with that caliber of horses and riders was priceless.

Kelly came home and set up her business, training and showing event horses in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and Ocala, Florida. That spring she purchased the OTTB (Off the Track Thoroughbred) gelding Blackfoot Mystery from Lisa Peacock of Petaluma. Big Red was a horse she had ridden for Lisa in years prior and one she always had a fondness for. When Lisa called and said she needed to sell Red, Kelly jumped at the opportunity. Kelly and Red competed successfully on the East Coast, finishing in the top at the 3\* level. Red caught the eye of Boyd Martin, who was looking for an Olympic prospect. Boyd purchased Red, and the pair represented the USA in Rio!

Kelly had the honor of representing the USA last fall on Debbie Adams horse, DA Duras. The pair was sent to France on a grant to compete in the Mondial de Lion World Young Horse Championships. They finished with a well-deserved 9th place.

Kelly is in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for the summer with her current 3\* horse Truly Wiley and a barn full of event prospects, sale horses, and students. She has always strived to work with and learn from the best. "The only way to get better, is to be around, learn from, and compete with the best!" Her hard work and determination have paid off in a successful career. Kelly's words of advice for riders? "Never think you know it all. You will learn something new every day. Stay humble and don't let your ego get in the way of your success."

*Colette Lydon is Kelly's older sister and biggest fan. She grew up riding jumpers, eventing, and dressage, managed Circle F and also Offutt's saddle shops. She now ropes, hunts, and packs on horses into the wilderness with husband, Steve, and son, Steven.*





## Readers Write

# Being a Working Student and Groom for Top Event Rider Matthew Brown

by Demi Moore

I saw the ad on Facebook for a full-time position as a working student for Matt Brown, a top event rider. I applied for the job and when days went by and I didn't hear anything I pondered on why they would pass up a horse-crazy girl, who had grown up with horses her whole life and was a C-2 in pony club. It wasn't because they didn't want me, but because of the crazy schedule that comes with a life that involves working out at the barn 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I drove to their barn in Petaluma and was very persistent on becoming their next working student. I was officially hired after a trial period, and little did I know that I would move east for a year, travel to the Netherlands, attend The Rolex Kentucky three-day event, and take care of world class animals that would take a little piece of my heart.

As I traveled east in April 2015, four days in the back seat of a truck, I thought about all the people I would meet and the experiences I would have. It was also the last time that I wouldn't be sleep deprived.

Our first night in Pennsylvania, at two-o'clock in the morning, we pulled into a driveway after a 14-hour day in the car. I looked around and all I could see were fields aglow from the moon and headlights. There was a huge property on our right, and I asked Matt, "Who lives there?"

"Oh that's Boyd Martin's place."

I had heard of Boyd, but never really found out who he was. That



*Demi getting Flaxen ready for jogs at Boekelo in the Netherlands, Fall 2015*

was the beginning of a journey during which I would meet the horse world's Olympians and gods—George Morris, Phillip Dutton, David O'Connor and Anne Kursinski. What I found out, after spending time with them is that they all share the same goal, to become the best, but I also realized these top riders are just like us, normal people who have good and bad days. They may be a little more competitive, or have a few medals around their necks, but they are just people.

I had these same experiences with riders at top events like Boekelo or Rolex. But I was also so focused on taking care of the horses that I didn't or tried not to let these big names interfere with my job. Of course these events were the highlight of my year on the East Coast, but they also motivated me to become better, learn more, and stay positive

when things didn't go as planned back at home base.

With high-level competition horses, you have to plan not just six months in advance, but sometimes years in advance. When things don't go as planned, a mild tendon injury or a severe colic in a horse, you have find a way to be ready for the next competition. That was one of the hardest things to do, to have to miss an event because of an injury or because the horse just wasn't ready. It's also one of the things I respect most about both Matt and his wife, Cecily, that they don't push a horse that isn't ready. It's one of the things that kept me 3,000 miles away from home for over a year, and I'll never forget it.

*Demi Moore has grown up around horses her entire life and is now a sophomore in college.*



*Matt Brown and Demi Moore at Rolex at the head of lake.*

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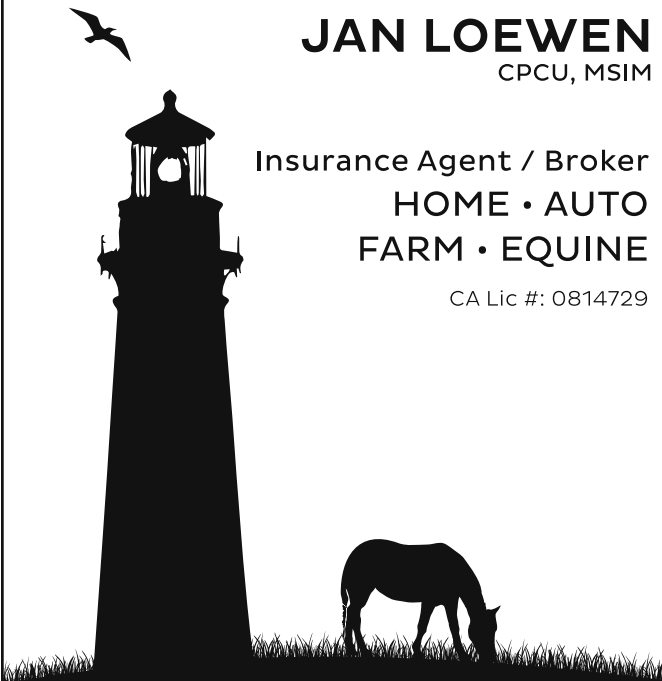
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## Readers Write

# Amber Levine—Living Her Dream of Competing in the Upper Levels of Three-Day Eventing

by Jessica Rising

Amber Levine's climb and journey to the upper levels of the eventing world began when her mother, Jenise, serendipitously purchased horse riding lessons at a charity event silent auction, for her then very willful four-year-old daughter. It was clear from the start that Amber had natural talent. As she grew up, Amber evolved into a fierce young competitor on the hunter jumper circuit, achieving top placing in junior jumpers, making the Young Rider's Team, qualifying for all major equitation finals, achieving 4th place in her last junior year of the USET Talent Search Finals West, competing on the Prix de States team in Harrisburg, Virginia, and ultimately competing in Grand Prix.

