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BY: ASHLEY BARFOROUGH, DVM360 MAGAZINE

Feeling their pain: Communication with her patients

Jodie Santarossa, DVM, says she actually experiences patients' discomfort. sure how to explain the events herself.

The first time Jodie Santarossa, DVM, communicated with one of her veterinary patients, she was shy to admit it.

"I kept wanting to dismiss what was happening as coincidence," says Santarossa, owner of Bright-Side Vet—a practice that focuses on equine medicine, especially horses involved in elite sporting endeavors—in Sherwood Park, Alberta. "I'd touch a spot on the horse that I perceived as painful in my own body and the horse would react."

From migraines to temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders to burning muscles, Santarossa says she feels empathic pain for patients and can sometimes physically feel their symptoms. While she's becoming increasingly more comfortable with this form of communication, she wasn't always so sure. For one, she didn't think the Western veterinary community would approve. And secondly, she wasn't

"I was very much in the closet," Santarossa says. "I started to have these experiences, and I had this internal struggle where I could believe it was real, but there was no way for me to validate it."

For the past six years Santarossa has been on a search for validation and continues to explore and study the world of "energy medicine," as she calls it. A few months back she attended an animal communication workshop near her practice



instructed by Carol Gurney, author of *The Language of Animals: 7 Steps to Communicating with Animals*.

Gurney is also the founder of the Gurney Institute of Animal Communication in Agoura, Calif., which offers the only professional animal communication certification program in the world.

"Carol is teaching us to discover the innate ability within all of us to listen on a deeper level, to perceive things with a greater level of con-

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Welcome

Fall is upon us (and winter in some parts). The shows are over ... what to do with your horse now? How about ... "play"? What better time to relax and work with your horse and make that magical connection you have even stronger.

I came upon this message and it resonated with me. Perhaps it's time we all spent a little time with our horses and connected, like "Ray" discusses. We don't have to be training for Nationals or a Regional show today. So play ... like "Ray" ... and read his simple, yet powerful message:

"When a relationship is developed with your horse it is one that should be cherished. When I go to the paddock to get my horse he walks to the gate to greet me. Wherever I walk he is behind me. When I ride him he goes where I look. He lifts his feet for me without me asking because he knows I want to clean his feet. When I want him to halt, I slightly change my weight on him and it is an instant stop. I do not use a halter on him, he follows me from the paddock to the tack up area when I want to saddle him. The only punishment he gets if he happens to go wrong, is me telling him off, but it hurts me to do it. He gives me the same respect that I give him. He is my partner, my best friend, I love him and he gives me 10 times that love in return. There are no bad horses, only bad people making them go wrong. Horses are the most incredibly intelligent, faithful and proud animal on earth." ~ Ray

What better way to introduce new people to your horses than by showing them how you "play" with your horse. It is this kind of "play" that Arabians excel. So start playing and get those friends and neighbors out to watch you play. You can maybe even get them to do a little playing as well. It is a good way to get them "hooked on horses" ... particularly Arabian horses. ■

Gary

Calendar

ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Wednesday, November 20 to
Saturday, November 23, 2013.
Lexington, Kentucky.

AHA and Region 14 are teaming up to take you to Lexington! Join us at the 2013 Annual Membership Convention in Lexington, Kentucky hosted at the Hyatt Regency and the adjacent Lexington Convention Center. Join fellow Arabian horse enthusiasts, friends, and industry professionals in the thick of horse country for fun events, education opportunities and AHA business.

Get ready to see the city too! Region 14 will host farm tours, a bourbon tasting and an offsite trip to the Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse featuring the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries. This may be a once in a lifetime chance for private and specialized tours like this.

For more information access their website at www.arabian-horses.org

32nd ANNUAL HORSE BREEDERS AND OWNERS CONFERENCE

Friday, January 10 to
Sunday, January 12, 2014.
Red Deer, Alberta.

Presented by the non-profit organization, Horse Industry Association of Alberta, the conference is a must-attend event for horse breeders, owners and riders with topics of interest for every horse enthusiast.

