

POSTED BY HORSESENSEBUSINESS.COM

# More Than A Mirror: Horses Changing People

**Perhaps the best way to demonstrate how horses can create change in people is to tell you a few stories of my own. If you're into horses long enough, eventually that One Horse shows up in your life: the one who gives you fits, the one who challenges all your supposed experience. The one who makes you realize you don't know anything. This horse becomes what I call a "Waterloo Horse" unless we seek help and grow beyond our current boundaries. And, sometimes, this is the horse who leads us to unexpected places.**

This is the story of my "Waterloo Horse".

After taking a few years off from horses for college and grad school while in my 20s, I moved to Texas and officially got back into horses. Susan Denero—or 'Black-Eyed Sue'—came to me the summer of 1998 as a 4-year-old registered dun paint broodmare. When I saw her for the first time at a horse show, I thought she looked great. Her owners were there to help her acclimate to the show environment. I was so excited to see her that I didn't stop long enough to consider the twisted-wire snaffle bit they were using—and why they might be using it.

It should have been my first clue; it's the classic "normal" bit for the hard-to-control horse.

The more important thing to know, however, is Sue was actually my second Waterloo horse. I had sold her predecessor, named Brandy, because I kept hitting one wall after another until finally, out of sheer frustration, I sold her. Of course, I was convinced the issues were Brandy's fault, not mine. In the back of my mind I suspected differently, but everyone around me knew more, so I listened with relief to their suggestions that I sell her and get another horse more suited to me.

I really wanted this relationship with Sue to be different—I was tired of leaving the barn crying—but in no time at all I started having the same issues. How interesting! An unhappy truth started to surface: Maybe it wasn't the horse; maybe it was me.

Around the same time a significant event developed in my life, where a family crisis swiftly evolved into a personal crisis. I became painfully aware of the disconnect between who I was and who I wanted to be, and knew these were far bigger issues than anything I could resolve alone.

I decided to stop my life to seek help and, once I made the decision to take action, I also made a

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## Welcome

*With spring finally here and horse activities ramping up and going strong, what better time to reach out. Make it your mandate to go out of your way this year, to provide information to people who are new to the Arabian lifestyle and shows. Stop them and welcome them and make them feel special. Go out of your way to present them with a positive perspective of the Arabian horse (and the horse world in general). Take a minute of your time to talk to them.*

*At the same time why not reach out to those former horse owners or club members and invite them out to your farm or to the next local or regional show. Buy them a coffee and make them feel welcome. Throughout the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) there are many members who do not belong to specific clubs. Have your club reach out to these folks and personally invite them to a show, clinic, or open house. It takes so little to make people feel special. Just be nice to them.*

*We are all about the Arabian horse. But it is critical that the public, as well as other horse owners, see that the Arabian horse surrounds itself with nice people. Nice people attract more nice people! Be nice to someone today. They just might be a customer, friend or someone who says nice things about you in the future. Reach out! And, enjoy your horse and all the life experiences it brings to you ...*



Gary ■

Gary Millar  
President & CEO

# Calendar

## **PARKLAND SPRING SHOWS 1 & 2**

Friday, May 16 to  
Monday, May 19, 2014.  
Red Deer, Alberta.

For more information, please visit  
[www.showsecretary.ca](http://www.showsecretary.ca)

## **IEAHC Memorial Day Classic B Concurrent Show**

Friday, May 23 to  
Sunday, May 25, 2014.  
Spokane, Washington.

For more information, please visit  
[www.ieahc.org](http://www.ieahc.org)

## **SASKATCHEWAN ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION ICEBREAKER**

Friday, May 30 to  
Sunday, June 1, 2014.  
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

For more information, please visit  
[www.saskarab.com](http://www.saskarab.com)

## **AURORA ARABIAN HORSE SHOW**

Friday, May 30 to  
Sunday, June 1, 2014.  
Ponoka, Alberta.

Region 3 and 4 concurrent qualifier in  
conjunction with the Aurora Summer  
Show.

For more information, please visit  
[www.auroraarabian.com](http://www.auroraarabian.com)

## **THE ALBERTA CLASSIC A CONCURRENT HORSE ASSOCIATION**

Friday, June 6 to  
Sunday, June 8, 2014.  
Ponoka, Alberta.

