



The Contact

Keeping Members Informed

Nebraska Dressage Association - www.nebraskadressage.org - May/June 2013 Edition

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Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole and, once it has done so, he will have to accept that his life will be radically changed.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kickin' It Up and Lettin' Your Mane Down for NAJYR's A Second Go-Round

By Lisa Van Stratten

This year brings six USDF Region 4 riders who have declared their intent to qualify for the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) which will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY, July 17th through 21st, 2013. Three Young Riders competed in 2012: Clare Krska from Kansas, Kelli Montgomery from Missouri, and Krista Spencer from Illinois; and three Juniors also competed during 2012: Haley Brown from Missouri, Ariel Fletcher from Illinois, and NDA's very own Dallas Van Stratten from Nebraska.

The NAJYRC is the Junior Olympics for young riders. Qualifying for and competing at the NAJYRC requires funding. This is where you come in!

Without sponsorships and donations from fellow young rider supporters, we simply are hard pressed as a region to make the dream happen. We need all of you to help support these young riders. We need your support and we need any help you can give us with regards to funding. No amount or donation is too small. Over the next few months you will be given the opportunity to contribute through various avenues, such as a tack sale to be held at the Cornhusker Classic Show June 8th. There will also be an auction and raffles on Saturday with the winners announced after the show during the competitors' party.

Please see 'NAJYR's' for the remainder of this article on page 4

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Middle Cross Schooling Show	May 4	Middle Cross Stables, Lincoln, NE
KCDS at Longview I & II	May 4-5	Longview Horse Park, Kansas City, MO
Joyce Hardesty Clinic	May 5	Middle Cross Stables, Lincoln, NE
Michael Beining Clinic	May 8-15	Elkhorn Equestrian Center and Quail Run Horse Centre, Omaha, NE
Kathy Connelly Clinic	May 11-12	Providence Farm, Palmyra, NE
NDA Board Meeting	May 13	6:30pm, Location TBD
Horse and Soul Tour Parelli	May 18-19	Des Moines, IA
Natural Horsemanship		
Jake Biernbaum Workshops	May 20-31	JW Equine Care & Instruction, Lincoln, NE
NDA Board Meeting	June 3	6:30pm, Location TBD
NDA Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show	June 7	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE
Cornhusker Classic I & II Recognized Show	June 8-9	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE
Summer Solstice Schooling Show	July 13-14	S & L Stables, Bennett, NE
Lancaster County Fair Open Dressage Show	August 4-5	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE
Nebraska Horse Expo	November 15-17	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE

Salinero Retires

By *Lindsay Berreth*

Dutch Olympian Anky van Grunsven retired her longtime partner, Salinero, in two emotional ceremonies at the Indoor Brabant show in s'Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, on March 14-16.

The first ceremony featured a quadrille of van Grunsven's Dutch teammates and a pas de deux ridden by her children, Ava Eden and Yannick Janssen, on their ponies. Van Grunsven then rode her "Dance Of Devotion" freestyle on Salinero with pianist Wibi Soerjadi accompanying her. Van Grunsven and Salinero, 19, rode their freestyle again, with Soerjadi's live accompaniment, on March 16 in front of a sold-out crowd and received a standing ovation.

The dark bay Hanoverian gelding (Salieri—St. Pr. Luna, Lungau) started his dressage career with Holger Schulze, and came to van Grunsven's barn as a 6-year-old. He was supposed to be sold on, but caught the eye of van Grunsven and her trainer and husband, Sjef Janssen, and they bought him in 2001.

Although Salinero could be quite hot in competition, van Grunsven was able to capture that energy and the two were known for their expertly composed and choreographed musical freestyles. Salinero and van Grunsven became the anchor for Dutch championship teams. At the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, they won individual gold, a feat they would repeat in 2008 at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong, where they also took home team silver.

Van Grunsven won the FEI World Cup Final four times with Salinero (2004, 2005, 2006, 2008). The pair also earned a team silver medal, individual silver in the Grand Prix Special, and individual gold in the freestyle at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games. Salinero finished his stellar career finishing sixth individually and earning a team bronze medal at the 2012 Olympic Games.

"I would like to thank a couple of people," van Grunsven said. "First of all, Sjef. Salinero was at my place already, but he wasn't mine. Sjef kept telling me that I had to ride Salinero. I did, and from that moment on, I knew this was a horse for me. Sjef always knew how to motivate me and he got the best out of me and Salinero."

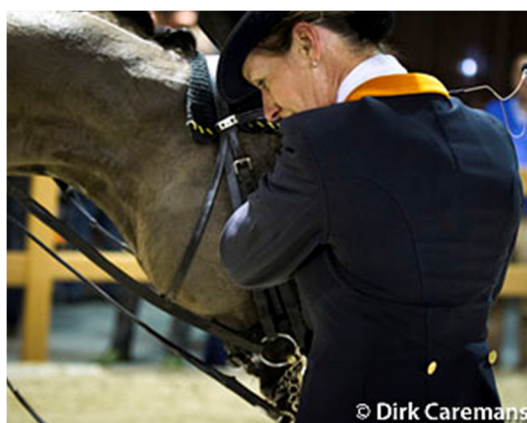
"Really important were Salinero's grooms, Jokelien Janson, Willeke van Uden and Claudia Bongers, who always took great care of Salinero not only at the competitions, but also at home. I also want to thank Rob Renirie, Salinero's blacksmith, who is always there for me, and our vets, Hans van Schie, Jef Desmedt and Maarten Aarts; they did a great job. Thanks you so, so much," van Grunsven continued.

See a video of Salinero's final freestyle [here](#).

Courtesy of the *Chronicle of the Horse*. See original article [here](#).



