In this Issue:
Mules & Music
Forward - Part II
Learn to Know Gait
The Battle to End Soring Rages ON!
"Patriot's New York New York and his Get"
(from left to right) New York City Slicker aka “Slick”, Patriot’s New York New York aka “Newt” and The New Yorker aka “Manny”

"Win Record Of Patriot's New York New York"
*2003-World Grand Champion-Open Amateur Versatility
*2005-World Grand Champion-Open Amateur Versatility
*2007-World Grand Champion-Open Amateur Ranch Horse

“Our eyes tell us what a horse appears to be. His Pedigree tells us what he ought to be... but his Offspring tells us what he is.”

2006 Open Reserve Champion Louisiana 3 Year Old Futurity, New York Sunrise
Owned and Ridden by Amber Lawson

2009 Boss Man 3 Year Old Versatility Futurity, The New Yorker
Owned and Ridden by Julie Moore

2010 Boss Man 4 Year Old Versatility Derby, New York Yankee Sunrise
Owned and Ridden by Kimberly Fields

2010 Reserve World Grand Champion Open Amateur Ranch Horse, New York City Slicker
Owned and Ridden by Waland Burger

2011 First Place Youth Pleasure Highpoint, The New Yorker
Owned by Julie Moore and Ridden by Johanna Merk, Bavaria, Germany

2011 Top Ten Finalist TV Show-“America’s Favorite Trail Horse”
Owned and Ridden by Julie Moore

We start our horses gently and slowly using natural horsemanship methods so that they will become polite, curious, confident and responsive partners. Come and meet them and our other fine offerings!

Offering selectively bred horses for
Competitive Trail, Versatility and Ranch.
Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS:
6614 Clayton Rd #105 • St. Louis, MO 63117

CONTACT INFORMATION:
800-651-7993 • info@fosh.info • www.fosh.info

Board of Directors

President
Lori Northrup
lori@northrup.com

Director-Versatility & High Point
Nancy Harding - VP
Flawless11@aol.com

Ellicottville, New York

Director-Sanctioned Shows
Ed Ogg
ren Nevada
gnhcshow@gmail.com

Director of Judges
Dianne Little - VP
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
ddlittle@telusplanet.net

Director-Inspections and DQP Coordinator
Teresa  Bippin - VP
Tulsa, Oklahoma
tibbon1957@yahoo.com

Director at Large
Cris Van Horn
editor@fosh.info

St. Louis, Missouri

Secretary; Treasurer
Alcee Ellis
Greenback, Tennessee
Alcee Ellis@earthlink.net

Director at Large
Maggie MacAllister
Staunton, Virginia
brezwood@mgw.net.com

Arizona

Executive Advisory Committee

Bill Coon
Herriaman, Utah
wbatias@gmail.com

Keith Dane
Sykesville, Maryland
dj@aoel.com

Vali Suddarth
Montreal, Missouri
valizei@yahoo.com

Herriman, Utah

Karen Frone
Barnam, Minnesota
tnwalker32@yahoo.com

Kelly Hewitt
Ashland, Missouri
Amstari76@aol.com

Pam Brand
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
creekviewwacs.comcast.net

Julia Tarnawski, Events Co.
Suntand, California
julie-t@earthlink.net

Penny Austin
Nicholasville, Kentucky
pennyaustrin@windstream.net

Gina Vehige
Winfield, Missouri
gvehige@prodigy.net

Bev Foster
St. Augustine, Florida
benefstarl@aol.com

Gale Morahan
Maryville, Tennessee
gale.email2@gmail.com

MORE FOSH INFORMATION ONLINE!
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
Join the FOSH Friends Yahoo group open to all members!
Order FOSH logo products and other materials at www.fosh.info

FOSH Mission Statement:
To promote all “sound,” naturally gaited horses, with a specific emphasis on Tennessee Walking Horses. (“Sound means not “sored”.) Importance is placed on education regarding the humane care for the emotional, mental and physical well being, training, and treatment of all gaited horses. FOSH will only support flat shod or barefoot horses, and will never endorse any event that uses stacks and/or chains as action devices, nor the view and opinions of the author, but not necessarily that of FOSH.

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

...if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt.” ~ Anna Sewell, Black Beauty

May/June 2012 – 3
I was sitting with a couple hundred people watching a Buck Brannaman clinic recently in Arizona. Buck is one of the more popular natural horsemen clinicians in the world these days, having studied with Ray Hunt for years, having spent 30 years on-the-road, and recently been featured in the Hollywood movie “Buck.” Buck now teaches about 45 100%-sold-out clinics per year. He was talking philosophy, including his comment, “...offer the horse as good a deal as possible...” as he discussed lightness of requests made to the horse.

Suddenly, he was discussing a clinic that he used to do for many, many years in Asheville, North Carolina. The clinic was coincidently scheduled on the same weekend in October, at the same fairgrounds, as a big performance Tennessee Walking Horse show, the North Carolina Walking Horse Championship Show. Buck proceeded to say, “Those people are absolute cretins. It makes me sick to be around it. They are kind horses. I quit teaching these clinics in North Carolina, because I couldn’t be around it. It’s like experiencing death all day long.”

Buck’s skill and style reverberates with me still, and his haunting words describing the padded, chained, performance horses: “It’s like experiencing death all day long.”

—Lori Northrup, President
IDENTIFYING GAITS
Learning to identify gaits for a first time gaited horse owner can be intimidating and confusing in the beginning. However, learning to recognize different gaits empowers the buyer who desires to purchase a horse with a specific gait; create a solid reproduction program when wanting strong gaited horses with specific gaits; and when learning the training tools of how to guide, support and direct a horse in training to shape it’s body correctly to execute a desired natural gait and carry a rider at the same time.

Developing an eye to see the gaits first will be the easiest. Learning to feel the different gaits while astride will come next and hearing them correctly often is the final piece in knowing them with clarity. The reason that hearing them correctly can be the most difficult is that all correct rhythmic easy gaits are of a 4 beat timing, yet being able to distinguish between an evenly timed 4 beat gait and a broken timed 4 beat gait can be difficult when developing an ear for gait. Starting with still pictures is a good method to begin working without have one’s eyes trying keep up with legs in motion in the early stages of learning. In many cases, having several photos lined up side by side photographed in consecutive order will best show the changes through a gait cycle, rather than one photo that only shows a single frame of a gait cycle. This is best done with a digital camera with no or short delay time between photos taken. Multiple photos will make gait distinction much clearer than a single photo. Some gaits during hoof stance support and swing phase can look the similar without the following frame showing the next change of leg movement and hoof placement.

I like to encourage folks to watch the legs first and other varying factors, such as head movement, later. How legs and hooves move will always tell what is real, while some other factors can be manifested through training techniques and sometimes fool a person as to what gait is truly being executed by a horse. It will take time and examining many horses to develop the eye for identifying gait.

**BASIC GAIT LOCOMOTION TERMINOLOGY**
*Locomotion:* Act of moving from place to place.
*Rhythm:* Timing of footfalls during a stride.
*Footfall sequence:* Order of footfalls in gait.
*Stance Phase:* When hoof is in contact with the ground.
*Swing Phase:* When the hoof has no contact with the ground.
*Limb support sequences:* Single limb (unipedal), 2 limbs (bipedal), three limbs (tripedal).
*Suspension:* No limb is in contact with the ground (aerial phase).

**START WITH HOOVES AND LEGS**
1. Watch the fore and rear on the side nearest you, these are Lateral legs.
   - Do they appear to pick up and set down Independently of each other? This is a Running walk. Timing 1-2-3-4, alternating 2 hoof, 3 hoof stance phase sequence.
   - Do they pick up together and set down together? This is a Pace. Timing 1-2-1-2, alternating 2 hoof stance phase sequence.
   - Do they pick up together or closely together, yet move downward and set down independently of each other? In the racking family of gaits (saddle rack or rack). Timing 1-2-

continued pg 24

“… if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
Mark Russell, author of Lessons In Lightness: The Art of Educating the Horse, with Andrea W. Steele; 2004: Lyons Press, is known as the “trainer’s trainer” and is a master of equine ergonomics. Mark was drawn to the old masters who promoted the benefits of suppleness and flexion in the horse -- Gueriniere, Boucher, Steinbrecht, & Decarpentry. He completed his transformation into Classical Dressage in 1984 when he traveled to Portugal to study under renowned Portuguese classical horse trainer and rider, Nuno Oliveira. His desire to achieve an equal partnership with the horse led Mark to further his lifelong quest to pursue the Art of riding. Mark Russell is a popular clinician across the country and can be found at www.naturaldressage.com.

All horses, whether green or mature, benefit from time spent in hand. It is easier for the horse to learn relaxation, stretching, and flexion without the weight of the rider and in-hand work provides the foundation for learning under saddle. It is worth noting that how a horse responds in-hand is normally a good indication of what’s being asked of him, and his response will likely be similar under saddle.

How you present a request to the horse, or maybe more accurately stated – “who you are being”, as you present the in-hand work has a profound effect on how the horse interprets what you are presenting. Remember, the reality you present to the horse is the reality he lives in. For example; how you feel about what you are presenting and how you feel about your presentation are going to affect how your horse interprets what it is that you are presenting. It may be useful to ask yourself, “how does my horse feel about my presentation?” as you are doing the in-hand work.

In addition to the awareness of who you are being in relation to your horse, for your horse to benefit it is important to be aware of the following aspects while working in hand: relaxation, alignment, and the movement during the exercise itself.

RELAXATION
Relaxation is maintained through each step of the training process including even the most advanced of the in-hand exercises. Each in-hand exercise should begin with the horse’s jaw relaxed with his head and neck lowered, at or near level with the withers.

Before training can begin, the horse must regard the whip as an aid. He must learn to move forward from a touch with the whip on top of the croup, laterally from a touch on the side, and stop or back up from a touch on the chest. Any fear of the whip needs to be addressed so that relaxation is maintained.

ALIGNMENT
Throughout each exercise the horse should remain properly aligned with a smooth and equal bend throughout his whole body. Watch that his ears remain level as he flexes: this is an indication that the bend at the poll is correct. Pay attention that his head and neck remain aligned with his shoulder, and that a direct connection from his head to his haunch is maintained. If there is a smooth even bend through the full length of his body he will be able to flex without interrupting energy flow and he will be able to engage.

MOVEMENT
In classical training each in-hand exercise has a specific role in teaching the horse to flex, engage, and balance. Suppling the neck, opening the chest, articulating the pelvis, and rounding his back, are a few examples of the many benefits of in-hand movements. Collectively, in-hand exercises teach the horse to work in relaxation, to gain alignment through flexion and to balance various movements of the shoulder and the haunch.

Develop your presentation such that it elicits a calm thoughtful movement from the horse. Slow movement, not asking for too much – a step or two at most, will give him the opportunity to respond while maintaining his relaxation, alignment, and balance. Once the horse is successful and can balance and move fluidly we can request more steps. Flexing and balancing is at times difficult for the horse; take care to set him up to succeed by asking only for what he can provide both physically and emotionally at any particular point in time.

THE ESSENCE OF ARTFUL RIDING
When we work with our horses in a way that supports relaxation, balance, and proper alignment, it feels good to the horse. Paying attention to how the horse feels about your presentation can give you an indication of whether your presentation is being effective. If you are able to work with your horse effectively; you and your horse are relaxed, calm, and developing a “feel” for each other. If you are able to do this without trying to force an outcome then trust is built and training progression comes naturally.
EQUI THEATER
YOU TUBE
CONTEST

FOSH and www.EquiTheater.com have joined together to create an EquiTheater YouTube contest with $500 in total awarded to the top five winners. Contestants must be FOSH members, and the act must include an easy gaited horse. All acts must comply with the FOSH Sound Principles and the contest rules for the EquiTheater YouTube contest. Winners will be determined based upon the number of views on YouTube.

EquiTheater is a skit performed to music by exhibitors and their horses. Exhibitors may use props and other individuals for their acts. Contestants may enter more than once, provided a different routine is used for each entry. The contest began October 1, 2011 and ends September 2012.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...
The word “horse” is often used instead of the word “equine”, making “horse” a generic term, which includes donkeys and mules. There are some donkeys and mules that are gaited and are allowed to be shown in (some) FOSH approved shows. Therefore, gaited donkeys and mules are also allowed to participate in the EquiTheater YouTube contest.

Exploring the possibilities of an EquiTheater routine using mules:
In creating the skit called “GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE MULES”, it will not be necessary to add costumes to the mules, as they are already outfitted in their own costumes, which fit the story line. By searching online, it should be easy enough to find several examples of a Goldilocks costume.

Any age handler/rider and any age horse can participate in an EquiTheater story, or any combination thereof. The horses can be led in hand, ridden bareback, ridden Western or English, driven, or any combination thereof.

In this particular version of the story, Goldilocks will be deciding which MULE she deems as “THE ONE” who is “JUST RIGHT” for whatever reason. As each of the handlers show their mule’s individuality, there should be a voiceover explanation by Goldilocks, which should make it tie in with the original Goldilocks story.

Each horse in the story does not need to have an equal amount of performance time, but all of the horses in the routine must show that they are indeed “gaited”. Practice your routine, keeping to the maximum time limit, and include all of the verbalizations which will be said during the skit. When you’re satisfied with your routine, use a watch with a secondhand and write down how long each and every segment takes. Now you will know the timetable, this is your storyboard. Your storyboard timeline is used for you to know where and when to edit in the music and the verbalizations.

Make your own music:
Trying to find the perfect song for the story you want to tell might be impossible. You will most probably have to create what you need to best showcase your skit. Using an instrumental with a voiceover would give you the most flexibility. A simple way to do a voiceover, would be to use your video camera to record the audio (just ignore the video).

The music does not have to be continuous, a pause in the music would emphasize any spoken words. To individualize each horse in a routine, a different song could be used for each horse. Using slow and fast music would be a good way for each horse to show it’s “gaitedness.” There are free programs available online which can be used to edit music, so the same song could be manipulated to play at different speeds which would match the speed of each individual horse’s gaits.

Using a PC with Windows, you can use the “Windows Movie Maker” to put all your audio bits and pieces together. This program has a built-in timetable to use with your storyboard as your guideline. Place everything in the program’s audio line, ignoring the line provided for the video. This will make a brand new audio for you to save, then burn CD’s for your routine.