For more information, please visit  
[www.saddlebredsofalberta.com](http://www.saddlebredsofalberta.com)

## **WESTERN CANADIAN BREEDERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Friday, June 20 to  
Sunday, June 22, 2014.  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

For more information, please visit  
[www.wcbreeders.ca](http://www.wcbreeders.ca)

Tell us about your event, e-mail [info@  
discoverarabianhorses.com](mailto:info@discoverarabianhorses.com) ■

BY JON KATZ [WWW.BEDLAMFARM.COM](http://WWW.BEDLAMFARM.COM)

# The Carriage Horses: Why I care

***I realized how tired I am this morning when I looked around my study and saw the piles and piles of books, printouts, blog posts, e-mails, equine behavioral and medical manuals that had taken over my desk. I was reading one when I slumped forward and fell asleep at my desk, something that just does not happen to me while I am writing. I realized that I had been working every day on the carriage horse question for a month, and often well into the night researching the conflict, gathering statistics, checking statements, calling police, carriage trade officials, veterinarians, countless horse owners and trainers, farriers and handlers, reading books and manuals about horses, grazing, and temperament. And, of course, writing.***

This story has filled my days, nights, weekends, taken over a bit space in my head and my heart.

I've been to New York three times in a little more than a month, visiting the stables, riding in a carriage, watching Liam Neeson urge the mayor to man up and visit the stables. I've made scores of phone calls, gotten thousands of text and e-mail and social media messages. This story has generated the greatest response I have ever received, drawn thousands of new comers to my work and also some—surprisingly few really—of the nastiest messages.

The score or more of my blog posts on the subject have been shared many thousands of times, and gone all over the country, my posts have been reprinted, linked to and discussed in many places, including many mailing lists, news organizations, and a number of veterinary schools and animal rights organizations.

And this on top of my regular work—writing books, maintaining the

blog, helping run the farm, taking my photos. Yes, I reminded myself today, I do need to earn a living, I need to write a proposal for my next book.

I am flooded with messages thanking me for the pieces, telling me they had provoked a lot of thought and discussion, and changed many minds. In America, it's not easy to change minds, people like their labels. I have learned that the word is sometimes mightier than the sword, writing still matters, writers can sometimes express things other people can't. It's one of the best uses of writing, one of the most noble.

A friend called me to congratulate me on my writing about the horses, and then she said, "I'm just curious, how come you care?"

It's a good question, really, I hadn't really worked it out myself, I've been so busy writing about it. It is not my story, really, after all, I don't have a horse, I don't want one, I had never ridden a carriage until last week, and don't live in New York City. I most often avoid political conflicts like the plague, I am not a joiner of groups. This issue is not mine to decide or resolve, the people of New York will have to resolve it. But I thought I ought to try to answer the question before any more time passed. I believe in being open, as many of you know.

Here's what I think.

I believe a real injustice has been done to the people in the carriage horse trade and that good and reasonable people of different beliefs need to come to their support. The issue is, of course, much bigger than the horses. They have broken no laws, followed the rules, worked hard, treated their animals well. Still, they been drawn into a nightmare, one that could engulf any of us reading this. They have been attacked savagely for years now and been accused of many things there is little or no evidence to support. They have been the target of relentless and very personal attacks and public insult, hounded in their work and their very livelihood and way of life is now being



# The White Walker

## THE WHITE WALKER: LONGEST HORSE

**TREK CROSSES ICY LAKE** In 1889, when he was 17, Peshkov rode his pony across Siberia. For 9000 kilometres. In winter. ■

[http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22229640.100-the-white-walker-longest-horse-trek-crosses-icy-lake.html?utm\\_source=NSNS&utm\\_medium=SOC&utm\\_campaign=twitter&cmpid=SOC%7CNSNS%7C2012-GLOBAL-twitter#.U1P\\_Q14zrnY](http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22229640.100-the-white-walker-longest-horse-trek-crosses-icy-lake.html?utm_source=NSNS&utm_medium=SOC&utm_campaign=twitter&cmpid=SOC%7CNSNS%7C2012-GLOBAL-twitter#.U1P_Q14zrnY)

threatened.

They are the target of some of the wealthiest and most powerful forces in the wealthiest and most powerful city, they have bravely chosen to stand and fight for their lives. They deserve and need support of people who believe in a better way.

I have been warning for years, in my writing, my books, on the blog, in speeches all over the country, of the dangers of emotionalizing animals, seeing them as children, as having human emotions and thoughts. I have cautioned against animals only being seen as objects of rescue. The very painful horse carriage crisis is the perfect example of what this personifying of animals can and will lead to—the idea that it is cruel to work, the claim that every horse who gets sick, has an ulcer, dies of a heart attack, is living evidence of abuse. As if horses on farms—or dogs in apartments do not get sick and die. They do, of course, all the time, we just don't see their images all over Facebook and on scores of websites.

