



The Contact

SUMMER 2019

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A Quote to Ride by...

As we show our tails off in the smothering Nebraska heat, every once in awhile it's nice to have a reminder of why we ride, why we keep coming back to this sport. The big picture always brings the daily life into positive focus.

"Most importantly, I ride for myself. I ride because I enjoy it so much and because I love performing together with my equine partner.

Winning isn't really important.

In fact, I use competition as a marker to see how far I have come in my training.

Once I have everything under control at home, I want to find out if we can do the same thing somewhere else, in a different environment and under more difficult conditions."

--Adeline Cornelissen

Happy riding,
Michaela Schieffer
NDA Editor

NDA Member Handbook Going Digital in 2020

By now, you all should have received your 2019 NDA member handbook in the mail. (If you didn't, please contact membership@nebraskadressage.org to ensure we have your current mailing address on file!) You can also access a digital PDF version of your 2019 member handbook on the NDA website, on the Forms & Documents page.

The member handbook is your resource containing the organization's bylaws, officers, committee information, and all the latest rules for the NDA Year-End Awards program. It also contains the current year's NDA-recognized schooling shows, a member directory, a sponsor directory, and a complete list of all the previous year's award winners.

While the member handbook is an invaluable resource for our members, there are some challenges with having a

printed handbook each year. For example, the handbook often experiences delays in mailing as we wait to obtain all the show information from our schooling show partners. Additionally, as we work to expand our awards program and offer more opportunities for members to earn ribbons and trophies, both the rules section and the Parade of Champions section grows—and as the number of pages in the handbook increases, the cost of printing and postage also increases dramatically.

And when there are unforeseen changes to our show schedule, sponsors, rules, or committees, it results in a printed handbook that is out of date and incorrect, which adds confusion for our members.

As a result, the NDA Board of Directors voted unanimously last month to move our member handbook to a completely digital format beginning in 2020.

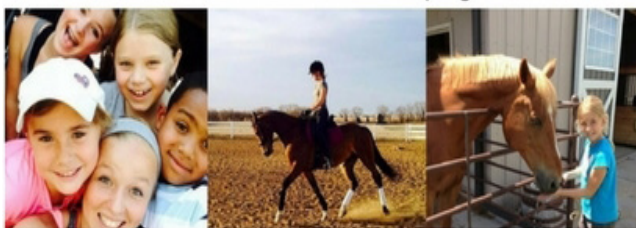
Not only will it save us money in printing and postage, it will also allow us to be more agile, able to make updates to information quickly and have those changes instantly in the hands of our members on the device of their choice. As is the case currently, this PDF version of our handbook will *not* contain a member directory, since we value our members' privacy and don't wish to publish their personal information on the internet. This is how we handle our PDF handbook already, and we will continue to do so in the future.

Next year, we are excited to reallocate the funds normally budgeted for the printing and mailing the member handbook and use those funds toward more educational events and competition opportunities for our members. The board strives every day to enrich our member experience, and we hope to bring you even more of what you love in 2020!

Melissa Ward
2019 NDA President
president@nebraskadressage.org



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2019 Show Calendar

Whether you are trailering in for the day, or spending the entire weekend surrounded by your horsey friends just like the old days, we want to see your smiling face in the ring at our local schooling shows! There is no better place to celebrate how far you have come, and no better support system to help you achieve the next level. Can't wait to see you!

August 17 *Still Waters Dressage Schooling Show*

Judge Susan Lang (USDF L/Dressage and R/Western Dressage) judges this schooling show held on the spectacular grounds of Still Waters Equestrian Academy in Hickman, NE.

August 29 *Nebraska State Fair Western Dressage Show and Clinic*

Everyone knows the next step after County Fair is the State Fair, even for adults. Held on the NE State Fairgrounds in Grand Island, this show is the perfect place to take a trek out West.

September 22 *NDA Schooling Show Championships*

A perfect end to the show season and to celebrate your hard work in the ring, the Schooling Show Championships will be held at the Lancaster Event Center.

Sponsor Spotlight - Shan Lawton

Shan holds USDF Bronze and Silver Medals. He has trained with KarinSchlueter, Tom Noone and Robert Dover, and has been fortunate enough to ride in clinics with Conrad Schumacher, Volker Moritz, WilliSchultheis, Bent Jensen, Janet Foy, and Pam Goodrich.

He has trained horses and riders competing successfully through Grand Prix. He has coached students to USDF Bronze and Silver Medals and Fourth Level regional championship high scores. His horse Dakar, which he trained to Prix St. Georges, went on to compete at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. One of his Silver Medal students has gone on to compete successfully at Grand Prix in Florida and recently received her USDF Gold Medal.

Shan is currently training and teaching horses and riders at various levels in the Omaha area. Shan's training philosophy is to teach the training scale of modern dressage to each horse and rider as an individual. Not everyone (whether horse or human) learns things in the same order or in the same manner, and so it is important to present each new element of the training in a manner that the horse and rider can understand and use to build on to reach the next level of training.



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Basic Care and Feeding of the Dressage Horse

By Shan Lawton

Dressage is a sport. This means that we as riders are athletes and our horses are athletes. These facts have similar implications for both horses and riders. So what are the essential elements of an athlete's life? I think there are three.

The most obvious element is a coherent training program that is focused on realistic goals. For a very few horses and riders, participating in one or more major international competitions is a reasonable goal. For others, regional or national championships will probably be the upper limit. For still others, the development of a reliable connection and three rhythmical gaits will be a significant and very worthwhile achievement. To determine what are reasonable goals for you and your horse you should consult an experienced trainer. Your trainer can help you develop a program to improve your horse's athleticism and move you toward your goals. Whatever your ultimate goals, the training process for the horse must involve the development of the horse's physique and improvement of the gaits and responsiveness to the aids. The rider's learning process must involve developing a more stable position, a better feel (the ability to evaluate feedback from the horse) and more sophisticated application of the aids. And unless you are naturally athletic, fit and symmetrical, you might occasionally consult a physical therapist and a personal trainer (in addition to your dressage trainer) to learn how to increase your symmetry and develop your own fitness and athleticism.

