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BY STACY PIGOTT (TEXAS) @STACY_PIGOTT

What is acceptable?

Stacy Pigott provided a session at the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference in Red Deer, Alberta. A thought-provoking positive look at training practices and pre-show preparation as they relate to equine welfare. From shoeing practices, tail carriage and alteration, to training practices including excessive lunging and over-flexion, what image of the horse industry are we portraying to the public? She asked us "Can we defend what we do and honestly say it is in the best interest of the horse? There will come a day when we have to answer to other horsemen and the public".

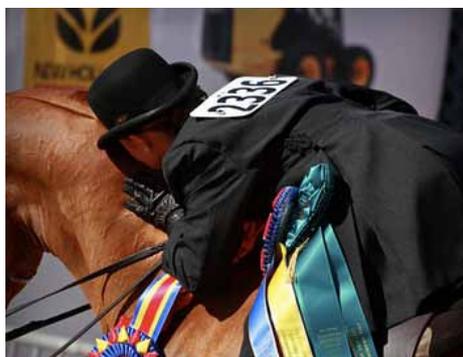
Stacey spoke of her publication "What is Acceptable?" in the July 1, 2013 issue of Quarter Horse News. The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) held a Town Hall meeting to discuss equine welfare. She was most intrigued by David O'Connor's remarks. O'Connor is a former Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) president and current coach of the U.S. Eventing Team. He posed some thought-provoking questions: **"Could I go to the middle of Central Park with an NBC camera following me around as I get my horse ready to go into competition? Will you show anybody anything you're do-**

ing? If you can't, there's a problem.

On June 3, the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) held a Town Hall meeting to discuss equine welfare. The three-hour meeting, available to view at usefnetwork.com, had a short, but powerful agenda. Two of the items centered around rule changes—one to institute mandatory reporting of horses that collapse at a USEF-licensed show for no apparent reason; and the other to prohibit injections within 12 hours of competition, with minor exceptions.

Now, just because cutting and reined cow horse aren't USEF disciplines, like reining, doesn't mean the rest of you shouldn't pay attention, too. History has proven time and again that equestrian sports don't operate in a bubble—what happens to one can, and will, eventually happen to us all. So listen up.

While the two proposed rule changes are noteworthy and USEF President Chrystine J. Tauber's opening comments were interesting (more about that later), I was most intrigued by David O'Connor's remarks. O'Connor is a former Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) president and current coach of the U.S. Eventing Team. He posed some thought-provoking questions: "Could I go to the middle of Central Park with an NBC camera following me around as I get my horse ready to go into competition?"



Will you show anybody anything you're doing? If you can't, there's a problem.

"Every discipline and breed needs to know themselves in terms of what is inappropriate," O'Connor said.

To find the answer to what is inappropriate, Tauber charged the USEF's breed and discipline committees with a fact-finding mission. In a letter to the committee chairmen, she wrote: "I believe it is time to undertake a thorough review and begin the discussion of training and preparation practices for every discipline and breed within the USEF. From shoeing practices, tail carriage and alteration, to training practices including excessive lunging and over-flexion, I believe it is critical to put these and other practices on the table to begin the discussion. We also need to initiate conversation about 'competition culture.' Has judging evolved to rewarding robotic behavior in the show ring? Are horses showing too much and too often in the quest for year-end points? It is imperative we begin this dialogue for ourselves before others begin it for us."

Tauber set a deadline of Aug. 1 for each committee to answer four questions: 1. From the committee's perspective, are there any training or preparation practices in your breed or discipline that push the boundary of horse welfare? What are the obstacles faced in changing and correcting it/them?; 2. Are we judging horses in competition in the correct manner? If not, why? How can it be changed?; 3. What changes would your committee recommend in order to construct a "best practices" approach for training and showing?; and 4. Will culture get in the way of change? If so, how would the committee handle the situation?"

For the full story please read more within the Quarter Horse News at <http://goo.gl/dGKrGg>. ■

App



BODY WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Veterinarians and professionals have long expressed concern over increasing

rates of equine obesity. The "Healthy Horse" app helps horse owners and professionals estimate their horse's body weight. The results can help owners, veterinarians and other equine professionals make decisions if a horse is identified as being ideal, over- or under-weight. Researchers collected data on nearly 700 horses to develop the app.

