



West Virginia Neighs & Brays

The official newsletter of the West Virginia Equine Association
"Uniting and Educating West Virginia's Equine Community"

www.wvequineassoc.org

April/May 2008

From the Horses Mouth

A Word From Our President; Laura Riddle

Got mud? If April showers bring May flowers then March showers must bring mud bogs! I have the worst case of cabin fever and I keep telling myself that Spring has to be just around the corner. Now I just have to figure out how to get Mother Nature to cooperate with me!!

Spring is a great time for equestrians but also a very busy time. Longer days and warmer weather mean more time spent with our equines. Baths, trail rides, shows, barn chores that have piled up all winter and so on. It is also a great time to inspect your barn and pastures for any hazards that may have "popped up" over the winter. Our education committee published a brochure titled "Equestrian Safety" that has a great list to refer to when doing your barn inspections. The brochure is available on our Website at: www.wvequineassoc.org.

Until next time, mount up and ride safe!!

Sincerely,
Laura Riddle
President

The Talk on the Fence

WVEA News

By Tina Jenkins

The WV Equine Association held a successful tack auction and spaghetti dinner in the Parkersburg area on March 15th in conjunction with a general meeting. Thanks for the support of those who attended. Discussion was held on the upcoming Lynn Palm clinic in May, discussion continued on the rescue-training seminar and we are working on getting it set-up for July.

The endurance ride dates have been changed to August 15 & 16 due to conflicts with a couple other rides in the Northeast region. Ride sponsors are already coming in if your group or business would like to be a sponsor of this years ride or if anyone is interested in helping out with the planning of the ride or as a volunteer at the ride please send an email to: info@wvequineassoc.org.

Our next meeting will be May 3rd following the Lynn Palm Clinic, specific time and location to be determined. Meetings are open to everyone and we hope that you will join us. Please check our website: www.wvequineassoc.org for updated information or send an email to: info@wvequineassoc.org.

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. If you have not renewed your membership you will not receive the next newsletter. Dues are payable online at www.wvequineassoc.org and clicking on the Join Us link or you can send cash, check or money order to West Virginia Equine Association P.O. Box 552 Fairmont, WV 26555.

WVEA Officers

President

Laura Riddle

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Secretary

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Board of Directors

Kim Bennett

Rachael Paris

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MISSION STATEMENT

The objectives and purposes for which the West Virginia Equine Association is incorporated shall be to:

Help promote and protect the interests of all WV equines and equestrians and to give aid and support to every type of equine activity.

Operate in a spirit of co-operation and to encourage communication among West Virginia's diverse equine interests.

Regulate, with others, the acquisition, building, maintenance and supervision of trails and rights-of-ways.

Share in the development of equine legislation, enhancement of the equine industry and the preservation and protection of equine traditions for the future.

Educate and be a source of information and referrals to the equine community and the general public.

Sponsor programs and demonstrations and to take such actions as the general membership directs.

"Horses lend us the wings we lack." ~Author Unknown

The Show Ring

MSH&MC Featured Member

My Sanity Depends on the Sanity of My Horse –

How Kim and Kid Chocolate came to be

By Kim Bennett

I probably looked at 80 horses trying to find that one. Attempting to be patient even though I wanted one so badly. I knew he would come and I would know it when I saw him. I almost got 2 horses for reasons of need and then something funny would happen and the whole thing would fall through.

And then one day Rachael (Paris) and I are saving a thoroughbred mare, 3 years old at the time and she is on the trailer. Raced the night before and today pointing a left front foot but better than her other option. Then there was this man, a wiry, slimy, porky little man who would not leave us alone. He said, "Hey there is this horse they are giving away, come and see it". With a horse on the trailer and a shady talking man before me I gave Rachael the "are we going" look. She said, "Ok lets go really quick and see". So off to the barn we went.



A little man named Danny, who looked like a leprechaun, was there with his very amusing voice. He told us he really liked this horse and that he was going to run him again but then get rid of him. All I could see was this warmblooded black head with a white star. I do not know why because I don't usually do this but I asked if I could go in there with him. Danny then said that it's probably not a good idea. He proceeded to walk in, as Kid Chocolate decided to bite at him with intention. Within a moment Danny was diving under the door to get out of the stall as the horse, teeth bared, was lunging at him simultaneously.

At that moment I was thinking you want me to take a horse I can't even go in the stall with. So Danny then proceeded to get this big black horse out. They were in the sunlight and Kid Chocolate was prancing and jiggling circles non-stop around this man. The man looked so small against this gleaming black thoroughbred. Every once in a while the horse would grab Danny's jacket looking like he would just pick him up off the ground and fling him away.

