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# *Horse Journal*

Volume 13 • Issue 1 • Winter 2016



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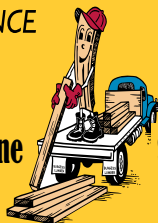
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**Sonoma County****Horse Journal**

Volume 13 • Issue 1 • Winter 2016

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

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**Cover Photo: Marcie Lewis**

On the cover is Mounted Assistance Unit member Dori Johnson from Sebastopol. She is riding her Morgan gelding, FRM Valor.

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## President's Message

### *2016 Equus Awards will Support Sonoma County's Large Animal Disaster Preparedness Plan*



Elizabeth and Greycie

The experience of the Valley Fire demonstrated that we are a truly amazing community. The outpouring of support and donations, from non-profit organizations, animal rescues, feed stores, veterinarians and individuals, was nothing short of inspiring, and the Sonoma County Horse Council is honored to have been part of the response. This epic fire also highlighted the need for disaster preparedness and collaborative planning, both of which have long been SCHC goals.

Last spring, the SCHC began working with U.C. Davis' Center for Equine Health and Sonoma County Animal Services on a large animal disaster preparedness plan that is integrated with the County's Office of Emergency Services.

There are several aspects to the plan: training first responders in large animal handling and rescue; training volunteer SCHC members to operate within the structure of the County's Incident Command System; and establishing protocols for evacuation and sheltering

of large animals, including managing biosecurity concerns.

The training has already begun! On November 14, 2015, UC Davis faculty members presented the inaugural large animal rescue training session for Sonoma County's first responders. Circle Oak Equine donated its beautiful facility, the SCHC coordinated the day-long training and the course fee for many of the attending firefighters was paid by the HALTER Project.

Please join us for a general introduction to the plan on January 13, 2016 at the SCHC General Meeting (7:00 p.m. at the Sonoma County Driving and Riding Club clubhouse at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds).

In the coming months, the SCHC and UC Davis will schedule additional sessions to train rescue professionals and SCHC members in large animal rescue, evacuation and sheltering. Even working with our generous community partners and the committed experts from UC Davis, there are expenses associated with implementing the disaster preparedness plan. The SCHC is excited to announce that a primary goal for the 2016 Equus Awards event will be to raise funds to help pay for this crucial project. We all benefit from a community that is organized and prepared. Put April 30, 2016 on the calendar and invite friends to join you! Let's make this year's Equus Awards the most successful ever.

Elizabeth Palmer  
*President, Sonoma County Horse Council*

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## The Equine Esquire

Column editor Patrice Doyle, Attorney at Law, Board of Directors

# Forming a Limited Liability Company for Your Horse-Related Business

If you own a business related to horses, such as a boarding stable, training operation, or farrier services, you should, at a minimum, utilize a liability waiver form drafted by a licensed attorney. Without one, you risk being held personally liable if someone is injured. Additionally, even if you carry liability coverage, many insurance policies will deny the claim if you didn't obtain a signed waiver and/or post proper signage. These situations leave your personal finances and assets exposed, but there are ways to help insulate yourself against personal liability.

Along with having insurance coverage and using well-drafted contracts and waivers, incorporating your horse-related business is one of the most important steps you can take to minimize risk. Incorporating is the legal mechanism which separates your personal/family assets (such as a house, bank accounts, vehicles, horses, and other property) from your business-related assets.

It's not uncommon in the horse industry for small businesses to operate as a sole proprietorship or partnership. In a sole proprietorship, you are the sole owner, investor, and operator, and you have *unlimited personal liability* for the business debts/liabilities. A partnership consists of two or more persons carrying on a business for profit. The risk is even greater with a partnership because *each partner has unlimited personal liability for the acts of his or her partners*. Neither of these structures will protect you from the risks associated with operating an equine business.

A limited liability company (LLC) is a hybrid business entity that blends elements of partnership and corporate structures. The LLC's main advantage over a partnership is that the owner(s) (called "members") liability for debts and obligations of the LLC is limited to their own financial investment in the business.

An LLC is easily formed by filing articles of organization with the secretary of state, and the member(s) must enter into an operating agreement (preferably in writing). An LLC operating agreement allows you to structure your financial and working relationships with your co-owners in a way that suits your business. In your operating agreement, you and your co-owners establish each owner's percentage of ownership in the LLC, his or her share of profits (or losses), his or her rights and responsibilities, and what will happen to the business if one of you leaves.

Using an LLC to conduct your affairs will not only protect your personal assets, but may have tax benefits as well. If the LLC consists of one owner, it will be treated for tax purposes as a sole proprietorship, unless it elects to be taxable as a corporation. If the LLC has more than one owner, it will be treated as a partnership for tax purposes, unless it elects to be treated as a corporation. LLCs do

not pay income tax, but are subject to the \$800 annual franchise tax and a LLC fee. LLCs do not issue stock and are not required to hold annual meetings or keep written minutes.

Establishing your LLC will allow your business the flexibility to add members, benefit from decreased taxation (by avoiding the "double taxation pitfall" of a standard corporation), and will give your company unparalleled flexibility with respect to how it is organized, how distributions are handled, and how it is run. In effect, your business can reap the benefits and flexibility of a partnership while enjoying the same protections from liability and debt that a corporation provides. Equally important, the LLC structure provides an extra shield of liability protection as long as the business runs according to the operating agreement. Please understand that just because you've formed an LLC, it doesn't prevent a lawsuit, so it's still important to have liability insurance.

Running a horse-related business as a sole proprietorship or partnership personally exposes you to significant liability. Coupling that liability with the unpredictable nature of horses only adds an extra level of exposure. Every day that you operate your horse-related business as anything other than an LLC (or a corporation, if appropriate), you are leaving your personal and family assets unprotected against loss. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to consider the benefits of LLC formation as it applies to your business.



*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 not intended to be legal, tax, or financial advice. Readers should seek legal counsel regarding their particular circumstances.*

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## Readers Write

# Celebrating Bodega Bay Trailhead —An Equestrian Gateway to the Coast

By Ed Weber

On October 16, 2015, Sonoma County 5th District Supervisor Efrén Carrillo and Sonoma County Horse Council (SCHC) President, Elizabeth Palmer, co-hosted the dedication of new identity signage at the Bodega Bay Equestrian Trailhead on Westshore Drive, in Bodega Bay.