The anthropomorphizing of animals has given root to the idea that work-

ing horses make lifestyle choices and yearn to spend their lives grazing on farms. I have seen the abused animal idea grow to the point that it has become the prism through which more and more Americans see animals—not as partners in our journey through life, but as piteous and dependent creatures whose primary purpose is to be saved from human cruelty. While we grow more and more disenchanted with the people who harm animals, the animals themselves become almost surreal creatures of fantasy and perfection. As a result, many animals



are disappearing from our world because it has become too difficult to give them a perfect life.

Every time I post a photo of a horse, I get enraged e-mails from

people claiming the horse is in pain, is being starved, is lame or uncomfortable, anxious, old or depressed. There is no doubt about it, they say, how can you be so blind, anyone can see it, even though nobody does. The horses have become mirrors of our human neuroses, our partners not in work but in victimization. And horses are not alone. More than 300,000 dogs are now on medication for depression and anxiety. How did they manage to live

without antidepressants for thousands of years?

The answer is that we are now making them as crazy as we are, and seeing them as crazy in the ways that we are. In our arrogance, we need them to be just like us, so we can feel better about being us.

I am sorry to see the devolution of much of the animal rights movement into a collective of anger and judgment support groups. Animals desperately need rights and humans to help protect them, not just from abuse but more importantly, from the human destruction of the natural world, from corporate greed and cruelty. But there is much deep and embedded rage in the organizations in New York that claim the title of animal rights, and when they team up with a naive mayor who seems to know nothing about animals, the horses are in trouble, the horses will pay. So will animals everywhere who still have a chance to survive with people.

This fury is quite apparent from even a cursory reading of the websites working to ban the horses and their owners and drivers. I would encourage anyone reading this go see for themselves, there is no need to take my word for it. It would seem at times that hatred for human beings is a byproduct of the movement to exile the horses, but more

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# Golden Horse

Do you have a Golden Horse? You can spot him from a mile away.

He is "golden" because of his heart of gold. This is the horse that takes care of you even more than you take care of him. You know you can rely on him to not spook, not get unnerved and let you enjoy what it was you set out to do. In fact, it seem that he enjoys his job even more than you do!

If you have a Golden Horse, you will soon realize how lucky you are. You will never want to part with him. Because as you learn and grow through his graciousness, you realize how much you are benefiting from him, and how much he is giving you. Every ride becomes a gift and every workout is easy because of his willing nature. You become the rider of your dreams because he lets you!

Although that calm generosity can be learned by good training, upkeep and handling, some horses are just "born that way." So, for all the Golden Horses out there, here is a poem of gratitude.

Interested ears forward pricked, patiently waiting through soft velvety nose-kisses, the Golden Horse loves the grooming attention; two hours of brushing, polishing and wiping with nary a fuss but more like a sweet relaxation reminiscent of a day at the spa.

Solidly standing for the mount, quietly ambling the first strides into 100% effort. Team player to the point of two becoming one.

Reciprocal listening, flickering ears back and forth, gives and takes and loose flowing backs, seamless communication seemingly telepathic, mindreading aids and signals, snorts and strides, bounces and swings—there is no better synergy than when two combine.

Patiently waiting through your confusion, Kindly caring through less-than-perfect risk-taking, he is the ultimate teacher in your quest to grow.

# Horseplay & Harmony

**When Caylyn and I set up Horseplay and Harmony just over a year ago, we figured we'd do about 3 clinics that year and be done with it. Boy, were we wrong! A Northland's rep found us and asked us if we'd be interested in being part of the 2014 Farm and Ranch Show. How on earth could we say no? We certainly could not, so we got to spend 3 fantastic days performing a mini trick clinic with our horses and talking with people about the fun of trick-horse training.**

If you've never had the opportunity to work with Northland's in one of their agriculture events, you haven't experienced the incredible hospitality, friendly staff and well-planned set up for the equines. Caylyn and I had requested a booth in addition to stabling for our horses, so we could talk with people about what we do between our clinic times. Northland's set us up in the best location, directly across from our stalls and right beside Westwind Vet's booth! Just meters away was the round pen, water station and bathroom. I think that was the most important for the youngest member of our crew, my daughter Ali.