The second element is nutrition. There is a lot of nutritional information available relating to both horses and humans. All human athletes must be careful about their diets, and riders are no exception. There is no particular diet for riders; it is just best to keep in mind the same rules that apply to everyone—eat a varied diet with as few empty calories as possible (i.e., avoid highly refined foods), and eat whatever amount of a good diet that will keep your weight within the healthy BMI range. With regard to horses, we know that horses are grazing animals. Grass is their most natural food and the food they most easily thrive on. Because top quality grass is not always available we rely on hay supplemented with grain-based feed as a substitute. Both pasture forage and hay may contain, in addition to grasses such as timothy and orchard grass, legumes such as clover and alfalfa, which are highly nutritious.

The third element is the rest of what contributes to an athlete's well-being: grooming, rest and recreation, and equipment.

For equine nutrition we need to consider forage, grain, and water.

FORAGE

Forage can consist of pasture or hay or a combination of the two. What constitutes good hay? It should consist entirely of plants that are suitable for horses. That may seem obvious, but it bears repeating. There should be no toxic weeds in it, or plants that horses can't eat. This means no ragweed, mustard plant, milkweed or any number of other toxic plants. It should be free of dirt and mold. This means that you should not feed horses round bales, since they are much more likely than the smaller bales to get moldy.

How much hay should you feed? Unless your horse is overweight or has metabolic syndrome or some other medical reason to limit its hay consumption you should be able to free feed hay. If your hay is good quality and your horse is wasting it or gaining too much weight, cut back on the quantity. If your horse is losing too much weight, increase the hay ration. Whenever making a change in feed based on the horse's weight, always remember to allow a few weeks to see the result of the change.

Wet hay or dry? Most people feed hay dry and most horses thrive on it. Horses that like their hay wet learn to dunk it in their water buckets. Although this can be annoying it is probably a good thing. If you have automatic waterers you might want to provide your dunker with a dunking bucket so that it doesn't fill up the automatic waterer with so much hay that it can't drink from the waterer.

There are circumstances in which you should consider wetting your horse's hay. If your horse has had an impaction colic wetting the hay can lessen the likelihood of further impactions. If your horse has respiratory allergies wetting the hay can minimize the amount of airborne allergens originating from the hay. And if your horse has metabolic syndrome or a similar need to minimize the sugar in its diet, soaking the hay for an hour or more can remove much of the sugars from the hay.

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GRAIN

Forage, whether pasture or hay, should constitute the bulk of the horse's diet. If your horse has 24-hour access to really good pasture you probably don't need to feed any grain. Otherwise you will have to supplement with grain. Your choice of grain should be tailored to your horse's breed, age, workload and any individual medical considerations. Your feed store and veterinarian should be able to help you pick an appropriate feed.

Water. There are arguments to be made for both buckets and automatic waterers. Buckets allow you to monitor water consumption and can reduce concern about frozen pipes. Automatic waterers obviously are more convenient. Whatever your water source, though, it must be used to provide fresh clean water, and the bucket or waterer bowl should be cleaned daily.

For the rest of the horse's care, we need to make certain that the horse has adequate opportunity for rest and to entertain itself, that it is kept clean, and that its equipment (tack) fits appropriately and is appropriate to the work we are asking the horse to do.

BEDDING

Unless your horse is on 24 hour turnout with more than an acre of grass per horse, it probably spends a good portion of each day in a stall or dirt paddock. You can manage your horse's stall as a comfortable bedroom or a jail cell. An inappropriately bedded stall is a jail cell. Horses are grazing animals and consequently move around almost constantly. With enough room to roam in they move away from their waste without having to think about it. When we put them in stalls we need to take full responsibility for the fact that we are restricting their mobility. Horses generally do not like urine splashing on their legs and given the opportunity will try to find a place to urinate where splashing will not occur. Therefore it is important to bed deeply enough to prevent splashing. Most horses also prefer to be as far away from their manure as possible. In a large enough area they do not have to worry about this and will defecate randomly around the area. In a small paddock many horses will defecate in a far corner of the paddock, and in a stall in a specific corner or other area of the stall. (Obviously we all know horses who appear to be exceptions to this rule, but those exceptions can be accounted for by the horse's temporarily or constantly elevating some other concern over hygiene or simply by a range within the equine population of attitudes toward hygiene that are not all that different from the range within the human population.)

In addition to these obvious cleanliness concerns, research indicates that horses sleep longer the more deeply their stalls are bedded. We know from research with humans how important sleep is for both daily performance and longevity, so it makes sense to assume that horses benefit from sleep as well.

To address the foregoing concerns most types of bedding should be kept at a depth of 6" or more at all times. You can vary the depth somewhat depending on the type of bedding. If your bedding is highly absorbent your stalls might be fine with less depth. Less absorbent bedding must be deeper. In any event, try to find bedding that is not dusty. Dust is not good for the respiratory systems of humans or horses. Apart from the initial outlay involved in bedding the stall, it is no more expensive to bed appropriately than inadequately—you should be adding the same amount of bedding every day (you can make it every other day if you bed deeply enough to begin with). Cleaning a well bedded stall is a little more laborious. It does require a more sophisticated technique than just shoveling up everything that is on the floor. I know from experience, though, that it only takes about 15 or 20 minutes to train a willing person to clean stalls perfectly.

I understand that there is a school of thought that holds that bedding should just barely cover the floor of the stall—that its only purpose is to absorb urine, and that it is healthier for the horse's legs to stand on firm footing rather than on piles of shavings. I understand the logic of this position, but I believe it is faulty. First, if the bedding is only deep enough to barely absorb the urine, it will not prevent ammonia formation, and ammonia is a major contributor to respiratory disease in horses. Second, horses will rearrange their bedding to make themselves more comfortable when they are standing. Horses with hock problems may push bedding against the wall so that they can stand with their heels supported and their toes pointed down. Horses with arthritis in front leg joints will fidget until the bedding supports their feet at the most comfortable angle. A thin layer of bedding is not enough for these purposes. And if the horse actually prefers to stand on a hard flat surface it can stand in the front three feet or so of the stall that you sweep clean when you clean the stall.