It was the culmination of a ten-year effort by the SCHC to greatly improve the formerly unmarked site, used by equestrians for more than seventy years to access horse trails amidst the rolling sand hills which define this world famous, coastal access to Bodega Dunes State Beaches.

The large 4' x 6' redwood sign, at the entrance to the trailhead, is on the shore of Bodega Bay where Westshore and Bayflat roads meet. It was funded by a private donation to the SCHC and with matching funds from Sonoma County Parks. Local artist Carol Bollum designed the sign, which was then sculpted from hand-selected Mendocino redwood by Econoline Signs of Santa Rosa. Burgess Lumber yard manager Justin Bruce designed, assembled and delivered ready-to-install framing. Project leader and former SCHC VP, Ed Weber, assisted Sonoma County Parks Maintenance journeyman Matt Hutchins to prepare the site for installation.

The new sign and the site improvements were initiated in 2005 by then SCHC President, Karl Bastian, and vice president Weber, to upgrade what was a muddy, pot-holed area sorely neglected over the years, which posed a real danger to the hundreds of horses and equestrians who use it.

At the dedication, Supervisor Carrillo said, "We live in the best place on earth. The equestrian community here is mighty, energized, and committed. It really is an honor to be a part of this and help facilitate good work. The Sonoma County Horse Council needs to be thanked for its achievements as a vital partner in agriculture and recreation."

Ed Weber recalls, "In 2005, the site was completely unimproved. Soggy, two-foot potholes pocked the entire horse trailer parking



Dedication of signage at Bodega Bay Equestrian Trailhead

Photo: M.J. Wickham

area. Unpruned cypress trees intruded nearly thirty-feet into the space all along the back fence line, limiting access for equestrians and their rigs. It was a mess."

After determining the property was owned, but not maintained by the county, in 2005 county supervisors granted the right to care for the site as an equestrian trailhead to the SCHC. Contractor and Gold Buckle horseman, Dusty O'Ferrall, immediately donated his time and equipment, and fellow truckers/horse owners hauled in 200 yards of road base gravel from the Bohan-Canelis materials company. Dusty and his son graded the surface, trees were trimmed, and equestrians finally had a safe place to park their horse trailers.

Further thanks are due to the many equestrian volunteers, rangers and employees of county and state parks, who contributed to the creation and installation of a sign worthy of its prominent place at the Bodega Bay trailhead.

*Ed "MrEd" Weber is a former VP of the SCHC. He served in that capacity from 2005-2007. He is the founding editor of the SCHC Horse Journal and producer of the original Equus Awards. Mr. Weber is retired from the broadcasting business and resides in Cotati, CA.*



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## Readers Write

# Jack London State Park and the Mounted Assistance Unit by Chuck Levine



Marcie Lewis Photography

A gathering of Mounted Assistance Unit members at Jack London State Historic Park

*I ride over my beautiful ranch. Between my legs is a beautiful horse. The air is wine. The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain, wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive.*

—Jack London, 1913.

The Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) of the California State Parks Diablo District covers three parks in the Sonoma Valley: Jack London State Historic Park, Sugarloaf, and Annadel. With almost 100 volunteers, the MAU is the eyes and ears in some of the most magnificent backcountry on Earth. With the California's State Parks challenged by budget constraints, MAU's volunteers provide aid and support the state needs, but simply cannot afford to provide.

The MAU will provide almost 8,000 hours of patrol time this year. A dozen individual members have contributed over 1,000 lifetime hours, with several over 2,000 hours, and one



Marcie Lewis Photography

volunteer with 5,000 hours. MAU members interact with park visitors, provide trail information and assistance, and report trail hazards to the parks' maintenance personnel. MAU members have also helped injured hikers by providing basic first aid or calling for assistance from medical or park staff.

In 2011, when the state announced the closure of all three Sonoma Valley parks offering equestrian trails, the futures of the MAU and parks looked dim, but thanks to community support and aggressive action, all three remain open today, and are thriving. Jack

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Marcie Lewis Photography

Jack London's old distillery at the Park

London State Historic Park is a prime example.

Jack London purchased Beauty Ranch, now Jack London State Historic Park in 1911, and devoted himself to the redemption of the land. His experiments in farming were at the forefront of sustainable agriculture. Prior to becoming a rancher, he rose from Oakland's urban poor to become the best-selling, highest paid and most popular American author of his time. Along the way, Jack led an adventurous life style as an oyster pirate, member of the California Fish Patrol, sailor, railroad hobo, gold prospector, and reformer.


The ranch passed from his wife, Charmian, to the Shepard family, and in 1963 they donated the first 39 acres of what has become a 1,400 acre state park. Unfortunately, in the 1990's and 2000's, state parks were under constant budget pressures. Budgets were slashed and maintenance deferred. Finally, in 2011, 100-years after London purchased the Beauty Ranch, the state announced its closure.

The Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, established in 1977 to support educational, volunteer, and interpretive activities at three Sonoma Valley parks, proposed it operate the park. Since May 2012, the staff and 400 volunteers have more than doubled the park's annual attendance, doubled annual spending on the park, and has achieved financial stability. Approximately 20% of the volunteers are MAU members and have been major contributors to the park's success, a park which 90% of visitors consistently rate as "excellent."

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of Jack London's death, and year round events will commemorate and celebrate his legacy as one of the most influential thought leaders at the turn of the century. Plans include "Adventure Rides" with the Triple Creek Horse Outfit for those who do not have their own horses, and rides with an experienced docent and MAU member for those who do.

To discover your own "Call of the Wild", visit go to:  
[www.jacklondonpark.com](http://www.jacklondonpark.com)


Chuck Levine serves on the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association's board of directors, and from 2012 until 2015 was its president. He also serves on the board of the MAU, and is president of the Eldridge Posse.



