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POSTED ON HORSECHANNEL.COM BY LINDSAY KELLER

About the Lost Shoes

Lost shoes are irritating to farriers and owners alike. Learn the truth behind the dreaded lost shoe from a veteran farrier.

How many times has your evening ride been postponed due to a lost shoe? Before you get angry with your farrier, check out these common misconceptions behind the infamous lost shoe.

My farrier didn't do a good job and that is why my horse lost his shoe. While this can be true, it is more often than not false. Ironically, the best farriers may have the most trouble with lost shoes.

"If you place more importance on keeping the shoe on at all cost, you are forced to sacrifice expansion and support, which is not best for the welfare of the horse," Chris Powell, a farrier of more than 30 years says. "Expansion and support are two key ingredients for keeping a horse sound long-term, which is more important than never losing a shoe in my opinion."

More nails are better. This may be true, but only in some cases. "I prefer to use as few nails as possible to avoid unnecessary trauma to the hoof," he says. "I will only opt to use more nails if I have a horse that loses shoes more than normal."

My horse's shoe was sucked off in the mud. The most common reason horses lose a shoe is because

they step on it with another hoof. This can be amplified in the mud because they may not be as coordinated in muddy conditions, but Powell says a properly applied shoe is not going to be lost due to the mud itself.

My horse's hooves are unhealthy and that is why he can't keep shoes on. This may be true, but your farrier should be able to confirm or deny if this is the case. While the hoof really does make the horse, supplements, polishes and paints may be wasted money.

"There is research that supports the use of biotin in improving hoof health, but your horse may be getting enough biotin out of the commercial feeds you are already giving him," Powell says. "Before you provide additional supplementation, I would consult your farrier, a veterinarian or an equine nutritionist to see if they think it will be beneficial and if so, what supplements they would recommend."

He also advises owners to consult their farrier before buying a paint or polish to help improve their horse's hoof condition.

"Many of the over-the-counter paints and polishes you can buy are very damaging to your farrier's tools and don't actually help your horse as much you think," he says. "Talk with your farrier and see what they recommend – we usually have a preference."

Powell says some horses may actually lose shoes because of their personali-

ties rather than their hoof health.

"Horses that tend to paw fences, or play excessively may be more likely to lose a shoe than a horse that is content standing around under the shade tree," Powell explains.

My horse always loses his shoes in the summer when I want to be riding. This is not entirely due to Murphy's Law. Horses are more prone to losing shoes during the summer months for a couple reasons:

1. The ground is typically dry, which can make their hoof condition follow suit.
2. They are being ridden more, which can increase their chances of pulling a shoe due to overreaching, or forging.
3. Horses feet tend to grow faster the more they move, so you may need to have your horse reset more often. According to Powell, proper shoe fit and regular resetting can really help prevent losing shoes.
4. Perhaps the biggest culprit is those pesky flies. Each time a horse stomps his feet, he is liable to loosen the nails that hold his shoe on. Stomping also can cause horses to step on their own shoes with the opposite foot. Powell likes to grind, or bevel, the edges of the shoe to try and prevent this from happening.

Take-Home Message Although lost shoes are a nuisance and will undoubtedly happen at an inconvenient time, remember to avoid correlating the quality of your farrier's work with the number of shoes your horse may lose this summer. Also, Powell says you can help your farrier do a better job of properly fitting your horse's shoes by providing a clean, well-lit area for him or her to work in, preferably on a flat, level surface.

"Keeping the flies at bay, keeping your horse on a regular reset schedule and providing good footing in your riding area can really help keep your lost shoes to a minimum," Powell says. ■



ROBERT REDFORD'S FOREWORD TO RIDING HOME: THE POWER OF HORSES TO HEAL

Horses have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My first time on a real horse was when I was five or six. Granted, it was only in the pony ride ring, but it was instant love. This big-hearted animal, moving me along, like it was the most natural thing in the world. But that's the thing about horses. They connect in ways that often, words can't capture but hearts can. It's powerfully emotional for both human and horse.

Up through my early teens, my relationship to horses was always on horseback, and along with my friends during those days it all had a decidedly show-off, wild quality to it. It wasn't until I found myself in Estes Park, Colorado at 15, spending days grooming and caring for horses to earn my keep, that I developed a true connection that went far beyond riding horseback.