For more information, please visit www.albertahorseindustry.ca

Tell us about your event, e-mail info@discoverarabianhorses.com ■

BY AMANDA PRESTON WWW.SHIMMERE.COM

Halterbroke

I think truly it's one of my pet peeves, and maybe it has to do with all the time I've spent with young horses working with them to respond to light commands, but I really feel the term "halterbroke" is used far too liberally.

I see it a lot when I peruse on-line ads, like kijiji. Young horses looking for new homes, ads usually read something like this: "2011 registered X-breed colt. Gelded, up to date on shots and worming, good for farrier and halterbroke." Sounds interesting. Glad the owners had him gelded and cared for him by ensuring his health with vaccine and worming and farrier, but this "halter=broke stuff..." I would think in this circumstance that you could likely go into a pen with the little feller and put the halter and lead on him and he would likely follow you around as you led him. Good enough. To me, that's not even close to being halterBROKE. That's just a non-wild horse that's had some handling. Better than nothing but not nearly the way it could be.

To me, halterBROKE is that the horse is not only easy to catch and halter, but that will walk beside you, not in front or behind you, but properly with handler between his ear and shoulder, will match your pace if you choose to speed up or slow down, trot in hand, turn away from you if you move into their space by crossing over in front (in essence moving their SHOULDER away from you, not just the neck), move the hind quarters away when directed, be able to shift one foot at a time when directed, halt and stay immobile until directed to move again and easily back up when directed. All that and good ears to boot!

It's all in training. Yearling horses can

take to these commands very quickly if handled consistently with clear reward and correction. I've found that once they learn their "manners" in this way, they grow up being polite and very easy to work with.

I had a string of yearling Arabs one year, I think 4 or so, that I worked with religiously about leading, turning, halting, standing, trotting off, etc, etc, etc and nauseam. A few people at the barn we were at asked me "When do you let them just be a horse?" My answer was "In the paddock when we're not working..." I thought that was pretty simple. My theory behind it, which I still hold true today, is that "training" is certainly not just for inside the arena. It's for the



barns, inside the paddock, walking down the road, anywhere that I am with the horse. If training stops in the arena, then it's ok for my horse to walk all over me down the barns back to the stall? Not in my lifetime! If I carry through

and maintain the same cues and reward, then my horse will likely feel more secure in a new situation because I haven't changed. My expectations of him have not changed. By giving him the education as a young horse of how to be "halterbroke", I am going to help him be an easier and much more pleasant horse to deal with his entire life.

This is a theme I've played out again and again in the trick-horse clinics I've been teaching this year. An obedient horse who trusts in your direction and guidance will be SAFER and more ready to engage in behavioral conditioning (trick training). The horse who does not clearly understand the boundaries is not SAFE and will not be as quick to try for his handler. Certainly there is a LOT of work to put into a horse (in my opinion) before asking it to bow or lay down,

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Forgotten Army

'I believe that every soldier who has anything to do with horse or mule has come to love them for what they are and the grand work they have done and are doing in and out of the death zones.' Captain Sidney Galtrey, autumn 1918.

They were with the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) from the very start. They were with the BEF at the very end. They served at the Front, in the rear and in the support lines. They stumbled through the hell of no-man's land, closely following every British and Commonwealth push. In the mud, rain and terror of the trenches they supplied their comrades with food, water and ammunition, even though they themselves were starved, sodden and spent. They died in their thousands.

The light draught horse and mule played a role that is often overlooked by commentators and historians of the Western Front, but without them the ability of the British Army to wage war would have been nigh on impossible. Taken from the fields, cities, factories and coal-pits of Britain and from the rolling plains of America and Canada, the light draught horse was press-ganged and shipped off to a terrible world just as unfamiliar to them as it was for their conscripted human counterparts. ■

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

scious awareness, specifically in the realm of animal communication," Santarossa says.