We had been asked to set up a mini clinic series performing in the Hall A round pen each day for 35 minutes. Caylyn and I discussed at length what we wanted to cover, how we wanted to present, which horse and handler could best demonstrate what skills, etc. I won't tell you we weren't nervous our first clinic in. We set up our first outline thinking we would run out of time, we had so much information. When we did a time check  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through, we found we had plenty of time to go! Oh boy. The audience was receptive and enjoyed the horses' performances. Despite the very hard footing in the round pen, Jose and Ri-

ley performed well and made us very proud.

We were very fortunate to have Susan Scott from Natural Dynamic Photography come and shoot our demos on day 1 and 2, and a gentleman in Northland's garb with a large video camera seemed to get a kick out of our horses' performances as well. I wonder where we'll end up in their promotions.

Day 2 we had a much better idea of how time would go by and what we wanted to cover. The footing had gotten harder overnight and the horses were not as willing to perform maneuvers such as bow and lay down. We had more audience participation, the energy was great and it left us feeling fantastic for day 3. It was very cool to see how many people followed us back to the stalls to meet the horses and ask questions. The kids were the most fun, especially those who have never touched a horse. I can't even fathom that, a life lived without ever touching a horse!

A reporter from The Western Producer had come by to interview us. It was certainly a cool opportunity for us and we were very excited for the opportunity to have more publicity. The publication came out about 2 weeks later, a photo of Caylyn and Riley on page 3. Not quite what we were expecting, but we were honored for the nod regardless.

Day 3 was just fun. Northland's had gotten a little rototiller to work up the footing so we could have the boys do a little more. We were feeling very confident by this time and the boys ran through their entire gambits. We could demonstrate the differences in techniques, how two horses taught a trick in the same manner will offer

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and more, it seems to me that hating and pummeling humans is really the point.

In recent days, in polls and surveys and editorials and stories, it seems that more and more people in New York are beginning to understand that this is a movement to save animals that do not need saving, while disrupting and even destroying the work and way of life of hundreds of human beings. That outcome will not help a single animal in our world.

A movement that demands compassion for animals but practices cruelty and hatred upon fellow human beings is not a healthy movement, it will never gain the broad support and popular support that are required before animals can really have rights in our world. It can never really help better the lives of animals, as almost every animal lover can see when it comes to the carriage horses. The really shocking truth is that there is truly no place they can be sent that would be better for them than where they already are.

I feel the voiceless carriage horses are in real danger, it does haunt me sometimes, it compels me to stay with this story, to not quit on it. And so are the human beings who own and care for them and drive their carriages. Are they not more important than the horses? There is simply no evidence—none—that the horses are unhealthy, mistreated or a danger to themselves or others on anything but a fractional way. Animals cannot live in a risk-free,

no kill world, some will get sick, keel over, die on the street, bolt and run into a bus. So do many more humans, and on a vastly greater scale. This is not animal cruelty, this is life. Animals are not exempt from the laws of life any more than we are. Most of these carriage horses would be dead already if they had not found work in New York, if they are banished, many will almost certainly get the chance to die again.

These groups threatening the carriage trade do not seem to have even a minimal understanding of the true nature of animals or the actual needs and welfare of animals like horses. People who are ignorant about animals and their needs should not be determining the fate of animals. The big horses that pull carriages have never lived on grass, never lived outside of stables, never not worked with people, they socialize with other horses all day, every day. The work they do is light and well within the capabilities of their bodies, which need regular work and exercise to stay healthy. And it is popular, so many people love to see the horses in Central Park, love to ride in their carriages. They are reminded that there are animals on the earth, they need to be seen to really be saved.

I care about animals and I hope a compassionate and rational society will find ways to keep them in our lives. I do not care to live in a world where horses can only be seen eating grass and dropping manure on rich people's farms or rescue preserves. But there is something else which drives me to write about the horses. What has hap-

pened to the carriage owners and drivers is not right, surely not in a country which prides itself on fairness, due process and protection from invasive and arbitrary government. The charges made against the owners and the drivers are not true, not fair and not supportable. There is no factual foundation for destroying the horse carriage trade and forcing its employees into work they don't want to do. These people are mostly ordinary working people, they are only different from you and me in that they love horses and wish to spend their lives working with them.

It is an assault both on logic and rationality to say the angry people on the animal rights websites love these horses more than the people who own them, drive them, work with them. They have no earthly reason to mistreat them, permit them to be unhealthy or neglect their welfare, in fact, their very livelihood depends on treating their horses well.