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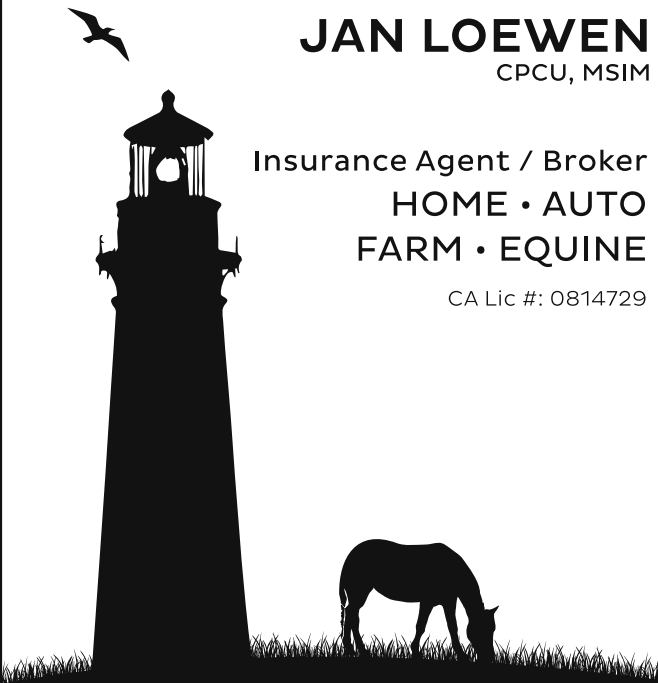
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*All Creatures Great and Small*

Column Editor Grant Miller, DVM

# Lessons Learned from the Valley Fire

In many ways, the Valley Fire was an animal owner's worst nightmare. It was a fast moving fire that swept through populated areas so rapidly, people barely had time to get out of their homes, and many horse owners had only enough time to open gates and pray their horses would find safety. As devastating as this fire was, it also spurred an incredible community response in which acts of kindness resulted in animals getting the care and comfort they needed. Sonoma County can benefit from the lessons learned in the Valley Fire, to be better prepared if a fire of this magnitude ever occurs here.

Here are just a few things learned from the Valley Fire:

- Having a personal disaster plan for your family (animals included!) makes the difference between life and death. The site [www.cal-cares.com](http://www.cal-cares.com) has excellent resources for disaster planning guidance. Disaster plan components to consider include:
  - Have you made arrangements with friends, family or boarding facilities to bring your animals to them in an emergency?
  - Is your trailer large enough to transport all of your animals at once? If not, have you made arrangements with someone to help you haul?
  - Do your horses load in the trailer? Time to start training!
  - Do you have extra fuel?
  - Do you have a kit with your horse's medications, food, care supplies, and an emergency ration of water?
- Do you have current photographs of your horses? Photos of your horses, and of your animals' brands, tattoos, or unique markings, can expedite your reunion with them during disaster recovery. Photos or documentation that proves ownership are also helpful. Consider having your veterinarian microchip your horse. The microchip is implanted into the neck with one simple injection, and you can register in multiple databases with relative ease. More information about micro-chipping, including a list of the databases, is available here: <http://horse-journal.com/blog/microchipping-whats-issue-25462>



*There was a stunning community response following the Lake County fires.*

- A defensible space around your home and horse facility can save it. Properties with trees trimmed 10 to 12 feet high and brush/ debris cleared out fared better than those with heavy vegetation.
- Everyone wants to help. Government agencies become quickly overwhelmed and sometimes a bit hyper-focused during a disaster response. Hundreds of volunteers and dozens of animal rescue groups came together during the Valley Fire to provide transportation, feed, supplies, housing, and money for displaced animals. The outpouring of support was at times overwhelming and somewhat chaotic. We don't want to say that "too much of a good thing can be bad," but, to maximize the benefit of people's efforts and ensure that donations are going where they are needed most, a system or entity set up ahead of time to manage this aspect of a disaster response is valuable. Key components of management should include:
  - a method for managing lost and found animals
  - a method to direct donations and manage volunteers
  - set locations where people can send donations
  - a dedicated entity ready to receive monetary donations
  - a means to efficiently disseminate information about response activities and the status of the disaster
- Finally, the biggest lesson learned from the Valley Fire is never underestimate the power of the community. When animal lovers combine efforts, they have an incredible, positive impact on the animals. Planning efforts should be made to identify and incorporate resources the community offers.

Hopefully, we will never again see a disaster as epic as the Valley Fire, but we all know that is wishful thinking. Lessons learned from this last disaster will prepare us for the next one; our animals and community will benefit.

*Dr Grant Miller specializes in large animal practice. In addition to being a full time veterinarian, Dr. Miller founded the SoCo CHANGE program in 2007, which provides ancillary support services to the So. Co. Animal Care and Control Department in cases of equine abuse, neglect, abandonment, and voluntary relinquishment. Dr. Miller also trains animal control officers around the state of California on several subjects involving large-animal husbandry, handling, and case investigation.*



*Having horses trained to load becomes critical, especially in emergencies.*





## Readers Write

## Successful Trailer Loading

by Lisa Lombardi

As I hear stories about the challenges of loading horses to evacuate from the Lake County fires, I am reminded of a late August incident twenty years ago. At the end of a club ride of 53 horses, we were faced with an out-of-control campfire. As fire trucks came speeding in, 52 nervous horses loaded into trailers to safety; mine would not.

My ex told me he would never ride with me again until I trained my horses to load into a trailer. What a concept! As silly as it may sound, I was good at loading a horse into a trailer, but had never considered the importance of **training** a horse to load into a trailer! That's the day it dawned on me there is a difference between loading a horse into a trailer and training a horse to load into a trailer.

I made a commitment to train my horses to load, and found the book *Trailer-Loading Success* by Diane Longanecker. Twenty years later, I still recommend this book, and know if a horse handler has any sense of timing and follows advice in the book exactly, the horse will learn to load easily. Over the years I have modified and refined techniques, but one quote from the book's intro remains the heart of successful trailer loading training: "It may come as a surprise to you, but the goal of trailer-loading training is NOT to get the horse into the trailer. What you are striving for is a calm, obedient horse. That he loads promptly and quietly into the trailer is simply the result of having reached your goal."

So, what does this mean? It means if, like all successful horse training, lessons are broken into small segments that can each be rewarded, the horse will gradually learn to load reliably. Here are those small steps:

**Drive forward**

The horse should willingly be driven forward in a circle (longeing)



"What you are striving for is a calm, obedient horse."

and a straight line from both sides at all gaits.

**Stop**

The horse should stop on command and not pull the handler forward.

**Walk over platform**

The trailer floor is noisy and feels unstable to the horse. The horse should learn to walk onto various surfaces away from the trailer.

**Step up**

The horse should willingly step up and over unfamiliar objects, as is required for stepping into a trailer.

**Cue to back**

Even if a slant load trailer is used that a horse could walk forward out of, it is a good idea to teach your horse to back up while the handler is on the ground in case the horse ever needs to load into a straight load trailer.

**Drive forward between handler and wall**

Horses are claustrophobic and naturally leery of squeezing into tight spaces. The process of teaching a horse to accept this is made easier by having the horse move forward between the handler and a wall. Do this each direction so the horse gets accustomed to one side at a time.

