



West Virginia Neighs & Brays

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

www.wvequineassoc.org

August/September 2008

From the Horses Mouth

A Word From Our President; Laura Riddle

Well...I honestly can't believe it is time for another newsletter already. I have been so busy with preparations for the upcoming endurance ride that I almost completely forgot. Where has time gone?

Spring and summer are a busy time for equestrians; the WVEA has also been very busy. We have several events coming up this year and are also working on events for 2009. The 3rd annual Peace Point Endurance Ride will be held Aug 16th & 17th at Peace Point Equestrian Center in Bethany, WV. We have a members' fun camp Sept 27th & 28th at the WVU arena in Reedsville, WV. The 2009 Lynn Palm clinic will be May 16th & 17th and will also be held at the WVU arena. We are still working on plans for the large animal rescue seminar and hope to have those details finalized later this year.

These events are only possible with the help and support of our members, if you are interested in helping with any of these or other events please contact us at: info@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 trail clearing and marking day on July 26th (that lasted until the 27th) at Peace Point Equestrian Center in preparation of the upcoming endurance ride. WVEA will be having another day's worth of trail work to do, if you would like to help please email info@wvequineassoc.org. WVEA is also still looking for volunteers for the Endurance ride and before the ride August 14th thru 17th.

The WVEA also held a general meeting on the trail clearing on Saturday the 26th. Members discussed the progress of several upcoming events. Our next meeting

will be September 27th at the WVU arena in Reedsville, WV in the evening during the members' fun camp. If you would like to participate in the camp please R.S.V.P by September 17th. Stalls will be available during the event for those who register before the event on a limited basis. More information on the members' fun camp can be found in on page 2 of the newsletter. 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.

WVEA Officers

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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.

"I've spent most of my life riding horses. The rest I've just wasted." ~Author Unknown

Under the Stars

Members' Fun Camp
WVEA Featured Event
By Tina Jenkins

WVEA will be hosting a family oriented weekend out with our horses and our fellow equestrians on September 27th and 28th at the WVU arena in Reedsville, WV. This event is open to current WVEA members. After all the work the membership puts toward all of the activities and education efforts to the entire WV equine community it was decided to take a break and let members enjoy being together with both our friend and their horses.

WVEA members all have something that they can share with the rest of the participating members, whether it is how to take vital signs for your horse or how to clicker train it to do a trick. This is an opportunity for everyone to share that with each other. It is not mandatory for anyone to help other members but it will come naturally as we all spend time together.



The arena is indoors and also has a rail to trail close by so if you prefer to do some training/playing in the ring or go on a group trail ride those opportunities will be available to you. This event will not have a schedule but will simply be members having fun. There will be some times set aside for specific things in the arena to keep things safe for both kids and adults. Additionally there will be quiet hours set for both the barn and the camping areas so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy themselves. Additionally this will be an alcohol free event.



The WVU arena has about 40 stalls but members will need to sign up ahead of time and also bring their own bedding. Stalls will also be required to be cleaned and inspected before you leave the facility. This facility is really a great place and it is WVEA's goal to leave it nicer than when we arrive every time we use the facility.

There is also ample parking for trailers and onsite camping. The arena is still under some construction but hopefully by the event there will be a kitchen on site for concessions and indoor bathrooms. There will be porta-potties at a minimum. This event is still in the planning stage but we hope to have a campfire type potluck dinner for the general meeting on Saturday night. If you would like to bring your equine and / or volunteer to provide an education demo or talk please email info@wvequineassoc.org.

Lunge Lines

Finding the right instructor
Holistic Horsemanship®
By Jessica Jabiel

From: Cathy
I have finally located a trainer/instructor in my area (got the name out of a newspaper ad) and would like input as to the types of questions I should ask and anything that would clue me not to use this person. I am a fearful beginner and my horse is an older hormonal mare set is her ways, but a sweetheart just the same. I would appreciate any input on this matter because I sure do not want to make matters with me or my horse any worse. Thanks in advance.

Cathy J

PS I appreciate all your help and advise and have learned so much. Keep it up!!!

Hi Cathy!

