

## Celebrating 83 Years!



SMCHA's Horsewoman of the Year: Jo Egenes

Winter 2023



577 Airport Blvd., Suite 400, Burlingame, CA 94010



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### Didjaknow

By Bob Rosenberg

Horses can't talk, but they speak if you listen.

## Cover

Congratulations to Jo Egenes, SMCHA's esteemed Horsewoman of 2023. Jo has been an amazing ambassador for the Woodside and San Mateo County horse communities for many years. We will be honoring her at our upcoming annual gala in the spring!

## Cowgirls' Quarterly

A Message from Your Presidents Deb Alvarado, Sharon Butler, and Deb Vasquez



## **Stay Active In Your Equine Community**

Happy New Year! This is the time of year folks renew memberships and think about joining new clubs/groups. We sure appreciate our members, and we hope you'll take a moment to renew your SMCHA membership today.

Why SMCHA? Well, we have something for everyone. We support all riding disciplines and encourage all types of riding - recreational through competitive - and we embrace all breeds of horses, pedigreed or not. We host horse shows, clinics, social events, seminars, playdays, rides, fundraisers, & educational activities for the entire community

As an SMCHA member, you will get discounts from some of our advertisers, receive pre-invites to upcoming outings and events, and remain informed through eblasts about horse-related issues impacting our community.

As a bonus, your membership includes our quarterly magazine, The San Mateo County Horseman. This magazine contains heartfelt stories, historical articles, veterinary information, updates about our equine community, a calendar of local events and fun games, and puzzles.

It's simple! If you want to meet and spend your time with other horse-loving enthusiasts and make new friends who share your passion for horses, SMCHA is the club for you. Don't delay. Sign up today by sending in the membership form on the back page of this magazine or by going to our website — www.smcha.org.



#### The San Mateo County Horseman Magazine

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#### **Magazine Content**

Marcy Rosenberg Elizabeth Ouellette 650.248.3409 elizabetho@outlook.com

**Advertising** SMCHA@smcha.org

> Design Colleen Combes

**Cartoons** Chris Romano-Pucket

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## **ASK THE VET**

## **Equine Parasites**

Reprinted with permission from Black Diamond Veterinarian Clinic (www. blackdiamondvet.com/blog/equineparasites)

A lot has changed in the way that we manage equine parasites and deworm horses in the last 30 years. Prior to the invention of conventional paste dewormers, horses suffered from high parasite burdens that could cause ill thrift, form impactions of their intestines or even cause blood clots of the gastrointestinal tract arteries and veins. The few medications that were available were administered using a nasogastric tube directly to the stomach and a high dose was given to kill off worms.

Once Ivermectin came on the market for veterinary use in the late 1970's, the way we dewormed horses changed forever. Ivermectin is a powerful drug against the most sinister of the equine parasites and helped significantly reduce mortality rates from parasitism. Since that time a plethora of new deworming drugs have come on the market. Horse owners and veterinarians began administering dewormers every 2-3 months and rotating the medication used at each interval. This "rotational deworming" practice was studied, and evidence has shown this was beginning to selectively breed for parasites that are resistant to our worming medications. More modern deworming tactics have been aimed at improving equine health while not breeding resistance in our parasite population. More research coupled with more effective deworming medications has allowed us to tailor our deworming protocols to optimally treat each individual horse.

As a general rule for most adult horses the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommends twice annual worming (Spring and Fall) specifically to reduce the burden of strongyles in horses. However, with additional information and diagnostic tests we can closely tailor this strategy to each individual horse and life stage.

#### Fecal Egg Counts

Fecal egg counts are tests that evaluate manure samples to identify which parasites are currently shedding eggs.

Fecal egg counts are used to identify which horses on a property are considered "high shedders" and are contaminating the environment. These horses may require additional dewormers throughout the year to keep their shedding down and reduce the parasite burden on the property.

The best time to perform an annual fecal is mid-summer so that additional deworming can occur as needed for those individuals that are continuing to contaminate the environment. New horses coming into a herd should have a fecal performed prior to being introduced and should then be dewormed with the appropriate dewormer as indicated by the species population in the sample.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of total deworming events per year to only twice annually and save additional deworming for those individuals who truly need it.

A frequent misconception of Fecal egg counts is that if the fecal comes back negative (count of 0 eggs per gram) that no parasites are present within the horse. The fecal egg count can only detect parasites that are mature and actively shedding eggs. In addition, some parasites do not shed eggs in manure (such as bots and pinworms) and cannot be identified by this method. Even horses who test with a fecal egg count of zero eggs per gram should be wormed twice annually to protect them from parasites that are not shedding or not detectable in manure.

#### **Parasite Resistance**

The major reason we have diverted away from "rotational deworming" of our horses has been the emergence of parasites that are



resistant to our typical wormers.

These parasites are identified using a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT).

To perform this test a fecal is initially submitted. The results of this fecal are used to choose an appropriate dewormer for the individual horse. A second fecal should be submitted 14 days after the dewormer is administered and a calculation will be performed based on these results to determine if resistance is present. If a certain % of eggs are still being shed in this second sample, resistance has been identified and a different deworming agent should be selected.

#### **Deworming Young Horses**

Foals require specialized deworming programs because they are particularly susceptible to parasites during the first two years of life.

Foals are more prone to ascarid infestations - roundworms can become so numerous within the gastrointestinal tract that they cause a blockage. This blockage can be life threatening and may require surgery to be removed.

Foals should start being dewormed around 3 months of age with a Fenbendazole product and dewormers should be administered 3-4 times per year during the first two years of life. One of these dewormers should include an ivermectin product.

An appropriate deworming strategy for a foal would look like the following:

- 3 months old: Administer a fenbendazole dewormer—this targets ascarids
- 6 months old: Bring in a fecal sample for testing. This test will determine if another fenbendazole product should be used to deworm or if an ivermectin product should be used
- 9 months old: Administer a fenbendazole dewormer
- Yearling: Please deworm three times this year—one per quarter of the year. Bring in a fecal sample at 1 year of age.
- 1. Fenbendazole
- 2. Fenbendazole
- 3. Fenbendazole
- 4. Ivermectin + Praziquantel
  - 2+ years and up: Ivermectin in the fall and Quest Plus in the spring. Submit a fecal egg count once annually before deworming to screen for Ascarids.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommends that fecal egg counts are submitted at 6 months of age, 1 year of age and annually after 2 years of age to look for the presence of ascarids or other parasites of concern.

Using our knowledge of equine life stages and risk factors for parasites we can create parasite programs for individual horses. If you would like help creating a parasite control program for your horse or barn, a consultation can be booked to evaluate the populations on the property and implement a structured program.

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#### Subscriptions:

Subscriptions are available for \$40 per calendar year which includes membership in the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association. Please fill out and mail in Membership application on the back page of this magazine.

We invite you to grow with this magazine by promoting your service or product. Please send your ad and your check to San Mateo County Horsemen's Association.

> DEADLINE FOR ADS AND ARTICLES for the Spring 2023 issue is May 1, 2023.

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## 11 Things to Do with and for Your Horse When You Can't Ride

Written by Horse Learner in For Riders (horselearner.com)

#### **Tidying and Organization**

Remember those chores you put off because you just couldn't find the time to get to them? Now's the time! Few of us love tidying, cleaning, and organizing, but wow, it does make life so much easier and takes a weight off our shoulders once it's done. Let's all channel our inner Marie Kondo and get to work. Mirror, mirror on the wall, who has the fairest tack room of them all?

#### 1. Clean Your Tack and Equipment

No, it isn't fun, but now you have some time. Make this chore more enjoyable by listening to a podcast or audiobook, turning on some music, or inviting others to the barn for a social tack-cleaning event. Back in the day, we'd meet at the barn the night before a show to clean all our equipment and boost each other's morale. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know the other girls better and made the chore into an (almost) pleasurable event.



## 2. Take the Time to Repair Things That Need Fixing

Remember that hole in your right riding glove that always gets caught when you tighten the girth? Or the rim on the indoor rug that is starting to come loose? How about that feeding bucket where the handle keeps slipping out the latch on one side, causing you to spill feed, forcing you to carry it with both hands, and needing to take an extra turn to the feed room? Or am I alone here? Anyhow, you catch my drift. Take this opportunity to fix (or have fixed) the things that just haven't been prioritized until now.