This simple emotional connection is at the heart of Tim Hayes' stories, which is ironic, as most people he features are considered to have very complicated challenges. I've always been drawn to the truth and simplicity inherent in nature. And that's why I believe Tim Hayes is really on to something here.

Therapy. Equine Therapy. The power of nature—horses—and its connection to the human spirit are front and center, at every turn of the page in this important book. And it is personified in the experiences of everyone from autistic children and brave veterans coming home with everything from PTSD to paralysis and loss of limbs—to prisoner inmates and troubled teens who've endured way too much in their young lives.

In most cases, nothing else had cracked the code of their suffering, or their myriad of challenges. And somehow, the majestic horse entered the picture, sometimes by chance, sometimes as a last resort, and suddenly there was hope for the first time in as long as anyone could remember. I think this is what drew me to my 1998 film, *The Horse Whisperer*, along with a portrayal of ranch life out West that was fast disappearing. At the heart of the story is a man and a horse, and healing for not only himself, but for those around him.

There's something meditative about communicating with horses, something instinctive where you eventually have to merge into one in order to move forward together. I think maybe that simple notion is why we are seeing such widespread success in the horse's ability to break through where nothing else has worked, and we're just left with a form of healing.

The lessons you'll take away from this beautiful volume of healing and love between man and nature will stay with you for a long time. And who knows, maybe it will open a door to healing for you or someone you love. ■

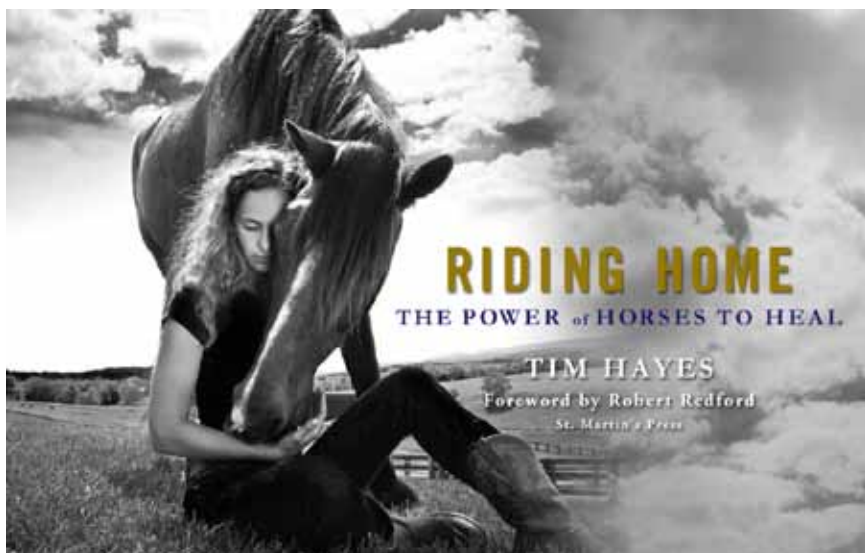
Robert Redford on Horses, Healing and Riding Home

RIDING HOME scientifically and experientially explains why horses have the extraordinary ability to emotionally transform the lives of thousands of men, women and children whether they are horse lovers, or those suffering from deep psychological afflictions.

My goal is to inform those who know nothing about Equine Therapy of the effectiveness of its healing and to raise public and government support for it as a

It is also a book for anyone who wants to experience the joy, wonder, self-awareness and peace of mind that comes from creating an interspecies horse/human relationship. And finally it puts forth and clarifies the principles of today's Natural Horsemanship.

Horses do not judge humans. Horses only judge their behavior. If a person is not exhibiting predatory behavior a horse will become curious and usually begin to approach and interact with them.



method of recovery. Today Equine Therapy is remarkably succeeding where traditional talk therapy and prescription medications have failed.

Everyone knows someone who needs help: a husband, a wife, a partner, a child, a friend, a troubled teenager, a war veteran with PTSD, someone with autism, an addiction, basically anyone in emotional pain or who has lost their way. For all those who are suffering, RIDING HOME provides compelling examples of how Equine Therapy has become one of today's most effective cutting-edge methods of healing.

He accepts the human as he or she is. The horse does not see a war veteran who may have seen and done horrific things, he sees another being. The horse does not see a child with autism, he sees a child.

