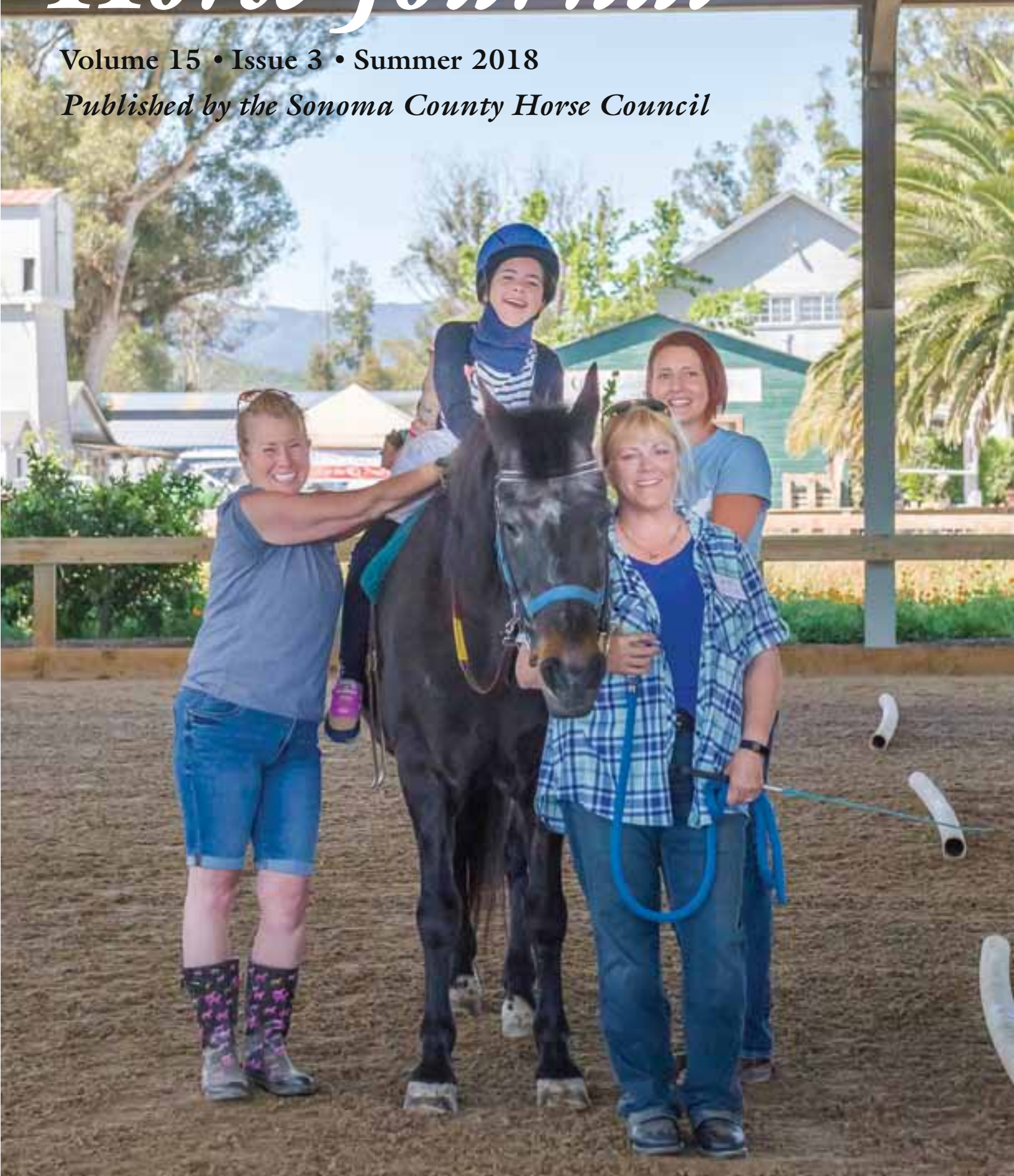


Sonoma County

Horse Journal

Volume 15 • Issue 3 • Summer 2018

Published by the Sonoma County Horse Council



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Sonoma County**Horse Journal**

Volume 15 • Issue 3 • Summer 2018

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

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**Cover Photo: Marcie Lewis**

Gabby C. on Corky with volunteers Sue B., Jody K., and Hillary C. (left to right) at Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center.

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President's Message



Elizabeth and Greycie

Summer is here, promising wonderful opportunities for all things horsey. The mid-point of the year is also a good time to review the Sonoma County Horse Council's recent accomplishments.

The 2018 Equus Awards event was our most successful to date, celebrating the Council's 25th anniversary while raising funds to support our large animal disaster preparedness activities and our efforts to bring children and horses together. Check out the fabulous photos of the event on pages 8-11 (thank you, Marcie Lewis Photography).

Your Horse Council is working tirelessly to ensure that equines and equestrians in our community are as safe, and prepared, as possible.

By the time you read this issue of the Horse Journal, the Council will have **distributed over \$132,000 in grants to assist people who suffered equine-related losses** in the October 2017 fires that were not covered by insurance or other funding.

The Council continues to meet with Sonoma County Animal Services and fairgrounds personnel to **refine and implement a large animal disaster sheltering plan**. The plan builds on our experiences assisting Animal Services in sheltering more than 300

horses and over 200 other animals during the October wildfires.

On April 28, 2018, the Council offered its second **Trailer Safety & Maneuvering Course**. The course consisted of a morning lecture on safety and trip preparation, and an afternoon "driving lab" in which participants maneuvered their rigs through a series of obstacles.

The Council is committed to reuniting animals and owners that are separated in disaster situations. On June 1, 2018, **the Council sponsored the first of several reduced-fee microchipping clinics** in partnership with local veterinarians and facilities.

The Horse Council is actively soliciting suggestions for ways to **create connections between children and equines**. If you have ideas, please share them with me (schc.epalmer@gmail.com).

Your Horse Council is busy **promoting the health and well-being of equines, and supporting equine-related activities, in Sonoma County**. We recently served as a technical advisor to the Sonoma County Ag. Preservation and Open Space, and are assisting Santa Rosa Junior College in revitalizing its Animal Science and Equine Science programs.

Join us! Together we can continue Sonoma County's legacy as a haven for equines and equestrians. For membership information, please visit www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org.

Best,

Elizabeth Palmer

President, Sonoma County Horse Council



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The Equine Esquire

By Column Editor Patrice A. Doyle, Attorney at Law, Board of Directors

Protecting Yourself Against the “Attractive Nuisance”

Horses and children have always gone together. It's a sweet picture of perfection. However, what happens if a child trespasses on your property and is injured by a horse? To a child, horses can present both an irresistible lure and a hidden danger. Put the two together and you have the potential for liability.

What is an “attractive nuisance”?

“Attractive nuisances” are potentially harmful objects and conditions on the land that are so inviting or interesting to a child that it would lure the child onto the property to investigate. Therefore, courts recognize children can fall harm to risks that adults are more likely to see and understand. Unlike the general rule that a landowner owes no duty to protect trespassers, the “attractive nuisance” doctrine provides that a landowner/occupier may be liable for foreseeable harm to trespassing children. Children usually cannot appreciate the dangers they may encounter with horses. They cannot read warning signs, and easily climb over or crawl under fences. Depending on the circumstances, a horse could qualify as an “attractive nuisance.”

Evaluating your potential liability

Being aware of potential liability is particularly important to those with horses because they: 1) need large areas of land, which requires greater diligence in maintenance; 2) attract people to ride, touch, and admire, especially children who are unaware of the dangers; and 3) can cause significant injuries given their size and strength. To be held responsible for injuries caused by an attractive nuisance, the parents of the injured child must prove each of the following elements:

- The luring condition on the property is in a place where the landowner/occupier knows, or should know, that children may trespass;
- The luring object or condition is something that the landowner/occupier knows can cause injury to children who come near it;
- Children cannot appreciate the dangerous nature of the condition or object if they interfere or touch it;
- The burden on the landowner/occupier to eliminate the risk is slight compared to the risk posed to children; and
- The landowner/occupier has not used reasonable care to stop children from being injured by the luring condition or object.

Never assume you are immune from liability because a child injured on your property was a “trespasser.” The “attractive nuisance” doctrine is an exception to the general rule that landowners/occupiers are not liable for injuries to trespassers. Also, you will likely not prevail by raising the defense that the child's parents failed to properly supervise.