Many equestrians refer to three-day eventing as the triathlon of the horse world since horse and rider teams compete over a three-day period in dressage, stadium jumping and cross country jumping events. At the age of nineteen, Amber switched from successfully competing in Grand Prix jumping to eventing, because she found it to be fun, something different to do, and especially liked the focus on horsemanship.

Four-and-a-half years ago, when Andrea Pfeiffer, owner and trainer of Petaluma's Chocolate Horse Farm (CHF), was looking for a new assistant trainer for her successful eventing and dressage competition barn, Amber Levine accepted the challenge. Since joining CHF, Amber's role has evolved from assistant trainer to assuming additional responsibilities. Andrea now views Amber as a business partner and credits her for much of the current success of CHF. "Amber has a very clear vision for where she wants to go, but knows that it takes a team to get there. I feel lucky to have her working for me. A true professional." Amber also feels fortunate to be a part of CHF and appreciates the people and the family atmosphere, and the support, coaching and training she receives from Andrea.

Over the years, Andrea Pfeiffer has become known internationally for bringing young horses through her training program up to the top levels of the sport, including her own horse Ballinakill Glory (Pippa) who competed at Rolex and World Cup eventing competitions, and CHF alumni OTTB Blackfoot Mystery, previously owned



Photo: Gina Pearson

Amber and Carry On - Advanced - Fresno County Horse Park

by client Lisa Peacock, who competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics with rider Boyd Martin. Amber Levine currently owns and is bringing three talented young horses through the levels via this proven program. They include Carry On, a Dutch Warmblood competing at the advanced level, Otter Pop, an off-the-track thoroughbred, competing at the one star level, and Clementine, a Hanoverian mare who is moving up to competing at preliminary level.

Since forming her partnership with Andrea, Amber has achieved stunning success in eventing competition. Highlights and examples include: winning the CIC\*\* event at Copper Meadows, a 2nd place finish at the CIC\*\*\* at Twin Rivers, and winning advanced level competitions at both the 2016 Woodside and Copper Meadows events. Amber was also awarded the prestigious 2016 USEF/Land Rover Competition Grant for the Rebecca Farm event in Montana and while there, achieved 1st place at training level, 3rd place in the CCI\*, 4th place in the CIC\*\*\* and earned the best dressage score at the entire Rebecca Farm event.

Amber's future competition goals vary according to the level of each horse. She and Team CHF are planning to compete this October at the Fair Hill CCI\*\*\* event in Maryland and six other competitions in California. For 2017, Amber is aiming for Rolex in Kentucky and hopes to add an overseas trip to the CCI\*\*\* at Blenheim to her already established list of competitions.

The future is bright for Amber in her personal life as well and she is quite busy putting finishing touches on her upcoming September 2016 wedding to fiancée Jonathan Bergland.

To learn more about Amber Levine, Andrea Pfeiffer and Chocolate Horse Farm, visit their website at [www.chocolatehorsefarm.net](http://www.chocolatehorsefarm.net).

*Jessica Rising is a business consultant who specializes in improving healthcare, marketing, communication and public relations. Having a passion for all things equine since her teenage years, Jessica's work has been published in media sources including Riding and Ride! Magazines, and even Oprah's Magazine. She lives with her husband and daughter in Marin County.*



Photo: Joy VanNoy

Rebecca Farm, Montana – Amber and Carry On - CIC\*\*\*



# Horse Husbandry—The Occasionally True Tales of a Local Horse Husband Olympians

Column Editor Mark Krug, Board of Directors



USA stamp shows 22nd Summer Olympic Games Equestrian, Moscow, circa 1979.

They are over as you read this, but as I write, the 2016 Summer Olympics, including equestrian jumping, eventing, and dressage, are underway in Brazil. Equestrians have been a part of the Summer Olympics since 1900. One of the most amazing and wholly unique aspects of this is that men and women equestrians—there are no gender classifications—compete against one another.

It's pretty clear why there are gender classifications in most sports, given that men are typically taller and have more muscle mass. But if you think about it, there are some sports where biological gender differences seem irrelevant. Curling, for example, a winter sport, is ridiculous, made more so because men must compete against men and women against women... which is truly absurd.

Can sexual dimorphism really have any impact on pushing the tea kettle one mile an hour down an icy floor while other athletes manically sweep the ice crystals away? I'm too lazy to do research, but as far as I know, equestrian events are the only sports with no gender segregation. More amazing perhaps, equestrian events are actually harmonious pairs of athletes competing, one horse of either sex and one rider of either sex in each competitive pair. Extraordinary.

Horses have long been in the Olympics, chariot races were part of the ancient Olympics. In modern Olympics, originally only commissioned military officers were allowed to compete as equestrians. The rules were changed in 1952 to allow civilians and women to compete and, at that time, equestrian events included the high jump and the long jump. Yes, the long jump. The record is about 20 feet. Think about that for a minute...

Different Olympic events come and go, some of which are not that surprising, others are real head scratchers. Tug-of-war used to be an event. Softball and baseball were out, then in, and then back out, and likely to return in 2020. Golf was featured in 1909 and 1904 then disappeared until returning this year. In 1928, in St. Moritz, as a demonstration sport, skijoring was featured. This is

skiing behind horses, a timed event. The riderless horses simultaneously ran on a frozen lake towing the male athletes (the Swiss cleaned up, by the way).