You can ask a lot of questions! Here are some I would suggest:

- 1) Ask if she's a certified instructor, and if so, certified by which program and in what specialty area? If you're going to learn a particular style of riding, stock seat or hunt seat or dressage, it would be nice to know that your instructor was qualified and competent to teach it! You can also work backward from certification when you're looking for an instructor -- the American Riding Instructor Certification Program maintains a list of all currently certified

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"A true horseman does not look at the horse with his eyes, he looks at his horse with his heart." ~Author Unknown

instructors, together with their levels, specialties, and contact information, on the ARICP Website at <http://www.riding-instructor.com/>

2) Ask if she carries insurance -- this, like certification from a reliable organization, is a good sign, because it tells you that the instructor takes herself and the subject seriously.

3) Ask if she has safety equipment rules -- a good instructor is going to require that you wear safe footwear on your feet and an ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet on your head, even if she doesn't care what you wear elsewhere on your body. ;-)

4) Ask if you can have the names and telephone numbers of some of her adult students? You can learn a lot by listening to other riders talk about their instructors -- if you listen carefully! For instance, "She's great, she doesn't make us wear helmets" or "She's so much fun, we get to do anything we want in lessons" would be warning signals, not recommendations.

5) Ask when you can come and watch a lesson -- specifically, ask when you can watch this instructor teach a lesson to another beginner rider of your age. You'll learn more by watching the lesson than you'll ever learn by asking questions, because this will answer questions you wouldn't even think to ask! You'll find out the instructor's teaching techniques and philosophy, as well as her attitude toward riders and horses and teaching. You can ask yourself questions:

- Does the horse look healthy and happy and under control? Or does he look nervous or depressed or uncomfortable -- or out of control?
- Does the rider look relaxed and comfortable and secure? Or does she look fearful or uncomfortable?
- Does the rider seem to understand what the instructor is telling her, and is she able to act on what she's being told? Or does the rider seem confused and unable to make sense of what the instructor is telling her?

If you watch and you really enjoy the lesson and can easily imagine yourself in the student's place, this may be the right instructor for you. If you watch the lesson and you are very glad that you're NOT the rider, then this probably ISN'T the instructor for you.

A good instructor will know the subject -- and that means knowing a LOT. She'll need to know about that particular style of riding, and she'll need to know about riding and horses and horsemanship in general, as well as something about human learning styles. A good instructor will be effective and will make herself understood. And, above all, a good instructor will ALWAYS speak for the horse.

Good luck -- I hope this instructor proves to be a truly good one!

Jessica

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Farm Call

"Tubing" a horse backwards

Holistic Horsemanship®

By Jessica Jahiel

From: Renee

Dear Jessica, thank you so much for helping all of us. I have a question about "tubing" horses. Two days ago one of the horses at my boarding stable was showing signs of colic and the vet came out. I was the only other person there besides the horse's owner because it was so late at night. I stay late because I just brought my horse here last week and my Mom said I can stay until nine at night for the first ten days to help Rainbow "settle in". The horse with colic is a nice horse named Kelly that has the stall across the hall from Rainbow. Arlene is his owner and she is nice. She called her vet and he came right out. The vet checked all of Kelly's "vital signs" and said he was having gastric and breathing problems and he thought it would be a good idea to use a tube. I know that this is a colic treatment and that it is used to put oil into the horse's stomach. I read about that in a magazine article and in one of my horse books, but I haven't ever seen a vet do this so I thought I would stay and watch.

In the article and my book the vet put the tube down the horse and pumped oil in to the horse's stomach through the tube so that the colic would stop. But this vet didn't put any oil in it. He tubed the horse backwards is the best way I can explain what he did. He put water in it (not oil, just regular water out of the barn hose) and then he held the end of the tube very low to the ground, and a lot of stuff came out of it. He said that this was to make Kelly more comfortable, but he didn't look comfortable to me. He was all sweaty and puffing his nose out. I think the tube was making it hard for him to breathe. I didn't want to say anything because this was Kelly's regular vet, but I have to wonder if he really knew what he was doing.