Kat Netzler Photo



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USDF FEI Trainer's Conference

By Jami Kment

I was given the wonderful opportunity to be a demo rider in this year's USDF FEI Trainer's Conference, Jan 2013. It was such a terrific event; well organized and well attended!

Scott Hassler and Steffen Peters were the presenters. They both got to know all of the horses privately on Sunday, and then the conference was held Monday and Tuesday. Steffen rode most of the horses at least one of the days, and then gave the riders a lesson and Scott would give the closing thoughts after they were finished. They were a great team! Steffen rode the horses with his microphone still on, so that he could explain everything he was feeling and doing.

I rode my own 9 year old mare, Zania. She is one of the most giving horses I have ever trained. At this stage of her life and training, truly being engaged and in self carriage all of the time is difficult! It was so fun to watch Steffen ride her and help her understand that she could do it. Throughout the two-day conference Zania started to transform from a really nice horse to a spectacular focused horse.

Here are some of my notes from the conference. Maybe they will be helpful to you too!

- No Negotiations: the horse MUST be (a) in front of the leg and (b) on the bit.
- Things must be super simple. Don't complicate things. Don't clog your mind. Keep It Simple.
- Be clear in your training and the goal or objective you are seeking. Correct the horse, but never be impatient. Simply just repeat and explain.
- Don't aid in anticipation of a mistake. Aid the horse in the way you want him to respond; don't assume there will be a problem. Train the mistake if it comes, but be careful not to use too-strong aids to prevent the mistake. Keep the horse honest.
- If you have to kick as a correction, be careful that you not to make the horse dependent on that strong aid. Follow it up with the aid you want the horse to respond to. That's how you make the horse sensitive.
- It's not about being able to score a *single* 9; it's about being able to *always* score a 9. Recognize and believe that your score is not a product of random luck or circumstance - it truly is your skill and your perfect practice that builds your confidence in your abilities to consistently follow through.
- There are three components to each movement:
 1. Beginning
 2. Actual movement
 3. Finish
- Your training should look understandable to anyone watching it, even a non-horse person. If it looks hectic, mean, impatient, or harsh, it is.
- Create an environment or situation that encourages the horse to offer the movements of his own accord. When the horse is in such great balance, the movements should come with ease.
- Stick with it; see it through. Finish your half halts, set things up for success, do your homework. This is the only way to convince yourself that things will work in the show ring.



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NAJYR's, continued from page 1

We have approval again this year from the Cornhusker Classic judges to have a no-braid show. This means you will be able to purchase the ability to "let your horse's mane down" during the show and forego braiding. For just \$25 you will receive a ribbon for your horse's forelock which signifies your participation and support for our NAJYR competitors. Write your check for \$25 to the "USDF Region 4 FEI JR/YR Account" and leave it in the show office when you pick up your ribbon. For more information, please contact Lisa Van Stratten at 402-468-4050 or dalevanstratten@huntel.net.



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President

Additional Prize Opportunities at the Cornhusker Classic I & II in June

This year the Classic is participating in a Perfect Entry Contest sponsored by Equestrian Entries. To qualify, your entry needs to have been created and submitted online at www.eqentries.com. A random winner will be chosen from all qualifying perfect entries and the winner will receive a saddle pad from Equestrian Entries. A photo will be taken of the winner with the saddle pad for their website.



The Dressage Foundation is sponsoring an award given to the high score from Saturday's Training Level 3 Class. One winner will be chosen from all (JR, AA and Open) entries. Ribbons will be awarded through 6th place and the high score winner will receive a clock from The Dressage Foundation to be presented at the Saturday night Competitor's Party and Award Dinner. To learn more about sponsoring The Dressage Foundation with a Benefit Class, check out their website at http://www.dressagefoundation.org/Benefit_Classes.htm.



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Developing a round, full neck

Classical trainer shares insight on developing your horse's neck and progressing toward collection

By Charles De Kunffy

As a young rider in Hungary, I remember how three moments of evolutionary breakthroughs made all the difference. Like all young riders, I was impressed when I looked at the sophisticated equine professors that moved with big, round necks, as opposed to thin, inverted racehorse-looking ones. Being pragmatic and used to getting things done quickly, the easiest solution to achieve a round neck seemed to be manipulating the neck so that it appeared to be round. My coaches got on my case, leaving me with a sense of desperation. If not actively working on the horse's neck, how in the world would I get such a round and tall carriage?

Backed up by my relentless coach, my patient horses soon revealed a most surprising discovery: I could influence the neck's position from the haunches rather than from the reins. The principle of this discovery is similar to the principle of sweeping dust into a dustbin with a broom. As you sweep, the dustbin travels forward to receive the dust. It has to move in order to receive the dirt being gathered up. Similarly, the horse is gathered up from behind by energizing his haunches and giving him the room through the reins to articulate freely. Trying to achieve collection by working on the horse's neck cuts the horse off in the front. Confining reins prevents the hind legs from powerfully supporting the rider's weight and balance by lifting him with suspension. Following this, I realized that a horse consists of three bascules:

1. The neck (the easiest to access and manipulate)
2. The back (which takes more knowledge and skill to engage). If a horse has what we called a "warm" back--loose, supple and oscillating--he can lift the rider. It's almost like sitting on a suction cup; it comes up and supports the rider's pelvis. On the other hand, if a horse has what we called a "cold" back--low and stiff--the rider achieves nothing other than growing old sitting on it.
3. The hind end (the haunches should thrust the pelvis forward to lower the croup and to actually articulate at the lumbar-sacral joint). This last bascule is the one that is widely ignored by riders. If it were addressed, one would see many more horses that lower themselves toward the ground in supple strides from elastic joints. Horses with unexercised hind leg joints move stiffly with high croups. Horses with ill-developed muscles, lacking strength and suppleness, might appear to have round necks but remain still disconnected through the topline.