Bowling has been a demonstration sport in the Olympics and has been an event in the Special Olympics since 1975. And, seriously, it is under consideration as an event in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan. At the risk of insulting bowlers, to me, a sport played in a building that provides cocktail service and ashtrays to the athletes just doesn't feel Olympian. Other past Olympic demonstration sports include angling (yes, fishing), hot air ballooning, firefighting, kite flying, and pigeon racing. By the way, this last list of events were all demonstration sports at the 1900 Paris Olympics. It does seem like a good time, yes?

I find this all very uplifting because in some far-fetched way, all of us, regardless of age and innate ability, can dream of being Olympians. We just need the right event. For horsey people, naturally, we dream about winning the gold with our horse at our side.

I think for me, my best shot is the sport of horse trailering. All modesty aside, my gelding, Tucker, and myself are pretty damn good at trailering. If we really put in the hours and the effort, medaling is a real possibility. So I am planning my Tokyo trip for 2020 and look forward to visiting that fine city, where I understand bowling is the new big recreational, I mean sporting, event.

Mark lives in Santa Rosa with his wife, Cheryl, an actual equestrian who, since we're looking at international equestrian history, once performed on a horse for the Queen of England in the 1970's as part of a traveling American Quarter Horse review. Neither Mark nor Cheryl currently bowl.



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*Readers Write*

# Microchipping Your Horse

by Dr. Tricia Andrade

*A conversation with Dr. Claudia Sonder, UC Davis Center for Equine Health and  
Dr. Tricia Andrade, UC Davis International Animal Welfare Training Institute***What is microchipping?**

Microchipping is the placement of a coded computer chip into an animal's tissue. The microchipping system is a form of permanent identification because the unique code is linked with owner's contact information. A scanner is used to read the code and identify the owner through a secure registry.

The microchipping system works by a radio wave signal sent from chip to scanner. Once implanted, the animal does not feel and is not affected by the chip.

**Why should a horse owner have their horse microchipped?**

This type of permanent identification is useful in a variety of circumstances due to the unpredictability of horse behavior and, with the increasing occurrence of natural disasters the seasonal need for evacuation.

For example, if a horse breaks through a fence, an animal control officer will check for a microchip to expedite information about and locating the owner.

Microchipping is especially helpful during disaster evacuations. During the Valley Fire last September, residents had to evacuate rapidly, or were not home, and horses were left unattended. The first thing rescue workers did was check for a microchip. Horses without microchips took days and weeks to reunite with their owners. Residents who live in high-risk fire and flood zones, particularly those near or within wildlands, should have their animals microchipped.

Some equestrian associations and breed registries are now requiring member horses be microchipped and registered.

**Can you explain more about the reliability of the microchip in reuniting horse and owner?**

There is a standardized procedure to place the chip in the upper left side of the neck, in what's known as the nuchal ligament tissue (thick tissue that runs from the poll to the withers). This location limits migration of the chip, and the person checking for it knows where to scan. Once the chip is in place, the owner completes the registration process with the microchip company and the veterinarian retains the information as part of the horse's medical record.



The chip is about the size of a grain of rice

Photo: Dr. Tricia Andrade



After the implant, checking the code

Photo: Dr. Tricia Andrade

**procedure to place the chip?**

Because the chip is so small—no larger than a grain of rice—and encased in non-irritating material, it is easily injected, like a vaccination, into the tissue. A veterinarian usually shaves the injection site, sterile cleanses it, and often uses a numbing agent before the placement of the chip. Most horses do not need to be sedated for the procedure.

**What are the complications or potential side effects?**

Microchipping in horses is accepted as a safe and reliable form of identification by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the United States Equestrian Federation.

The procedure is similar to an injection so there may be localized pain right after the procedure.

Several studies have shown the long-term implantation of the chip to be very safe. The horse's body produces a thin capsule of fibrous tissue around the chip.

Waiting until the horse is a young adult before microchipping is generally recommended to minimize movement of the chip as the animal grows. This avoids problems locating the chip later.

Waiting until the horse is a young adult before microchipping is generally recommended to minimize movement of the chip as the animal grows. This avoids problems locating the chip later.

**What happens if I sell my horse?**

Just as you transfer the horse's medical records as part of your transfer of ownership, you also transfer the microchip information.

**How do I get my horse microchipped?**

Contact your veterinarian to set up an appointment. They will guide you through the registration process, explain the procedure and fees associated with implanting the chip. It is recommended the chip be checked annually during a routine physical exam.

Microchipping is a reasonable investment to ensure your horse's safety and reunification during inevitable adverse events, theft recovery, or broken fence misadventures.

*Claudia Sonder, DVM, is Director of the Center for Equine Health. Dr. Sonder graduated from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and was an equine practitioner in Napa, CA, for a number of years before returning to UC Davis in her new role. As Director, Dr. Sonder provides leadership and management of the Center and serves as a liaison between the School and the equine industry.*

*Dr. Tricia Andrade, DVM, MPVM is project coordinator for Dr. John Madigan in the UC Davis Department of Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology. She earned her B.S. in International Agricultural Development and her DVM at UC Davis. After twenty-five years in private practice, she returned to UC Davis to complete her Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and earn an International Agricultural Development Post Graduate Certificate.*

Scanning the chip takes seconds and the horse does not feel anything.

Most practitioners and animal control officers have universal scanners to read all types of chips.

**Tell us more about the**



## Readers Write

## The Dehydrated Horse

by Saralynn Specht, D.V.M.

Dehydration in a horse can occur just as rapidly and subtly as in humans. Whether you have taken your horse for a long trail ride in the heat of summer, hauled them in your trailer for multiple hours, or your stubborn horse just won't drink the foreign water at a show, your horse is at risk for dehydration. Horses can easily develop electrolyte and water imbalances which creates an avenue for multiple consequences.

**What is dehydration?**

As defined by *dictionary.com*, "dehydration is a condition caused by excessive loss of water from the body, which causes a rise in blood sodium levels." Horses, specifically, can lose up to 5% of their total body weight in water before they show signs of dehydration. When horses become dehydrated the water volume is extracted from their bloodstream, muscles, and digestive tract. If water is not replaced within the body's cells, organs can lose ability to function properly.