If you have questions, e-mail: EquiTheater@aol.com
FORWARD - PART II
by Ann Nyberg Bradley ©2010

Ann Nyberg Bradley, student of the horse for over 45 years, understands the nature of the horse—how he thinks, how he sees his world, and why he behaves as he does. She offers her readers a different perspective into the minds and behaviors of horses to help the human live in harmony with the horse, to better understand equine nature and to recognize how human nature impacts interactions with the horse. Ann currently lives in the Kansas City area and is the author of two books: Of Life And Horses: The Nature of the Horse and Of Life And Horses: Communication Through Cooperation.

Picking up where we left off last time, some important mental/emotional components of forward are:

- Calm/Relaxed
- Attentive
- Trusting/Respectful
- Willing
- Confident
- Accepting of the aids

I think of training like those guys you used to see on late night TV who would spin plates on the tops of poles. It would be challenging for me to spin only one plate, but to get on TV you need to be able to spin 8 or 10 plates at a time. They start with the first few, and then as they add more plates they periodically need to go back and re-spin the first ones. By the time they are all spinning the entertainer is going up and down the whole line re-spinning plates as needed. It’s no trick if plates 5, 6, and 7 are spinning while plates 1, 2, and 3 fall off and break. In our training we start with the fundamental plates and then add more, but if one of the first plates starts to wobble we need to re-spin it before proceeding. It helps me to realize that just because a plate is spinning doesn’t mean we can forget about it as we add more, and very often it is these mental/emotional plates we need to pay close attention to as they are often the ones we lose when we start adding the physical plates.

There’s not an absolute order in which to commence training, but there is a general order. For what it’s worth, I instill the training ingredients from the ground before riding. The first plates we start spinning in our training are calm/relaxed and attentive. We can’t teach a horse anything if he’s not paying attention, and being calm and relaxed is what allows the horse to pay attention. I make a distinction between calm and relaxed in that I think of calm as a mental quality and relaxed as a physical one, but usually if a horse is calm in his mind he will be relaxed in his body and vice versa – so they can be lumped together.

The next distinction to make is to categorize a horse as being either fear-oriented or agenda-oriented. Imagine fear and agenda as two ends of a continuum. At one end is the extremely fearful horse and at the other is the extremely opinionated horse. Most horses lie somewhere in between and may possess both qualities, but will typically display one more dominantly than the other. It’s helpful to know where a horse is on the scale because it will determine which training ingredients we focus on. Both fearful and opinionated horses need to be calm, relaxed and attentive to begin with, but in order to get them calm, relaxed and attentive we might place more emphasis on establishing trust in the fearful horse while we would emphasize respect in the opinionated horse. Ideally any horse will display a good balance between trust and respect, but most horses will start off needing more of one than the other. The horse lacking trust (more fear-oriented) will be too quick to get out of our way – his reactions will portray his fear. The horse lacking respect (more agenda-oriented) will be pushy and invade our space. So the more fearful horse needs to learn to trust and enter our space when invited while the more opinionated horse needs to learn to respect our boundaries and not invade them unless invited.

We want any horse to be willing, but the way we elicit willingness can vary. Usually the fearful horse will become willing once he feels calm and safe and he knows he can trust us. The fearful horse’s primary motivation is defensive in nature, so if he’s not willing, it’s often because he doesn’t feel safe. Once we calm his fears and prove ourselves to be trustworthy leaders the fearful horse will usually become willing. The agenda-oriented horse is more often unwilling simply because he has his own ideas and opinions about what he should or should not be doing. With this horse we may need to gain his willingness through obedience. He needs to learn that we are in charge and he must obey us, although we want to be a benevolent dictator versus a tyrannical one. We also want to be very careful we don’t use fear or pain as a means of obtaining obedience from the agenda-oriented horse – that can backfire if the horse becomes resentful. But fear and/or pain should not be training tools with any horse!

Confidence is an important ingredient in any type of horse, but it’s also a variable quality depending on the horse’s personality. The fearful horse will lack confidence if he doesn’t trust us or if he doesn’t have faith in our ability as a leader. Building confidence in the fearful horse is about showing him he has power over his fear! This relays back to influencing his underlying state of being and not simply his behavior (a topic I address in my books). We need to gradually push the boundaries of his fears, but allow him to take the time and the baby steps he needs to overcome them. We can’t make a horse be unafraid, and if we try to force the behaviors that we want before he’s ready all we will do is increase his fear and his mistrust of us. We need to take him to the point where his fear emerges, let him stay there and become comfortable with it, then release him from the situation. We can gradually push the boundary a little further over time. Confidence relates to how the horse feels about us – not about what we think of ourselves. Many confident people are unable to instill confidence in a horse because they can’t see themselves through the horse’s eyes.

The opinionated horse may have a great deal of confidence, but his confidence is within himself and his own agenda, and not necessarily associated with our agenda. We may not need to instill confidence in him as much as obedience and
acceptance of our agenda versus his own agenda. However some opinionated horses can be wary of things that are not their own idea, so we need to let him sort out his own feelings just like with the fearful horse. We stand by as an authority figure worthy of his respect, his trust, and his obedience. Praise is a great tool for both fearful and opinionated horses, but for different reasons. The fearful horse learns to relax when praised for his efforts, and the opinionated horse likes the positive attention. Some opinionated horses can become big hams when they realize we appreciate their efforts, and they will go out of their way to earn our praise – even at times offering things they have learned that we didn’t ask for. But that’s okay – they are just trying to please. Everyone likes to be appreciated.

When given an aid a horse will do one of three things: resist, evade, or comply. Acceptance of the aids refers to his willing compliance, without resistance or evasion. This is a much bigger deal than it may appear on the surface, for willing compliance requires the horse to literally put his safety and well-being into our hands – from his point of view at least. I’m not sure all riders appreciate what is involved for the horse to do this, and what a great responsibility it puts on us to live up to his trust in our leadership. The key to gaining the right frame of mind (i.e. the qualities discussed here) lies in the horse feeling safe in our presence, confident in our leadership, and willing to follow our direction. It has nothing to do with us being able to coerce the horse into performance -- too often that leads to an erosion of the mental/emotional qualities we should be striving to instill. When we can create a horse who is right on the inside – i.e., calm, attentive, trusting, respectful, confident, willing and accepting – then he is truly ready to learn to do all the things we want him to do. A horse can be forced into submission, but his performance will lose that indefinable quality that gives it true brio.

Performance should be built upon a foundation that fully takes into account the horse’s well-being and his nature. We often think of what a horse needs, and it’s usually in reference to something we want him to do. For example, I often hear riders say their horse needs to yield to the bit, but what I see is a horse who needs to learn to relax and trust so he feels safe enough to yield to the bit. Or some will say their horse needs to respond to the leg, yet the horse really needs to understand what the leg means so he can give the right response. There is a correlation in how we deliver aids to a horse and what we perceive needs to be the result, and if we think the horse needs to do something in response to our aids then we will likely increase the pressure of those aids if he doesn’t. But if we think in terms of what he needs in order to be able to respond to our aids, then we will deliver those aids in a very different manner and with a different intention. It’s all about perception.

The biggest deterrent to consideration of the horse’s well-being is the human ego. For some reason we are able to believe our own ego’s wants and desires give us the right to inflict distress on another as long as it fulfills our own ego agenda. In that sense, the first place to start the mental/emotional work is within ourselves. It takes guts and honesty to re-evaluate what we are thinking and doing in life, but when innocents are involved (i.e. animals and children) it is imperative we do so. When we have a horse who is operating from a functionally healthy state of being, and we carry his best interest at heart, his movement will take on the elusive but profound qualities of forward.
Think Dressage for Gait
by Larry Whitesell® 2011
(www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com)

Larry Whitesell, internationally renowned gaited horse clinician and author in Cookeville, Tennessee, teaches classical horsemanship for gaited horses to gymnastically rebalance the horse and achieve relaxation and collection from hind end engagement. He teaches that relaxation is paramount in all training and the horse must be trained physically, mentally and emotionally.

When training our gaited horses, teaching or developing gait cannot be more important than the horse’s physical and emotional development. While gait is the reason we own our horses, we need to remember that we must train them according to equine biomechanics. It is my experience in training hundreds of gaited horses that when I train the horse using correct techniques, it only makes them gait smoother, more easily and with a greater range of speeds. When I am working with a horse, I have never concerned myself with gait names or what the breed standard says the horse needs to do. I just make the horse as supple, relaxed, and strong as possible and the horse offers me what his genes and ability allow. Most of the horses I train can be ridden carrying a cup of coffee without spilling any when they offer gait. I don’t care what you call the gait, it is extremely smooth and the horse is safe to go anywhere.

I train gaited horses using classical dressage techniques. “The main goal of dressage is that all the rider’s aids can flow through the horse’s body and reach the targeted muscle group without impediment. This is called “permeability to the aids”. It can be achieved only if all muscles and joints communicate with each other in such a way that they pass on the impulses of the hindquarters as well as the rider’s aids in all directions (forward, backward, right, and left). This requires on the one hand, perfect suppleness and on the other hand, a certain steadiness. Only soft, supple muscles can function adequately as conductors for energy impulses. Stiff muscles, on the other hand block them—the aids either get stuck or reach their target in a very much weakened state” according to Dr. Thomas Ritter in Dressage Principles Based on Biomechanics. The rider or trainer has two main tasks: 1) All muscular stiffness has to be found and eliminated; and 2) All joints have to be framed in such a way that the horse cannot bend in the wrong place and does not yield with the wrong joint.

To supple and strengthen muscles they must be lengthened and shortened. If you only ride the horse straight forward without bending there is no suppling. Because horses at first don’t understand longitudinal bend (nose to tail) the muscles must be supplled first by lateral bending. Longitudinal flexion is the beginning of collection, which results in improved balance and poise. Imbalance always leads to tension. Relaxation is only possible when the load is distributed as evenly as possible over the four legs.

To achieve collection, several things must happen biomechanically: the horse must lift the base of his neck and raise his withers, he must rotate his pelvis and bring his hind legs under himself, and very importantly, he must maintain the tension in his supraspinous ligament which runs along the top of the spine, so that his back remains round and his locomotion muscles can operate correctly, allowing him to carry weight. This will cause him to flex in his lumbar sacral region, stiff, and hock joints. If the horse works in a ventro-flexed (inverted) or neutral back, he will not use these joints and most of the weight goes on the front legs, and the long back muscle, the longissimus dorsi, will have to hold the riders weight which does not allow the horse’s hind legs to properly flex and carry weight. A horse not using his joints properly makes it hard for the rider to access his hind legs and therefore the horse must use more energy to gait.

As a rider and trainer, there are several things you can do to create the flow of energy from the aids to the muscles.

When you teach the horse a movement or exercise, focus on the aids you give as much as the actual movement. Reward small pieces of the movement, so you are rewarding the horse as much for answering the aid you gave as for the movement. When the horse learns a movement, then don’t drill the horse with the movement, but ask for the movement with the correct aids and reward for answering the aid. As you get better at giving the aid, the horse gets more comfortable with how you ask for things.

Ride a lot of upward and downward transitions. This supple and strengthens the hips and shoulders. It also builds longitudinal flexion, which is stopping and speed control. The downward transitions are as important as the upward. All transitions should be gradual; not abrupt. Abrupt transitions, while impressive to humans, create tension in young horses.

Ride turns. Turns must be gradual to be beneficial. Small or short turns take uneducated horses out of balance, creating stiffness. Large gradual turns work on abdominal muscles, hips, shoulders, and neck. A prerequisite for eliminating stiffness is balance; therefore, larger turns and circles are necessary.

Bending. Circles and serpentines teach the horse to flex to the leg aids. Serpentina help the horse understand change of rein or direction, learning to change balance. Serpentina also work abdominal muscles, the neck, poll, shoulder, and hind legs.

Sideways stepping. Spiraling in and out on a circle, leg yielding and if the horse gets more advanced, shoulder-in and haunches-in. Spiraling in and out helps the horse understand the inside aids and the outside aids in addition to the movement suppling the horse.

Rein back. It is important to teach rein back so that the horse learns to rock his weight to his hind legs before starting to back up. If the horse pushes back from the shoulders or front legs the movement does more harm than good. It is easiest to teach the rein back from the ground first. When teaching this movement, the horse must lower his head and neck and not raise them. This strengthens the hind end and ends the joints correctly. You are developing the muscles for collection and also stopping. If the horse backs from his shoulders you are deteriorating your stop. When beginning, actually reward the horse for just shifting his weight backwards at first. Follow this by asking for only a step or two. Build upon that for more steps.

When you train your horse with the correct building blocks, he will engage the hind legs which results in gait in a horse genetically bred to gait.

For more information or to contact Larry, visit www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
Life As an Intern

By Cris Van Horn, FOSH Board Member and Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Association President

Madalyn Baskin, a 15 year old student from Bixby, Oklahoma, is the first Intern in the Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Association’s (PPGHA’s) New Leader Development Intern Program (NLDIP). The program is a two year mentored independent study and experiential learning program designed to introduce the Intern to organizational leadership and sound horsemanship for gaited horses.

Madalyn’s second assignment was to read and report on Ann Nyberg Bradley’s second book, OF LIFE AND HORSES, COOPERATION THROUGH COMMUNICATION. I wanted to share Madalyn’s observations which I found insightful as well as an excellent book review.

Madalyn said the training techniques and exercises Ann mentions in her second book are “close to the exact view of the situation through the horse’s eyes. She is an amazing analyzer of the horse and its viewpoint in life. Ann is a wonderful “listener” to horses. According to Ann, training begins with creating a “language” with the horse. It is our responsibility to understand the horse, not the other way around. We need to make our requests clear to our horses while “listening” to what they have to say in response to our command. When a horse does not comply with our request, it can be for a variety of reasons including anticipation of pain, discomfort, lack of confidence, etc. By listening to our horse, we can uncover their underlying emotions and learn to deal with them properly.

When we defy a horse, we are setting up defiance in return, an act that Ann calls “mirroring.” If you look in a mirror, you can see what you are presenting before you blame it all on the horse. When we learn to listen to the horse, we can see that a reason for non-compliance is like saying to a horse “Shut up! I don’t care why you don’t want to do this. I said do it, so you do it anyway!” It is important for us to listen because a horse will learn to retreat within itself, which brings us back to the problem with underlying emotions.