Measures to minimize or eliminate liability

The law doesn't require landowners/occupiers to childproof their property. However, it expects them to be alert to potential dangers to children, and to take reasonable steps to prevent harm to those too young to appreciate the danger. There are many simple measures you can take to help minimize or avoid liability for an

“attractive nuisance,” such as:

- Apply common sense. There is no replacement for good common sense. It's usually easy to spot an accident waiting to happen.
- Check your conduct. Your affirmative conduct in allowing children to trespass on your property could almost certainly make you liable if an injury results from an “attractive nuisance.” When you see trespassing children, warn them of the danger and ask them to leave your property. Notify their parents, if possible. These efforts will help evidence the many precautions you are taking to protect others.
- Make regular inspections. Check your property often to identify any hazards that might foreseeably create a risk of injury to others, especially trespassing children. Take measures to eliminate or minimize the risk.
- Review local laws. Local laws often regulate objects that are dangerous to inquisitive children. Become familiar and comply with applicable local regulations.
- Review insurance coverage. Review your liability insurance policy, specifically the exclusions. Also, often the policy language will state special precautions you must take to protect others from hazards on your property. If you fail to take such measures, your insurance coverage may be voided.
- Listen to concerned parents. Be open-minded if a concerned parent approaches you about a potentially dangerous condition and be solution-focused. A simple conversation may help avoid tragic accidents and lawsuits.
- Secure horses with dangerous propensities. If you have horses with known dangerous tendencies, keep them away from areas where children can easily see and approach them. If these horses are kept inside, make sure their stalls are designed so that children cannot touch or access them.

Proving personal injury under the attractive nuisance doctrine depends on the unique facts of each case. The level of understanding of a child varies depending on the age, and what constitutes reasonable care will change with the type of dangerous condition and age of the child who was hurt. Having an awareness of the law and following the precautions above will help to minimize risks and foreseeable injuries, thus helping to protect you against the liability that comes with having an “attractive nuisance.”



Patrice Doyle is an attorney in Santa Rosa and has been an avid horsewoman since childhood. She can be of assistance in guiding you through equine-related legal issues. Additionally, her practice areas include: personal injury, landlord-tenant, and contract law. She can be reached at (707) 695-9295, or

visit her websites www.pdoylelaw.com and www.equineesquire.com.

The above article does not constitute legal advice. Readers should seek legal counsel regarding their particular circumstance.



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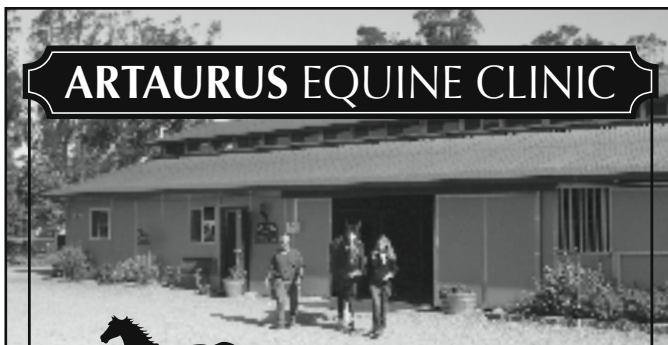
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2018 EQUUS AWARDS BANQUET

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The Ayers with Mark Krug.

Jonathan and Laura Ayers

Jonathan's family moved inland after he was born in Southern California, and he didn't really find himself until he lived in Wyoming. Laura was raised where she and Jonathan live now, deep in Armstrong Woods, on land her father bought for its timber. As a girl, she rode her horse on wildlife trails amidst majestic trees, where she also learned to drive a logging truck by the time she was eleven.

They both travelled extensively as young adults, and it was on an international trip that Laura and Jonathan first met before continuing on separate paths, but they'd meet again.

Laura came back to Sonoma County 45 years ago to homestead her family's land. Jonathan made his way back via a Wyoming pack operation, a Texas cattle ranch, and a breeding operation in California, which is where he was when he tracked down Laura and reestablished their connection. They've been together since.

In the early eighties, their shared love of nature and horses came together—or, as Jonathan describes, “we had one horse, then another, then, suddenly we had a lot of horses!” A vendor approached the park service about doing horseback rides in the park, then came to them and said, “if we're going to let someone do that, though, we prefer that be you.”

30-years later, Armstrong Woods Pack Station had guided 25,000 people across 25,000 miles of trails through Sonoma County's greatest nature area. They also found time to teach six-hundred Camp Newman kids how to ride and learn from horses. They did the same thing for a different group, creating and operating a program for adults with serious limitations resulting from traumatic illness, accidents, and other life-altering ailments. Jonathan recalls, “I've learned a lot, and my horse, Dox Why Worry, he was the boss, taught me more than I could have ever learned on my own. We had the opportunity to open that experience to others who might not ever have known what horses can do for us. Working with those challenged adults changed them, and it changed me too.”

They recently ended the pack operation, closing a decades-long chapter in their lives. Their legacy now resides in the memories of those lucky enough to have experienced once in a lifetime trail rides, and with those who, for a brief moment, left their limitations in the dust of special horses, led by very special guides.



Amber Bowen with Ted Stashak.

Amber Bowen, D.V.M.

Her 1967 Ford Mustang is her only horse right now, but Amber has never had a shortage of animals, going back to Missy—“Pissy Missy,” as Amber fondly calls her—a paint pony she found walking along Ross Road and took home to Forestville. “Dad said if you have a horse you need a trailer, so I found an ad for one and talked the guy down to one-hundred-and-twenty-dollars.” Amber was all of twelve.

Solutions came easy to Amber, like acing college-level math in grammar school. She went from El Molino to Cal Poly for a BS in physics and a Masters in agriculture, then graduated from UC Davis vet school.

Amidst all that learning, she co-founded International Veterinary Outreach in 2011, a nonprofit providing free veterinary care and education to developing countries. She's taken vet teams to the Philippines several times, and Nicaragua.

But she always wanted to get back home. After work in Australia, Southern California and Florida, she came back, worked two years with a Sonoma County practice, and then went out on her own.

There's no transition here that can easily take us back to October 9th, so we're going right to the fairgrounds:

After a night evacuating her own, friends', and clients' animals, Amber arrived at the fairgrounds the next morning to treat a colic. She and Horse Council board member, Dr. Ted Stashak, organized sheltering even as they evaluated a stream of arriving horses and other animals. For two weeks she coordinated hundreds of volunteers, vaccinated, put biosecurity protocols in place, dealt with strangles, colic, corona virus, and treated injured animals.

From her education and experience, she knew “mass animal emergencies are as much about humans as animals; human management is a necessity.” 50-percent of the people there are her clients, and other clients, friends, the Office of Emergency Services, everyone showed up and asked, “what do you need?” Her husband, Martin, was out of the country, and her parents moved their trailer to the fairgrounds so Amber didn't have to leave.

The Equus Awards focuses on a nominee's history and accomplishments, but Amber's depth of experience and actions under fire deservedly flip that focus, as best described by her nominators: “her calm control of the situation, compassion, vet skills, and patient empathy minimized animals' and owners' anxiety during a historic evacuation...she is already an exceptional member of our equestrian community.”



Tambourine Vaulters live performance.

All Equus Photographs by Photographer Extraordinaire, Marcie Lewis!



Michael Murphy with Denise Gilseth.

Michael Murphy

On top of, or working behind a horse, Michael Murphy is the go-to guy for many people in this room. He's got an expertise that has become incredibly important, even high profile, in this day of sustainability and the environment. And he's all ours.

He's a long way from his Mississippi upbringing, the brother to 6 younger sisters. Yikes. He was outta the south not too long after gradu-

uating with an environmental planning degree, reaching the freedomland of San Francisco in 1970. Working part-time day jobs and playing in bands at night, he moved north over the next few years until he reached Sebastopol, where he bought his first horse. Then, with all that horse experience to guide him, he quickly bought another. Yikes, again.

Gathering riding experience through rides and joining the Backcountry Horseman of California, he began to grow his niche business, um, we'll call it waste management. An easy talker, he became known throughout Northern California, talking with horse owners, ranchers, cattlemen and stable owners, and arrived in the perfect place to lead them as a future of one-sided, complex water and waste management regulations threatened to overwhelm the local horse and dairy industries.

You heard it earlier: conversations turned to meetings, meetings created consensus, and Michael laid those planks that became the Horse Council's foundation.

But he also infused that creation with the right qualities, ensuring that agendas or vendettas were put aside, positioning the Council as an organization to get things done, and work with government, not against it.

He might have come a little later to horses than many of us, but he caught up fairly quickly, joining with riding clubs, working with open space districts, and putting his own family roots deep into Sonoma County. The trails he took to get here don't matter to us as much as that he got here, and without his professional expertise, from creating plans for stables or thousand-acre dairy operations, to spreading the word about the Horse Council and working to protect our unique place, we'd be knee deep in... well, we'd be knee deep in it.

He's one of our own, the guy in the wide-brimmed hat who led the parade of concerned, disgruntled cowboys and cowgirls into a future that brought us all here tonight. He could probably write a book about it all, if he'd stop movin' and talkin' long enough to do it.

He is, essentially, the man who got us here. Thanks, Michael Murphy.



Sue Curry with her daughter, Megan Salkin.