I was mesmerized at his presence and athleticism. I asked a few questions not really getting answers because I could only focus on this horse. Danny said he would call and we left. As we were walking away Rachael looked at me and said, "All these nice horses we see and you want the crazy one!" I remember after that not being able to sleep thinking about this horse. Asking Rachael over and over again did Danny call, should you call him? How about you run down to the track and ask what is going on.

Four months went by and he never left my thoughts. I said that first day to myself that's my horse. I was at the track weeks later for the West Virginia Derby with my family. At the last race a horse went down on the track and they euthanized it right there, once again thrown back into the reality of how depressing the racetrack really is. As we were leaving, my mom trying to be cheery said hey do you want to show us that Kid Chocolate horse that you might get. Disappointed and upset I said no he is not mine and may never be. He could die on the track his last race.



A few weeks go by and out of nowhere I get a phone call from Danny asking do you still want that horse? I about fell over, my blood started pulsing and I could feel

Continued on Page 3

"All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he'll listen to me any day." ~Author Unknown

my heart exploding. I said yes, he asked could you come get him around 6 o'clock. I panic, because he meant tonight. I call Rachael and she is going to help me haul. And then she remembers she has parent teacher meetings and cant miss them. So I was to tackle this beast alone.

Long story short, we made a few phone calls and things came together like I never thought they could. 24 hours later this horse named Kid Chocolate was a big strong puppy dog with a big presence. This horse has traveled from Florida to Canada, made over 200,000 dollars, and captured my soul. He is all I ever imagined in my perfect horse. He keeps me on my toes and notifies me when something is happening and I need to figure it out. He takes care of me, I have learned from him as he has learned from me. He speaks to me and I do the same. He will follow me anywhere and I him. I think in some way we needed each other and the universe made it happen...

Feed Bag

Spring Grass

Holistic Horsemanship®

By Jessica Jahiel

From: Stacy

Hi Jessica -

Thank you for sharing your knowledge in this wonderful public forum. You are truly helping horses and people.

My question is similar to some in the archives, but I need some further advice. I have 3 Arabian geldings that live with me on 10 acres in northern California. The horses are out 24x7 - there is a 3-sided run in shed and lots of oak trees to provide them shade/shelter from the rain. They get some exercise also because the pasture is on a hillside that they walk up and down.

Like many, I worry every Spring when the green grass comes up. My concern is that my horses eat way too much! They get quite fat...so I section off a 1/2 acre to put the horses in for part of the day. My question, since I work - I want to turn them out on the big pasture when it is 'safest' for them. Is it better to turn them out for the 12 hours in the evening, or the 12 hours during the day? Is there a difference in eating behaviors of horses during the day or night? Is there a difference in the nutritious value of the grass during the day or night? I have never had a horse colic or founder (knock on wood quite loudly!) but feel that I am on the edge each spring.

I see other horses on pasture 24x7 near me, that don't seem to get fat like my 3 'easy keepers'. One of the 3 seems to get especially plump, and develops a big cresty neck. He is the one I am most concerned about.

Thank you in advance if you choose to respond.
Stacy

Hi Stacy! Thanks for the kind words. Your question about timing is interesting. Since horses sleep only about four hours out of twenty-four, and can get their sleep in short naps, I don't think the timing will make much difference in terms of grazing time and total consumption. Whether your horses are in the pasture at night or during the day, they'll probably spend the same amount of time grazing in either case. But in terms of risk of grass founder, the timing COULD make a difference. In spring and early summer, when pasture grass is new and lush and high in sugars, you might do well to put the horses out at night.

There have been some studies of sugars in pasture grasses, the main one - fructan - seems to be at the HIGHEST level on sunny days between noon and mid-afternoon. The level then drops gradually through the afternoon and night, and is lowest just before dawn. So turning the horses out at night - once they're able to handle four hours or more of grazing - is certainly a good option. Check with your vet about this - he probably has access to more recent studies than the ones I've read.

I have a couple of "air fern" horses too - no matter how sparse the grass is, they can gain weight, and their silhouettes can change from "horse" to "sausage" in just a week or two. On lush spring pasture, they will quickly become fat unless their grazing time is limited, either by restricting the number of hours they are allowed to graze, or by restricting the amount of grazing they can do.

The riskiest time of year for horses being re-introduced to pasture is the spring, when cold nights and warm sunny days are causing new grass to develop inordinately high levels of sugar. If you live in a dryer, hotter area where grass is sparse, there won't be a sudden, dramatic transition between "winter, no grass" and "spring, lush grass", and your horses won't need the same slow, gradual transition from winter hay to spring pasture. If your horses are in pasture year-round, they won't need an owner-imposed gradual transition, because they'll be getting used to the new grass as it comes in. But if your horses are making the shift from drylot or stall and winter hay to pasture and spring grass, you'll need to start them off with fifteen or twenty minutes of grazing, then increase the time gradually over a week or two, until they are grazing for four hours at a time. At that point, you'll be able to allow them full-time pasture turnout - IF they don't become fat.