#### 3. Set Your Intentions

If your break from riding will last for a more extended period of time, set goals for what you want to achieve by the time you get back in the saddle and make a plan for how to get there. Setting intentions and tracking your progress are incredibly powerful for maintaining motivation and keeping you focused.

I purchased The Passion Planner (Amazon), and I love how it is structured yet

still customizable and leaves space for creativity and colors.

#### **Learning and Development**

How about taking this little time out to learn something new? Gain a new perspective? We often get so caught up in our lives and routine that we forget the endless learning opportunities that exist out there. If you are curious about something – why not seize this opportunity to get started?

#### 4. Read Books for Self-Development

Do you cringe a bit at the term self-development? I used to as well, but not so much anymore. Getting ideas and inspiration for ways to improve my life and learning how it has changed others has opened my mind to new opportunities. It has helped me tune down the negative self-talk that so many of us are guilty of and tap into the belief that I deserve happiness and success, just like everyone else.



Self-development doesn't have to be directly related to your riding. Anything that helps you improve physically or mentally will ultimately improve your mindset, energy, and, indirectly, your riding (or so I believe, anyway).

If, for instance, you decide to take up daily meditation and find it calms you and makes you more patient. Guess what? You will probably be calmer and more patient as a rider and with your horse, which may improve your progress and your relationship with him.

#### 5. Take a Course

Is there a particular skill you would like to learn to reach a specific goal, or maybe just for fun? Why not take a course? Today, the online space is flooded with free or inexpensive courses that can make you a master knitter, powerlifter, or Instagram hotshot in 5 days or less.

Yes, the sales pitches are sometimes pretty ridiculous, but if all you have to

do is give up one of your email addresses (and later unsubscribe if you don't like what they have to offer), what do you really have to lose? YouTube is also a fantastic source of information and may very well be enough of a learning platform, depending on the goal you have in mind.

Personally, I have decided this year is the year I will do a handstand! Stay tuned.

## 6. Become Familiar with Your Horse's Vital Signs

Over a 2-week period, check the pulse and temperature of your horse, so you can more easily recognize when he is sick, or something is wrong. This will also be very useful information for the veterinarian to gauge his condition. Make sure you do it at the same time of day (preferably in the morning), as these indicators will vary with feeding, activity, and temperature changes.

#### 7. Volunteer Your Time

How about using some of the time you would otherwise spend in the arena to help out with local shows or competitions at therapeutic riding facilities, horse shelters, or other equestrian communities that need a helping hand? Not only are you contributing to the equine community, but you will have the opportunity to meet new people, learn new things, and feel good about the effort you put in for others.

#### **Just for Fun**

Sometimes, it is good to forget all about competitions and training and just have some fun with horses. Here are a few ways we thought of, but we'd love to know how you have fun with your horse.

#### 8. Have a Photoshoot with Your Horse

Have you seen those dreamy Pinterest images of horses and their owners out in nature, in perfect lighting, taken at the perfect moment where she looks relaxed and happy, and the horse is (for once) keeping his ears pointing forward? Why not get one of those for yourself?

Recruit a local photographer. Perhaps you have a friend who is an amateur photographer, or maybe you want to go all out and hire someone professional. In either case, those images can make such a lovely memory and you can FINALLY get a photo you are proud of

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## Jerry Tindell Clinic: All About Horsemanship

#### By Jen Breeze

In October 2022, Jerry Tindell had a Horsemanship 2 Clinic (with an introduction to cattle) at Kastl Rock Ranch in Half Moon Bay. I have been a student of Jerry's for many years, but this was my first cow clinic with him. The clinic had to be rescheduled from June due to the EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis) that was going around. When we finally met, I was ready for it! Jerry had my Curly Missouri Fox Trotter mare in training early in the year, so I was excited to take her to a clinic and ride. My cousin came up to ride my pony for a girl's weekend getaway. We ended up staying in an Airbnb and then at a hotel. What a treat!

One thing I appreciate about Jerry is that he includes the auditors as students; they are not just spectators. Many riders knew each other from previous clinics, but we did have newcomers. I was elated to see an old friend from Napa whom I had not seen in at least five years. I like how Jerry brings all the new people in with his regular students, leaving no one out.

Jerry's clinics start with a 9 am overview, which includes plenty of coffee. He has a topic and goes over the plans for the day. At the end of his talk, he asks all the participants to tell him what they want his help on. Hearing about other people's challenges is interesting because there is always something new to learn. My challenge was learning my new horse and trusting her movement, as she is very forward.

Then, we start with some groundwork before riding. We break around noon for lunch and more discussions. Finally, we ride until supper time. In the evenings, we usually have at least one dinner together where we laugh and enjoy ourselves. This clinic was a total of three days, allowing for a review of progress and highlighting growth opportunities each day. I like this clinic's length because it is long enough to see progress and develop new thinking patterns.

For me, the cow work was so fun. My new mare was responsive and enjoyed it. In the class, we talked about how the cows allowed us to work on our horsemanship and see where our holes were. For example, my cousin Dj learned that my pony had no stop when she needed it. I am learning to focus on my horse so she knows I am there supporting and helping her.



Saturday at lunchtime the founder of the Square Peg Foundation came and spoke. She showed us Stan, a horse they use to help people learn to ride. He does a piaffe in hand to show rhythm to the kids with whom the foundation works. I was grateful for the opportunity to hear about their mission and how they use horses to help a community of people. Square Peg is always looking for volunteers and help (www.squarepegfoundation.org).

Please refer to Jerry Tindell's website for more information on his clinics and teachings: jerrytindell.com/

## Starting Over with Off-The-Track Thoroughbreds

#### By Agi Yother

I fell in love with the beauty and athleticism of Thoroughbreds while competing in eventing in the early 90s. That love led me to become an exercise rider at Golden Gate Fields. At the racetrack, I fully understood how incredibly powerful and magnificent this breed truly is! My passion for riding and training these breathtaking horses took me on another path - retraining ex-racehorses for jumping, dressage, and trail riding.

This article is just a tiny sliver of all that goes into retraining retired racehorses. To learn more, contact me: agi@yother.com; 415-269-9184, www.facebook.com/agi.yother.

When working with an ex-racehorse (or with any horse, for that matter), take the time to assess each individual and how they respond to their adjustment to life off of the racetrack.

**REST:** Some time off after a racing career is often helpful to an ex-racehorse. Time to just relax and settle into their new environment before starting their new career can help a horse through this adjustment period. I have also worked with just a few retired racehorses who've not done well with time off but responded better to being put into their new work right away.

SHOES: Working with a good farrier to make the change from race track plates to regular shoes, or barefoot, is essential. It is key to have their feet evaluated and shod/trimmed according to the work they will be doing and the footing they will be working on. At most racetracks in the U.S., the horses walk on cement or a hardpacked surface from the barn to the track, and then they train and race on a carefully groomed and maintained surface. Making adjustments for various terrain conditions in their new home will help prevent them from getting sore or injured.

**TEAM:** Along with the farrier, work with a team of veterinarians, dentists, and bodyworkers to evaluate the horse's current condition. The team works to detect any health issues, discomfort or pain that could lead to behavioral issues and/or physical injuries as they begin their new work. If any issues are found, developing a treatment plan will guide the training progression for the racehorse's new career.

**DIET:** Gradually changing the horse's diet to a lower-energy feed and plenty of fiber/ roughage will also be vital in keeping the horse healthy in mind and body. Most



Agi Yother exercising a thoroughbred.

disciplines don't have the same energy requirements as racehorses, so helping them transition to a low starch/high fiber diet and customizing the nutrients needed for the horse's new discipline will be important. Keeping a close eye on their changing body condition and nutritional needs continuously will help to keep them healthy and happy.

**RELAXATION IN WORK:** Working on relaxation techniques to help lower adrenaline in the horse's system plays a big role in transitioning a horse from a racing career. The horse's adrenaline is elevated considerably when training and racing at the track. Lowering their adrenaline and helping them reach a parasympathetic state will ease them into their new life and training routine, increasing their understanding of the new work being presented to them. Various hands-on techniques and energy work will help the horse learn to self-regulate and lower stress levels.

STRESS: Creating a low-stress environment to live and work in will help prevent injuries and lower the chances of behavioral issues. Being aware of situations that are stressors for each individual horse, and making changes to those situations, will create a

positive learning environment and a healthier life for all.