They ought not to have to live under constant assault and in continuous fear and struggle for their work, livelihood and peace of mind. Hysterias have their own sorry history and story in America, and this drama in New York City is one of them, many people are beginning to sense it. In many respects, this is just another witch hunt, a mob without boundaries, restraint, or concern for truth. People have to make their own decisions about whether to stand up to them or not. I have made mine.

Sometimes in life, we are defined by how we rise to things—or do not. For me, this is one of those times. I just thought I ought to explain. ■

clear decision to stop trying to ride my horse until my issues were resolved. I just simply went out to the pasture and sat with Sue for hours on end (what I know now as Undemanding Time). Without knowing it, my horse became the most visible element in my recovery, helping me see I could never change the things that felt wrong in my life without changing me.

This period of growth marked a really difficult time in my life, and there were moments when I wasn't motivated enough to get better for myself, but I was motivated to get better in order to

have a good relationship with Sue. She motivated me when nothing else did.

And so Black-Eyed Sue—along with her predecessor, Brandy—became the first examples in my life of how horses create change in humans. Sue's response to me became a powerful reflection of my issues and an even more powerful catalyst for healing.

Sue is now a wonderful EAP/EAL horse: great with kids, great with ground-work. She still has significant challenges under saddle, but her gifts to clients

and to me have been innumerable.

My experiences with Sue were only the first steps toward realizing how horses generate change in people. I was still a long way from finding equine-assisted

.....  
"She motivated me when nothing else did."

practice as a form of work, much less developing a concrete system for working with horses as professionals. My belief system and principles manifested through a combination of incidents, experience, intention, and osmosis to become a natural extension of Horse Sense. ■



**DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES ALWAYS WANTING TO INCREASE ITS EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.**

Facebook Pages differ from Facebook Groups and Facebook personal profile pages in several respects and we would like to lay out our reasons for creating the Page.

- Page information and posts are available to everyone on Facebook. This makes our events, postings, and pictures available to anyone on Facebook.
- Anyone can like a Page to become connected with it and get News Feed updates. Some find this to be a far more convenient way to stay up to date.
- Groups are basically chat rooms, there's no real "look and feel" to them. Their primary focus is for live discussions that can be continued at any time.
- Pages, however, act more like a blog with actual content pieces and the ability to add new tabs, static information, and the like. A Page is definitely a more interesting place to be.
- When it comes to getting visibility off of Facebook: Pages can be seen by non-Facebook users, and can be crawled by search engines as any other static page would. Facebook Groups cannot!
- Finally, Pages come with analytical tools that administrators use to track visits. These tools help us analyze if we are getting our message 'out there'.

We need your help! There are more than 1400 individuals within our database. The next time you are on Facebook, please visit and like our page. Find the link below or on our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Discover-Arabian-Horsescom/626982870651572> ■

BY HORSELISTENING.COM

# Give & Take in Riding

**Scene 1** The rider holds tight to the reins, pulling backward, providing little give and take through the arms, elbows and shoulders. The tension radiates through the rider's body to create a tight back, an unmoving seat, and clinging legs.

The horse may or may not have a tightness to the neck, but because of the pull on the reins, there is little opportunity for him to balance using his head and neck. His strides are short, his back may be hollow and he is likely on the forehead.

**Scene 2** The rider lets the reins out to the point of creating a "loop". There is no contact with the mouth, other than at points of time when the rider needs to communicate something: stop, turn or downward transition.

The horse's neck and body is l-o-n-g and strung out. Hind legs are stepping out behind the horse's croup. This horse is also probably on the forehead and hollow in the back but for completely the opposite reasons.

*So whether it is a perpetually pulling hand or an occasionally rough, abrupt hand, you must know that every time you use your hands improperly, you are assuring your horse shortened usefulness and an unhappy life. ~ Charles de Kunffy, The Ethics and Passions of Dressage, p. 60*

There is no doubt that there is more to riding than just what the hands are doing. We already know that the seat, legs and hands together are actors in the same performance and must work in combination. But for the purposes of explanation, let's do an in-depth analysis of the role of the hands.

The scenes above demonstrate the extremes of what can be done with the reins: too much contact versus not enough contact. You've probably watched both types of riders at different times, or maybe you've explored or experienced both ends of the pendulum yourself.

Eventually, with enough experience, we learn that neither technique represents an exclusive path to effective riding. As with so many other things in life, we need to find the happy medium.

