

*July 2015*

**Valley Equestrian News**

*Animal Sentience  
and Consciousness*

*Gala of  
Royal Horses*

*White Horse Ranch:  
Riding on Faith,  
Vision and Spirit*

*Lusitanos, part 3*

# REGIONAL NEWS

Readers' News submitted by groups, organizations and individuals. Send your club news to us by the 15th of each month to see it in the next month's print and online publication. Send to: thevenews@gmail.com or post on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VEnews>

## Fort Sisseton Historical Fest Kicks Off Summer Fun



The Fort Sisseton Historical Festival kicks off summer fun held July 6-7 near Lake City, South Dakota. The festival includes blacksmith, rope-making, mining, sluicing, wheelwright, horse-drawn farming, black powder shooting demonstrations, cavalry drills, historical building tours, a military encampment, and much more. Food vendors are available to satisfy all appetites along with an arts and craft show.

A chuck wagon contest also delighted guests to the festival. It is rare to have only three wagons at this competition, they were: Jim and Susan Patrick with DT of Watertown, S.D., JT and Tilly Hallson working out of Lost Creek Wagon of Dassel, Minn., and Bob Glanzer of Huron, So. Dak. with his wagon called Sweet Sally Sue. DT took the first place for best wagon, biscuit and taters; Sweet Sally Sue placed first for meat and dessert, Lost Creek placed first for beans. Prizes were given for three placings in the competition. The wagons hosted a youth Pie Baking Contest with eight participants. Lost Creek Wagon sponsored the first and second place winners from Mitchell, S.D. and Dutton, Minn., respectively and DT Wagon hosting the third place winner from Canton, S.D.

DT took the first place for best wagon, biscuit and taters; Sweet Sally Sue placed first for meat and dessert, Lost Creek placed first for beans. Prizes were given for three placings in the competition. The wagons hosted a youth Pie Baking Contest with eight participants. Lost Creek Wagon sponsored the first and second place winners from Mitchell, S.D. and Dutton, Minn., respectively and DT Wagon hosting the third place winner from Canton, S.D.

## Presenting Little Mister Cowboy and Little Miss Cowgirl of Norman County, Minn.

The Norman County Little Mister Cowboy and Little Miss Cowgirl has become an annual event, held July 24-27 during the Norman County Fair, and is open to children who reside and/or attend school in Norman County. The 2015 Little Miss Cowgirl was Madelyn Nelson, daughter of Mike and Angie Nelson. The winners are chosen at random and presented with a sash proclaiming their title. Each contestant receives a cowboy/cowgirl hat and goodie bag as a thank you for participating. Organizers are excited to see this event continue to grow in the future.

Photo by Becca Babolian



The 2015 Little Mister Cowboy was Danny Babolian, son of Joe and Becca Babolian and

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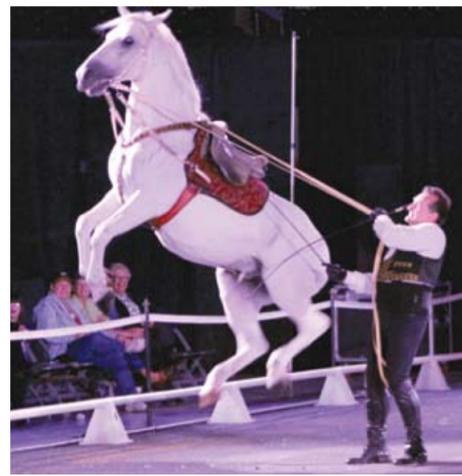
# Gala of the Royal Horses

Area horse lovers were regaled with fantastic horsemanship at the Gala of Royal Horses 7 p.m., June 18 at Scheels Arena in Fargo, N.D. Rene Gasser thrilled the

crowd with airs above the ground, Spanish walking, and a variety of marvelous movements rarely seen.

The Royal Horses stabled four days at Brady Equestrian Center in Sabin, Minn., while they were staying in the Red River Valley. Owner Margot Brady hosted a "Behind the Scenes" with the royals where Rene Gasser, head trainer, showed the spectators some of the training methods and tips used to train these magnificent horses. A Q&A session at the end of the program provided the audience an opportunity to learn first-hand some of Gasser's knowledge. It was clear to all observers the relationship Gasser acquired with the horses greatly impacted their training. *Top photo: Gasser cues Mozart in the courbette; center: the capriole; bottom left: the bow; bottom center: Gigi Gasser wraps Mozart's leg around her.*

Photos by Jess Nelson



Center photos L-R: A Friesian; Mozart performing a Spanish walk; Rene illustrates how he teaches the Spanish Walk at Brady Equestrian Center in Sabin, Minn. at the 'Behind the Scenes with the Royal Horses.'

Photos by Ley Bouchard

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## New Breyer Horse, Chocolate Chip Kisses, Has Local Roots

Chocolate Chip Kisses is a colorful pinto pony that has made big dreams come true for his owner/ rider 14-year-old Lauren Demchuk. Known as Choco, Chocolate Chip Kisses boasts a strong Breyer heritage! Both his grandsire, Zips Chocolate Chip, and great grandsire Zippo Pine Bar, are Breyer portrait models! Unlike his Quarter Horse grandsires, Choco has made his name in the Pinto world, where he measures as a pony and competes against horses larger than himself! When Choco enters the ring, he exemplifies brilliance, presence and charisma, which is evident by his winning show record! Beyond their winning ways, Choco and Lauren have become an inspiration to people of all ages and backgrounds. Lauren

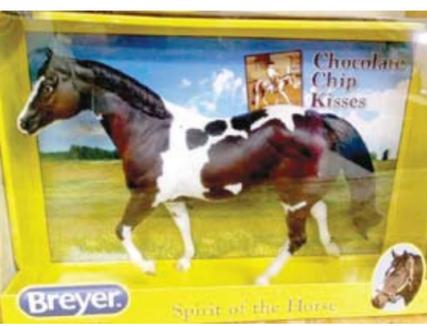
was diagnosed with a rare cancer called epithelioid sarcoma just a few months before the Pinto World Championship Horse Show. Even after receiving the news, Lauren, along with her trainer Karen Clark, focused on her goal of attending the world show and once there, Lauren and Choco excelled in class after class. Together, they have an impressive list of titles including: 28 Pinto Horse Association of America (PtHA) World Championships, three PtHA Reserve World Championships, two PtHA World High Point 18 & Under Pony, PtHA World High Point 18 & Under English, PtHA World High Point 18 & Under Western, 4th in the nation for Junior Youth High Point and a multitude of regional and local wins.

And in 2014, a big year for the dauntless duo, Lauren earned her Pinto Youth Legion of Merit Award with Choco and Karen Clark was named Pinto Horsewoman of the Year and was inducted into the Pinto Hall of Fame.

Now on the road to recovery, Lauren and Choco have proved that hard work, dedication and a little bit of hope can make dreams come true!

A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Information taken from: <https://www.breyerhorses.com/chocolate-chip-kisses>



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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

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# About the Cover

Minnesota artist Marcella Rose owns and operates the *Lady of Prairie Lake Studio & Gallery* in Pelican Rapids, Minn., where she paints in oil, creates gold and silver cast jewelry, and sculpts in bronze. Marcella's work has received

numerous awards and national recognition and can be found in private and corporate collections around North America.

Marcella painted "Summer Glory," (our July cover image), a 48" x

60" oil on canvas, in her backyard overlooking Prairie Lake. "It was very hot that week, as I recall, and I took turns swimming to cool off," Marcella relates. The horses were photographed by her husband, Don Lilleboe, who

encountered them along a highway in northwestern Kansas as they basked in the summer breeze.



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## Editorial Information

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Please see part two of the Anna Twiney webinar series synopsis, "Your Evolution of Horsemanship: Acknowledging the Try" in the August issue of the "Valley Equestrian News." With our deepest apologies for interrupting your reading, the VEN staff.

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# Cutest Foal Contest Winners Announced

Twin foals often get a bit of press because it's a rare event in the equine world and it's hard to keep the babies alive. Mares are not made to birth twins.

But this mare and foals are getting publicity for other reasons. First, these twins are the great-grandbabies of Secretariat, racing's famous Triple Crown winner. Secondly, the foals' mother, Babe, has been at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Center for several weeks having been diagnosed with a dangerous malady. Two weeks after birthing the twin foals, Babe was diagnosed with EPM. According to the AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners), "Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM) is a master of disguise. This serious disease can be difficult to diagnose because its signs often mimic other health problems in the horse and signs can range from mild to severe." As the veterinary bills mount, a

GoFundMe account has been established to help defray the mounting bills at: <http://www.gofundme.com/savebabe>

The owner, Sylvia Jane Passow told the VEN, "The foals are Appaloosa but do go back to the Triple Crown winning Secretariat. He would be Baby Dolls

Secretary's [Babe's] great-grand sire. They have been in the news because it is so rare to have twins at full term in horses. The color come from their sire's side as, Regal Tie Dyed sires foals with this kind of color a lot, but usually not two at once." Babe is 21 years old and Tie is 19.



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- ◆ Take pets along only when going to the vet, or a known destination where they can exit the vehicle.
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- ◆ Err on the side of caution. Live to enjoy another day!



CVT Jacqueline brings Rookie in for his joint fusion.

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**Tia**, Mare, Age: 20 Years  
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**Tia**

For more info please contact the  
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We are seeking a good pasture home for Starr. She is a sweet paint mare. She is quiet enough for kids to sit on while she grazes, but she is not sound to ride. Starr has contracted tendons. She would not do well in a hilly pasture as going down hills causes her pain. She is kind and gentle and would love to babysit your young or senior horse. Adoption fee waived to a good, qualified forever home. She can go

with her buddy Freddy, (a sorrel pony colt), or not, the choice is yours.



**Starr & Freddy**

Meet Ryker!  
DOB: 2014 ~ G: Gelding ~  
HT: 11h2" (growing) ~ WT: 320 (gaining)  
PR: 2 ~ ST: No ~ TL: n/a ~  
RE: n/a

As a young colt, Ryker and his dam, Shae, were under observation by the Wichita Animal Control when it was determined that their welfare was in jeopardy.

Their owners were notified by authorities that the situation had to change, and those owners then requested that Rainbow Meadows accept ownership of the pair, unable to provide the care they so needed. Upon arrival, Ryker was in an extremely neglected state. However, while at Rainbow Meadows, he is thriving and quickly catching up. Ryker

is a very friendly little boy and needs the opportunity to grow and play and build a strong body prior to being started under saddle later down the road as he matures.  
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This is "ladiesloveoutlaws," aka "Outlaw," a five-year-old thoroughbred (OTTB) gelding. He's 16.2 hands and totally sound. He has a super nice mind, and is very calm. Outlaw is a great prospect for any discipline.