Why would he do something that would make it harder for

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"For one to fly, one needs only to take the reins." ~ Melissa James

Kelly to breathe? Since he was already sick. And why wouldn't he put oil into Kelly's stomach when he was sick and needed it for the colic? Why did he use water not oil, and why did all this stinky stuff come out the tube? I don't know everything about horses yet but I could tell that Kelly was really sick, he was all sweating and puffing and wanting to lie down all the time. I was going to put my horse on this vet's list next month (we have two vets to choose from, they both of them come out to the barn in the spring and fall), but now I don't know if I want to. Kelly is okay now but I have to think what I would do if it happened to Rainbow. I might want to be a vet someday and I would always want to do the right thing for horses. What do you think about his actions?

Renee

Hi Renee! Lucky you - it's always very interesting and useful to watch a veterinarian working on a horse that isn't yours. When it IS your horse, you're usually too emotionally involved to be entirely clear about what's going on. When it's someone else's horse, you can watch everything - and if the vet is willing and the horse's owner doesn't mind, you may even be able to ask questions.

I'm glad that you had the good manners to stand back out of the way and not interfere - and I'm sure that Arlene was grateful. But the next time something like this happens, why not ask the horse's owner and the vet if you can watch and learn about what the vet is doing and why he is doing it? If they don't think this is appropriate, they can say so (and they will), but if they don't mind, you may have a great opportunity to learn a lot in a short time. Many vets and horse-owners don't mind at all, as long as you stay out of the way and don't interfere with their conversation or with the horse's treatment. A lot of vets are quite happy to provide a running commentary as they work, explaining what they are doing and why. Even the horse's owner may learn something she didn't already know. ;-)

I'm not a vet, and even if I were, I couldn't tell you exactly what this vet was thinking, but I can give you some information about "tubing" horses, and then you can discuss the topic with your vet. Will that do?

The vet wasn't "tubing the horse backwards" - that nasogastric tube you saw has several functions, and can be used to move fluids in either direction, into the horse's stomach or out of it!

You were right: One of those functions is to enable the vet to put oil, water, or a mixture of the two directly into the horse's stomach. That's what you saw illustrated in your magazine and book. But a nasogastric tube can also be a diagnostic tool - and sometimes it can also be a therapeutic tool. I expect that's how this vet was using it. When a horse is showing signs of abdominal pain - the sort of pain

associated with colic - it can be very useful for the vet to pass a nasogastric tube. The vet can tell something about the horse's problem by what he hears at the other end of the tube, and also by what he smells through the tube!

I know that it must have looked very unkind to put the tube into a horse that was so obviously in pain, but the vet was probably doing exactly the right thing. The stronger the signs of pain, the more urgent it is to get the tube into the horse. Sometimes the right thing to do is to add oil and water to help the stomach contents on their way via the normal route through the horse's digestive system, but sometimes adding oil is exactly the WRONG thing to do, and the vet has to decide what's appropriate. Sometimes, for instance - not in Kelly's case, thank heavens, but sometimes - a colic is so serious that the vet thinks the horse may need surgery, and if the horse is going to have surgery in an hour or two, adding oil could be the WRONG thing to do, because the presence of the oil could make the surgery more difficult.

There are occasions when in the vet's best judgment, the correct thing to do is not to ADD fluid to the contents of the horse's stomach, but to REMOVE fluid and gas from the horse's stomach as quickly and directly as possible. Too much fluid and gas in a horse's stomach can cause a lot of pain, and extreme amounts can even cause the stomach to burst like an overfilled balloon. Humans can burp and vomit, but horses can't, so if a horse is in a lot of pain because it has too much fluid and gas in its stomach, the vet may decide to use a nasogastric tube to help remove some of that fluid and gas. From your description of the vet's actions, it sounds as though this is exactly what he was doing. By putting some water into the tube and then holding the end of the tube low, he created a siphoning action - this got the fluid IN the horse's stomach to begin moving OUT of the horse's stomach, down the tube, and onto the ground. Some gas probably went with it too, but you might not have noticed this unless you were standing very close to the tube.

Think about this - there's a horse in pain from pressure in its stomach created by excess fluid and gas. The vet passes a tube so that the fluid and gas can drain away. The less fluid and the less gas in the horse's stomach, the less pressure it experiences - and the less pain it feels. It may not have looked as if the vet was doing much of anything by putting a little water into the tube and then holding the tube low, but I'm sure that Kelly was greatly relieved by the vet's actions. And think about it: Kelly DID feel better, recovered from his colic, and didn't require surgery. That's all good. You said it yourself: "Kelly is okay now."