Controlling your horse can be done in calm gestures instead of forcing it to do something. If you punish the horse enough, it will eventually quit trying. Something Ann said that was very true was, “The same exact punishment can be completely different, depending on the horse’s underlying emotions.” She gave many different examples of how different a horse will react to each scenario. Also, she spoke of negative and positive reinforcement in a way that I had never heard of before, like negative being an aid taken away, and a positive as something being added.

I enjoyed this book very much. It is easily understood and very analytic to a horse’s viewpoint. I felt as if I was reading the thoughts of a horse right out of the book. I appreciate Ann and all she has accomplished in becoming the great trainer she is today. She has great methods and I’m sure horses appreciate her also! I am very grateful to her for all she has taught me through her books. I look forward to using her techniques with my horses! Stay tuned for more insights from Madalyn as she continues her “Life as an Intern.”

2011 FOSH HORSE OF THE YEAR

TWH Dirty Little Secret

By Nancy Harding, FOSH Versatility & High Point Director

Tennessee Walking Horse “Dirty Little Secret” and owner Ashley Frones have captured both FOSH’s 2011 Horse of the Year & Region 2 Championship. Congratulations!!! Dirty Little Secret is an 11 year old Tennessee Walking Horse gelding, whom everyone knows as “Elliot”. He was born and raised on Hobby Horse Farm in Carlton, Minnesota. He was sired by “Our Favorite Secret” a wonderful TWH stallion, who put many great pleasure horses on the ground. His dam is Smoke & Cinder. Both horses are out of the breeding program of Sally and Dale Frones’ Hobby Horse Farm who are Ashley’s parents.

Ashley has ridden more than a couple Tennessee Walking Horses to the breed’s top honors, titles that include TWHBEA’s Supreme Versatility Champion and Champions and Grand Champions at FOSH’s North American Championships. Look for, (or should I say Look out for!), Ashley and Dirty Little Secret at shows in 2012!
EARLY ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS UNDER THE CRIMINAL PROVISIONS OF THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT OF 1970
— Compiled by C. J. Tremps

At a 1960s horse show in Washington, D.C., the first entry in the Tennessee Walking Horse class flung his feet forward in the spectacular big lick. Blood flew from his hooves, splattering the sides of the ring. The crowd booed. Additional public outcry and continued abuse of the walking horse prompted Congress to enact the Horse Protection Act of 1970. Although the law provides both civil and criminal penalties for soring, after the first few years, criminal prosecutions dwindled alarmingly. This article focuses on the first round of criminal cases brought under the Horse Protection Act.

The USDA brought its first criminal charge against trainer Kenneth Boaldin of Mansfield, Texas, at a 1972 Waco horse show. Government inspectors accused Boaldin of showing a horse wearing “knocker” boots. “Knocker” boots are illegal leather bell boots containing lead balls or sharp metal tacks, which project inward from the boot to injure the flesh above the horse's pastern. Lead balls or lead weights “knock” or bang against a horse's chemically sored, burned or blistered pastern to cause additional pain in order to produce the “big” or “sore lick.” The horse placed first in its class, but inspectors allegedly found metal projections sewn inside the lining of the boots.

The U.S. Attorney in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas at Waco filed the case against Boaldin of Mansfield, Texas, at a horse show in Gadsden, Alabama. The USDA charged that Fleming intimidated the veterinarian in addition to preventing him physically from examining the horse. In September Fleming pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) to criminal charges of impeding and preventing a USDA inspection. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama at Birmingham found Fleming guilty as charged and fined him $250.00.

The first jury trial brought under the Horse Protection Act was that of James H. Altman. In September of 1972, Altman, of Arnold, Missouri, entered “Romeo's Last Chance” at a horse show in Pontiac, Illinois. USDA veterinarians allegedly found open bleeding on the horse's front leg. The U.S. attorney filed the case in Peoria, Illinois, with a jury trial scheduled for April of 1973. The jury found Altman not guilty, based on the testimony of his wife and friends and in spite of a warning from a previous show veterinarian for an injury found on the same horse.

Possibly the second jury trial was the case of Madrian Lee and her Tennessee Walking Horse “Secret Lady” at a Tompkinsville horse show. The USDA veterinarian alleged that Secret Lady had raw and tender wounds on both front legs. The USDA filed three charges against Lee: 1) exhibiting a sored Tennessee Walking Horse, 2) equipping a horse with illegal boots, and 3) obstructing and impeding a USDA inspector. Lee also allegedly gave a false exhibitor's number. At trial Dr. Hurd, the veterinarian, testified that Lee tried several times to wrest a whip away from her husband so she could use it on the horse. Dr. Hurd also testified that Lee stomped her exhibitor's number into the ground and kicked manure and dirt into his chest and face.

Criminal charges were filed against Lee by the U.S. Attorney in District Court for the Western District of Kentucky at Bowling Green. During the jury trial, Dr. Hurd testified that Secret Lady had lesions above her hooves, sparse hair, and wore boots with sharp edges. Dr. Hurd said that when he tried to examine the horse, Mrs. Lee called him “the dirty @%$# I had trouble with before.”

On the two counts of soring, the jury found her not guilty; however, the jury convicted Lee on one count of impeding a government inspector at a horse show. The court fined her $250.00.

That same month, trainer Don Bell's horse won first place at a show in Decatur, Alabama. When USDA veterinarians lifted one of the horse's feet, “Bomar's Ebony Belle” allegedly dropped to both knees because it was in such unbearable pain. The U.S. attorney charged Bell with soring the horse's front legs and filed the case in Birmingham, Alabama. Under the anti-soring regulations, both the horse's owner and the horse show manager are liable for prosecution. However, the disposition of this case is unknown.

Also in September, trainer Dick Peebles showed the Tennessee Walking Horse “Go Boy's Wide Track.” Peebles appeared in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama at Birmingham to enter a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) to criminal charges that he violated the Horse Protection Act.

In October of 1972, trainer Vic Thompson and two employees, Boyd Melton and Larry Webb, all of...
Shelbyville, Tennessee, were accused of showing five sored horses at three different shows. Melton was indicted on seven counts and Webb on three. Thompson, Melton and Webb were all convicted of criminal charges for violating the Horse Protection Act. The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee at Nashville fined Thompson $1,000. Melton and Webb were assessed fines of $500.00 each. Additionally, all three men were placed on one year’s probation.

In November trainer Tex Smith of Helena, Alabama, showed “Clown’s Spooky” at a show in Montgomery, Alabama. After the horse competed, government inspectors discovered the horse’s lower legs to be visibly irritated and extremely sensitive. Subsequently, Smith was arrested in April of 1973 on charges of exhibiting a sored Tennessee Walking Horse. The U.S. Attorney brought the case in the District Court for the Middle District of Alabama at Montgomery. Smith eventually pleaded guilty, and the court fined him $1,000.00.

Trainer Ronnie Spears of Tullahoma, Tennessee, was charged with soring the Tennessee Walking Horse “Big Clyde” during a 1972 show. In the spring of 1973, criminal charges were filed against Spears in the Middle District of Louisiana at Baton Rouge. Spears was charged with adding padding between “Big Clyde’s” front hooves and shoes to raise the heel upward so that the toe pointed downward at an excessive angle. This severe elevation of the heel forces the horse to walk painfully on its toes and thus violates the Act. Spears pleaded guilty in Federal court and was fined $1,000.00.

More than thirty owners, trainers, and exhibitors were indicted by federal grand juries for violations of the Horse Protection Act during the years from 1971 to 1973. Out of the thirteen owners and trainers above, only one individual, Don Bell, has publicly denounced and discontinued the practice of soring Tennessee Walking Horses.

Copies of the bibliography may be obtained by emailing editor@fosh.info.

---

2012 IJA Annual Judges Training Seminar Returns to California

By Dianne Little, FOSH Director of Judges

The FOSH Independent Judges Association (IJA) is pleased to announce the 2012 Annual Judges Training Seminar will be held May 17-19, 2012 in Murrieta, California. The host hotel is the Comfort Inn & Suites near Temecula Wine Country. The closest airport is Ontario, but Orange County, San Diego and Los Angeles are also close.

Classroom instruction, peer instruction, practical experience and heated discussion are the corner stones of an IJA judges clinic. IJA clinics not only focus on the standards required under IJA Rules, but on the ethical standards implicit in administering and interpreting rules. IJA judges and apprentices recognize that judging is a combination of aptitude, attitude and philosophy. The combined energy is amazing as they consider the whole horse – emotionally, mentally and physically while applying the rules of competition. IJA Judges proudly represent the FOSH mission, vision and values to the horse community.

Every year one gaited breed is the designated guest breed. The guest breed for 2012 is the Mangalarga Marchador Horse. We are pleased to announce that the horses presented will be from Rancho De Los Cielas of Riverside, California. With fewer than 200 Mangalarga Marchador horses in the United States, we are honored that Jacob and Theresa will share their passion and knowledge at the clinic.

Auditors are an important component of the IJA clinic and are encouraged to attend. For further information contact IJA Director of Judges at 403-271-7391 or ddlittle@telusplanet.net.

IJA is a subset of Friends of Sound Horse. FOSH is a national leader in the promotion of natural, sound gaited horses and in the fight against abuse and soring of Tennessee Walking Horses. For more information about FOSH or to become a member, please visit www.fosh.info or call 1-800-651-7993.

---

WANTED

VIDEO CLIPS OF DIFFERENT GAITS

IJA Judges and Apprentices are launching a new educational project and require video clips of any breed of gaited horses moving in gait. The clips may be in the field, on the trail or in the show ring. If you have a clip or clips in a digital format and would like to be part of this project, please forward (indicating the breed) to:

Dianne Little
619 Lake Linnet Cres SE Calgary, AB Canada T2J 2J3
or e-mail: ddlittle@telus.net.

… if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
It all began in 2008, when we began getting serious about endurance competing. We practiced and trained hard throughout 2007 and hit the trails in full spirits for the 2008 season. Remarkably, we were doing most excellent with one exception. We could not keep shoes on our feet!

Flame’s Choice aka Flame, is a registered TWHBEA mare. She can perform her running walk on trail at a whopping 14 mph on the flat and maintains a steady 10 mph on tough terrain. Her overstride has been measured at 25” in the mud. This mare literally blows shoes right off her feet. Early in 2008, I was seriously taxing the skills of my farrier education trying to keep shoes on her during competitions. She completed a grueling trail of mostly rocks and boulders, with one shoe left on and scored straight A’s on her card. (for more info on Endurance, visit www.aerc.org or read my article “Competing Sound” in the last Issue of the Sound Advocate or read my book TO FINISH IS TO WIN) She was completely sound, no bruising on her feet, and that was the day I pulled off the fourth shoe and started our adventure towards being a barefooted Endurance Team.

We completed two more rides in 2008 without shoes. They were easy trails so I didn’t worry about her feet. In 2009 we did try boots on the more treacherous rocky trails when we were conditioning. Even though many endurance riders use Easy Boots, I found that didn’t work out well either because Flame was destroying the boots within hours of hitting the trail. Since she didn’t seem to care that there were rocks under her feet. I began researching Natural Balance trimming. I am a trained farrier and decided that it was time to learn more about the horse foot and the mechanics behind it. What I learned amazed me as I experimented with Flame and several of my long time farrier customers.

The very first thing I learned was that a working horse with no shoes has to be on 24/7 turnout so their feet are constantly on the move. Horses are meant to move 20-25 miles in a day grazing, and this movement has a lot to do with the health of their feet. Secondly, through being an endurance competitor, I had learned the value of a good feeding program without carbs and sugars. This also is extremely important for foot health. Flame went on an all hay and pasture diet without any grains or supplements except during the three days before a competition, the day of a competition and the day after a competition. All she received during those five (5) days was a 10% sweet feed/beet pulp slurry. Remarkably, this change in lifestyle and feeding gave her more energy at a competition.

2009 was a challenge as I worked on correcting her balance. I was injured mid-season so we did not complete the year. I took this opportunity away from riding to study how her feet changed while she was not being ridden. In one year, her foot size increased from a 00 shoe size to a 0 shoe size and the shape of her foot changed from an oval to a perfectly round cylinder. As I got the hang of her balance, I found I had to trim her less and less and by 2010, I was only rasping small flares once every couple months. The last time her foot felt a nipper was April 2010.

In 2011 we were ready to compete again. Our first two rides were on very easy grassy trails. She broke all her speed records competing at these rides. I was amazed at the change in her balance and how she boogied over dew-slick, grassy hillsides without hesitation. I watched as other horses in front of me slipped and slid while we maintained perfect harmony with the terrain. I have to attribute this to her ability to know exactly what kind of footing was under her feet due to...
being barefooted. Her third ride was a challenge. The footing was mostly rocky and hard. It had been hot and dry for a long period of time and we were to compete on service roads through the forest. I was very concerned as the ride manager recommended shoes or boots. This was a Competitive Trail Ride (CTR) in which a horse is “scored” with points and the vetting is more intense than at an Endurance event. We maintained her high speeds during that ride, even though the terrain was treacherous, and her score was the highest CTR score she ever received. Not a chip or bruise anywhere on her feet. In this photo, you can see that she performs her 4 beat gait perfectly fine without the assistance from shoes!

**Bear’s Rising Sun** is my double-registered Racking Horse and American Gaited Pony gelding who stands at 14.1 hands. Bear has been on many trail rides, to a variety of clinics (such as working cow, despooking, swimming and natural horsemanship) and a handful of horse shows/cowboy challenge competitions. Out of everything we’ve done together, Bear has a special affinity for playing with those large horse balls that have become quite popular nowadays.

**Pumpkin Spice** is my registered American Gaited Pony gelding who stands at 13.2 hands. Spice is a wonderful trail mount who will go out alone or with others. He’s terrific with obstacles and props too and he goes along quietly whether his rider carries an umbrella, drags objects with a rope or asks him to cross tarp. Spice is currently leased to a therapeutic riding center where he provides horseback rides for children and adults with special needs. His riders love his smooth gait!

(Below) Bear and Mary Lynne cantering towards home at the end of a cowboy challenge competition.

Mary Lynne and Bear playing with a horse’s soccer ball at a clinic.