**Outlaw**

For more information contact:  
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[info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

Chief is a 2008 15.1hh Appaloosa gelding (registered name DDC Nado). He is green broke to ride and does have some trail experience. If you are interested in adopting Chief please email us at [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org). To view our adoption requirements and a full list of horses available for adoption visit us at [www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org).



**Chief**

# Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

Any type of equipment that goes on a horse's face but does not go into the mouth is categorized as bitless. Thus, for example, the side pull is categorized as bitless. One fellow has come out with a piece of equipment called a bitless bridle.

It is designed to make contact with the chin and poll and it works quite well. I designed what I call the hack-a-pull, a combination of a hackamore and a side pull. Riding a horse in a cowboy or web halter is riding bitless. I ride many horses with hackamores. A hackamore is made up of a bosal which is a firm piece that goes around the nose and then the reins are attached under the chin. There is a leather hanger that goes around the ears. When people ride with a cowboy or web halter, the rope is tied similar to a hackamore.

For me, riding bitless is neither right nor wrong. Depending on the horse and what you are trying to accomplish, the use of this type of equipment may be very appropriate. I think someone that is just learning to ride should use some type of bitless apparatus. A new rider usually does not have good hands and I would rather the outside of a horse's face be

pulled on rather than the mouth. A horse has sensitive areas on the edge of the jaw and the nose and even a string halter can inflict pain. In untrained hands, a regular hackamore can be very abrasive. I don't recommend starting a horse in training with a regular hackamore

*"The most important thing to remember is that it is not what you put on the horse's face, it is what you do with that piece of equipment."*

which is usually 9/16 to 5/8 inch in diameter. What most horses are started with is a large diameter hackamore. As training progresses, a smaller diameter or pencil hackamore is used and then with a bridle.

All bitless apparatus will have a tendency to rub under the horse's chin.

## Bitless Riding - Part 1

Getting scuffed up is usual for a horse, in other words rubbed and sore. With time, a horse will build up a callus and those areas will be less sensitive but still feel. I have started colts in cowboy and regular halters, snaffle bits and hackamores but if the hands aren't trained, starting it in a halter is better.

Each type of equipment has definite advantages. The most important thing to remember is that it is not what you put on the horse's face, it is what you do with that piece of equipment. It comes down to your hands, seat and legs. You must try to ride with an independent seat and not use the reins for balance. Also, when you ask your horse to do something, you must not ask with the reins while hanging onto them to remain balanced.

All that pulling would confuse the horse and the line of communication would be lost.

Some horses, based on personality, can be pushy in the face. For that type of horse, a piece of equipment, for instance a hackamore, with a little more feel or weight to it is better. This will prevent the horse from running through your hands. The skill of the rider and the personality of the horse relate to the type of equipment that will work best.

A few years ago I knew a fellow who did a lot of Parelli work and he started his horse in a string halter. He did bareback riding with a halter and he did a very nice job with the horse. However, as the horse got more broke and the requests needed to be more specific, the feel of the halter was too general. I found that out for myself when I was working with a dressage trainer, Major Miguel Trevera. I wanted to see how much I could accomplish using a hackamore. He told me it was not specific enough to all the movements required for finished horsemanship. A bit has more communication value. Stacy Westfall is known for riding without a bridle but when she schools her horse

she uses a bridle. For some time she rode the horse with just a rope around its neck. It takes time to get a horse educated enough to understand that type of communication. Also,

compliant horse may be ridden without a bridle sooner than a willful horse.

Depending on your goal, if you want to expand your horsemanship, you will need



her horse has a very docile personality. A horse that is too smart or has a high flight instinct can be ridden without a bridle but the horse must be sufficiently trained and predictable. A

to put a bit in the horse's mouth. A request with a bit is more specific and not as limited. I'll talk more next time on riding with or without a bit.

*Charles Wilhelm*

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# The Lusitano Horse, Part 3 - A New Breed Emerges

By Janice Ladendorf

When the Moors conquered most of Spain, they called the area they controlled Andalus. This is why the horses of Portugal and Spain both became known as Andalusians. At that time, they shared the same genetic heritage and were essentially the same breed of horse. The classic Iberian horse looks compact, balanced, and rounds beautifully in the collected gaits.

focus on the production of a horse with showy gaits, a longer back, and less ability to collect. Later in the 19th century, the introduction of Arab and thoroughbred blood began and the horses drifted even farther from the classic type. Author Juan Llamas describes the conflict among breeders, judges, and the government as to whether the classic or the newer, more showy type represented the ideal the Spanish Andalusian. Some



A "rejonador" fighting a bull with "banderillas" in his shoulders.

## The Split

Early in the 18th century, the king of Spain suddenly



A Lusitano in a natural extended trot.

decreed the end of "rejonero," this is bull fighting on horseback. To replace it, bull fighting on foot began. Instead of confronting the horseman with fresh bulls, picadors on substandard horses were used to wear down and torment the bulls before the matador entered the arena to kill them. When "rejonero" came to a halt, some breeders began to

breeders still produce classic horses who are compact, agile, and easy to collect. "Rejoneo" finally returned

to Spain in the middle of the 19th century. In Portugal,

are called, "Sons of the Wind" because the mares were impregnated by the wind from the Atlantic. Unlike the registry for the pure Spanish horse, the Lusitano registry accepts horses of any color. As compared to the typical Spanish horse, the Lusitanos have a shorter back, a more sloping croup, a lower set tail, and a more convex head.

There are four phases in Portuguese bullfight. After the opening parade, there is



Right: A Lusitano performing a Spanish walk. Left: A Lusitano competing in the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG).

In the 17th century, the Spanish and Portuguese Andalusians began to drift apart, but the breeds did not officially split until new registries were formed in 1966.



The Spanish Andalusian became the pure Spanish horse. Grey is their preferred color.

The Portuguese Andalusian became the Lusitano. This is the ancient Latin name for Portugal. Legends say these horses

Right top: A Lusitano doing the dressage test in working equitation.

Center: A Lusitano walking over a bridge as part of the second phase of working equitation. Right bottom: A Lusitano galloping over a bridge in part three of working equitation.

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## The Lusitano Today

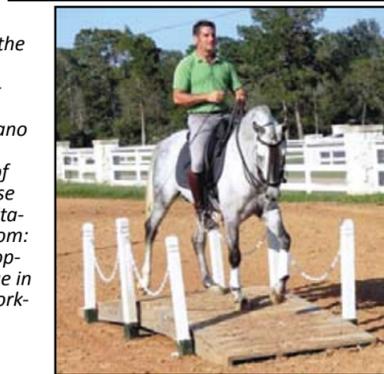
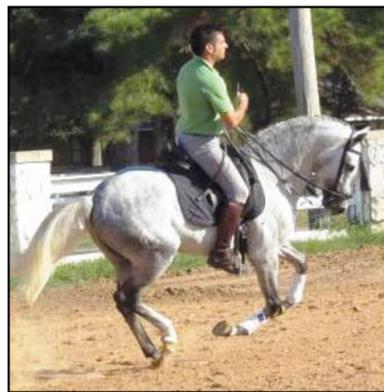
For centuries, Lusitanos have excelled in the art of

classical dressage. The kings of Portugal developed the Alter Real, a special strain of Lusitano for dressage exhibitions at their courts. Alter Reals are normally bay. After the Revolution in 1910, the trained stallions were gelded and most of the breeding stock was lost, but a few were saved. Today

Continued on page 10



A Lusitano and rider, who is carrying an iron-tipped "garrocha," used instead of a lasso for handling cattle in Iberia.



# ANIMAL SENTIENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS: HOW DO HUMANS NEED TO CHANGE?

BY KARI E. HAGSTROM

Do you have this challenge? My spell check on the computer wants to perpetually change "who" to "that" in a document referring to a horse, whom I refer to as a "who." I do not consider a horse a "that," but a "who." A "who" who is a living, breathing presence, who very much feels, thinks, experiences, reacts, responds, and executes complex self-motivated actions. A "who" who often offers unexpected and surprising responses that are highly individuated; a "who" who continually and consistently demonstrates choice. I have, and want, a relationship with a "who," not a "that;" a "who" who happens to reside in an equine form.

birds, and many other creatures, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates."

Basically, because it is now recognized that animals share similar neurological structures with humans, the animals have been invited at last to the "Country Club of Consciousness and Sentience."

Sentience is "the capacity to feel." A sentient being is one "that can feel" ["Thorndike-Barnhart Student Dictionary," © 1993]. However, a longer description comes from the 1963 version of Funk & Wagnall's "Standard College Dictionary" which states: "n. 1. The state of being sentient or conscious. 2. Capacity for sensation or sense perception. 3. Sensation as immediate experience, distinguished from thought or perception. Sentient adj. Possessing powers of sense or sense perception; having sensation or feeling. -- n. 1. A sentient person or thing. 2. The mind." It derives from the Latin, "to feel."

I find it interesting that what once originated with the meaning, "to feel," has now become associated with the mind.

Consciousness n., according to the 1993 Thorndike-Barnhart dictionary, is "1 the condition of being conscious; awareness. People and animals have consciousness; plants and stones do not." Conscious adj., however, according to Thorndike-Barnhart, means, "1 having experience; aware; knowing. 2 able to feel or perceive; awake. 3 known to oneself; felt." By contrast, the 1963 Funk & Wagnall's dictionary states: "Conscious adj. 1. Aware of one's own existence, feelings or thoughts, or of external objects and conditions;

mentally awake. Consciousness n. 1. The state of being conscious; awareness of oneself and one's surroundings." Conscious comes from the Latin for "knowing inwardly" or "to know together."

You may think I'm belaboring the point of definitions and etymology, but I find that older dictionaries often give a fuller description, and one is able to see the way language has changed. The way our language changes shows the way our thoughts, perceptions and world view changes—what we "allow" into our human world. Which, honestly, is why I often feel frustrated by reading such pronouncements by science—declaring it safe to acknowledge consciously that which so many of us already know deep in our hearts, bones and experience. But whatever it takes to move us forward. If it helps skeptics to move more comfortably into recognizing animals, plants, yes, even the Earth and the stones and the waters as living, sentient, conscious beings who may function differently from our human selves, but do indeed possess those capabilities, then so be it. And if that helps to move our treatment of animals, plants, waters and the Earth onto more equal and respected footing, how can I object? However, please note that in the 1963 dictionary, there was no mention of any distinction between who has consciousness. But by 1993, humans and animals were deemed to have consciousness, but not plants or stones. You see how our definitions, perceptions, and allowable limits change over time. Maybe in another 20 years the

definitions will be even more inclusive. After all, we are all made of the same elements, the same star stuff, so why wouldn't the entirety of the known world have consciousness and be sentient?