**GROUNDWORK:** Groundwork helps give the horse a clear understanding of what will be expected in his new work without the added stress from a rider on board. At the racetrack, the horse is working on going fast and straight. Working in an arena, doing circles, corners, and bending are foreign subjects to most racehorses. Horses often favor one lead or are heavy in one direction when they come from the track. Working on the ground with various exercises will help the horse understand the balance needed for bending, circling, corners, etc. It will also help lower their stress and help them progress positively in their training. Improving the horse's ability to use both sides of his body and increase his flexibility with a variety of ground exercises, walk and trot poles, etc., has numerous benefits. Not only will it improve his physical body and reduce the risk of injuries, but it will also calm his mental state. Groundwork with various exercises can keep a horse engaged and interested in his work, and it also helps strengthen the

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## 3-Star Dressage at Webb

#### By Ashley McIntyre

Webb Ranch held its second 3-star horse show on October 14th. Thanks to the 57 awesome competitors and many sponsors, including SMCHA, Dave's Hay Barn, A to Z cookies, Zen Horse, Bayhill Veterinary, Peninsula Feed, Agi Yothers, WR Dressage, Coaching Reins, and Anja Lueders Dressage, the show was hugely successful. We also had a taco truck and a few vendors to make the day extra special. We are planning to have a show in the spring, so be on the lookout for upcoming dates!





Left: Left to Right -Tanisha on Armani, Ashley McIntyre on Tjerrie Von Halfweg, co-owned with Anna Ershova; Venita on LeMieux. Above: Tava on Elita.

## How to Shorten a Horse's Mane with Scissors

 $\pm$ 

Reprinted with permission from horsejournal.com By April D. Ray

I wanted the look of a tidy, short, thin mane, but didn't want to continue pulling manes... so I got creative. It's amazing what you can do with the right tools, some patience, and a little imagination. While some traditionalists will argue that the look achieved with scissors isn't the same as a pulled mane, I was happy to find another way to shorten and thin manes without inflicting pain on the horses I work with.

To get started, you'll need a pair of sharp scissors, a long plastic mane comb, and some sort of thinning device if thinning is desired. Personally, I'm a fan of the Solo-Comb, but there are many other tools on the market that don't involve pulling the hair from the root while still achieving a nicely thinned mane (see Figure 1).

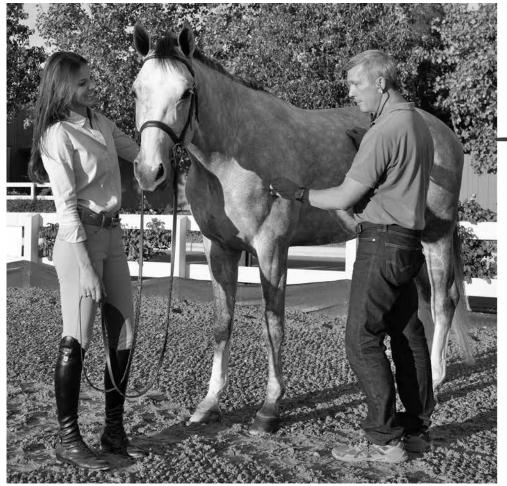
First, comb out the mane and ensure that it is lying flat on the neck and all on one side (see Figure 2).





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Newly-born Przewalski's Horse with its mom.

Photo by Ken Bohn / San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

## Good News! A Rare Przewalski is Born

#### By Good News Network (www.goodnewsnetwork.com)

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park announced the birth of a critically-endangered Przewalski's Horse-sometimes called 'the Last Wild Horse'.

Conservationists say this species of wild horse was categorized as Extinct in the Wild until 1996.

The foal is the first Przewalski's horse born at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park since 2014, and is one of only four individuals born in North America over the past year.

"Every birth is a tremendous moment, so we are elated by this new foal," said Kristi Burtis, wildlife care director at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. "They are an important wild horse species, and this new foal, along with each individual that was born at our parks, bolsters their fragile population—and represents our commitment to conserving them for future generations."

The youngster was born as part of a program that ensures genetic diversity among Przewalski's horse populations, which is overseen by conservationists nationwide. The California compound has seen more than 157 Przewalski's horses born at the Zoo and the Safari Park.

Formerly extinct in the wild, the Przewalski's horse has survived for the past 40 years almost entirely in zoos around the world, and nearly all of the surviving horses are related to 12 Przewalski's horses born in native habitats. Ongoing reintroductions of Przewalski's horses into their native habitats have established several herds in grasslands in China and Mongolia to maintain genetic variation.

In the past few years, scientists have started using new tools, such as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Biodiversity Bank, to expand the strength of the species' population.

Through a collaborative effort, science teams from the nonprofit Revive & Restore, the animal cloning company ViaGen Pets & Equine, and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance were able to achieve the world's first successfully cloned Przewalski's horse in 2020. Named Kurt, he was born to a surrogate mother—a domestic quarter horse—and is the clone of a male Przewalski's stallion whose living cell line was cryopreserved 43 years ago, as part of the Wildlife Biodiversity Bank.

"Kurt is significant to his species because he offers the hope of bringing back lost genetic diversity to the population," said Nadine Lamberski, chief conservation and wildlife health officer for San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The colt was named Kurt in honor of Kurt Benirschke, M.D., who joined the Zoo's research committee in 1970, and worked as the Zoo's director of research from 1974 to 1986. Before his death at age 94, he was instrumental in founding the conservation research program at San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, including the Frozen Zoo®, a critical component of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Wildlife Biodiversity Banking efforts.

Safari Park guests can visit Kurt in the Central Asia savanna habitat; and see the rest of the herd-including the new foal, who has not been named yet—in the Przewalski's horse habitat next door.





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#### 11 things to do

Continued from page 7



developed, framed, and hung in your home for everyone to admire.

Helpful tip: recruit a little helper for the shoot that can hold gear, help make sure your hair is looking great, and

gently rustle the bag of treats behind the camera to get the full attention of your horse for that one-in-a-million shot!

#### 9. Make an Equine Calendar

If you are not keen on the idea of your own photo shoot, put on your photographer hat and snap some good shots or your horse to create a calendar for the next year. Or you could even take snaps of the barn and its horses and offer the calendar for purchase to its regular clients and horse owners. Plenty of online sites allow you to upload your photos and order custom calendars. Perhaps include a citation for each month or highlight an achievement by someone at the barn. Use your imagination and make it something unique.

#### 10. Make a Fun GIF of Your Horse

Capture something funny your horse does on camera and make a GIF out of it. If you don't know how to create one, here is a great tutorial: blog.hootsuite.com/how-to-make-gif. However, an easier (yet less refined) way is to

record a video within Whatsapp and select GIF once you're done. I have used it a few times, and it always makes me laugh when others send funny GIFS to me.

#### Now share with equine friends and on social media for a good laugh!

#### 11. Recruit Newbies

Do you have a friend or family member who has always been intrigued by horses but never really tried riding? How about introducing him or her to the equestrian world? Perhaps it's just showing them around the barn, bringing them along to the night feeding, or introducing them to a horse, but it could also be giving them their first riding experience.

We hope this has inspired you to look at your time when you can't ride as an opportunity to train and bond with your horse, organize your barn life, and learn new things! Hopefully, you get back in the saddle soon, but make sure the journey is fun and stimulating for you and your horse!



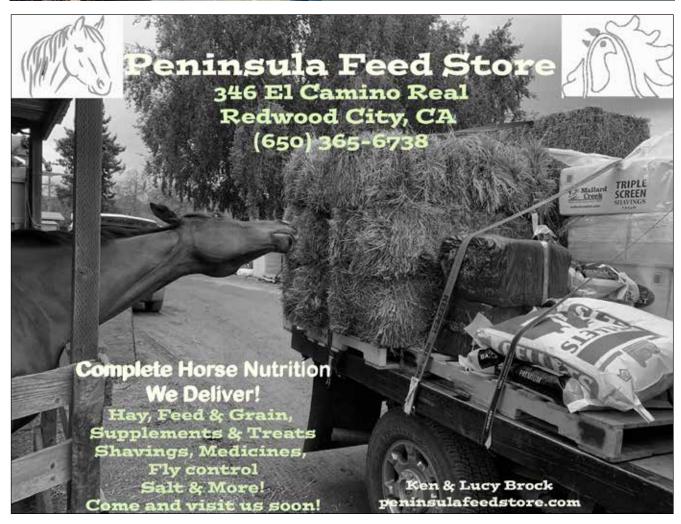


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## \$10,000 WOODSIDE-AREA **EQUESTRIAN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Now Accepting Applications Until April 30, 2023

#### WHY?

Joint sponsors the **Mounted Patrol** Foundation and the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA!) share a deep interest in the next generation of equestrians and a commitment to helping them achieve worthwhile goals.