"Determining a horse's body weight is critical for weight and feeding management, and for administering medication," said Molly McCue, University of Minnesota Associate Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, one of the app developers. The Healthy Horse app allows horse owners and professionals to estimate the body weight of various adult horses - Arabians, ponies, stock, saddle and miniature - by entering height, body length, neck and girth circumference. Ideal body weight and a body weight score are also calculated for Arabians, ponies and stock horses.

The Hay Price Calculator app retails for \$0.99 and can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/itunesHorseHay>. The Healthy Horse apps retails for \$1.99 and can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/itunesHealthyHorse>.

The project's team included Coleman; Molly McCue, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, PhD, associate professor at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; Krishona Martinson, PhD, associate professor at the University of Minnesota Department of Animal Science; Nicol Schultz, DVM, graduate student at the University of Minnesota Department of Animal Science; Aaron Rendahl, of the University of Minnesota School of Statistics; and Krishna Natarajan, graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Minnesota.

More information about the app, the study and the research can be found at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umnnext/news/2013/07/apps-help-horse-owners-manage-hay-cost-horse-body-weight.php>. ■

Is your horse too fat?

A recent collaborative project between equine researchers from the University of Minnesota and the University of Kentucky has resulted in an app that helps horse owners better determine their horse's body weight.

Knowing the weight of a horse relative to the ideal weight of his breed can help owners better determine their horse's nutritional needs and medication dosage.

Born from collaborations between UK and University of Minnesota over the past several years on equine metabolic studies, the two sets of university researchers often discussed how the industry needed a way to more easily measure a horse's body weight.

"We wanted to come up with a better way to determine a horse's body weight and provide something similar to the BMI (body mass index) measurement currently used in humans," said Bob Coleman, PhD, PAS, associate professor in UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences and extension horse specialist. "We also wanted a scoring system that wasn't going to be as impacted by the adiposity (fat deposits) of a horse as the current method of using girth measurement to determine a horse's body weight."

Asked if researchers were successful in developing that something, Coleman's short answer was yes.

"The big thing is that it gets people talking about where they are with their horse instead of guessing. If they want to use technology to do that, they can," Coleman said. "We found that horse owners were excited to give us the data and more excited when they found out how it could help them manage their

horses."

Morphometric measurements collected on 629 horses in Minnesota, including height at the third thoracic vertebra (A), neck circumference located half way between the poll and withers (B), girth circumference at the base of the mane hairs (C), and body length from the point of shoulder to a line that was perpendicular to the point of the buttock (D).

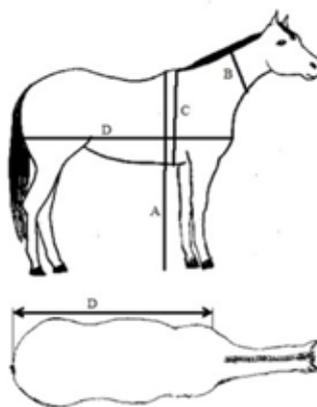
Coleman helped collect data on 629 horses at the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show and Western Saddle Club Association Championship Show. Owners volunteered their horses for measurement and for those figures to be used as part of the data.

The app, called the Healthy Horse App, is marketed by the University of Minnesota and currently available only on the Apple app store, with plans for compatibility with android devices soon. It currently costs \$1.99 US, and according to Coleman, proceeds will be used to help improve the app's functionality in the future.

The app currently works for adult Arabian horses, Miniature horses, ponies,

saddle horses (defined as Morgan, Mustang, Paso Fino, Saddlebreds, Tennessee Walking Horses), and stock horses (Appaloosas, Appendix, Paint Horses, Quarter Horses, and Thoroughbreds).

When using the app, Coleman said owners provide measurements, in inches, for their horse's girth circumference, neck circumference, body length (with diagrams showing how to measure from the shoulder to the hind-quarters), and height at the top point of the withers. Those measurements are then calculated through formulas developed by university researchers to provide the horse's weight. A comparison ideal weight of that breed is also given, which lets owners see if their horse is over or under the ideal weight for that breed. ■





<https://www.youtube.com/user/likehorseswebserie>

Sounds



**LIKE HORSES A
FILM BY JULIEN**

A wonderful short film animation "LIKE HORSES". This is a compilation of their best shots captured for their webserie LIKE HORSES broadcast on YouTube.