**Clinical signs**

Signs associated with dehydration can vary, the most obvious being a decrease in skin turgor (the elasticity of skin). Pinch a piece of skin on your horse's neck, shoulder or upper eyelid and it should spring back into place. If your horse is moderately dehydrated, skin turgor is decreased, and the skin remains elevated for a few seconds after being released. Other common signs include, tacky or dry, mucous membranes in the mouth, and a dehydrated horse may have sunken dull eyes, a longer capillary refill/jugular fill time. Muscle tremors or rapid ventilation may be present.

During dehydration, mentation (essentially, the ability to think clearly) and behavior can also be abnormal. Common and severe consequences of dehydration include, but are not limited to: colic, tying up, electrolyte, renal and cardiovascular abnormalities, and, in serious cases, laminitis.

**Managing the dehydrated horse**

In most cases, horses can fully recover from episodes of dehydration, but if the physical state of your horse is at risk or you have concerns, please call your local veterinarian. Important management tactics include:

- Offering clean, room temperature, free-choice water, and electrolytes if needed.
- Bathing the horse in copious amounts of water with or without added ingredients (such as ice cubes and/or isopropyl alcohol), while placing a fan on the horse.
- Adding salt to your horse's normal ration to encourage thirst.
- Implementing soupy pelleted feed mashes to increase the amount of water ingested during meals.

In moderate cases of dehydration where severe sequela is of



Pinching upper eyelid for hydration.

concern (the aftereffects of the dehydration episode), immediate veterinary attention may be required. Some cases require oral fluids and electrolytes, or intravenous fluid therapy to restore your horse's systemic blood volume.

**Preventing dehydration**

Play an active role in managing your horse's hydration level. Always be prepared for environmental changes. Always offer clean, free-choice water and monitor your horse's water intake, especially during hot days. In preparation for a show, you may want to transport multiple gallons of water from home if your horse tends to be a picky drinker on the road. Or, before and after exercise, offer your horse a tea or slurry of mostly water and a small amount of pelleted feed for palatability. If you ride endurance, monitor your horse's water loss from sweat and understand that climate differences (humidity vs. dry air) can affect the amount of a horse's sweat and body temperature.

For more specific information regarding this topic please feel free to contact Dr. Specht at Sonoma-Marine Veterinary Services.

*Dr. Specht is a native of Sonoma county where she grew up working on her family's thoroughbred broodmare farm. She graduated from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and has recently completed the Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine Acupuncture Course at the Chi Institute in Florida. Dr. Specht is currently an associate veterinarian at Sonoma Marin Veterinary Services.*

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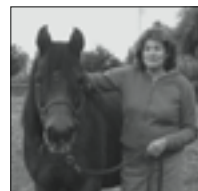
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## Readers Write

## Horse Facility Emergency Considerations

by Wanda Smith

We all like to think we provide a safe environment for our horses, but Sonoma County contains several challenges for horse owners, stables, and ranches. We have high risk areas for fire, flood, and earthquakes, and other disasters that can occur in our county, including storm force winds, lightening, infectious diseases, and drought. Perhaps surprisingly to many, leading causes of death to large animals during disasters are collapsed barns, kidney failure due to dehydration, electrocution from downed power lines, and fencing failures.



**Having an emergency plan to minimize the disaster risks to our horses should include:**

- Up to date vaccination and identification records
- Horses that can quickly and safely load and unload from trailers
- Plans for different disasters
- Ways to minimize equine injuries
- Fire prevention measures and detection systems
- Emergency supplies for horses and the facility
- Feed and water location and containers
- A staging area
- Relocating horse plan
- Instructions to close the facility
- Post-disaster actions
- Links to local services
- Medical emergency contacts
- Easily visible location for important notifications, postings, and emergency contacts
- Equine evacuation liability waiver

**Placing horses in a low risk area may save their lives. Considerations to maximize their safety include:**

- Locating horses in an area most appropriate for the type of anticipated disaster
- Removing horses from the facility at least three days prior to major storm possibly requiring evacuation
- Placing horses to be evacuated in a small holding pen to be easily caught
- Utilizing sand arenas or bare ground areas for horses during a fire
- Locating horses distant from burning facilities to avoid smoke inhalation and injury from embers
- Blocking horses from stalls, barn, and small corrals/paddocks/arenas if they have to be left unattended
- Not leaving horses in electric or barb wire fenced paddocks or pastures

**Ways to minimize the risk of fire include:**

- Locating hay away from wiring and fuel sources, and storing liquid fuels away from ignition sources
- Posting map identifying and showing locations of fuel and ignition sources
- Checking hay temperature before storing it. (Hay baled too wet can become hot and ignite due to microbial activity and spontaneous combustion.)
- Prohibiting smoking of any kind on the facility

Dehydration is a major cause of death for horses in disasters of

all kinds. Storm runoff may contaminate natural water supplies, power failures may knock out a well pump, and municipal water supplies may be interrupted. **Actions that can minimize dehydration risk include:**

- Leaving enough water (12 to 20 gallons ] per horse, per day) for the length of time horses will be unattended (at least a three-day supply)
- Lining garbage cans with plastic trash bags and filling them with water

- Providing alternate water sources in case of power outage and dysfunctional watering systems
- Locating tubs in the holding area to catch and store clean rain water
- Keeping chlorine bleach on hand to purify water if necessary

**Starvation is a major issue in long term emergency periods. Things you can do to reduce this possibility include:**

- Storing enough hay for an emergency for 5-7 days in a dry, secure area
- Put out free-choice hay for at least two feedings in the holding area
- Store feed and hay on pallets, and cover with water-repellent tarps to reduce the risk of water damage