#### WHO

Seniors who attend high schools in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco Counties who demonstrate involvement in equestrian activities, academic achievement and community service and demonstrate financial need.

#### WHAT

\$10,000 Woodside-area Equestrian Merit Scholarship Award will be paid directly to the recipient's college, university, trade school or continuing education program.

#### WHEN

Application deadline is April 30, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

#### More Information and APPLY ONLINE at

www.whoa94062.org/merit-scholarship www.mountedpatrolfoundation.org/Woodside\_area\_Equestrian\_Merit\_Scholarship.htm

ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR? APPLY TODAY! KNOW A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR? SHARE THIS WITH THEM!

#### Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks



HISTORY



The Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks have a proven track record of historic preservation-turning historic assets into valuable visitor experiences.

More than 10 years ago, the Friends restored the 1905 Folger Estate Stable from a nearly demolished state. Today, the restored stable is a thriving equestrian facility in the heart of Silicon Valley, and it features the popular Carriage Room Museum and hosts thousands of visitors annually, including school children for living history field trips.

Help us do it again!

The stone Dairy House in Wunderlich Park, built in 1874 by farmer Simon Jones, is a remarkable and charming structure that adds to the Historic Folger Estate District, nationally recognized on the Registry of Historic Places. Constructed near cooling spring waters and made of thick masonry walls, gabled roof, and a ventilating cupola, the Dairy House kept goods fresh in an era before refrigeration. We envision a future when a restored Dairy House welcomes history buffs and students to peek into the past, seeing hanging ham hocks, milk jugs, and bushels of vegetables.

Help us bring history alive! The Friends welcome keystone gifts to complete the \$250,000 historic preservation project that will preserve and rehabilitate this nearly 150 year old structure.

Contact us for your role in this effort: Kym at info@huddartwunderlichfriends.org

Thanks to Gonsalves & Stronk Construction & Architect Adolph Rosekrans for their generous donations to this project.









#### Shortening Your Horse's Mane

Continued from Page 11

Start at the top and use the plastic mane comb as a guide to get the length you want and keep it even throughout. Once the comb is at the desired spot, take the scissors at a 90-degree angle and cut up into the mane. Doing it this way will avoid the blunt look that results from just cutting across the mane. Don't be alarmed if it looks jagged at first as it takes some practice to get the hang of this. Making multiple small cuts will help achieve the look of a more natural mane, rather than one that resembles a bowl cut (see Figure 3).

You can also make cuts at a 45-degree angle, both to the left and the right, to further ensure a more natural look. Remember to start small - you can't put mane back if you cut too short, but you can certainly cut more if it's not short enough (see Figure 4).

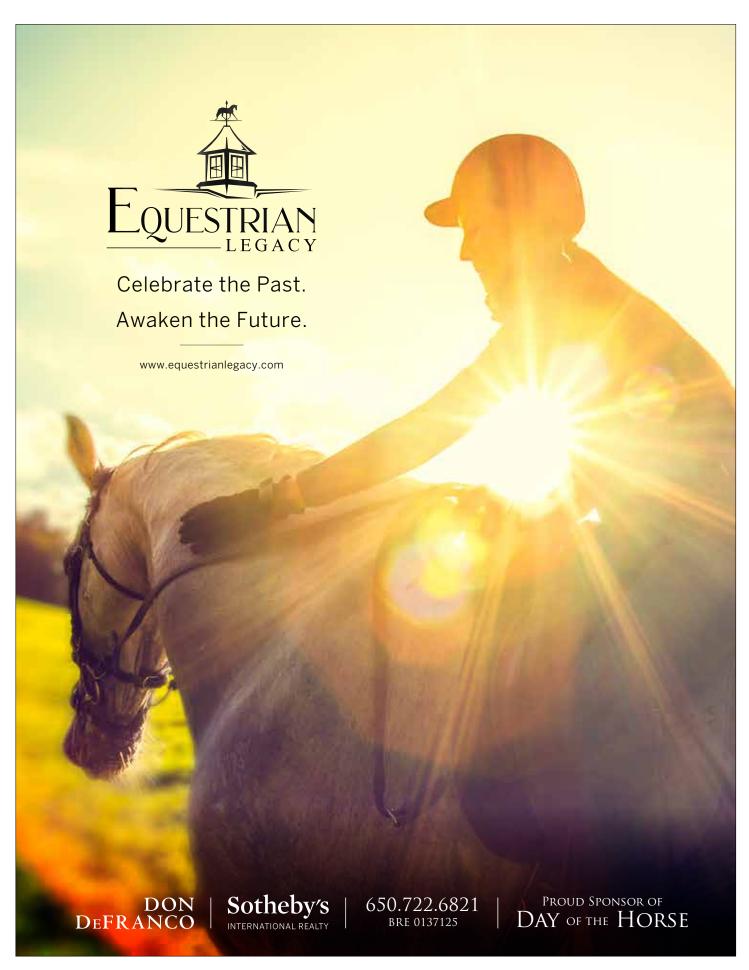
Once you are happy with the first section you can continue to work your way down the mane until you get to the end. Often this will be enough to achieve the look you want, but if your horse's mane is quite thick you can choose from several tools to help thin the mane without actually pulling it. I use the Solo-Comb, which gives the same result as pulling the mane, but cuts the hair instead. There are also thinning shears and various tools on the market to achieve the desired thickness of mane. Remember that typically the top and bottom of the mane are naturally thinner (see Figure 5).











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## I am thrilled to announce that I have moved my business to horse country.

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#### GIVING BACK TO THE HORSE COMMUNITY

I'm a life-long equestrian and horse advocate. I believe in the power of horses to change and enrich our lives.

#### **EQUESTRIAN LEGACY FOUNDATION**

President and Head Cheerleader A referral network that I am launching for civic-minded, equestrian realtors in the Bay Area and throughout the US.

#### SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

**Board Member** 

#### WHOA! STEERING COMMITTEE

Art of the Horse Chair

#### THE MENLO CHARITY HORSE SHOW

Sponsor and Committee Member

#### HORSE PARK AT WOODSIDE

Member and Schooling Show Sponsor

#### FRIENDS OF WUNDERLICH AND HUDDART PARKS

Board Member, Equestrian focused projects

#### HORSE'S HONOR

Donor

A horse rescue and sanctuary in Lincoln, CA.

#### SQUARE PEG FOUNDATION

Board Member

I work with autistic young people and horses.

#### PONY CLUB WOODSIDE AND PORTOLA VALLEY

Member and Supporter

#### PERSONAL

Resident of San Gregorio, CA. Married with four-legged "children" (5 horses, 2 dogs).

#### **PASSION**

Horses and beautiful architecture. Vintage anything. Travel and horses. Horses.



#### Don DeFranco

Broker Associate | Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 415.722.7259 | DonDeFranco.com | EquestrianLegacy.com



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## The Water Trough

Have fun reading our new column, The Water Trough (a rider's version of the Water Cooler!). Let us know what's new and exciting in your lives. Let's bring our community together by sharing news, fun facts and information! Got something to share? Send your info to me, Elizabeth Ouellette @ elizabetho@outlook.com

#### Olsen Nolte Flooded

Al and Nancy Baglietto of Olsen Nolte Saddlery at 1580 El Camino Real were seriously impacted by the atmospheric rivers which hit the area in January. The entire shop flooded, and it took a lot of human resources (Thank you to Carin



Zeller's son, Tyler, for his help building shelves to keep their precious saleable items out of the water and off the floor. You can help Al and Nancy save their business by shopping for your much-needed equestrian products at Olsen Nolte. Tell them the SMCHA sent you!