Establishing a relationship with a horse can often be the first time any of these men, women or children feel love and acceptance for their true selves. It is this amazing power of horses to heal and teach us about ourselves that is accessible to anyone and found in the pages of **RIDING HOME: The Power of Horses to Heal**. ■



Redford

Robert Redford has written a compelling Foreword to my new book, **Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal**. I am honored and profoundly grateful. In doing so he has lent his invaluable support to the thousands of emotionally wounded men, women and children in desperate need of healing yet unaware of the existence, availability and effectiveness found in today's Equine Therapy programs.

For over two decades I have been teaching the principals of Natural Horsemanship (or what was once referred to as "Horse Whispering") helping humans create better relationships with their horses. During this time I have experienced the power of horses to actually facilitate in the healing of a wide variety of human emotional wounds. ■

POSTED ON HORSECHANNEL.COM BY DANIEL JOHNSON

Barn Dog Safety ... Making it Work

Your dog can be an enjoyable companion at the barn if you're willing to put in the time and training.

If you're like many horse owners, you probably have a special affection not only for animals in the equine family, but in the canine family as well. It's a common sight at stables everywhere: happy horses hanging out with happy dogs. Dogs and horses just seem to go together.

But don't underestimate the potential danger of combining these two animals, because dogs around horses can be a serious safety concern. But with a little bit of precaution and training, you can usually make it work.

Focus on training It might seem obvious, but your dog's basic training and manners need to be solid before you even consider bringing him into a horsey situation. Think about the proper ground behaviors that we work on and expect of our horses: to lead

quietly without pulling, to respect our space, to stop when we ask, and (if possible), to not become overly spooked about new objects and situations. We work hard to train our horses, and most of us wouldn't dream of allowing our horses to strain on their lead ropes and drag us over to a new horse. Yet we sometimes neglect the same training when it comes to our dogs. Many dogs

are permitted to bark non-stop, pull hard on the leash, or refuse to come when called. It can be easy to be "blinded" by your affection for your canine ("He just

wants to have fun! Come here, boy! Come! Come! Come..."). But to keep things safe, it's important to evaluate your dog's obedience.

Before your dog ever sets paw on the stable grounds, he needs to be able to walk respectfully on the leash without pulling or straining, and be able to greet strangers calmly and without excessive eagerness. He should have a reliable recall in case he gets loose. It's also highly

valuable if your dog knows a "be quiet" command to control his barking (this can be difficult to train—especially for certain dog breeds—but very helpful in the stable environment). Basically, he needs to have his basic obedience and socialization skills down pat.

Take it slow Your dog's first trips to the barn should be on-leash only—this is a new situation with new sights and new smells, and even if he is predictable in other environments, you never know what might excite him around the barn. Introduce him to things calmly and gradually—watching barn life from a distance at first, then closer up, then actually "meeting" a horse, etc. The first meeting between canine and equine should be a very controlled one. Ideally, you'll use a veteran horse that is already acclimated to dogs so that you're only introducing one new variable into the mix instead of two. Your dog might react timidly, or he might become defensive, so you'll want to monitor his mood carefully. Offering treats during and after a successful encounter can also help. Only much later, after your dog has become completely acclimated to barn life, should you consider letting him go off-leash, and only then with the permission of the barn owner. ■



Their Ears

HORSE & HOUND ~ BY AIMI CLARK

Ever wondered why your horse suddenly stops or spins around out hacking, or snorts and spooks unexpectedly — usually when there is nothing there? In fact there is, but as the horse's range of hearing eclipses a rider's, you are unaware of what they have heard. Although small, the ears are one of a horse's greatest assets, and it is important to understand how they work.

1 Horses can detect sounds as far as **4 km** away.

2 The ability to hear higher frequencies means horses can detect the ultrasonic shriek of a bat, which is inaudible to a person's ear. That is why a **horse often reacts to something that the rider is unaware of.**

3 Horses can detect low-frequency sounds while grazing, via vibrations transmitted through the ground that he picks up with his teeth. The **vibrations are conveyed to the middle ear through the jawbone.** Hooves also pick up on these vibrations, thus warning of possible predators.

4 The **conical shape** of the outer ear — similar to an old-fashioned gramophone speaker — captures even the softest sounds.

5 This shape **shields the sound the horse is trying to focus on**, thus fading out other noises around him.

6 Healthy, young people can hear sounds from **20 hertz up to 20 kilohertz**, and are most sensitive to sound between one and three hertz.

7 A horse's range is far wider — from **14 hertz up to 35 kilohertz**, another two-thirds of an octave.

8 Between **one and 16 kilohertz** is the horse's best frequency of hearing.

9 There are **10 muscles in a horse's ear** — compared to three in a human's — which control movement. That is why a horse can turn each ear in a separate direction to listen and communicate.