Sue Curry Shaffer

The only thing more winning than Sue Curry Shaffer's accomplishments may be her smile, and the only things she might wish for, are more hours in the day. Born in Ohio and raised in Pennsylvania, she bought her first horse when she was barely 13 and did anything necessary to keep it. She rode during college, where she "fell in love with dressage," got her degree in equine studies, and had her own

horse business in Colorado at 22. In 1985, she and her horse, Orpheus, were number 1 in the U.S. Dressage Federation rankings at Prix-St.-Georges, and long listed for the World Championships and Olympics.

She moved here in 1992—"because," she says, "I was freezing,"—started a new business with 9 horses, and with her husband, Dyke Shaffer, founded Fairwind Farm in 1999. Over the course of a decade, importing horses from Germany and growing her breeding operation, 40 horses, including several historic stallions, delivered more than 40 foals. Her magnificent, foundational stallion, Donnerschlag, lived to be 30.

Matching her accomplishments on horses and breeding horses, she has become both an esteemed judge and teacher of judges. From her start as a judge at 21, she's now a U.S.E.F. 'S' dressage judge, a retired FEI para equestrian judge, and in 2017 was the only candidate selected to be a U.S.E.F. 'L' program faculty member, teaching judges.

And she just heard that she has been picked to judge the 2018 U.S. Dressage Finals in Lexington, Kentucky.

On competing, she says, "I like it, don't love it." What does she love? Obviously horses, and, well, all animals, evident from her nominators' description or rescues, "from rescued dogs and cats, to chickens and, occasionally, humans." What she really loves "Teaching. I love teaching the most." She prefers to swing any spot light away from her accomplishments and onto the dressage students she trains, riders she has helped qualify for regional and state championships, and who have earned their bronze, silver, and gold medals.

We're often judged by the company we keep. She is surrounded by students who love her, and nationally ranked dressage and event trainers who board at Fairwind. Their praise is universal, but not for her accomplishments as much for how much of herself, her experience, and her riding wisdom, she continues to share with her community. She could certainly relax, if she chose to. She doesn't have anything to prove, but she won't, because ask her about her overbooked life and schedule of clinics and classes, she smiles and says, "I'm very, very happy."



Lisa Thomas excels as the Equus Emcee.



2018 EQUUS AWARDS BANQUET (cont.)

Former Equus Honoree **Pete Mattioli's** life goes from San Francisco nightclubs to champion cutting horses, but it was his strong view that stable and riding operators speak as one voice that placed him in the center of the Horse Council's formation.

Pete's has entertained us with stories about his San Francisco club, or the Oakland Raiders riding at his and Benita's Double Bar M Ranch—one of the early, largest stable operations in the county.

He's always been a handshake, man-of-his-word guy—respect people, be honest and fair, the attributes of a good cowboy. His horse world started as business in the seventies, which eventually thrived due to the champion genes of his horse Cal Bar, described by *The Quarter Horse Journal* as, "Joe Montana, Magic Johnson and Mozart all rolled in to one."

In the early 90s, before the county recognized the economic contributions of our horse-related businesses, local government proposed regulations and oversight initiatives that many stable owners thought were, well, let's just describe them as things with which stable owners took issue. Pete's position in the equine community was well established, and as things got stirred up, Pete bent, or more likely burned, then Riding and Driving board member Michael Murphy's ear about the need to 'help the county understand' the value of the horse community. As Pete said, "We need to be organized, we got to look out for ourselves."

Phone lines heated up, word got around, there was large meeting and shortly thereafter the equine community came together like never before. The birth of an organization usually begins with a chorus of 'we need to get this done.' Pete Mattioli was the prominent, foundational voice in that early chorus.

But the chorus needed a director.

The details of 25 years ago are a bit faded, but there is unanimous agreement that **Michael Murphy**, also 2018 Equus honoree, hooked up the horses to this wagon now known as the Horse Council.

In 1993, when that meeting with Pete and a handful of other concerned horse people grew into a full room at the Sebastopol Veterans Hall, Michael knew their concerns not just because he knew everyone, and not just because of his expertise in the backside of a horse, and out of the backside too, but because he was smart, engaging, and informed about the issues.

The crowd agreed unanimously to organize, and then, there were those looks around the room, and the realization—we need a leader. You can ask Michael for the details after the show, but all eyes turned his way, him being the guy who had brought all these men and women together—a majority of women, according to Michael—and



SCHC President Elizabeth Palmer introducing the SCHC Founders.

while he doesn't remember his exact words, he believes they were something like. "Okay." He led the way to filing our nonprofit status in 1995, and here we are a quarter century after that meeting, and this damn Horse Council continues to gallop across this Sonoma County landscape.

This all leads us to another founder who came down the trail just a tad later.

How did a south side Chicago kid become so instrumental in the growth of the Horse Council? **Ed Weber** says he was born looking for a pony. When he finally made his way to Northern California, he used his professional televi-

sion production expertise to create the first issues of the *Horse Journal*.

There aren't any 'ranches' in Chicago, but there are places to ride, and twelve year-old Ed Weber wanted to be so like his favorite Saturday morning cowboys that he once stole twelve dollars from his mom's purse so he could ride a horse. He went right from college to the television industry at a local television station, and bought his first horse, Sunny. He sold Sunny when he moved to take a new television job, won an Emmy in 1968, and balanced his career ascent with horse ownership whenever he could, eventually making his way to Northern California in 1978 and raising two children.

Mr. Ed finally got his first Sonoma county horse, Willie, in 1984, a relationship he describes as, "we both needed a little work." A decade later, that 'we both needed a little work' might still have applied, depending upon who you ask, when Ed met Michael Murphy. The two became riding friends, and one day Michael asked Ed to join the Horse Council Board.

Ed sensed a need to make the equine community more aware



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2018 Equus Awardees with SCHC President Elizabeth Palmer.



Equus Awards anticipating their new homes.

of the Council's efforts. Taking on a managing editor's role, with art direction by Carol Bolum, they created the first versions of the Horse Journal magazine. Benita Mattioli scored advertisers, circulation increased, membership grew, and the Horse Council was energized.

His concern for everything 'horse' is evident in his awareness of equine-related issues throughout the county, and the Bodega Bay Trailhead may be Ed's most notable accomplishment. His efforts eventually transformed a pot-holed, overgrown mess into an accessible and workable space to unload horses for rides through beautiful coastal dunes.

He created what is arguably the Horse Council's most prominent, instantly recognizable ambassador, and when this seventy-five year-old, horse riding, guitar playing, tennis team captain says, "I still haven't stopped doing and caring," we say, "Lucky for us, Mr. Ed."

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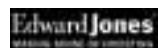
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Giant Steps—The Making of a Therapy Horse

By Beth Porter



A happy group of volunteers, horses and riders.

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is what type of horse is best-suited for therapy work. The short answer is bomb-proof. The long answer is more nuanced.

Being bomb-proof is non-negotiable. Our clients present with a wide range of disabilities—some physical, others cognitive, many behavioral. A child with autism might rock, flap, or have outbursts. Our amazing equine therapists must remain calm and focused throughout. A rider with cerebral palsy may have difficulty maintaining balance or controlling the reins. Our amazing equine therapists must follow the cues given them. A number of our clients mount using our equestrian lift. Our amazing equine therapists must stand stock still between a mounting block and an off side block with a volunteer on it, with another volunteer standing in front, while a human moves through the air to land on his back. Not all horses could handle these challenges, by any stretch.

Next, the horse must truly love people—all sorts of people. This is not a job for a one-girl pony. The only way we can operate our program is through our incredible volunteer pool, who number 125 per week. They groom and tack our horses, serve as leaders and side walkers in the arena, and maintain our facilities. As a result, our horses encounter a wide assortment of people. While our volunteers are trained in when and how to enter a stall, reading horse body language, and working with the horse in “the Giant Steps way” so that there is as much consistency as possible, this

can be a strain for a horse that isn't a total people person. When a horse comes to us on trial and the placement fails, the cause is as common as the horse's discomfort in working with so many people as it is behavior during lessons.

We recruit horses of all sizes, gaits, and temperaments. Small horses are suited to clients who need physical support to stay balanced on their horse (it is much easier to practice a thigh hold at elbow height than shoulder height).

Large horses accommodate larger riders, including many of our military veteran participants. Wide horses suit riders with balance challenges. Narrow horses allow riders with tight muscle tone to sit more comfortably. Horses with a slow gait teach riders to keep a leg on, while more animated horses teach riders control. Each of our clients is carefully matched

with a horse that best suits that client's particular needs. Since our clients' needs vary widely, so must our horses' characteristics.

When we recruit a horse, it comes to us on trial for three to four months. At first, we let the horse just acclimate to life in the barn. We let it get to know horsey neighbors, and adjust to the new home's sights, sounds and smells. Only staff enter the stall so that it has to meet as few people as possible. Next, a seasoned volunteer will lead the horse during class, without a client, so that the horse starts to understand what we expect. We also introduce it to the mounting block, equestrian lift, and other equipment we use. When the horse demonstrates it is comfortable with all the activity without a rider, we have it participate in class with an able-bodied rider. If all goes well, both in the barn and in the arena, we will finally add the horse to the program. It is a very intentional process, and we have been fortunate to build a fabulous herd.