#### **Equestrian Legacy Foundation**

Don Defranco is about to launch his Equestrian Legacy Foundation (www.equestrianlegacy.com)! This is a referral network for civic-minded. equestrian realtors in the Bay Area and throughout the US who will donate a minimum of 10% of their sales com-



missions (when representing horse properties or horse people) to horse-related charities and initiatives.

#### Bay Area Flooding

San Mateo County experienced heavy rains, high winds, and power outages in January! Sharon Butler, Elizabeth Ouellette, and many of the front pasture people at Webb evacuated their sheds, fearing raging waters, downed trees, and crumbling embankment. Luckily, the damage was minimal, leaving horses, riders and tack unscathed.



#### **SMCHA Board Appreciation Night**



In December, Bottle and Bottega, members of the SMCHA board of directors met to explore their inner artist by participating in a fun and relaxing horse painting class. Look at these fabulous works of art! So creative!

#### **Exploratorium's Ghost Horse Exhibit**

The ghost of antique technology rides again (reanimated with LEDs) at the Exploratorium in San Francisco with the display Ghost Horse (2004), Michael Brown's



captivating experiment with 1870s photos. Moving picture technology didn't exist when Eadweard Muybridge photographed this racehorse. To reveal the mechanics of its gallop, Muybridge used a series of cameras triggered by threads the horse broke as it ran. The photos could be animated like a flipbook—a revelation that paved the way for movies, video, funny GIFs, and beyond.

#### **New Announcer's Booth**

Mike Bushue is leading the announcer booth project at Webb Ranch. Phase 1 included the demolition of the old structure. Moving forward, Mike has purchased the wood for the project and a frame is in the making. Stay tuned for updates!



## Welcome Our New SMCHA Board Members

#### Lucia Mokres

Lucia is an equine veterinarian by training (Colorado State University '03. She did her postdoc at Stanford and now works as an independent consultant in the device and pharma space. She has been riding for 36 years. Her horse Emaleen (Emmy), a nine year old,



16hh Oldenburg /TB has hock arthritis, making a career as an eventer unfeasible. She doesn't love arena work (too boring, she says) but is very smart on trail and is always game for an adventure. They are currently trying out for the Mounted Search and Rescue Team. She and Emmy are strongly interested in helping keep trail riding safe and accessible for San Mateo County horse owners, so she is particularly interested in the trail committee. That being said, Lucia is happy to help whenever needed and they look forward to engaging with the equine community.

#### Marcy Rosenberg

Marcy has been a member of SMCHA since 2015, when Sue Sheehan convinced her husband (Bob) and her to join the club during a membership drive. They've attended a few events over the years but have not been extremely active. Marcy does remember taking their 3-year-old granddaughter to Movie Night in 2016. She asked many questions



throughout the movie; Her neighbors may have had a tough time focusing on the film! This year she decided it was time to contribute more to this great organization. Her primary equine activity is trail riding, and she would like to contribute to SMCHA by assisting with the quarterly magazine and other organizational tasks.

Marcy is past president and has been on the Los Viajeros board of directors in one form or another since she joined the club (www.losviajeros. org) in 2013. This year she is the club's secretary. She and her husband have wonderful memories from the many overnight and day rides with Los Viajeros over the years. Marcy is also a member of San Mateo County's Mounted Search and Rescue (MSAR) group (www.smcmsar. org) and am currently the secretary of MSAR's Executive Board.

She retired in 2013 from IT at Silicon Valley Bank. She has been trail riding near their boarding facilities and in the beautiful Bay Area parks for 18 years. As a teenager Marcy rode on rental horses from stables, particularly near Guerneville on the Russian River. You know the ones, horses that you ride for 30 minutes out, and then they return to the stable in 15 minutes? Now Marcy rides her 20-year-old gaited, sooty palomino Morgan named BG. Between the couple, Marcy and Bob have three children and four grandchildren ranging from 7 to 23. Her other hobbies include tennis and watercolor.

#### Gabriela Marquez

Gabriela Marquez was born in Mar Del Plata, Argentina. She came to the United States 34 years ago, and this was when her love for horses began. Her passion for horses and dogs has grown annually, and she values them tremendously. Her lifestyle is heavily involved with animals, an essential part of her life. She's been riding her loving boy Walla

for the last six years. She enjoys sorting, obstacle courses, attending clinics, and, most importantly, riding with her special friends. "Horsemanship is a process and a progression," Gabriella says. "Everyday we can learn something new to enhance the relationship with our horses." She is so excited and honored to be a valued board member of the SMCHA in 2023, a year she hopes to work hard in promoting learning, fun and meaningful relationships with her furry babies.



#### Don DeFranco

Don DeFranco is honored to be a part of SMCHA and its mission. He realizes there is much to do to keep the horse community thriving, and he's ready to roll up his sleeves to get it done. Recognizing just how many people are priced out of today's housing market, Don is concerned with the alarming disappearance of horses in San Mateo County and beyond. He aims to promote horses and the equestrian lifestyle to all,



especially to our area's young families. Don comments, "If we can get Mom and Dad engaged with more than just writing checks, we will grow our community again. It has to be fun, and it has to be social. Let's get the kids off their phones and onto some ponies!"

One of five kids, Don was raised in Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky; he is NOT from a horsey family. He terrorized his poor parents until they got him his first horse. Next, he became a proud member of The Centaur's 4-H Saddle Club and showed his horse at county fairs, finally winning the blue ribbon at The Ohio State Fair.

Don's dad, a pediatrician, volunteered his time at the orphanage Mount Alverno Home for Boys. Once a week, he'd take one of his sons to play with the boys while he gave the children medical attention. Don now realizes that his father took them to the orphanage to demonstrate service to others and the importance of forgetting self as the best way to have a happy and meaningful life. Today he gives back as much as he can, both in dollars and especially time, which is a more valuable commodity in today's world. Don's focus is on horses because he believes they have the power to heal and empower individuals.

#### Current Horse Highlights and Service

- EQUESTRIAN LEGACY FOUNDATION, President and Head Cheerleader (See Water Trough)
- · WHOA! Steering Committee Art of the Horse Chair
- The Menlo Charity Horse Show Sponsor and Committee Member
- Horse Park at Woodside Member and Schooling Show Sponsor
- Friends of Wunderlich and Huddart Park Equestrian-focused projects
- Horse's Honor (a horse rescue and sanctuary in Lincoln, CA founded and run by Nina Thompson) - Donor
- Square Peg Foundation work with autistic young people and horses
- Red Rock Hounds Santa Ynez Hounds and Big Sky Hounds
- · Pony Club Member Woodside and Portola Valley
- · Personal resident of San Gregorio, CA. Married with "children" (5 horses, two dogs)
- Colorado State University ('03)









## San Mateo County Horsemen's Association

# 2023 Board of Directors



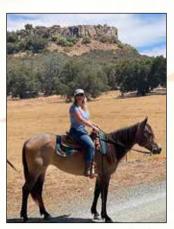
Deb Alvarado



**Cheryl Basin** 



**Bonnie Bertetta** 



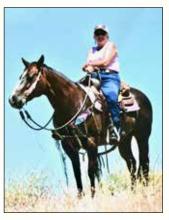
**Sharon Butler** 



Don DeFranco



Ceci Ellis



**Adeline Forrest** 



Maria Fonseca



**Christine Friis** 



Susan Jakubowski



Gabriela Marquez



Jenny Mize



Lucia Mokres



Noel Moody Honorary Member



Carey Lee Oberti



**Elizabeth Ouellette** 



**Marty Raynor** 



Tanya Rebarchik



Aleta Reed



**Marcy Rosenberg** 



Karen Rowley-Shawback



Mariangela Sonstegard



**Annie Tyo** 



**Deborah Vasquez** 



Carin Zeller

## The Holiday Season: What A Wonderful Time of the Year

By Jenny Mize

Our annual SMCHA holiday party was held on Sunday, December 11th, in the lovely outdoor covered arena at NCEFT in Woodside. Despite being a slightly blustery winter day, the covered arena kept us dry and out of the elements; thank you, NCEFT! Everyone in attendance was able to enjoy a wonderful spread of many different kinds of food and drinks while mingling with friends, new and old. The day's highlight was the freshly made, hot apple cider brewed by Karen. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute a dish.

A special guest appearance by Santa Claus himself made an excellent opportunity for fun holiday card photos! Santa collected a rather large collection of brand-new toys that will be donated to Toys for Tots for the underprivileged children in the county.