10 After the **ear tells a horse which direction to look in**, his almost 360-degree field of vision determines the exact location of the sound.

11 If the source of sound is identified as non-threatening, the horse will usually remain calm. But horses are prey animals and if it is considered threatening — or he cannot see the source at all — **he will want to run in the opposite direction.** ■

Losing is Much More Important Than Winning

After working hours upon hours with your animal preparing for the next show/rodeo, it can be disheartening to come out with anything but a win. It's easy to forget that at the end of the day it isn't always about winning. We often forget that the hard work and dedication that we have put forth has taught us how to get somewhere with our lives.

An advantage that all stock show/rodeo kids possess is the ability to work. We know what it takes if we want to get somewhere. We don't sit around and wait for the opportunity to rise; we go out and make it happen. In the agriculture industry we are constantly surrounded by people who possess the same passion for agriculture. We know how to work independently, but we can work just as easily with a team as well.

Losing isn't the end of your life. Losing is more important than winning. To be able to feel just how great it is to win, we must first lose. Losing will give you a push to get out there and work harder. Losing teaches you life isn't fair. You may have worked harder than the kid that just beat you, but at the end of the day that's life. The sooner you learn that the better off you'll be.

Blue is just a color, so is pink and white. Those colors don't make you who you are. Winning is hard and not everyone can win. If everyone could win it wouldn't be a competition, just a giveaway.

Trophies, buckles, and plaques collect dust. You'll learn that after showing/rodeoing is over those materialistic objects don't mean anything. The memories you make will mean more than anything, and they don't

need dusted off.

Losing teaches you about what good sportsmanship is. After a competition go shake the judges hand and go shake the person's hand that beat you. When you win you want everyone to come up and tell you good job, so remember to do onto others as you want them to do to you. Plus you will see all of those people again. If you want showmanship you better show the judge you have sportsmanship, because judges don't forget.

Winning comes and goes. If you win and boast about how great you are, chances are someone is going to come out and try harder to beat you next time. Competition is tough, and you can make it a lot harder on your-

self by being a sore winner. My dad would always tell me, "Win or lose go to the trailer. Shake hands, tell everyone good job, but don't stick around." You will find less drama going back to your trailer than standing around talking.

Parents want their kids to win. If they see their child upset because they lost, chances are they are going to say things they don't mean. Local shows/rodeos are notorious for parents to get too involved. Yes it is hard to see someone you love lose, but you should NEVER take it out on the kid. The kid that just beat your kid doesn't deserve you to say anything to them but good job. Don't try to hurt someone to make you feel better. Always remember your kid learns from you. If you show bad sportsmanship, they will possess it one day.

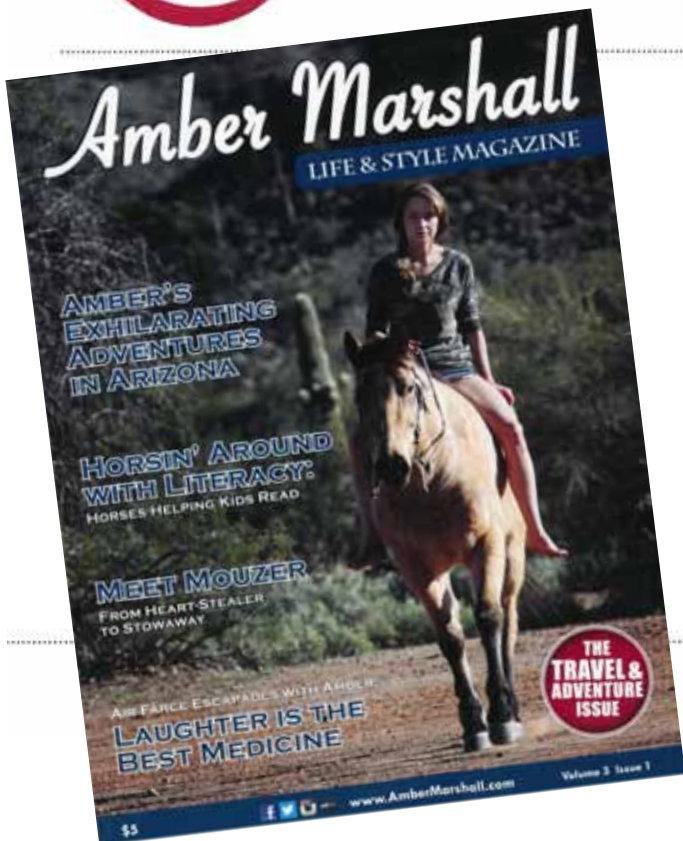
Cheer for everyone. The most exciting thing in the world is to have an