Does this mean every person leaves the seminar ready to have a heart-to-heart with her next patient? Far from it, Santarossa says. Like mastering any profession, becoming an animal communication expert takes extensive education, experience and time, she says.

"There's a balance between the art and science," Santarossa says. "You can have that feeling or awareness, but in order to validate what we're doing as vibrational practitioners, we need to have the scientific information down so that it's validated to our clients, our skeptics and our colleagues."

She's actually in the midst of an Eastern meets Western medicine research experiment right now. She's combining forces—quite literally—with certified animal chiropractor Kyla Awes, DC, of Plymouth, Minn., and Bart Halsberghe, DVM, of the Animal Rehab Institute in Gilroy, Calif., and the Peninsula Equine Medical Center in Menlo Park, Calif. These two also believe in the integration of Eastern and Western philosophies.

"The three of us do our exams—I do my energetic reading," Santarossa says. "And we've started to correlate the sensations in my body with Kyla and Bart's findings."

Santarossa is the first to admit that the symptoms she feels aren't a substitute for a diagnosis and that objective met-

rics are essential to monitoring a patient's progress. She still allows about 45 minutes to complete the "traditional" physical exam, taking the horse's temperature, pulse and respiration rates and collecting measurements. As a sign of respect, during this process, Santarossa asks the animal questions like, "May I please examine in your mouth?" and "Can I look in your eye?"

"I speak to them like I would if I was a human doctor talking to a patient," Santarossa says. "It's asking permission and acknowledging that they're there—not like we're having all these conversations about them in their presence."

.....
"One veterinarian explores her ability to communicate with patients."

After collecting all of the hard data, she'll stop for a moment. This is where the more controversial evaluation comes into play—she'll do an energy reading of her own body.

"I'll be aware that my left deltoid is burning, I have a pain in my groin, I have TMJ pain on my right—and I'll take note of all of these things," Santarossa says.

Some of the conditions she feels aren't identified anywhere else in the horse's exam. Santarossa says it's her chance not to replace science with her energy reading, but to simply contribute more information to the patient's comprehensive medical assessment.

"How many times have my clients jokingly said, 'If only your animals could talk?'" Santarossa says. "It turns out they can. I just didn't know how to listen previously." ■



DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES IS INCREASING 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> ■

Top 10 ways to reward your horse

As riders, we need to look for any excuse to celebrate our horse's achievements. Good riders are forever thankful for their equine's efforts as they push further stronger deeper and reach new heights. A happy horse is a willing partner, and many horses will give everything they have if they feel your acknowledgement and generosity of spirit.

Don't fool yourself.

Your horse knows exactly how you're feeling during the ride. They can "mind read" (more like body read) and know precisely when you are frustrated, upset, angry (?) and conversely, when you are relaxed, forgiving, joyful and ecstatic. We all know that positive reinforcement is as powerful a way to communicate as any other, and likely more appreciated by your four-legged friend.

Rewarding your horse doesn't have to be done on the ground with a treat in hand. In fact, encouragement received under saddle is more immediate and fulfilling than anything that is done on the ground after you ride. The key is to identify the right time to communicate your approval, and to know how to do it in movement.

So, without further discourse, here are ten simple ways to let your horse know he is on the right track.

10. Think, "Yay/Wow/Great/Fantastic" or whatever you feel at that moment, and be convinced that your horse can read your mind. Even though horses can't read minds, they

can definitely read the involuntary messages your body sends through your seat, legs and hands—and they know if the thought was positive or negative. So yes, just thinking something nice will transfer seamlessly into your horse's mind.

9. Say a soft, low "good" under your breath so only he can hear it. You don't have to share your thank-you with the whole world; just say it loud enough for the horse's ears to flick back in your direction. Then watch as it goes forward again in appreciation.

8. Pet your horse, but DON'T smack him! Somewhere along the line, people thought smacking a horse was a good thing, and would be interpreted as such by the horse—it must be, since the horse is so big and strong, right? Well, now we know that the horse's skin is even more sensitive than human skin. It stands to reason that a smack feels like a smack, and a pat or rub is a much more appreciated method.