SMCHA is always so grateful for the generosity of our community.

Many local vendors and businesses (Agi Yother, Tyler C Bucks, Joan McLaren, Peninsula Feed, Cheryl Chandler, Olsen Nolte) generously donated gift certificates or items that were added to a collection of donations from the attendees. What a terrific selection for a fun raffle! A big shout out to Jenny and Mrs. Mize for helping with the raffle!

Toward the end of the afternoon's celebration, Chris Friis awarded Eliana Guitron with a scholarship donation to Pony Club where she will take lessons. Congratulations, Eliana!

SMCHA hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday season and wishes our equestrian community health and happiness for the











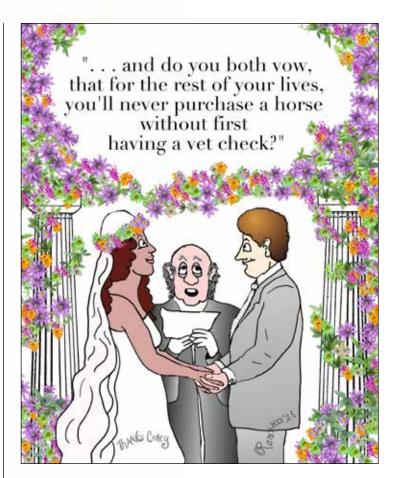
Clockwise from bottom left: Eliana receives from Chris Friis a scholarship donation to Pony Club. Don DeFranco gets his raffle prize. Karen and Gaby at the hot apple cider station. Betsy and Mike Bushue. Annie Tyo on Santa's lap.



Joining Santa are Jo Egenes and the Olive Hill Boarder gang.



The many delicious potluck treats.







## Mountain Bikes on Horse Trails?

## No Problem if You're Prepared

Introduce horses systematically to bikes, hikers, backpackers, strollers, and ATVs to reduce spooking on the trail.

By Robin Foster, PhD, Cert. Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB), Cert. Horse Behavior Consultant (CHBC)

Few things are more enjoyable than riding through the forest, coming around a bend in the path, and having the sky open to a breathtaking mountain vista. But today, equestrians are sharing the trail with a growing number of outdoor enthusiasts, and a rider might instead come around a bend in the path to encounter a group of day hikers or off-road cyclists. This has led many riders to seek advice on how to prepare for encounters with mountain bikes on horse trails.

In urban equestrian areas, off-leash dogs and baby buggies are often as common as horses. These unfamiliar, fast-moving and loud objects can frighten horses, causing them to startle, panic, rear, or bolt.

A few strategies can help prepare your horse for these contemporary trail obstacles and increase safety.

#### Know the Trail

Trail rules vary, but even in designated equestrian areas where horses have the right of way, people don't always follow trail etiquette. Other trail users might be unfamiliar with local ordinances, and they often have no experience with horses. Before heading out on a ride to explore a new area, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with the trail and the park rules.

Prepare in advance by learning about the park's flora, fauna, and terrain, as well as who you're likely to encounter, such as mountain bikes on horse trails. Some trails can be crowded, but others—like the stunning Norse Peak Wilderness area on the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington State—limit hiking group size and exclude motorized vehicles and bicycles. The primary reason is to prevent wildlife disruption, but these restrictions also benefit horseback riders.

Joining an established group of riders who have a wealth of local knowledge and experience is one way to learn more about your region's equestrian trails. In my state, the Back Country Horsemen of Washington is one such group; its members work with federal park agencies to maintain trails and advocate for equestrians.

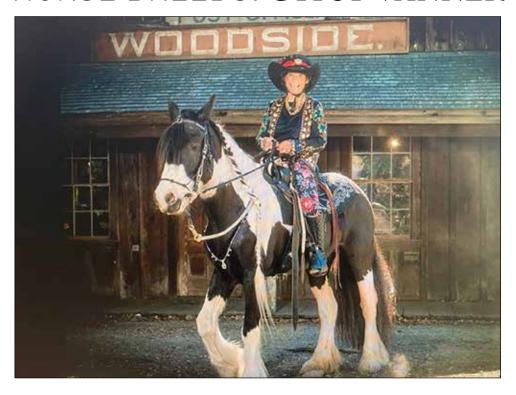
#### **Prepare Your Horse**

Historically, trail riding has involved traversing ravines, wildlife runins, and bushwhacking through heavy brush. Trail obstacle courses were designed to simulate and prepare for some of these challenges, and course designers threw in a few man-made obstacles, such as mailboxes and gates. In addition to these traditional obstacles, riders are now encountering an increasing number of mountain bikes on horse trails, along with hikers, cyclists, baby buggies, motorcycles and ATVs, which can be unfamiliar, fast, loud, and terrifying to many horses.

Positive or neutral experiences with obstacles beforehand can help your horse remain composed when coming across them on

Continued on page 36

## HORSE BREEDS: GYPSY VANNER



#### By Rebekah Witter

- Q: What do you get when you mix laid-back Clydesdale temperament with stunning Friesian glamour and blend in the feral hardiness of Dales Pony?
- A: The perfect breeding recipe for mystical, magical equine beauty and brains with lots and lots of fabulous hair - cascading forelock, long, flowing mane, and sassy feather!

Gypsy horses reflect the flamboyant style of the free-wheeling Romani nomads who traverse the country in poly-chromed 'mobile-home' wagons pulled by their equally colorful steeds. While the classic coloring is the bold black and white piebald or snazzy skewbald brown and white, solid colors are also prevalent: blacks, grays, silver-dapple, chestnut, and palomino - often set off by bright-white contrast on manes, tails, and feather.

Since World War II, Gypsies have been selectively breeding a scaled-down draft horse to suit their needs for pulling the family caravan: strength, heart, willing attitude, and easy-keeping fitness coupled with head-snapping good looks plus the unflappable confidence needed to face the many startling surprises today's modern roads throw at them.

In addition - because the Romani children are assigned horse-keeping duties - only kind, quiet, and gentle horses are kept for family vanner service. The result of these various working, temperament, and style demands created today's Gypsy Vanner breed - a gorgeous, loving, versatile horse great for everything from novice riders to expert competitors to enjoy - the perfect family horse!

Given the reputation of Gypsies' reverence for, and relentless pursuit of riches, their beautiful proverb underscores the love of their horses above all their other treasure:

"Gypsy Gold does not clink and glitter, it gleams in the sun and neighs in the dark."

A relatively new breed, the Gypsy Vanner registry dates back only to 1996. Just prior to that date, a couple from Ocala, Florida, Dennis and Cindy Thompson, were driving through the English countryside when Cindy caught sight of a bold black and white, piebald stallion that made them hit the brakes, get out and track down the owner. From that chance encounter came the Thompson's fascination with, and commitment to, the Gypsy culture and the Gypsy horse - for which they coined the name Gypsy Vanner, and started that first registry: The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society.

A light draft breed, Gypsy Vanners are typically between 13hh to 15hh, but there are mini Gypsy horses as well that run even smaller, and then there's the larger Gypsy cousin: The Drum Horse - a cross between Gypsy Vanner and Shire that stand between 15hh to 17hh. So, whatever size you prefer with this magical, mystical, fairytale look, you can find one - from mini to maxi and everything in between!

Just know that when you ride out on a Gypsy Vanner heads will turn, cameras will click, and fun conversations will start...

- Q: (asked in mouth-gaping wonder): Wow! What kind of horse is that?
- A: (answered with a big smile and swelling pride): This is a Gypsy Vanner...

#### Good video links for online format...

https://gypsygold.com/the-history-of-the-gypsy-vanner/ https://cielocelestefarm.com/stallions-2/st-clarins/ (St Clarins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQOM\_vbRvgw (Copper Coin)



2022

**All Grants** 

2022

2003-2022

\$36,992

16

**Causes** 

\$586,000 **Total Granted** 

#### A 501 (c)(3) organization supporting and promoting equestrian activities

The Mounted Patrol Foundation is excited to recap another successful year of supporting Equine Activities and Heritage. Since inception in 2003, over 72% of our grants have come from contributions from people like you, for which we and the recipients are forever grateful.

#### More about Selected 2022 Grants

#### **UC Davis Equine Program**

As a recognition and thanks to the 27 organizations that participated and supported the Woodside Town Council trail ride, the Mounted Patrol Foundation donated \$5,400 to help support equine veterinarian students and equine research.

