

▪ BEAT THE BUTTERFLIES	2
▪ 4-LEGGED READING AMBASSADOR	2
▪ RECOGNIZING THEIR OWNERS	3
▪ CONNECTING WITH YOUR HORSE	4
▪ THE JOY OF BOARDING	6
▪ 20 QUESTIONS WITH ...	7
▪ FUN & GAMES	8

POSTED BY HORSE LISTENING

## As a Healing Tool?

*At its essence, the French term, dressage, means “training”. In effect, all we do when we ride “dressage” is develop a better training regiment for both ourselves and our horses. Regardless of discipline, solid basic training is what every movement is based upon.*

Even at its most basic level (or perhaps, especially at the most basic levels), dressage holds a value to horses of all disciplines.

Done well, it presents opportunity for you to analyze your horse’s way of going, strengthening weaknesses and evening out imbalances in movement.

Done well, it provides you opportunity to develop your basic riding skills, strengthening weaknesses and

evening out imbalances in your aids.

Because both are critical to your horse’s success in performance, and your success as a rider. What do dressage exercises do for the horse?

**Stretching/Releasing/Bending/ Strengthening:** If riding were a language (which in fact, it is), then the alphabet would be based on the above qualities of movement. The foundation for all movements begin with the horse’s ability to

stretch, release, bend and be strong. All four qualities combine to allow the horse to move in a way that keeps him sound and physically functional for years to come. If any one component is missing, then the horse runs the risk of joint/muscle/tendon injury.

**Stretching:** There are two ways a horse can stretch – longitudinally (over the topline), and laterally (side to side). The former is usually the first to be accomplished well and the latter improves along with the topline as that develops. As a young horse learns to stretch, the muscles have an easier time releasing and working in tandem.

**Releasing (Suppling):** Some people refer to muscle release as “relaxation” – as in, the horse should relax while cantering. However, a horse cannot truly relax in movement – he must “release” his muscles instead.



You will know that your horse released his muscles by how the movement feels: fluid, ground-covering, lightweight and sometimes even bouncy. Your horse’s expression might change – from tense ears to soft and floppy, from almost no breathing sounds to snorts and deep grunts. You know you are in true suppleness when the movements feel effortless.

Stiffness and tension are the opposites to a release. Horses ridden with tight muscling develop mystery lamenesses and other ailments over

the long term. All riding exercises should be aimed toward improving the horse’s ability to release the muscles through their particular exercises and limit stiffness and tension as much as possible.

**Bending:** Increased ability to stretch and release will invariably lead to better bending. All horses have a preferred side, much like we humans have a dominant hand. Better bending will lead to better evenness in the left and right body. The horse will develop his ability to bear weight more evenly on both hind legs, and therefore stretch through both sides in an easier manner.

**Strength:** You might be amazed at the horse’s development once the muscles work together instead of against each other. First of all, the horse’s muscling will change visibly. You might notice a top line musculature where there was none before. You might notice a squaring of the rump when viewed from behind. There might also be a delightful groove developing over the horse’s back over the spine, a sure indication of supple muscles working underneath the saddle. But the clincher is that the horse becomes capable of doing the movements (in whatever discipline) easier, slower and with more control.

**The Healthy Horse:** Regardless of our disciplines, we want horses to live long and thrive in their work until old age. Adding dressage exercises regularly into your routine workouts will always reap benefits in several areas at once.

When combined, the above components of riding will result in the horse’s increased capacity for correct weight-bearing. And more than anything, improving the horse’s ability to carry the rider’s weight in a manner that not only prevents damage, but in fact improves the horse’s health and well-being, is what all good riding should endeavour to produce. ■

# Special Reader

**KIDS ENCOUNTER FOUR-LEGGED READING AMBASSADOR**

~ BY KENDALL LATIMER, THE STARPHOENIX

King George School students met a teacher whose horsemanship encouraged them to keep reading.

"What these kids take away is far beyond the magic of the books and the reading," said Gary Millar, director of the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project. They also learn confidence, patience, focus, and respect for nature, animals and authority, he said.

"It's such a privilege to sit back and watch the kids grow," Millar said.

On Friday, June 19, the students were introduced to an Arabian horse named Sox who is part of a program that combines equestrian education with prompting kids to take pleasure in reading. Sox is a descendant of an ancient breed that trotted Arabian sands centuries ago.

The children were delighted as they patted the brown horse of the desert whose coat wears white socks.

The kids gathered on the grass to hear Millar explain what makes Arabian horses so special.

Their unique "horsemanship" is key, he said, adding their sensitivity, communication skills and ability to read people's energy makes them ideal candidates for the program, which started in Alberta.

Millar brought books of various reading levels about horses, as well as a large poster of Sox.

When he told the kids that Sox, who is 13 years old, was at the school, his words were met with an excited chorus of "Wow!" and "Where?"

The complete article and video can be found at <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/literacy/raiseareader/Kids+encounter+four+legged+reading+ambassador/11151918/story.html>. ■

POSTED BY HORSE AND HOUND

## Beat the Butterflies

**You trained for it, looked forward to it, dreaded it and now it is finally here — competition day.**

Despite the fact that most of us enter a show out of our own free will, it remains something of a double-edged sword: the potential for lots of fun and utter humiliation combined in one neat package.