Perhaps the writers of dictionaries could consider reading "The Secret Life of Plants," written in 1973 by Christopher Bird and Peter Tompkins. In it, it was discovered and described that plants do indeed have consciousness (and by inference, are sentient). When electrodes were attached to a plant and a person near it thought threatening thoughts, such as "I'm going to cut off your branches," the plant "fainted"—the readings from the electrodes dropped off. Likewise, I've seen broken plants heal when loving, encouraging thoughts and energy are sent to them—they thrive.

You may also be familiar with Dr. Masaru Emoto's "The Hidden Messages in Water." Dr. Emoto's experiments with water revealed that water records and reflects negative or positive

emotion directed toward it, and that affects the quality and condition of the water itself. Remember that we are composed mainly of water and we reside on a planet that is largely water: what kind of feedback are we giving ourselves and the planet with our intentions and emotions? Water is what we ARE. From Howard Perlman of the U.S. Geological Survey Water page, "The Water in You" [http://water.usgs.gov/edu/propertyou.html]:

Water is of major importance to all living things; in some organisms, up to 90% of their body weight comes from water. Up to 60% of the human adult body is water.

According to H.H. Mitchell, Journal of Biological Chemistry 158, the brain and heart are composed of 73% water, and the lungs are about 83% water. The skin contains 64% water, muscles and kidneys are 79%, and even the bones are watery: 31%.

Nature, plants, animals, water, air, the Earth, the whole of the universe, seems to be a watchful and responsive

place, not unlike a "Star Trek: Next Generation" holodeck, where what we program into it becomes the "reality" we get to experience.

Animals think, feel, are conscious. I find it chilling that one of the primary criteria for sentience is the capacity to suffer. Other emotions are included: joy, happiness, sadness, etc. But basing the capacity to feel, and judging it on whether one feels suffering—given what we know of how animals have been treated through the centuries, and how they are still treated today—not just physical suffering, but emotional suffering, as well, seems rather barbaric on the human end of the equation. Whenever I see photos of the mustang round-ups and holding pens (with no shade in Nevada summer heat, and no shelter in the winter, thanks to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) generously ignoring its own laws and the will of the public), I can't help but think of the Jews in World War II who were rounded up by the Nazis and sent to

Continued on page 14

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# The Lusitano Horse, Part 3 - A New Breed Emerges

Continued from page 8

the Alter Reals of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art still present exhibitions of High School dressage, but they are now open to the public.

The great Portuguese master horseman, Nuno Oliveria, became known all over the world. Hundreds came to his home to see his highly trained horses and to learn from him. His books and videos have shown Lusitanos excelling in the art of classical dressage. Both the pure Spanish horse and the Lusitano can extend their trots, but not as well as the warmbloods, who continue to dominate dressage competitions.

What the Iberian horses can do is produce fabulous piaffes and passages. The photograph on the bottom of page 8 shows a Lusitano doing a Spanish walk. This movement is popular in Iberia, but is not used in competitions. The second photograph on the bottom of page 8 shows a Lusitano competing in the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG).

For thousands of years, the Lusitano has been used as a cow horse. They still serve in this role. The photograph on page 8 shows a Lusitano with the rider carrying an iron-tipped "garrocha." Instead of lassos, this pole is used in Iberia for handling cattle.

The new sport of working equitation has been developed to test the skills needed by a good working cow horse and Lusitanos have done well in it. This competition has four phases. The first one is a dressage test. In the second one, the horse must calmly, obediently, and precisely maneuver through a series of ground obstacles. In the third one, the horse

must race through some of the same obstacles. In the higher levels, the fourth phase involves working cattle.

Jumping competitions became popular early in the 20th century and some Lusitanos have shown a real talent for it. A British rider, John Whitaker, discovered the famous horse, Novilheiro. He became the British Jumping Champion and competed successfully in many European competitions. In 1987, this beautiful and athletic stallion was 19 years old, and Arsenio Raposo Cordeiro brought him back to his stud farm in Portugal where he produced many fine foals.

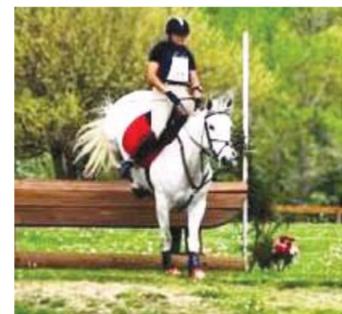
Lusitanos have also competed in eventing. In this competition, there is a dressage phase, a cross country phase, and a stadium jumping phase. In the cross country phase, the horse must go for miles and leap various kinds of challenging jumps. Course planners use hills and water to challenge the horses. In the final phase, the horse goes over a course of jumps in a field.

For centuries, Lusitanos have been used as carriage horses and they have done well in modern combined driving competitions. At the international level, the horses are driven as singles, in pairs, or in a four-in-hand. A four-in-hand is two teams of two horses, one team hitched in front of the other. There are three phases in these competitions. They include a dressage test, cross country marathon, and course of cone ob-

stacles. The cross country phase includes some natural obstacles, such as water. The cone course tests for accuracy at speed.

**Conclusion:**

Early in the 18th century, the Spanish king stopped the sport of "rejoneo," and breeding objectives changed



for the Spanish Andalusian. At that time, the Spanish Andalusians began drifting apart from the Portuguese Andalusians, but the registry was not split until 1966. The Lusitano excels in the art of classical dressage and has competed in modern dressage competitions. The new sport of working equitation was designed to test the skills needed by a good working cow horse and Lusitanos have done well in it. They have also competed

Above: A Lusitano going over a stadium jump. Below: A Lusitano going over a cross country jump.

Continued on page 18

# WHITE HORSE RANCH: RIDING WITH FAITH, SPIRIT AND VISION BY KARI HAGSTROM

Gina Dahlen is a woman with a vision. Well, two, actually. She has a big vision for her organization, Destiny Equine Intervention, doing business as White Horse Ranch near Herman, Minn., located about 30 miles southeast of Fergus Falls, or 30 miles west of Alexandria. Dahlen intends to serve as many people as possible through equine-related therapeutic services, from children to veterans; whoever has a need or a hurt that can be helped by being around horses.

Dahlen's other vision is a horse: a quarter horse paint pony, named Vision, who is blind. "Vision has a huge impact on the kids, and helps them to learn about trust," says Dahlen. "The kids really gravitate toward her, and she's very gentle and trusting of them."

Dahlen, a former pharmaceutical sales representative for 16 years—grew up on her family's farm near Foley, Minn. She enjoyed riding and being around the horses on the farm. After she

married her husband, Doug, she moved to his farm in the Herman area, and asked if he'd be interested in having horses one day. An animal lover himself, he enthusiastically said yes. Once they had two horses—Dahlen's

personal horse is a paint mare named Faith, who has the image of an eagle on her side—people started asking to come out and see the horses. And here begins the journey of inspiration toward White Horse Ranch.

nights a week. She wanted to be at home or closer to home. After surviving five rounds of layoffs, and becoming "not happy with work," Dahlen opted for a voluntary severance.

One day not long after, a guest preacher at her church, Ben Smith from the Bahamas, mentioned to her out of the blue: "I see you with horses and kids."

As more and more kids came to the ranch, more "backs" were required, so the herd of horses began to grow.

Six months later, Ben Smith returned from the Bahamas to again guest preach. He told her—again out of the blue—"Don't be afraid to start your own non-profit. I see you with horses and kids."

Two days after Smith's statement, Dahlen had a big dream. In it, she was riding alongside "a huge, angelic white horse—it was a God-dream. I was somewhere else, and it felt so great, I wanted to go back into the dream when it was over. It was incredible. I felt it was God saying, 'Yes, this is what I've called you to do.'"

Two days later, a woman called to see if two girls, first and fourth grade, who had been sexually abused, could come out and see the horses, "because they don't get these kinds of experiences otherwise. These two girls experienced the love, the compassion, the hope, by just being around the horses. It's like somebody flipped on a light switch," says Dahlen.

Those two girls and

their experience were a big sign post for Dahlen. About a month later, she was given a CD by a friend and heard a song by Lindell Cooley called "We Will Ride"; the song describes the white horse in Revelation 19:11. The lyrics talk about the rider of the white horse being faithful and true. About a month after this "revelation," Dahlen's aunt—out of the blue—gave her a small statue she had had for 30 years: a little statue of a rider on a white horse, holding up a sword in one hand and a horn in the other, with "Rev. 19:11" written on the cloak.

After these affirmations of her path, someone mentioned to Dahlen to listen to a segment on "Focus on the Family" that was about Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Bend, Ore. (www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org). "I got goose bumps," says Dahlen. "I read the books ['Hope Rising,' and 'Bridge Called Hope,' by Kim Meeder, who founded Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch along with her husband, Troy] and checked out the website. And I absolutely knew what I was supposed to do."

Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch (CPYR) is a non-profit which rescues "broken horses and pairs them with broken children" for the healing of both. CPYR also offers training to those interested in developing programs patterned after its program. Dahlen registered in February and took the training in May, 2012, and recently completed a leadership conference in May, 2015.

While at her initial training in Oregon, Dahlen noticed a white horse at the resort they were staying at. In talking with the horse's owner and telling him she was from Minnesota and was at CPYR for training,

the owner gave Dahlen the horse, because he would be less prone to sunburn in Minn., than in Bend's desert-like atmosphere. This man had no idea at the time he was giving White Horse Ranch their white horse. So Dahlen got her white horse, who she named Spirit.

With all the pieces falling into place, Dahlen applied for non-profit status in January, 2013. White Horse Ranch received MN state approval within two weeks, and incredibly, was granted IRS non-profit status in Sept., 2013. "It was a blessing to get it so quickly, in less than nine months," says Dahlen. It was at a time when the IRS was not granting non-profit status readily, and was experiencing government delays and then a shutdown.

"So we had kids coming out to the ranch in the summer of 2012 and 2013, with summer 2014 being our first official season as a non-profit," says Dahlen. "We have grown mostly through word of mouth; articles about the ranch in 'The Grant County Herald' and 'In Good Company' magazine, helped spread the word. We have new people coming out each week."

As amazing as the story of White Horse Ranch coming into being is, the stories of the personal transformations Dahlen has witnessed are even more amazing.

"God's presence if felt here [at the ranch]. I want kids to feel that peace and presence. Look at what kids are coming out of—neglect, abuse, etc. Horrible things are happening to children out there," says Dahlen. "I feel blessed that they get to come out here and experience the animals." In

Continued on page 17

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## Can the Damaged Insulin Resistant Horse Be Fixed?

By Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

You're worried. You have reason to be. Your horse is exhibiting signs of insulin resistance (regional fat deposits along the neck, down the spine, tailhead, shoulders, chest, or even above the eyes). He is likely overweight (though not always). You know that your horse is at a high risk of developing laminitis, and you want to avoid that at all costs. You've taken away the sweet feed, removed all cereal grains, stopped giving your horse carrots, searched online for the latest supplement for treating insulin resistance, and put your horse in a dry lot. You've even found that perfect low NSC hay, carefully weighing it out each day to provide exactly 1.5% of your horse's ideal weight. Doing this is difficult – you can't bear seeing your horse so unhappy.

The current mode of thinking is to limit the horse's hay intake and provide various forms of supplementation. But none of these supplements will make a significant difference if the horse is not fed in sync with the way he was meant to live. There are many research-supported reasons for this.

Deprivation actually increases insulin resistance. It is critically important that the horse have a steady supply of forage all day and all night. This is what is meant by "free-choice" – the hay never runs out, not even for 10 minutes. If it does, you put your horse in a state of fear. He fears an impending famine and his hormones will respond by keeping him overweight. Researchers at Louisiana State University found that mares having enough hay during the day but deprived of hay overnight showed the greatest degree of insulin resistance. [i]

Here's something else that may surprise you. Your effort to control insulin by depriving your horse of forage actually works against you because glucose will eventually rise through the horse's natural hormonal response. When a horse has nothing to eat, his blood glucose level starts to drop. He needs glucose to survive – it fuels his nervous system. In an effort to remedy the situation, the hormone, glucagon, is secreted to release glucose from glycogen stores in the liver. Glucose is also restored to normal levels by breaking down muscle. This lost muscle mass brings down the metabolic rate, and ruins his body condition.

Regional fat deposits develop. Fat deposits throughout key areas of the body (most typically along neck and shoulders) promote the formation of an enzyme known as HSD, which tells the body's tissues to ignore insulin. [ii] More specifically, HSD leads to cortisol production, and cortisol, when elevated either due to body fat or by Cushing's disease, leads to elevated insulin in the blood and ultimately, laminitis. [iii]

Body fat increases inflammation, leading to more body fat. Excess body fat secretes inflammatory substances known as cytokines. [iv] Cytokines can damage the hypothalamus, the portion of the brain that recognizes leptin. [v] Consequently, leptin becomes elevated, but the horse does not respond normally to being satisfied. Instead, the horse keeps on eating, getting more obese, producing more cytokines, increasing inflammatory damage to the hypothalamus, resulting in greater leptin resistance, and more body fat.

Stress elevates cortisol. A prominent study at Ohio State University [vi] revealed that cortisol rises when horses experience an empty stomach for hours as they anticipate their next meal, or when they are bored or stressed in any way. This study emphasizes the exact reason that stress creates a cascade of events that damages the horse.

Stress affects behavior. Some horses appear calm and stoic about their discomfort. That's a survival mechanism since the sick horse will be left behind in a wild setting. Some horses suffer openly and will behave erratically, have a poor attention span, and will act ornery. The suffering is both physical and mental.

All that stress is totally unnecessary! Here is a fascinating study. [vii] Fourteen obese, laminitic horses (of

some ingredients, without the use of added preservatives. Removing sugar and starch from the diet, as well as chemicals that are often added to feeds, will reduce inflammation and the oxidative stress it creates. Please review articles [ix] in my website's library for specific ways to accomplish this.

Balance minerals. Magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium, iodine, and selenium can impact insulin resistance. Magnesium is well known in its ability to impact glucose homeostasis, but many horses do not receive enough, either through inadequate dietary intake or from competition from calcium. Many forages, especially alfalfa, are high in calcium relative to magnesium; therefore, magnesium should be supplemented to bring the calcium to magnesium ratio down to 1.5 to 2 times more calcium than magnesium. Determine the level of calcium in your supplements – they could be making the ratio worse.

Watch out for excess iron. It has long been known that iron exacerbates insulin resistance in humans and laboratory animals, and it has been recently revealed to do the same in horses. [x] Since forages (pasture and/or hay) generally contain a substantial amount of iron, it is critical that it be balanced with other copper and zinc. [xi] Choose a vitamin/mineral supplements that does not contain iron. And avoid commercially fortified feeds that contain added iron. If you grow your own hay, or have a good relationship with your hay producer, check the soil's pH. Grasses grown in acidic soils tend to accumulate more iron than those grown from alkali soils.

Get aggressive in reducing inflammation. Removing stress is the first step, but the horse will still be leptin resistant because of the residual hypothalamic inflammation. Prepare to boost the diet with antioxidants, anti-inflammatory herbs, key minerals, and the right balance of omega 3s to 6s, preferably from supplements that provide whole-

Limit or eliminate stalling. Horses need to move. Ever tried staying in a small room for most of the day? And we like cozy places! Horses do not! Their very survival depends on their ability to flee at a moment's notice from dangers, real or perceived. Trapped, most eventually yield to their fate, appearing as though they are accepting and perhaps even appreciating their solitude. But the stress eventually leads to a vast variety of health issues, including laminitis.

Often horse owners, ranchers and farmers incur in-

## Maryland's Income Tax Scheme Declared Unconstitutional

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

A disturbing feature of American taxes is the way some states tax the income of its residents earned both within and outside the state, as well as income earned within the state by nonresidents. Carly Fiorina, former Hewlett-Packard CEO and now presidential candidate, filed 17 state income tax returns last year. Many Americans file multiple state income tax returns in states where they do not live or work, but where they own a business or have income-producing activities. Ordinarily, the home state will allow residents a credit on income taxes paid to other states.

The way it works is that your home state taxes you on all your income; states where you don't live might tax you on the income you earned in those states. The home state usually will credit you back for income tax paid on income earned in other states, but not always.

Often horse owners, ranchers and farmers incur in-

*Getty Nutrition: continued from page 12*

tion is in the hindgut, preventing the overpopulation of detrimental organisms. Many horses benefit from prebiotics (fermentation products and other "food" for existing microbes) when shifting from one feed source to another, or during short periods of stress, such as travel or performing.

Probiotics contain live organisms. To be effective, your supplement must contain billions (not millions) of colony forming units (CFUs). However, use probiotics judiciously. Horses who are pasture grazing may not require them because they obtain microbes from the ground. But according to Tom Schell, DVM, the overuse of Lactobacillus strains, which are often found in commercial feeds and supplements, may lead to an overgrowth of lactic acid producing bacteria, resulting in cecal acidosis and endotoxin-related (not endocrine-related) laminitis. [xv]

Free choice is less expensive. Feeding your horse

come in various states. For example, a racehorse that wins purses in California and in New York will realize income for the owners who reside in other states. A show horse being trained and then sold in another state will incur income for the nonresident owner. Income earned in multiple states by horse winnings can create a huge pile of state tax returns, even though you will usually get credit.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided a case involving this feature of Maryland state taxes. [Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland v. Wynne.] The case considered Maryland's policy to not offer its residents credit against the income taxes they pay to other states. This resulted in double taxation of income earned by Maryland residents outside the state. The Supreme Court considered the issue of multiple taxation by denying residents a credit on income taxes paid to other states. It held that Maryland's tax scheme violates the Commerce Clause.

Some states have bilateral agreements with other states. For example Virginia residents who earn income

all the hay he wants may appear to be costly. But in actuality, it is less expensive to allow your horse to tell you how much he wants because a horse who is permitted to self-regulate his intake will eat only what his body needs. Yes, he will overeat at first, but soon thereafter he will get the message that the hay is always there and he will start to walk away from it to take a nap or visit with his companions. [xvi] His eating will slow down and he will eat less, perhaps even less than he did before.

To ease the horse through the process, slow down his intake. Horses in a natural setting do not eat large amounts at one time; instead, they graze on small amounts of forages, walking great distances to find that next tasty morsel. Domesticated horses don't always have large expanses of land to explore; therefore, it is up to their owners to make an effort to simulate the slow pace of natural grazing. Hay should be offered in small piles or in slow feeders in many locations to encourage movement and natural

in Maryland pay tax only to Virginia, and vice versa.

States that have no income tax are: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

The IRS has long had a program of sharing tax information with state taxing authorities. Thus, if you face a state audit, the state agency will have access to your federal tax returns. State agencies usually have computer links with the IRS. If you are audited by the IRS, your state may automatically find out.

Most state tax collectors operate similarly to the IRS. They may accept installment payments, your representative may be able to whittle this down, and

levy assets, or settle tax bills. State agencies also provide appeal rights if you disagree with the results of an audit.

"Loose tongues sink ships" is a saying applicable to tax audits. What you say can and will be used against you. That's why it's prudent to have representation, especially if the tax liability at stake is significant.

If audited by state or federal authorities, it's crucial to have good documentary evidence to substantiate deductions and to show that your activity is conducted in a businesslike manner. Usually the auditor will issue a list of things wanted. Your representative may be able to whittle this down, and

fortlessly, interacting with other horses, and moving about, will exhibit stress-related responses when suddenly confined to a space that doesn't allow them to enjoy behaving naturally.

Interestingly, horses who graze on pasture 24/7 will eat far less grass than those who are only allowed to graze on pasture for a few hours each day, with hay provided the rest of the time. Researchers at North Carolina State University [xviii] found that horses will typically consume 0.75 pounds of hay (dry matter) per hour when permitted access to pasture all the time. However, horses who only have 3 hours of pasture grazing time, will eat nearly three times more grass per hour.

in the early morning hours when the sugar/starch level is at its lowest.

Bottom line We are harming our horses by not letting them be horses. If your insulin resistant horse has endured years of being fed forage intermittently throughout the day, while waiting for hours for more hay, he is damaged. The good news is that there is every reason to feel confident that he will return to a healthy state. There are some horses, however, who have so much damage that they cannot recover. But you have no way of knowing that. The goal is to try to make things better. When you keep moving in the right direction, you will allow your horse to enjoy his life and strive toward regaining his health.

John Alan Cohan is an attorney who serves the horse, livestock and farming industries. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, or email at johnalancohan@aol.com. His website is JohnAlanCohan.com.

Yes, preferably if you test your pasture. Researchers at Louisiana State [xvii] looked at horses who were fed hay in a dry lot versus those that were able to graze on pasture. Even though the NSC level in the forage was the same and the amount consumed was the same, the horses on the dry lot were more insulin resistant than the horses on the pasture. This had to do with the fact that the pastured horses were able to move around more and were less stressed than those on a dry lot.