Sounds of the barn, use headphones or turn up volume & try to live LIKE HORSES. Enjoy this quiet moment ;-). ■

BY ASHLEIGH LACHER

Horse Show Habits

It's all about life lessons.

Most of us have been there. We go to close out our check at the end of a weekend of showing and balk at the bill. It never changes, it happens to me every time. I ask myself why do I spend all this money for a couple of ribbons? I'm dirty, exhausted and broke, but as I curse under my breath and slowly make my way back to the stalls I see the smile on my daughter's face and I know why.

Here are five important life lessons that are hidden in horse showing.

1. Life's Not Fair

Sometimes you put in that ultimate ride and can't believe that the person in your flat class, whose horse took eight trot strides before cantering, pinned above you. Who knows, maybe they don't like the color of your horse. It could be anything. Well, guess what kiddo? Life's not fair. You don't always win,



even when you have the perfect ride, but you pick yourself up, smile and try again another day—that's life in the real world.

2. Losing Gracefully

Too many kids these days throw a fit if they don't win or when they don't get what they want. What's that going to change? Be happy you are lucky enough to go to a horse show.

.....
"The more you practice and prepare the more successful you will be."

Congratulate the winner and move on. Life isn't always going to go the way you want it to. It's best to learn that early on.

3. Hard Work Pays Off

It's completely unrealistic to think you can ride a day or two a week and be successful at a horse show. I always tell my daughter what you put into it, is what you get out of it whether it's her horse, school or anything. The more

you practice and prepare the more successful you will be.

4. If At First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again

No one wins all the time and even if you start winning, there is always something to improve on or a level to

move up to. Sometimes you even have to forget everything you learned and start fresh. (Oh the terror!) Perseverance

is a sadly lacking skill in children these days. However, in horses and in life, if you don't give up you will get there eventually.

5. Don't Be Afraid To Ask For Help

Let's face it, horses can be some of the most frustrating creatures on earth! We have all stomped back to the stall, dragging our innocent looking horse behind us and cursing under our breath. When my daughter is having one of "those" days, I tell her to take a deep breath and ask her trainer for help at her next lesson. In horses, as in life, we aren't alone. No one knows everything. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help, it's always there if you need it. ■

What's your horse thinking?

Animal scientist Temple Grandin, PhD, offers insights into your horse's thoughts and feelings and how they affect his behavior.

A horse's brain is hardwired for survival and works much differently from the brain of normal humans. Ever wonder what's going on inside your horse's head? What makes him act and react the way he does?

Temple Grandin has a better idea than most. She's the celebrated animal scientist whose autism enables her to see things the way animals probably do. Her best-selling book, *Animals In Translation* (Scribner, 2005) teems with unique insights; the book's subtitle is "Using the mysteries of autism to decode animal behaviour." Because of her autism, Grandin doesn't think in words, as most of us do. She thinks in pictures. Animals, who are wordless, likely visualize their thoughts in a similar fashion. This puts Grandin in a unique position to speculate on how animals think and feel.

For this special report, we pored through *Animals In Translation* to discover Grandin's most compelling observations about horses. We also spoke at length with the Colorado State University professor, herself a horse fancier who rode as a teen. We'll share her explanations of such phenomena as why a horse's fear is "faster" than ours; what a horse sees that we probably don't; and why rough handling of a horse can create lifelong phobias.

We'll also suggest how you can make the best use of Grandin's insights in riding and handling your own horse.

Scary Pictures We all know that, as a prey species, horses have certain hardwired behaviours designed to help keep them safe from predators. As Grandin explains it, they use emotions to "predict" the future and thereby make wise decisions.

"A healthy animal makes sound, emotion-based decisions all the time," she observes. "He has to; otherwise he'd be dead." For example, fear of the scent of a predator causes a prey species to run away and escape being caught.

That makes fear a basic, predominant emotion for horses. We tend to refer to a horse's excitability or his spookiness or his level of agitation, but what it all boils down to, says Grandin, is fear, which horses and all animals experience far more vividly than we do.