**Horses often have to be relocated during an emergency. To prepare them for relocation:**

- Remove their blankets
- Remove synthetic (nylon or plastic) gear from horses. Nylon halters can snag on debris and trap horses, or melt on their face. Use leather or breakaway halters. Put halters on all horses. Locate lead ropes near exits.
- Place some form of identification (halter tag, neck or ankle ID band, inked hoof, body paint) on horses

**Getting ready for an emergency is critical, but what to do, or not do, when the emergency is over is also important:**

- Avoid downed power lines
- Be cautious of wild animals that may have entered the area, they could be dangerous to people or horses. Snakes will search for high ground during flooding
- Remove horses from standing water (six inches deep or more).
- Isolate unknown horses until returned to owner or examined by veterinarian
- Inspect horses for injuries and property for damage and dangerous objects
- Contact local animal control or disaster response teams for missing horses

Wanda Smith is the executive director of CEPEC ([www.cepec.us](http://www.cepec.us)). She has owned horses for over five decades, owned and managed a breeding ranch and a boarding facility, and competed on her cutting horses. She published Stable Equine Disaster and Emergency Evacuation Plan in 2015 in response to requests for a list of actions for minimizing risks to horses during emergencies. It's available at: <http://www.cepec.us/Articles/Ranch%20Equine%20Emergency%20Evacuation%20Plan.pdf>.





## Vet's Office

Column Editor Michelle Beko, D.V.M.

# Fevers

Horses, like all warm-blooded animals, maintain a fairly constant body temperature, although it varies a bit based on the ambient temperature. An adult horse's normal temperature is between 98.5- and 101-degrees Fahrenheit. On a hot summer afternoon, a horse standing in the sunshine can easily have a temperature of 101, while the same horse might be 98.5 on a cool winter morning.

A fever is an elevated body temperature not associated with exercise or extreme environmental conditions. A febrile (feverish) horse, regardless of the cause, will likely be somewhat lethargic and have a poor appetite. Some will eat a little bit whereas others won't eat at all. Some febrile horses will lie down quietly. A horse with a mild case of colic might also have a poor appetite, be somewhat lethargic and lie down quietly, making it difficult to distinguish between the two problems. However, colicky horses rarely have an elevated temperature.

Infections are the most common cause of fevers in horses. Most of the upper respiratory tract viruses and bacteria such as influenza, herpes viruses (aka "rhino") and strangles can cause a fever even if the infected horse has no other symptoms. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (formerly *Ehrlichia equi*), the bacteria that causes tick fever, is a common cause of fevers, often very high ones, in Sonoma county. Other microbes that could be at fault include *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* (pigeon fever), Leptospirosis (bacteria) or the newly emerging Corona virus and likely many not yet discovered infectious agents as well.

Other causes of fevers in horses include vaccine reactions and, less commonly, cancer. Any horse can have a reaction to any vaccine which results in the horse becoming febrile anytime from several hours to several days after vaccination. Fortunately, internal cancers are uncommon in horses, but are occasionally the cause of a low fevers. Additionally, a horse that exercises long enough or hard enough will likely have an elevated body temperature until it is able to cool down. The latter however is technically hyperthermia rather than a fever and will likely be short lived.

If you find your horse to be lethargic and not as interested as usual in his food you should take his temperature. Everyone should have a thermometer in their first aid kit. Either digital or mercury thermometers are used to take a horse's rectal temperature. You should do so carefully as some horses (especially mares) may kick.

If your horse doesn't have a fever, she likely has a mild case of colic.

If your horse does have a fever, you may opt to have your veterinarian examine her. It isn't necessarily urgent to do so and, if it is after hours, many people opt to wait until the next day. Any horse with a fever that persists for more than 3 days or that has just been transported a long distance should definitely be seen by a vet. Your vet will examine your horse and

may do bloodwork in order to try to diagnose the cause of your horse's fever. He or she may give your horse a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory such as bute or Banamine® to bring her temperature down; I usually do if their temperature is above 103-degrees but may opt not to if I suspect a viral infection. An elevated body temperature helps the horse's immune system kill the offending virus.

There are times when a diagnosis is easily made with only an examination and blood work. Sometimes, however, the only diagnosis we can reach without extensive testing is that the horse has a "fever of unknown origin." It is common for a horse to have a fever with no symptoms other than lethargy and a poor appetite that lasts for a day or two and resolves with no specific treatment.



To take a horse's temperature, stand to the side!

Photo: Dale Humphrey



Michelle Beko, DVM, has been an equine veterinarian since 1991. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter, eventing her horse Zeke, hiking, and travelling. You can reach her at Empire Equine at 707-545-3909, check her website ([www.empire-equine.com](http://www.empire-equine.com)), or on Facebook.



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## Readers Write

## Local Farriers—2016 Summer Pre-Certification Clinics

By Alan Townley

On June 4th a group of local farriers came together for a practical horse-shoeing mock test and barbecue. Skylar Stotts CF, Tanner Durham CF, and John Sagaria CF took a run at the journeyman practical. Pete Wolfe, Alan Townley, Eric White, and Dustin Smart did runs for the Certified Farrier (CF) practical test.

The journeymen practical consists of two hours to shoe a horse with clipped plain stamp handmade shoes to A.F.A. (American Farrier's Association) standard and an hour to shoe half a horse in keg shoes to the A.F.A. standard.

Diploma CJF Farriers Sam Durham CJF DWCF, and Mark Paine CJF DWCF, volunteered to test and regulate the participants. Pete Wolfe provided six horses and Greg Estrada (ranch owner) provided four. There were enough horses that the CF farriers could test twice and have their performance graded. The grading and point system is taken directly from the A.F.A. certification guide. Everyone had a great time, learned their strong and weak points, and how they can improve in order to pass this portion of the exam.