Spice and Mary Lynne on the day that she signed the lease with the therapeutic riding center.
The unusual, often spotted color patterns are what distinguish the Appaloosa from any other breeds of horse. There is evidence that traces the Appaloosa’s ancestry back to Europe and Asia, but the breed itself really became established in North America. Although the Appaloosa today is generally thought of as the more sturdy, quarter horse type with a walk, trot and canter gait, the Foundation Appaloosas are somewhat leaner and more rugged, with some having a propensity for a four-beat gait.

Many believe that the gaited Appaloosa is a descendant of the Spanish horses that were brought to the Americas from South America and were prized for their smooth gaits. The Spanish called these horses “paso fino” meaning “smooth-gaited” and not indicative of any particular breed. Hundreds of years of selective Spanish breeding later produced the breeds called Paso Fino, Peruvian Paso and Columbian Paso, which may be descendants of these early easy-gaited horses that were brought to the Americas.

Originally it was thought that these smooth-gaited horses may have been claimed by the Nez Perce and other Indian tribes and eventually were linked to horses recognized by ranchers for their smooth unique gait, which was dubbed “the Indian Shuffle”. But more recent research suggests that there were not that many gaited horses among the Nez Perce prior to or after the 1877 War and that the modern day gaited Appaloosa has an outside influence of gait not originally found in the Native American herds. Supporting this theory is a contention that gaited horses were NOT favored as war or buffalo hunting horses, as their gaits prevented them from the necessary speed and/or agility for those jobs and that gaited horses were less dependable as trail horses on the steep mountainous trails. If gaited horses were used, it most likely would have been by the women and children and for pack animals.

So specifically, what is the gait referred to by some as the “Indian Shuffle”? In the Indian shuffle, each foot hits the ground independently with uneven timing making it a broken four-beat gait. This is because the time between hoof beats on the same side is shorter than the time between the next hoof beat coming on the opposite side. The horse moves with a rolling motion of the shoulders and hips, the motion of the horse is absorbed in its back and loins giving the rider a smooth, gliding ride. To some, it is simply a four-beat gait that varies in execution depending upon the horse’s conformation and style of moving.

When the Appaloosa breed registry, the Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC), was formed in 1938, some of the Foundation Horses possessed this gait naturally. It was likely the product of a combination of the early smooth gaited wild horses, used in breeding for smooth gaits by ranchers and the cross breeding with ancestors of other gaited breeds that had occurred in the sixty years since the end of the Nez Perce War. In addition, to increase its membership in its early years, the Appaloosa Horse Club allowed cross breeding with seven other registered breeds, including the following gaited breeds: Morgans, Saddlebreds, Standardbreds and Tennessee Walking Horses. This cross breeding in the early years of the Club may be responsible for a resurgence of the gaited horse.

So why are so few Appaloosas gaited today? Beginning in the mid 1970’s, cross breeding was restricted by the ApHC to only the following non-gaited breeds: Quarter Horses, Arabians,
and Thoroughbreds. Foals are fully registered as an Appaloosa if they have the proper characteristics even though only one parent is a registered Appaloosa. In the modern Appaloosa show ring, the gaited Appaloosa horse will be disqualified but the gaited horse may participate and win in other ApHC events.

In order to further the bloodlines of the “true” Appaloosa, a group of concerned breeders led by Tom Taylor formed the Foundation Appaloosa Horse Registry (FAHR) in September of 1997. The main purpose of the registry was “to protect, preserve, perpetuate and promote the bloodlines of the true Appaloosa horse, the breed traditionally recognized as Appaloosa.” FAHR registered horses must have 75 percent Appaloosa blood by known registered Appaloosa horses and they must be registered both with the ApHC and with FAHR.

FAHR describes its ideal horse as a well-balanced “middle-of-the-road” horse with the added dimension of coat color, mottled skin, white sclera and striped hooves. In general appearance, it is well muscled, symmetrical and smooth, with a clean throat latch, prominent and well defined withers, short appearing back and sloping croup, a long sloping hip, deep heart girth and long underline. Ideally, the horse will have long sloping shoulders with a deep chest (not excessively wide), short and flat cannon bones, and medium long and sloping pasterns. The horse's height may vary from 14.2 to 16.0 hands tall, and its weight may vary from 950 to 1250 pounds. The minimum height for a mature Appaloosa is 14.0 hands with no maximum height, although 17.0 hands are sometimes seen. The horse’s way-of-going is ground covering (not choppy), smooth and easy.

Brenda Imus had this to say about the Foundation Appaloosa Horse Registry and its efforts to recover the gaited Appaloosa horse: “The... Foundation Appaloosa breeders for the past 15 years or so... have concentrated on producing sound, well-balanced, and beautiful riding stock. Even better (to my way of thinking), is that this effort has resulted in a resurgence of horses who perform a true Indian Shuffle—and some breeders are indeed concentrating their efforts on producing this wonderful pure bred gaited horse.”

According to Bill Wicklund of Hurricane Ranch, “Gait is a great selling tool and shows the fantastic ability of these [Foundation Appaloosa] horses to do just about anything.” Bill believes the Foundation Appaloosa horse to be the most versatile horse in the country as it can do a variety of competitive events, including team roping, steer daubing and other cattle classes as well as endurance and competitive trail riding.

Bill rode the Reserve National Champion Endurance Horse, Thunder, and Bill has qualified more horses for their ApHC Medallions in Distance Riding than anyone else in the world. Distance Riding includes both Endurance Riding and Competitive Trail Riding. To earn the coveted Medallion, you have one year to ride the horse 350 miles in competition, and you have to choose either Endurance or Competitive Trail Riding with no rides shorter than 50 miles. Visit Bill Wicklund of Soper, Oklahoma, at his website: www.hurricaneranch.net.

Cheryl Palmer of Spotted Farm Ranch has been researching ways to breed more gait into her leopard Appaloosa horses, focusing on breeding for gaited conformation. According to her website, Cheryl is “…on a program to consistently produce and preserve the Indian Shuffler (foundation gaited horses) and ...committed to preserving the “Indian Shuffler”, a smooth, fast and efficient mode of travel,...both easy on the horse and rider.” Like Bill, Cheryl believes in the versatility of the gaited Appaloosa, which she attributes to the fact that there is not uniformity of type in the Appaloosa breed but rather a mixture of many types, both those that have cross breeding and those like the Foundation Horses that have not been cross bred to produce the more heavily muscled stock horse conformation.

Here's how Cheryl Palmer summed it up: “There is an Appaloosa for you for any endeavor you choose. Purebred or Crossbred, it’s all about choices. Sport horses, dressage, gaited, trail, endurance, pleasure or recreational, show horse, racing horse, roping, penning, you name it and the Appaloosa can do it. You don’t have to go outside the breed as the Appaloosa has all the spots covered. The Appaloosa is the Total Package!” Visit Cheryl Palmer of Bigfork, Montana at her website: www.leopardappaloosa.com.


...if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty

May/June 2012 – 17
I recently reviewed some archived issues of the FOSH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, the predecessor to the SOUND ADVOCATE magazine which I found fascinating. They chronicle the battles around the turn of the century to end the cruel and inhumane practice of soring by many individuals, courageous enough to stand up and fight for the abused and tortured gaited horse. Here we are in 2012, still fighting the battle, 42 years after the passage of the Horse Protection Act (HPA). Why, you might ask, are we still having to fight this battle?

USDA LISTENING SESSIONS
A lot was revealed during the Listening Sessions that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) held in location across the country during the months of March and April 2012. Prior to the listening sessions, the USDA sent out a set of questions they wanted interested parties to address during the listing sessions so they could assess progress made to enforce the HPA. These questions were:
- Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to eliminate the cruel and inhumane practice of soring horses. How close are we to achieving the goal?
- Can the industry achieve a consensus on how to carry out a self-regulatory program to enforce the Horse Protection Act in a consistent way?
- What responsibilities should USDA-certified Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) have within the industry?
- How can the industry reconcile its inherent competition aspect with ensuring compliance with the Horse Protection Act?
- What can USDA do now (and in the future) to ensure compliance?
- How should the USDA ensure compliance?
- What responsibilities should USDA have within the industry with respect to enforcement and what hinders oversight of the HIOs and/or industry?
- Should there be a prohibition of all action devices and pads?
- Currently the Horse Protection regulations have a shoe weight limit on yearlings. Should there now be a shoe weight limit for all aged horses?

As you might imagine, those with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo came to the Listening Sessions in droves, sometimes 35 Big Lick Proponents to one sound gaited horse supporter. After all, this is their livelihood and claim to fame—the way they make their money through “training”, show wins, and breeding based on show wins. Nonetheless, many sound gaited horse advocates and supporters attended and spoke at these Listening Sessions.

FIRST HPA PROSECUTION IN OVER 20 YEARS
If you read the media headlines back in February, you remember that Barney Davis, TWH & Spotted Saddle Horse trainer, was convicted of HPA violations shortly before the Listening Sessions commenced. Transcripts from his sentencing hearing revealed a very dark side of the padded horse industry. Mr. Davis stated, “Everybody does – I mean, they’ve got to be sored to walk. I mean, that’s the bottom line. It ain’t no good way to put it, but that’s it… Soring means you put chemical agents on the skin or objects under the foot. A lot of people use what we call wedges and some people use bolts and some people just can shoe them and get them close enough to, you know, make them hurt under their feet…. You got some people use mustard oil, which is a chemical you mix with, it can be mixed with kerosene or diesel, or Gojo, just, you know, anything to cut it down to put on their skin and wrap it up and it makes them tender, sore, you know… …The bolt doesn’t actually go into the hoof, I mean, you put the flat, something flat against their foot so you don’t hurt them too bad. I mean, you don’t want to hurt them too bad… Mr. Lanegar he’s inserting the bolts in this horse… He knows how to do it. I mean, he’s worked for enough trainers to see it, you know [telling about another horse on film that Barney Davis is being consulted on]…. Well, what he’s doing now is he’s watching to see which foot he moves, he starts moving, and if he starts moving one foot more than the other, then you have to tighten the one that he’s not moving. That’s what we call leveling him…. That’s what a sore horse is, it’s just a horse that’s limping on both feet…..This is mostly, this is mostly done, I mean, on what we call flat shod horses without the pads… In order – it would be done different on a padded horse,
the farrier would have to do it on a walking horse, padded horse. I mean, it would be done with therapeutic what we call blue putty. And what it is, it’s just a putty that you trim the foot real close, and then you put the putty in there and you put the, you put the pad back on the foot, and when that, when the putty starts drying, it starts what we call rising. And just like dough rises when you cook it, when this putty starts drying, it starts getting hard and rising and it puts pressure against the foot…

The chains are used for like when soring agents are put on, you put the chains on top of the, on top of the soring agent to make them, and that irritates them to make them pick their feet up higher… I mean, this is the whole purpose, I mean, this is what makes them walk. I mean, this is on top of the sore and they carry the chain longer… Every walking horse that enters in a show ring is sore… This is every time a horse is shown.

It’s called a DQP program is what we call it, qualified designat-ed person. And what they do is they check every horse that comes to the shows to be checked, I mean, to be showed. They check them all. And the problem is with the DQPs, we’ve got DQPs, I mean, like I’ve trained horses for DQPs, they know what goes on. And, you know, they tell me to get them good as I can get them, bring them to a show, they let me in. I mean, the problem, the problem with the whole DQP program is it’s so corrupt that they let some people in and then some people like – well, say me, for instance. I mean, the DQP that wrote this ticket on me that found this bolt in this Jose Is My Daddy, he’s let me in many times the same way. But me and him had a falling out a bad business deal, and he, you know, he just saw it to take action on it, on this particular, on this incident, on this particular horse, this Jose Is My Daddy… In my opinion is that they need to do away with just the whole walking horse DQP program. I mean, that’s a lot of what the problem in the industry already, where the government needs to check every show, you know. The government, the government has hundreds of tickets of sore horses… There is – once when a trainer gets suspended what he’ll do is he’ll have somebody to either take the ticket, or one of his workers that works for him will have a trainer’s license, like anybody can buy a trainer’s license. So, everybody, every trainer has two or three trainers working under him. So, usually one of those trainers take the ticket.

Comments from the Judge, “And then my question is, well, why hasn’t Congress just criminalized the entire enterprise?” “… elected officials who actually passed the criminal law should understand that criminalizing conduct or putting a criminal statute on the books and then not enforcing it is in my humble opinion worse than, I mean, putting it on the books than not putting it on the books in the first place because it tends to feed on our hu-man capacity to doubt what’s actually being taken seriously or not, and, therefore, it erodes the public’s confidence in the fairness and even the legitimacy of the criminal justice system and makes people think that, you know, there are a lot of laws on the books if the govern-ment itself doesn’t take them seriously why should we take them seriously and, you know, there is a slippery slope.” “…what’s being described to me here this afternoon sounds like just, you know, a totally corrupt system. And even though the court is unfamiliar with it, I can only assume that that corruption stems from ambiva-lence, I presume by Congress, or the Department of Agriculture…”

SO WHAT DID EVERYONE TELL THE USDA?

FROM THE “BIG LICK PROPONENTS”
We take care of our horses. They are well fed. Can the USDA come to your farm or barn unannounced? Which shows will the Veteri-nary Medical Officers (VMO’s) be inspecting this year? TWHS are put on pads to parade around just like women do in a beauty page-ant. This is commerce.

Marty Irby, President of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeder’s & Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) told the USDA at the three Listening Sessions he attended that TWHBEA represented the interests of all members from all factions. He said, “TWHBEA stands firmly against ANY reduction in weight or size of the current pads or action device. The survival of our registry relies mainly on the performance horse. If our pads and action devices are removed, TWHBEA, could expect a potential decline in breedings of 60-70% within a period of one year. … In today’s economy, and with the pitiful state of the United States of America’s financial situation, it is very hard to grasp that the USDA would choose to simply put us out of business. Put us out of business. Yes, that is what I said…I challenge the USDA to stand up for our industry and not succumb to the pressures of animal rights activists who have no equity or vested interest. … Dr. Chester Gipson of the APHIS Division of the USDA came to speak to our groups in the later part of the Fall of 2011 to warn us of the forces at work against the padded performance horse. We have made great strides in a short period of time in unity efforts. The “one voice” concept for the performance horse was brought to us by Gipson, and we believe we can come to some consensus…A major current problem today is the segment of our industry which chooses to participate in events which are unaffiliated with any HIO, thereby rendering the industry incapable of regulating these events because it lacks any legal authority to do so. … First, in order ensure compliance, the USDA must form a true public/private partnership with those within the industry…Scientifically accepted studies and data indicate that the current regulations concerning action devices and pads do not in any way cause harm to the horse. [Auburn Study]. To consider amendment of the Horse Protection Act Regulations currently in place regarding the action device and pads would be to take action to address a problem which simply does not exist with no scientific proof to the contrary.