"Fear is so bad for animals, I think it's worse than pain. I always get surprised looks when I say this. If you gave most people a choice between intense pain and intense fear, they'd probably pick fear. I think that's because humans have a lot more power to control fear than animals do."

And that's because, she explains, we can use our analytical faculties courtesy of our prefrontal cortex to understand and rationalize our fears, whereas animals cannot. All your horse knows is, "This is scary, which means I'm in danger of being killed, which means I need to get outta here."

Another thing that "awfulizes" fear for horses is the visual nature of their thinking. Consider, if you will, Cialis levitra sales how much scarier a picture of Freddy Krueger is than a verbal description of him. The image has much more impact, right?

By the same token, "a visual memory of a scary thing is more frightening than a verbal memory," says Grandin. "When it comes to managing their fear, animals and autistic people are at a big disadvantage because they have to rely on pictures."



A Good Read

IN TUNED WITH ANIMALS

Dr. Temple Grandin, best-selling author of the ground breaking *Animals In Translation*, is celebrated worldwide as an advocate for animals. Her work with fast-food chains (including McDonald's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Wendy's) has helped to improve the quality of life and death of the animals we eat. Her pioneering theories on both autism and animals have landed her on major television shows ("48 Hours," "20/20," "Larry King Live," and "The View" with Rosie O'Donnell, among others) as well as on National Public Radio.

A professor at Colorado State University, Grandin is herself an animal lover (the dedication to her book says simply, "For the animals"). As a teen, she spent "every spare moment working the barns" to be with horses at the boarding school she attended.

Although *Animals In Translation* touches on a menagerie of beasts from cows, pigs and parrots to wolves, dolphins and prairie voles. It gives special attention to dogs and horses.

For more information on Grandin and her work, go to www.grandin.com.

Senior editor Jenny Meyer says Grandin's *Animals In Translation* is one of the most revelatory books she's read in recent years. ■

Fast Fear, Slow Fear. Another way horses and other animals differ from us is that they tend to experience fear “faster” than we do. There are two ways fear is experienced in the brain, depending on whether it takes what Grandin calls the “high road” or the “low road.” The high road gives you “slow fear” because its physical path through the brain is longer than the low road.

“On the high road,” explains the scientist, “a scary stimulus, such as the sight of a snake in your path, comes in through the senses and goes to the thalamus, located deep inside the brain. The thalamus directs it up to the cortex, at the top of the brain, for analysis. When it gets there the cortex decides that what you’re looking at is a snake, then sends this information; it’s a snake! Back down to the amygdala, and you feel afraid. The whole process takes 24 milliseconds.”

By contrast, the low road, or fast-fear system, takes half the time. You see a snake in your path, and the sensory data goes straight from your thalamus over to your amygdala, avoiding the cortex. The whole process takes 12 milliseconds. Nature gave us both systems because you can’t get hyper speed and accuracy in the same system.

“The fast road is quick and dirty,” says Grandin. “You see something long, thin, and dark in your path, and your amygdala screams, ‘It’s a snake!’ Twelve milliseconds later your cortex has the second opinion: either, ‘It’s definitely a snake!’ or, ‘It’s just a stick.’ The reason fast fear can be so fast is that accuracy is sacrificed for speed.”

High road fear is also conscious (you know what you’re afraid of); low road fear is not “you’re running away before you know what you’re running away from,” says Grandin.

Your horse, as you might have guessed, depends primarily on low-road, fast fear, so he’s going to respond to something scary much more quickly than you would. That’s often what catches you off guard.

Grandin says the inborn temperament of animals also plays a role, as some species and breeds are even more sensitive to fear than others. She calls these more fear-prone animals, which

tend to be finer boned than less sensitive types, “fear monsters.” Arabian horses in general fall into this category; as a result, they tend to have a low tolerance for rough handling.

“Some trainers swear rough handling is effective. But what’s interesting about these trainers is that if you check out their horses, they’re all big-boned, low-fear horses who habituate fast to treatment that would crush a high-strung animal” such as an Arabian. (For you Arabian lovers, note that Grandin also observes that high fear and high sensitivity tend to correlate with intelligence; the greater “awareness” of such horses makes them highly trainable by the right methods.)