There are horses that challenge any bedding system. Horses that urinate a lot (whether as a result of Cushing's disease or for any other reason) will need more bedding. If their stalls are inadequately bedded, the swamp they present you

with in the morning looks like it will only be worse if you give them more bedding.

In fact, though, more bedding will make it easier for you as the horse will be able to stay on top of the mess rather than getting into it and spreading it around. On the other hand, horses that move around a lot and defecate in random parts of the stall will spread the manure around, making finding it and picking it up more time-consuming. With these horses you do have to find just the right amount of bedding. Too little and it all turns brown; too much and you just have to move too much bedding to find the hidden treasures. It can be done, though, and you just have to accept the fact that that horse's stall will take more time. The horse did not ask to be kept in a stall, and the fact that the horse's stall behavior does not seem as cooperative as that of its neighbor does not relieve the humans of their duty to care for the confined animal.

Stalls should be cleaned and rebedded every morning and, if the horses are in for a good portion of the day, picked again in the afternoon or evening. Every pile you take out in the afternoon is one you won't have to (search for and) take out in the morning.

ENVIRONMENT

Flies. Flies are a problem for which there is no single solution. You will probably need to use all the available weapons. First, to limit the fly population, keep your barn and paddocks as clean as possible. Small paddocks (less than 1 acre per horse) are an extension of the horses' stalls and should be cleared of manure just as regularly as stalls. A manure pile that cannot be removed every day is a breeding ground for flies, so for that you can use fly predators. They do work, although their efficacy can be limited by the fly control practices of your near neighbors.

Second, fly boots and masks can keep flies off some of their favorite areas. Fly sheets are helpful, too. It can be a tough call whether to use fly sheets in extremely hot weather, but so long as the sheet does not prevent the sweat from evaporating I think they are generally advisable. And fly sprays applied liberally can do a lot to keep the flies you do have from biting the remaining exposed areas of your horses.

Finally, a stable-wide misting system can also help. As with fly sprays, there are a number of different systems that dispense a number of different products, from the most serious every-variation-on-chemical-pyrethrin products to

the apparently more benign organic mixes. Do not assume that organic or "green" fly sprays or mists are necessarily better for your horse—some of them contain ingredients that some horses are allergic to, and the allergic reactions can be bad enough to require veterinary treatment.

TURNOUT

Turnout is a fraught subject. Opinions on turnout range from "horses are range/grazing animals and should be able to move freely 24 hours per day" to "no good ever came from turnout." Returning horses to the conditions they might encounter in the wild exposes them to all the dangers they might encounter in the wild—exposure to harsh weather and to unfriendly members of other species. Keeping them confined to stalls is no different from confining humans to jail cells. So there has to be some middle ground that works for both horses and horse people. The most important thing to know about this middle ground is that it varies from horse to horse. Some horses hate being confined to stalls, while others like to stay inside and look out a window, maybe poking a foot out occasionally. Some people like to live in Manhattan, while others prefer Montana. The second most important thing to know, if you think your horse prefers the great outdoors, is that group turnout is one of the primary sources of leg fractures in horses. And before you decide that the best way to deal with that is to keep your horse in solitary confinement, remember that horses are social animals and need to be able to touch noses (at least) with other horses on a regular basis. Generally, the more space there is the better the horses confined to that space will get along. But not all horses get along with all other horses, so group turnout needs to be carefully monitored and adjusted as appropriate.

So as you try to work out your turnout arrangements, pay attention to both your horse's desires and your obligation to keep your horse safe. Think of managing your horse's turnout area the same way you would think about child-proofing your house. You don't give your toddler knives to stick into exposed electrical outlets and you don't leave large bits of machinery in the paddock for your horse to get a leg stuck in. Don't turn your horse out in mud that is guaranteed to pull a shoe off, or worse yet, strain a ligament. You don't leave your 3 year old child unsupervised with a 6 year old bully, and you don't turn your horse out with a horse that has hind shoes and has never met your horse before. But just as children can play with other children outside without suffering grievous injury, so can horses. In both cases, though, some supervision by adult humans is necessary.

CLIPPING AND BLANKETING

Sometimes we clip horses to keep them pretty, which really has nothing to do with their welfare. But we also clip them for our convenience and their welfare (which overlap here). A clipped horse dries faster and therefore can be blanketed and put away sooner. If you've ever waited for a horse with a full winter coat to dry after an evening ride so that you could go home to dinner & bed you know what this means. Once you clip a horse, though, you have accepted responsibility for its thermal wellbeing. So you are responsible for blanketing the horse appropriately.

Before we get to blanketing the clipped horse, though, if you have decided not to clip your horse for the winter, be aware that an unclipped horse is a different creature from a clipped horse. An unclipped horse, if it is able to grow a coat appropriate for the climate and has adequate shelter from wind and precipitation, can survive pretty severe weather without blanketing. And if you do blanket that horse you will be interfering with some of the insulating properties of the horse's winter coat. One of those insulating properties is air. When you put a blanket on the horse you compress most of the air out of the coat. If it is a light blanket and the coat is full and the temperature is not too low, the blanket might well have its full effect. To the extent that any of those factors is missing, the beneficial effect of the blanket will be reduced.

For clipped horses blanketing is fairly straightforward, as the blanket will be providing most of the insulation. Rule of thumb: Always blanket for close to the warmest temperature the horse will be experiencing during the time the blanket(s) will be on. Horses can cope much better with being too cold than too hot. And horses differ one from the next in terms of how much blanket they need at any given temperature. To tell if your horse is warm enough, feel the ears and the bridge of the nose. If those parts are cool to the touch the horse is probably cold.

GROOMING

This may seem obvious, but grooming should not be cruel. It should enhance the horse's well-being rather than diminish it. Therefore we should not remove tactile hairs (whiskers and ear hair). The hair in horses' ears is protective and should not be shaved. Similarly the horse perceives elements of its environment, particularly food, via its whiskers. Some areas of the horse's body can benefit from trimming. It is easier to keep trimmed legs clean, which can help to reduce the incidence of fungal and bacterial infections. It is important to be careful when trimming, though, as tiny nicks from

clipper blades can be very hospitable to bacteria and can lead to cellulitis or lymphangitis. It is good practice to clean closely trimmed areas with an antibacterial shampoo (or at least rub them down with alcohol) immediately after clipping.