## Try This

1. Find the correct placement of your hands and arms. Your elbows should have a nice soft almost "L" bend in them and hang in line with your body. Your hands should be in front of the pommel, no more than four inches higher, forward, sideways or backward (we call this the fourinch box).

2. Your hands cannot move backward from the box. In other words, you won't pull back and your elbows won't go back past your body line.

3. Your hands cannot move past the front of the box. In other words, you won't push the reins ahead or open your elbows so that your arms straighten.

4. Your hands can give and take within the four-inch parameters of the box—but the catch is that the give and take comes from your elbows, not your fingers! The rein length should not change during the give or take (although you may need to readjust your rein length from time to time if the reins slip through your fingers or you intentionally want to lengthen or shorten them).

Keep your reins short enough to allow you to provide support instantly, but also long enough to allow for the horse's level of training and muscle development.

And that's it! From here, you can ride as usual from the seat and legs, and reinforce your aids with the hands.

If the horse pulls, you resist with a bracing from your elbows and seat. But you don't pull back.

If you want to give a release, only slightly open your elbows to create a little space forward in the horse's mouth so he feels a supported freedom (i.e. not thrown away) to move into that space. Do not lengthen the reins out or straighten your elbows.

The give and take should be so invisible that only you and the horse know it happened. Anything bigger and the horse's balance will be affected. Ideally, you should alternate between a give and take as needed depending on the horse's balance and the movement being performed. ■

Shirley & Murray Popplewell

**#1 Arabian Leading Breeders & Owners in North America**

#1 Arabian Leading Breeders (by number of winners)	#1 Arabian Leading Owners (by number of winners)
#2 Overall Leading Breeders (by number of winners)	#1 Overall Leading Owners (by number of winners)

Source: AHT - Arabian Horse Times Magazine  
2013 Ranking includes U.S., Canadian and Youth  
National Champions and Reserve Champions.

Rae-Dawn Arabians  
rdarabians.com

RD Arabians



**RAE-DAWN ARABIANS**

Congratulations to Murray & Shirley Popplewell!

We are so happy for you! ■

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=240780206090594&set=vb.238603919641556&type=2&theater>



WITH ... LORNE ROBERTSON

## 20 Questions

*about your life with Arabian horses*

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

*I am involved with the Arabian Horse on many different levels.*

*First of all as a Breeder. I currently own two Arabian mares, although I am contemplating not breeding them in 2014. My old mare, Solnika, is no longer breeding, and my other mare GG Willow is only four I am contemplating getting her ready for Sport Horse Nationals as she had multiple*



*Regional wins last year. My mare Solnika by Soldat, produced a total of 11 foals. 2 died young, and one died while in training. The others are all champions including National Champions, MJ Dot Com+, MJ Playstation+, MJ Erika+ and Reserve National Champions, Fantasque++/+, and MJ Wii Fit+. Fantasque and MJ Communicator are both suc-*

*cessful FEI level Dressage horses. The only foal I still own is MJ Erika+. The others have all been sold to California, Utah, BC, Ontario, and here in Alberta. She has been an outstanding mare and now enjoying retirement.*

*Secondly as an exhibitor. I currently have two Arabian horses in training. MJ Erika+ as noted above and Saaber Al Shahania, who I showed in Scottsdale this year. It was fun to have a horse show on championship Sunday in the Wendell Arena. The plan is to show both of these horses this year at a Regional and National Level.*

*Thirdly as a Judge. I am a R Level Arabian judge with my National and Regional status. This year I will be judging 3 Arabian Shows in the US in Washington, Virginia and California. I am also an FEI Jumper Judge and R Level Hunter Judge and as such this keeps my Judging Calendar very full.*

*Lastly I am involved as a Volunteer. I volunteer countless hours whether as Trail Course Designer at both US and Canadian Nationals or scorer at Sport Horse Na-*

*tionals, to being on many Committee`s at AHA, attending convention annually as well as significant preparation work. I also am on a number of Committee`s with Region 17 such as Budge, Judges Selection and Breed Promotion.*

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

*How old am I? That is how long with the exception of about 5 of them!*

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

*The first horse I owned was a Half Arabian pony and his personality was amazing. Then some Anglo Arabians kept the bond strong. It was hard to find out information about Arabian Horses, as there was no internet, so magazines were an important source of information. We also showed mostly at open shows so you got to know many people from all breeds and see many great horses.*

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

*There have been so many from my first pony, to a great show horse Calypso Baye++, to the first Arabian stallion that I got to show and care for, Driftwood++ to my great open hunter*

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# 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.