Emotional Learning: ‘The Bad File’ Another important point, says Grandin, is that animals in general, and high-strung animals in particular, never really unlearn a traumatic fear.

“All intensely emotional learning is permanent,” she says, adding that Nature made it that way so that the memories of things that the horse thinks may cause him harm (his definition of “scary”) are automatically preserved. “For a horse, a traumatic fear memory is like a bad computer file. A rider the horse trusts can train him to close the file and hold it closed, but it’s still there, and can re-open under the right circumstances.”

She tells the story of a rope horse that had become phobic about anything touching his hind end (the result of a bad accident). With his regular rider to reassure him, the horse would keep the bad-memory file closed. Then that rider went on vacation, and another person rode the horse in a pen with cattle.

“One of the cows brushed the horse’s butt and the horse panicked, crashed through the fence, broke his leg, and had to be destroyed. The less-familiar rider didn’t know how to help the horse keep the file closed.”

Grandin adds that the first time a horse experiences something is the worst

time for him to be traumatized. For example, a horse can ride in a trailer two dozen times, then experience a trailing accident and not come away fearful of the trailer as a result.

But if something bad happens the first time the horse enters the trailer, he’ll form a sensory-based negative association with the trailer that will be permanent meaning it’ll be part of that horse’s makeup forever. You may recondition him to accept loading and riding in a trailer, but the right circumstance can always re-activate his original traumatic fear.

Interestingly, Grandin adds, regarding an accident occurring on the horse’s 25th trip in the trailer, if the horse happens to smell burning rubber just at or before the moment of impact, he may become phobic about the smell of burning

rubber. That’s because horses, like most animals, are what Grandin calls?

Words to the Wise Owner What else can we infer about the best ways to ride, train, and handle our horses from Grandin’s unique take on the equine mind? Here are some key strategies:

Avoid creating fear memories. This is paramount. Because equine fears are so lasting, it’s far better to keep from creating them in the first place by proper handling and careful troubleshooting that keeps your horse, especially a young one, out of mishaps.

Appropriate training methods are also key. “I am totally against using punishment to teach an animal new skills,” says Grandin, who adds that punishing fear-motivated behaviour is absolutely counter-productive, as it will only cause the horse to become more fearful.

“The worst scenario is one in which the horse is frightened and can’t get away,” she says. So teaching a horse to accept a halter by tying him up and letting him fight it out is guaranteed to form a trau-

.....
“Though social in their own way, horses are less controlled by social stimuli than dogs are, thus less likely to do something purely to please you.”

Q & A

RESPONSIBILITY OF A JUDGE:

"Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of best horses for the purpose described by the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: his own conscience, exhibitors and spectators. He should make it clear that the best horses win."

- Much more exists to good judging than placing the best horse in the class.
- The Arabian judge must have integrity and knowledge.
- Webster defines integrity as honesty, sincerity and completeness.
- Horses must be judged by what you see in a specific class on a specific day. You must not be dazzled by the horses past performance, it's advertising, it's popularity or it's reputation.
- Neither should you be dazzled by the reputation of the trainer, the owner or the crowd's reaction to a particular entry.
- You must disregard past performances, reputation and handler. You must only judge the horse on its performance on the class on that day.

GOVERNING BODY FOR CANADIAN ARABIAN HORSE SHOWS

- Class A, Regional and National.
- Approved by Equine Canada and the Arabian Horse Association.

SOURCES FOR RULES

- Equine Canada Rule Book (http://equinecanada.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=98&Itemid=713&lang=en)
- Arabian Horse Association Hand Book (http://www.arabianhorses.org/membership/membership_handbook.asp)
- United States Equestrian Federation Rule Book (https://www.usef.org/_JFrames/RuleBook/rules.aspx)
- Arabian Horse Association Equitation Manual (http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/j-s/docs/13_Equitation_Manual.pdf)

• Ask the Show Steward. ■

Questions and Answers

On Friday, January 16, 2015 a excellent session took place where Carla spent some time with the Aurora Arabian Horse Youth Association discussing the responsibilities of a judge, good sources to find rules, and of course everyone got an opportunity to ask their questions. What a great evening and a big thank you to Carla! See the full session details at: http://www.auroraarabian.com/youth_association.html

Let's say you are judging a pleasure class, both of the horses are in the top two and you can't decide which one, do you look at the tidiness of the rider as well even if you are not suppose to?