On June 25th another group of local farriers joined together at Wine Country Sport Horse in Sebastopol with three clinicians, Rich Bumpus CJF, Sam Durham CJF, DWCF, and John Sagaria CF. Participants included Alan Townley, Skylar Stotts, Jamie Wells, Justin Cook, Dustin Smart, Sean Tobin, and Abigail Haman. Teresa Crocker, D.V.M. attended as a special guest. This clinic focused on the forging portion or shoe board presentation, which is another requirement for an A.F.A. certified farrier. It segment requires the applicant to demonstrate the ability to hand-make or modify keg shoes with specific modifications to fit a template. Each participant received one-on-one instruction from every clinician on their modifications, following demonstrations by the clinicians. These clinics have gained the attention of the W.S.F.A. (Western States Farriers Association), a branch of the A.F.A. The W.S.F.A. is now helping organize a sanctioned certification in our area at the end of the



Farriers receiving valuable demonstrations.

Photo: Jonathan Townley

summer. There is also an ongoing study group in Petaluma every Thursday night to prepare for the written portion of the test. Teresa Crocker, D.V.M., John Sagaria CF, and Sam Durham CJF, DWCF, are leading this group. Dedication to education, and betterment of the farrier and the horse are the both the basis of the certification process, and the goals of these clinics. Look for recently certified farriers to be highlighted in the winter issue of the Horse Journal.

Alan Townley is in the third year of his new career as a farrier, 2 1/2 of which were spent apprenticing and learning the trade. He is building his business and still training with his mentor, Sam Durham CJF DWCF, for credentials and competitions. Education and organizing groups and clinics to help educate other farriers is part of his mission as well as trying to build a shared standard of trimming and shoeing through education and training. Alan can be reached with any questions on upcoming clinics or any farrier related needs at (707) 331-7248 or by email at [ajtownley@gmail.com](mailto:ajtownley@gmail.com). You can also find him on Facebook by searching "Alley Mack".

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*From the Judge's Booth*

Column Editor Melissa Kalember

## Don't Assume

Most of the time judging is not biased, but it is subjective (or at least that's the way it's supposed to be).

Being biased and being subjective are two different perspectives, yet they can come together to make a beautiful combination.

When judging, we look for an ideal horse or rider position, but most of the time we do not get that ideal picture. We get variations of the ideal because most riders are in their learning process and, of course, don't ride perfect all the time, nor are all horses built the same. So when a judge evaluates and pins the class, we have to pick the best out of what we have.

I hear all the time "that girl (or horse) that just won the class, that must be what the judge is looking for."

That is so not true...for the most part. There is something I say over and over in all the clinics I teach, "most consistent least amount of mistakes, usually ends up winning." There have been countless times where my third or fourth placed horse or rider moves up to first place because everyone else in the class has had a major mistake dropping them to the bottom placings. I try to educate people by telling them unless they sit and watch the whole class and truly understand what the judge is looking for, they cannot assume anything about the ribbon placings.

I know if more people understood this there would be less frustration and blaming. Most people simply do not understand that most of judging is subjective and matter-of-fact.

Now that I've said that, I will add in the understanding of biased or personal preference. Of course each judge is going to have a level of personal preference because they are bringing their own life experiences to the booth when they judge. Take me for example. I HATE when riders carry their hands too low and try to control their horse through their wrist instead of finding the feel with their elbows. I have had certain life experiences with this that might make it where I score this habit lower than another judge would.

Some judges hate it when riders post the canter, others hate a swinging lower leg. Whatever it is you should understand there is a reason for that personal preference.

What I can tell you is that most judges are really rooting and trying to pin the best horse or rider. There are some judges who are grumpy or harsh and they're judging reflects that. While it is healthy for us to talk about the reality of this, I can tell you wholeheartedly it is not the norm.

So I invite you to seek to understand! Read books about judging, find the steward of the show, and go ask the judge about your round. If you do this you will see each judge's personal preferences

within the 'subjective' judging orientation.

*Melissa Kalember is a USEF R Judge, SAHJA Judge, equine masseuse, and intuitive trainer. Please contact her if you have a specific topic you'd like addressed: melissa@kalemberequine.com.*



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## Readers Write

# Life is a Jumping Course

by Lisa Lombardi

When I began jumping a few years ago, I could have never predicted how it would influence my life. At first, the concept of a 1,000-pound animal and I soaring together over a hurdle seemed daunting. I was determined, however, and began the necessary preparation.

I lost weight. I worked on fitness. I knew I had to get enough sleep and eat well. I wanted to feel my best. I knew I had to listen and pay attention to my own needs, the horse, and the instructions from my teacher. Getting hurt was not an option. I decided to increase the chances of success and reduce the risk of an accident.

Each jump consists of five separate yet connected stages. Careful execution of each part is crucial to the success of the next stage in the sequence. The first stage of each jump is the approach. During the approach, it is necessary to focus ahead and pay attention to what is on the horizon. Stay calm and plan a strategy. Give yourself enough time to make needed adjustments, or even change your mind and go a different direction. Do not rush.

Once the horse and rider have approached the jump, takeoff requires full commitment. Release the energy and do not hold back. This is where the greatest courage is needed to begin the actual task of taking the leap. Take a deep breath. Be flexible and go with the flow. Keep your shoulders open. Trust. Have the confidence to know when to take flight. Believe that you can do it.

Then soar and enjoy the flight. Keep a steady and balanced position throughout. Be in the moment, not distracted.

Upon landing you may feel a sense of relief or accomplishment. This is the time to sit back down and take another breath before beginning phase five of the jump: the departure from the jump.



Takeoff requires full commitment

Photo: Elyse Gardner

There is no looking back after the jump, only looking forward to the next challenge. There may be a period of reprieve and rest, a chance to rebalance and reorganize. Sometimes the next jump is immediately straight ahead. Sometimes there is a longer stretch in between. Sometimes the path will twist and turn before the next hurdle appears, before the process begins again.

Reflecting on the jumping experience, I realize the jumping course is a metaphor for life. I encourage you to focus on your goals,

open your shoulders and soar over life's hurdles. Enjoy the ride!