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** ■

WHAT DO YOU SAY

## Sugar Cube Sayings

If you reorder the lettered sugar cubes in each row a certain way, you'll end up with a familiar horse phrase or saying. ■

1

RS A HO NG A RO S E ST

2

ER D UP H T UN D RO HE

3

C T RE BE AR HE FO OR

T T IN G HE TT SE PU H

4

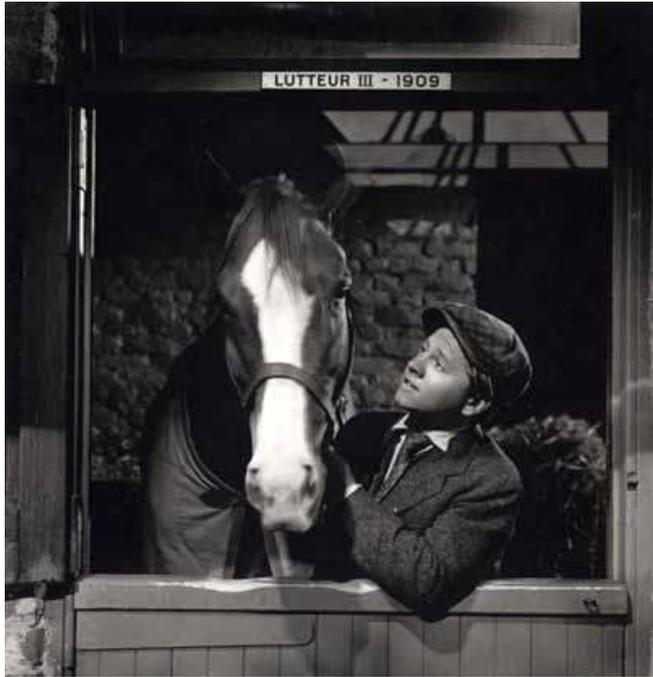
GR H AS H SE OR UN Y A

5

SE LD UL DN G D CO Y

'T A OR WI S RA WA ME H

ANSWER: 1. Strong as a horse, 2. Round up the herd, 3. Putting the cart before the horse, 4. Hungry as a horse, 5. Wild horses couldn't drag me away.



# Mickey Rooney

Legendary film actor Mickey Rooney has died at the age of 93 of natural causes. His family was with him when he died at his North Hollywood home on Sunday, April 6.

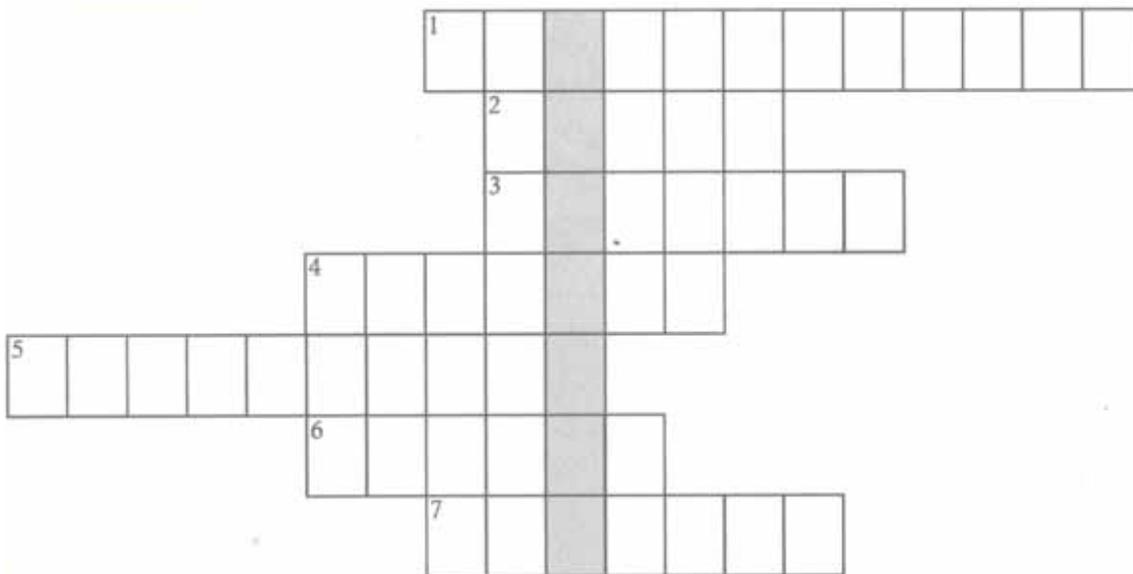
In 1979 Rooney took the role of Henry Dailey in *The Black Stallion*. He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

At the age of 70 was offered a starring role in The Family Channel's *The Adventures of the Black Stallion*, where he reprised his role as Henry Dailey. The show was an immediate hit and was seen in 70 countries. He was nominated for a Gemini Award for this role.