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 6]





Horses Make Good Listeners



On farms and ranches across Canada, horses are hard-working and much-loved members of the family. Among the most gracious of horse breeds are the Arabians. On a ranch outside of Edmonton, Alberta, there are a group of Arabians who are taking their role in the community to a whole new level.

The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project employs the power of the human-animal bond to motivate young students to develop a love of reading. On their ranch in Sherwood Park, Gary Millar and his family have developed a successful program for converting even the most reluctant early readers into small people with a big love of books.

Gary had dreamed of owning and raising Arabians since he was a little cowboy hanging out with his uncle's horses. Once into his twenties, he was able to make this dream a reality. About the same

[LOSING IS MORE CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 4]

audience cheering for your achievements. You might not like that person that just won, but they deserve recognition for their hard work. In the world we live in today, support and motivation make a difference. If you want people to be involved and work hard, motivate them. My family always kept me motivated. They never said I was the best and life should be handed to me. They made me work for what I wanted, and they supported me in the

show ring. They would remind me every day that to be the best, you must practice and prepare.

You don't know how hard they worked with that animal or their back story. It is so horrible to see people making excuses on why they didn't win. Blaming the judge is the main one of course. Excuses get you nowhere in life. You lost, and that's that. Making an excuse might make you feel better at the end of the day, but it's not going to make your life any greater. Excuses are bad habits and hard to break. When you

get in college or when you get a job, your boss/professor doesn't care why you were late for work/class. You will either fail or get fired if you let excuses consume your life.

Help others out. If you see someone struggling with carrying show supplies, go ask them if they need help. Don't just sit there and stare at someone who is struggling, just because you don't want to get involved. Your help could make a huge impact on that person's life, and you could make a new friend. ■

.....
BY HEALTHFITNESSREVOLUTION.COM

Top 10 Health Benefits of Ownership

Horse ownership can be very exciting and rewarding. The primary benefits from horse ownership are companionship, recreation and relaxation, but many people do not often realize the health benefits that can be gained from owning a horse. Keep in mind that raising and maintaining a horse can be expensive, requires a lot of attention, and requires plenty of land for the horse to run.

Here are the Top 10 Health Benefits of Owning a Horse:

Keeps you physically active: Riding and other activities that require you to be outdoors in all kinds of weather will certainly keep you moving. Cleaning stalls, grooming, feeding, raking hay, pushing wheelbarrows – all of these barn chores actively burn calories and build muscle.

It builds self confidence: While horse riding is an independent sport, it's actually a partnership in which the owner is a teacher and leader who works with the horse. Nothing builds self confidence better than "leadership training." When you tell a 1,000-pound animal to move in a certain direction, and then to follow you, it's a feeling of accomplishment that you successfully taught it to do that. And when the horse does not comply, you are responsible for administering the proper discipline. That's a form of empowerment that's only found working with large animals.

Reduces stress: Re-

cent studies have shown that even limited interaction with animals may provide a decrease in blood pressure and in the hormones associated with stress reactions. Physical exercise is a scientifically recognized mediator of stress and it is clear that equine activities may provide exercise, again highlighting the potential for equine



activities to reduce stress.

Keeps you socially active: Taking riding lessons helps you meet many friends with similar interests. Most horse people will attest to meeting their best, life-long friends at the barn. These peers will have the same passion and devotion to horses. That connection creates a stronger bond just in itself.

Helps disabled individuals stay active: When supervised by certified instructors, riders with disabilities may have the chance to safely perform physical activities with the horse as a tool. Early research is showing that riding a horse may provide physical

benefits for people with disabilities. At the same time, interacting with horses may provide mental benefits, as well.

Engages the creative side of your brain: Training a horse brings up daily challenges that will force you to think creatively about how to train it and how to solve a particular problem. If something worked in the last lesson, but it's not working now, how else can you solve this issue? Being faced with such situations helps you engage your creativity to solve problems and find what works best.

Builds character: Character building is a natural part of horse ownership, teaching responsibility, punctuality, sportsmanship, frugality, patience, commitment, confidence and self-esteem.