**\*\*I thank Judy McHerron for being extra patient in teaching me as an adult how to jump.**

*Lisa Lombardi is an SRJC equine science instructor, CHA Master Instructor, PATH, Ceip-ed certified, and has taught professionally since 1987. Lisa's 24-year-old lesson horse, Ten-Thirty, was Sonoma County's 2013 Equus Award winner, 2011 and 2012 CHA international school horse of the year runner-up. She currently owns 8 horses. [www.clovertenthirty.com](http://www.clovertenthirty.com).*

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*Readers Write***Becoming the Student**

by Sarah Lockwood

Each year I participate in continuing education clinics put on either by my mentor, Anna Twinney, or by other professionals. Clinic participation is an opportunity to immerse yourself in student mode and be exposed to a concentrated group of unique cases in one place.

As I write this, I'm also packing my bags for the Reach Out To Horses (ROTH) Foal Gentling Clinic in Sisters, OR. But I wanted to first share about last fall's ROTH Colt Starting Clinic in Cody, WY. It wasn't a colt-starting challenge by any means. We started nine horses under saddle over seven days, and with multiple professional trainers working together, moving at the speed of each horse and always giving them a voice, we created success for all.

This clinic is part of the ROTH Train the Trainer program. Designed to elevate the skill level of professional trainers, this two-year course introduces four specialized areas of horse training: foal gentling, mustang gentling, colt starting, and remedial behaviors. The beautiful thing about ROTH clinics is that most every horse on every clinic has been rescued. For each person enrolled, a horse is saved from a feedlot, PMU, BLM holding, nurse-mare farm, or similar. These are last-chance horses, dead horses walking, often slaughter-bound were it not for being plucked out and given a chance at a functional life. After coming through a clinic, most of the horses are up for adoption, and with success under their girths the future looks pretty bright for them.

So, flash forward to the colt-starting clinic. Each student was allocated a horse for the week. We also partnered with as many other students as possible to experience some of the journey for as many as nine horses. I was assigned Taiee, a McCullough Peaks mustang gelding. A flashy bay with more mane than we knew what to do with, I had to braid Taiee's forelock each day just to be



*Sarah with "Taiee" after his first ride*

able to utilize eye contact in our communication. This simple act of grooming became a grounding and intimate ritual for us each day.

Six of us were allocated previously gentled mustangs. Taiee had been gentled on a previous ROTH clinic but, like most of our charges, he was not easy to catch at first. Through the daily routine of catching, grooming, and gentle methods, we built a relationship, a sense of security and trust in working together. He became easier to catch every day, an encouraging and beautiful experience. I believe all the students had the same experience with their mustangs.

The ROTH colt-starting process includes a lot of well-thought-out building blocks and customized preparation for the first ride. It's far from a cookie cutter method. With several ways to go with each part of the process, whichever was appropriate for the horse, we were able

to watch and participate in dozens of combinations of techniques to bring out each horse's best.

I encourage owners and professionals to seek continuing education. The most fulfilling courses target not just horsemanship, they instead aim to develop practical skill sets for specific types of horses or issues. Colt-starting may not be something most of us do regularly, but for me it is essential skill set to have as a professional. Every technique we learn builds muscle memory and intuition, which work for your particular specialty.

And humbly putting on your student hat to spend time being mentored in *their* specialty is a huge gift.

*Sarah Lockwood is a Holistic Equine Training & Management Specialist based in Sonoma County. Sarah provides Holistic Horse Training and Consulting for Horse Properties. Learn more at [www.EarthAndEquine.com](http://www.EarthAndEquine.com). Email: [EarthAndEquine@gmail.com](mailto:EarthAndEquine@gmail.com). Phone: 707-239-2280.*





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## Spitting Sand—A Learner's Journey One Horse Family

Column editor Jessica Boyd



Photo: Jessica Boyd

*Lena keeping one eye on me and one on the dispenser of treats while Calabar sneaks in from the side.*

We didn't start out to be a horse family at all, it just kind of happened. One day, we were riding horses at a ranch near Yosemite and WHAM the next day we had Lena. We spent those first two years as a one-horse family, Lena having enough energy and attention-seeking behavior to manage three humans with ease. Then along came Calabar, adding a whole new personality—one that balanced Lena in interesting ways and gave us a lot of adventures as a two-horse family. This year has brought us painfully back to being a one-horse family. It's still too raw and too new to know how this will play out, but it is part of this journey we chose when we brought home our first horse, that beautiful, spotty mare that changed us forever.

Okay, so it was a little more involved than WHAM. We wanted to take my daughter Katie on an adventure and found a ranch in Gold Country that offered fun (not nose-to-tail) trail rides and cutting lessons. For a year and a half we rode entertaining horses, always coming home limping for the next week, never complaining but never really improving, either. What? Take lessons at home? Pssht. We leapt right in and decided to buy one of the animated and intelligent horses we'd been riding, opening our hearts and our world to Lena Rey Flo. Steve says it was her energy and wanting to build on our family but I think it was those long eyelashes and big curly ears.

Lena was a sensitive and responsive horse—gentle with beginners but a taskmaster with you if she thought you knew better. She taught us all a lot and she loved being an only horse. Really? Three humans to worship me? Most excellent, said the princess. We were different enough to keep her entertained, and she received more than enough exercise and attention. Trail rides were an exercise in sharing. When it was just two of us, one would ride

out and one would ride back. When Katie was with us, it was mostly walking for Steve and me, but it was always a good adventure even from the ground.

Then I fell in love with Calabar and we graduated to a different horse-to-human ratio. We had an ex-racehorse; Lena had a boyfriend, a protector and someone to antagonize through the pipe panel. She adored him. He mostly adored her but more importantly he became a part of our family—sometimes the black sheep but always willing to be the sidekick to Lena's over-the-top presence. We had a little over 8 years as a two-horse family, years with trail rides and cow adventures and counting out treats and carrots evenly because they were certainly keeping track.