So it's not surprising that despite our best efforts to prepare for the big day, come competition day the army of **butterflies** that decided to show up out of nowhere ends up having the upper hand.

This is what **sport psychologists** refer to as **pre-competitive anxiety** — most riders call it stress or nerves.

**What are 'butterflies'?** Here's the thing: from an evolutionary point of view, all these physical changes make perfect sense. When presented with a possible threat to a person's health or life, the body readies itself for a "fight or flight" reaction.

More frequent breaths mean more oxygen to be taken up by the red blood cells, which then have nothing better to do than deliver it directly to the muscles.

Once there, oxygen combined with glucose is transformed into ATP, the energy currency of the body. Add a liberal dose of the body's own legal drug adrenaline and cortisol, and the body is ready for whatever it takes to stay alive.

And even though the type of stress riders experience is often just a threat to the ego, the physiological reactions are the same. The **body readies itself for action**.

So really, **that flutter of nerves can be a good thing**. It makes you more alert, improving your reaction times. It might even help you to focus a little better on the task at hand. You'll also get tired less quickly.

But being stressed is definitely not a good thing once it starts undermining confidence, either in yourself, or in your horse. Because once you lose confidence, you no longer feel that you know what you're do-

ing, let alone what you're supposed to be doing.

**Get your butterflies flying in formation.** To help you turn your nerves into something that'll help you perform better, here are **3 simple rules**:

**Rule no. 1: don't try and control the uncontrollable.** There is absolutely no point in worrying about the things that you can do nothing about on the day of the show. This includes: the weather, the judges or course designers or your fellow competitors and how nice their horses are. Instead focus on the things you can control, such as arriving on time, having all your kit ready, knowing your test, and having a competition routine.

**Rule no. 2: routines rock.** Put simply, a competition is not the time to

start experimenting. Sticking to a planned routine gives you a sense of security, even if all else fails. Routines can involve anything from what music to listen to on your way to the show and how to tack up your horse,

to how to structure your warm-up. Just before entering the ring, many riders benefit from going through their test or the course one more time in their heads, seeing themselves perform at the very best of their ability.

**Rule no. 3: KISS: keep it simple and specific.** Simplicity and specificity are key to knowing what you are supposed to be doing, and, as an extension, remaining confident in your own abilities. On the day of the competition and prior to getting on your horse you should give yourself two or three very specific instructions as to how you intend to ride your test or the course. If you want your horse to be relaxed in the ring, instruct yourself to loosen up through the shoulders and wrists. Or if your horse needs to move forward with more impulsion, be adamant that your horse reacts to your leg the entire time while in the ring. ■



# Reaching Saskatoon

## **HORSE LITERACY PROGRAM REACHES SASKATOON STUDENTS ~ Global News**

An Alberta literacy program stopped at a Saskatoon school today to encourage students to read. Aaron Streck says the good listeners prove to be effective teaching tools.

The complete article and video can be found at <http://globalnews.ca/news/2065370/horse-literacy-program-reaches-saskatoon-students/>. ■



POSTED IN TELEGRAPH THE RESEARCH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY B.

## Horses can Recognize their Owners

**Horses really can recognise their owners by their voices, according to research showing how they generate a mental picture of familiar humans.**

When a familiar person's voice is played from a hidden loudspeaker, horses look towards them more than to another individual they know, or a stranger.

Scientists at the University of Sussex have previously revealed the animals also recognise members of their herd in this way, an ability known as 'cross modal'.

The latest findings show horses also single out humans in this way, even though they look and sound very different to themselves.

When humans hear a familiar voice they form a mental picture of who spoke by matching visual and auditory cues. This 'cross-modal' perception involving interactions between two or more different senses was once believed to have been a purely human trait.

In the first experiment involving 32 horses, subjects turned to look more quickly, for longer and more often

at their owner when they heard their voice over a loudspeaker than when they heard a stranger's.

Animal psychologist Dr Leanne Proops said: "Subjects were able to match a familiar voice to a familiar person but did not match an unfamiliar voice to an unfamiliar person. "The matching of the owner to their voice does not reflect a spontaneous preference for looking towards the owner, instead subjects actively associate the audio and visual stimuli.



"Whether the failure to match the stranger to the unknown voice reflects an inability to infer that an unknown voice comes from an unknown individual or they are not motivated to respond

to a stranger calling their name is unclear."

In a second experiment, involving 40 horses, subjects proved able to match a specific voice to a familiar human handler. Dr Proops said: "This indicates the sight of the handler activated a multi-modal memory of that specific individual, allowing subjects to match the sight of that particular person with the

sound of their voice."

She said it also suggests horses use this recognition strategy naturally to identify numerous individual people in their day-to-day lives.

Study co-author Dr Karen McComb said: "The ability to match the sight of familiar individuals with their voice, without explicit training, has also since been demonstrated in non-human primates and crows." She said the skill to distinguish people may have evolved among horses to help them know exactly who they can trust.

Dr McComb said: "Horses are a species that have a lot of interactions with humans, like domestic dogs."