What's more, many horses who are confined to a dry lot with free-choice, appropriate hay, still have problems with insulin resistance, as well as overall health and condition. Deprived of fresh grasses can result in trace nutrient imbalances that cannot be easily corrected through supplementation. Moreover, horses who are accustomed to grazing ef-

should only provide those documents requested as well as anything that may help show the strengths of your business model. In audits of horse, livestock and farming activities where there are losses, the auditor will be particularly skeptical, so that you would benefit from representation by someone experienced in your particular industry.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an independent equine nutritionist with a wide U.S. and international following. Her research-based approach optimizes equine health by aligning physiology and instincts with correct feeding and nutrition practices. www.GettyEquineNutrition.com

# COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

## BOULDER-DASH IS "HARD" WORK

**BUILD ROCK PICKERS AND THEY WILL COME**  
The man standing there, claimed to have the strongest team. In the county they'd bravely pull to an extreme!  
And now it was Uncle Martin's strong team he knocks, Saying, "No other team could move those gigantic rocks!"  
But we hitched the chain and crowbar onto the boulder  
And slid it off the road, making the first guy smolder.  
For minutes before, he had been boasting like a fox.  
That was HIS special team, could move such enormous rocks.

**WE HAND PICKED FARM FIELD ROCKS**  
Before mechanical rock pickers we "strolled" through fields. A trailer full of mini rocks were the spring "yields."  
A mini driver, just a few years beyond "baby talks,"  
Was holding the tractor wheel as we "collected" rocks.  
He piloted a John Deere B that's described as styled,  
With grilles to increase sales while our "countless" stones were piled.  
An old wagon and on top of a wooden-plank box,  
Our legs ache, just to recall, the chore of picking rocks.

**DANCE TO LITTLE JIM AND THE ROCKPICKERS**  
It was a few years before the birth of rock 'n roll,  
We were doing an outdoor dance, "the dutiful stroll,"  
So any driver passing on the country road gawks  
At this ragtag and unsynchronized crew picking rocks.  
From the top of the heap, sadly, the round rocks would roll,  
And need to be repacked by the tired "rock patrol."  
My sister would need to wash and curl her dusty locks,  
And polish her nails after she had been picking rocks.

**BUMPER CROPS/BETWEEN ROCKS AND HARD PLACES**  
Year after year there seemed to be a bumper crop.  
Bumping a binder would put it in the shop.  
We can honestly tell you it was in the boondocks,  
Out where we sweated and trudged and picked and hauled the rocks.  
It seemed to be miles away from most everywhere,  
And building rock piles made us a little worse for wear.  
It had been our intent to see a field of cornstalks,  
But first, this farm family must remove all the rocks.

**DRIVING IN LOW GEAR AT LOW RPM'S/OSHA OR PSHAW?**  
A pre-school driver would peek to the left, and then right,  
For that young 'un' was only two or three feet in height.  
O-SHA would have cited us, but the school of hard knocks,  
Was in session as we were all out gathering rocks.  
A geological survey? The scene I depict.  
But we could assure the collectors, they were hand picked.  
Now that you have walked a mile in our shoes and socks,  
You have a view of us bending over, picking rocks.

**SPACE DROPPINGS? STONES THROW FROM THE WAGON?**  
At times we would toss a stone toward the old wagon,  
Not like an Olympic shot-put, so I'm not braggin'.  
But it allowed me to carry two more of those rocks,  
The Armstrong method, and pile them on the wagon box.  
Perhaps we tossed some valuable minerals away?  
If so, 'twas my unlucky day. ET, I'm trying to convey.  
They could have been gems but there was no suggestion box.  
Years ago, back when we were mindlessly picking rocks.

Orv Alvshere, © 1994

# Animal Sentience & Consciousness:

*Continued from page 9*  
concentration camps to die or be killed. There are many instances in this world where the words, "Never again" apply. In looking at the photos and videos of the mustangs, it is highly apparent that they are sentient and conscious as they are hunted down, brutalized, torn from their families, and left to uncertain futures. What does that say about humans as a species?

Recently, on May 12, 2015, New Zealand changed its laws to reflect that animals are indeed sentient beings in its Animal Welfare Amendment Bill. In recognizing animals as sentient beings it seeks to improve the welfare of animals and increase the level of responsibility of those persons responsible for the care of the animals. This has stirred-up a debate about the care and treatment of livestock animals.

Given that the recognition of animal consciousness and sentience is now on the table and being given credence, and is being acted upon legally, there should be cause for celebration. And there is, there is. But like the slow change in language and definitions, the social perspectives on animal sentience and consciousness can be slow to change.

Curiously, in my research on what other people are thinking and saying about animal consciousness and sentience, there isn't as much discussion as you might expect on the crux of the matter: How do we humans need to change our own behaviors in response to this awareness and recognition of animal sentience and consciousness?

In looking at animal consciousness, centered around the Cambridge Declaration, I found mostly psychological articles that primarily discussed the quality of the science of the research: Was it a good experiment or a poorly done experiment to reach that determination? Animal welfare was touched on in the articles. But it seems to me to be a dancing

around the subject, or part of the subject. Many other articles exist regarding animal behavior, animal welfare, etc., centered around animal sentience and consciousness. However, to me, the main question is still: How do we as humans, who think so highly of ourselves that we dare to look down on other forms of intelligence and experience, change ourselves to accommodate, embrace and live the perspective of recognizing sentience and consciousness in other forms of life, other species, other beings? The problem being that we don't always want to change, no matter how much we say we do.

*Sentience is "the capacity to feel."  
"Consciousness n. 1. The state of being conscious; awareness of oneself and one's surroundings."*

Here is where I find it helpful to be a fan and reader of science fiction and fantasy. It isn't a big stretch to try to deal with another species on equal

terms, because I've been saturated in this perspective for ages. I'm sure many others share the same perspective. Whether it's telepathic dragons, werewolves and their human side learning to balance, speaking dolphins who help and actively work with humans, beings from other planets, or species on this planet, it's all about the same, in my opinion. All are deserving of respect, care, kindness, courtesy.

I don't know about you, but I want my horses to be horses, my dogs to be dogs, my cats to be cats, as much as they are able, given that they are living in human-dominated circumstances. As much as they can be, given the confines and limitations of life with a human, I want them to live as fully themselves as possible. In having animals in our care, we are ultimately responsible for their well-being, as they are not able to provide conditions for themselves that are conducive to them living to their fullest as they are. But many seem to experience very good lives living with humans; as do humans benefit intrinsically from being with and around them, as well as in utilitarian ways. There seems to be a third way that has evolved out of our interactions with each other, that often can be much greater than purely animal-

as-animal and human-as-human. Many of us know this already.

But how do we actually have to live in a manner that reflects that humans recognize, know, accept, and are willing to act on animals being sentient and conscious? By rights, we should experience a massive social overhaul to readjust conditions and usage of animals. To acknowledge and change our use and abuse of them, which has been a trudging sort of evolution, because it still happens-- rescues and shelters are full of animals who have been abused or abandoned, and horses are still sent to slaughter--would be a useful first step. We are responsible for them: they live with us, we propagate them, the onus of responsibility is on our shoulders, and quick and easy disposal of another living being is usually considered murder, war or genocide, isn't it?

Look. I'm not trying to get into thorny debates about animal rights, whether they have chosen to be with us, or whether we have robbed them of their opportunities to be free and fully themselves. I'm looking at the here and now, which is better than it used to be, but still isn't as great as it could be. I am acknowledging and pointing out what hasn't been pointed out: Ahem. WE need to change.

Changing laws helps, declarations of consciousness and recognizing same brain structures helps, as does Pope Francis' recent Encyclical. But unless we fundamentally change our outlook, attitudes and actions, it will be another long trudge over another tiring hill toward our growth. If animals are helpful and beneficial to us when they are considered lesser beings, just think how good things could be if we began looking at them and treating them as they are: beings who think and function differently, but who are deserving of our respect, our good will and our good intentions. Because as we better their lives, we can only better our own.

In Pope Francis' May 24, 2015 Encyclical, "Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home," he comments that humanity needs to wake up and be aware of the Earth, especially in light of global

*Continued on next page*

# How Do Humans Need to Change?

warming—we are endangering our home by our reckless behavior. He comments on how the Mother Earth has been mistreated and we have forgotten that she gives us life and nourishment; we are causing ourselves calamity by abusing the Earth. I find interesting parallels between what Pope Francis says about the Earth, and what Native Americans have been saying for centuries: The Earth is our mother, the animals are our brothers and sisters. Pope Francis reminds us that we are stewards, not here to dominate, rape and abuse nature. I found articles 66-69 of particular interest as they relate to nature and animals.

Article 66 discusses how humans have misinterpreted the idea of "dominion over" the earth (Genesis 1:28), how this has created a break within us and without in our "three vital relationships" between the Creator, our neighbors and creation. This formerly harmonious relationship has become "conflictual" (Gen. 3:17-19), a "rupture." The Encyclical states, "It is significant that the harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture." It goes on to say that such a "universal reconciliation" is needed to heal the current situation on the planet, which is full of the "destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature."

Article 67 states: *We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. ...This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.*

Article 68 states: *This responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world, for "he commanded and they were created; and he established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds and he set a*

*law which cannot pass away" (Ps 148:5b-6). The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings. "You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and withhold your help...*

It goes on to remind us to not take the mother with the young if we find a bird with a nest of eggs or young. And we are reminded that rest is not just for humans, that work animals are to rest on the seventh day, too. We are reminded to respect these relationships. "Clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures."

In Article 69, Pope Francis states: *Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory",[41] and indeed, "the Lord rejoices in all his works" (Ps 104:31). By virtue of our unique dignity and our gift of intelligence, we are called to respect creation and its inherent laws, for "the Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (Prov. 3:19). In our time, the Church does not simply state that other creatures are completely subordinated to the good of human beings, as if they have no worth in themselves and can be treated as we wish. The German bishops have taught that, where other creatures are concerned, "we can speak of the priority of being over that of being useful".[42] The Catechism clearly and forcefully criticizes a distorted anthropocentrism: "Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection... Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things".[43]*

Respect. Compassion. Intelligence. Pope Francis reminds us all to express these qualities for ourselves, each other, animals, nature, and our mutual home, Mother Earth. If the Pope is recognizing

*Isn't it about time we universally accorded them the respect and kindness they deserve?*

that so much is out of whack in our present situation, doesn't it make sense to reconsider our position? Humans are not at the top of the food chain. We just think we are. We are weak and flimsy beings with opposable thumbs and good brains, when we choose to use them. Doesn't it make sense to begin to accommodate a different world view that not only recognizes, but acts like animals are sentient and conscious?