In closing I have one question I would ask on behalf of our industry: Why does the Tennessee Walking Horse continue to be the only equine breed that has such subjective inspections forced upon us?

Dr. Steve Mullins, President of the SHOW Horse Industry Organization (HIO), said 95% of all horses inspected by SHOW... Continued pg 20

S OR IN G R AG E S ON!!

by Cris Van Horn, FOSH Director at Large

… if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty May/June 2012 – 19
BATTLE TO END SORING

from 20

the last three years were compliant. He also stated that at the 2011 Celebration, the compliance rate was over 98%. Dr. Mullins stated that Barney Davis, recently convicted under the HPA was not a TWH Trainer and not a member of the professional Walking Horse Trainer’s Association (WHTA). He failed to mention that Barney Davis showed a TWH at the Celebration in 2009.

Christy Lantis, TWHBEA Director from California, said she had “witnessed tremendous improvement in the treatment of the TWH and a steep decline in the practice of soring. She said there are 5 HIOs that inspect performance and pleasure competitive horses and the average compliance rate of these five HIOs was 98.56%. she said there will never be 100% compliance because inspection is subjective.

Many told the USDA it was important for them to be recognized for the positives they had made in the industry and that this positive feedback on behalf of the USDA would garner goodwill.

FROM THE SOUND HORSE ADVOCATES

Dr. Rene Carlson, President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). It’s time for this egregious form of animal cruelty to end…America’s veterinarians are standing right beside USDA inspectors in urging the strengthening of the Horse Protection Act. Everyone – inspectors, judges, trainers, riders and even spectators at these shows must take responsibility for ending soring. A zero-tolerance policy being promoted by these shows would set a significant tenor for the entire show season,” To assist in the return of the walking horse gait back to its natural beauty, the AVMA has created an educational video, produced in cooperation with the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the USDA, to provide an overview of the issue of soring and highlight the tell-tale signs of when a horse has been sored. www.avma.org (PR Newswire press release on 4/11/12)

Nancy Brannon, Ph.D, HORSE REVIEW (4/2/12). Reports of the prevalence of soring vary. “Veterinarians with the U.S. Department of Agriculture — the agency that enforces the Horse Protection Act — found violations of the act in 90 percent of padded horses but only 10 percent of nonpadded horses in agency-inspected shows from 2008 to 2010. … In number and percentage of suspensions by state, Tennessee leads with 3292 suspensions, 33.9% of all. Kentucky accounts for 13.2% with 1283 violations; Alabama for 7% with 677 violations; Mississippi for 5% with 488 violations. Number and Percentage by Violation Type shows “unilateral sore” accounting for 28.8% of all violations (2801). “Scar rule” accounts for 28.2% (2741); and “bilateral sore” for 14.6% (1415). Foreign substance was 2.3% of violations (227); illegal chains 2.3% (225); bad image horse 0.7% (67). Pressure shoeing was 0.1% of violations (8).

The HPADATA (hpadata.us) were used to compare persons listed with HPA suspensions with leadership personnel in the Walking Horse Trainers’ Association (WHTA) listed on their website: http://www.walkinghorsetrainers.com/. Nearly all the 2012 WTHA Officers and Board of Directors members are listed on the HPA Suspensions database, many of them with multiple suspensions. Reasons for suspensions include: scar rule, bilateral sore, illegal chains, and unilateral sore. (data from hpadata.us). An analysis of recipients of Trainers of the Year awards found: “In 33 years of this Tennessee Walking Horse industry award, only 5 recipients have been ticketed for Federal cases. 23 of the honorees have been ticketed for HPA violations; 18 of them with Federal cases. Five of these HPA violators were honored more than once.” (source and detailed list at: http://www.angelfire.com/theforce/biglicktwh/WHTA.htm)

A study published in the journal Deviant Behavior, “Tender feet and high stepping: Soring in the Tennessee walking horse industry” by Terrance A. Mizell & Howard Robboy (1980) focused on the role relationships between owners, trainers, judges, and federal inspectors in the Tennessee walking horse industry. The paper deals with the practice of soring, or blistering, to alter the gait of the animal and its continued practice despite outcry from humane groups, other horsemen, and the federal government. Trainers are subjected to enormous pressures to win, which means they believe they must “sore” their animals. Because this practice is illegal, they must act in a manner contrary to legal mandates, while giving firm lip service to supporting anti-soring guidelines.

The USDA Audit Report (2010) “presents the results of our audit of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administration of the Horse Protection Program.” (http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33601-02-KC.pdf) “Concerning the treatment of show horses, we found that APHIS’ program for inspecting horses for soring is not adequate to ensure that these animals are not being abused. At present, horse industry organizations hire their own inspectors (known as designated qualified persons or DQP) to inspect horses at the shows they sponsor. However, we found
that DQPs do not always inspect horses to effectively enforce the law and regulations...“Given the DQPs’ clear conflict of interest, we found that they did not always inspect horses according to the requirements of the Horse Protection Act. Given the problems we observed with DQPs and the conflicts of interest, we are recommending that APHIS abolish the DQP program, and instead provide independent, accredited veterinarians to perform inspections at sanctioned shows.

Political influence accounts, in part, for the lack of APHIS funding. An article from the Lexington [KY] Herald Leader, by John Cheves, explains: “Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pressured the U.S. Department of Agriculture for years to back off its enforcement of the Horse Protection Act, even threatening to cut the agency’s funding, according to documents obtained by the Herald-Leader. “McConnell has supported the Tennessee Walking Horse industry in its battle against USDA inspectors who look for evidence of soring, McConnell backed the industry’s demand for its own inspectors — paid by the industry, drawn from the ranks of horse owners and trainers — to have a greater role in soring inspections, rather than the independent USDA veterinarians. At the same time, the industry gave McConnell tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations and hired his Senate chief of staff, Niels Holch, as its Washington lobbyist and attorney.” END

Eastern Kentucky University researchers analyzed data from the USDA website and compared violation rates over 3 years for horse shows (2008, 2009, 2010). They compared results from shows that were inspected by USDA Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) with those inspected by the DQPs. This analysis included data from 1,400 shows and 240,000 horse inspections. The data indicated that VMOs found 12 to 30 times more violations at shows than those determined by DQP inspectors. If VMO inspectors had made all of the inspections, there would have been 62,387 violations rather than the 3,932 that were actually made. The data also demonstrated that of 9,090 total HPA violations, 50% were for 1,157 repeat offenders. (American Farriers Journal, July/August 2011)

People who intentionally sore horses are animal torturers. People who break the law and constantly look for ways to continue unlawful behavior without detection are criminals. Criminals are incapable of self-regulation.

APHIS stated in a 1979 Federal Register Final Notice that the agency would seriously consider prohibiting all action devices and APHIS demonstrated there is less than a 5% stride difference unless an action device weighs 10 oz or more. A stride difference of less than 5% is not visible to the human eye. This means that the exaggerated gaits of the performance horse must be achieved with something else. That something else is soring. Pads, chains and soring go hand in hand.

Dr. Stephen O’Grady, DVM. 2008 Sound Horse Conference. Pressure shoeing is an “abusive, unethical method of farriery used to enhance animation in an attempt to gain a competitive advantage.

Kevin K. Haussler, DVM. 2008 Sound Horse Conference. Regarding the posture and stance of Big Lick horses. The Stance: Exaggerated pelvic limb retraction. The Gait: Exaggerated thoracic limb flexion and protraction; exaggerated pelvic limb protraction; altered joint biomechanics and increased tissue strain; altered spinal movements—change from passive to active role. The Rider: Altered rider position—change in center of gravity.

Ann Corso, Liberated Horsemanship. According to Dr. Deb Bennett, PHD, founder of the Equine Studies Institute, “…No horse on earth, of any breed, at any time, is or has ever been mature before the age of six (plus or minus six months).” At the age of two, epiphysis or growth plate closure has not yet occurred at the distal (lower) surfaces of the Radius-Ulna, the proximal (upper) end of the humerus and the glenoid or bottom of the scapula….In the... Continued pg 31
BREEDERS

Arizona

SW FUTURE FOAL AT SUMMERWIND MARCHADORS
John and Lynn Kelley
Scottsdale AZ - winter
Pagosa Springs CO - summer
Cell: 602 999 3915
Email: futurefoal@gmail.com
Website: www.summerwindmarchadors.com
Website: http://futurefoal.net

Arkansas

DOGGWOOD VALLEY FOXTROTTERS
Jim & Kelly Coale
17503 Garman Rd • Siloam Springs, AR 72761
Phone: 800-736-0287
Email: dogwoodvalleyfoxtrotters@yahoo.com
Website: www.dogwoodvalleyfoxtrotters.com

Standing: Stormy Morning Traveler; dark golden palomino, naturally gaited, versatile, athletic, great mind and disposition, Foundation bloodlines, AI certified.

Junior Stallion: Spitfire’s Spittin Image; Bay, naturally gaited, performance, versatility. watch for Spitty in 2011

Colorado

BOOKCLIFF WALKERS
1940 10 Rd • Mack, CO 81525
Phone: 970-858-0497
Email: debbylock@aol.com
Website: www.bookcliffwalkers.net

Standing at Stud: Star’s Lucky Legendary, TWHBEA registered bay tobiano, naturally gaited, versatile, 15.2 hands, Paint the Town breeding on top side and Ebony Masterpiece & Merry Go Boy on bottom

Standing at Stud: Bookcliff Threat of Fire, TWHBEA registered, black, last son of Remembrance’s Fireman, Supreme Versatility Champion, should mature at over 16 hands, started lightly under saddle

We have limited number of young TWH for sale by these stallions

Oregon

WYANT’S WINTER SPRINGS
Laura Wyant - Lifetime FOSH Member
Cheshire (near Eugene), Oregon USA
Phone: 541-998-2803
Email: Ponies4Grownies@aol.com

Breeding goal: MELLOW, SHORT, mountain trail using horses, mosey ponies who are Walking gaited, not multi-gaited.

Pennsylvania

KING OF DIAMONDS
14.3 HH 6 year old Palomino Stallion registered and certified MPH – KMSHA – AGMH He’s got it all… color, temperament, smooth gait and the bloodlines to pass to his offspring. King has the solid build and stamina of the Mountain Pleasure Horse which makes for an awesome trail horse. Sire: Goldfinger’s Star Dam: Sally’s Lady (Moon bloodline) Stud Fee: $350 Horses for Sale
The Equus Survival Trust List of Endangered Breeds has the Mountain Pleasure Horse listed as “CRITICAL”. RockaRan Farms is striving to preserve this awesome breed.

RockaRan Farms – Designs, Custom Embroidery
Randy & Kathleen Delp
Phone: Quakertown, PA 215-536-5183
Phone: Gillett, PA 570-537-2183
Email: rockaran@designdes@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockaran.com

BATES GAITED HORSES
(FOSH 2010 Trainer of the Year & FOSH 2010 Breeder of the Year)
Rocky & Nya Bates
Melba, Idaho 83641
Phone: 208 495 1606
Website: www.batesgaitedhorses.com

Training and gait repair of all flatshod breeds of gaite horses for pleasure, trail, hunting and field trial uses. Will travel to do clinics, lessons and individual education/work and training horses.

Standing at stud-TWHBEA and Tennessee Walking Horse Heritage Society certified stallion Cruise with the Limo.
Sales of well bred young stock and well gaited, educated and willing mounts.

**QUILTED MEADOWS**  
Vicki 8 Martha Chatten  
PO Box 41, Schoolhouse Lane • Tuckahoe, NJ 08250  
Phone: 609-628-2075  
Email: vchatten@verizon.net

BAREFOOT WALKING HORSES for trail show or just pure pleasure!  
Martha Chatten, riding instructor for gaited and non-gaited breeds. IJA judge. 609-743-1094

**THE PURE PLEASURE GAITED HORSE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA**  
The PPGHA provides fun, fellowship, social and educational activities for owners and admirers of the naturally gaited pleasure horse and presents a positive image of the naturally gaited pleasure horse to the community and the public at large through PPGHA activities; contributes wherever and however possible to charitable organizations involved with the welfare and protection of the horse; encourages through education and example the use of humane care, training and treatment of all gaited horses; so that the gaited pleasure horse can be recognized as a contributing member of the equine community. For more information, contact Cris Van Horn at 918-688-1898 or 2cloudsdancing@tds.net; www.ppgha.com

**SOUTHERN COMFORT GAITED HORSE CLUB**  
www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Southern Comfort promotes activities highlighting the smooth ride and versatility of all gaited horse breeds. Pursuits include trail riding, competitions, shows, exhibitions, clinics and many other equine activities. The club promotes horse safety and friendship for all that are interested in horses. Owning a horse is not a requirement.  
SCGHC is based in South Western Idaho and is a flat shod exclusive club with members contributing and supporting varied interests using sound natural horses.

**TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.**  
Website: www.twhanj.com  
Contacts: Martha 609-743-1094, Kathy 856-358-8872, Roger 856-447-3097, Vicki 609-628-2075

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Custom Horsehair Jewelry-Blue Equine Designs offers fully customize-able horsehair jewelry & accessories using sterling silver and your own horse hair. Items starting at $12. Perfect for a gift or a keepsake of your horse. www.blueequinedesigns.com

TWHANJ was created to promote the enjoyment of the barefoot and keg shod Walking Horse in its natural way of going. TWHANJ supports humane treatment of horses, good sportsmanship and camaraderie among WH enthusiasts. It provides clinics, has a drill team that performs at county fairs, and has a trail hour program and show program. Monthly meetings are held and a Newsletter is sent monthly. Membership is open to anyone who is willing to be exclusive in their promotion of the natural gaited horse that is shown, trained and used barefoot, keg or lite shod. Membership application is on the website or contact any of the members listed above.

... if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt.” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
3-4. Saddle rack alternating 2 hoof, 3 hoof stance phase sequence, or a true rack, alternating 1 hoof, 2 hoof stance phase sequence.