And then one day it came to an end.

The reasons don't really matter. She, in her normal dramatic fashion, injured herself in ways that were ultimately not fixable. We all said goodbye to her on a sunny morning that should have been darker and full of clouds but wasn't. Lena heard me leading Calabar up the path and whinnied for him before she could even see him, knowing beyond a doubt the rhythm of his footfalls. Calabar nuzzled her, gave her a nip, and then stood quietly nearby while we waited for the vet to come. When I tried to put him away, Lena got so frantic, I brought him back. We waited for the first shot to take effect before I walked him away from her the last time.

And then it was over. A different and altogether worse kind of WHAM.



Photo: Jessica Boyd

*My first muse, the glorious Lena Rey, up close and personal.*

Sometimes I think Calabar still looks for her—I know I do. And then I remember. We're a one horse family again. This is the way it started and there will still be adventures for Calabar, Steve and me. They will just be different adventures than what we had planned. Life is like that, I guess, and there is a lot more living to do. Lena says so from wherever she is. No doubt with a big throaty whinny and probably even a squeal of joy on top of that.

To the spotty horse that became my first muse, I say thanks. You were the best first horse this family could have wished for.

*Jessica Boyd lives in Sonoma County and enjoys riding her ex-racehorse, Calabar, and scuba diving, but not at the same time. At least not yet.*



## Sonoma County Equestrian Events—Fall 2016

Sept 14-Oct 2	Cavalía's Odyssey	San Jose, CA	www.cavalía.net
Sept 16-18	SCDRC Club Campout Ride	TBA	Lisa Lombardi 707-696-5048
Sept 17	SW Barrel Race @ the Arena	Sebastopol	sebastopolwranglers.com
Sept 21-25	SHP Season Finale	Sonoma Horse Park	sonomahorsepark.com
Sept 24	Woodbridge Farm Schooling Show	Petaluma, CA	woodbridgefarmdressage.com
Sept 24	SW Fall Poker Ride	TBD	sebastopolwranglers.com
Sept 25	RRRA Playday & Awards	Duncans Mills, CA	russianriverrodeo.org
Sept 24-25	Chris Ellsworth Cow Working Clinic SOLD OUT	San Martin/Morgan Hill, CA	chrisellsworthhorsemanship.com
Sept 25	SCDRC Play Day 8am-2pm	Santa Rosa, CA	regionline.com
Sept 30-Oct 2	Diablo Arabian Horse Show	Elk Grove, CA	winecountryarabians.com
Oct 1-2	Chris Ellsworth Cow Working Clinic	San Martin/Morgan Hill, CA	chrisellsworthhorsemanship.com
Oct 2	SW Trail Obstacle Challenge 9am		sebastopolwranglers.com
Oct 7-9	Sylvia Zerbini & Grande Liberte' Clinic & Performance	SREC, Santa Rosa, CA	debbiewiegmanna@gmail.com
Oct 8	SW Just for Fun Barrel Race 11am		sebastopolwranglers.com
Oct 14-16	Int'l Assoc.-Horse Assisted Education Conf.	Novato	eahae.org/california
Oct 15	CGA Gymkhana (rental)		sebastopolwranglers.com
Oct 16	SREC Test Jumper & Dressage Sch Show	Santa Rosa, CA	srequestrian.com
Oct 16	SCDRC Club Ride	TBA	Lisa Lombardi 707 696 5048
Oct 23	All Breed Open Halloween Schooling Show	Santa Rosa Horse Co	debbiewiegmanna@gmail.com
Oct 29	Woodbridge Farm Schooling Show	Petaluma, CA	woodbridgefarmdressage.com
Oct 29	SW Halloween Playday 9am		sebastopolwranglers.com
Oct 30	SCDRC Play Day 10am	Santa Rosa, CA	regionline.com
Nov 13	SW Trail Ride @ Bodega Bay Dunes 11am		sebastopolwranglers.com
Nov 20	SCDRC Club Ride	TBA	Lisa Lombardi 707 696 5048

Please visit [sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org](http://sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org) for additional calendar listings!!

*Please submit events for the next issue to Horse Journal Editor, Patrice Doyle - [editor@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org](mailto:editor@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org)*

## Sonoma County—Places to Ride

Annadel State Park	6201 Channel Drive	Santa Rosa, CA 95409	707-539-3911
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve	17000 Armstrong Wds Rd	Guerneville CA 95446	707-869-2015
Cloverdale River Park	31820 McCray Rd	Cloverdale CA 95425	707-433-1625
Crane Creek Regional Park	5000 Pressley Rd	Rohnert Park CA 94928	707-565-2041
Doran Beach Regional Park	201 Doran Beach Rd	Bodega Bay CA 94923	707-875-3540
Foothill Regional Park	1351 Arata Lane	Windsor CA 95492	707-433-1625
Helen Putnam Regional Park	411 Chileno Valley Rd	Petaluma CA 94952	707-433-1625
Hood Mountain Regional Park	3000 Los Alamos Rd	Santa Rosa CA 95409	707-565-2041
Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	6303 Highway 12	Santa Rosa CA 95401	707-433-1625
Lake Sonoma	3333 Skaggs Springs Rd	Geyserville (west of Hburg)	707-431-4590.
Ragle Ranch Regional Park	500 Ragle Rd	Sebastopol CA 95472	707-565-2041
Riverfront Regional Park	7821 Eastside Rd	Healdsburg CA 95448	707-433-1625
Salt Point State Park	25050 Highway 1	Jenner CA 95450	707-847-3221
Spring Lake Regional Park	391 Violetti Drive	Santa Rosa CA 95409	707-539-8092
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park	2605 Adobe Canyon Rd	Kenwood CA 95452	707-833-5712
Taylor Mt. Regional Park & Open Space Preserve	3820 Petaluma Hill Rd	Santa Rosa, CA 95404	707-539-8092





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