It promotes a union with nature: Being outside and enjoying the fresh air can do wonders for your mental and physical health. Plus, the dose of vitamin D you get from being in the sunshine is essential for your body.

Maintains bone mass: All of the weight-bearing exercise that you do, including hauling barn equipment and carrying saddles, helps maintain bone mass, which important as you age.

Improves digestion: Riding a horse at a walking pace stimulates the internal organs just as walking on foot does. This aids in liver function and digestion. ■



<https://youtu.be/qWDnaeYwIB4>
~ 'Life Looks Different with an Arabian horse'.

My Horse

The ARABIAN HORSE is not just a horse, he is a trusted friend.

Few good things happen by accident, and the humanity and sensitivity of the Arabian horse is no exception. Centuries of careful breeding by the Bedouin tribes has produced a maternal and caring breed of horse that today thrives on human companionship and is indeed, the Horse Who Loves You Back.

UNMEASURABLE HEART ... VERSITILITY AND ENDURANCE ... TRUST & LOVE

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved in the making of this short film. ■

WITH ... ISOBELLE EHRET

20 Questions

about your life with Arabian horses

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

Horse Trainer at Ehret Equine in Alberta Canada.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

All my life!

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

Before I was even 24 hours old I was in the barn with my mom who was lunging a horse, I was just born into loving the horses.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

This is a very hard question, every horse I have had the opportunity to own has taught me so much and I made a huge bond with. My childhood horse named Kara Mia Mine left a big impact in my life.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

My Father, he has taught me a major part of this industry.

6 What is your favorite horse book?
The Black Stallion.

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Secretariat.

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

I show at class A shows, the Scottsdale Arabian show, Regional shows across North America, and the Canadian Nationals, this year will be my first year showing at U.S. Nationals!

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



Again a very hard question! So many amazing memories, although my first National Championship was an awesome moment it caught me totally off guard and I cried my eyes out in happy tears!

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

I have been fortunate to have won 18 Canadian National Championships!

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

There is a big grey Half-Arabian gelding I watch every year at U.S. Nationals

named HS Liberty, I get goose bumps every time I see him, he is incredible!

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

Patience, Perseverance, Work Ethic & Compassion.

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

Communication between one another, it's so nice to have great results with every ride you have.

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

Arabians are so smart and will teach you to become a better rider every time you work with them. They keep you humble because they will always make you think, when you do things properly they respond to you in a positive way.

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

Don't be afraid to ask every question you have. Education is important, there is always something to learn. Having a horse makes you a better happier person!

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

Arabian Horse World & Arabian Horse Times.

[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 sometimes 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.