**Walk under something**

Some horses are fearful of objects overhead. Practice walking under things.

**Patience / stand tied**

A horse that has been taught to stand quietly is less likely to paw and stomp in the trailer.

**Yield shoulder**

It is crucial for a horse to move its shoulder away from a handler. This will help prevent a horse from moving into the handler during trailer loading.

Horses should be trained well enough to be loaded into any trailer, by anyone, at any time. The next time trailer loading is required, whether for recreation or emergency, your well-mannered, confident horse will not be left behind.

*Lisa Lombardi is a 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.*

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*From the Judge's Booth*

Column Editor Melissa Kalember, Board of Directors

## Do You Know What the Judge is Looking For?

When you compete, do you really know what the judge is looking for?

I can't tell you how many times I have heard trainers blame the judge, other riders, or the course when their students didn't do well. I have heard, "...the judge doesn't like paints or appys' ...I don't see how anyone could do well with this kind of test/course/pattern..." and other 'reasons' for not placing higher. Worse than the excuses are that people believe them!

Trust me, most judges are not out to get you.

I understand it may feel that way if you go to show, after show, and never do well. I invite you to examine why — what is the judge looking for, exactly, in your class?

Some classes are matter-of-fact to judge and place because the score is time and faults, like jumpers or barrel racers.

Other disciplines are more complicated to place due to subjective judging (judge's opinion), like hunters and dressage. What most don't realize is there is a general guide for judging subjective classes. When I attend judges' clinics for my continuing education, more than forty judges sit together and watch classes. At the end of those classes, 97% of the judges select the same 1st and 2nd place. The 3rd-6th placings vary slightly, based upon personal preference, or the judge's viewing angle, etc.



*From the perspective of the judge*

I encourage riders to watch classes, how competitors are pinned, read judging books, and, if permissible, question the judge. I love it when a rider comes to me with the 'seeking to understand' energy and asks about their placings. In that moment I get to educate them and give them understanding, which often eliminates unnecessary frustration. When you truly know what the judge is looking for, then you should be able to understand all your places.

I suggest two perspectives for riders: know where they are in their riding journey and know what their class is being judged on. For example, you have a new horse and you haven't found the right pace and feel with it yet, then you go to a dressage show and do well, but place 5th. Now, as a rider who understands what the judge is looking for, you know why you placed 5th, and inside you are happy with yours and your new horse's performance!

People forget, or perhaps just don't understand, that the judge only knows what is in front of them. They don't know it is a new horse to you, don't know you only ride once a week, don't know it was the best class of your life. Only you know that. It is up to the rider to see and understand from both perspectives.

For your comfort, seek to understand what the judge is looking for in each discipline you compete. Don't blame, don't brush off — know and accept where you are in your riding journey.

*Melissa Kalember is a SCHC Board Member, a USEF R Judge, SAHJA Judge, equine masseuse, and intuitive trainer. She will be writing a column "From the Judge's Booth" in every issue of the Horse Journal, so please contact her if you have a specific topic you'd like addressed: melissa@kalemberequine.com.*



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## Vet's Office

Column Editor Michelle Beko, DVM

# Eye Problems—Part 1: Corneal Ulcers

Eye problems are common in horses. In this three part series we will discuss commonly seen equine ocular abnormalities. We'll start with corneal ulcers.

The cornea is the surface of the eye; it is a highly specialized layer of transparent skin. An ulcer is a scratch or scrape to the cornea, similar to a skinned knee in a kid. Because horses' eyes are on the sides of their heads they have very good peripheral vision. The downside of this arrangement is that if they turn quickly and run into something, they will hit their eye rather than their brow or cheek as you or I would.

A horse that has a corneal ulcer will almost always squint and have excessive tearing from the affected eye. They will often also have some puffiness and redness to the conjunctiva (the pink tissue on the underside of the eyelids). Your veterinarian can diagnose an ulcer by applying fluorescein stain to that eye. The green stain will stick to damaged corneal tissue but not to healthy tissue (see photo). Your vet will also look for signs of secondary uveitis (inflammation) that can accompany corneal ulcers. These signs include a constricted pupil, lower pressure within the horse's eye and cloudiness.

Treatment of corneal ulcers includes topical broad spectrum antibiotic ointment placed in the eye a few times per day. Although ulcers don't usually start out infected they easily become colonized by bacteria or less commonly, fungi. If there is any accompanying uveitis, treatment will also include atropine to dilate the pupil and anti-inflammatories (banamine, firocoxib or bute). Often the uveitis



Fluorescein dye staining Gus's corneal ulcer

is mild and may only require short term treatment. Any ulcer that is very large, deep or that doesn't resolve in a few days will likely need to be rechecked. Sometimes unhealthy cornea on the edge of the ulcer may need to be removed, usually with a cotton tipped swab, or the antibiotic ointment may need to be changed.

Most corneal ulcers heal quickly and without complications. Ulcers can become infected with fungi or have the

cornea seal over bacteria creating a corneal abscess. Both of these are serious problem that can result in loss of vision or loss of the eye. Although these are uncommon complications, prompt and appropriate treatment of an ulcer makes them even less likely. Untreated ulcers are more likely to abscess and ulcers treated with eye ointment containing a steroid such as dexamethasone or hydrocortisone are more likely to become infected with fungi. Squinting is a sign of ocular pain. ***Any horse that is squinting should be seen by a veterinarian within the next 24 hours.***

We'll cover uveitis in the next issue and conjunctivitis after that.



*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

# Collaborative Hoof Care Meeting at SERRA 9/5/15

By Chris Hadel

Chick-a-pea was presented to the group by attending veterinarian Dr. Amber Johnson (Artaurus Veterinary Clinic) and farrier John Sagaria. Farriers Mark Paine, Sam Durham, Tanner Durham, Skyler Stotts, Chris Hadel and Stuart Greenberg attended, as did Dr. Teresa Crocker (North Coast Equine), Amy Powell (chiropractor/body worker), and Kalley Krickeberg (horse trainer).

This meeting was held at Sonoma Equine Rescue, Rehab and Adoption (SERRA—[www.serraequinerescue.org](http://www.serraequinerescue.org)). Laura and Anthony Ponter of SERRA, and several other members of SERRA's volunteer care staff were there. (Thank you for providing a hospitable environment for the group meeting! Photos (by Anthony Ponter) of this meeting at <https://serrarescue.smugmug.com/SERRA-FARRIER-VET-DAY-9515/>) Chick-a-pea was very well-behaved. She was overdue for hoof care, which must be taken into consideration when assessing existing hoof balance/length/distortion. She is new to John's Sagaria's care and this was her first shoeing with him.