- Do they pick up together or closely together, start downward together or closely together yet the hind hoof sets down prior to the fore hoof? This is a stepping pace, also termed lateral dissociation to the positive. Timing 1-2-3-4, alternating 2 hoof, 3 hoof stance phase sequence.
- Is there a moment of suspension? Pace or true rack.

2. If you see none of the above it’s time to look at the hind leg on the same side nearest you and the opposite front leg, these are Diagonal legs.

- Do they move forward together and set down together? This is a trot. Timing 1-2-1-2. Alternating 2 hoof stance phase sequence.
- Do they move forward closely together yet the fore hoof sets down prior to the opposite hind? This is a foxtrot also termed as a trot dissociated to the negative. Timing 1-2-3-4. Alternating 2 hoof, 3 hoof stance phase sequence.
- Do they pick up together or closely together, yet come down independently of each other? This is a Fox rack. Timing 1-2-3-4, alternating 2 hoof, 3 hoof stance phase sequence.
- Is there a moment of suspension? This is a trot.

REST OF THE HORSE

1. Watch the Whole Horse

- Look at how the top line of back is shaped. Is it slightly rounded upward, is it level or does it have a tension that makes it somewhat inverted?
- Look at how the croup moves, does it stay level or does it bob up and down?

2. Look at the Head and Neck

- Do the head and neck remain relatively still?
- Do the head and neck move up and down in a vertical motion?
- Does the head just nod a little?
- Do the head and/or neck move from side to side a little or a lot?
- Is the base or the neck (root of neck) flexed downward or flexed upward?

3. Look at the Tail

- Does the tail work in a bobbing motion up and down?
- Does the tail swing from side to side?
- Does the tail seem slightly lifted in a water fall effect?

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. How much energy is the horse utilizing to execute the gait?

- Some gaits require more energy than others. The running walk and foxtrot are similar in energy use where the gaits in the racking family require more energy.

2. What are the qualities of a gait?

- Smoothness, different gaits feel different
- Reach of forelegs (length of stride)
- Lift and fold of front legs, more or less
- Capping of hooves (the hind hoof steps over the track of the fore hoof on the same side (length of stride)
- Speed

When considering quality factors, gait must be achieved first and foremost as shown through the hooves and legs. Other movements are just nice extras that may or may not be present in an individual in varying degrees. The points I have provided above are just a good simple base of knowledge to start training the eye to see gait. In time we will apply this work to moving horses. It helps on moving horses to use one colored leg wrap on two legs on the same side of a horse. Then use another color on the same front leg and the opposite hind leg of the horse to see what lateral or diagonal leg movements are present. With a little time and patience it won’t be long before a person is able to look at all four legs in motion and see the gaits easily. Stay tuned for the next installment. (MORE FROM LIZ PAGE 35)
If we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt. – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty

2011 was going to be a somewhat low-key season for Mocha Jack after his 2010 Season where he completed 1105 miles, a second Tevis, and became a Gold Medal XP horse. Our goals for 2011 were just to do some fairly local rides in order to condition for Tevis in July. My son was coming home from overseas to crew for me this year and he was very anxious to see Mocha Jack and I complete our third Tevis.

We started with Eastern Mojave in February 2011, and then at the beginning of April, did the Cuyama XP. Mocha Jack was named Best Conditioned 3-day horse at Cuyama and that was our highest honor to date. At the end of April Mocha did Lost Padres and placed third both days. This was the last ride we had planned before Tevis and he seemed to be primed to do the Tevis on July 26th. But then, at the beginning of June, it was announced that Tevis was going to be postponed until October 8, 2011, because of record snow that was still in the high country over the Sierra Nevada.

At this point, I had to totally rethink my conditioning schedule. I would have to plan additional rides to keep Mocha Jack in top shape for the October Tevis. We added the Wild West Pioneer at the end of June where Mocha Jack placed second, sixth and third for the 3-day event held in Nevada City, California. Then, in August, he placed eighth in the Eastern High Sierra Classic which was to be our last event before Tevis.

October 8, 2011, was approaching and Mocha Jack and I were doing local conditioning rides on a regular basis. The week before we left for Tevis, I had Mocha Jack body-clipped because he already had a rather heavy winter coat. The day we left for Tevis it was pouring rain. When we arrived in Auburn, we were advised that it had snowed 2.5 feet in the high country over the Sierra Nevada and that the ride may have to be cancelled.

My son arrived that same day from Afghanistan and my daughter flew in from Seattle to crew. As we waited for the decision from the Ride Committee, all I could think about was how ready Mocha Jack was for this ride and what a shame it would be if it was cancelled.

The Tevis committee made a decision to reroute the ride to avoid the snow. When Mocha Jack and I started out in the early morning of October 8th, I could tell from the beginning that it was going to be a great ride! Mocha Jack was floating down the trail and never missed a beat. Twelve hours and 52 minutes later, he crossed the finish line in Auburn in 11th place. We had the ride of our lives and with the help of my son and daughter, Mocha Jack and I were able to complete our third Tevis.

At this point I would normally have said the season is over and Mocha Jack needs some much deserved R & R. But he was body clipped and I decided to add another pioneer ride over Thanksgiving-- the Desert Gold Pioneer in Monterey, California. Mocha Jack proved true to form and was the fastest 3-day horse at his final event of the season. Because of his finish at this event, Wild West, and Cuyama, with only 465 miles he finished second lightweight Pioneer horse in the nation. That was quite an accomplishment considering how few miles he had. Even though we were not going for points this past year, Mocha Jack finished the year second in the Pacific South lightweight division and second overall Pacific South. This was in addition to his second in the lightweight Pioneer Division nationally. Mocha Jack does so well in the point standings--not because he does a lot of miles but because he places so high in the events he does. In 2011 he completed 16 events and was only out of the Top 10 in two of them.

We are now 200 miles into the 2012 season. Our goal for this season is to complete 3,000 AERC miles. We are now at 2,575 and to date Mocha Jack has completed all the events we have entered without a pull. Of 46 events he has been in the Top 10 all but eight times. MOCHA JACK is one amazing little horse and to top it all, he is gaited!
Rider Self Carriage - Part II

By Wendy Murdoch; Copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

www.murdochmethod.com

In the March April issue of the Sound Advocate I discussed the first two points of what the rider has to do in order to achieve “self-carriage”. The rider’s back and front need to be lengthened and the pelvis needs to be positioned so that the seat bones are pointing down in the saddle. I will continue with the remaining 7 points.

1. Top line and underline lengthened
2. Pelvis under
3. Mobility in hip joints
4. Hind legs “tracking up”
5. Lift in withers
6. Release of tension at the base of the neck
7. Telescoping neck
8. Soft jaw
9. Poll the highest point

3 & 4. Mobility in the hip joints, hind legs tracking up.
I have combined these two points for the rider. While the rider does not actually “track up” (hind foot step into the print of the forefoot) the concept remains the same. When the horse “tracks up” he needs to have enough mobility in the joints of the hip, stifle, hock, fetlock and hoof to step freely forward.

The rider’s legs need to be supple in order to move in the comparable joints of the hip, knee, ankle, and foot. If the rider is restricted in these joints she will be unable to bear weight through the hindquarters. Instead the stiffness will travel up through the skeleton causing the rider to bounce against the horse’s movement rather than sink down into the horse.

Many riders brace against the stirrups, which stiffens the knees and ankles, which causes pain. To avoid the pain they lengthen the stirrups, brace the legs forward and put all their weight on the horse’s back. This does not solve the problem, it makes it worse because the horse’s job is now much more difficult to carry the rider and the ride becomes even more jarring.

If you can stand up and sit down you have enough flexibility in the hips, knees and ankles to ride with your leg under you in comfort. You may not have as much range of motion back in your ankles and knees as you did as a child but if you can do the above test you have enough for riding. The most common reason for knee and ankle pain is due to bracing against the stirrups.

The stirrup acts like a pendulum. When you push against it, the stirrup swings forward and then your leg is no longer underneath you. Only the weight of your leg should rest on the stirrup and your leg should be under you for support. Getting the weight in your heels comes from lengthening your lower back, not from shoving your ankle down.

When you jam your heels down you are stiffening the entire leg. The human ankle is the equivalent of the horse’s hock – an extremely important joint for your horse. Your knee is his stifle. When you stiffen your ankles you also stiffen your hips. The knees suffer in the middle. When you brace against the stirrup you also brace against the horse’s movement.

Flexibility in the hip, knee, ankle and foot are critical to weight bearing through the hindquarters. These joints allow the rider to absorb the motion of the horse and stay close to the horse’s back regardless of the discipline. For more information on this subject see my book 50 FIVE MINUTE FIXES TO IMPROVE YOUR RIDING.

5. Lift in withers.
The “withers” in the rider is between the shoulder blades. The withers are the spinal processes of the upper thoracic vertebrae. The thoracic vertebrae have ribs, which connect to the sternum. Therefore another way to say lift in the withers for the rider could be lift the chest. This is different from sticking your chest out which would be the equivalent of a horse that has dropped its withers. Conversely, over rounding the upper back would be similar to a horse with an overly rounded back that cannot lift his shoulders. There is a fine line between overarching or over-rounding the upper back. In the middle is lift in the withers. This creates depth through the chest area.
... if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt." – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty

6. Release of tension at the base of the neck.
The shoulder girdle sits on top of the rib cage. If the rider's shoulders are overly pulled back or rounded there will be an increase of tension at the base of the neck. As the withers lift and the chest expands the shoulders can "sit" on top of the ribs releasing tension at the base of the neck. If the shoulder blades are pulled back in order to "sit up straight" there is an increase of tension at the base of the neck and the arms become restricted. If the shoulders are in front of the rib cage the distance between the collar bones narrows also causing tension at the base of the neck.

7. Telescoping neck.
The rider's neck needs to lengthen just as the horse's neck must lengthen from base to poll. If the neck is shortened it will limit the mobility of the head, neck and shoulders. Sitting in a rounded lower back position, pushing down or "driving" with the seat often causes the rider to shorten and tighten in the neck. Therefore the ability to telescope or lengthen the neck is indicative of whether or not the rider can lengthen the entire spine.

8. Soft jaw.
Tension in the jaw will create tension in the entire body. There is a tremendous amount of muscle strength in the jaw. When these muscles strongly contract they affect many other parts of our body. Think about the last time you saw someone "set their jaw" when getting into an argument with their horse or another person. There is a combative element to the set of the jaw. Just tense your jaw while you are sitting there and imagine holding the reins. Feel how your hands are affected by the tension in your jaw. The muscles of the tongue and throat are directly affected therefore a soft jaw allows greater freedom of movement throughout.

9. Poll the highest point.
The horse's poll is between its ears. This is pretty obvious and you can feel the bump of the poll at the top of the forelock. Our poll is an equivalent point but much less obvious. If you were to draw a line straight back from the end of your nose and between your ears you would find a bump that is your poll. It is not entirely accurate to say the poll is the highest point for the human because of the orientation of our skull versus the horse.

The point here is that the head needs to be balanced on the top of the spine. It might be more accurate to say the top of your head is the highest point. If the head is tilted forward or back then the top of your head is not the highest point. If the chin were tucked in, the top of the head would be pointing forward. If the head is tilted too far back the top of the head is pointing backward.

In a nutshell the horse and the rider need to do the same thing in order to be in self-carriage. If either the horse or the rider is not in self-carriage it will influence the other party. Horses and riders will almost always mirror each other. If the horse is stiff in his hips, the rider will often be stiff in her hips. If the rider is tight in the shoulders, the horse will be tight in the shoulders. I find it incredible that there is such a high degree of correlation between the two bodies.

Perhaps my best example of how powerful this mirroring between horse and rider was demonstrated by a student I had a few years ago. She came for a lesson but her horse was lame in the right front leg. I offered her my horse, Andy, who was perfectly sound the day before. When this woman got on Andy to ride, my horse was lame in the right front leg! It did not take me long to realize that it was the woman who was causing the lameness. Within a few minutes we figured out what she was doing and suddenly Andy was sound again.

This stiffness or flow goes both ways. The more we become aware of this exchange, the deeper the correlation can go. Whether you are a pleasure rider or an upper level competitor, the importance of this correlation is the same. It is simply the degree of subtlety that differs.

Granted there are some things we will not be able to change due to physical limitations. This does not limit the exploration and differentiation we can achieve around these "limitations". We can look at these "limitations" as challenges we need to learn more about. However there are some things that will limit the ability to be in self-carriage. One major factor is the saddle. In the Nov 2011 and January 2012 issues of the Sound Advocate, I discussed how the saddle can influence the horse and rider's ability to be in self-carriage.

Horse and rider in self-carriage. Her collarbones are wide and open. There is no tension at the base of the neck, the neck is long and the top of the head is the highest point as a result of her deep soft seat. Her arms are by her sides with a sense of lengthening to the horse's mouth. Her hands softly hold the reins.
In Part 2 we talked about the impact the rider has on the horse. In Part 3 we will continue the discussion on collection and the importance of giving to achieve collection.

GETTING A HORSE TO GIVE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE COLLECTION: First and foremost a horse must be comfortable in its mouth, so check your bit for proper fit. Also, check for any teeth problems, and/or the bit causing sores or rub places in the horse's mouth. When a horse is uncomfortable in its mouth, it will have a tendency to stick its nose out, open its mouth, withdraw its tongue in order to get the tongue out of the way, stiffen its neck, sometimes turn the head sideways and clench its teeth/tighten the jaw, and hollow out its back. This causes the underside of its neck to over develop.

You may have your horse in the best bit in the world, but if your horse is not comfortable, then the bit is simply not correct for your horse. Comfort is comfort. If you do not know how to fit a bit properly, please ask a professional to assist you. Some horses want a bit higher in their mouth, and some want it where it just touches the corners of the mouth, (not hanging, but not riding up with 1-3 wrinkles either). So experiment a little to figure out where your horse likes the bit to be. Your bit should be well made, well balanced, and fit the horse's mouth. There is no one brand that will satisfy all horses or owners, so this becomes a team effort. The team consists of you and your horse working together and not against one another. Also, please remember if you choose a curb bit, be aware of the length of the shank. The longer the length of shank, the greater the leverage in the horse's mouth. This can be very painful to the horse, creating a lot of the previous mentioned problems.