Beth Porter is the Executive Director of Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center. To learn more, visit www.giantstepsriding.org or email julie@giantstepsriding.org.

Photo: Marcie Lewis



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Historic Seizure in Cloverdale

By Heather Bailey

Twelve horses taken from terrible conditions, being cared for by CHANGE

"So we're going to go ahead and seize these horses, this guy is getting arrested today," said the voice in my ear. I'd been waiting for his call after speaking with him the night before about some horses in Cloverdale that were in need of care.

"Sounds good," I said. "How many do we need transport for?"

"Um, about, let's see . . . 12."

My heart jerked in my chest. "Did you say 12?"

"Yep, 12. And there's a dead one."

I swallowed and took a deep breath. "OK. We'll be there as soon as we can."

I've been a foster barn for the Sonoma County CHANGE program for about 10 years, and involved in the governance of the organization for about three. Most recently, I became the president of the board of directors and the head of field services, which means I'm the one who gets the call when our partners at Sonoma County Animal Services (SCAS) need assistance with an equine.

I'd been on previous seizures, and picked up and cared for any number of horses over the years, and felt ready for about anything.

Anything, except for 12 at once.

Thankfully, I have a wonderful organization of volunteers, and I knew these horses needed us, so everyone sprang into action. I started calling our catalogue of foster barns and the list of volunteer haulers. In an hour, I had three trailers on their way and barns sorted for most of the horses. I hopped in the official CHANGE rig, and headed north.

The long, winding road out of the city of Cloverdale led to a steep driveway that dead-ended into a farmette. Everywhere I looked there were horses. And everywhere I saw horses, I saw ribs and prominent hip bones and snarled, dreadlocked manes and tails.

I started cataloguing what we had and quickly realized the first of several hurdles. Two of the horses, trapped in filthy, dark stalls, were stallions. The rest were mares. They were all stock types, the majority pintos/paints. Despite clearly being untouched for any length of time, they all came forward with friendly interest.

The mares were out in various paddocks with no shelter, up past their knees and hocks in mud. All were thin, with most no more than a two on the BCS (body condition scoring) scale, several in the dangerous 'one' category. The stallions fared a little better in the weight category, but were standing on multiple layers of manure, their feet were terribly neglected. One stallion had to jump down out of his stall the feces was so high, and we all cringed when he landed on overgrown, misshapen front feet.

Worst of all, in one sad corner, at the base of an empty feeder, was the body of a thin chestnut, mired deeply in mud and deceased.

With trailers lined up, and a sheriff's deputy standing by in case the



Poppy before and after.

owner returned, along with an officer from SCAS and his trainee, we started moving the horses out. The good news is, they were all terribly sweet, and had clearly had some kind of good handling at some point. The bad news was that a lot of them clearly had next to zero life experience, and being led into a trailer was a rather daunting prospect.

A mentor of mine in the CHANGE program told me once that when dealing with uncertain horses in the

rescue setting, to take a deep breath and picture in my mind the wonderful future that awaited them. I tried very hard to do that, even as time ticked on and darkness approached, but they all eventually hopped in.

Thanks to a patient, talented, excellent crew we got all 12 horses out and turned over to our foster network. These wonderful people open their barns to horses in need, often with no notice. That night, all 12 of these horses got to sleep in dry warm stalls, with good food in their bellies, for the first time in who knows how long.

Their owner was arrested on 12 felony counts of animal cruelty and as of this writing had made no attempt to get the horses returned to him. The criminal case is moving forward and we hope to have some good news on that front at a later time.

The "Cloverdale 12" have been steadily gaining weight since their intake, though they are all suffering from serious skin issues from the constant exposure to the wet with no dry place to be. Several of them are nearly bald, their hair coming off in chunks, while others have scaly, itchy skin, and in a first for us, many are infested with lice, a pest that healthy horses are normally able to fend off.

Thankfully, none of the mares are pregnant, a real concern given the presence of the stallions.

The deceased horse had been gone too long to find anything definitive on necropsy, but his body showed the same kind of neglect as his living companions.

This is the largest intake in the history of our organization, and we are so grateful for our amazing village of volunteers, haulers and fosters who helped to make it possible.

Stay tuned for when the horses become available for adoption. They are all amazing and will make someone a very lucky owner.

As always, we are thankful for our partnership with Sonoma County Animal Services, which allows us to care for horses like these.

Heather Bailey is the President of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County CHANGE program. She is a Sonoma County native. Founded in 2007, CHANGE supports local law enforcement in managing equine humane cases including neglect, abuse and abandonment. CHANGE is not a county agency and is supported entirely by private donations. They can be found on the web at www.sonomachangeprogram.com.

Snakes and Horses:

By John W. Kaufman, DVM, cVMA

What to Do and What NOT to Do In the Event of a Bite

As warmer months arrive, hardly a day goes by that I'm not sent texts and photos of rattlesnakes. They're all over the county from Healdsburg and Geyserville, to Loch Haven, Sebastopol, and Occidental. I feel it's important to review pertinent facts not anecdotal beliefs regarding snake bite in horses.

Signs of a Snake Bite:

Acute

- 1) Significant pain and swelling at bite site;
- 2) Single or multiple painful bleeding puncture wounds may be present; and
- 3) Severity of signs depends on size of the snake (young vs. old, small vs. large).

Chronic

- 1) Sloughing wounds of major tissue/necrosis (tissue death);
- 2) May lead to many significant systemic sequella: laminitis, pneumonia, endotoxemia, etc.

What To Do:

Emergency treatment of snake bites is basic supportive care:

- 1) Obtaining and controlling the open airway should be the first priority.
 - a. A flexible tube in the nostrils may prevent suffocation from nasal and facial swelling;

- b. An emergency tracheostomy may be needed;
- 2) Treatment of hypotension is the second objective in the emergency treatment of a snake bite:
 - a. IV therapy may be necessary;
 - b. Administration of broad spectrum antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs as indicated;
 - c. I have had great results with the antibiotic Naxel; and
 - d. Banamine and/or Prevacoxy are excellent anti-inflammatory medications.
- 3) Tetanus toxoid (IM);
- 4) Proper wound care is important for healing live sloughing tissue;
- 5) Lab work to monitor progress in healing; and
- 6) Anti-venom therapy; however, it may not be available and can be cost prohibitive (there are no evidence-based studies evaluating the effects of anti-venom therapy in horses).

What NOT to Do:

Many first aid techniques have been created for acute snake bite treatment; however, many have not been proven and may be detrimental. Also, use of cold packs, ice, tourniquets, incisional suction, electro shock, and alcohol should be avoided. Corticosteroids are known to increase mortality in human studies and should not be used in the initial management of a snake bite injury.

First and foremost, snake bite in horses is a veterinary emergency. Consult with a veterinarian and avoid diagnosing your horse via the internet.

Have a great summer with your horses!

John W. Kaufman, DVM, cVMA, a graduate of U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, has been practicing in Sonoma County for over 30 years. His services include, but are not limited to: pre-purchase & lameness exams, therapeutic maintenance, preventative health care, acupuncture, regenerative & rehabilitation care, reproductive care, and state of the art imaging. Dr. Kaufman owns and operates Redwood Equine Practice. Reach him at: 707) 545-0737, JohnDVM@redwoodequine.com, and www.redwoodequine.com.



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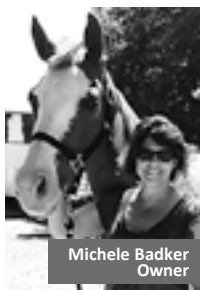
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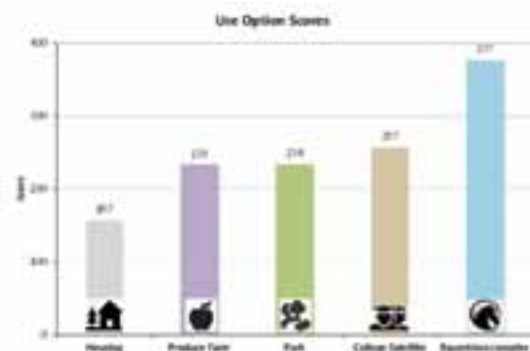
Update on CEPEC in the Sonoma Valley

By Wanda Smith

In 2015, the California Equestrian Park and Event Center (CEPEC) submitted a proposal to acquire land owned by the State of California for the creation of a world class, equestrian center in the Sonoma Valley (*Horse Journal*, Spring 2016). The proposal was for the land surrounding the main campus of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in Eldridge near Glen Ellen. The SDC has been a facility for developmentally disabled individuals for over 100 years. The main SDC campus contains treatment centers, residential facilities, administrative offices, service and maintenance centers. The land surrounding the main campus includes 720 acres of a farm, trail system, and campground, which were proposed for CEPEC. The SDC will be closed by the state by the end of this year. The state will then make a determination of future use of the SDC.