### Observations by Dr. Amber Johnson (Artaurus Veterinary Clinic)

#### History:

*Intermittent lameness and a "funny way of going" for several years. She has most recently been left front lame since April 2015. On examination in April, she tested positive to a Palmar Distal nerve block indicating that the source of pain is in the sole of the foot of the heel. Radiographs taken at that time revealed mild roughening of the wings of the navicular bone and other changes in the navicular bone that can be consistent with navicular syndrome. Further diagnostics in the form of MRI and coffin joint injections were recommended.*

#### Examination:

*Base-narrow conformation with angular limb deviations cause Chick-a-pea to toe in, at least mildly, on all four limbs. She has a tendency to rope walk with her hind limbs. Low in the lateral heel of hind feet (L>R) causing lateral excursion of the fetlock and a pivoting action of the feet when walking. Persistent grade 3/5 LF lameness (consistently lame at the trot on a straight line.)*

#### Radiographic findings:

*Before shoeing:* Dorsopalmar and laterals taken of all feet. Adequate sole on all feet. Flat palmar/plantar foot angle on all feet (ideal ~4 degrees). Broken-back pastern axis on all but the LH, with the LF being most severely affected. Medial/lateral hoof imbalances, however not as severe as would have been expected based on the degree of distortion of the hoof capsule. Abnormally increased distance between the coronary band and extensor process of P3 on both front feet (R>L) indicating potential historical sinking of



Baseline x-rays are an important diagnostic tool.

*P3 within the hoof capsule. Changes to the solar margin of P3, indicating increased concussive forces on the tip of P3. Excessive toe on all feet.*

*After shoeing:* Decreased toe. Improved pastern axis on all 3 affected limbs. Improved medial/lateral balance.

*The coffin bones in this horse are positioned lower in the hoof capsule (sinking). This is an example of why the horse is not served well with a trim purely based on arbitrary external measurement parameters (ie. 3 1/2 inches at the toe).*

Leverage reduction at toe is often requested (and often needed), usually phrased as 'make the toe shorter.' The vets were not asking the farriers to overtrim the sole or otherwise invade sensitive areas at the toe with the trim. Vets and farriers (trainers and owners, as well) sometimes describe things differently. Some misunderstandings can be attributable to a bit of a language barrier. Many farriers differentiate between shorter toe (reducing vertical depth at toe) and backing up toe (without changing depth, removing distorted horn that has migrated forward).

All present agreed that the toe should be a bit shorter (vertical depth). All present saw the radiographs and understood that the amount of change to vertical depth possible was limited due to sinking of the coffin bones. Trimming was done on that plane to the extent that it safely could be. The toe was then backed up.

After group discussion, front bar shoes with rolled toes were hand forged and applied by John Sagaria. Bar shoes increase ground surface area at the back half of the foot, potentially providing a dynamic wedge effect on softer substrates (arena). Rolling the toe of the shoe moves the point of ground contact of the shoe at the

(Collaborative—continued on page 14)



Veterinarians and farriers discuss x-ray results and develop treatment plan.



## Readers Write

# Dedication of Sandy's Bench

By Duffy Hurwin



Sandy Greenblat and his beloved horse, Cody

On July 27, Sandy Greenblat's wife Marilyn, daughter Jerris, and a group of Sandy's friends and riding pals hiked or rode to Divide Meadow on the Bear Valley Trail to dedicate a new handmade bench and stools to Sandy. Sandy would have been 81-years-old on July 29th.

Divide Meadow was one of his most cherished places in the park. Among his many accomplishments, Sandy had managed to get picnic tables and hitch rails installed throughout the park, but the National Park Service (NPS) would not allow a picnic table near a hitch trail Sandy had installed in Divide Meadow, due to the meadow's designation as a wilderness area.

We convinced the park that an old, decrepit bench, which had fallen apart, should be replaced so that hikers, bikers, and equestrians could have a place to rest along the trail. We have seen many people using and enjoying it since its installation in late May.

It is apropos that we dedicate this bench to Sandy, in honor of the completion of his work there, and we have named it "Sandy's Bench." We tell people using it a tidbit about Sandy and how the bench earned its name. We hope you will also refer to it as "Sandy's Bench" whenever you pause there and enjoy Divide Meadow's splendor.



"Sandy's Bench"



Sandy's wife Marilyn, daughter Jerris & friends dedicating "Sandy's Bench" at Divide Meadow.

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(Collaborative—continued from page 13)

toe closer to the center of rotation. A pour-in pad was used for sole comfort and protection.

Hind lateral extension extended heel shoes were handmade for Chick-a-pea by Tanner Durham. These were to try to help address some of her movement/postural/stance issues relative to conditioning and conformation.

John Sagaria trimmed/reset shoes for "Chick-a-pea" on October 9th. She is on a frequent shoeing schedule, more comfortable and moving better. Sensible work and training is increasing her fitness,

which should help with postural issues.

Care can be optimized by building solid direct collaborative communicative relationships with all parties involved in care of the animal. It can also be truly enjoyable for everyone involved.

*Chris Hadel is a farrier practicing in the Grass Valley/Sierra Foothills/Sacramento area. He continues his farrier education by working with Durham Farrier Service and by attending a variety of farrier education clinics. He is a horse owner and enjoys trail riding.*



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## Readers Write

# Trail Smarts for the Equestrian Vacationer

by Patti Schofler



Riders enjoy the thrill of a good gallop along a hillside trail.

"From Mongolia to the United States, professional ride guides agree that nothing detracts more from an amazing adventure than a rider who is unaware of the best practices and etiquette on the trail," says Cathy Mann, who founded High Pointe International Equestrian Tours to blend her two passions—travel and horses.

As she traveled the globe scouting equestrian vacations for clients, Mann collected the guides' advice on how to make viewing the world while riding a horse even better.

### ***Defer to your guide's judgment when horses are assigned.***

"You'll be amazed at how spot-on guides can be. They know the horses and have a keen sense of your riding ability. However, if you're uncomfortable with a horse, let your guide know immediately," says Mann. "They will work with you to find the most suitable mount. Just be honest about your riding ability."