In my opinion, we have a way to go yet, toward accepting animals as our different, but equal partners on this Earth. We are made from the same matter, the same materials, just in differing arrangements. Science, religion, and the law are recognizing animals as aware, feeling beings. Isn't it about time we universally accorded them the respect and kindness they deserve?

We have used and abused animals for centuries, millennia. I think there is a big difference between the use of an animal and an animal having a job where his or her talents and skills are valued and the opportunity is there for the animal to do what he or she is uniquely suited to do: not unlike having a job you dislike or hate, where you feel used, versus doing a job that suits you, where you are valued and appreciated, and you can joyfully use your skills. I think, knowing what we know, that if we continue on this path of non-acknowledgement of animals as beings like ourselves, that we are hurting them by our not caring or willful use or misuse, that we are slaughtering them for our convenience, that we are removing animals from their natural habitats and driving them toward extinction because they are "in our way," I think by continuing as we are now, that we will have a reckoning down the road. And it may be sooner than we think. This is an opportunity to change our course; I hope we don't bypass it and miss this opportunity for growth.

There is a lot of emerging discussion about the horse as partner, where we acknowledge the horse's wants and needs, where

we listen to their expression, their subtle voice. By asking about and acknowledging their wants and needs, we improve and deepen our relationship with horses. The emerging view of working with a horse, asking for a certain action or response, rather than demanding it, is taking us humans in a new and different direction. Why shouldn't we look at partnering with our horses, our dogs, with nature herself? Why shouldn't we accord the respect for another's view point by asking, not demanding or forcing? Do you work better when you are asked, or when you are forced and dominated? Further, in which situation do you prefer to function in—the slave-driving boss, or the respectful partnership?

Animals have much to teach us. I for one, have the utmost respect for animals because of what they don't need. They are not reliant on technology or tools the way humans are. They know what foods to eat to keep themselves healthy (in a natural environment), and how to find them, whether through instinct or intuition. They move together as a group with often silent communication through body language and telepathy. They

don't have to rely on someone else to tell them how to live, how to survive: They know, and they listen to that knowing. Yes, humans have different needs and usually require more tools. But wouldn't it be nice to be liberated from technology that can be rendered useless by a lack of power or poor reception, or lack of fuel.

Animals, horses in particular, seem to have mastered the art of Zen-like being, something we humans strive to learn. Animals carry within themselves the tools they need to live, and partnering with humans who use external tools along with our creativity, creates some interesting possibilities for both parties.

Once humans start to fully regard animals as "who," rather than "that," we will start to see significant shifts in our world. If you embrace the idea of "treat others as you would be treated," and include animals, the paradigm shift from "that" to "who" is an easy next step, and the obstacles in thinking fall away. Instead of "can't do that" thinking, you move into "how?" thinking: How can this be better, how can this work for all of us together?

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## Federal and Industry Speakers Address AHC's 2015 Issues Forum

(Washington, DC)- A broad range of speakers from the federal government and the horse industry addressed the American Horse Council's National Issues Forum in Washington, DC on July 16. The theme of the forum was "Protecting and Promoting the Horse." This year's forum, sponsored by Luitpold, drew a crowd of about 175 and was held in conjunction with the AHC's annual convention, which ran from July 14 to 17 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. "We were very pleased with the crowd and the presentations," said AHC president Jay Hickey, "particularly the afternoon sessions which were very upbeat and highlighted the efforts of six organizations working hard to attract people, particularly youth, to the horse experience and keep them involved."

### USDA and the Horse Industry

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture led off the morning program. Most were from the Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which may have the most day-to-day contact with the horse industry of any department in the federal government.

"The horse community may not understand how USDA and the industry interact on a daily basis. The forum provided an opportunity for attendees to hear from the front line of the Department's team protecting the health of our horses and the economic viability of the industry," said Hickey. "We are very pleased that the Department chose to send eight speakers to the forum and we are grateful that they shared their time and expertise with our attendees throughout the convention, particularly now when the agency is so busy battling an unprecedented disease outbreak of avian influenza."

Gary Woodward, Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS, opened the forum. Mr. Woodward explained how the Department and the equine industry interact in a wide variety of ways, ranging from protecting horses from the importation of diseases, detecting and addressing disease outbreaks, collecting national information and statistics, enforcing federal programs for the welfare of horses, and providing grants and support to industry-led projects that support or protect the nation's equine population.

Mr. Woodward announced a financial commitment from the USDA to the industry's Equine Disease Communication Center, the importance of which was discussed throughout the AHC convention at committee meetings and general sessions. The communication center is an initiative of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Horse Council to develop a national hub of information for equine disease reporting, similar to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which alerts and educates the country about human diseases and outbreaks. "We very much appreciate this contribution. It signifies federal recognition of how important the Equine Disease Communication Center is to the industry and the role the horse community plays in preventing infectious diseases," said Dr. Nat White who has been leading the effort to get the communication center up-and-running.

Dr. Alecia Naugle, Director of the Sheep, Goat, Cervid and Equine Health Center for Veterinary Services (VS), APHIS, recounted the importance of horses in her life and to the country, and introduced the staff accompanying her.

Dr. Rory O. Carolan, the Equine Health Team Leader for Surveillance, Preparedness & Response Services for VS-APHIS, is often the first person contacted by industry for help. Dr. Carolan provided an overview of the Equine Health Team, its mission, its cooperating partners and the diseases of concern in the United States. He explained the Department's responsibility to regulate the industry, conduct investigations and enforce federal requirements involving illegal importation or exportation of horses, illegal production or distribution of veterinary biologics, enforcement of the Commercial Transportation of Equines to Slaughter Act, and the process for veterinarians to become USDA-accredited.

Dr. Josie Traub-Dargatz, Professor of Equine Medicine at Colorado State University and Equine Commodity Specialist for APHIS, spoke about the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), the NAHMS Equine 2015 Study, which

is underway, as well as a review of an Equine Herpesvirus Case Control Study. She mentioned the development of a National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD), active monitoring of equine laboratory submissions to anticipate disease outbreaks, and current and potential distribution of the Cayenne Tick in the U.S. Dr. Traub-Dargatz noted that portions of the NAHMS study could be delayed by the Department's emergency response to the extensive outbreak of "bird-flu."

Dr. Joyce Bowling-Heyward, the National Director of Import-Export Animals Staff at USDA, APHIS, VS updated attendees on NIES current activities. She noted that NIES has now approved three new private equine quarantine facilities, and there is a potential for more. Dr. Bowling-Heyward said that APHIS was standardizing import processes to make it easier for shippers to request services and for APHIS to track needs and assign personnel. She hopes this will make the import process easier and more efficient.

Dr. Ellen Buck, the Equine Import Specialist for the USDA, APHIS, VS, explained the roles and responsibilities of the NIES in equine import and export, regionalization evaluation services for policy development, as well as special planning and coordination for American-hosted international equine events. Dr. Buck noted that NIES is working closely with the World Organization for Animal Health and other major trading partners on proposed protocols for the import of a subpopulation of "High-Health, High Performance" horses that compete at the top level of equestrian sports, including showing and racing, to make their international movement easier.

Dr. Rachel Cezar, of APHIS' Animal Care Horse Protection Program, spoke about the actions being taken to enforce the Horse Protection Act. She described sorting, the equipment and chemicals used for sorting, as well as the industry enforcement and federal oversight provided by the USDA under the Horse Protection Act. Dr. Cezar also mentioned the USDA Office of Inspector General Audit from 2010 and the status of the changes proposed in that audit.

Chris Messer, with the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, wrapped up the USDA's presentations with a description of NASS and the process for the upcoming 2017 "Ag Census." She provided an example of the form for equine census information and elaborated on how individuals can access information from previous census results.

### Unwanted Horse Coalition Celebrates 10 Years of Action

Following the extensive presentation by USDA, there was a special recognition of the Unwanted Horse Coalition, which operates under the umbrella of the AHC, and is celebrating its 10th anniversary. A video on the UHC was presented. It can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESzlr9EBaZg>

Dr. Doug Corey, the chairman of the UHC, discussed the events that led to the formation of the UHDC in 2005, its current activities, and future plans. Dagmar Caramello, director of the UHC, also explained the educational programs and initiatives of the UHC, particularly its Operation Gelding program which has assisted in castrating over 1,100 stallions over the last few years at clinics in 33 states.

The UHC presented an award to Dr. Kent Carter, president of the

Association of Equine Practitioners, for the AAEP's foresight in organizing the UHC and their continuing support.

### Van Ness Award

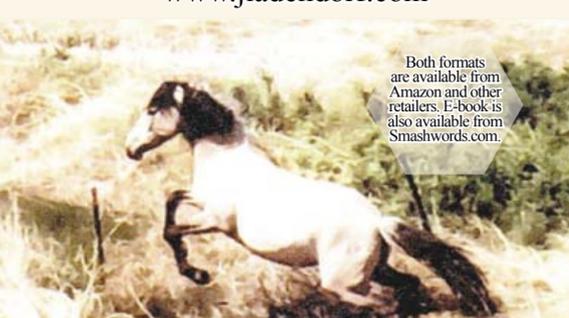
The AHC also presented the Van Ness Award to Yvette Anderson-Rollins of Springville, Indiana during the annual meeting at a special luncheon. The Van Ness Award is presented annually to an individual who has shown leadership and service to the horse community in his or her state.

"Ms. Anderson-Rollins has dedicated her life to creating, maintaining and promoting land and trail usage both in Indiana and nationwide," said AHC president Jay Hickey in presenting the award to her. "She is a true educator in conservation, planning, and government affairs, and has worked tirelessly to open lines of communication, keep them open, ensure concerns are heard, and answers found to major problems."

In accepting the award, Ms. Anderson-Rollins said "I am truly honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the Marjorie Van Ness award. When I look at all those who have received this award before me and their great accomplishments, and the knowledge they have shared, I am overwhelmed by their dedication to the betterment of the horse.

## Quest for the Silver Mustang

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# White Horse Ranch

By Kari Hagstrom

with the animals.

"Our sessions run 90 minutes. It's so interesting. I feel led through each session, and they're all different. Every day there's a different message. The horses know what the kids need and just rise to the occasion. They offer peace and comfort, not judging. The kids' defenses just unravel around a horse, and many for the first time can tell their stories," says Dahlen.

"Many kids are in situations beyond their control and they are being let down; a lot of them are let down by their own parents. Where is their trust and confidence? They get out here and get to build that trust and experience unconditional love that they receive from the animals. The trust that's been broken, even by their own parents, gets restored," says Dahlen.