CEPEC's proposal meets the following goals of the State as well as Sonoma County: it is a non-profit entity designed for public recreation, education, therapy, historic preservation, and land restoration. In addition to providing equestrian recreational, competitive, educational facilities, and equine medical services, CEPEC will provide many jobs and estimated annual revenue of \$250 million for the region. The CEPEC project also complies with the wishes of the original owners of the SDC by continuing its use in perpetuity for recreation and health.

To determine how well the CEPEC equestrian center compared to other potential uses of the SDC land, CEPEC recruited professionals in residential development, farming, winery management, urban and park planning, equestrian facility development, and analytical research professionals to conduct a comparative analysis of SDC future use options. The use options included housing, a produce farm, park, college satellite, and equestrian complex. They used a decision matrix of weighted use criteria and option use ratings to score the five options. The option with the highest score was an equestrian complex. The satellite college was second following by the park and produce farm which had almost the same scores. Housing received the lowest score.



CEPEC subsequently completed a preliminary environmental impact report (EIR) of the project on the SDC land. The EIR describes the environmental advantages of the CEPEC project and how



An aerial view of the proposed facility.

potential problems will be mitigated. It includes a description of environmental regulatory requirements that will need to be met and the impact of the project and mitigation in a number of areas including: local population, resources (i.e., agricultural, biological, and cultural), traffic, noise, aesthetics, and emergency services. The EIR concludes that the CEPEC project will "not produce significant and un-mitigable impacts" on any of the items addressed, with the exception of traffic and resulting air quality. This would require creation of a statement of overriding consideration that the CEPEC project will provide specific economic, social, and other benefits that outweigh these impacts.

In May 2018, CEPEC presented its plan to residents of Glen Ellen as well as members of the larger Sonoma Valley community. The speakers were Wanda Smith (CEPEC executive director), Dr. Ted Stashak (Horse Council board member and Professor Emeritus at Colorado State University), Michael Mingoia (museum exhibit designer), Bill Schnuerle (equestrian educator), Kim MacLean (president of HOPE, veterans equine assisted therapy), and Shirley Johnson (disabled dressage competitor). Topics included equine demographics and revenue across the county, equine history in the county and at the SDC, land of the SDC, CEPEC and its proposal for the farm and trail areas.

Copies of the reports cited in this article are available at: <http://www.cepec.us/development.htm>

You can show your support for CEPEC on the SDC land at: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/olympic-equestrian-center-sonoma-valley>

Wanda Smith is an engineer and the executive director of CEPEC. She has owned quarter horses throughout her adult life, managed two horse ranches, showed cutting horses, and authored several books including Horses of the Wine Country.



Choosing a Riding Instructor

By Lisa Lombardi

Someone recently asked on Facebook who was the best trainer in her area. Within an hour, she got 20+ suggestions. A sampling of responses ranged from, "I recommend Missborninthesaddle" to "No, MrCutthemcows is the best!" and "But, MrSpeedybarrelpro is amazing!" Also on the list were MrsUSDFbronze medalist, MsHaveaponyinmyyard, and me.

Here is the truth: Most likely every one of these recommended horse people was indeed "amazing" and "the best" for each person who took their advice, but these recommendations were literally and figuratively all over the map. What is an ideal fit for one horse enthusiast may be disastrous for another. Tough as it is, I have remained silent on this particular Facebook thread. Instead, I now offer the follow thoughts.

What questions should you ask when searching for the instructor or trainer that is the best fit for YOU and your situation? I have broken down the search to 3 main categories: qualifications, safety, and suitability to your specific needs. First ask, "Is the person qualified to help you with your equestrian goals?" Is it going to be worth your time and money to pay this person to help you? Before you begin your search, an understanding of the distinction between instructor and trainer is needed. By definition a trainer focuses on training the horse and an instructor focuses on teaching the human how to ride. Do you own a horse that could use a tune-up? Or, do you need an instructor with a string of safe lesson horses for you to learn on? Or, are you searching for a professional who can do both? Most instructors spend some time training horses and most trainers give lessons to clients on their horses. However, the second criteria would be to investigate in which disciplines the trainer or instructor is competent and at what level. Has the professional earned AQHA points in western pleasure, NRHA money, a USDF silver medal, or a Tevis Cup belt buckle, for example? A show record could demonstrate a level of proficiency in a particular discipline, although there are excellent instructors who perhaps no longer compete.

Another qualification to research would be the professional's credentials. Has the professional taken the time to be educated and pass tests to earn professional certifications or credentials? Is



(L-R) Judy McHerron, Becky Shapley, Lisa Lombardi, Schellie Blochberger, Deb Lee at the 50th annual CHA International Conference in October 2017 at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky.

Photo by Bill Blochberger

the instructor a Pony Club National Examiner, a PATH registered instructor, a certified British Horse Society Instructor, a certified Horsemanship Association instructor, or earned an equine science degree? If so, at what level and in what disciplines? Also, has the instructor been published or given professional presentations?

It pays to research.

Additionally, find out how many years the professional has been in business. Often, the more years of professional experience, the more competent. Also inquire about the professional's continuing education. Does she take lessons, attend

clinics, continue to improve her own techniques? Some professional organizations require proof of continuing education to maintain certifications.

In addition to qualifications, the professional's safety practices should be considered. Does the professional have a good safety record with few incident reports? Does the professional carry liability insurance? Are safety rules clear and followed? Does the instructor provide appropriate lesson horses? Is the instructor willing to get on the horses being used for lessons? (If the instructor refuses to get on the horses the client is being asked to ride, there is likely a reason you will want to investigate.)

Finally, there are many personal factors specific to your individual needs that may influence your decision. Among the most obvious considerations are location and price. Does the professional operate at a stable near you or make ranch calls? If possible, compare prices to other similar instructors in the area. Prices vary, of course, but if the price is well below others of proclaimed equal value, there may be a reason. Is the trainer/instructor's schedule flexible? Does the instructor have patience for children or beginners, or better with more experienced and serious students? Do your goals match the professional's goals for her clients? What is the trainer's/instructor's niche? Does the trainer/instructor haul to local or nationally recognized shows? Does the trainer/instructor take her clients on trail rides, camping trips, play days, clinics? Does your philosophy of handling horses match the professional's? Do the horses in her care appear content, shiny, well cared for, with the hooves in good condition? Does the instructor offer private or group sessions? Is the emphasis on recreation or serious competition? Is the barn a busy location bustling with social life, or isolated where you can enjoy quiet time with your horse? Does the barn welcome children?

Doing the research to match your own desires with that of your chosen professional may mean the difference between life-long equestrian enjoyment and giving up horses altogether.

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 9 horses. www.clovertenthirty.com.

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Vet's Office

By Column Editor Michelle Beko, D.V.M.

EPM—Equine Protozoal Myelitis

Equine Protozoal Myelitis (EPM) is an uncommon, though much talked about, neurologic disease of horses in North or South America. It is caused by infection of the spinal cord and/or brain with a protozoan parasite.

The most common offending protozoan is *Sarcocystis neurona*. It has more recently been discovered that another organism, *Neospora hughesi* and possibly *Toxoplasma gondii* can also cause EPM. There isn't much known about the lifecycle of *Neospora*, but we have learned much about *Sarcocystis* since 1991 when it was discovered to be the/a cause of EPM.

Sarcocystis requires two hosts to complete its lifecycle. The definitive host is an opossum. Opossums pass sporocysts in their feces, which intermediate hosts ingest in their feed or water. Once in the intermediate host the parasite makes its way to muscle tissue where it remains. When the intermediate host dies, if it is eaten by an opossum, the lifecycle is completed. Known intermediate hosts include racoons, skunks, armadillos, sea otters and possibly domestic cats. It does not seem to cause disease in opossums or any of the known intermediate hosts. Horses are considered to be aberrant or dead end intermediate hosts.

Based on serologic surveys (taking blood samples from many normal horses and checking for antibodies), approximately 50% of horses in the US have been exposed to *Sarcocystis*, yet only about 0.014% of them ever get EPM. Although we presume stress and/or immune suppression make some horses vulnerable, we don't fully understand the risk factors. It tends to cause sporadic disease rather than outbreaks and is definitely not contagious since horses are infected by ingesting opossum feces.

The symptoms of EPM depend on which portion of the horse's central nervous system are infected. The majority of horses show spinal symptoms such as ataxia (incoordination) and weakness. These are often asymmetrical in that one side may be more affected than the other. A smaller number will show muscle atrophy or cranial nerve signs such as a head tilt or difficulty eating. Systemic signs such as a fever are rare as are cerebral symptoms. Some horses will have mild signs that gradually progress, while others have much more dramatic symptoms immediately.