Once I understood to ride the horse's hindquarters instead of his neck, the second breakthrough came when I realized that riding is a dancing partnership with the horse. Every horse has a certain signature rhythm--a footfall that's like a fingerprint. Only when a rider aids in the rhythm of the horse's footfalls will they make sense to the horse. Horses don't understand banging and poking with legs out of phase with their footfalls, although the rider might use an occasional kick as a wake-up call. A horse that's pushed out of his signature rhythm will run off and not be able to do relaxed extensions.

So we were asked to get into a rising trot and tell our coach when we found the horse's perfect rhythmic profile. Once we had established that, we were able to stimulate the horse to more activity without changing his rhythm. This resulted in a dancing, free, forward, suspended and rhythmic movement without the horse being confined in the front.

The third important principle was an understanding of how to keep the horse together without confining his haunches from the reins. My coaches insisted that the reins may be used for a thousand things except to inhibit the haunches or to set the shape of his neck. A well-schooled horse will collect on even sagging reins into a piaffe or school canter. No need to hold him together, only drive him from leg and seat. Consistent and knowledgeable use of half halts educate the horse to understand the leg aids not merely as "go" but also as "energize" without running off.

Article continues on next page

Neck, continued from previous page

When thinking about collecting a horse, many riders only think of closing him longitudinally from hocks to bridle. However, one must realize that one closes the horse also laterally from outside leg to inside rein and from inside leg to outside rein, like an X. Half pass and the shoulder-in, for instance, are exercises that utilize this concept of closing the horse laterally. In the half pass, when the horse is closed correctly, he lowers his outside hip and thrusts his pelvis toward the inside shoulder. In the shoulder-in, the inside hock is supposed to reach so deep--not just across but deep forward--that it reaches level with the outside stifle. The rider who fails to close the horse longitudinally as well as laterally will fail to engage him.

These three principles allowed me to train to higher levels. I wish you well in riding your horse in your horse's native rhythm, closed from behind, strong and seated, elastic and supple.

Charles de Kunffy was a USEF "S" dressage judge for over 42 years and a popular clinician who also conducted courses for judges and instructors around the world. Born and raised in Hungary, he is based in San Francisco, Calif., and is the author of six books. He maintains www.charlesdekunffy.com.



How Horse Wounds Heal

By Erica Larson

Whether large or small, serious or innocuous, all wounds follow a distinct and complex healing process. During the 2013 Western Veterinary Conference, held Feb. 17-21 in Las Vegas, Nev., one veterinarian reviewed how wounds heal and how owners can help facilitate healing.

"(Wounds are) a fascinating topic; you never know what you're going to come across," said Bimbo Welker, DVM, MS, a clinical associate professor in the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and a practitioner at OSU's Large Animal Services, in Marysville, Ohio.

Welker first reviewed some basic wound management steps. Although there's been "a tremendous amount of research on wound healing, we still can't speed wound healing up," he explained. We can, however, ensure wounds have an optimum environment in which to heal.

He also reminded veterinarians that skin is a complex organ that can't regenerate. Instead, wound defects are replaced with fibrous tissue covered by surface epithelium, which reestablishes continuity, he explained.

"Healing always progresses in the same way," he said. "Wounds heal in stages, and each is dependent on the stage before it."

Welker then discussed the stages of wound healing, noting that while each of these stages must occur, many overlap and take place at the same time.

The Inflammatory Phase

The horse's body begins reacting as soon as an injury occurs with the inflammatory phase, Welker said. The skin around the wound begins retracting due to tension; immobilizing the wound

can help reduce this effect, he said. Skin retraction can continue for up to 15 days post-injury, he said.

Within five to 10 minutes after the horse sustains a wound, Welker said, a vessel response occurs. During this response, "intense vasoconstriction" (narrowing of the blood vessels) occurs at the wound site, followed by vasodilation. It's during this response that fibrin—an insoluble protein that forms the nucleus of a blood clot—arrives at the wound site.

Within 30 minutes of injury, the body's cellular response kicks in, Welker said. Blood platelets and leukocytes (white blood cells) "line up" at the wound site to begin cleaning it. These cells are required for healing, he said, and their presence activates the fibrin, allowing clotting to begin.

And finally, within an hour of injury, the localization response takes place. At this point, a fibrin clot has localized damage to just the affected area; the clot also prevents contaminants from getting into the horse's bloodstream or surrounding undamaged tissues, Welker said, and forms the framework needed to repair the defect.

Unfortunately, the localization response comes with a downside, Welker said. Because the contaminants have been localized to one central area, inflammation (including swelling, redness, heat, and pain) develops. Excessive inflammation delays healing, Welker said, and can lead to pressure necrosis, pain, scarring, and bacteria development.

The Debridement Phase

The next phase is debridement, which is critical for all wounds and injury healing, Welker said: "Healing cannot proceed without the completion of this stage," he said.

The debridement phase takes place when neutrophils (a type of white blood cell capable of engulfing and destroying

bacteria and other disease agents, immune complexes, and cell debris) enter the wound defect and kill bacteria, break down debris, and enhance the inflammatory response; unfortunately, when too many neutrophils enter the wound, the healing process slows, Welker said. At that point, pus develops, which further slows the healing process by breaking down fibrin working to fill the defect. To prevent excessive neutrophils from inhibiting healing, he said, keep the wound clean and administer antibiotics.

Some inflammation is good, Welker added, but excessive inflammation slows healing.