Results of the study also suggest the left-side of the brain predominates in this skill, because the horses were much better at performing the task when the person was standing on their right. Dr Proops added: "These results are the first to demonstrate cross-modal recognition in animals can extend to individuals from very distant species.

"They also indicate processes governed by the left hemisphere are central to the cross-modal matching of visual and auditory information from familiar individuals in a naturalistic setting." ■

Yes, 50  
Years!

**AURORA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION 50th Anniversary Horse Show and ARABIAN HORSE DAY: Love Arabian Horses!**

Aurora Arabian Horse Association was excited to have so many people share in their 50th Anniversary celebration at this year's summer horse show. The show hosted more than 130 horses at this 3-day event from Friday, May 29 to Sunday, May 31, 2015. There were a variety of classes going on in both show rings of the Calnash Trucking Ag-Event Center in Ponoka, Alberta. There were riders under five years of age, some over 50 years, and lots in between.

This year the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Program visited the Ponoka Christian School prior to the show, allowing the 'kids' an opportunity to meet a real live Arabian horse. Some even practiced the magic of reading together to a four-legged friend. What a thrill is was for the whole school. [www.arabianhorsereading.com](http://www.arabianhorsereading.com)

We had a wonderful gathering of our early association membership joining in the celebration of this exciting anniversary and 13 members of the Aurora Arabian Horse Youth Association showcased an outstanding parade of disciplines. Thank you to Briar, Alyssa, Kaitlin, Marijke, Megan, Erika, Shaylin, Madelaine, Alana, Kassie, Anna, Arianna, Grace and for sharing their special relationships they have with their horse and their horsenality! **Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hif3VcuKKkw>**

The public accepted our invitation to the **ARABIAN HORSE DAY: Love Arabian Horses!** Families took guided tours, got "up close and personal" with our horses ... were amazed by their soft big brown eyes and beautiful faces! Lots participated in our education center where visitors, young and old made horse masks and buttons, and just enjoyed that time-honoured activity of coloring. A wonderful collage of photos are shared within our **Facebook photo album at <https://goo.gl/mZT2sU>**. ■

BY LOUANN CHAUDIER

## Connecting with Your Horse

***Despite knowing that close relationships among humans are formed over time, it's fairly common for us to feel disappointed when our horses remain distant after weeks, or even months, of special attention. Horses do form close attachments over time, but we should adjust our expectations and allow them to bond with us at their own pace.***

**Building a Friendship** - The No. 1 way to establish a close relationship with a horse is to spend time with him in a manner that reinforces you as his leader. It doesn't matter what you are doing, just that you are there and interacting with him in a way that makes him feel secure.

I've owned a Quarter Horse colt named Jackson since he was weaned. Besides handling him morning and evening, I talk to him a lot. While grooming him, or letting him eat "better" grass on the front yard, I've filled him in on Kentucky Derby winners, cried over Barbaro's passing, sympathized with his "picked last in gym" herd status, and generally kept a running conversation. I believe I could talk about hedge funds and Jackson would think all is right with the world.

In many situations, a conversation in the right tone of voice yields better results than a command. When Jackson was 3 years old and being sent to a trainer, he'd been on a trailer only once—the day he came to my farm. The trainer and an assistant came to pick him up and couldn't get him loaded, so I took the lead rope and coaxed Jackson into the trailer by talking to him as though he was merely standing in the barn aisle. By my calm voice, and the fact I've never asked him to do anything that hurt him, I was able to convince him that trailer-loading is no big deal. As I told him, "Heck, if I can get in here, you can get in here."

One of my "horsey" friends, Lynn DiCello of Salem, Wis., believes my strong connection with Jackson is because I got him at such an early age, before he was spoiled by anyone and lost his trust in people. Lynn believes that a horse has to be receptive or you can try all you want and a deep bond doesn't seem to form. To develop that deep bond, Lynn says you have to spend time with a horse: feeding, grooming, riding, maybe just sitting out on the grass while he grazes around you. "I think if you are open to a horse, and let him get to know and trust you, bonding will most likely happen," she says. "You'll know you are important

to him when you go out to the field and he stops what he's doing, leaves his buddies, and walks over to you on his own."

**Bonding with The Good, The Bad, and The Ornerly** - Sometimes, bonding with a horse is so spontaneous, it doesn't even

make sense. You instantly fall in love, and the horse, sensing it, responds in kind. How do you know? Well, it won't be like it is in the movies and television shows—your horse won't run to get help if you fall off and can't get up. He's more likely to run away!

You'll know when his eyes soften when he looks at you, he tries to groom you when you're within reach, he whinnies when he sees you (and it's not time to eat), he turns to you in a crisis, he follows you around, and he quiets when you talk to him.

My first horse, Presto, was my once-in-a-lifetime horse. He was so beautiful that people always made a fuss over him, but he was also generous and forgave my many beginner-rider mistakes. Presto was a big, spirited Morgan, and way too much horse for me from the outset, but I was determined to ride him. Over the years, we became such partners that I could think "move there" and he would, or I'd put a hand



on his neck and he'd visibly relax. We were like that mythical creature, the centaur—half human/half horse. Not all my horses have been that into me. A few were ornery and others indifferent even though I've treated them all the same. A few years ago, I bought a horse named Bud for trail riding. His previous owner must have had a "if they don't ask, don't tell" policy because she neglected to detail the horse's "playful" side.