7. Better yet, slightly release your inside rein while you pet your horse with your inside hand, in rhythm with the stride. Can you rub your belly and chew gum at the same time? Then this one is for you! While your horse is in motion, down lightly (but don't

lean too far forward as you will change the horse's balance), and move your hand along the horse's neck in a forward/back movement, preferably in rhythm with the horse's head bob. Keep holding the same rein length through the petting action. This will release the inside rein while the neck is reaching forward/down, and then the contact will be gently taken up again by the time the neck comes back/up again.

The idea is not to interfere with the horse's movement, but to give a gentle inside rein release while petting the horse.

6. Gently (very small movements)



Stars of Screen

For some of us, just watching horses out at pasture is entertainment enough. Others prefer something a little more elaborate, and horses have always risen to the occasion.

TV AND MOVIE HORSES: *The television show Mr. Ed ran from 1961 to 1966. Mr. Ed was a talking horse, played by a palomino Saddlebred gelding named Bamboo Harvester. The show was based on a short story by Walter R. Brooks, famous for his Freddy the Pig children's book series.*

Another popular palomino was Trigger, the horse ridden by 1930s movie cowboy Roy Rogers. Trigger, a Thoroughbred cross, played Maid Marion's horse in the Adventures of Robin Hood, but after that he was leased to Rogers and was inseparable from the singing cowboy's image. Trigger's successor, Trigger Jr., was no relation; he was a Tennessee Walker, Trigger had his own Dell comic book.

Gene Autry, another famous movie cowboy, had a series of blaze-faced horses named Champion. One of them, Lindy Champion, was the first horse to fly from California to New York, in 1940. ■

open and close your elbows in synch with the horse's body movements—blend in with him so that he has freedom to swing his head and neck into the movement. You can give through both your elbows in order to move the hands and bit along with the horse. This will create a moment of harmony—no restriction, no instruction, no comment. Just follow along and encourage the horse to take a bolder forward stride thanks to less “stop” from the bit.

5. Move a little bigger into the movement of the horse. You always have the option of “releasing” with your seat: let your lower back become loose and supple and follow along in an encouraging, enthusiastic manner—your horse will love the freedom in his back and just might reach further underneath himself with the hind legs in response.

4. Hold your rein length but give a gentle half halt with an ending forward release so your horse can stretch forward into the contact. In this manner, you can create a small space ahead of the horse that he can reach toward. If done diplomatically, a horse always appreciates feeling the slight freedom of extra space to

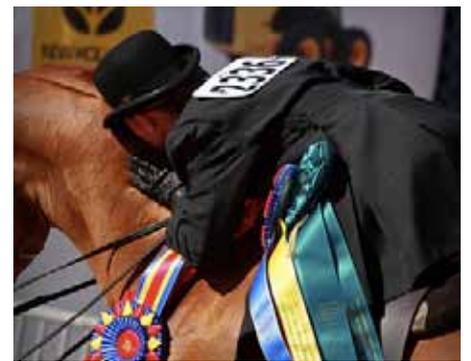
move forward into.

3. Stop asking for anything. Sometimes, it is good enough to stop everything and just let the horse go along for a few strides. Beware—“stopping” doesn't mean that you suddenly drop everything and become a lumpy bumpy bag of jelly that causes the horse to fall to his knees! You can “stop” while maintaining the status quo—keep doing what you were doing, hold yourself strong and fluid, but just refrain from asking for anything more for the time being.

2. Accept his idea. Often, a horse will take initiative and offer something that you didn't ask for. Instead of correcting or changing what he did, enjoy the “freebie” and just ride along for a moment. You can get back to your topic in a few strides, but teaching the horse to take initiative, especially in the early stages or when the horse is young, can go far to developing a great rider/horse rapport in the long run.