The diagnosis of EPM is difficult. In fact, the only way to definitively prove that a horse has EPM is to see the parasites in the spinal



Photo: Dale Humphrey

The sway test assesses a horse's strength. A weak horse is easily pulled off balance when someone pulls their tail in a sideways direction while the horse is walking.

cord under a microscope after the horse dies. Since many normal horses have antibodies to *Sarcocystis*, a positive antibody titer is not particularly helpful. A lack of antibodies makes EPM unlikely so a negative titer can be helpful. A thorough neurologic examination showing asymmetrical spinal symptoms and ruling out other potential causes of neurologic disease is the basis for a diagnosis. Other potential causes of spinal cord disease include wobbler syndrome, vertebral arthritis, trauma and viral infections (Rabies, West Nile virus, Equine Herpes virus -1, western or eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses). Finding antibodies in cerebral spinal fluid is also supportive of an EPM diagnosis as is a positive response to treatment.

Treatment requires long term administration of an anti-protozoal drug. The most commonly used is Ponazuril (Marquis) which is given once daily for a minimum of 28 days. Many (about 60%) horses will improve, but only approximately 20% will return to normal. Unfortunately, relapses are common. Hopefully ongoing and future research will lead to better diagnostics, treatment and prevention.

Michelle Beko, D.V.M., 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), or on Facebook.



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To the Core of the Issue

By Lily Baker-Lubin, BASI, DNS-ET, MS



Note the change in hand position for tactile cuing and sensory feedback.

In the 2017 winter issue of the *Horse Journal*, we began discussing some important concepts regarding rider flexibility. To refresh our memories and build on what we previously covered, here is an excerpt from the previous article:

Understanding some basic principles rooted in developmental kinesiology, the science of how the human locomotor system matures from birth, can be of significant value to riders. Anyone who has watched a child's development of movement from birth through the first year-and-a-half of life has witnessed the child progress from a reflex-dependent state, in which movement was involuntary, to a complex, coordinated pattern and sequence of movements that prepared her to get up, balance on two feet, and walk. We take for granted this software and tend to think that we've left it behind with childhood. But neurophysiologists have found that developmental kinesiology principles called Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization (DNS) can be implemented as a strategy to address functional movement training throughout life. Specific exercises are used to assess and correct compensatory patterns. For athletes, and riders in particular, this approach is a whole new tool in the riding toolbox.

What is Core Stabilization?

Unlike the rapid movement development of foals, humans travel through distinct developmental phases that take some time. Core or "sagittal stabilization" is one of the first building blocks along the way that, when achieved ideally and physiologically, it matures due to the diaphragm's dual purpose functioning; respiration and intra-abdominal pressure. The perspective of core stabilization from within first and the external layer second is somewhat counter to what many traditional core programs teach. The "draw-in maneuver" or methods that train the superficial wall of abdominals and back muscles as primary core stabilizers and in one direction without inclusion of intra-abdominal pressure inadvertently offers a partial perspective. For more on a technique to investigate your diaphragm's dual purpose, please re-visit the article content in the winter 2017 issue. For your convenience, please refer to the

images (at left) demonstrating activation of intra-abdominal pressure and the natural stacking of the core.

The Relationship of Arm and Leg Movement to Core

The ability to differentiate limb or extremity movement without compromising core stabilization is one of the next steps in development following sagittal stabilization. While we as riders are keenly aware that core strength and stability are significant and that the movement or mobility of an arm or a leg shouldn't interfere with our core's capacity to stabilize, the exact interplay of these biomechanics paired with the task of complimenting and uniting with our horse's biomechanics offer us a chance to identify and debunk some myths about our core and riding.

Can Core Strength Be Detrimental?

Firstly, core stabilization doesn't mean stiff or static. I have often heard hesitations about gaining functional strength because "strength" gets a bad rap. So often we confuse strength with hypertonicity of a muscle or the dysfunction of a muscle unable to relax. In actuality, if a rider does not possess adequate functional strength then a cascade of compromises and compensations can occur. Many riders share that they struggle with relaxing in the saddle and that when they try and relax, they end up inadvertently bracing and blocking their horse's movement. Conversely, riders will share that as they try and achieve the "perfect" seat, they too inadvertently create a rigidity that limits their communication and stifles aids to their horse. Coordinated core stabilization as it relates to our sport specific demands means that there are relative fixed points along our periphery such as our feet. Our core is tasked with movement absorption, and specific mobile points at critical cavities, such as the hip exist to provide a balanced interplay through motion. The pelvis, or the "lower lid" of the core has to demonstrate great mobility above the head of the femurs. A rider can only relax and become soft, traveling with the horse's motion rather than against it, if he or she becomes stronger in these fixed points and clearly mobilized at the mobile points (Ex. stable core, mobile hip joint, fixed feet). Most frequently, we find that the hypertonicity of "phasic" or your big mover muscles occurs when there is inherent confusion of fixed and mobile points, stabilizers and movers (this can correlate with trigger points).

Making Postural Changes on the Fly

If we compare the biomechanics of riding with those of natural human movement such as walking, running, throwing or kicking, we quickly see how challenging, and at times "unnatural", the requirements of riding are for both human and horse to learn. In natural locomotion, there are always two components—a support limb and stepping forward limb. That means there is a constant interchange and coordination between off-loading and loading across the body. If we view posture as fundamental to movement and dynamic in nature, we learn a lot by looking at physiological patterns compared to pathological patterns of dynamic posture. Therefore, riders have to learn how to adjust on the fly. If we were to take a snapshot of a rider's posture and look at every frame bit



by bit, we would get a good look at the evolution of that rider's posture and movement strategies. However when we try and make an adjustment to our "form or position" that is static in nature (lift your chest, put your heels down, sit up straight, etc...) we often are missing the important causal variables that would help us to make more substantial, dynamic changes. To make one change in a moment based on a reaction would be to address the static position of the rider or to almost coach from a closed sport perspective. Rather, what if we delved in and looked at a dynamic perspective of what our bodies are doing and how we can further advance, nuance and improve our posture and in turn further connect with our horse.

Stacked...Like a Coke Can

Core stabilization is often expressed through a proper "stacking" of the body. The core becomes a column of the head sitting on top of the shoulders that rest on the rib cage above the pelvis. If we think of a Coke can that is filled and relate this to our core, the filled can has far more strength if you try and crush it with your hands compared to an empty one. If we draw our abdominals inwards in an attempt to strengthen or stabilize our core, without first creating intra-abdominal pressure, it is just as strong as emptying the can—far easier to crush—far more difficult to stabilize with large movements below—easier to become malaligned and less stacked. If we work on our diaphragm breathing and then integrate the superficial layer of muscles to help, we immediately lessen the tug-o-war that can occur, clear the air for sensical communication with our horses and minimize the wear and tear that can occur when the interaction of our moving parts are not in-sync.

In summary, by viewing our posture in the saddle as something that is dynamic, balanced and strong, we uncover some important, core concepts. Our core stabilization starting with the diaphragm's dual function and working from internal to external layers of strength, paired with maintenance of clearly defined fixed and mobile parts yields a naturally aligned posture that can move with the horse and help influence the horse in a positive manner. Such principles at play produce increased relaxation, efficiency of movement and optimizes your collective horsepower. So take a deep breath, feel your feet and enjoy riding freely.

A special thank you to Zuzana Suzan CPT, esteemed physiotherapist, avid equestrian, and talented teacher whose research and work inspired this article and its principles. And thank you to the Prague School of Rehabilitation whose ground breaking work in neurodevelopmental and rehabilitative kinesiology including work from Janda, Vojta, Lewit, and Pavel Kolar continue to educate and illuminate movement specialists near and far.

Lily Baker-Lubin has been a dedicated athlete and competitive equestrian for over 25 years. She has an M.S. in Kinesiology, is a master Pilates instructor and the Director of the Functional Movement Science Department at Body Kinetics in Marin. She is a certified Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization Exercise Specialist and is deeply committed to helping individuals improve their movement patterns, remove limitations and enhance performance. For more on how this information can help you, please contact Lily. You can contact Lily at Lily@optimizemovement.life.

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Injuries sustained by DSWs are covered through the State of California Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program (<http://www.calema.ca.gov/PlanningandPreparedness/Pages/Disaster-Service-Worker-Volunteer-Program.aspx>). It provides workers' compensation benefits to registered Disaster Service Worker (DSW) volunteers who are injured while participating in authorized disaster-related activities, including pre-approved training. The Program also provides the local EOC with limited immunity from liability.

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| ♦ SCAS Emergency Animal Sheltering | 12 Hours | 8/10 & 8/11/2018 |
| ♦ Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals Training | 4 Hours | TBD |

*****Times and locations for Workshops and Trainings will be provided upon completion of A-DSW Application**

POC: Brian.Whipple@sonoma-county.org 707-565-7101



Touch, and the Space Between

By Deb Jackson

The touch of a horse has been, for me and for many others, an exquisitely healing and lovely experience. Face to neck, fingertips to forelock, whiskers and breath from huge nostrils on my cheek, and the softness of muzzle and ear ... I could fill up not only this page, but this entire issue! Stroking, petting, grooming and brushing the way our parents and grandparents did. Perhaps it was the ways we wished they did, or did more often.