IF YOU ARE SHOWING, THEN IT IS UP TO YOU TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND CHECK THE RULE BOOK TO MAKE CERTAIN WHATEVER BIT YOU USE IS ALLOWED IN YOUR DISCIPLINE.

The next problem is getting your horse to give you its head or mouth. Are you being tense in your shoulders and arms, and gripping the reins? If you become stiff and tense, this will cause you to become heavy. Pretend the reins are baby birds, you do not want them to get away, but you do not want to crush them either. This is a guideline only. When you are stiff and tense in your neck, back, shoulders, and arms, it becomes very difficult for you to give the horse a release at the proper time. When the rider is stiff and tense, the horse will hollow out and not step underneath himself. If the rider is stiff and heavy on the horse's back, this will leave the horse with no room to lift its back underneath the rider's heavy seat.

Collection cannot be achieved by pulling or bracing anywhere on the horse, especially not on the head nor mouth. It is imperative that the rider also not pull and brace in his/her seat, back or feet. When a rider braces or pulls continuously on the horse's bridle or mouth, the horse will avoid the pressure of the bit by raising its head. This causes the horse to pull itself along with the underside of its neck muscles, which will cause the muscles under the neck to thicken. Also, when the rider pulls back with his/her hands, the feet slide forward and the horse braces against its feet, which causes the rider to brace his/her seat into the saddle, thus causing the rider to sit heavy on the horse's back. All of this will cause the horse to not step deep underneath itself because it is prevented from doing so by the rider's position. This further causes the horse's back to hollow and restricts the movement of the rear end. A horse simply cannot reach up underneath himself when you pull on its head.

Pulling on the horse's head/mouth through use of the bridle also limits the amount of bounce/nod or movement you can get in a Tennessee Walking Horse's head. The head is supposed to nod up and down in time with the horse's feet. By pulling, pumping the reins, or restricting the horse's mouth, you get a pecking head motion. This pecking head motion is not only incorrect, it is unattractive. In order to control the head and neck, the horse will have to break at the poll, and not at the third, fourth, or fifth vertebrae. When a horse breaks here, the neck just behind the ears will flatten out and the neck will no longer be round and pretty. The neck area directly in front of the withers will hollow out, causing the horse to use his shoulders and the underside of his neck to propel himself forward. This “hollowing out” also happens when the head is held at an unnaturally high position. Again the muscles on the underside of the neck become enlarged. This makes the horse's way of going rather stiff and choppy, regardless of whether it is a gaited horse or not. Frequently you will find knots in the muscles of the neck on horses which are commonly ridden in these positions.

In order to improve the quality of any horse’s gait you must have control over the various body parts of the horse: the head, neck, shoulders, back,
Be careful you do not get an over bend in the neck which is what I refer to as a “Gumby neck.”

ribs and hips. Once you have control over the various body parts, it is easy to get the feet to go where you want them and improve the quality of any gait. **Remember as goes the walk so goes the rest of the gaits.** If the walk is loose and sloppy, the rest of the gaits will also be loose and sloppy.

There should be a straight line from your elbow to the corner on the horse’s mouth, maintaining light contact with the thumbs in an upright position. Instead of pulling your horse’s head into a vertical position, ride forward from behind, which will bring the horse’s head into a round and vertical position. At first allow your horse to go “long and low” with their head, keeping it more or less vertical. If the horse wants to stretch its head all the way to the ground, allow this for a few strides and then pick the head up gently to where you want it. They need to learn to stretch their neck and back muscles in order to carry themselves properly.

**It has been said by many popular trainers that a horse never learns from the application of pressure, but from the release of pressure.** This one statement is very important in getting your horse to come through its back and round up into the bridle. **Wherever your horse finds release is where he will carry himself.**

Once you have gotten your horse to go long and low in a relaxed manner, the next thing is to begin placing the horse’s head in a position that is correct for the discipline you are riding. **Again the more you can keep your horse relaxed in its work, the better it will perform.** The rider must not only ask the horse to sit down behind, but also lift the front end. How does a rider ask the horse to lift the front end? The rider uses his hands to assist in lifting first one shoulder of the horse, and then the other. The rider does so by turning the wrist straight up toward the sky (turning of a key motion). DO NOT HOLD this position - - use a gentle lift and release motion. Remember to lift your diaphragm in order to give room for the horse to raise his back underneath your seat. Sometimes, a slight brushing of the horse’s sides, using the rider’s calf muscle (NOT HEEL NOR SPUR), in an up-pedaling manner will also help the horse to lift the front end while using the “turning the key” with your hands motion. Do not hold any of these positions! Remember the release! These movements must be done in time with the horse’s feet.

**HAVE A PLAN**

Even though you have a plan, your horse may have other ideas on any particular day. Use what the horse presents, even if the horse is misbehaving, and use what is presented to create a positive action. **PLEASE REMEMBER AT ALL TIMES THAT THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS!** It takes time to retrain a horse to be light and supple. It also takes time to retrain the rider to be relaxed and soft. It takes time to build up the muscles in the horse which allow him to collect, take a deeper stride, and maintain his gait. **BE PATIENT WITH YOUR HORSE, AND YOURSELF!**

If you are having problems, I highly encourage you to seek assistance from a professional trainer / riding instructor. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to call me at 602 799-0888. I highly recommend that all individuals who wish to truly understand their horse and how not to interfere with him/her, visit (www.equinestudies.org).
GAITED HORSE SADDLES

This year the Sound Advocate is presenting a series on Gaited Horse Saddles so that the rider can be informed and become familiar with the features of a “gaited horse saddle.” Enjoy the ride!!!!

FREEDOM SADDLES FOR GAITED HORSES

1. How long have you been making saddles? We have been designing and making saddles for 20 years. The first saddles we made were a modified McClellan type saddle (army saddle used for ~200 years) that we marketed to the Paso Fino market under the Casa Dosa brand name.

   As our relationship evolved with internationally renowned gaited horseman, Larry Whitesell, we designed a new saddle, the Freedom Saddle, that incorporates a distinctive and correct bar design for gaited horses based on his research and consultations with top professionals in biomechanics, saddle fit and tree design. This ten year journey resulted in the creation of today’s Freedom Saddle that is designed for and is working well on all gaited breeds.

2. Why is your saddle a gaited horse saddle? The Freedom Saddle is a gaited horse saddle because it is made on a tree specifically designed for gaited horse conformation. The tree is the foundation of the saddle and the bars are the foundation of the tree. Like a good shoe needs to fit and support your foot to keep you comfortable and healthy, the bars of the saddle need to do the same for the horse’s back.

   Quarter horse bars used in most gaited saddles are designed with a high degree of bend or rock in the bar. This is to fit the conformation of the Quarter horse back. Gaited horses have a much straighter back therefore much of the rock or bend must be taken out of the bar to fit correctly otherwise the bars will create pressure points in the middle of the horses back causing it to drop its back to escape from the pressure. Inverting or dropping the back to escape discomfort causes problems with gait and the overall health of the horse not unlike the problems you would notice if you walked around with your back hallowed all the time. The Freedom Saddle is designed to fit the gaited horse’s back properly with the correct rock, allowing the horse to round its back into the proper frame.

   Most gaited horse saddles use quarter horse or modified quarter horse trees. These trees have bar twist from about 25 to 35 degrees. Twist is a condition that changes the shape of the bar from front to back as it lies on the horse to maintain contact with the back. The 25 to 35 degree twist bars work great on stock type trotting horses; however the gaited horse’s back normally only requires about 10 to 15 degrees twist in the bar, with 12 degrees being most common. This is because the gaited horse’s ribs are more sprung, than a trotting horse, the gaited horse’s shoulders are more in play in relationship to the bars; and the lumbar region is flatter and longer. The twist of the Freedom Saddle is typically set at 12 degrees.

   Another feature of the Freedom Saddle design for the gaited horse is a wide gullet (distance between the bars). In concert with the proper twist and rock of the tree to fit the gaited horse’s conformation, the gullet on a Freedom Saddle is typically as wide as a wide quarter horse gullet to accommodate gaited horses being more sprung in the ribs and more developed in the shoulders. Freedom Saddles use a slick or “A” fork style swell which provides enough height to insure that even horses with high withers don’t contact the underside of the swell.

   On the top side, the Freedom Saddle features a centered seat with dressage hung or stand up stirrup placement to enable optimum horse and rider balance.

3. Is your tree fixed or flexible? Freedom Saddles are made on fixed trees.

4. Please explain the advantages of your particular tree—fixed or flexible. Fixed trees with correct bars spread the pressure of the saddle and the weight of the rider as evenly as possible on either side of the spine to eliminate pressure points on the horse’s back. We observed the top professional riders in all equestrian disciplines all ride solid tree saddles. After years of study our conclusion is the best saddles are made on trees of solid wood that fit the back correctly with a fiberglass or rawhide cover. We prefer fiberglass as it tests as strong as rawhide and gives a better moisture seal.

   An additional custom feature of the Freedom Saddle is blocked skirts typically not found in assembly line saddles. Blocking the skirt is a vital process to allow the bar to conform to the horse’s back, distributing weight and minimizing or eliminating pressure points. Blocked skirts also allow the saddle to set more securely on the horse’s back. Fleece is added to the skirt after the blocking process is complete providing more cushioning and comfort to the horse’s back.

5. From what materials is your tree made? Freedom Saddles are made with high quality U.S. tanned English bridle leather which uses a high concentration of oils and tallow in the tanning process giving the leather a soft firm finish that enables the saddle to break in quickly with very little, if any, squeaking. Freedom Saddles are available with a black or brown smooth “top grain” or suede seat leather over a 3/8” high density foam padding. Non-padded seats are also available. Freedom Saddles have a 4 inch, slightly cupped cantle for the comfort and security of the rider that also enables ease in mounting and dismounting. The slight cupping on the sides of the cantle also helps lateral stability of the rider. We offer a basket weave border on all models.

Continued pg 33
BATTLE TO END SORING

from 21

hind limbs, growth plates in the hocks don’t fuse until the animal is 3 – 3.5 years old. The top of the tibia and the growth plates of the femur fuse between 3 and 4 years of age. This is the site of the stifle joint. The stifle can be easily damaged when hyper extended, as it is in the big lick gait. With or without extra weight, concern for injury applies to the use of stacks, because the unnatural postures and movements created strain the bones, connective tissues and joints of the horses, especially at the already vulnerable growth plate. The stress on the bones and joints of skeletally immature horses from moving in stacks and heavily weighted shoes increases the likelihood of injury. For more information on equine structural growth rates visit www.equinestudies.org and www.liberatedhorsemanshi.com. END

Harmful effects of distal loading on front feet results in excessive stretching of muscles and tendons leading to injury documented by the study on THE ENERGETIC AND KINEMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF WEIGHTING THE DISTAL LIMB at California State Polytechnic University and Michigan State University.

Submitted by Steve to FOSH Friends yahoo Group on 8/22/2011 (ten_sc_walker@yahoo.com) To give you an idea: A 1 pound "keg" shoe = 136.89 foot pounds per second. An 8 pound "heavy plantation shoe" = 1095.12 foot pounds per second. About an 87% increase in stress to the limb over a keg shoe!

Dr. Tracy Turner, DVM, and equine lameness expert, 2010 Sound Horse Conference. The 1978 Big Lick shoe package was 4.5 pounds. In the mid 1990’s it was 8 pounds. He conclusively showed through radiographs and thermography that performance horses were imbalanced on 4 levels. Abnormal balance causes problems with movement and other physical issues. The act of shoeing directly affects the coffin bone and all associated structures. The effect of increasing the hoof angle: coffin and pastern joint flexion is compromised; minimal fetlock extension; decreases DDFT strain; increases suspensory strain; promotes heel first landing; increases the speed of break over; and increases pressure on the hoof capsule. The length and weight of the stack package magnifies the biomechanics. http://soundhorseconference.com/conference/secured.php

Sandy Cooper. I have a 1998 letter here from the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. It threatens you (your APHIS budget) if you enforce the HPA. This is a political issue. Thanks to FOIA, we know what was bought and how much was paid for it. With that in mind, I want to remind you that you have to keep moving now because of the politics involved.

I promise you that
1. We can and have raised money for research. A retired nurse raised $40,000 mostly on the internet for UCDavis research on the use of thermography, and we can and will do it again, if we need to. There are scientists and engineers at the country’s most prestigious universities willing to help.
2. We can and do follow donations to member of Congress from the industry on the internet. We will be doing that if you get interference or stalling from Congress, and we will be reporting that to the press and the horse welfare organizations. These days, we have the data bases that make that easy
3. I.E, we have your back!!

4. So, please, use the IG and the US Attorney for as long as you can. We are a cranky group of old broads who have stepped aside to let the young and powerful take over. But we are still here, looking at the pastures where our TWH rescues are buried, having died too young from acute arthritis, leg problems, shoulder misalignment, etc. – caused by this (show stack) and the pain associated with it and the training involved. We love this breed and aren’t going anywhere.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP END SORING????

Become informed. Become active. Be a voice for the torured and abused gaited horse and make your voice heard.


If you are a member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association, please make your opinions known to your State Director and to the TWHBEA Executive Board. Contact information for the Executive Committee and your State Director can be found at www.twhbea.com.

Contact your United States Congressmen and Senators and let them know what you think about the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act. You can find your Congressional Delegation at the following links: http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/general/one_item_and_teasers/contacting.htm or https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml

Send your written opinions to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, and the Under Secretary, Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, at USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, S. W., Washington, DC 20250. Send copies of your correspondence to Rachel.cezar@aphis.usda.gov and chester.a.gipson@aphis.usda.gov.

* Teach your Horse a Balance that is Collection
* How to improve Gait and Achieve Lightness

GAITED HORSE CLINICS

Collection Taught Correctly Makes a Relaxed, Confident Horse that is Safer and More Responsive to the Rider’s Requests.

WWW.WHITESELLGIATEDHORSEMANSHIP.COM
PHONE 931-858-0658 INFO@WHITESELLGIATEDHORSEMANSHIP.COM

… if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt.” – Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
What an amazing experience this turned out to be! Beginning with the first lectures on Enduring Wisdom from Enduring Veterans; Dealing with On-Trail Medical Emergencies; Heart Rates & Horses; Nutrition Concerns of the Endurance Horse; Equine Treatment: What You Need to Know; Dehydration Do’s & Don’ts; through A Trip Back in Time & What We’ve Learned along the Way. All of these presentations were by DVMs and Ph.Ds who have competed in long distance and AERC riding and their information actually fit the bill for all levels of competition and horsemanship. “Green” or “seasoned”, all benefited.