Some horses, like your easy keepers, will eat constantly - and very efficiently - if allowed full-time access to grazing. If the grazing is sparse, this won't be a problem, but if the horses are grazing in a carefully-maintained

Continued on Page 4

"There is just as much horse sense as ever, but the horses have most of it." ~Author Unknown

pasture, it may amount to too much of a good thing. If you're worried about fat horses, foundered horses, or both, either bring them into a drylot or sacrifice area and feed them hay at night, or turn them out wearing grazing muzzles that only allow them to reach a few blades of grass at a time, or keep them in the drylot eating hay until later in the summer when the pasture grass is slower-growing and more mature. Some horses simply can't be allowed more than a few hours of grazing each day, and for them, the muzzle may be the kindest option, as it will keep them moving happily around the field for many hours, taking perhaps twelve hours to eat the same amount of grass that they would previously have been able to consume in just three or four hours.

My preference is for the grazing muzzles, because pastured horses are generally healthier than confined horses. Horses wearing grazing muzzles DO get to graze constantly, albeit much more slowly, and can enjoy grazing and moving around in the company of their friends. But if your pasture is small or overcrowded, you may need to limit the horses' access to it for the sake of the pasture as well as that of the horses. Do whatever works best for you. As long as you keep an eye on your horses, are well aware of the signs of incipient founder, are prepared to pull your horses off the pasture if necessary.

Good luck - and remember to be careful later in the summer, if there's a weather change that creates spring-like conditions. A few days of summer rain followed by unseasonably cool nights and sunny days can cause your pasture grass to shift into rapid-growth mode again.

Jessica

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Farm Call

What You MUST Do Before Buying A Horse

By Jason Borchardt

ASK THE SELLER TO PROVIDE AS MUCH MEDICAL AND OTHER HISTORY ON THE HORSE AS POSSIBLE...AND DO THE "VET CHECK"!

This is a big mistake that I have made through the years when buying a horse. I either got too excited about the horse, got caught up on the price and/or how the horse performed, or felt uncomfortable asking for the

information. For whatever reason, I did not ask for copies of the horse's medical history or any other health records the buyer had.

On that same note, be sure to have the horse checked out by a veterinarian, you know and trust, before you make the purchase. In the past, if I were buying a horse below a certain value I would not go through the expense of doing a "vet check". In a couple of cases, because I did not do my homework up front, I have found myself spending a lot to fix a problem in a horse which was now my responsibility. In either case, I would have not made the purchase if I would have just paid for the vet check.

Our intended purpose for the horse will determine how far we will go beyond the basic "vet check". If it is a high-level performance horse we will do extensive X-rays and blood tests to assure, to the best of our ability, that the horse is sound and healthy. If it is a horse that will have less physical demands, we will usually stick to the basic "vet check" looking for visible signs of soundness and overall health. Now, having said that, not many horses which I have had checked by my veterinarian, have passed 100% with flying colors. But, the tests allow me to determine the level of overall soundness and health. Without this information, in most cases, we are making a blind decision. I have come to believe an investment on a "vet check" is well worth the money.

Here are a couple examples of my blind decisions:

We were looking for a "kid horse" for our 9-year-old daughter. We found what we thought was the perfect horse. The match was great. Horse liked girl, girl liked horse. We found the right color, right disposition, right breed, and even in our price range. We bought it. The horse comes home with us and over time starts to act funny on its left side when approached. Then one day, we were riding in the arena and the horse lopes into another horse like the other horse wasn't even there...really strange. So, I had the horse checked out and it was actually 95% blind in its left eye ("glass"/blue eye, so we could not tell visually). I have had other horses in my life visually impaired and they were great. However, this was for my 9-year-old daughter to use riding out on the trail, and I felt it was not a safe horse for her to have. If I would have simply "vet checked" that horse, we would have saved a lot of time and energy, and would not have had to break the heart of a 9 year old girl by having to return it. THIS particular owner DID take the horse back.