"I give God all the credit; this was his idea/plan, he's just asked me to implement it. The animals show up, who need to be here. Apache [a paint gelding] was donated. I was not sure how he was going to fit at first, because of his lack of confidence and trust. He came from a good home, but developed trust issues very early in life as a result of abuse and neglect. He's an amazing horse and loves the kids. Last year we had a girl come out who was a fetal alcohol baby with attachment issues. She was nuzzled by Apache and Spirit down both sides of her body. She picked out Apache to work with, who was the only adopted horse on the ranch at the time. When she found this out, the girl opened-up and started telling her whole story. That horse was supposed to be here for her. Apache had trust and confidence issues. I see that all the time here, where a kid with a specific issue chooses the horse with the matching issue.

"Being with the horses really helps build the confidence of young girls, especially since they struggle so much more with identity. I let them know how special they are, that they were created for a reason and a purpose. They all have gifts and talents waiting to be discovered. In talking to them I relate the different breeds of horse to different purposes we all have in life: the thoroughbred was created to race, the draft horse to pull heavy loads, the quarter horse to handle cattle; we all have different purposes and different reasons we are here. There's always something you can draw on

"One boy came out, and with a look of total fear said, 'Do I have to ride? I'm not going to get thrown off a horse.' He would not come within ten feet of the horse. I introduced him to Vision, our blind pony, and told him her story of love and trust. The walls of fear started to fall as his compassion for this horse overtook him. Within 20 minutes he was riding Vision. It was then that he started sharing his real concerns, which really had nothing to do with being fearful of the horses. At the end of the session he wanted to take Vision home with him. It was three days later that he returned. The smile he was wearing this time lit his entire space. The first place he went to was to see his new friend, Vision. This time when he rode, he told me 'Because of Vision I'm not going to be angry with my sister anymore; I'm just not going to be angry.' He continued to share his love for this horse. It was almost time for him to leave when he brought up a gift for Vision. It was a heart-shaped white rock he found earlier in the week that he had been carrying in his pocket. This boy not only gave his heart, but his treasured heart rock to this horse. We cannot begin to understand what this experience meant to this compassionate young man. Within a week of his visit, Vision received a letter from

him stating how much he trusted, loved and missed her, and how he cannot wait to come back," said Dahlen.

An autistic boy was at the ranch working with Spirit. Spirit was getting impatient from standing and began to paw the ground. Dahlen had a good talk with the boy about patience and the importance of being patient, something the boy admitted was hard for him. Again, the horses seem to draw something out for the kids to learn from. There are some children who are not as connected to the horses, so there are always alternative choices at the ranch: feeding the chickens, grooming horses, feeding or cleaning pens, etc. One little boy only wanted to catch frogs. Another little boy said, "I just wanna feed the chickens." The autistic boy wanted to "lube that leather." The kids are encouraged to explore, and given that freedom, to find a common ground to create a connection so they can express themselves in hope and in trust.



Above: Spirit nuzzling a girl at White Horse Ranch. Top right: A young girl riding Faith at White Horse Ranch. Top left: Gina Dahlen leading Vision as a little girl rides. Photos courtesy of White Horse Ranch.

peutic non-profits have to rely on. That and sheer hard work.

Dahlen, who has a teaching degree in physical education and adaptive [special needs] physical education from Bethel College in St. Paul, took on a second job this past fall to support the ranch. As the ranch does not yet have an indoor facility, it is limited to only fair-weather operation, though some people do still come out to be with the horses during the winter. Dahlen worked initially as a substitute teacher for West Central Schools in nearby Barrett, and was later hired as a full-time paraprofessional helping in special ed. She got up at 4 a.m., did chores at 4:30 a.m. (in Minnesota in the winter—outside), got ready and went to school. After school, she had chores again, and sometimes a client would come out to be with the horses. She said she usually tried to be in bed by 8 p.m. Her husband, Doug, runs an engine repair business on the farm.

WHR was fortunate to receive a large hay donation this past winter, and relies primarily on private support, and has received some smaller grants. As a rescue, WHR also takes in at-risk and in-need horses (even a dog, now and again).

With a powerful dream and a powerful vision, White Horse Ranch is moving forward. To more fully support their work, and to make the work more accessible during the winter months, they want to build an indoor arena—out on the flat farmland of west central Minnesota, it gets cold and windy in the winter, with subzero wind chills the norm. They recently have moved into working with veterans, which, as with the kids, is enormously powerful, empowering and healing—but usually requires night time hours. More people could be served with the time and shelter provided by an indoor arena.

White Horse Ranch's plan B would be to buy an existing and well-established equine therapeutic facility nearby, take over the existing client list and services from the soon-to-retire owners, and serve even more people. It would be quite a

leap for a new non-profit, but the ultimate goal is to serve many and well. But it can't be done alone. Life is a team sport, and to grow, nourish and sustain itself and those it serves, WHR welcomes support. See the website for more information: [www.whitehorseranchmn.org](http://www.whitehorseranchmn.org).

"I've learned to be in the moment," says Dahlen, "in the moment with the child, with the horse. You can't do anything about those other things; it takes a toll, it takes a lot to focus on those other things, so I stay in the moment and see what unfolds.

"I've learned not to get ahead of God; that just causes more stress, and financially, are you ready to handle it? I've learned that whenever you're given a task, God gives you the grace for the arena you're supposed to be in. God will equip you. Crystal Peaks has the practice of 'Pray. Listen. Do.' on every decision, and I try to model after that here.



"The lesson that Vision [the horse] teaches so often is that she didn't give up. She's a blind horse and she didn't give up.

"Don't give up, no matter what you're faced with." That's what she teaches the kids and shores up their confidence. And being around so much compassion just unravels their defenses so they can connect and heal," says Dahlen.

With such a powerful and empowering vision, and a small but dynamic Vision, Dahlen and White Horse Ranch continue to grow and to serve wounded, at-risk, in-need horses, kids, veterans and others. They help to effect the healing of society's wounds. Gina Dahlen and White Horse Ranch: They ride on Faith, Spirit and Vision.

For more information on White Horse Ranch, go to [www.whitehorseranchmn.org](http://www.whitehorseranchmn.org). Donations may be made through their website. You may also sponsor a horse or volunteer. Destiny Equine Intervention, dba White Horse Ranch, is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

## NEW USDA PORTAL ENABLES FARMERS, RANCHERS TO REQUEST CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE ONLINE

Washington, D.C. – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners can now do business with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through a new online portal. With today's launch of Conservation Client Gateway, producers will have the ability to work with conservation planners online to access Farm Bill programs, request assistance, and track payments for their conservation activities.

"What used to require a trip to a USDA service center can now be done from a home computer through Conservation Client Gateway," Vilsack said. "USDA is committed to providing effective, efficient assistance to its clients, and Conservation Client Gateway is one way to improve customer service."

Conservation Client Gateway enables farmers, ranchers and private landowners to securely:

- Request NRCS technical and financial assistance;
- Review and sign conservation plans and practice schedules;

- Complete and sign an application for a conservation program;
- Review, sign and submit contracts and appendices for conservation programs;
- Document completed practices and request certification of completed practices;

- Request and track payments for conservation programs; and

- Store and retrieve technical and financial files, including documents and photographs.

Conservation Client Gateway is entirely voluntary, giving producers a choice between conducting business online or traveling to a USDA service center.

"Our goal is to make it easy and convenient for farmers and ranchers to work with USDA," Vilsack said. "Customers can log in 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week, to electronically sign documents, apply for conservation programs, access conservation plans, report practice completion, or track the status of conservation payments. Through Conservation Client Gateway, producers have their conservation information at their fingertips and they can save time and gas money by reducing the number of trips to USDA service centers."

Conservation Client Gateway is available to individual landowners and will soon be extended to business entities, such as Limited Liability Corporations. It is part of the agency's ongoing Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative, which will feature additional capabilities in the future.

For more information about Conservation Client Gateway, visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway)

## AAEP Foundation Accepting Applications for Equine Research Fellows

Applications are being accepted until Aug. 1 for the 2015 American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation Past Presidents' and EQUUS Foundation Research Fellows.

These annual scholarships are awarded to AAEP-member veterinarians who are beginning careers in equine research. Each recipient will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship during the AAEP's 61st Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., December 5-9, 2015. The AAEP Foundation Past Presidents' Research Fellow and the EQUUS Foundation/AAEP Foundation Research Fellow, established in 2006 and 2011, respectively, emphasize the importance of equine research while rewarding researchers for their personal contributions. Acknowledging the increasing need to train future equine veterinary research-

ers, the Foundation created the research fellows to help supplement post-graduate and residency research fellowship salaries and benefits. These scholarships are made possible through the monetary contributions



*The AAEP Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization created in 1994, serves as the charitable arm of the American Association of Equine Practitioners to improve the welfare of the horse. Since its inception, the Foundation has allocated more than \$3 million to support its mission.*

*The EQUUS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2002, mission is to improve the quality of life of horses, promote the use of horses to enrich the lives of those in need, and educate the public about the horse's unique ability to empower, teach and heal.*

of AAEP past presidents and The EQUUS Foundation.

"Although it is common for veterinary graduates with an equine interest to pursue residency training in a clinical specialty, it is difficult to get them to the next level of pursuing a career in research and teaching mainly due to economic constraints," said Jeff Berk, VMD, chairman of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Council. "If our knowledge of horse health is going to continue to advance, we must encourage more veterinarians to become researchers. We can't thank the The EQUUS Foundation and AAEP's past presidents enough for supporting those pursuing careers in equine research."

Ideal candidates for the research fellows are graduates of an AVMA-accredited school/college of veterinary medicine who have experience conducting equine research and are nearing completion of a residency or doctoral program. Applicants who are seeking funding for their research project or have secured funding from other organizations are eligible to apply, as the scholarships focus on supporting the researcher, not the project.

To download a copy of the scholarship descriptions and

## Lusitanos

*continued from page 10*

successfully in show jumping, eventing, and combined driving competitions.

### Information Resources:

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D'Andrade, Fernando. *A Short History of the Spanish Horse and of the Iberian "Gineta" Horsemanship for Which this Horse is Adapted*. Lisbon, 1973.

Interagro Lusitanos, "The Origins and Evolution of the Lusitano," [www.lusitano-interagro.com](http://www.lusitano-interagro.com).

Ladendorf, Janice M. "Working Equitation," *Valley Equestrian News*, March 2013, p. 13.

Llamas, Juan. *This is the Spanish Horse*. J. A. Allen, 1997.

Loch, Sylvia. *The Royal Horse of Europe*. J. A. Allen, 1986.