Working with Bud was like the proverbial box of chocolates—you never knew what you'd get. I never had the sense that he was a bad horse; I thought he was "naughty." My husband couldn't grasp the distinction. Perhaps I am perverse, but I sort of enjoyed Bud's Jeckyll-Hyde personality. It was a challenge to try to figure out what he'd do next. Whatever tricky thing Bud did, I could almost feel the joy emanating from him. He entertained himself with his plots.

Bud and I bonded by coming to an understanding: If he'd keep his shenanigans to a minimum, I'd cut him some slack.

Then, there are those horses that try oh-so-hard to resist me. I currently own a big bay gelding named, fittingly, Rex (which means "King"). He has so much pride, and such a strong sense of self, that he rarely lets down his guard. He's like the love interest in Bruce Springsteen's song, Secret Garden. There's a place where he won't let me in. If I pet him, he moves away. If I approach him with a treat, he'll

lean, lean a little more, and practically fall over before he takes a step toward me. He expects me to serve him. I might take this personally, but I spoke with Mary Ann Collins, of Racine, Wis., who owned Rex from the ages of 3 to 14 to see if she'd managed to get closer to him. She said her relationship with Rex was better under saddle than on the ground.

"Rex was always workmanlike and responsive when I rode him, but he was somewhat aloof otherwise," Mary Ann

said. "I think horses' ability to bond with people has a lot to do with how they are handled as babies. The horse I own now, Declan, was imprinted at birth and our relationship is so close, it's almost spiritual. It was not immediate though; I had to earn his respect and it took time. I attribute much of our special bond to natural horsemanship and how much time I put into ground-work."

So, it seems Rex has been consistent throughout his life and simply has a self-oriented personality. Even so, he slips up now and then by forgetting to act like he merely tolerates me and nuzzles my shoulder while I groom him. I don't gloat, however. It's important to him to feel like "The Man" around the place, and I'm content to know he sometimes gives himself away.

In January 2007, Rex really gave it away. That winter, I suffered two strokes. When I got home from the hospital a month later and started visiting the barn, Rex knew something had happened to me and now looks out for me the way old geldings often shepherd foals.



**Avoid Creating an Equine Monster** - Who says food isn't love? Horses love food and we love giving it to them, but your pure intentions could create a monster. Treats are fine in moderation. Just make sure you

decide when and where to give them. How to feed treats is a matter of some controversy. Hand-feeding is heresy to some horse owners and standard practice for others. Some hand-fed horses will begin to nip and root around for treats, so owners need to correct this behavior before it becomes an ingrained habit.

Horses have an uncanny ability to size up the people around them, and they often take advantage of permissive owners. For example, if you let a horse

take a few steps as you mount, he is leading and you are following, albeit on one foot. If you allow a horse to push ahead of you when you lead him, he's actually walking you. Horses are genetically wired to test you, so it's in your best interests to always set limits.

Punishment is a key issue literally defined by setting limits, yet is difficult for some owners to mete out even when it is justified. All horses require a reminder of the limits at some point; if the reminder is fair and warranted, they do not resent it and won't hold it against you. You're merely reminding them that you're in charge and not to forget it.

**Why Bonding is not PsychoBabble** - Some people may think "bonding" is borderline touchy-feely psychobabble that isn't necessary as long as a horse does what he's told. This might be true in a majority of cases, but there can come a time when friendship and respect make the difference between a close call and a tragedy.

One August morning, Presto got out of his pasture when a painter left a gate open. By the time I found my horse, he was buried up to his shoulders in a muddy, boulder-filled riverbed. Even though Presto had already suffered enough neurological damage to die several days later, I'll never forget how hard he tried to pull free when I encouraged him. He fell back numerous times before he finally lunged up the steep bank onto dry land. Presto followed me back to the barn through a 7-foot high cornfield with his nose pressed against my back.

You should try to build a relationship with your horse that is strong enough to compel him to try his hardest for you, whether it be in a World Championship class or in a muddy creek. Perhaps you have a new horse that you want to be able to catch in a large field, or a new trail horse that will take you long and far ... you never know when you'll need to draw upon that "bond equity." ■

.....  
"Who says food isn't love? Horses love food and we love giving it to them, but your pure intentions could create a monster."

# The Joy of Boarding

**Every time we post something on our Facebook page about boarding, we get a certain type of comment from a handful of at-home horsekeepers. These range from the sympathetic (“I’m so glad I have my horses at home now!”) to the baffled, (“Why not just keep your horse at home and take care of him yourself?”) to the kinda hostile (“If you can’t take care of your own horse, you shouldn’t have one.”)**

These last two categories of comments didn’t make sense to me at first. I’ve always thought of having a horse at home as a luxury. In the areas I’ve lived, land is expensive and even if you have some, it might not be zoned for horses. Boarding is the default option for most people who live in or around cities and/or on the coasts. But if you live in more remote areas, land is probably easy to come by while finding someone else to house your horse might be a challenge.