Another situation was in purchasing a cutting horse. This horse was older and not extremely expensive. My instinct told me to have the horse checked out, but I did not. Over time, the horse became very sore and seemed to not be sound. We took a trip to the vet, did some X-rays and found out that we were dealing with the start of navicular. The vet said we were about 3-5 years into the

Continued on Page 5

"A Horseman should know neither fear, nor anger." ~James Rarey

disease, and chances are it would get progressively worse. I had owned the horse about six months. So, if I would have done the "vet check" prior to purchase, and/or asked for the medical history of the horse, I would have probably known of the problem up front. As it turns out, I have spent a great deal of money keeping this horse comfortable. He still has a job that he seems to enjoy doing. He is a youth horse and starts a great deal of beginning cutters. However, he was purchased to be shown. Not having all of the information put me in a situation where I found myself spending dollars I hadn't planned to spend.

When I am asked to help people find horses and it comes to the vet check and medical history, my suggestion is to not move any further if the information cannot be given, or if the purchase will not allow time for the "vet check". My experience is that there is probably a reason why.

<http://www.ArticleBiz.com>

WVEA Lynn Palm Clinic

The West Virginia Equine Association is hosting a clinic with Lynn Palm on May 3 & 4, 2008 at the WVU Equestrian Barn in Morgantown, WV. We strongly recommend advance registration for all training participants; training slots will only be guaranteed for the first 10 riders each day of the clinic.



An event flyer and additional information is posted on our website: www.wvequineassoc.org. If you are interested in attending the clinic either as a participant or an auditor/spectator please send an email to: info@wvequineassoc.org.

WVEA Corporate Sponsor



We would like to thank Southern States for their support!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

“WV FARRIERS ASSOCIATION SPRING CLINIC & COMPETITION”

PLACE: GILMER COUNTY AG BARN - GLENVILLE, WV

DATE: APRIL 18TH & 19TH

For more info: Anthony Nelson - 740-236-2497

“SPENCER HORSE & TACK SALE”

PLACE: SPENCER LIVESTOCK BARN – SPENCER, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 2ND AT 7:30 PM

For more info: 304-927-5105 or 304-927-4817

“WOOD COUNTY HORSE CLUB MEETING”

PLACE: WOOD COUNTY LIBRARY – PARKERSBURG, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 6TH AT 7:00 PM

For more info: 304-863-5224

“EASTERN PANHANDLE SADDLE CLUB MEETING”

PLACE: SHONEY’S – MARTINSBURG, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 12TH AT 7:00 PM

For more info: 304-676-6677

“WV EQUINE ASSOCIATION MEETING”

PLACE: WVU EQUESTRIAN BARN - MORGANTOWN, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 3RD AFTER THE LYNN PALM CLINIC

For more info: info@wvequineassoc.org or www.wvequineassoc.org

“LYNN PALM CLINIC”

PLACE: WVU EQUESTRIAN BARN - MORGANTOWN, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 3RD - 4TH 8 AM TO 4 PM

For more info: info@wvequineassoc.org or www.wvequineassoc.org

“CENTERED RIDING CLINIC”

PLACE: TERRA ALTA LAKE FARM - TERRA ALTA, WV

DATE & TIME: MAY 8TH – 11TH

For more info: Carol Burdick - tachato@hotmail.com or 304-789-6864

Please check our website for more events: www.wvequineassoc.org

If you would like to submit an event, send it to: riddell@suddenlink.net.

Committees

Education: Andi Kerr – cedar1@outdrs.net

Legislative: Open – info@wvequineassoc.org

Publication: Laura Riddle – riddell@suddenlink.net

Trails: Open – info@wvequineassoc.org

Animal Welfare: Rachael Paris – srparis2@yahoo.com

Membership: Open – info@wvequineassoc.org

Fundraising: Kim Steele – kim@snsfarms.net

Please contact the chairperson listed above if you are interested in joining a committee.

Newsletter

If you have something you would like to submit for a future newsletter, please contact: rain@mljenkins.com

“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.” ~Sir Winston Churchill

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TYPE: New OR Renewal YEAR: 20 _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Applicant _____ Spouse/Partner _____ Total # in Family _____

Children Under 18 (names & ages) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home County _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

E-Mail _____ Website _____

Do you prefer e-mail or postal mail for receiving association correspondence?

Would you like more information about volunteering as a County/Regional Representative? Yes No

Would you be interested in volunteering for a committee? Education/PR Fundraising Legislative

Membership Publications Trails Welfare

Membership Fee: Junior (\$15) Individual (\$20) Family/Group* (\$25) Ind. Lifetime (\$300)

***Additional Group/Organization Information**

Group Name _____

Total # of members _____ Delegate's Name _____

Address if different than above _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ E-Mail _____

What equine activity do you engage in the most? _____

How many equines do you own? _____ Breeds/Types _____

How did you hear about WVEA? _____

(Make Checks payable to West Virginia Equine Association, Inc.)

Mail payment and application to: WVEA, PO Box 552, Fairmont, WV 26555

For Internal Use Only

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