Touching the horse became a kind of obsession for me as a kid. This big, beautiful animal accepted me, gave me courage, confidence, and a sense of belonging. These are qualities that can be hard to come by for us in the human world, and particularly in the world of many children. If I became overly aggressive or harsh, I would get immediate feedback to return to gentleness. If I was in a hurry, I would miss out on so much love that I would regret my haste and vow to slow down.

In grooming a horse there is the immense pleasure of providing care for a friend and watching that care make them shine and glow. Their eyes soften, and sometimes they even fall asleep! In all this happy 'doing' my own heart rate was slowing and becoming congruent with theirs, my breath too, and my own tense muscles relaxing. Even the sneezes were a release! It's my own meditation practice, rain or shine, getting down and dirty. Sometimes all the time I have is a few moments at the end of the day, to give a reassuring stroke and receive a sweet blow to my hand. It's enough to reset and renew me so I can rest up for what comes next.

More and more, I am also beginning to appreciate what I've come to call "The Space Between." Watching the horses work with coaching clients, I've come to see how powerful it is when they explore contact without touching. Making a connection without the physical touch allows the horse to bring its powerful gifts of silent communication. In this space, there is the opportunity for a different kind of experience: vulnerability, respect, invitation, curiosity and inquiry. When the person isn't trying so hard to get the horse



to like them or to come to them, and just shares their space, the person has a chance to feel their own gestalt. When they are not trying so hard, the horse will often relax and stay with them, let go and just be together in the present moment. In this space a person may experience an "Aha!" moment, some clarity or unfinished emotional block. It's a beautiful and powerful thing. This is, of course, something horses understand, and can be easily observed just watching them with each other in a field or pasture. Just being together and releasing tension by snorting, grazing, yawning, rolling, etc.

The Space Between is also an embodied state. Not passive, just non-predatory. It is being with rather than doing for. I've experimented with it more and found how hard it is, and how rewarding. I've discovered how my horse looks at me with a question, or responds to a very subtle invitation. It answers a deep longing to be seen, and felt, and accepted. It requires trust, is answered with trust.

So, I invite you to play, and enjoy your horses all you can, and let them take you for a different kind of ride from time to time—in The Space Between!

Deb Jackson partners with horses to create a unique and effective healing experience for people. If you're curious and a bit adventurous, call her at (808) 561-1932 or email Deb@WindhorseFullCircle.com. The equine coaching is safe and unmounted. We are based in Cotati, CA.





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Equine Canker Update

By Jatosscha Davis and Alan Townley, A.F.A.



1 Bojack's hoof upon arrival from Thompson's Kill Pen November 2017. A rotting mess. **2** Therapeutic Bar Shoe providing comfort and support. **3** Side view Bojack's hoof May 2018. Hoof wall systematically cut back to expose anaerobic canker bacteria to air and sunlight. **4** Front view of Bojack's hoof May 2018. You can see where the shoe provides a flat surface to stand while his hoof wall can not yet do this. **5** Bojack's hoof after the last trim but before a burn. Note the canker tendrils on the right side of the hoof. These tendrils respond better to burning than cutting. When cut, they grow back incredibly fast, and bleed profusely. You can still see where Canker resides within the inner and outer walls of the hoof, but check out those heels! They were non-existent when we began work on him.

Things have slowed down in treating Bojack's canker since the last article. Thank goodness. The wrapping, experimental theories, constant debridement, and daily application of every lotion and potion we could think of can wear a family down. It felt like we were constantly putting in our best efforts, only to be disappointed by another day of that foul smell, and another stinking canker tendril reaching out from Bojack's decrepit hoof wall.

It is hard not to question yourself when treating canker.

"Am I doing what is best for my horse?"

"Did I make the right decision by trying to save this foot?"

"Should I have put him down?"

Despite the questions that clouded my mind during this process, the one thing I had without an opinion, as my fiancé has tirelessly reminded me, is my pictures. That is where the proof lies. The proof, my fellow equine lovers, is in the pictures. For every day I wrestled with the question of whether or not I was healing or harming this horse, I have a photo to tell his story. If you were tuned in and here to read the last article, you have already seen the worst of his hoof condition, but in case you weren't, I won't spare you by leaving any photos out.

The worst is over when it comes to the treatment of Bojack's hoof. What began as anywhere from 1-3 hours a day of treatments has trickled down into a quick 10-20 minutes a day of ease for me. While my fiancé, Alan, used to spend hours trying to delicately carve away the parasitic, finger-like growths from Bojack's hoof, we have cut our process down to one basic and fine art, trusted for eons and basically blood free: burning.



Bojack upon arrival from Thompson's Kill Pen November 2017.



Bojack May 2018, giving a ride to our young farrier apprentice.

Instead of applying every ointment and paste under the sun, crossing our fingers and praying to the equine gods, we have a simple method to the madness. On Alan's end, he files away any flares, decreasing the cavernous space for the canker to reside in as the hoof wall grows out in a healthy fashion; and slowly sucks the life from the canker by depriving it with dark cavities to thrive in. Instead of cutting, or freezing and cutting, as many articles suggested, we simply burn the canker tendrils down. Cutting the canker caused so much blood and discomfort, it wasn't a viable option. Burning, however, produces a clean, sealed off hoof, decreases the smell, and most importantly, the animal is comfortable while we do it.

On my end, I fetch Bojack before and after work from the field. I have a hudson sprayer that I attach to the hose and put undiluted bleach in. The power from the hose mixed with the antibacterial capabilities of bleach makes for an easy method to irrigate the hoof. I then apply Kopertox to the canker (generic is fine, too).

Again, the proof is in the pictures, and while we have not yet reached full recovery with him, the progress has been remarkable.

Jatosscha Davis guides trail rides through Point Reyes National Park at Five Brooks Ranch in Olema and Chanslor Ranch in Bodega Bay. When she isn't tending to horses and tailing children, she makes equine gifts and wind-chimes using some of Alan's old horse shoes and all of his tools. Check out her photos on Instagram @jatosscha or call/text (925) 408-7088.

Alan Townley is an A.F.A. Certified Farrier. He is the owner and operator of Certified Farrier Service, a mobile Farrier outfit based in Valley Ford, CA. He can be found on the trail with his fiancé, Jatosscha Davis, and his mare, "Sis Pistol". You can reach Alan at: (707) 331-7248, ajtownley@gmail.com, Alan Townley CF @facebook.com, and/or alantownleycf@instagram.

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Confident Horse and Rider

By Jack Burns



Photo: Jack Burns

A confident horse and rider.

Everyone reading this has had experiences that have shaken their confidence with their horse. Horses are large, quick animals with a mind of their own and, inevitably, go through some unsettling incidents. You may have even been injured at some point. It's normal to question how to regain your confidence after an accident or injury. Follow these four principles on your way to regain and improve your confidence.

Know your horse.

All horses have certain characteristics that make them simultaneously wonderful partners while frustrating and puzzling to be around. Horses are prey animals that often act first and ask questions later about things they perceive might be a threat. We need to be considerate of this trait, but also help them to become more confident around new or unexpected things that might be scary. Patiently directed training is the key to helping horses become mature partners.

Each horse is an individual however, so take time to understand the unique nature of your horse. Spend time with it around the barn or pasture to observe how it learns and reacts to new things that come up in its life.

Understanding the general nature of horses, and your horse specifically, is key to a successful, confident relationship between the two of you.

Have a safe riding space.

This includes a safe stabling and tack up area. Our horses should feel comfortable where they live. Have a flat, well-lit tack up area with plenty of space and ability to safely tie. Grooming and tacking up is an important bonding time for the two of you, and a time you can get to know each other. Your riding arena should have good footing, fencing, and be relatively free of distractions. If you are trail riding, allow your horse to take in the new surroundings while you patiently ask it to go forward. Whatever difficulties you have, try to create a constructive environment where you have positive outcomes. Establish clear boundaries, but positive reinforcement works better than punishment. Also, make sure you have safe, well-fitting tack and gear.

Get professional help.

Find a knowledgeable, experienced trainer who is capable of clearly explaining and demonstrating how to develop confidence and competence in your horsemanship. An effective trainer deals equally well with your horse and is able to instruct you. Your trainer will provide exercises on the ground and in the saddle that will help you understand your horse, increase your handling and riding skills, and help you be an independent rider. Good trainers know how to work with you and your horse up to, but not over, your limits. Investing time and money in good training is as essential as good veterinary and farrier care. The old adage, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance," really applies to horsemanship.

Practice.