And while I really don’t think there’s any need for hostility, I guess I can kind of see where that third group is coming from. If you told me you had a dog, but you kept it at someone else’s house and went to see it for an hour or two each day, I’d wonder how you could even call yourself a dog owner. It’s not a direct comparison, of course—the expectations for canine companionship are quite different from horse ownership, but you get the point. If no one around you boarded horses, it would seem like a weird way to have a horse.

Part of the reason we get these kinds of reactions is the nature of the boarding articles we share. A lot of them are problem solving: dealing with challenging barn managers or co-boarders and other dilemmas. If this was your exposure to the world of boarding a horse, you’d have every reason to want to steer clear. So today, I’m going to celebrate the boarding stable by sharing some of the things I’ve learned to appreciate about the arrangement in my 10+ years of boarding my horse.

- **There’s always another set of eyes.** Although I’m a big fan of peace and quiet at the barn, the fact that there are always people coming and going means that the horses are never completely unattended for long. If my horse colics in the field at 10 a.m. on a weekday, someone will notice. If he was in my backyard, it’s unlikely anyone would lay eyes on him until eight hours into this colic episode.



.....

“If you want to get a second opinion on a piece of tack or a training technique, there are other horse people around to discuss it with.”

- **There’s always another brain.** I’m a reasonably knowledgeable horse owner, but I don’t know it all. If something seems

slightly off with my horse or I want to get a second opinion on a piece of tack or a training technique, there are other horse people around to discuss it with. No need to try to explain something over the phone or via email to a far-off horsey friend.

- **I can jet off to Vegas for a week.** Mind you, I don’t do this. I have never done this and I probably never will, but it’s not my horse holding me back. At his boarding barn, he’s taken care of. If he were at home, I’d have to find someone willing to look after him anytime I wanted to leave town. I don’t travel much, but I do like to go home to visit my family once in a while, and I’ve had the amazing opportunity to take work trips to Italy and Brazil in recent years. I’m glad I haven’t had to pass up these opportunities because I had to stay home and feed my horse.

- **I only have to own one horse.** Not that I would mind owning multiple horses, but time and money are issues here. Some horses are fine on their own, but in general, they’re social creatures who are less stressed when they have companions. So if I had Snoopy at home, I’d need a Snoopy Jr., too, and then a Snoopy III to keep one Snoopy company while I had the other one out on a trail ride. In my present boarding situation, Snoopy’s got three friends in his field plus several neighbors over the fence and I don’t have to pay the feed, vet and farrier bills for any of ‘em.

- **I can live in the city.** I know, to some of you, that sounds horrifying, and I get it. It has its drawbacks. But I really like urban(ish) life. There are all

kinds of stores, restaurants and other businesses within easy walking distance of my house. I can go downtown for various festivities, and when other people complain about how hard it was to find parking, I just shrug. In fact, the only place I really have to start my car to get to is the barn. Would I trade it all to be able to see my horse outside my window? Ask me again in a few years and I suspect I’ll say yes. But if you’d asked me any time within the past 10 years, I would have said no way. I wanted to live in the city in my 20s, and I also wanted to have my horse. I got to do both. Thanks, boarding!

- **I don’t have to risk a jail sentence for the bank robbery I’d have to commit to buy a farm.** It takes a lot of cash upfront to buy property, even just a few modest acres. I don’t have it. Does that mean I shouldn’t own a horse? I don’t think so. Snoopy’s pretty happy at his boarding stable, and that makes me happy.

There are pros and cons to both boarding and at-home horsekeeping, but I hope this has helped to alleviate some of the negative perceptions that exist about boarding. ■



<https://youtu.be/6lbKF9qCGHg>

# Tedx Talks

## KOELLE SIMPSON IS A HORSE WHISPERER AND LIFE COACH.

Koelle has had rare opportunities to apprentice with exceptional teachers, such as the best-selling author and horse trainer Monty Roberts, as well as internationally acclaimed life coach, best-selling self-help author and columnist at O Magazine, Dr. Martha Beck. Yet, the most life changing teachers of all came from those with four legs instead of two, most especially horses. Her mission in life is to return the gift by helping others rebuild trust in themselves and unleash the powerful leader within each of us. ■

WITH ... TEX KAM

## 20 Questions

*about your life with Arabian horses*

**1** What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

*Owner, Breeder and Exhibitor. Current President of the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry (CAHR).*

**2** How many years have you been around horses?

*I have been with horses as long as I can remember-practically my whole life. Started with grades and quarter horses moving to Arabians in 1979.*

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

*At the Two Hills, Alberta Fair - open horse show in 1979. My father and myself ran into a woman named Gertrude Thompson who had \*Raffles bred horses and had a Varian Bred stallion from the Cartwright Ranch in High River. We purchased a \$500 weanling colt - a Bay Abi grandson that very same day from her.*

**4** Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

*Can't say I've ever had one as a companion so to speak. My horses have never been pets - I view them more as livestock. I have placed great value and pride on many of them over the years. I have had so many greats it's tough to separate them. It's like asking a parent who is their favorite child.*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor?