Mane pulling need not be torture for the horse. Some horses don't mind it at all, but others find it uncomfortable or even painful. For horses that object to pulling, just don't do it. A Solo Comb or similar bladed comb can achieve the same result as a pulling comb with just a few minutes of practice. Or if you don't like that process a combination of scissors and thinning shears will work.

The horse needs to be groomed before and after work. Before work you want to remove dirt from the saddle area that might be ground into the skin and cause irritation. You should also clean and inspect the legs to make sure there are no obvious injuries that might interfere with work. And after work you want to remove sweat marks that will be itchy and irritating and can cause dirt and bacteria buildup. Some states regulate the treatment of school horses, and in some of those jurisdictions it is illegal to put a horse away with sweat marks. In warm weather the best way to clean a horse after work is with lots of water. A wash stall with hot and cold running water where you can cross tie the horse makes this task a lot easier. If you don't have access to hot running water you can use an immersion heater to heat water in a bucket and splash it on and scrub with a big sponge (you should have this equipment available for use at competitions). Don't wash a horse with cold water unless it is necessary to cool a dangerously hot horse or there is no other option. If you can wash the horse it is important to scrape off as much water as possible. A lot of water left on the horse will act like a wet suit and prevent the horse from cooling off. A damp coat, on the other hand, will assist in cooling as the thin layer of water evaporates in the same manner as sweat. You should also dry the face and legs with a towel, paying particular attention to the backs of the pasterns where scratches tend to develop. If the horse does get scratches, prompt treatment with silver sulfadiazine or some other anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agent is essential. The horse's feet should be picked at least once daily. I like to pick feet when the horse comes in from turnout. That way I know whether I need to go out and comb the turnout area for a missing shoe and I can inspect the feet for foreign objects like stones. Daily hoof picking is also essential for detecting thrush. As in the case of scratches, prompt treatment is essential.

TACK

When you get a new bridle or leather halter take it apart and soak it in neatsfoot or vegetable oil overnight. Then hang it up to drip dry and wipe off any remaining oil with a clean cloth. This will make the leather soft and flexible (and thus more comfortable for horse and rider) and is an important step for ensuring a long life for the equipment. And if you do it you might even be able to get away with minimal wipe downs for your daily cleaning for weeks or even months.

Tack fit obviously is important. Determining whether a bridle fits is fairly easy. Saddle fit is another matter. I am old enough to remember when we bought a saddle based on the appeal of its style and tree width alone. If it slipped forward we would add a foregirth. Saddle fit issues often present themselves as training issues—back pain is a major cause of resistance—so they often went undiagnosed. Now saddle makers are much more sophisticated. You can have a saddle built to your and your horse's measurements by any saddle maker, and have the fit adjusted if and when necessary by a competent saddle fitter (you should have the fit reassessed every 6 to 12 months). That sounds quite simple, and in theory it is; but it can be a very expensive, time-consuming, and frustrating process. If you expect your horse to progress through the levels of dressage, though, it is a process you must undertake. If you are making minimal demands on your horse you can make the process cheaper by buying a used saddle.

Even when buying a used saddle, though, for best results have a competent saddle fitter evaluate the saddle's suitability for you and your horse before you buy it. And if you have a saddle that doesn't quite fit, have a saddle fitter adjust it as much as possible and make up the difference with appropriate padding.

Clean tack isn't just more pleasant to look at, it is also safer and healthier for your horse. Clean leather and clean saddle pads help to keep your horse clean by not recycling the dirt and sweat back onto the horse. And by cleaning it, or even just wiping it down, every day you have an opportunity to notice little cracks in the leather that could turn into big cracks. Big cracks can be life threatening.

At a bare minimum rinse off the horse's bit(s) immediately after every ride. If your barn does not have running water that is easily accessible for this purpose you can dunk the bits in the horse's water bucket. Then after you have groomed the horse appropriately and put it away, wipe down the bridle, girth, and billet straps with a damp cloth

or sponge to get rid of any dirt and oils that have coated the leather. Follow that step by wiping with a glycerin soap or a daily conditioner. If you use a glycerin-based spray cleaner you can skip the water step and go right to the spray cleaner step. Glycerin-based spray cleaners really are one-step cleaners and do not lead to gunk build-up the way some one-step cleaner/conditioners do. They are a bit more expensive than the bar glycerin soaps, but if you want to use bar glycerin you can't skip the first step of removing dirt and sweat with just water. Some makers of tack cleaning products sell separate cleaning and conditioning products. They are not interchangeable. You can substitute water for the cleaner, but you cannot substitute the cleaner for the conditioner. For daily cleaning you don't need to unfasten any of the buckles, so the whole process of bridle cleaning can be done in less than 5 minutes. Apart from the billet straps, saddles do not need daily cleaning. As soon as you see dust or dirt build-up you should remove it. I think a little water and glycerin based cleaner is fine, but some saddle makers recommend only brushing dirt off with a dry brush and then conditioning only with lederbalsam.

On at least a monthly basis you should deep clean tack and apply an oil or wax based conditioner. A wax based conditioner (lederbalsam) is safe for saddles and bridles. Oil based conditioners should be used sparingly and only on bridles and leather halters. Both have a deep moisturizing effect that keeps the leather flexible and helps to prevent cracking.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Everything I have discussed above relates to the well-being of the horse as a domestic animal. As humans who choose to keep animals for our own enjoyment we owe them a huge responsibility. We must remember that they are sentient beings. They do not think or feel in exactly the same way that we humans do, but that does not mean that they don't think and feel, or that their thoughts and feelings are not equally deserving of consideration as our own. The fact that we have the ability to confine them and to make them engage in complex behaviors at our whim does not give us the right to bully or otherwise mistreat them. So even though your relationship with your horse necessarily entails your ability, indeed your obligation, to set and enforce an agenda for the horse, you must make sure that you do so fairly, coherently and consistently, and with regard for the unique being each horse is. ❖

Shan Lawton

shanlawtondressage.com



The Ride of a Century

By Michaela Schieffer

It's not often that you meet a horse and rider combo entering the arena with a combined age over 100. So rare, in fact, that it has never been seen in Nebraska.