#### San Mateo County Sheriff's Activity League

We worked with the Sheriff's office to provide horseback training and trail riding in Wunderlich Park for 42 youths, who had a great time and appreciated the opportunity.

#### Woodside Equestrian Merit Scholarship

The Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA!) and the MPF awarded our jointly-sponsored \$10,000 Woodside-area Equestrian Merit Scholarship to Iliana Close, who demonstrates outstanding involvement in equestrian activities, academic achievement and community service.

We will be awarding another scholarship in 2023. Please send the application to any eligible high school seniors you may know.

#### Western Heritage Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial support for higher education for high school students who represent Western Heritage deals, lifestyle and history, who have a financial need. This year it was awarded to Michael Procopio Santos. He is attending California State University, Fresno, and is studying Equine Science.

#### All Grants Made in 2022

Western Heritage Scholarship	\$8,317	
Equestrian Merit Scholarship	\$5,000	
NCEFT (general support)	\$3,000	
One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding (Veterans)	\$2,000	
Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks	\$1,900	
San Mateo County Horseman's Association		
SM County Sheriff's Activity League	\$4,725	
Sweetbeau Horses (Wild Mustang Rescue)	\$1,500	
Jasper Ridge CASA kids, Vet rides	\$1,000	
Square Peg Foundation	\$1,000	
Barron Park Donkey Project	\$1,000	
Bay Area Barns & Trails	\$1,000	
San Mateo County 4-H Scholarship Fund	\$1,000	
Town of Woodside	\$1,000	
WHOA! (Day of the Horse)	\$1,000	
Woodside Pony Club	\$1,000	
Horsepark at Woodside	\$750	

#### **Please consider donating to support Current Active Fundraisers**



#### San Mateo County Sheriff's Activity League - \$5,000 Goal -

We're continuing this very successful program in 2023. Please considering supporting horseback training and riding for these deserving youths. Since 1997, the Sheriff's Activity League has supported the prevention of juvenile delinquency.



#### **Western Heritage Scholarship** — \$7,000 Goal —

Scholarship recipient Michael Procopio Santos, above. We're continuing this program to provide another outstanding high school student who supports Western heritage ideals with financial support and an advanced education or training.

Learn more about our grant history or donate at

www.MountedPatrolFoundation.org



## Thank You to our Generous 2022 Donors!



Anne Van Camp Beverly Kane **Butch Coggins** Carol Goodstein Cherie Hammer Cheryl Basin

Chris Friis

**Cindy Sidaris** Don DeFranco Don Pugh **Gladys Martines** Jenny Mize Jo Egenes Kat Eshleman

Laura Schmidt Torres Lauren Renken Marty Raynor Nancy Tollner-Traube Phyllis Kayten Robin Camozzi Shan Egan

Sharon Butler Suzie Galvez Victoria Fought William Johnson

## iGive.com Steps Up Where AmazonSmile Left Off

Like many other non-profits, SMCHA is dismayed by the news of Amazon's surprise decision to shut down its AmazonSmile donation program. The e-commerce giant launched AmazonSmile in 2013, contributing 0.5% of eligible purchases made by participating customers to their chosen charity.

SMCHA co-president, Sharon Butler, is disappointed but not disheartened, "I'm saddened by Amazon's decision to stop its philanthropic efforts. Nevertheless, we can still rely on iGive. com, who is steadfast in its commitment to champion non-profit activities. IGive works with over 2000 stores offering donations from .5% to over 8% of your purchases to the charity of your choice (please choose San Mateo Count Horseman as your charity of choice)."

Don't delay; sign on to iGive.com today! Supporting SMCHA has never been easier! www.igive.



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We offer:

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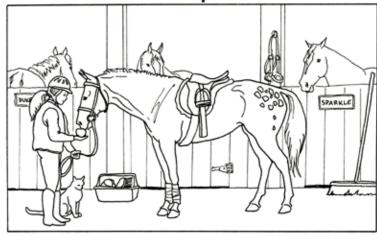
\*Our four-dog limit ensures your dog receives personalized care during every stay

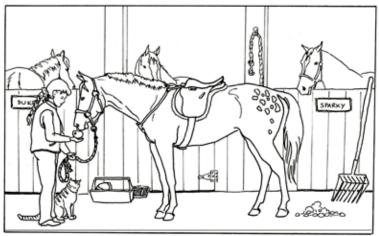
Cheryl Chandler 650-642-4223 crittercamp17@gmail.com Half Moon Bay, CA

#### **Funny Horse Quotes**

- If you are a horse rider, the number one thing to do is ... marry money!
- 2. How to ride a horse: Step One – Mount the horse. Step Two – Stay mounted ...
- 3. It is a lot like nuts and bolts—if the rider's nuts, the horse bolts!
- If you want a stable relationship, get a 4.
- Tell a gelding, ask a mare and discuss 5. with a stallion. Pray if it is a pony.
- Owning horses is perfect for people 6. who never want to sleep in ever again.
- Forget the prince, I'll take the horse. 7.
- Horses: much better than people. 8.
- 9. I never fall off. I dismount with style.
- 10. Horses are only afraid of two things:
  - 1. Things that move.
  - 2. Things that don't move.

#### Can you spot 15 things that are different in these 2 pictures





14. horse's mane, 15. girl's boots polo wraps on horse's legs, 11. pitchfork and broom, 12. manure, 13. breastplate on horse, stripes, 6. girl's hair, 7. girl's helmet, 8, stall name sign, 9. horse in stall wearing halter, 10. Answers: 1. Horse's bridle, 2 missing stirrup, 3. hanging halter, 4. brush out of box, 5. cat

#### Starting Off-the-Track

Continued from Page 9

horse for carrying a rider.

PREPARE: As the horse prepares to return to ridden work, I like to restart them as if they had not had a rider before. At the racetrack, the rider is given a leg up for mounting on a horse that is already moving at the walk or trot, so he is not at all familiar with standing still while the rider mounts. Teaching them how to stand still quietly at the mounting block is a prerequisite for starting ridden work.

TACK: Keeping the horse's tack similar to what they trained in at the track is a good way to get to know the horse without overwhelming them with too many new things. Most racehorses don't wear a bridle with a noseband, so keeping this in mind while looking at bridle options is helpful. Transitioning out of the lightweight racing saddle to a lightweight jump saddle gradually helps the horse get used to the heavier weight.

Start off on the right foot by making gradual changes with all tack and making sure all tack is appropriately fitted.

RIDING: Although the ex-racehorse is already trained under saddle, there are differences that should be considered. They are often not accustomed to the leg, and seat/weight aids most other disciplines require. The length of the stirrup is shorter, the weight of the saddle is lighter, and the use of the rein aids is completely different. At the racetrack, horses are taught to lean into rein pressure and to accelerate when the rein is gathered. The rider lightens the rein pressure to decelerate. For most disciplines, the rein aids are the opposite. If a rider wants a racehorse to accelerate, they lean forward and closer to the horse's neck while increasing rein pressure. An unknowing rider might get nervous and lean forward and inadvertently give the signal to run off!

STRENGTH: At the track, the horse's muscles are prepared for working at speed, with a lightweight jockey or exercise rider traveling straight ahead for most work. When restarting the ex-racehorse, working slowly to strengthen the horse's muscles to carry the weight of the average rider and to perform a completely different discipline will help prevent physical and mental issues. Introducing the leg and seat aids slowly when the horse is strong in his back, and keeping the initial under-saddle sessions short, will help keep the training progressing positively.

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# "Don't poop under the Apple Tree with anyone else but me, anyone else but me, anyone else but me. No! No! No!" ritter Comforts



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#### **Mountain Bikes and Horses**

Continued from Page 30

the trail. The first step is to simulate encounters in a controlled way. Training should involve three basic processes:

- 1. Gradual exposure
- 2. Systematic desensitization, and
- 3. Generalization.

Setups promote habituation, which is a decrease in response to the object with repeated exposure. You can achieve habituation through desensitization exercises.1 In systematic desensitization, the horse initially experiences a mild or weak version of the object, and when he no longer takes particular notice of it, you increase the intensity progressively.