1. Do your horse's favourite movement. All horses have preferred movements that get them all excited! For example, my gelding loves the stretchy trot or canter—he

snorts and reaches and the ears flick forward. My mare gets jazzed up with the flying change—again, rambunctious snorts, perky ears, and expression in her face and overall body outline. Find out what your horse's favourite movement is, and then do it at the end of a session or after something difficult!



The sooner you can reinforce your horse's actions, the sooner he will connect the reward to the desired behaviour. Be light, quick and to the point. Then, go onto the next part of your ride. Look for more to celebrate as you transition into the next movement.

Most importantly, **reward quickly and often.** ■

War Horse

*Fear, rippled through the ranks.
Through men's limbs. Into our flanks.
But, steady, courageous, facing
battle again.
An awesome silence enveloped them
then.*

*We stamped our hooves. We felt it
too.
We spoke as only horses do.
With chinking harness, snort and
wicker,
With frightened eyes, and ears
a-flicker.*

*Then "Forward! Forward!" Into battle,
To canon boom and machine gun
rattle.
With thundering hooves and shouts
and screams
Through blinding smoke to night
mare scenes.*

*And still we galloped on and on
And still the battle wasn't won.
Through shrapnel, shell holes, rifle
fire,
In mindless panic to barbed wire.*

*Now riderless, I mustered strength
And stretched my jump to its full
length
To clear the wire of no-man's lands
And reach the woods in enemy
hands.*

*Stricken with terror, I blundered on
Till the noise of the shelling was long
gone.
Past ruined homes and fields of mud.
Past trenches with the stench of
blood.*

*Now alone, I reach a river
And halt beside it, all a-shiver.
I drink its coolness, shake my mane.
Will anything ever be the same?*

*Where are the bundles of fresh sweet
hay?
Where is the straw where I once lay?
Where is the farm where I lived and
grew?
Where are the people I loved and
knew?*

© to Brenda Williams. ■

700,000-Year-Old Horse DNA

World's Oldest Genome Sequenced From 700,000-Year-Old Horse DNA. Well-preserved specimen pushes back the timing of modern horse evolution.

DNA shines a light back into the past, showing us things that fossils can't. But how far back can that light extend?

Some of the oldest DNA sequences come from mastodon and polar bear fossils about 50,000 and 110,000 years old, respectively. But a new study published recently in the journal *Nature* reports the latest in the push for recovering ever more ancient DNA sequences. Samples from a horse leg bone more than 700,000 years old have yielded the oldest full genome known to date.

"We knew that sequencing ancient genomes as old as 70,000 to 80,000 years old was possible," said Ludovic Orlando, an evolutionary geneticist with the Natural History Museum of Denmark at the University of Copenhagen. "So we said, why not try even further back in time?" The Pleistocene horse genome Orlando and colleagues pieced together helped them determine that the ancestor to the *Equus* lineage—the group that gave rise to modern horses, zebras, and donkeys—arose 4 to 4.5 million years ago, or about two million years earlier than previously thought. The ancient horse genome also allowed the team to determine the evolutionary relationship between modern domestic horses and the endangered Przewalski's horse, a native to the Mongolian steppes that represents the last living breed of wild horse.

The team found that Przewalski's horses were an offshoot of the lineage that gave rise to domestic horses. The two groups diverged around 50,000 years ago.

Once considered extinct in the wild, Przewalski's horse was re-introduced into the wild from a captive population of only a few dozen. While this number suggests that the genetic diversity of the species might be too small to support, the study shows that Przewalski's horses are in fact more genetically diverse than domestic breeds such as Arabian and Icelandic horses.

"We think that there's enough genetic diversity within the Przewalski's horse

to keep conservation efforts viable," Orlando said.

Cold Storage

Extracting ancient genomes from long-dead samples is labor intensive, and there is a limit to how far back one can go. Studies on the half-life of DNA suggest that even under ideal circumstances, DNA sequences older than 1.5 million years will be too short to be read-

able. So it's highly unlikely that DNA will be recovered from dinosaurs, since they disappeared 65 million years ago, except for the lineage leading to modern birds.