This past July 29th, Lynn Robertson stepped into the Lancaster County Fair Open Show dressage arena with her horse, Friday, as the first Century Club rider from Nebraska. Lynn is 73 and Friday is 29, making a total combined age of 102. The duo drove from their home in Long Pine, Nebraska for the event.

Raising Friday from a foal after owning his mother made this moment especially sweet for Lynn.

The Century Club through The Dressage Foundation recognizes dressage and Western Dressage riders and horses whose combined ages total 100 years or more, actively encouraging and rewarding senior riders. Horse and rider can enter a test of any level at a show (schooling or recognized), and are scored by a judge as normal.

The first "Centurion Class" ride was ridden by Lazelle Knocke and her teammate Don Perignon in 1996.

Lynn rode a Training Level Test 3 pattern for her own Centurion Class ride, and enjoyed a cake provided by The Dressage Foundation after dismounting. ❖

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The Dressage Foundation's donors provide support to improve dressage in the United States.

Your donation helps to build a stronger, more accomplished dressage community.



Photo by Susan J. Stickle: Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, 2015 Lavell Advanced Prize Recipient

Your contribution to The Dressage Foundation is an investment in your dressage community. Thank you!

Sponsor Spotlights

KidGlov

Brand Advancement

There is an old saying, that “to handle something with kid gloves,” means to treat it with special care. This illustrates how we go about our business and is one of the reasons we handpicked KidGlov as our name and mark.

Kid gloves, made of smooth, refined high-quality materials, were worn in the 18th century because they stood out as symbols of elite sophistication. They were expertly crafted for the perfect fit. Though times have changed, the fundamental meaning of handling something as if wearing kid gloves still remains.

To us, KidGlov embodies how we intentionally serve people with great care. It stands for how we strategically and tactfully work with you side-by-side to advance your organization and brand for success. It symbolizes how we tailor, pattern and button up fresh creative ideas to fit you and your mission with perfection.



FUCINARO EXCAVATING

Fucinaro Excavating was founded in 1963 and is exclusively focused on excavating and grading of commercial or industrial properties, in addition to street or highway projects with significant earthwork and removal of existing pavements. Our sister company Conreco, Inc. was founded in 1992 and focuses on recycling of broken concrete rubble into aggregates for the construction industry.

Recent projects include:

- Henry Doorly Zoo African Grasslands and Asian Highlands
- Widening of I-80 through central Omaha.

We know that our experience will make your project run smoothly. We put the full resources of our family and companies toward the successful completion of all of our projects.



In Memoriam

Rikki J. Bruckman
1951-2019

A Nebraska Legend

Hastings Tribune

Rikki J. Bruckman, of Caledonia, New York, passed away at her home April 12, 2019 at age 67 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rikki was born May 14, 1951 in Hastings, Nebraska and attended Alcott Elementary School and Hastings Junior High and graduated from Hastings High School in 1969.

She was very fascinated with horses from about age 10 and was quite active in 4H equine events and served as queen of the Nebraska Arabian Horse Association for two years. She attended Potomac Horse Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland earning her teaching certificate in Stable Management and Equine Studies. She returned to Nebraska to manage Great Plains Equestrian Center in Lincoln for twelve years and has been a lifelong member of United States Dressage Federation achieving a Gold rating. She lived and worked briefly in Kansas City, Missouri and for many years in La Quinta, California, and most recently Caledonia, New York. There she served on the board of directors for Western New York Dressage Association and was an active member of the New York State Horse Council and Genesee Valley

Riding and Driving Club. She owned and operated RB Dressage doing what she so dearly loved, providing training and instruction until the very end.

She lived a full, rich life and was very active in her equine career in all those locations.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs Charles J. Bruckman of Palm Desert, California; brother, Monty D. Bruckman and wife Lorraine of Edgewood, New Mexico; nephews, Charles E. Bruckman of San Diego, California and Monty D. Bruckman II of Prescott, Arizona; and loving devoted husband, David Chugg; as well as countless scores of young equestrians that she liked to think of as her own children.

She will be sorely missed by friends and family and will be long remembered for her intense interest and love and devotion to horses and their riders. She touched so many lives with that passion and we are deeply thankful she was a part of ours. ❖

2019 NDA Educational Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to all the deserving winners of the 2019 NDA Educational Scholarships. Each of our candidates is a dedicated, community-serving member of our dressage family and we're excited to see what they do next!

Alexa Starner

Junior/YR recipient

Thank you so much to the NDA board for considering my application and awarding me one of the annual NDA scholarships! I plan to use it to attend clinics with Sarah Martin. Of these clinics, I hope to take Sarah's expertise and apply it to my daily rides and lessons to continue to work towards our goal of successfully competing in first level.



Michelle Rohman

Adult Amateur recipient

I am very excited to use this scholarship to further my dressage education through riding in a clinic with Michelle Folden. Michelle has been instrumental in helping my horse establish forward-thinking gaits and, as I make the difficult jump to second level, I'm eager for her help in cementing the foundation for collection and the movements that accompany it.



Kate Rawlinson

Open recipient

I'm so grateful to NDA for this opportunity to pursue a freestyle clinic. It's a part of our sport that I've always wanted to explore but never really had the opportunity to. I'm really excited to be able to work on fitting music to my horse. Many people explain dressage to beginners as "dancing on horseback" and Image has been ready to really put on his dancing shoes for years!



Western Dressage Corner

USEF has granted Dr. Sheila Purdum a 'r' Western Dressage license. She is now qualified and available to judge WDAA classes at USEF and NDA schooling shows.

Several NDA members had horses receive their Register of Merit Awards from WDAA:

Kathy Lewis: Simon Says I'm Solo and Excalibur Elite Equine's Enchantment
Sheila Purdum: Others Will Follow

Region 4 News

Congratulations to 2019's USDF Region 4 Educational Scholarship Recipients!