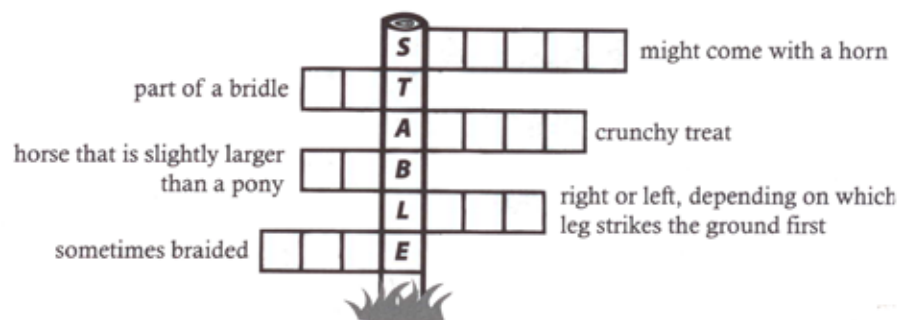
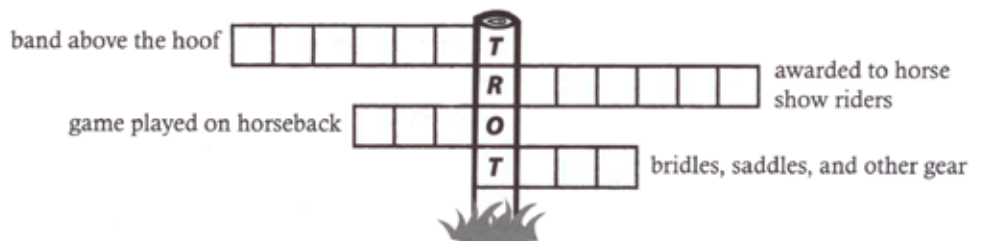
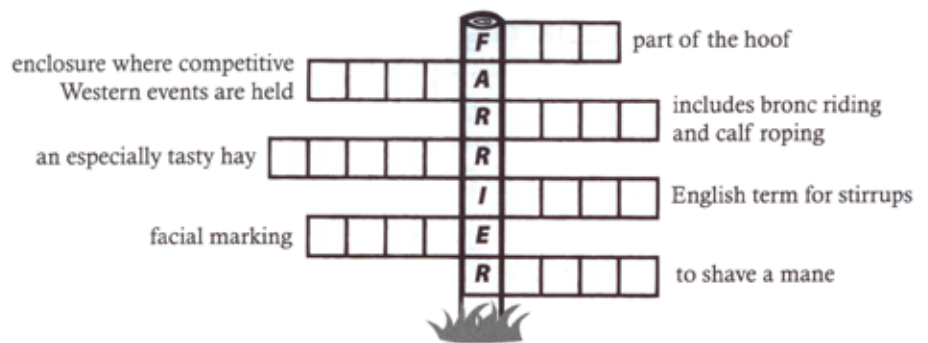
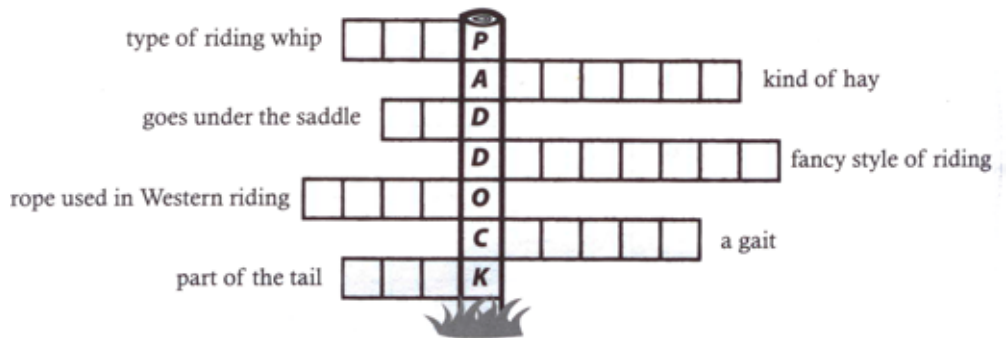
Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

info@discoverarabianhorses.com ■

HOW MANY NEW WORDS CAN YOU COME UP WITH?

Post and Rails

On each of the fence posts shown here is a horse-related word whose individual letters begin or end another horse-related word. Using the clues provided, see how many new words you can come up with to fill in the empty rails. ■



Solo Switch

See if you can change just one letter in each of the following words to create a new word that describes part of a horse's conformation. ■

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1 blank | 3 duck | 5 loans | 7 nuzzle | 9 rack |
| 2 crust | 4 hoot | 6 mine | 8 peel | 10 tall |

ANSWER: 1. Flank, 2. Crest, 3. Dock, 4. Hoof, 5. Loins, 6. Mane, 7. Muzzle, 8. Heel, 9. Back, 10. Tail

Horses for healing

The Government of Canada pursues further research & development of equine therapy to help Veterans with mental health conditions.