## Chester Weber and Cosequin® Continue to Drive to the Top of World Leader Boards Together

Lahden, Germany (July 26, 2015) – While Team Weber was making America proud with another top Four-in-Hand finish in Europe at the CAI3\*-H4 World Cup Qualifier in Lahden, Germany, long-time partner in Team Weber's drive to win—Cosequin® from Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.—was inking an agreement to continue as Official Marathon Carriage Sponsor for Chester Weber Combined Driving.



Throughout their 19-year history, Chester Weber and Cosequin have shared views from the top of leader boards at the world's most prestigious CDEs, earned three World Equestrian Games Silver medals and 11 U.S. Equestrian Federation Four-in-Hand National Championships, and reached number one on the FEI world ranking for the sport.

Cosequin® has been part of the program for Team Weber's equine athletes since 1996, and recently shared in his second consecutive victory at Royal Windsor and personal congratulations from HRH Queen Elizabeth. Weber's most recent four-in-hand success was in the CAI3\*-H4 World Cup Qualifier in Lahden, Germany on July 19-21, despite a large field of competitors and an exceptionally challenging marathon phase.

"The marathon was the highlight," Chester Weber said. The team took reserve overall in Lahden's final standings, including a strong second-place (37.22)

in Dressage and third in Marathon.

"It was likely the longest, most difficult marathon of my career," he added before praising his horses, including Uniek (aka, Nick), one of two 16.2-hand bay KWPN geldings provided to Team Weber by Jane Forbes Clark (the other being Splash). At Lahden, Nick competed for only the second time

"I am a firm believer in keeping my horses on a program that includes Cosequin's broad spectrum joint enhancer," says Weber. "For teams to succeed at national and world levels, it's necessary to have a sound and experienced group of athletes who show up for work eager to train. Keeping my horses on Cosequin means I can build a team with experience and, to gain experience, horses need to be ready to work every day."

"I recommend Cosequin to anyone interested in building great horses, because fit horses can perform, and the more they perform, the more experience they gain—it's essential to develop veteran partners. From the start, one of my older horses showed such obvious improvement that it made me a believer in the product. I have seen the radiographs on some of my older horses improve after being on Cosequin, which doesn't usually happen."

since Weber's Silver medal triumph in Normandy at last year's World Equestrian Games. "He had a great show and was steady from the first through last step," said Weber.

Weber is grateful to Cosequin for providing him with products that help his team achieve such placings. "Para is 18 now and has been on Cosequin since 2006, and continues to look strong and go well," he commented about the KWPN teammate. The Team Weber regimen includes Welactin® Equine, an omega-3 supplement designed to support overall equine wellness, and Cosequin® ASU Plus.

Learn more at [www.cosequinequine.com](http://www.cosequinequine.com).

Follow Team Weber and the official Cosequin Marathon Carriage at [www.chesterweber.com](http://www.chesterweber.com). Photo: Chester Weber continues to drive to the leader board with his Official Marathon Carriage Sponsor, Cosequin (Photo courtesy of HIPPOEVENT)

## UHC Releases New Brochure on Gelding and Spaying

Washington, DC—The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) is pleased to announce the availability of its new informational brochure, "Preventing Unwanted Horses: Geld and Spay."

The brochure, which was created as a supplement to the UHC's highly successful Operation Gelding program, highlights the benefits and importance of gelding, spaying, and hormone therapy as these practices pertain to responsible horse ownership and the issue of unwanted horses.

"Preventing Unwanted Horses: Geld and Spay" includes an introduction about the unwanted horse issue and reasons horses become unwanted; a discussion about responsible breeding and how owners and breeders are exercising responsible ownership by considering gelding and spaying; brief explanations of gelding and spaying and how these practices can positively impact equine population, breed quality, and behavior; and information about Operation Gelding.

Operation Gelding continues to help castrate stallions across the country. Now in its fifth year, the program has assisted in castrating 1,128 stallions at 93 clinics in 33 states.

In the past year, Operation Gelding has been responsible for castrating 320 horses in 26 events across the country. These included

events at veterinary schools and clinics such as, the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia; the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in College Station, Texas; and the Springhill Equine Veterinary Clinic in Newberry, Florida. Multiple clinics were also held at equine rescues around the country, including Helping Hands, Hearts, and Hooves in Ellenboro, North Carolina, and Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue in Jones, Oklahoma.

Operation Gelding is able to operate thanks to the support and seed money provided by the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation, Zoetis, and the UHC. All proceeds from the sales of Dr. Jennifer Williams' book, "How to Start and Run a Rescue," and Ellen Harvey's book, "Standardbred Old Friends," also help fund the Operation Gelding program. Books can be purchased on the UHC website: [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org)

Operation Gelding offers funding assistance to organizations and associations that wish to conduct a public gelding clinic under the name and guidelines of Operation Gelding. An organization that has completed an Operation Gelding clinic will receive funding of \$50 per horse, with a \$1,000 maximum, to aid in the costs associated with the clinic. Funds will be awarded to participating groups once in a 12-month period.

Operation Gelding currently has funding available for organizations that would like to host their own Operation Gelding clinic.

The UHC has also released an update of "The Problem of the Unwanted Horse," a brochure which describes the coalition and its activities.

Both brochures are available free through the UHC. To request brochures or for more information on how to host an Operation Gelding clinic, contact Dagmar Caramello, UHC Director, at [dcaramello@horsecouncil.org](mailto:dcaramello@horsecouncil.org) or 202-296-4031.

### About the Unwanted Horse Coalition

*The Unwanted Horse Coalition represents a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to educate the horse industry about the unwanted horse issue.*

*The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the plight of the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address this issue.*

## 2015 RSNC WORLD FINALS EXCEEDS 4,600 TEAMS

Wellington, Colorado - There were a total of 4,608 excited and energized teams of Ranch Sorting competition at this year's RSNC World Finals held July 8-13 in Fort Worth, Texas at the Will Rogers Memorial Center Complex. This was the third year for the Finals of the Ranch Sorting National Championships at this prestigious facility, and the sport continues to see tremendous support from equine enthusiasts all across the country.

Dave Wolfe, president and founder of the association, said "The most exciting part of the results of this year's event is that of the 18 classes offered for all different levels of the competition, all but two saw an increase in entries and the two with the highest percent of increases were the Beginner Ranch Hand and the Beginner Youth classes. Those are the

two introductory classes for new novice members and this continues to be where our association excels." Just this year RSNC has gained over 1,600 brand new members with our overall membership now exceeding 23,000 since its inception in 2007. Many equine associations are experiencing a decline in participation but RSNC continues to grow at a rapid pace.

Another group of classes that experienced a strong spike in participation were the Futurities and Maturities. Last year there were 74 teams and this year there were 124. These are high stakes classes with high entry fees and huge payouts. Contestant's horses have to qualify through stallion, trainer, owner and sales company nominations. In these classes the emphasis is on promotion of the horses within in our

sport. Wolfe said "Over the last five years the quality of horses have improved tremendously. Many are by some of the top cutting horse stallions within the industry." Ranch sorting is quickly becoming one of the premiere cow horse competitions available, with skilled horsemen and exceptional horses competing. Overall, the Futurities and Maturities paid out over \$64,000, and, with this kind of payout, RSNC expects to see even more of the top cow horse riders and horses joining in to compete for the big purses.

RSNC has nine different rating levels so anyone who can ride a horse has a chance to be competitive. Many of the RSNC members are brand new to cow horse competition, but even for new members, there are introductory classes with payouts of \$20,000 and above.

You don't need a trainer or even experienced cow horses at the introductory levels to be competitive and to win big payouts and exciting awards including saddles and buckles. This year, RSNC sanctioned events paid out over \$2.1 million in cash and hundreds of thousands of dollars in awards. The 2015 World Finals paid out an additional \$400,000 in cash and awards.

The sport is now expanding internationally with RSNC partnerships in Brazil, Australia and Canada. Without question, ranch sorting, as the fastest growing equine sport in the world, is quickly becoming a sport of choice for the entire family and a premiere equine activity.

More RSNC at [ranchsorting.com](http://ranchsorting.com)

Take the MHARF Challenge

SAVE THE DATE  
September 19  
U of MN

## Stories From YOUR Valley!

4H, WSCA, IHSA, Collegiate, Saddle Clubs, Breed Organizations, and more ... send us your NEWS!

[thevenews@gmail.com](mailto:thevenews@gmail.com)



**Cowboy Up**  
Ride Against Cancer

Visit us online at [www.cowboyupride.com](http://www.cowboyupride.com) for more information on all our events and to find out how you can help.

### 2015 Cowboy Up Events

May 16 - VFW - Dilworth  
Cruising For The Cure  
Motorcycle Run & Cowboy Up  
Kickoff Celebration

June 15 - American Legion -  
Moorhead, MN  
Burger Night 5:30-7:30pm

June 20 - Wyndmere, ND -  
Muddin' Up for Cowboy Up  
4 Wheeler Run I am - The Well

June 27 - McLeod, ND -  
Miss Cowboy Up Pageant  
12pm interviews open to the public  
at the Silver Prairie Saloon  
4:45 Coronation Ceremony at the  
McLeod Stampede

July 10 - Leonard Country  
Club - Leonard, ND  
Swing For A Cure Golf Tournament

August 14 - McLeod, ND  
Trail Ride, Ranch Rodeo at the  
Rodeo Grounds, Silent Auction &  
Street Dance with TBA

August 15 - McLeod, ND Trail  
Ride, Silent & Live Auctions &  
Pitchfork Fondue  
Street Dance with SILVERADO

### Year of the Child



**Because Kids  
Get Cancer Too**

### Cowboy Up History 2005-2015

3478 - Registered Riders

\$15,000 - American  
Cancer Society

\$480,855 - Roger Maris  
Cancer Center



### Available Now

2015 Hat & Lapel Pins  
Only \$5 Get yours  
while they last!



Find us on  
**Facebook**



### 4th Annual Cowboy Up Swing for a Cure

Location: Leonard Country Club  
5274 153rd Ave SE, Leonard, ND 58052

2-man Scramble, w/o handicap

Friday, July 10th, 1pm  
Shotgun Start

Cost: \$55/per golfer

Includes 18 holes, cart, & steak dinner after the  
tournament

Contact Shane Haugen @ [shane.mhaugen@hotmail.com](mailto:shane.mhaugen@hotmail.com)  
or 701-388-5890

All proceeds go to the Roger Maris Cancer Center  
Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer \*\*\*\*\* [www.cowboyupride.com](http://www.cowboyupride.com)

### Some Kids wish

To be a Cowboy 

To be a Princess 

To be a Chef 

or a Farmer 

 Other kids wish  
FOR A CURE  
so they can GROW UP 

All Proceeds Benefit the Roger Maris Cancer Center.