This was a particularly difficult decision for the Scholarship Committee this year as there were many qualified and deserving applicants to choose from. Each of the recipients showed incredible dedication to the sport, their local area, and volunteerism. We are happy to announce the following grant recipients:

Jane Fucinaro

2019 Region 4 Open Educational Scholarship Recipient

Amy Cone

2019 Region 4 Adult Amateur Educational Scholarship Recipient

Tayla Damyanovich

2019 Region 4 Jr/Yr Educational Scholarship Recipient

USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards

USDF is excited to introduce the new USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards Program. This program starts December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 and offers regional recognition to USDF Group Members competing in participating non-USEF-licensed/non-USDF-recognized competitions.

All non-USEF-licensed or non-USDF-recognized competitions are invited to participate in this program. To participate, simply submit the USDF online application and \$25 participation fee to USDF at least 30 days prior to the start of the competition.



Trilogy

Mandy Chao

Trilogy
 Authorized Saddle Fitter

P: 314-384-9132

E: integritysaddlefitting@gmail.com

www.performancesaddlery.com



SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

USDF Regional
Schooling Show
Awards Program



Photo by Bob Tarr

NEW FOR 2020

Recognizing USDF Group Members for finishing at the "top of their class" in each of USDF's nine regions, for their achievements at schooling shows.

4 DIVISIONS

- Open*
- Junior/Young Rider
- Adult Amateur
- Non-Professional

*Introductory not awarded in Open Division

7 LEVELS

- Introductory
- Training
- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- FEI

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USDF

Local Trainers

Lincoln & Surrounding Areas

Margo Hamilton, MA

Lincoln Equestrian Center - Lincoln, NE
402-450-8294
margoreham@gmail.com
lincolnequestriancenter.net

Margo Hamilton is a native Nebraskan with over 30 years of experience in the saddle. Margo has her USDF Bronze Medal and has a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Margo combines her expertise in mental health counseling and classical dressage training to create a positive, solution-focused system of training. Her holistic approach to training and teaching includes components of rider fitness, academic understanding, confidence building, as well as execution of movements. Margo emphasizes harmony between horse and rider as well as conditioning of horse and rider. She works with riders of many abilities in many disciplines believing: responsive horses, and confident riding are transferrable skills. Margo is available for lessons, show coaching and conditioning of horses.

Gracia Huenefeld

Legacy Dressage, LLC
graciarae@yahoo.com
402-604-0060

USDF Silver and Bronze medalist and having successfully competed at the FEI level for a number of years, Gracia Huenefeld is available for training, teaching, sales, clinics, or coaching at shows. Whether teaching the youngster how to ride for the first time or taking the student or horse up the levels, Gracia is enthusiastic to pass on all she can to her student of any age! Students are welcome to trailer-in their own horses for lessons or check with her about the availability of a lesson horse. Gracia is also available to travel to teach on a limited basis. For more information, check out Legacy Dressage, LLC on Facebook or contact Gracia at (402) 604-0060 or graciarae@yahoo.com.

Emily Johnson

Mountain Rose Ranch – Kearny, NE
Website: MountainRoseHorsemanship.com
Phone: 402-522-MRHT (6748)
Email: emily@mountainrosehorsemanship.com

Emily considers herself a lifetime student of the horse, believing there is no end to the learning process or to the expansive wisdom the horse has to offer. Inspired by the philosophies and methods of some of the greatest horsemen and horsewomen throughout history, she developed her own comprehensive curriculum, Wholeness Through Horsemanship™. Her instruction is inspired by the principles of natural horsemanship, ranch horsemanship, and classical dressage and reflects her passion for equipping both horses and humans for success on their journey toward individual wholeness and ultimate partnership. Emily, as well, is on the cutting edge of the new Western Dressage movement being one of only a small group of instructors in the nation to complete the Western Dressage Association of America®'s Train the Trainers™ program.

Jami Kment

Providence Farm – Palmyra, NE
402-450-3902
kjkment@yahoo.com

Jami Kment is a bronze, silver and gold medalist. She teaches and trains out of Providence Farm, a top notch dressage training facility where she provides quality, positive education for the horse and rider. Jami has brought her students up to the very top in competition including top ten finishes at The Festival of Champions and North American Junior Young Rider Championships. She and her students have won a total of 15 regional championships. Jami is a USDF "L" graduate, a wife, and a mother of three. See her and some of her students on the Providence Farm webpage at www.providencefarm.net.

Dara Liss

Falkland Stables - 1565 S. 98th Street, Lincoln 68520
402-617-1194

I have been actively learning, teaching and training horses and riders in the art of dressage for 35 years. The more I learn, the more I realize there is so much MORE to learn. I am an advocate for the horse's well-being and the safety of the rider. My training techniques improve communication between horse and rider by blending classical dressage training and natural horsemanship. My goal is to create a relaxed learning environment for horse and rider. I will identify your strengths and those of your horse, listen to your concerns and help you apply the basics of riding - a supple forward moving horse - to achieve your goals. I also have a special interest in preparing riders for the new USDF Western Dressage classes.

Angie McClelland

Middle Cross Stables - Roca, NE 68430
angiemcclelland77@gmail.com

Angie McClelland has ridden and taught dressage for nearly 20 years and is dedicated to a classical-yet-practical approach to this most challenging of disciplines. Angie has a talent for helping horses make the transition to dressage and for creative problem-solving when problems arise. Angie believes that every horse can be improved with dressage concepts, such as strengthening the topline and developing suppleness and relaxation to promote soundness and longevity. Angie leads the area's only dressage-specific 4-H club and is experienced in teaching young riders; she also enjoys teaching adult students. Angie is based at Middle Cross Stables, and can teach lessons at that facility or travel to your barn or arena for lessons.

Lyle and Sheila Purdum

S and L Stables - Bennet, NE
402-560-2255
purdumstables@gmail.com

Offering lessons on our older and experienced horses, both English and Western Dressage (Sheila); 8 + yrs NDA member and medal winner and 11+ yrs 4-H club leader.

Laura Stueck

Still Waters Equestrian Academy - Hickman, NE
stillwaterseq.org
402-432-0543
402-432-8384

Still Waters Equestrian Academy employs Laura Stueck as their instructor and trainer. Laura provides lessons on Still Waters lesson horses or on her students' horses. She also offers schooling for client's horses on a limited basis. Laura has received her Instructor Certification from American Association of Horsemanship Safety and in the Secure Seat Method and has more than five years instructing beginning to intermediate riders attain their goals focusing on safety and the basics.