### ***Follow your guide's instructions. He or she will dictate the pace and select the best path to travel. Never pass the guide.***

Whether you're tracking zebra and elephant through an Africa preserve or lost in the spectacular views of the Greek Isles, this is no time to venture off on your own.

### ***Be aware of the horse in front and the one behind.***

"You want to lose yourself in the wonderment of your surroundings, but, horses are horses and you never know when one might spook or stop suddenly."

### ***Leave one horse-length between horses if walking, two if trotting, and three if cantering.***

Most equestrian vacations will call for trotting. Beach gallops are popular in California, Scotland, France and Australia. The vast plains in Hungary welcome invigorating canters. The proper distance during these paces are for safety's sake.

### ***Pass on the left at a reduced speed.***

Horses are accustomed to activity on their left side because that's where horse people lead and mount. Keep a wide berth between you and the horse you are passing, just in case the other horse gets frisky.

### ***On a hill, if a rider needs to pass you, face your horse downhill.***

Climbing a trail to reach breathtaking views in, for example, the mountains of Peru or Spain, is one of the distinct pleasures of vacation riding. To ensure the safety of everyone on your ride, face your horse downhill when the person behind you wants to pass so your horse will know what's coming.

### ***Do not ride side-by-side unless the path is wide enough to keep horses from nipping or kicking each other.***

"When you are riding up to 14,500 feet above sea level to view lofty, snow-capped volcanoes surrounded by massive glaciers or pre-Incan mountain crop terraces, sometimes the edge of the trails are so soft that single file is the only way to travel. And wide trails, say in Ecuador and Israel, commonly narrow quickly."

### ***When your group's horses stop for water, wait until all the horses have finished before riding away.***

Whether your horse drinks from a medieval stone fountain in a French courtyard or a stream in India, the rule remains the same. "As herd animals, horses will react to others by moving away or toward them. Wait until your group's horses have finished before you urge yours to leave the water."



Riders navigate through old ruins in the countryside.

### ***Respect private property. Stay off the lawns and out of planted fields.***

Your trails can take you along the gnarled Oregon vineyards, across Loire Châteaux's grounds or the rolling Cotswold countryside. In each venue, the guides have procured special permission to travel across these private lands and that privilege must be respected.

When riding in tough, unstable terrain, allow your horse his head, and let him determine the best route. Be ready to allow the reins to slip through your fingers should he take a misstep. He'll need his freedom to regain his balance.

*Patti Schofler is an equestrian sports writer, partner in the marketing/public relations firm Dark Horse Media Biz and author of "Flight Without Wings: The Arabian Horse and the Show World." Living in Petaluma, Patti is a graduate of the US Dressage Federation "L" judges program.*

*Spitting Sand—A Learner's Journey*

Column editor Jessica Boyd

**Be Quiet and Listen**

Natural horsemanship proponents often talk about listening to your horse, about hearing them, and using what you hear to better communicate and achieve training goals. But that's not all you should be listening for, not just to what they are telling you so you can get to the next level, but to what else they may be telling you about other things—like what may have changed in their routine or what might be worrying them that you may not see. Sometimes it's obvious and getting from cause to effect is simple. No turn-out becomes kicking the stall wall, for example. Other times, it is subtle and you can't always be sure it's there. If you soften into the energies, you will "hear" what they have to tell you.

Horses' and humans' basic needs are similar, generally distilled to food, safety, and companionship. When one of those needs isn't met, it can stress horse and human alike. Horses communicate differently, but it's rooted in the same part of our human brain that wants comfort food when we're under pressure. When humans are stressed, they act out in any number of ways—some productive and some not so much. Some people exercise to deal with stress, or talk to a therapist. Some people binge eat or lash out at others around them.

Horses have their own ways of coping with stress, and while my four-legged cohorts have very different reactions to tension, both express it clearly. At least, it's been clear in the situations where I expect it. You know the times. That clinic you've been looking forward to where Lena says, "How about I decide I'm not EVER going into that arena without Calabar. How does that sound?" And Calabar says, "How about instead of going around those barrels, I become a bucking bronco and embarrass you in front of all these nice people?" That's normal, that's what I figure is going to happen when I take a horse out of his or her comfort zone.

A recent change in circumstances allowed me to see things a little clearer and highlight things I'd been missing here and there by attributing behavior to personality instead of looking deeper at what might be underneath, what might cause insecurity and stress in a place both horses should have felt safe and comfortable—the barn they'd both lived most of their lives.

Lena has always—or had until recently—gotten very anxious around feeding time. She is extremely food-conscious and was certain that she would be missed, or that the other horses were getting more than she was. She would kick and paw and run her teeth along her pipe panel, pin her ears and snake her head at her neighbor. Very dramatic. That's just Lena, right? Maybe not. We



*Calabar wants to make sure we're listening.*

moved the horses to a new barn recently, an event that should have caused high levels of anxiety as the horses settled in, and yet they are as calm as I've ever seen them.

Watching her now, in the same paddock as Calabar, where the likelihood of actually having to defend her meal is higher, she is a different horse. She's quiet, moving off to whatever food pile Calabar is not eating, without any hint of the wild, starving pony she used to be. Yes, he's doing the driving and she knows who's boss. That makes us think

the separation between her and the other horses, on top of the anticipation of food, made her anxious, somehow more worried. There could be other factors, too—variances in feeding time, routine, who got fed when—that could lead a horse like her with food anxieties to amp up. Whatever the differences, her fundamental needs seem to be met—food, safety, companionship—and she doesn't act out at feeding time any more.

Calabar, in turn, is happy being in charge of Lena, but also willing to hand over the reins to us when we ask. When we arrived at the new barn, there was a horse running loose in the arena. Not too long ago, if I'd pulled Calabar off the trailer in a strange place with that as his welcome, we both would have been airborne. He was alert, but he stayed at my side, never crowding me, never pushing on me. He checked in with me several times, always quieting when I told him he was okay.

Over the years we've owned the two horses, I've tried to pay attention and use what they tell me to train them, to help them think instead of just react, to figure out how to make us a better team. It could be as simple as finally giving them each other, their own little mini-herd of two. Hierarchy and comfort, protection and companionship, safety against that big, bad world out there. Perhaps that is what they needed all along, what she needed to feel less anxious and what he needed to finally find his place in our larger herd.

We made a change that uncovered questions we didn't even know needed asking, challenged assumptions about our horses, and allowed us to hear things we should have heard all along. It will no doubt evolve and present us with new training challenges (breaking up the mini-herd is proving entertaining, for example), but I hope the humans in the herd have learned to listen a little harder, a little better, so we can all have a lot more fun with each other.