A lot. It takes a lot of time to acquire the knowledge and experience to be an effective horseperson. There is no substitute for time at the barn and in the saddle. If possible, get to know many horses, since that will broaden your abilities. All of us have time constraints in our schedule, so you may not be able to spend as much time with your horse as you like. Just make best use of the time you do have. Be a dedicated student of horsemanship who is both serious and has fun with your horse.

Riding is no fun if you get hurt or have your confidence shaken. Horsemanship is a lifelong pursuit, and the better at it you are, the more safe fun you will have.

Jack Burns is a Sonoma County based trainer specializing in classical dressage, working equitation, Lusitano horses and helping people achieve their dreams and potential with their horses. He makes regular trips to Portugal. He trains at San Antonio Valley Stables (www.sanantoniovalleystables.com) and owns J-Dot Stables. More info: jdotstables.com and jburns@sbcglobal.net.



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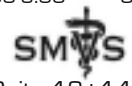


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From the Judge's Booth By Column Editor Melissa Kalember Hold Perspective



Judges have a short time to consider everyone

We all love sharing how well we are doing, what we are accomplishing and winning. It's fun and rewarding to do so! However, I notice many are not sharing what they are struggling with, stuck on or scared of, and I understand why. Unfortunately we live in a world that judges. I know you have all heard:

- "Who do you ride with?"
- "What division do you show in?"
- "What kind of horse do you have?"
- "Are you a Hunter? Jumper? Eventer?"
- And so on...

Pressure from peers and society are sources of judgment, and we subject ourselves to even more when we participate in a horse show and pay someone to judge us!

I ABSOLUTELY understand wanting to be seen and show off your hard work, but that is not what I'm referring to. That kind of perspective is healthy!

What I want for riders is to always have perspective. I want them to understand the person judging the class doesn't know the rider's evolution or story. The judge doesn't know if it's your best show, worst show, a new horse, you're overcoming a fear, or if there is some other factor in play. All the judge knows is the class in front of him or her. Judges have a short amount of time to consider everyone in the class and look for the best pair WITH the least amount of mistakes.

So I invite all riders to know what your judge is looking for so you can understand the placings, AND know where you are in your riding evolution and own that.

Riders that can have and keep these perspectives will have more comfort and confidence.

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: 707-363-1258 or melissa@kalemberequine.com.





News & Newsworthy



Trailer Safety and Maneuvering Course Again a Success!

By Mark Krug, SCHC Board of Directors

On April 28, 2018, the Sonoma County Horse Council hosted a Trailer Safety and Maneuvering Course, taught by Leonard Iniguez and held at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. The Council hosted the first such course in April 2017 and the feedback was so positive that a second session was scheduled for October 2017, but the fires resulted in that session being postponed.

The course consists of a morning classroom session with a focus on safety and the laws governing trailer operation, including driver's license types and requirements. The attendees had many questions for Leonard, a former jockey and now a professional truck driver with over a million miles under his belt (and nearly as many relevant stories!).

After the lunch provided by the Council, participants reassembled in one of the fairgrounds parking lots for the lab exercise. All participants demonstrated their driving proficiency by backing their trailers straight for about 100 feet, executing a 3-point turn, and backing through a serpentine of cones. Leonard, with his extensive commercial truck driving experience, clear communication, and great patience, helped each driver with their understanding of how their rigs drive backwards.

The purpose of the class was to not only provide education on the subject of safe trailering, but to also increase our abilities as responsible horse owners. As part of the Council disaster preparedness and assistance initiative, a focus of the Council is to have as resources those individuals that have proven competency with moving livestock to become Certified Disaster Service Workers to assist in the event of future natural disaster in our county. Under the leadership of Dr. Ted Stashack, D.V.M., the Council began developing the Large Animal Disaster Preparedness in concert with the County of Sonoma after the Lake County fires. Though the Plan was not completed prior to the October fires, the work that had been accomplished greatly aided the Council in successfully opening and operating the large animal sheltering operation at the fairgrounds once the October fires began.

Look to the SCHC website for more of these events in the near future.

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Local Equestrian Events—Summer 2018

Monthly	Clinics with Erika Jansson (email or call for dates)	SR Equestrian Center	ejdressage@me.com, 707-326-7612
Jun 13-17	HMI June Classic A	Sonoma Horse Pk, Petaluma	sonomahorsepark.com
Jun 23	Open All-Breed Horse Show	Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds	irishhills2006@gmail.com
Jun 23-24	Russian River Rodeo - 52nd Annual	Duncans Mills	russianriverrodeo.org
Jun 24	Cutting Horse Saddles & Tack Silent Auction	Circle Oak Ranch, Petaluma	Benefits CHANGE, ron@circleoakequine.com
Jul 6-8	Rodrigo Matos Dressage & Equitation Clinic	Petaluma	Jack Burns 707-239-2290, jburns@sbcglobal.net
Jul 8	Combined Test & Dressage Show	SR Equestrian Center	srequestrian.com
Jul 21	SCAS—Disaster Worker Workshop	TBD	Please see pp. 22-23
Jul 22	Jumper Schooling Show	SR Equestrian Center	srequestrian.com
Jul 22	Test & Dressage Clinic/Judy McHerron	TBD	equine@sonic.net or 707-431-2920
Jul 25-29	HMI Equestrian Classic AA	Sonoma Horse Pk, Petaluma	sonomahorsepark.com
Jul 28	Day of the Cowboy BBQ/Potluck	Hossmoor, Briones	hossmoor.com
Jul 29	Sue Curry Dressage Clinic	Fairwind Farm, Santa Rosa	suecurryfwf@gmail.com, 707-483-0860
Aug TBD	Point Reyes Horse-Camping Trip	Point Reyes	hossmoor.com
Aug 1-5	Giant Steps Charity Classic AA	Sonoma Horse Pk, Petaluma	sonomahorsepark.com
Aug 1	Hot August Nites Barrel Race #1	SW Arena, Sebastopol	sebastopolwranglers.com
Aug 5 & 6	Movement Science for the Equestrian	Novato & Sonoma Co.	purplepass.com/DNSEQ2018, see p. 19
Aug 8	SCAS—Disaster Worker Workshop	TBD	Please see pp. 22-23
Aug 8	Hot August Nites Barrel Race #2	SW Arena, Sebastopol	sebastopolwranglers.com
Aug 11	Trail Obstacle Challenge #2	TBD	sebastopolwranglers.com
Aug 12	Sue Curry Dressage Clinic	Fairwind Farm, Santa Rosa	suecurryfwf@gmail.com, 707-483-0860
Aug 15	Hot August Nites Barrel Race #3	SW Arena, Sebastopol	sebastopolwranglers.com
Aug 22	Hot August Nites Barrel Race #4	SW Arena, Sebastopol	sebastopolwranglers.com
Aug 26	Combined Test & Dressage Show	SR Equestrian Center	srequestrian.com
Sep TBD	Fall Trail Ride	TBD	hossmoor.com
Sep 2	Sue Curry Dressage Clinic	Fairwind Farm, Santa Rosa	suecurryfwf@gmail.com, 707-483-0860
Sep 5-9	Split Rock Jumping Tour	Sonoma Horse Pk, Petaluma	sonomahorsepark.com
Sep 12-16	Strides & Tides A	Sonoma Horse Pk, Petaluma	sonomahorsepark.com
Sep 16	Combined Test & Dressage Show	SR Equestrian Center	srequestrian.com

Please submit events for the next issue to Horse Journal Editor, Patrice Doyle - schc.pdoyle@gmail.com



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Sonoma County Horse Journal Submission Guidelines

Article submissions must have content that is educational, substantive, and of interest to a broad range of equine enthusiasts. Examples would be horse handling techniques, veterinary topics, rider fitness, riding disciplines, farriers/hoof care, etc. Authors should include short (40 words or less) biographical and background information, qualifications, etc. Articles may be rejected if a submission is overtly promotional of a product, service, business, and/or organization.

All articles are edited before appearing in print.

Submissions should be no longer than 600 words and may be accompanied by no more than two pictures, unless arranged for in advance and approved by the editor. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS must be the property of the submission's author or be accompanied by verifiable usage permissions from the photographs' owner of rights. Please submit photos in jpg, tiff, psd or pdf format and at least 300dpi (about 1 megabyte).

Please format your submissions as a Word document, one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Include the author's name, phone number/email, and word count. Spell check your content, please.

News & Newsworthy submissions must be news items and/or announcements of interest to readership. Examples are show results, opening of a facility, and updates from rescue organizations/non-profits. Content must be 150-words or less and one photo.

Authors retain copyright for their work and grant the Sonoma County Horse Council and The Sonoma County Horse Council's Horse Journal permission to print submissions without remuneration.

Submission Deadlines

Spring Issue - Submission Deadline February 1 - Publication March 15

Summer Issue - Submission Deadline May 1 - Publication June 15

Fall Issue - Submission Deadline August 1 - Publication September 15

Winter Issue - Submission Deadline November 1 - Publication December 15

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