Omaha & Surrounding Areas**Jane Fucinaro Dressage**

402-504-8113
jfucinaro@gmail.com

Based out of Omaha, NE, Jane is now accepting new students of all types of backgrounds, disciplines and skill sets. Jane Fucinaro Dressage emphasizes the well-being of horse and rider while upholding classical techniques and presenting a systematic approach of training to the horse. Young horses are welcomed into the program and started with a slow process of groundwork and eventually undersaddle training. Show coaching is also available. For more information, visit online at janefucinarodressage.com!

Shan Lawton

617-877-0785
shan.lawton@gmail.com
shanlawtondressage.com

Shan Lawton has over 30 years of experience in the art and sport of dressage, yielding an understanding of both human psychology and physiology. Shan holds USDF Bronze and Silver Medals. He has trained horses and riders competing successfully through Grand Prix. Shan's clients range in level of expertise from lower level non-competing dressage riders to successful competing FEI riders, along with multiple eventing clients and clients wishing simply to work on their flat work, and in age from young riders to retirees. Shan teaches and trains in Omaha and Lincoln, NE and is available for clinics anywhere.

Becky Parker

Reinbow Dressage Center - Springfield, NE
402-578-3891
parkerdressage@gmail.com

From posting to passage, Parker Dressage can help make your riding dreams a reality. Becky Parker, owner/operator of Parker Dressage has successfully competed all dressage levels Training Level thru Grand Prix in both Canada and the United States. Her students have competed successfully Intro Level through FEI. Located in Springfield, NE, at Reinbow Dressage Center, Parker Dressage offers training and lessons for horses and riders of all levels and disciplines. So whether you are wanting to ride a horse for the first time, or further your dressage training, Parker Dressage is here to help you with your equine journey. School horse available for beginning kids' lessons or may horse trailer in.



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f t i h



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Your donation to TDF's 30th Anniversary "Favorite Horse Fundraiser" gives you a chance to recognize your equine partner in a special way!

When you send your gift, tell us why your horse was special—or still is. Your horse's name will be added to our online 'Book of Memory' and your donation will be used to help the sport you love.

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dressagefoundation.org/favorite-horse

Lincoln, Nebraska
www.dressagefoundation.org
 (402) 434-8585



Celebrating 30 Years!
 1989-2019

Classified Ads

Horse for Lease

Name: Extraordinary Moves (“River”),
out of Zips Chocolate Chip and Artful Move

Height: 16.1 hands

Age: 11 years old

Breed: Quarter Horse

Discipline trained: Dressage

River is a fun-loving, easy going guy who aims to please. He has a pleasant, cooperative disposition. He is also very athletic. He has been training in dressage since I purchased him in 2015. He is currently training first level movements. River has not been shown much, however, he has been ridden both inside, outside, and on trails.

The lease would be on-site only at Middle Cross Stables. River would be used for flat work only. Currently, River is only available for half lease as there is another rider who works with him at Middle Cross. River will primarily stay on the property. Exceptions to this may be made, but the circumstances need to be discussed with the owner. The lessee may be required to take a once a week lesson with one of the barn trainers depending on their riding experience.

CONTACT:

Jenna Mohrmann

402-540-1528

jenna.mohrmann@outlook.com



Do you have something to advertise?

Classified ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. They will appear on this page of the website for 90 days, in addition to one issue of *The Contact*.

Advertising images, documentation, and any questions should be sent to 2019 NDA Fundraising Chair, Jane Fucinaro, at jfucinaro@gmail.com. Payment for ads may be completed with the PayPal button to the right (+\$1 processing fee). If you prefer to pay by check, please contact 2019 NDA Treasurer, Lana Erickson, at treasurer@nebraskadressage.org.

NDA makes no endorsements or representation in connection with advertisements placed in this section.



Calendar of Events

- AUGUST**
- 12** NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 North Misty's Steakhouse
- 17** Still Waters Dressage Schooling Show, Still Waters Equestrian Academy
- 29** Nebraska State Fair Western Dressage Show and Clinic, NE State Fair
- SEPTEMBER**
- 9** NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 North Misty's Steakhouse
- 22** NDA Schooling Show Championships, Lancaster Event Center
- 26-29** USDF Region 4 Championships, Maffitt Lake - Cumming, IA
- OCTOBER**
- 2-6** WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show - Guthrie, OK
- 5** Deadline for scores for year-end awards, form found on NDA website
- 12-13** Collection Fundamentals: Collection for Dummies, a Manuel Trigo Clinic, Mountain Rose Ranch, Kearney, NE
- 14** NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 North Misty's Steakhouse
- NOVEMBER**
- 7-10** USDF National Dressage Finals - Lexington, KY
- 16** NDA Awards Banquet & Annual Meeting - Ashland Golf Club
- DECEMBER**
- 4-7** USDF Annual Convention - Savannah, GA



14th Annual NDA Schooling Show Championships & Open Show

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Lancaster Event Center – 4100 N. 84th St. Lincoln, NE 68507

Opening Date: August 7, 2019 – Closing Date: September 15, 2019

WDAA RECOGNIZED SHOW # TBA

Show Manager: Lauren Van Norman (402) 450-9596; vannorman.laureen@gmail.com

Show Secretary: Kathy Hanford (402) 310-2225; Kathy.hanford@unl.edu

Judge: Gail Matheus, L Graduate (with distinction), r/Western Dressage

Steward: Carrie Cross (402)840-3802, carriecross73@gmail.com

Complete Entries Must Include All Items:

- * One entry form per horse/rider combination
- * Postmarked on or before the closing date
- * Full payment by check written to NDA
- * Negative Coggins issued within one year of show date

Mail your completed entry to:

Kathy Hanford, Show Secretary
10301 W. Pioneers Blvd.
Denton, NE 68339

All Championship entries must include copies of the front of your 2 qualifying tests

Please review the rules for the Championship show

www.nebraskadressage.org.