Epithelialization—which Welker described as the first sign of defect repair—begins between eight and 10 hours after a wound occurs. During this stage epithelial cells "migrate" under the scab at a rate of 0.2 millimeters per day on the horse's upper body and 0.09 millimeters per day on the animal's limbs or lower body, Welker said. Factors that inhibit or delay epithelialization, he said, include infection, excessive granulation tissue (commonly known as proud flesh), repeated bandage changes, extreme hypothermia, and dessication (the wound drying out).

The Repair Phase

By the fourth or fifth day after a wound occur, fibroblasts (cells responsible for forming connective tissues) move into the area and begin tying the wound edges together to fill the defect. The fibroblasts will continue moving over the defect until they contact other fibroblasts. Welker explained that fibroblasts produce a substance that enhances the fibrin matrix before producing collagen, which essentially serves as a glue holding the layers of skin (or in this case, new epithelial tissue) together.

Article continues on next page

Wounds, continued from previous page

In the third to sixth day post-injury, Welker said, granulation tissue begins to form and subsequently allows wound contraction to occur (more on that in a moment). Welker said granulation tissue is an important part of wound healing: It provides a surface for the epithelial cells to migrate over, it's resistant to infection, wound contraction centers around it, and it carries the fibroblasts responsible for collagen formation. But granulation tissue can cause problems in some cases.

"Horses are overachievers and can keep producing excessive granulation tissue," Welker said. "This is when it becomes a problem."

He said he considers granulation tissue that rises above the skin level to be excessive.

Next, Welker discussed wound

contraction, the process by which open skin wounds reduce in size due to the movement of surrounding full-thickness skin. Welker said special cells on the surface of the granulation tissue bed--modified fibroblasts called myofibroblasts--draw the full-thickness skin toward the center of the wound.

"Wound contraction works best in areas where the skin is relatively loose (upper body), but where skin is relatively tight (lower limb) contraction is much less efficient and will result in wider scars," Welker said.

The Maturation Stage

The final stage in wound healing is maturation, Welker said, and it can last for months to a year or more, depending on wound severity. In this phase, the number of fibroblasts in the area decreases while collagen production and lysis (decomposition) continue, he said. Also in this phase, the

wound's tensile strength increases. Welker cautioned that once a wound heals fully, the defect's tensile strength will always be 15-20% weaker than the surrounding areas.

Keys to Consider

As Welker mentioned, we can't speed wound healing, but we can provide an environment to help facilitate it. Some factors that negatively impact healing include age, disease status, malnutrition, and multiple trauma sites. However, there are options veterinarians and owners can employ to help facilitate healing including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug administration, steroid administration, wound lavage, wound debridement, and bandaging.

Welker stressed that a veterinarian should examine any full-thickness wound and treat each wound individually.

Dreizler Family, Spanish Riding School Create New Grant Fund at The Dressage Foundation

The Heldenberg Training Center Fund has been established in memory of E.L. Dreizler by Ralph and Freddie Dreizler in conjunction with the Dreizler family. This Fund will provide grants to non-professional North American riders for theoretical study and/or training with an owned, borrowed or leased horse at the Heldenberg Training Center (the Spanish Riding School will not provide horses). Initial grants will cover the tuition costs of attending the Spanish Riding School's Training Center.

As the grant fund grows, future grants may also cover all or a portion of the transportation, lodging and related expenses for up to two months of training.



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Application forms and instructions are available at www.DressageFoundation.org or by calling The Dressage Foundation office at (402) 434-8585.



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Donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated!

The Thoughtful Rider

Forward Thinking

Horses should not only be able to gather themselves but also extend themselves. For all of these exercises we need forward thinking and the rationale for the current tempo. There is range of motion within the horse. No fancy exercises, only more active and the giving of the hands and the horse will grow. It is the basis of the foundation of training which is to allow the horse's basic steps in the 3 gaits to come out as if without the rider. The rider should not hinder but instead allow. The result will be a more up-tempo achieving better articulation of the horse's joints. The thinking should be forward but not at the expense of lightness in the rider's hands. Within the ride, whether uphill or more towards long and low, it should develop without tension or heaviness. We should understand the horse's basic and natural steps and allow the horse to relax into them. My approach: comfort for the horse within what nature provided. Your horse shall become more beautiful and prouder if the rider allows for movement without restraint.

Hector Carmona, Jr., FEI Trainer

What Makes a Horse Special?

By Scott Hassler

It's easy to get dazzled by an Olympic medalist or a World Champion young horse, but figuring out the traits that produce such a spectacular animal is the real challenge

Whether it's the Olympic Games or stallion testings and auctions in Europe, we have more opportunities than ever to view the crème de la crème of the dressage world thanks to the Internet.

And while I'd argue that more exposure is never a bad thing, we have to be careful in what lessons we take away from easy access to the top horses in the world.

Let's start with the top two Grand Prix horses from the past few years: Totilas and Valegro.

You certainly can't look at body type and say, "That's the new top dressage horse." The body type of Valegro, our new champion, versus Totilas is very different. One's a little bit more square and a bit more stout, while the other is very, very leggy and light.

It's the energy combined with the athleticism and rideability in those horses that make them special. At

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Love Dad, Mom, Andrew
and Eschaton

that level, it's difficult to say, "I want to breed for that," because there's a unique ingredient in those individuals. Rare individuals, no matter how you try to breed, are going to show up, but I think trying to breed for that is the wrong way of approaching breeding.

You have to look at the whole picture. If you just focus on the athleticism, you could end up getting a mixture of things that are unpredictable, a horse with crazy nerves. Something that's absolutely unique to me about Totilas is that the horse consistently went from top, top performance, just brilliant, to completely relaxed and standing on the buckle.

Our sport has improved. It requires this athleticism, this energy. This way of moving has changed over the last decade, and that's something we want to try to breed for. You want a horse with a bit of activity, what I call a good hock and knee diagonal rhythm. It's not snappy like

Article continues on next page

Special, continued from previous page

a Thoroughbred or a quick breakover. You need fluidity and suppleness in that kind of movement.