So we are to judge the horse no doubt. Overall pictures is huge, so is it in consideration ... yes it is. So if you have got them both and they are sitting right up here, and one has just really gone to the end to make a pretty picture, you know what ... you have to honour that.

What is your opinion on like "bling" for showmanship as in sparkly earrings, magnets and fancy pins?

So hunter and again reading the rule book is a classic look. So some judges are very offended by a lot of bling in hunter and I would tend to agree and not to go overboard with it. Tasteful is attractive.

So how do we dress for showmanship?

If you are in western attire, cowboy hats, cowboy boots whether it is tucked in or belted or jacket in the western, what are you wearing on that horse for appointments? Halter not braided. They seem to be very concerned that you "suit your horse" so if your horse is hunter and braided of course you are in hunter clothes. If he is a little high-headed you look like you are showing an english-type horse you dress in a saddle suit or a classic suit.

If I'm in hunter attire my appointments for my horse are hunter bridle with snaffle or kimberwick bit. Does he have to be braided, he doesn't have to be but if you want "brownie-points" he should be ... says you got up earlier than the other guy.

What is something that we can do to absolutely "blow away" the judge in showmanship?

Smooth grace and ease. Is there any one thing you can do ... it all has to be there. I think that when you come in and you do that pattern, the respect that is exhibited to the judge is very important. Show your horse like it is the best horse there. When you make your movements around the judge, they have really frowned upon people who are bouncing up and down. Trotting away and to look back once and than exit the scene and back into the line. Cleanliness is a large part of it no doubt so the horse has to be clean and so do you.



Judges can only judge what they see, but can they?

I can't see behind but I can hear for the most part. So if I hear that horse going behind I hear this "thump, thump" maybe or I hear an irregular hoof beats I know that something has happened back there.

Now I want to say that if you get a class, maybe if there are only one, two or three horses in it ... well it is easy to follow you all away around. But if you are all in there, I'm only going to see you maybe 8 or 10 seconds at each gait. If there are 20 of you in there, it might be less. Think about it, if you stand in the middle and there are 20 horses going around and around you'll be lucky to pick everyone of you up sometimes like you might do say three laps depending on the gait you are doing. So there is a lot that is not seen.

So when you are thinking that you are having the ride from "somewhere else" ... don't let anybody know that, keep showing your horse, right because we will only catch this path, we can't watch you all the time because we have the other 19 riders that we have to pick up on. So there's a tip for you. ■



1922

FILMED AT CRABBAT PARK FEATURING ARAB HORSES

Two fine Arab stallions are presented to the camera. First is Nasik - a woman in a white dress and hat holds the horse by reins (presumably Lady Wentworth). C/U of the head of the horse. Second horse is Raseem. Horse is held by same woman and again there is a C/U. Skowrenek is presented to the camera in the same way.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN9nha8XAY&feature=youtu.be> ■

WITH ... KATELIN CARTER

20 Questions

about your life with Arabian horses

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I am currently starting my own business training, breeding and showing Arabians.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

14.

3 They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

When I was 7 years old I wanted to start taking riding lesson, so my Mom found a barn right in town which turned out to be Kim Seward's arabian training barn. I learned to ride from the very beginning on Arabians.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

My favorite horse companion is my 11 year old stallion BG Firefly. I started him myself when I was 15 and this horse will and has, done anything and everything for me. You name it, he is game for it. He has national titles in western pleasure, working hunters and trail. He came third in his first 50 mile endurance race in 5 hrs 3 minutes, and he has competed extremely successfully in every cowboy-obstacle competition we have entered.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

My horse mentor was absolutely my half arabian mare JM Golden Reflection. She gave me a lot of grief, she was a bolter, and certainly not a good show horse, but this mare taught me their language. Endless hours in a snowsuit in 3 feet of snow in our junky round pen showed me that there is more to riding horses than just getting on and going. I definitely credit this wonderful mare to most of my ability to read horses and communicate with them on a higher level.

6 What is your favorite horse book?

I was a huge pony pals fan growing up, I think I had just about every single one!