But the preservation environment of an ancient sample can help extend the amount of time DNA has before it degrades past the point of being recoverable.

"Cold is good," said Orlando. Frozen is even better, because liquid water isn't present to degrade DNA molecules. The six-inch (15-centimeter) horse leg bone the team analyzed originated in the Yukon Territory of western Canada. Permafrost kept the remains in a kind



.....
"A group of Przewalski's horses, once considered extinct in the wild."

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]



Video

EHRET EQUINE/A DAY IN OUR LIFE



We feel very fortunate to do what we love with family, friends and the incredible Arabian horse. Remember to always do what you do with passion. ■

<http://www.ehretequine.com>

WITH ... CARSON EHRET

20 Questions

about your life with Arabian horses

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

Currently I work everyday on the family farm with beautiful Arabians. I also own, show and have just started to breed Arabian horses.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

23 years! Since I was born.

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

I've been with Arabians my whole life. They are really the only breed I've been around 99% of my life, but at Canadian Nationals in 2006 something clicked. I remember thinking that we are pretty lucky to do what we do. My interest in the industry was sparked and I began really appreciating our breed.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

There are way too many favorites over the years to pick just one.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

That would have to go to my Dad (Todd Ehret) for sure!

6 What is your favorite horse book?

How about Magazine? Then I would say Arabian Horse World.

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Secretariat gave me goose bumps!

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

Besides working with them everyday, lots of shows! I am now starting to get involved with our local club as well.



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

When Joey Canda took my Dad and I to see Aria Impresario when he was a yearling, before his debut at Scottsdale that year. We got to see him before he was a star, and I was so blown away.

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

On paper it would be my 2012 Canadian National Championship in the HA Stock/Hunter Type Mare class.

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

Marwan Al Shaqab!

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

The fact that you can't always judge a book by its cover; and LOTS of patience!

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

I think just going out to the barn and spending time with a horse in their stall can put the whole world in perspective. It's a humbling experience, and keeps a person grounded.

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

When you connect with an Arabian horse; there is no stronger bond or understanding between man and animal. There is something about the Arabian breed that just "gets" people.

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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 ■

Good Breeding

On each line there is a 6-letter word in COLUMN A and a 5-letter word in COLUMN B. The letters in both words are the same except for ONE EXTRA LETTER. Put that extra letter on the blank space on each line. Then read down to find the name of the smallest breed of pony. The first one has been done to get your started. ■

COLUMN A	EXTRA LETTER	COLUMN B
STARCH	<u> S </u>	CHART
HEARTS	<u> </u>	TEARS
ORANGE	<u> </u>	GROAN
TRAILS	<u> </u>	LIARS
STALLS	<u> </u>	LASTS
GRAINS	<u> </u>	GRINS
CANTER	<u> </u>	REACT
SELDOM	<u> </u>	MOLES
SPREAD	<u> </u>	READS
LOSING	<u> </u>	SLING
NOVICE	<u> </u>	VOICE
SAFETY	<u> </u>	FEAST

ANSWER: Shetland Pony.

Q:

Why does the paddock get bigger when you put a horse in it? ■

ANSWER: Because it contains more feet.

ANSWER TO EQUINE STALL OF FAME: H, F, L, G, B, M, A, C, E, K, D, I, J.

Slimmed-Down Sayings

All three of the following strings of letters are horse expressions with all of the vowels, spaces, and punctuation removed. Can you figure out what they are supposed to say? ■

① n v r l k g f t h r s n t h m t h

② y c n l d h r s t w t r b t y c n t m k h m d r n k

③ f r m t h h r s s m t h

ANSWER: 1. Never look a gift horse in the mouth. 2. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. 3. From the horse's mouth.

Video

TOP 10 BEST HORSE MOVIES

Need a little more horse to your life? One way to satisfy this equine craving is to watch the best horse movies ever. So many horse crazy families that can never get enough. This video features the Top 10 Best Horse Movies.