The icing on the cake also included: How AERC can serve BOTH our Young and More Seasoned Members, as well as a lecture on the VET CHECK of the Future: What to Expect. Experiencing the openness and caring about equines from vets, management and riders was so relaxing and yet focused for all to gain, compared to what we in the TWH world have experienced over the last 40 + years! What a pleasure to be a part of this particular aspect of equine events!

Continuing positives of the convention included a very exuberant Trade Show, Tack Swap, AERC Raffle, with the Western States Trail Foundation & NATRC also in attendance. It was all quite “non-stop” up to and including a spectacular Awards Banquet and Buffet with every table filled. But then, these are ENDURANCE COMPETITORS and their families. What else would I expect to happen?

A reunion with Susan Walz, one of the gaited horse competitors in the 2009 TEVIS CUP AERC RIDE I wrote about in the SOUND ADVOCATE, was most endearing. It was so good to talk to her and find that she still has RAVEN, her KMSH and teammate in finishing several Tevis Rides. You can catch up on that information through the www.fosh.info website back issues of the SOUND ADVOCATE. Sue’s was a special story that year.

At 7:00 AM, Saturday, I met for breakfast with all of the wonderful endurance riders pictured here. It was my pleasure to let them know FOSH’s intention to establish a Gaited Distance Program (GDP), honoring the horse, with the FOSH GDP beginning in 2013. People throughout the nation have, for many years, competed their gaited horses, helping to pave the way for those who have made the top 20 grade and best condition status as gaited horse recognition has increased.

Now is the time for these horses to be truly honored as their miles will count for year end awards through FOSH. The work of Keith Kibler from Illinois in promoting his TWH & MFT breeds in this sport have been honored many times over. But the grin on his face as he received his breed award from TWHBEA at the AERC Banquet, was the most fun as our table of gaited horse enthusiasts cheered loudly for them all.

Great Opportunity!
Now Available Gaited Dressage DVDs

Created by the dressage experts at 8th Heaven Farm, each set of 2 DVDs, one for introductory riders and one for two-gait tests, consists of ridden examples of Dressage Tests, directive voice overs, superimposed patterns and the complete IJA Gaited Dressage Manual.

Each set sells for $25 and includes shipping. Please send:(check one)

☐ IJA Introductory Tests  ☐ IJA 2 Gait Tests

Name _______________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Telephone_________________________email ____________________

Make Checks payable to FOSH and submit to
Friends of Sound Horses • 6614 Clayton Road #105 • St. Louis, MO 63117
6. **Is your saddle made using a quarter horse tree? If not, what type of tree?** Freedom Saddles are made on custom designed trees for gaited horses that have the bars laid on a proper angle to accommodate the difference in a gaited horse’s back.

   Most gaited horse saddles use quarter horse or modified quarter horse trees. These trees have bar twist from about 25 to 35 degrees. Twist is a condition that changes the shape of the bar from front to back as it lies on the horse to maintain contact with the back. The 25 to 35 degree twist bars work great on stock type trotting horses; however, the gaited horse’s back normally only requires about 10 to 12 degrees twist in the bar. This is because the gaited horse’s ribs are more sprung than a trotting horse; the gaited horse’s shoulders are more in play in relationship to the bars; and the lumbar region is flatter and longer. The twist of the Freedom Saddle is typically set at 12 degrees.

7. **What is the length of your tree?** Freedom Saddle trees are typically from 19” to 21”, depending on the seat size. The saddle tree bars need to be as long as possible to distribute the weight on as large an area as possible while staying in the saddle “fit” area. Typical 24” saddle bars found on most other saddles are too long for the majority of gaited horses as these bars extend beyond the last rib into the loins or lumbar region which is not able to support or distribute weight.

8. **What seat sizes do you offer?** Freedom Saddles come in seat sizes from 14” to 17.5”, but the typical sizes are 15” and 16”. We offer standard and wide tree models that accommodate most gaited horses. As an option we offer the Duracast™ Fitting Kit system which is a popular and valuable tool to ensure an accurate saddle fit. For hard to fit horses, we can also use the Duracast™ system to have a custom tree made.

9. **How many models do you offer?** We have three (3) basic Freedom Saddle models. The Freedom Trail has no horn. The Freedom West has a small western style horn. The Freedom Wade has a larger, roper horn. Being a custom saddle maker, we offer many options to make the saddle work for the rider’s applications. Freedom Saddles use a slick or “A” fork style swell which provides some height to insure that even horses with high withers don’t contact the underside of the swell. It also offers extra security from being pushed over the swell.

10. **Do you cater to a particular breed of gaited horse and if so, what breed?** Freedom Saddles are made for all types and breeds of gaited horses.

11. **Does your saddle place the rider in a centered position similar to a dressage saddle or a chair seat position?** The Freedom Saddle places the rider in a balanced, centered seat similar to a dressage saddle.

12. **What is your rationale for your seat position in the saddle?** The seat of the saddle is very important to the horse and rider and should allow the rider to easily achieve and maintain a correct, balanced riding position while simultaneously allowing the horse to round into a proper frame. When sitting in a centered, balanced position it is easy for the horse to carry you and it will not be rushing nor shutting down trying to regain its balance. Sitting in a centered and balanced riding position makes starting, stopping, turning, changing and maintaining gait speed much easier and prevents the rider from being dead weight on the horse’s back, as in a chair seat. You should also notice less fatigue in your back and legs because you are not bracing in the saddle.

13. **Please explain where your stirrups are hung and why.** Stirrups on the Freedom Saddle are hung in the dressage or standup position. With the centered seat and stand up stirrups, the rider is in the horse’s center of balance, enabling the horse to balance and move fluidly. This stirrup placement allows the rider to achieve the shoulder—hip—heel alignment necessary for developing a solid, responsive and balanced riding position.

   All Freedom Saddle stirrup leathers and fenders are mechanically stretched to ensure that the stirrups have the best opportunity to maintain equal length as they are used year after year. The roll and wrap (Hamley or Oregon Twist) option is available to keep the stirrup in a natural position relative to the foot to alleviate torque on the knees.

14. **Please explain what girth rigging arrangements you offer and why.** Freedom Saddles have a balanced, dropped rigging that applies equal pressure from the front to the back of the saddle, keeping the saddle stable, allowing freedom of leg movement, eliminating cantle flop (which is a major cause of sore backs) and the need for a back cinch. A Back cinch is an available option.

15. **Are your saddles custom made?** All Freedom Saddles are custom made with many options and variations depending on customer preference.

16. **Where are your saddle manufactured?** Freedom saddles are custom made in Cleveland, Oklahoma.

17. **How can consumers find your products?** Please visit www.freedomsaddle.com or call 888-454-3672 or 918-243-7277.

18. **What things would you like to add that the questions did not cover?** We see horses that can’t gait well or at all, disfigured back conformation, horses that either constantly rush or don’t want to move. These symptoms can usually be traced back to bad saddle fit. We notice immediate improvements in gait and attitude once we fit the horse with a Freedom Saddle that is made to accommodate a gaited horse’s unique conformation.

   We would like to thank the readers for taking time to learn more about the Freedom Gaited Horse Saddle. We know there are many choices of saddles in the market place. Our mission is to provide a correct saddle for improving the performance of the gaited horse and rider team.
Events of Interest

These Events of Interest are provided as a benefit to FOSH members and Sound Advocate readers and are linked to FOSH in some way. The clinicians listed are members of FOSH. The Expos listed will have FOSH supporters distributing sound horse literature and/or will have a FOSH member clinician participating. A FOSH Sanctioned Show is governed by the FOSH IJA Rulebook and will be designated A, AA, AA+, or AAA. All High Point Awards are only earned at FOSH Sanctioned shows. A FOSH Affiliated Show uses FOSH DQPs for inspection. Shows may be sanctioned and affiliated with FOSH. Please check with Show Management to determine the FOSH status of the Show.

MAY

4-6 IJA DRESSAGE CLINIC, contact ddlittle@telusplanet.net.
4-6 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact Laurie Renda at 319-393-3231 or touch@crr.net, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
5-6 DAVID LICHMAN CLINIC, Gillsville, GA. Contact Cheryl Jones at 916-648-1004.
5-8 WENDY MURDOCH CLINIC, Colfax, IA. Contact Brandie Bean morgunr@gmail.com 515-664-1620. www.murdochmethod.com.
7-10 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Cave Creek, AZ. Contact Lynne Bombinski at 602-300-6177.
8-12 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemansip.com, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
12-15 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Wellborn, FL. Contact Andrea Haller at 386-963-1555.
17-19 FOSH IJA JUDGES CLINIC, Murietta, GA. Training seminars open to IJA Judges, Apprentices and anyone interested in learning more about the standards used in judging and naturally gaited horses. Contact Dianne Little at ddlittle@telusplanet.net.
18-20 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Isanti, MN. Contact Julie at 763-300-8887 or 763-444-6264 or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
18-20 WENDY MURDOCH CLINIC, Joyful Noise Farm, Pryor, OK. Contact Larry Lees L.Lees@sbcglobal.net 918-633-9288. www.murdochmethod.com.
28-06/01 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemansip.com, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

JUNE

9-12 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Morgan View Farm, Macon, GA. Contact Keri Hall at 478-396-8714.
15-17 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Port Clinton, OH. Contact Mary Ann at 419-341-2372 or theranch@theranchoutback.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
21-24 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Rancho Toledano, Penn Valley, CA. Contact Yvette Trevorrow at 530-362-1298.
22-24 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cannon Falls, MN. Contact Sonya at 763-245-6211 or gait4life@q.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

JULY

6-7 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, White Birch Stable, Albany/Saratoga, NY. Contact Delores Arse at 518-461-3470.
13-15 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Downs, IL. Contact Marjorie at 309-530-0670 or marj.gilmore@frontier.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
30-08/01 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Billings, MT. Contact Sherre Rokee at 406-794-5500.

AUGUST

17-19 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Augusta, MT. Contact Kathleen at 207-626-7466 or kmku0430@yahoo.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
24-26 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, St. Croix, WI. Contact Patti at 715-483-9292 or patti@mrranchandtack.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
27-31 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, St. Croix, WI. Contact Patti at 715-483-9292 or patti@mrranchandtack.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

SEPTEMBER

3 EASTERN IDAHO STATE FAIR GAITED HORSE SHOW, Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds, Blackfoot, ID. IJA Judge Bill Coon, Show Manager Jane Howlett. 208-235-1879, jhowlett@idnet or www.eigha.org.
7-9 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Upton, MA. Contact Jennifer at 508-245-6428 or jenniferml@yahoo.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
17-21 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemansip.com, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
22-23 NORTHERN NEVADA GAITED HORSE CLUB ANNUAL ALL-GAITED BREED SHOW, Carson City Fairgrounds, Carson City, NV. IJA Judge Julie Moore (IJA) & Nicloaus Breaux (NAPHA), Show Manager Ed Ogg. Classes for TWH, MFT, PP, PF, SSH, MH, OGB. www.nnghc.com or oggone@turbosusa.com or 775-793-7934.
28-30 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Pryor, OK. Contact Larry at 918-633-9288 or l.lees@sbcglobal.net, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

OCTOBER

2-6 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Pryor, OK. Contact Larry at 918-633-9288 or l.lees@sbcglobal.net, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.
7-9 MARK RUSSELL CLINIC, Bent Tree Farm, Fort Valley, GA. Contact Keri Hall at 478-396-8714.
8-12 LARRY WHITESSELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemansip.com, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

34 - May/June 2012 info@fosh.info • www.fosh.info • www.stopsoring.com Sound Advocate
HORSE SAFETY FOR KIDS

The Alberta Equestrian Foundation has an online Danger Detective for kids that teaches kids how to be safe around horses. Check it out at http://www.equimania.ca/DD_online/index.html

ATTENTION READERS!!

Would you like to have Liz Graves identify your horse’s gait? Please send several consecutive/sequential photos of your horse gaiting to Liz Graves at lizgraves@centurytel.net with SOUND ADVOCATE GAIT IDENTIFICATION in the Subject Line of the email.

FOSH Membership Application and Order Form

(All annual memberships include an electronic bi-monthly issue of the Sound Advocate and an Educational Packet)

Type of Membership (check one)

Annual  □ $30 Organization (For your Gaited Horse Club or Association) □ $50 Life □ $600*

Annual □ $45 (includes printed hard copy of the Sound Advocate mailed to your home)

(Please Print Neatly)

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________ City:__________________State: _______Zip code: _____

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: _________________________ Breed(s) of Horse(s): _______________

Additional Donations: □ $20 □ $30 □ $40 □ $50 □ Patron $100* □ Benefactor $300* □ Other $_____

*Includes 2 complimentary CD’s by Mary Ann Kennedy

Total Enclosed: $_________ Payment by check or credit card (please make checks payable to FOSH in US funds)

Card # ________________________________________________

Expiration date __________________________ Credit Card authorized signature

Send your payment to: FOSH 6614 Clayton Rd #105
St. Louis, MO 63117

**All Donations are tax deductible**

Available Merchandise

FOSH Standards video

- America’s Walking Horse, Poetry in Motion -

First tape/DVD for FOSH members: _______ $10 ea

Additional tapes/DVDs: ___________________ $20 ea

FOSH Full-color poster ____________________ $10 ea

2012 Independent Judges Assoc. Rulebook _ $20 ea

*All prices include shipping*

… if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt* - Anna Sewell, Black Beauty

May/June 2012 – 35
Sound Advocate is going Green

Starting with the September 2012 issue, you will receive the Sound Advocate electronically. Please make sure we have your correct email address. Send your name and email address to gvehige@prodigy.net. FOSH annual memberships for $30 will automatically include an electronic version of Sound Advocate. If you prefer a printed version, the annual membership price is $45.

SOUND ADVOCATE
DEADLINES

July/August 2012 - June 15, 2012
SA GOES GREEN – ONLINE!!!!!
September/October 2012 - August 15, 2012
November/December 2012 - October 15, 2012