*Jessica Boyd lives in Sonoma County and blogs with some regularity about her herd and horse adventures at Spotty Horse News ([spottyhorse.blogspot.com](http://spottyhorse.blogspot.com)). You can reach Jessica (and Lena and Calabar) at [spottyhorse@gmail.com](mailto:spottyhorse@gmail.com).*



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## Readers Write

## The Try

by Sarah Lockwood, P.G.



Learning to identify "the try"

No matter what your equestrian discipline, you have likely heard trainers talk about "rewarding the try," or something akin to that. Maybe "release when he softens" or "quit asking when he gives." Usually, there is a specific task or action the handler is asking the horse to perform, while standing by to reward the horse by releasing on the cue when he complies. Depending on the level of training or prior preparation for the task, it may be broken into smaller pieces to build up to the whole. We can get really creative in breaking down a complex task into tiny individual components or puzzle pieces, and build a foundation from which you can go in countless directions with how you put it together or what you ask for next.

What does "rewarding the try" really mean? It's not enough to carry this around as a meaningless mantra. If you stand at the ready to reward a try, do you know what that horse's try looks like? Can you recognize the softening in the eye, the tension in the nostrils, the rate of breathing, the tiny shift of weight or energy, the blink-and-you-missed-it, subtlest of indicators? Do you know what else is competing for his attention today? Have you set the horse up to succeed? Are you at a point in your skill, and the horse's understanding, to responsibly ask for what you are asking? If not,

you may set the horse up to fail. You may not realize you missed a try, not reward it because you were busy looking for something else. When you think you have set the bar appropriately, but the horse tells you otherwise, ask, "Could I break it down further for him?"

To reward the try you must be able to recognize it, and it may not be what you expect. To recognize it, you must put in the time, ideally with many horses, to train your own eye and intuition. Once you can recognize it, you must remain totally present and tuned in to accurately and appropriately acknowledge the try. At its most graceful, intimate, and truly conversational level, it can be summed up as "capturing the whisper." If you are not tuned to listening for a whisper, you will miss it and wonder why the horses are not talking to you, while they wonder why you are not listening to them.

Working with mustangs or other untouched horses are good examples. At first, the only thing I will ask for is acknowledgement. For a frightened horse who copes through hiding, avoidance, or flight, acknowledgement alone is trying hard. It's just the greeting, the first part of any respectful, two-way conversation. And yet, how easy would it be to skip that initial moment because you didn't realize that you had started a conversation? How many of us skip a simple greeting with our trained horses and simply charge in because we think we're "past that?"

The horses are talking. I'm not the first person to ask, "Are we listening?," but I do stop and challenge my clients to recognize more about what the horses are saying at any moment, to train their eyes, ears, and gut to capture that whisper. It is then that you realize just how hard your horse is trying for you.

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

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## Readers Write At the Gate

By Deb Jackson



*Stop at the gate.*

How do horses heal? How do you train a horse to be a healer? How do they do it? These are the questions most often posed by my fellow humans about my coaching partnership with horses. My answer is always - They don't **do** it, they **are** it.

Horses are truly gifted coaches, because this is their essential, compassionate nature. They are willing and so very able to connect with us deeply and honestly, if we only ask!

Looking back, the truly transformational moments I have had with horses are not about mastery and accomplishment. They are an exquisitely peaceful snowy afternoon on a winter pony, a midsummer morning lying on the broad, bare back of a grazing gelding in a bubble of trust and connection. They are the recognition in an eye, a warm muzzle blowing on my heart, a nicker and a sigh.

Here is a clue: horses live in the moment. We humans really have to work hard to find that "Be Here Now." For example, how often do you really stop and pause at the gate? What difference might that make?

When I arrive at the barn, April knows I'm arriving before I even turn into the drive. My thoughts may still be on morning emails, the news on the radio, or that conversation with my coworker/daughter/friend/in the grocery store... or...or...

I imagine that I exit my car with a cloud of all these things surrounding me as if I'm carrying a huge bunch of cartoon balloons.

Most likely, I'm not even aware because I'm so used to moving through the day like this. April and her pasture mates are already reading my energy. And, we know how horses love balloons!

By the time I reach the gate I may see a happy and willing face coming to greet me, or I may see three skeptical faces looking at me from the furthest side of the paddock.

So ... stop. Stop at the gate. Stand there, take a deep breath. Feel the dirt under your feet. Take your hands rest at your sides. Open them and release your cartoon balloons! You have arrived at the space between your world and theirs.

This is a boundary. On the other side of the gate is the space belonging to the horses. We ask our horses to respect our boundaries. How well do we respect theirs?

Bring your attention to your own body, feel what you are bringing emotionally and energetically into their space. Are you feeling joy, sadness, anger, fear? Let it be, and let any pretense fall away. Be congruent with what you are feeling inside. There may be some unshed tears that catch up with you, a sense of relief or resolution. There may be

laughter or perhaps you'll notice something out of balance in your body that has been calling out for attention. Your horse already knows what is there, and is only concerned about honesty, and what is true in this moment.

From this centered, honest and quieted place honor yourself and your horse by asking permission to enter. Wait for an invitation. Watch and feel for it with an opened heart. Then, when you pass through that gate, your horse will have caught you!

Contact Deb Jackson at Windhorse Full Circle Coaching for information about 2016 programs and private equine guided coaching for a unique, transformative experience. Safe and suitable for those without horse experience. Gift certificates available! (808) 561-1932.