That's something that many of these horses are not born with, and it comes with age and education. We don't want these big, slow moving, heavy horses on which you cannot control the tempo. Some of these big movers sell as foals and yearlings and 2-yearolds, and people say, "Oh my gosh, did you see the trot on that horse? Wow, he's such a big mover and floating across the ground." But half the time they don't make a half-halt. So they're big and impressive, but you can't ride them easily.

You can educate yourself to get an idea for this. How does that horse naturally move, without influence from the rider? Look at simple transitions. If the tail is straight in the air, and it's flying around the ring, that gives you a small piece of information. That's tension flying around. And some people "ooh" and "ahh" over that, but that's something you can't ride.

The athleticism we need in these horses must be rideable, so we have to educate our eyes to understand how those mechanics work together. That's where you have to keep the

overall goal in mind. If you pick a horse with super energy but you can't work with the energy because he's always trying to flee and get out of things, chances are he's not going to become a Totilas.

Ask yourself: What is that horse's natural tendency—his balance, selfcarriage and suppleness in nature? How is the transition from the trot to the walk? Does the hind leg want to be under? When the horse takes off from a standstill up into the trot, is it an uphill transition? The movement often develops with training, but you can still see early on a degree of the nature of how the horse moves.

It's going to be the rare horse that stands out at the international level because the requirements have gotten so extreme. But to do that job well you need intelligence in the horse, energy in the horse by nature and a certain way of moving with a natural inclination for balance and elasticity. Then the rest of the things fall into place.

As a breeder, I need to educate my eyes so I can determine the movement, intelligence and athleticism that works for me. That should lead me in my breeding choices to try to breed the ultimate athlete.

FIND THE TREND THAT FITS YOU

The breeders take the biggest brunt for the economics of the sport, and I feel for them because they carry the risks. If you breed 10 mares, you hope the odds work out, and you get a large group of offspring that are quite good. But you know you'll get a few that aren't. That's just the way the odds work. You might even lose one along the way, and that's a huge investment financially and emotionally.

So you have to make economic choices at some point, and here's where the ability to see the top young stallions around the world from the comfort of your living room can cause trouble. If a breeder puts a foal on the ground by the hottest trend on the planet, then that foal will likely attract a few phone calls. Everybody's talking about that stallion because you can see him live on the Internet and go to online forums and discuss him.

But sometimes those stallions don't have any offspring under saddle yet. So the breeder is caught between trend and horsemanship. I may have a stallion's name in mind that is very proven but not in fashion anymore. No one is going to pick up the phone and call me because nobody's talking about this stallion anymore. Yet in my heart, I know he

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He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul... Ps. 23: 2,3

Special, continued from page 11

would really work for my mare. Unfortunately, that's modern times. It's a fashion game with a heck of a lot of risk.

How can we think we know something about a stallion before we see offspring? Yet these young superstars breed 500 mares because that's what everybody wants. I want to have the first son of this new line because that's what's going to sell.

The gene pool is becoming smaller and smaller. Where does this all end up? I'm not quite sure. Do I like it? No. Is it financially successful? Absolutely. What's the downfall? I think we're going to be finding out over the next 10 years.

There's no stopping it. The Internet's not going to stop. The availability of information to watch these superstars from Europe makes you buy the frozen semen, so that's not going to stop. The breed associations aren't going to limit breedings to 20 mares to these superstars so they don't break down and turn into sex machines and put out some bad traits that we won't know about until we put a lot of foals on the ground. They want the superstar. They need it to be competitive with the other breed associations. Nobody is going to regulate it.

We're going to allow these young superstars to get all the mares in the world and hope they're good producers. One former superstar produced an incredible number of cribbers. I'm not going to mention names, but it was too

late when they found out. You're talking about a couple of thousand offspring on the ground, and large percentages were cribbers.

Then we have the older stallion that was once trendy and bred a couple thousand mares when he was super hot. Now those horses are being ridden, and they're really quite nice. But maybe no one is talking about him anymore because his foals weren't that great. But when they start riding these horses they're amazing. We start seeing them in the sport, doing the young horse classes and Prix St. Georges. We go, "Oh my gosh. That horse was a trend for two or three years but then he fell off." Now the offspring are good, but nobody is talking about him because he's not trendy anymore.

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Why did that stallion become so successful? Look at the

Article continues on following page

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Special, continued from previous page

ingredients, the pedigree of that horse. You start to realize you understand that ingredient a little bit more. Where did the movement come from? The balance? The rideability? The energy?

Then you have to say, “So my mare is really good at X. The energy part is good, but the rideability part not so much.” Then you have to pick a stallion with good rideability.

In the end it comes back to trying to keep things as simple as possible and realizing there is no magic formula to make something work. The best thing is good education and horsemanship, and you need more than just sitting on the Internet and watching superstars. That only tells you the eye appeal of what is trendy.

You have to take the next step and ask, “OK, what made that possible?” It’s not, “I want to breed to that fantastic mover because I’m going to get that.” That’s not the formula. You have to examine what made that happen in that horse.

Look at the pedigree. Understand it. Look at the information available. That’s when you go on the Internet and start doing research. What did that stallion give to this? What did that motherline provide?

You’ve got to look at the simple factors of a dressage horse. They must have a certain degree of character,

work ethic, energy and then athleticism that includes balance, suppleness and natural self-carriage. You start taking that apart, and then you figure out in your horsemanship how that fits into your program.

Not every trend fits your program, but there are enough trends out there that you can pick from among them. You can take the superstar Dutch horse or the superstar Oldenburg or the superstar Hanoverian. In the end, they’re each coming up with their own star. That’s marketing.