Other roles set around horses included *Lightning*, the *White Stallion* in 1986, and the 2008 film *Lost Stallions: The Journey Home*, in which he played a wise horseman and ranch owner. ■

## Horse Lovers

The seven clues below describe people who care for and ride horses for a living. Print the answers in the appropriate rows and the name of an eighth horse lover will be spelled out in the shaded column. ■



- 1 Someone who cares for sick horses
- 2 A person who bathes and brushes horses
- 3 This person raises horses out west
- 4 Someone who shoes horses
- 5 An experienced rider
- 6 A person who races horses
- 7 Someone who breeds horses

**Question?**  
 What runs around the barn but stays still?  
 ANSWER: A fence. ■

ANSWER: 1. Veterinarian, 2. Groom, 3. Rancher, 4. Farrier, 5. Equestrian or Horsewoman, 6. Jockey, 7. Breeder

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) ■

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mares, Lucille and Alert's Copper Penny! The foals all of them. All I can say is I am an addict!

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

Many people as well from the Hunter Jumper world to the Arabian world I have been fortunate to know and to have had the opportunity to learn from many of the notables! But I think the greatest mentors for me have been the breeders over the years who loved their horses and wanted to breed them to make better horses. From George Allen to Howard Kale, they were horseman, who loved horses.

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

Horse Book, would be "And Miles to Go". It was the story of the Arabian stallion \*Witez II, who escaped Russian when the Poles fled Janow Podlaski, and he eventually made it to the US as a re-mount stallion for the US Army. He was subsequently purchased by the Hurlburt's, who founded AHA (then IAHA) and sited a dynasty and started the importation of horses from Poland. He was a half brother to Witraz, the sire of Bask and had a significant impact on the Arabian breed in North America. If you can find it I recommend the read! History and horses!

**7** What is your favorite horse movie? "Man from Snowy River".

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

See above! Shows, Promotion Events, etc.

**9** What would be your most memorable experience or moment

with an Arabian horse?

That has to be when, shortly after I started Calypso Baye++, we were riding in the mountains. He got anxious and consequently we fell down a cliff. We were both fine but after that we were very connected and always listened to me and I knew I could always trust him. He always came through!

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

I think Breeding and showing these great horses is achievement every day we are privileged to have them in our lives!

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

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

Patience.

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

The Horses.

**14** What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian? You don't purchase a horse you enable a life.

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

Do it on what ever level you can and remember what your goals are not what someone wants them to be! Stay true to yourself!

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

Conformation, Movement and Soundness by the US Pony Club! Learn about horses! Any book!

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

Ride in an Endurance Race! Don't think it will happen!

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

Arabian Horses are great children's horses, they like goats to, however they, the children and the horses, need competent education, and horsemanship, something that seems to be getting scarcer every year!

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

They make you smile!

**20** What are your words to live by?

Live life every day, its special! ■

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4]

slightly different responses, and how it's the same for people. Audience participation is absolutely one of my favorite things. It was a great day, fantastic opportunity and the horses were champions about handling the crowds, Alpacas, farm machinery, noise and demands from their handlers.

If you're interested in hosting a Horseplay and Harmony trick-horse clinic, we would be happy to set one up with you. You can check out our website at [www.horseplayharmony.com](http://www.horseplayharmony.com) and find us on facebook under Horseplay and Harmony. We are certainly happy to travel and work with groups of various sizes. Happy Horseming!

Amanda Preston is Co-owner of Horseplay and Harmony, Responsible and Safe Trick-Horse Clinics and Lead Trainer with Equi-Health Canada, equine first-aid certification clinics. She is based north-west of Edmonton on her family farm, Shimmer-E Equestrian. Amanda is happy to travel throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC to run equine first-aid or trick-horse clinics for fellow equine enthusiasts. Feel free to contact Amanda at [shimmere@live.ca](mailto:shimmere@live.ca) with your clinic inquiries and check out her website at [www.shimmere.com](http://www.shimmere.com) ■

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