*Again I can't name one, but rather a trio of old Polish Stallions, namely WA Fools Gold, Medallion and VF Premonition. I got them all late in life - all were Producers of National Champions and considered to have issues and perhaps not great reputations. I took great pride in being their caretaker and giving them a safe home where they prospered in old age. They taught me more than you can imagine about the Psychology of Dominant Stallions. It made me purely understand you have to out think every situation in life, you can't let emotion rule you.*



**6** What is your favorite horse book?

*I don't read fiction but any Arabian Horse World or Times certainly catches my attention.*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie?

*The Man from Snowy River - all day long.*

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

*I show sparingly, but consider myself first and foremost a breeder.*

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

*It hasn't been the show wins, but rather seeing foals born from a mating's that I pictured - and the realization that your decision worked! It's remarkable, because a lot of nice horses are born every year - but so few GREAT ones are foaled. I'm proud to say I think I've bred a handful of great ones in 35 years.*

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

*Probably breeding the Scottsdale Unanimous Junior Champion colt AOTH that Murray Popplewell showed a couple years ago. He also won in Vegas at the World Cup the same year. The colt was a couple generations of my breeding program - as I bred his mother also. She was one of the first Embryo Transfers to be registered in Canada. We sold this colt to South Africa to the owners of Magic Dream CAHR.*

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

*Personally that I owned: Stallion: WA Fools Gold - U.S. Na-*

[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.

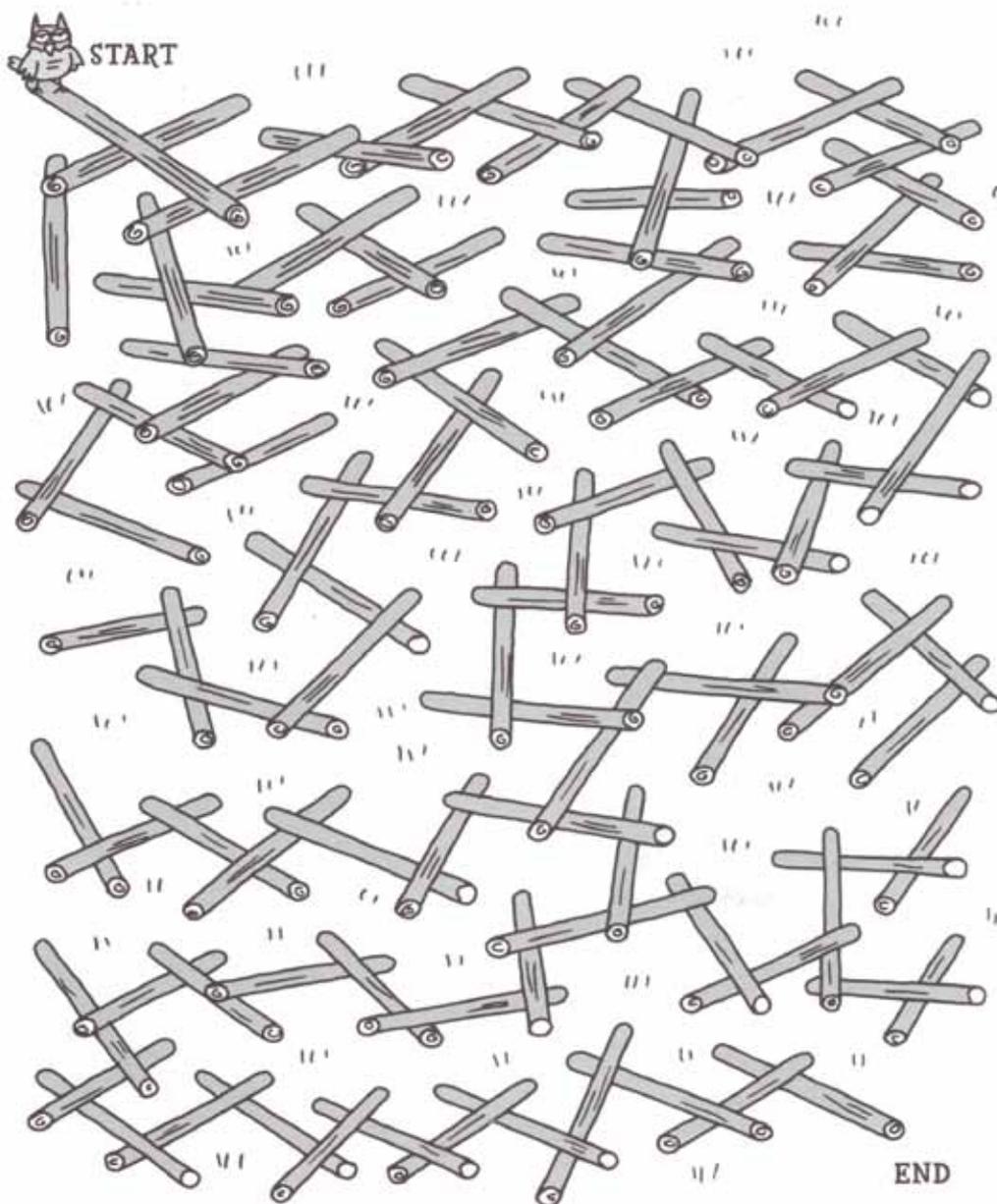
Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