If you're curious about the specific treatment that you saw the vet give Kelly, or about the vet's reasons for choosing that treatment, why not ask Arlene about it, since Kelly is

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"A good rider can hear his horse speak to him. A great rider can hear his horse whisper." ~ Author Unknown

her horse and she has probably discussed the matter thoroughly with the vet? Then, if you're still curious about how the vet determined that this was the best treatment at the time, you can ask the vet when he comes out to give spring shots, etc.

I can't tell you which vet to choose for your own horse, but from your description of the situation and the treatment, it sounds to me as though this one had the situation well in hand. When your horse is getting his shots, you'll have your chance to talk to the vet. Tell him that you would like him to explain every single thing he is doing while he's doing it, because you're very interested and want to learn as much as possible and understand as much as possible. All of the good vets I've known have been very glad to deal with people who really wanted to learn more about all aspects of horse care. Good luck!

Jessica

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Committees

Education: Andi Kerr – cedar1@outdrs.net
Legislative: Open – info@wvequineassoc.org
Publication: Laura Riddle – riddlell@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.

WVEA Corporate Sponsor



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

Newsletter

If you have something you would like to submit for a future newsletter, please contact: riddlell@suddenlink.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

“PONY PULL”

PLACE: WETZEL 4-H GROUNDS – NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV
 DATE & TIME: AUGUST 3RD AT 10:00 AM
 For more info: Lloyd Wood – 304-775-2216

“YOUTH HORSE DAY CAMP”

PLACE: BUNNER'S RIDGE HORSE PARK – FAIRMONT, WV
 DATE & TIME: AUGUST 4TH – 7TH FROM 8 AM – 4:30 PM
 For more info: Carolyn Hamilton – 304-363-1594

“84TH ANNUAL STATE FAIR OF WV.”

PLACE: LEWISBURG, WV
 DATE & TIME: AUGUST 8TH – 16TH
 For more info: Joyce Wilson – 919-365-5149 or jshowbizz@aol.com or www.wvstatefair.com.

“EASTERN PANHANDLE SADDLE CLUB MEETING”

PLACE: EPSC SHOWGROUNDS – MARTINSBURG, WV
 DATE & TIME: AUGUST 11TH AT 7:00 PM
 For more info: 304-676-6677

“PEACE POINT ENDURANCE RIDE”

PLACE: PEACE POINT EQUESTRIAN CENTER - BETHANY, WV
 DATE & TIME: AUGUST 16TH & 17TH
 For more info: Laura Riddle – riddlell@suddenlink.net or 304-464-5655

“WOOD COUNTY HORSE CLUB MEETING”

PLACE: WOOD COUNTY LIBRARY – PARKERSBURG, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 2ND AT 7:00 PM
 For more info: 304-863-5224

“SPENCER HORSE & TACK SALE”

PLACE: SPENCER LIVESTOCK BARN – SPENCER, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 7:30 PM
 For more info: 304-927-5105 or 304-927-4817

“ELKINS STOCKYARD HORSE & TACK SALE”

PLACE: ELKINS STOCKYARD - ELKINS, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 1:30 PM
 For more info: Bus Conaway – 304-636-0500 or 304-636-0571

“16TH ANNUAL MULE & DONKEY SHOW”

PLACE: SUTTON, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH
 For more info: Karen Carr – 304-364-8364

“BOBBY KNIGHT CLINIC”

PLACE: CATHELL FARM – ETHAM, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 13TH & 14TH
 For more info: Georgette Plaugher – 304-478-2949 ext 333

“WV EQUINE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS FUN CAMP”

PLACE: WVU ARENA – REEDSVILLE, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 27TH & 28TH
 For more info: info@wvequineassoc.org or www.wvequineassoc.org

“WV EQUINE ASSOCIATION MEETING”

PLACE: WVU ARENA – REEDSVILLE, WV
 DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 27TH TIME – TBD
 For more info: info@wvequineassoc.org or www.wvequineassoc.org

Please check our Website for more events: www.wvequineassoc.org
 If you would like to submit an event, send it to: riddlell@suddenlink.net.

“Your horse's behavior always seems to depend on the number of people watching you.” ~ Author Unknown