Horses for Healing

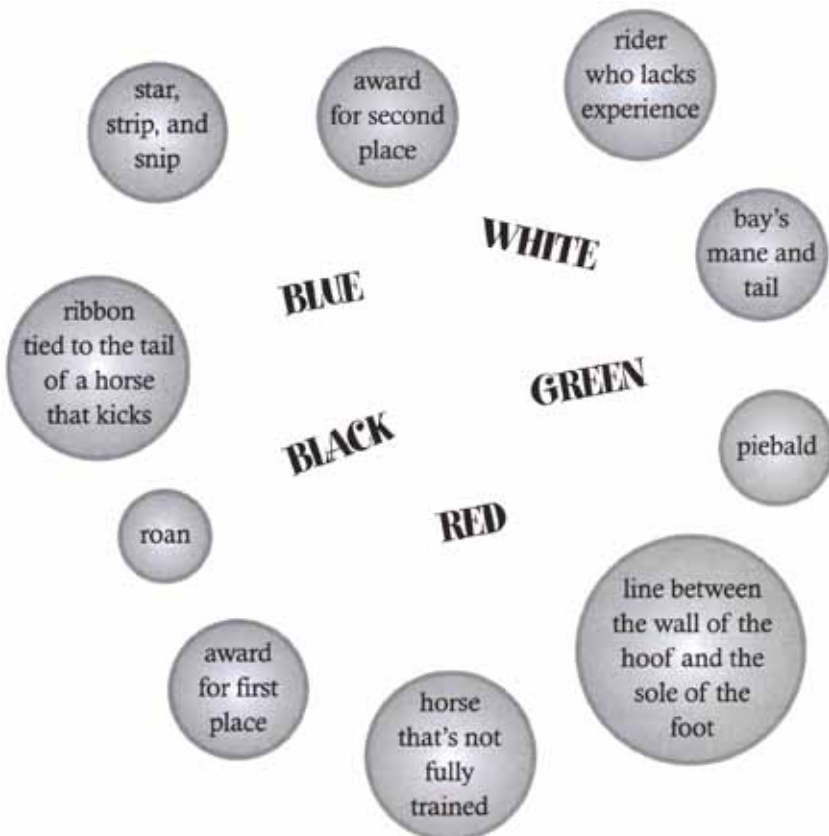
VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

The Government of Canada pursues further research & development of equine therapy to help Veterans with mental health conditions.

News Release: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1007369>. ■

Color Codes

Printed in each bubble is a term for or description of an item that is horse related. To complete this puzzle, you must draw a line connecting each bubble to the color it is commonly associated with. Keep in mind that some of the bubbles may relate to more than one color. ■



ANSWER: If Jim gives Julie three carrots, Julie will have six more carrots than Jim

When Jim and Julie finished their riding lesson, their instructor, Ms. Equitation, invited them to help her give treats to all of the horses at the stable. She gave both students an equal number of carrots, the sum of which was the same as the total number of horses. She asked Jim to feed the horses in the west paddock while Julie fed those in the east paddock. As the two headed toward their respective destinations, Ms. Equitation suddenly called out, "Wait! I forgot that I moved some horses around this morning. There are six more horses in the east paddock than in the west paddock." How many carrots should Jim give to Julie so that they both have the proper number to feed the horses in their assigned paddocks? ■

Juggling Carrots

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

Show at U.S. Nationals!



18 What about "kids" and an Arabian horse?

Arabians will teach so much to a child, and be there whenever they need a friend.

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

It is just so much fun, the Arabian horse is the best teammate you could have!



20 What are your words to live by?
Everything happens for a reason.

Is there anything else you'd would like to add?

I could not imagine my life without animals, especially my horses, it would not be the same. ■

time, he spent three years as a teacher before turning to full-time work in the business sector. Little did he know that this short-lived career would combine with his long-held passion to change the lives of so many children.

Through Gary's involvement with the Arabian Horse Association, he met two gentlemen who ran the Black Stallion Literacy Program in Florida. Having already developed a Communication and Leadership Workshop utilizing his Arabians, Gary was looking for a way to extend the powerful influence of horses to a children's program. And so the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Program was born.

The program works in two stages. The first has an Arabian visit the subject school. Students (in grades 1 to 5) are introduced to the horse, and they have time to touch, pet and be with the horse. They are then given their very own book to keep, and a large horse poster for the classroom. The students then practice reading to the horse poster.

The second stage (Gary refers to them as "connections") has the students visiting the horse farm, where the young people are organized into small groups to work through a series of activity classes. Each activity ends with students reading to a

horse, one on one. Such small people approaching such a large animal takes considerable courage, and there is an almost instantaneous connection. The children just love being around



the horses and reading to them. The program has a special e-mail account

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"Amber provides a wonderful example of a young person involved with horses. The kids get a feel for the magic of a relationship with the horses, the smell of the barn and the connection with the country and nature, and then see it in action with Amber" ~ Gary Millar

where students and teachers can continue to communicate with their Arabian horse friends. Gary Millar and his wonderful team of volunteers, made up of retired teachers, horse owners and other clients of

his barn facilities, also offer the Angel Wings Project, which allows seriously ill children to visit the farm and spend time with the Arabians. Gary's favourite aspect of Angel Wings is seeing the smiles on the children's faces, and watching the stress of the parents just melt away as their children are transported into the wonderful world of horses.

Amber is very proud to be a friend of the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project and the Angel Wings Program, and encourages you to find out more about them at www.arabian-horsereading.com. ■

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