**info@discoverarabianhorses.com** ■

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY

## Rail Road

Help Barney find a path across this pile of fence rails. He must walk ON the rails without touching the ground. ■



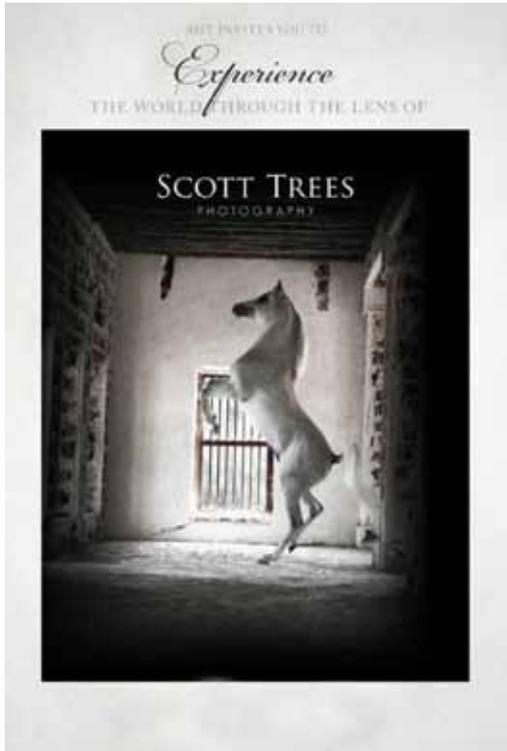
## Snail's Pace Race

Ever since Roy and Dale signed on at the Friendly Dude Ranch, the two cowboys have been in constant competition. For their next day off, they've planned a race to the river to decide who has the better horse. Frank, the foreman, who's had just about enough of the cowboys' bickering, decides to teach them a lesson.

"Okay," say Frank, you can race, but the one whose horse takes longer to reach the river wins!" Not wanting to turn down a challenge, Roy and Dale agree, but since neither one wants to cross the finish line first, they spend the whole day aimlessly wandering around in circles to avoid it.

Long after dinner time, the cowboys no closer to the river than when they started, cross paths and admit they're tired of this contest but don't know how to end it. The ranch cook just happens to be passing by and offers them a solution. Within seconds Roy and Dale are racing as fast as they can to the river. What did the cook say? ■

ANSWER: The ranch cook suggested that the cowboys switch horses.



# Scott Trees

**THROUGH THE LENS ON HIS LIFE, WORK, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE ~ BY MARY KIRKMAN**

He was pleased and honored to have this feature in the April 2015 issue of the Arabian Horse Times.

Practically by definition photographers who specialize in Arabian horses are artists. In a breed where one aspect of type is extreme beauty, it was inevitable. What might surprise new owners over the past twenty years, however, is that it wasn't always so. At one time, most Arabian horse photos were the standard conformational or performance shots that nearly every other show breed featured, along with speciality portraits of heads. They were flawlessly executed by a handful of practitioners who were masters of the craft, but dramatic? Not usually. As the breed exploded with growth in the 1980s, though, a newcomer behind the camera brought a fresh sensibility, and although he may not have realized it at the time, he led the charge for what is common today. Scott Trees created images that reflected not only the individual Arabian's supreme quality, but also the spirit of the breed.

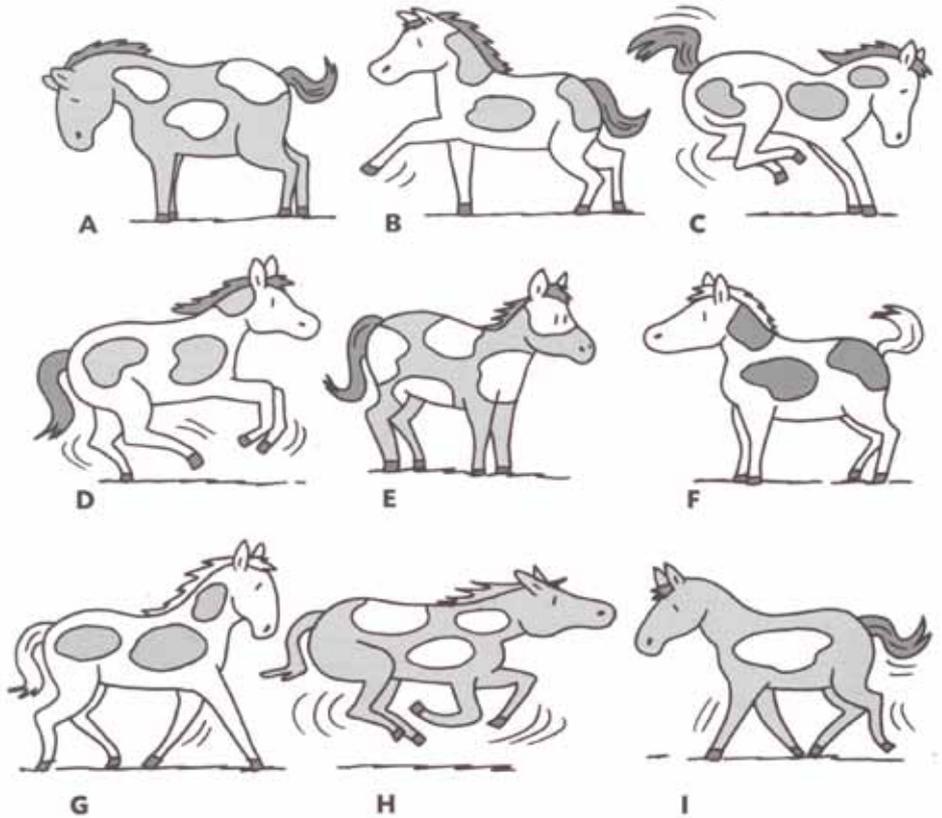
**Take A Visual Journey With Scott Trees - <http://issuu.com/arabian-horse-times/docs/scott-print?e=1130562%2F12306175> ■**