7 What is your favorite horse movie?

The black stallion, more truth to what a stallion will do in that story than many others.

8 What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

I love attending the big shows with my horses, Region 17 championships, Canadian Nationals and Scottsdale are

my "Showcations" I get to spend a week with the most beautiful horses and fantastic "Show family". I like to equate us to a band of gypsies, always the same set ups, same people and horses and we all pack up and move to our next location for our next party!

9 What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

My current favorite moment was winning the HA/AA Western Pleasure Junior Horse class and Canadian Nationals. I was riding my 5 year old stallion BH Sandman whom I bought as a yearling and trained myself, with tons of help from the people around me, especially Carla Jackson, who gave me a lot of extremely valuable information and skills.

10 What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

My greatest achievement so far has been reaching a level in my training where I have wonderful clients who trust their horses with me, and to now have a group of national quality horses to show for their owners this season.

11 Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present?

I have had several dream horses and dreams for them. Every one is better than the last, when that horse makes my dreams come true, I go looking for a new outrageous dream!

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]

Editor Message

At **DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES.COM** we are always excited to bring you this vital line of communication.

The newsletter is published in November, January, March, May, July, and September and will continue to be sent to you by e-mail blasts. It will also be posted on the DAH website with a link on Facebook and Twitter.

The newsletter will cover many topics:

- We will feature, *The Arabian Horse in History*, where the generally ignored role of specific horses in history will be presented.
- Will also have a spotlight section where we present information on a specific Arabian horse owner, trainer, barn, program, or event in our industry. What a great opportunity to get to know our fellow horsemen and horse lovers.
- "Activities" puzzles, games for the young and the older ... just play.
- Check out our articles, stories and classifieds.
- 20 Questions ... about your life with Arabian Horse ... with.
- The team is more than willing to work with other horse associations regardless of breed type or discipline to assist them in getting their message out.

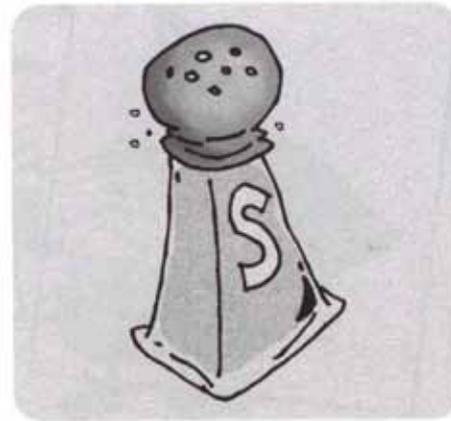
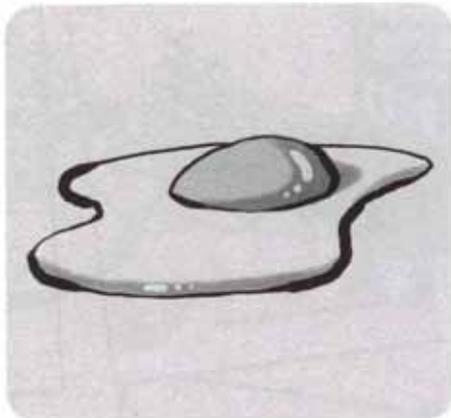
Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

info@discoverarabianhorses.com ■

SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN SOLVE

Picture Spelling Bee

Each of the pictures shown here is represented by a word that can be spelled using some of the letters found in one of the three featured horse words. See if you can correctly list all of the picture labels under the right horse terms. One is already done for you. ■



ANSWER: broodmare 1. door 2. bear 3. broom 4. bread 5. ram gelding 1. egg 2. line 3. dig 4. glide 5. lid stallion 1. ton 2. salt 3. list 4. lion 5. sail.

Horse 'em Foursome

Two fathers and two sons decided to go horseback riding at the Blazing Trails Riding Stable. When they arrived at the stable, there were only three horses available. Just the same, everyone was able to go on a trail ride together, each person riding a different horse.

How was that possible? ■

ANSWER: The two fathers and two sons were three people altogether: a grandfather, his son, and his son's son.