**DEB JACKSON**  
**(808) 561-1932**  
**[www.windhorsefullcircle.com](http://www.windhorsefullcircle.com)**

## Sonoma County Equestrian Events—Winter 2015-16

### 2015

12/19-12/23	Holiday Horse Camp #1, Napa, CA	<a href="http://jumpforjoyequestrian.com/">jumpforjoyequestrian.com/</a>
12/28-12/31	Holiday Horse Camp #2, Napa, CA	<a href="http://jumpforjoyequestrian.com/">jumpforjoyequestrian.com/</a>

### 2016

1/4-1/8	New Years Horse Camp, Napa, CA	<a href="http://jumpforjoyequestrian.com/">jumpforjoyequestrian.com/</a>
2/20-2/22	Three R's of Horsemanship - Relaxed, Responsive, Respectful, Sea Ranch, CA	<a href="http://purplesageequine.com">purplesageequine.com</a>
2/26-2/28	Brandi Lyon's 3 DAY CLINIC, Briones, CA	<a href="http://rawkinghorseranch.com/events/">rawkinghorseranch.com/events/</a>
2/28	SW Barrel Race & Team Roping @ Sonoma County Fairgrounds (1st race in the Redwood Empire Challenge Series)	<a href="http://sebastopolwranglers.com">sebastopolwranglers.com</a>
3/15	SW Trail Ride @ TBD	<a href="http://sebastopolwranglers.com">sebastopolwranglers.com</a>
3/18-3/20	Eitan Beth-Halachmy Cowboy Dressage Clinic, Briones, CA	<a href="http://rawkinghorseranch.com/events/">rawkinghorseranch.com/events/</a>
3/18-3/20	BCHC Rendezvous, Angels Camp, CA	<a href="http://BCHCalifornia.org">BCHCalifornia.org</a>
3/18-3/20	School of the Cavalry Horse Soldier, Salinas, CA	<a href="http://warhorse.org">warhorse.org</a>
3/21	SW Barrel Race & Team Roping @ Sonoma County Fairgrounds (2nd race in the Redwood Empire Challenge Series)	<a href="http://sebastopolwranglers.com">sebastopolwranglers.com</a>
3/26-3/27	Californios Clinic, Briones, CA	<a href="http://rawkinghorseranch.com/events/">rawkinghorseranch.com/events/</a>

*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 Woods Road	Guerneville CA 95446	707-869-2015
Cloverdale River Park	31820 McCray Road	Cloverdale CA 95425	707-433-1625
Crane Creek Regional Park	5000 Pressley Road	Rohnert Park CA 94928	707-565-2041
Doran Beach Regional Park	201 Doran Beach Road	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 Road	Petaluma CA 94952	707-433-1625
Howarth Park	630 Summerfield Road	Santa Rosa CA 95405	707-543-3282
Joe Rodota Trail	4201 Sebastopol Road	Santa Rosa CA 95407	707-539-8092
Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	6303 Highway 12	Santa Rosa CA 95401	707-433-1625
Ragle Ranch Regional Park	500 Ragle Road	Sebastopol CA 95472	707-565-2041
Riverfront Regional Park	7821 Eastside Road	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 Road	Kenwood CA 95452	707-833-5712
Taylor Mt. Regional Park & Open Space Preserve	3820 Petaluma Hill Road	Santa Rosa, CA 95404	707-539-8092





## 2016 Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

### *I am interested in volunteering to help with:*

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising / Grants | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events       | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising / Marketing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write Articles       | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Education / Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Advocacy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication distribution    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calls          | <input type="checkbox"/> Website              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                       |

### *Membership Category*

- ☐ Individual / Family \$30   ☐ Club / Association \$50   ☐ Business \$75   \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Club Affiliate \$10 • I am a member of SCHC Club: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a: ☐ New Member   ☐ Renewing Member

### *Donations*

- ☐ I would like to donate to SCHC for \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *Payment Options*

- **Online** with a fillable form via PayPal at [www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org](http://www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org)

- **Credit Card**

Please check one:   ☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard

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Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- **Check**

Please make checks payable to: SCHC and mail with Membership Application Form to the address below.

Sonoma County Horse Council is a 501(c)(3) organization – your contributions may be tax deductible.

*Thank you for your support!*

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[www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org](http://www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org)

## AD SPECIFICATIONS AND RATES

The Sonoma County Horse Journal is a quarterly publication designed to reach Sonoma County's estimated 30,000 equestrians through direct mail to SCHC Members, individuals, organizations, 35 local horse clubs, and distribution at local feed stores and equestrian businesses. A very affordable way to spotlight your business to the Northern California horse community!

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EIGHTH PAGE (3.5 W x 2" H)	\$ 90	\$ 77x4 = \$ 308	—	—

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# Holiday Gifts and Winter Readiness from HALTER

## WINTER PREPAREDNESS



*Be ready for flooding and mudslides:*

Have your supplies and ready kits packed and safe.

Check pastures, fences, and paddocks for hazards that can become dislodged or float during flooding, such as low branches, loose wire, unstable troughs, trees stumps and exposed roots or holes. Keep a feed cache safe and dry.

Plan for water catchment—if there's no power, you may not have a water supply.

Have your toolbox loaded where it can be easily accessed (bolt cutters, tarps, waterproof boots and gloves, radio and flashlights, batteries and a small generator).

Have your trailer staged in a high and dry location!

## BE A GOOD STEWARD!

Protect waterways, be a good land steward! Clean pastures and paddocks frequently, store or remove manure away from runoff and flood-prone areas.

Make sure animals are relocated far away from waterways (For safety AND conservation sake!)

## ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM AND TRAINING UPDATES



The HALTER Project has had a very successful year! Since our last Rural Readiness Fair in May, 2014, we have facilitated training of more than 20 Sonoma County firefighters, 5 Sonoma County Animal Services officers, and several qualified community members. Currently several SoCo fire protection agencies are working to establish LAR (Large Animal Rescue) programs.

*At this time, these include:*

Glen Ellen Volunteer Fire Department, which is spearheading a large joint effort integrating resources in the Sonoma Valley, Kenwood, and Mayacama areas; Graton Volunteer Fire Department (in the heart of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, just in time for El Niño!), Windsor Fire, and San Antonio Fire.

HALTER will be coordinating with these, SoCo Animal Services, local vets, and additional First and Frontline Responders, to help fund rescue equipment purchases, facilitate community meetings to train volunteer animal disaster workers, and connect community resources.

Trainings for First & Frontline Responders and vet professionals are scheduled for early 2016. Check [HALTERfund.org](http://HALTERfund.org) for dates and information, at [HALTERfund.org/trainings-and-scholarships](http://HALTERfund.org/trainings-and-scholarships).

**Subscribe to the HALTER newsletter to receive updates about future trainings, meetings, and other activities and information**

## A GIFT FOR EVERYONE!



2016 Year of Recovery Calendar, all proceeds to Middletown Animal Hospital To order, go to [HALTERfund.org](http://HALTERfund.org) and click on [Middletown Animal Hospital](http://MiddletownAnimalHospital.org).

## SAFETY CAN BE FUN!

Ranch Readiness Holiday

# Gift List

Stocking-stuffer inspiration from our gift list, learn more at [HALTERfund.org](http://HALTERfund.org) and click on [Be Prepared](http://BePrepared.org)



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