Examine those superstars and break down what made them. Do those characteristics fit into my program? Does that mix or combine with what I’ve got?

And then it’s called the lottery. Try to make your lottery game as good as possible, because, as we know, if it was that easy, we would all be breeding superstars. We’re dealing with nature here, but I think that’s an educated way of looking at things.

What about the amateurs?

I hear all the time that breeders have to choose between breeding for the ultimate athlete or breeding for amateur clientele. It’s true that most of the top horses at the Olympic level with that much athleticism weren’t amateur horses when they were younger.

No matter our breeding choices, we’re not going to get a magic formula that will consistently produce one of these superstars. You might get lucky, but you’re probably going to get a spectrum of horses, many of which will be good for amateurs.

If you breed for athleticism, energy and brain, you’re going to get some that are too spirited and too spunky. Hopefully they turn out for the professional down the road.

But there’s really nothing more important than character and work ethic. I don’t think we’re putting enough emphasis on that across the board. Without character and work ethic, it’s a pretty difficult task.



Equine Genetics Education - Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia (HERDA)

Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia (HERDA), also known as Hyperelastosis Cutis (HC) is a genetic skin disease predominately found in the American Quarter Horse, American Paint Horse (APHA), the Appaloosa (ApHC), and any other breed registry that allows out-crossing to AQHA horses.

Researchers at Mississippi State University and Cornell University believe that the origin of this genetic disorder may be the Poco Bueno's sire line. This disorder causes a lack of adhesion within the layers of skin due to a genetic defect in the collagen that holds the skin in place. This defect causes the outer layer of skin to split or separate from the deeper layers, sometimes tearing off completely. Areas under the saddle seem to be the most prone to these lesions and often leave permanent scars, preventing the horse from being ridden.

The disorder is recessive, which means that a horse must be homozygous positive (have two copies of the defective gene) to suffer from the inherited disorder. Consequently, both the sire and the dam must possess at least one copy of the mutated gene in order for the offspring to be afflicted. Offspring born with one copy of the defective gene and one non-defective copy are considered a carrier and have a 50% chance of passing the defective gene on. About 18% of all horses tested at Animal Genetics have tested either heterozygous (carrier) or homozygous (affected) for the mutation that causes HERDA.

To learn more, visit the Animal Genetics, Inc. website [here](#).

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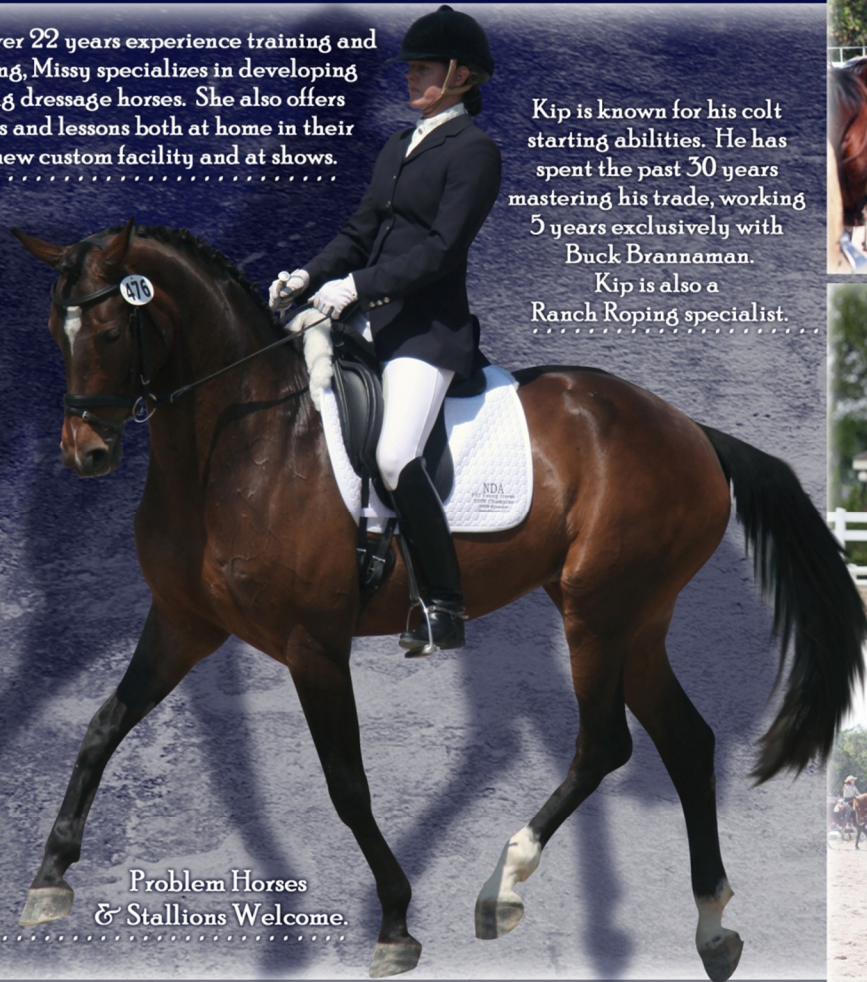


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Western Dressage Growing in Popularity in Nebraska

By Sheila E. Purdum and Barbara Clegg

The Nebraska Dressage Association added western dressage classes to its schooling shows three years ago, with limited success. Initially, riders had to do English tests in their western tack. This year, the NDA fully adopted the WDAA rules, tests, and guidelines for their Schooling Show series, as well as an integrated awards program for western dressage exhibitors. Local barns have been conducting clinics focused on youth and adult amateurs, and several western trainers are educating themselves and their clients about western dressage.