Class Fees:

Open Class Fees	\$20
Championship Class Fee	\$30

Stabling & Fees:

Stall – Horse or Tack	\$40/night
Jumpout fee	\$10/horse
Stall Mat Rental (delivered)	\$30/stall
Bedding (outside not allowed)	\$9/bag

Administrative Fees:

Office Fee (per entry)	\$25
Late Fee (must be paid before showing)	\$20
Incomplete Entry (must be paid before showing)	\$20
Post Entries (per class if schedule permits)	\$10
Change Fee (per class if schedule permits)	\$5
Non-Competing Horse Fee (in lieu of office fee)	\$25

Refunds: Office fee is not refundable. Entries with written cancellation on or before the closing date will receive 100% refund of all fees minus the office fee. No refunds after the closing date.

Show Schedule: Ride times will be posted on the NDA website at www.nebraskadressage.org. It is the responsibility of the rider to inform show management of any time conflicts as soon as possible after receiving ride times. When scheduling ride times, first priority is given to Championship entries. Complete Open entries will be scheduled in order of entries received. **Incomplete and post entry fees will be charged and must be paid before showing.**

Awards: Rosettes awarded through 6th place for Championship classes. Champions of the championship classes will receive a prize. Ribbons through 6th place awarded for all other classes. No high point awards. Mounted Awards Ceremony will be held for championship classes if scheduling permits. Times will be announced at the show.

Security: Overnight security will be provided in addition to Lancaster Event Center staff. Please make sure your contact information is listed on your stall in case of emergency.

Arenas: **All** performance arenas are indoors, footing composed of sand/clay, separate sand/dirt warm-up. Introductory classes may be ridden in a small arena (20m x 40m). Training tests 1 and 2 may be in a small arena. All other classes will be in a standard arena (20m x 60m).

Stalls: Stalls will likely be in Pavilion 4, so on concrete. Stall mats are available for \$30/stall and need to be ordered on the entry form in order to have them in your stall prior to arrival. Overflow stalls may be dirt or concrete.

Accommodations: *Host Hotel:* Staybridge Suites, 1501 N. 86th St., 402-484-6000 (1 mi). For more information, visit www.lancastereventcenter.org/plan-visit/hotels.

Directions: *From the East:* From I-80 West, take exit 409 for US Hwy 6 toward Waverly. Turn left onto Hwy 6 toward Lincoln for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto 84th St, continue for approximately 1 ½ miles. Turn left onto Havelock Ave or into the Event Center from 84th St. *From the West:* From I-80 East, take exit 405 for 56th St/US Hwy 77. Turn right onto N 56th St, continue to Cornhusker Hwy (T-intersection). Turn left onto Cornhusker Hwy, continue over the bridge to 84th St. Turn right onto 84th St and continue approximately 1 ½ miles. Turn left onto Havelock Ave or into the Event Center from 84th St.

Other: *Concessions:* Available indoors on the grounds during show hours. *Dogs:* Dogs must be leashed and attached to a person at all times. Management may assess a fine if leash rule is not complied with. *Tack and Attire:* See NDA Schooling Show Championship Rules at www.nebraskadressage.org.

Championship Classes: The highest scoring (60% minimum score) horse/rider in each championship class will be named Champion and second highest (60% minimum score) will be named Reserve Champion. Championship classes will count towards NDA year-end awards only but not next year's championship show. Qualifying rules for championship classes are at www.nebraskadressage.org.

C1	Western Dressage Intro Champ, Test 4, Jr/YR	C13	Intro Champ, Test C, Jr/YR
C2	Western Dressage Intro Champ, Test 4, AA	C14	Intro Champ, Test C, AA
C3	Western Dressage Intro Champ, Test 4, Open	C15	Intro Champ, Test C, Open
C4	Western Dressage Basic Champ, Test 4, Jr/YR	C16	Training Level Champ, Test 3, Jr/YR
C5	Western Dressage Basic Champ, Test 4, AA	C17	Training Level Champ, Test 3, AA
C6	Western Dressage Basic Champ, Test 4, Open	C18	Training Level Champ, Test 3, Open
C7	Western Dressage Level 1, Test 4, Jr/YR	C19	First Level Champ, Test 3, Jr/YR
C8	Western Dressage Level 1, Test 4, AA	C20	First Level Champ, Test 3, AA
C9	Western Dressage Level 1, Test 4, Open	C21	First Level Champ, Test 3, Open
C10	Western Dressage Level 2, Test 4, Jr/YR	C22	Second Level Champ, Test 3, Jr/YR
C11	Western Dressage Level 2, Test 4, AA	C23	Second Level Champ, Test 3, AA
C12	Western Dressage Level 2, Test 4, Open	C24	Second Level Champ, Test 3, Open

Open Classes: There are no qualifying requirements to enter the classes below. Those entered in the championship classes may ride in open classes but cannot ride the championship level test in an open class on the same horse. Scores from the open classes will count towards NDA year-end awards. Tests are open to Jr/YR, AA, and Open.

- S25 Western Dressage Intro Test 1
- S26 Western Dressage Intro Test 2
- S27 Western Dressage Intro Test 3
- S28 Western Dressage Intro Test 4
- S29 Western Dressage Basic Test 1
- S30 Western Dressage Basic Test 2
- S31 Western Dressage Basic Test 3
- S32 Western Dressage Basic Test 4
- S33 Western Dressage Level 1 Test 1
- S34 Western Dressage Level 1 Test 2
- S35 Western Dressage Level 1 Test 3
- S36 Western Dressage Level 1 Test 4
- S37 Western Dressage Level 2 Test 1
- S38 Western Dressage Level 2 Test 2
- S39 Western Dressage Level 2 Test 3
- S40 Western Dressage Level 2 Test 4
- S41 USDF Intro Test A
- S42 USDF Intro Test B
- S43 USDF Intro Test C
- S44 Training Level Test 1
- S45 Training Level Test 2
- S46 Training Level Test 3
- S47 First Level Test 1
- S48 First Level Test 2
- S49 First Level Test 3
- S50 Second Level Test 1
- S51 Second Level Test 2
- S52 Second Level Test 3
- S53 TOC – classical dressage (must be approved by the show secretary)
- S54 TOC – western dressage (must be approved by the show secretary)
- S55 Leadline (age 2-7 please) - FREE