For example, a bicycle might initially be parked and ridden at a distance from the horse, then progressively brought closer across several training sessions. After desensitization training, the horse should be much less likely to react to a bicycle on the trail. You can use this method with a variety of novel encounters, including hikers with backpacks and strollers.

In real-life encounters, some objects approach the horse head-on while others sneak up from behind, so you should also include these elements in the training setups.

"Approach conditioning" 1 is a desensitization technique for this purpose. For example, the rider or handler might encourage the horse to follow and approach a bicycle that is moving away from it. The "approach" behavior is reinforced when the bicycle retreats, and because it poses no threat, the horse will remain calm and get closer to the bicycle across sessions.

Generalization training is the final step; it involves repeating the exposure and desensitization exercises in several locations, at different times of day, and with a variety of people. By doing this, the calm reaction you worked so hard to achieve is more likely to generalize to other contexts, including trail rides.

#### Take-Home Message

With increasing regularity, horses are sharing the trail with more people, including hikers, cyclists, dirt bikes, and ATV riders. Concerns raised by horseback riders have prompted me to add new elements to our local Trail Obstacle Challenge event, including a stroller, bicycle, and miniature horse and cart, all of which are frequently encountered on the trails where I ride. The desensitization and generalization training steps outlined in this commentary can help prepare your horse for chance encounters with these obstacles.

#### References

1. McLean, A.N. and Christensen, J.W. (2017). The application of learning theory in horse training. Applied Animal Behaviour Science 190, 18-27

#### **Equestrian Websites**

Bay Area Savvy Players: bayareasavvyplayers.org

Backcountry Horsemen of California: bchcalifornia.org

Bay Area Equestrian Network: bayequest.com

BLM Wild Horses & Burros, California: wildhorseandburro.blm.gov

California Dressage Society, California: dressage.org

California State Horsemen's Association (CSHA): californiastatehorsemen.com

CSHA Region 6: csharegion6.org

Disabled Equestrians: disabledequestrians.org

Equestrian Legacy:ehttps://equestrianlegacy.com/home

Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee (ETRAC):

www.etrac-equestrian.com

Horse Park at Woodside: horsepark.org

Horsensei: horsensei.com

Into the Light Horse Rescue and Sanctuary:

(Facebook): intothelighthorserescueandsanctuaryinc

Jasper Ridge Farm: jasperridgefarm.org

Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association: lahha.org

Los Viajeros Riding Club: losviajeros.org

Mounted Patrol Foundation: mountedpatrolfoundation.org

Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County: mpsmc.org

San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation: smclaeg.org

National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT): nceft.org

San Mateo County Horsemen's Association: smcha.org

San Mateo County Sheriff's Mounted Search &

Rescue: smcmsar.org

San Mateo County Parks Volunteer Horse Patrol: smcvhp.org

Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association: sccha.org

Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association:

sccha.wildapricot.org

The BOK Ranch: bokranch.org

The Square Peg Foundation: squarepegfoundation.org

Veterinary Acupuncture and Rehabilation Services:

www.vetacupuncturesvc.com

Woodside-area Horse Owners' Association (WHOA!): whoa94062.org

Woodside Schooling Shows: www.woodsideschoolingshows.com



Would you like to meet new people who share your passion for horses? Do you have a unique talent or an idea for an activity/ ride to share? Maybe you've always wanted to put on your own event but needed the support of an equestrian committee. Now is the time to bring your ideas to the forefront. The SMCHA wants to hear from you! If you'd like to join our team, have fun and make your dreams come true, send us an email so we can bring your vision to life!

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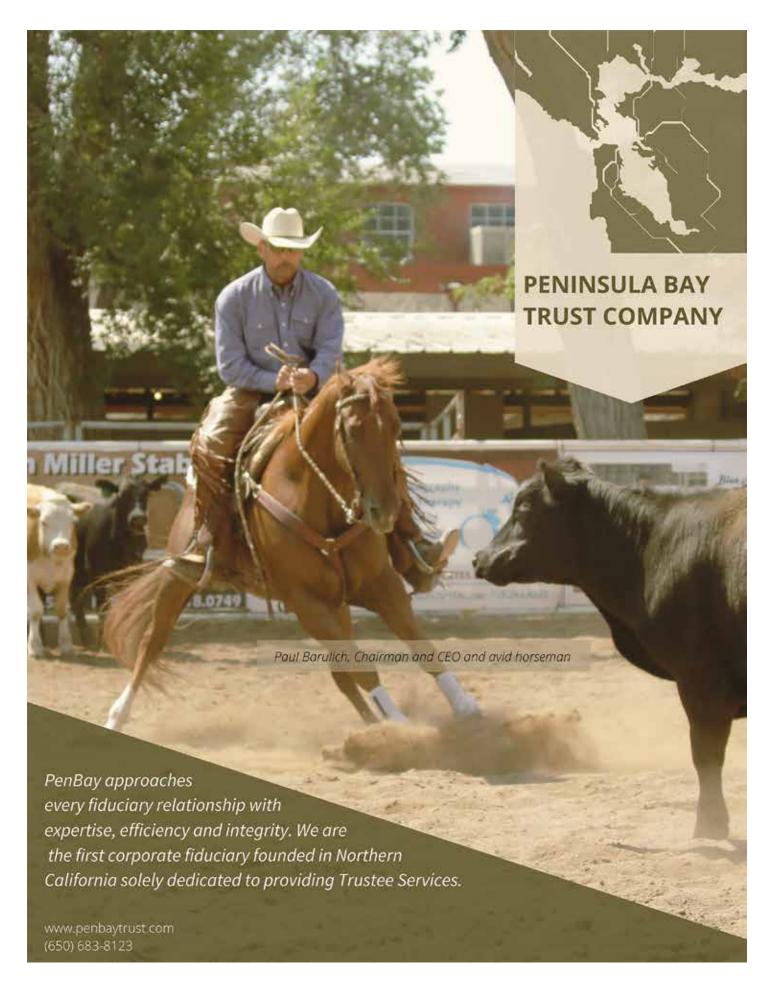
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Check our website for updates: www.smcha.org

#### January 2023

13 - SMCHA Board Meeting

#### **February**

9 - SMCHA Board Meeting

#### March

4 — Los Viajeros Ride

9 - SMCHA Board Meeting

31-April 2 — GSVRHA @ Corning

31-April 3 — Los Viajeros Ride

#### **April**

13 – SMCHA Board Meeting

14 - 16 — Woodside Schooling Show, Horse Park

15 — Tack Sale @ Rancho Attard, San Gregorio

22 — SMCHA Spring Ride at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

28-30 - GSVRHA @ Ceres

#### May

TBD — Gala to celebrate Jo Egenes, Horsewoman of the Year!

5-8 — Los Viajeros Ride

11 – SMCHA Board Meeting

12-14 — Woodside Schooling Show

@ Horse Park

13 — SMCHA Tea & Bingo

20 -21 — GSVRHA @ Carmel Valley

27 -28 — GSVRHA @ Paso Robles

#### June

1-5 — Los Viajeros 4-day Ride

4 – Joan McLaren's Tack Sale at Horse Park

8 - SMCHA Board Meeting

28-July 2 — Woodside Schooling Show @ Horse Park

#### July

7-10 — Los Viajeros Ride

8-9 — GSVRHA @ San Martin

13 - SMCHA Board Meeting

15-22 — Reining by the Bay @ Horse Park

20-24 — SMCHA Jack Brook Horse Camp

#### **August**

5 — Los Viajeros Ride

10 - SMCHA Board Meeting

12-13 — GSVRHA @ Carmel Valley

#### September

1-3 — GSVRHA @ San Luis Obispo

1-5 — Los Viajeros Ride

10 - SMCHA Fall Riding Clinic

14 — SMCHA Board Meeting

17 – SMCHA Fall Riding Clinic

24 - SMCHA Fall Riding Clinic

30-October 1 − GSVRHA @ Plymouth

#### October

1 — Fall Riding Clinic

6-8 — Day of the Horse (WHOA)

12 - SMCHA Board Meeting

20-22 — GSVRHA @ Las Vegas, NV

21-23 — Los Viajeros Ride

27-29 — Woodside Schooling Show

@ Horse Park

TBD — **SMCHA Halloween Play Day** 

#### **November**

5 — Los Viajeros Ride

19 - SMCHA Board Meeting

#### December

TBD — **SMCHA Holiday Celebration** 

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