The first NDA schooling show of the year - the Shaggy Show - was held last weekend in Lincoln. The two-day show attracted 12 western riders, exhibiting 15 horses in more than 30 tests ranging from Intro to Level 1 events. The riders included youth, adult amateur, and open (men and women) exhibitors showing a range of horse breeds (AQHA, Appaloosa, POA, Paint crosses, Morgan, Mustang, Thoroughbred, and a Tennessee Walker). The Western events earned the top scores for the show at the Intro and Basic (Training) levels, and were in the upper ranks at 1st level. The judges were fair and highly complementary toward the western riders. Susan Clarke, from Wichita, Kansas, spent 16 hours studying the new tests before coming to judge them, describing them as interesting and challenging. This year's show grew exponentially from last year, when only 3 western riders exhibited. Western exhibitors are requesting more opportunities to ride dressage, and the NDA is delivering just that. The next show that includes western tests is the Classic Schooling Show on June 7 and, on Sunday, July 14, S and L Stables will dedicate an entire day to western dressage at their approved show near Bennet, Nebraska.

Shaggy Show secretary, Danna SeEVERS, noted some challenges to adding the western classes, which included updating the computer scoring system to add 16 new tests. Now completed, that should not be a burden in the future. Western riders bring a new era of competition to the dressage arena. Spectators were interested in watching how western dressage tests are ridden; old-timers were surprised to see movements such as halts in an Intro test, rein-backs at Basic level, and a 360-degree on the forehand in a Level 1 test. These are very new to dressage at these levels, and the judges appreciated and understood why they were in the tests.

From the start, Nebraska has been supportive of including Western Dressage tests and riders in our NDA Schooling Show series. It's a win-win for everyone involved - local dressage associations have an opportunity for growth in difficult economic times; western horses and riders get a chance to demonstrate their skills without having to change tack and ride tests written for English dressage; and both disciplines can learn from each other. At a time when many organizations are struggling to survive, horse communities can come together with the common goal of creating a better horse-human relationship through dressage. Dressage is strong and growing in our great state of Nebraska.



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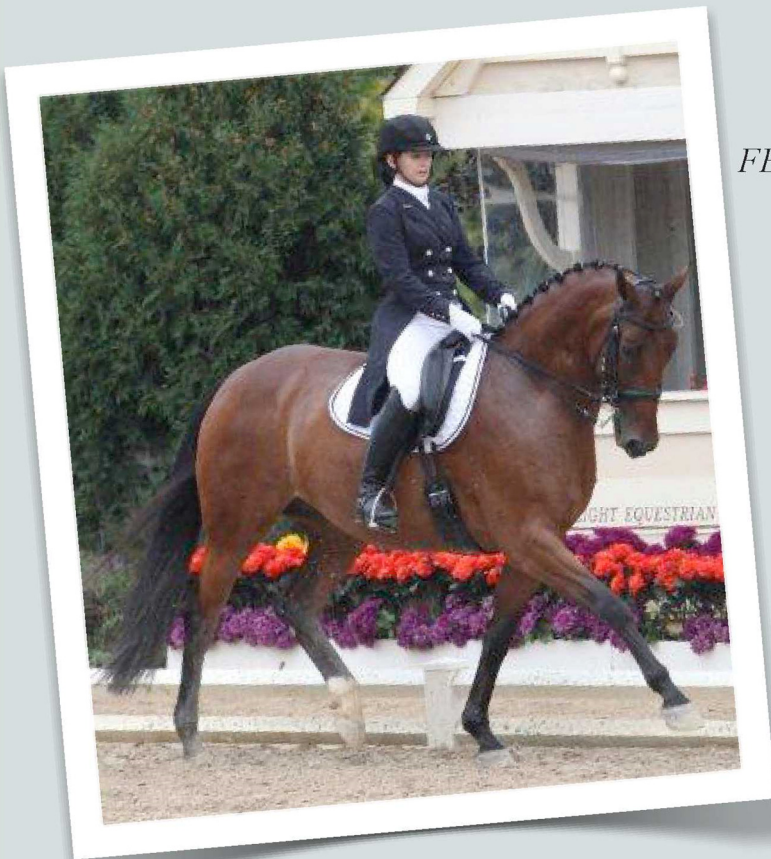
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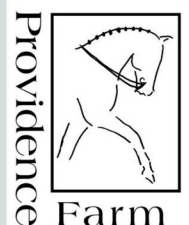
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The Lameness Locator Takes the Guesswork Out of Identifying the Limp

This diagnostic tool allows veterinarians to back up their professional opinion with evidence-based analysis

By Kimberly French; Photos Courtesy of Kevin Keegan

Two years ago, event rider and breeder Melissa Studenberg had a few horses with a case of the “not quite rights.” She took them to Unionville Equine Associates (Pa.) to pinpoint the cause of the slight lameness they were exhibiting.

The facility had recently acquired a device called the Lameness Locator, developed by Kevin Keegan, DVM, MS, DACVS. The Lameness Locator consisted of motion sensors and special software, and the veterinarians at UEA were testing it to determine whether or not they would invest in one as a gait analysis tool.

“My vet was experimenting with it,” said Studenberg. “The first few times they used it on my horses they didn’t charge me, and the one time they did charge me, it wasn’t outrageously expensive.”

One of Studenberg’s horses was contending with chronic suspensory issues and on the lameness scale probably wouldn’t even have been a Grade 1. The veterinarian initially thought the horse was off in the left front or in both front feet, but the equipment clearly identified the issue was in the left front.

When the heel on his left front was blocked, the veterinarian determined he was slightly off on the right, but the number was much lower than in the opposing limb.