## Phony Pony

All of these ponies are real, except for one. It's a phony pony! Read the hints and see if you can figure out which one it is.

### HINTS:

1. The phony pony has exactly 3 spots you can see.
2. The phony pony has at least ONE of his back legs on the ground.
3. The phony pony has BOTH of his front legs on the ground.
4. The phony pony has a dark-colored mane. ■



ANSWER: The phony pony is A.

## Take a Guess, what is the Answer?

What runs around the barn but stays still? ■

ANSWER: A fence.

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more games and activities, check out the Discover Arabian Horses website "For Kids" section at [www.discoverarabianhorses.com](http://www.discoverarabianhorses.com) ■

*tional Champion Top Ten Stallion out of a class of 76 stallions.*

*Mare: \*Gitara PASB - imported from Michalow State Stud Poland. Dam of Gitar MF.*

*That I didn't Own: Stallion: \*Aladdin-U.S. National Champion Stallion. (I owned many of his great daughters over the years).*

*Mare: \*Elkana U.S. and Can. National Champion Mare. Owned by my good friend Aude Espourteille.*

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

*Point Blank - Horses have taught me how to handle failure with grace and dignity.*

*It's such a rare thing to have a horse that you conceptualize before birth, breed, foal out and then it goes on to have an impact on the breed. So my point is that it's almost like winning the 6-49, it really is. The odds are certainly not stacked in your favour. So you must be able to handle all the other aspects with grace or else you won't be in this business for 35 years.*

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

*The solitude it affords me to shut the outside world out at times. I have worked with the public all day long for many years; the horses offer a great break from the real world while providing a challenge to me.*

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

*They are the most intelligent breed of horses hands down. It's amazing that even though we are hundreds of generations away from when these horses used to live in the tents of the Bedouins, they still possess that need to connect with humans. They are really a gift to us.*

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

*Take the time to learn before you jump in. Don't be afraid to ask questions ... I still am anxious about this to this day ... none of us want to look stupid so we don't ask enough questions. Be a good student and soak up everything you can.*

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

*Not Really. Don't believe everything you read - lol!!! I believe that firsthand experience is the way to gain real knowledge in any endeavor. Since breeding is my passion, I have been to nearly every major breeding farm in North America over the years and have firsthand knowledge of a majority of the "Greats" of our breed.*

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

*Coming from a farm family with eight children and little money, I think I've accomplished things that my parents would only have dreamed about. At this stage of my horse life, I'm more interested in what I can do for the breed, then in my own personal aspirations.*

*I want to see the CAHR pay off our building and gain ground financially. That is*

*not an easy task in the days of declining Arabian Horse Ownership Worldwide. The CAHR backed "Western Canadian Breeders Show" which includes our public 'SHOWCASE NIGHT' which was my brainchild and I have surrounded myself with a wonderful working group to pull off the event. Based on the feedback we have received I think we are on the right track.*

*These horses are discretionary spending for everyone, we can't forget that. No one NEEDS a horse in our modern world. We need to interject fun into all our events for people to be interested.*

**18** What about "kids" and an Arabian horse?

*It's a natural fit and that's why I have become involved with Gary Millar's "Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Program." I've had the opportunity to see firsthand through my granddaughters the impact these horses make on children.*



*My eyes were re-opened last summer in Saskatoon after perhaps getting a little jaded over the years. We took Gary's horse "Sox" to three inner city schools, watching those kids interact with the Arabian Horse was magical. It was the highlight of my week in Saskatoon. I wasn't expecting it to be ... but it was! I guess old dogs can still learn new tricks.*

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

*There's no breed like them. Nostrils flared, tails straight up, snorting around the pasture ... it never gets old ... ever!!*

**20** What are your words to live by?  
*Don't listen to detractors ... follow your heart!!*

*Most people follow the pack ... it's a safe route ... I choose the other one! ■*

## Contact Us

**Newsletter Publisher**  
Gary Millar  
+1 780 499 9219

For submissions to:

**E-mail Blast**  
Gary Millar

gary@millarcom.com  
+1 780 499 9219

**Editor**  
Lorie Fisher  
+1 780 916 6375

**Newsletter**  
Lorie Fisher  
info@discoverarabianhorses.com  
+1 780 916 6375

[www.discoverarabianhorses.com](http://www.discoverarabianhorses.com)

©2015 - All rights reserved.



@DAHdotCOM  
#DISCOVERARABIANHORSES  
#AHLRP  
#EQUUSALIVE