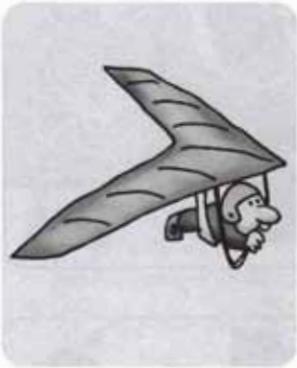
See more at: <http://horseandrider.com/article/read-eye-mount-26884#sthash.g7Id988S.CKBwIAhi.dpuf>

Tip

READ HIS EYE BEFORE YOU MOUNT

A horse's eye is a window to his soul—or at least a good indication of how he's likely to behave under saddle on any given day.

The soft, relaxed eye pictured indicates a horse that's calm and ready to obey his rider's cues. If, as you prepare to resume a more regular riding schedule this spring, your horse's eye looks a good deal less acquiescent than this, consider a little extra groundwork to help him relax and dial in to you. The time you spend on groundwork invariably translates into a calmer, more focused mount under saddle. ■



broodmare

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

gelding

- 1 e g g
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

stallion

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

My current dream horse is a 3 year old purebred reining prospect I hope to show in the futurities in 2016.

12 Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person?

Patience, oh my, patience... some of the worst rides you have on a horse are the best learning experiences, and I never take them for granted.

13 What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse?

Their incredible intelligence, I have had some great horses of other breeds, but nothing will ever beat my Arabs. I swear with some of them you just have to think it, and they are already doing it!

14 What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

I would say, if you want a horse that genuinely wants to be around people, not for food or pets, but solely for companionship, or if you want a horse that spends every minute of the day trying to please his or her owner, buy an arabian. Be prepared though, you are expected to give your soul to an arabian as he has to you. They bond fiercely and you cannot ever betray that.

15 What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

Find a riding stable who's main focus is fun! Safety and learning are very im-

portant but how can you learn to love a horse if it isn't fun? A great riding stable will bring you in as part of the family and not just another \$30 riding lesson, and having a support network will pay off more than excellent skills or expensive horses.

16 Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share?

17 What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

I would love to show my horses, and my client's horses at US Nationals.

18 What about "kids" and an Arabian horse?

I have seen some amazing relationships between children and Arabians. They connect with them on a level often missed by adults. Many Arabians will also change their behavior when a child is involved and take extra caution.

19 Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

Arabians have always let me show the world my best side, and when a horse trusts you as completely as mine do its an amazing feeling.

20 What are your words to live by?
Always be happy with what you have and where you are at, but never be satisfied. Keep dreaming, keep looking for the better method, and the greener grass, but never forget where you started.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Join us at the Western Canadian Breeders Championship the evening of Saturday June 20 to see an amazing presentation of the arabian horse. ■

matic fear memory that will plague the horse throughout his life.

If your horse has developed a phobic fear of something, it's worth the effort to try to discover exactly what the trigger is. If it's something that can be removed from the horse's environment, such as a certain kind of saddle blanket or a particular bit, then do so.

Be mindful of equine nature. Grandin says it's important to assert dominance over a horse the way a horse would do it. That's because horses, unlike dogs, "are less controlled by purely social stimuli," meaning they're less likely to do something simply to please you. So the so-called "natural" methods of establishing yourself as the leader over your horse, such as making him move out of your personal space, are most effective.

Grandin also agrees with Clinton Anderson and other clinicians who assert that horses learn best when their feet are moving. "Movement is basic to learning," she says. "It's true for autistic children, as well. They learn much better when they can move around as opposed to when they're made to sit still."

To avoid stressing your horse, be aware of signs that he's becoming agitated whenever you're working with him. "Is his tail swishing? Is he sweating overly or quivering? End the lesson before he blows up. Don't make a training session longer than he can comfortably stand it, and always quit on a good note," she says. And, to up the odds that your horse "gets" what you're trying to teach him, make sure all rewards come within one second of the action being rewarded. "Otherwise, your horse won't make the association. That's because a horse has less 'association cortex' in his brain than humans do, our computer is 10 times bigger than his is."

We owe it to our horses to make use of that much-bigger computer to the benefit of their well-being and happiness.

See the full article at: <http://www.equisearch.com/discoverhorses/article/whats-your-horse-thinking-23298#sthash.RyJQF4xa.dpuf> ■

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