Watch these movies over and over again and never grow tired of them. These beautifully filmed masterpieces will capture your heart. You will laugh and cry but most of all you will forever be touched by these amazing horses and their stories. Enjoy. ■



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZ7040Xk6c4>

CAN YOU MATCH IT UP

Equine Stall of Fame

Can you fill in the correct letter to match up the famous horses and ponies on the left with their human, television character, or celestial companions? ■

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Silver _____ | <u>A</u> Wild Bill Hickock |
| Brown Beauty _____ | <u>B</u> John Wayne |
| Mr. Ed _____ | <u>C</u> Gumby |
| The Pie _____ | <u>D</u> Zorro |
| Duke _____ | <u>E</u> Annie Oakley |
| Trigger _____ | <u>F</u> Paul Revere |
| Buckshot _____ | <u>G</u> Velvet Brown |
| Poky _____ | <u>H</u> The Lone Ranger |
| Target _____ | <u>I</u> Dale Evans |
| Pegasus _____ | <u>J</u> Tonto |
| Phantom _____ | <u>K</u> Perseus |
| Buttermilk _____ | <u>L</u> Wilbur Post |
| Scout _____ | <u>M</u> Roy Rogers |

ANSWER: Twelve years old.

Based on what the veterinarian said, can you figure out how old Dex is now? ■

Telling Teeth

"You can tell how old a horse is by seeing how worn down its teeth are," explained the veterinarian to his new assistant, as he peered into the mouth of a gelding named Dex.

"So, how old is Dex?" asked the assistant.

"Well," responded the veterinarian, "I'd say that in 2 years, Dex will be twice as old as he was 5 years ago!"

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 ■

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

Ask questions! Educate yourself from every angle. Don't be scared to contact trainers or schedule time at farms. Horse people love to educate “beginners”. Just don't get all your advice from Internet forums.

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

*I don't have one, but my Dad always tells his riders to read, *Centered Riding* by Sally Swift.*

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

I want to make it to the Arabian Breeders Finals in Las Vegas next year!

18 What about “kids” and an Arabian horse?

There's no better babysitter!

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

Having the power of a 1-ton animal under a saddle or on a lead is awe-inspiring.

20 What are your words to live by?

Believe in yourself and never quit, because failure isn't losing its giving up! ■

to be submissive and vulnerable to you. And it's not all hugs and treats either to earn trust! Think about the herd dynamics, there is a lead mare (sometimes a male too) and if you move them, the whole herd moves with them. They don't become the leader by handing out cookies or letting the herd mates walk all over them, they gain their status by clear direction that isn't questioned. Most horses don't aspire to be the herd leader; however, in a horse-handler situation (a herd of 2) ONE of you has to step it up to be the leader. If the horse does not trust in the handler to be the leader, they will either want to leave that herd, or will become the leader themselves. A horse who understands the boundaries is a much happier and relaxed horse, as he can trust that his handler will give him clear and fair direction at all times.

Yes, like everything to do with horses, one thing builds into another and another and the whole thing will fall apart if there are holes. To me, that's why this foundation is so imperative.

I think this topic can likely turn into a whole blog rant on other branch topics like leaving babies in herds of young horses to “grow up” and then starting them when they're 3 or 4 with no prior training at all. But that's for another day. Happy haltering!! ■



of cold storage for about 735,000 years until scientists dug it out in 2003. To determine whether there might be any biological molecules left in the sample, Orlando and colleagues first looked to see if they could spot amino acids from collagen—a protein found in bone—in the specimen. Once they identified and successfully sequenced those proteins, the researchers moved on to trying to extract DNA from the ancient leg bone.



As is the case with the majority of ancient fossils, most of the DNA they found was from bacteria that had populated the bone after the horse died. Using DNA from modern horses as a reference, the team was able to identify “endogenous” DNA that belonged to the ancient horse itself. “We sequenced 12 billion DNA molecules, of which 40 million [were of] horse origin,” said Orlando. “There was a bit of horse DNA in an ocean of microbial DNA.” ■

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