“It’s not a huge added expense and helps when you start doing the blocks because it provides the veterinarians with a numeric value,” said Studenberg. “It definitely won’t replace veterinarians, and I don’t see it in more rural veterinary offices, but it’s a good tool for veterinarians to have.”

Two Vets, Three Opinions

When Keegan embarked on his study of lameness nearly two decades ago, he never imagined his data, images and research would morph into commercially viable gait analysis equipment.

A professor of equine surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, Keegan was perplexed and stymied by the difficult process many veterinarians endure when assessing various forms of lameness, the leading cause of reduced performance in all athletic horses.

Since lameness evaluations are subjective, five veterinarians could examine a horse at the same time, and each might provide a diagnosis that would be completely variable from their colleagues.

Also, once a certain type of lameness is identified, it often develops into multi-limb lameness, which makes it challenging to determine what the primary source is and what is truly the issue.

“There were an unacceptable number of cases where I didn’t know what was going on,” Keegan said. “I was interested in objectifying lameness evaluations and evidence-based information rather than just an opinion.”

Keegan compiled research from 1993 to 1995 using high-speed cameras, markers, commercially available gait analysis equipment and a treadmill. When he felt he was armed with enough information, he joined forces with Frank Pai, a mechanical engineer professor at the University of Missouri, and Yoshiharu Yonezawa at the Hiroshima Institute of Technology (Japan) and developed algorithms to deduce the best indicators of lameness.

The group obtained grants from the National Science Foundation and proceeded with their research. About 10 years after Keegan started his research, his group decided they might be able to create a tool that would aid other veterinarians in their lameness evaluations.

“We were just going to develop a tool to use in the clinic. It was never something intended for commercial use, but then we realized people could benefit from this technology,” said Keegan.

Article continues on following page

Lameness, continued from page 20

The Lameness Locator Is Born

Keegan and his associates formed a company they called Equinosis (www.equinosis.com) in 2007, but they didn't complete a prototype of their gait analysis system, dubbed the Lameness Locator, until 2009. They distributed the new equipment to practitioners they called "early adopters" who provided feedback on their test results. The Lameness Locator first became available commercially in 2010 and has now been purchased by more than 90 veterinary practices and universities in the country, with additional sales from abroad.

The Lameness Locator consists of three rechargeable electronic sensors, two of which are accelerators that are placed on the horse's head and pelvis, and the third is a gyroscope that is situated on the horse's right foreleg.

Each sensor weighs less than 30 grams and records gait vibrations at 200 times per second. The sensors also include Bluetooth technology that captures data up to 150 yards away and seamlessly transfers the information to a wireless tablet with Lameness Locator software that produces a computer read-out with the data results.

The head sensor is attached to the halter with Velcro or a specially made head bumper. The other accelerator sensor is affixed to the midline of the pelvis by Velcro or tape, and the pastern wrap is also fastened to the leg with Velcro.

The horse is evaluated by trotting in a straight line while the sensors measure the motion of the torso. The software compares and contrasts the data from archives of information on sound as well as other lame horses. The printout is completed and ready for investigation immediately after the examination.

Although other lameness studies have been attempted, they all measured for different variables such as stride length and joint angle. Keegan and his colleagues decided on vertical motion of the torso, which determines any asymmetries in the head and pelvic position between the left and right halves of a horse's stride.

"That is where we received the highest correct

Please see 'Lameness' for the remainder of this article on page 23

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The Lameness Locator consists of three rechargeable electronic sensors, two of which are accelerators that are placed on the horse's head and pelvis, and the third is a gyroscope that is situated on the horse's right foreleg



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Lameness, continued from page 13

classification,” Keegan said. “They call this vibration analysis, specifically fault detections analysis. It’s used to find cracks in beams and buildings. When a horse trots, it includes acceleration and deceleration, so the vibration analysis reviews the vibration, dissects it, and finds where the fault is affecting the vibration. For example, you can tell where the crack is in the structure by stimulating the vibration.”

The Lameness Locator uses the algorithms to deduce lameness in each limb, if there is a secondary lameness and impact rates.

Out Of the Lab and Into the Office

“Unfortunately, I’m old enough to have a fair perspective on the equine lameness industry, and I’ve seen a lot of different gait analysis techniques come along that were supposed to be a fix, but then you find they never make it out of the research stage,” said A. Kent Allen, DVM, of Virginia Equine Imaging in Middleburg. “The interesting part about this technology is it’s pretty robust, and Dr. Keegan came up with some real novel sensor technology, gait-analysis technology and software. This is the only product I’ve known of to receive a National Science Foundation Grant—in fact, I think they are on their third one— that has ever made it out to commercial practice.

“We first started using it in the early days when Dr. Keegan was still developing it for the university,” continued Allen. “That was when they were still working

Article continues on following page



Bluetooth technology captures data from the Lameness Locator sensors and transfers the information to a wireless tablet with software that produces a computer readout with the data results

Lameness Locator FAQs

What does the sensor on the pastern measure and could it affect the Lameness Locator by causing the horse to react with the right front leg?

This device is a gyroscope and keeps track of when the horse’s limb is in the air or on the ground. The evaluation itself is determined by the accelerometers on the horse’s torso and head. The movement of the horse’s body is measured, not the movement of the limb. Placing the wrap on the horse’s leg has no bearing on how the horse’s torso accelerates and decelerates. The sensor doesn’t need to be wrapped tightly to yield results, but it must be placed on the front of the leg. If it slides more than 90 degrees or to the back of the limb, it won’t produce correct measurements. All other limb measurements can be approximated once the gait is established, and the algorithms are designed only to work with a sensor on the right front leg.

What exactly is the intent of the Lameness Locator?

“Very few, and there will always be a few, who have taken the time to study it and who have actually had their hands on it dismiss it as a gadget,” Keegan said. “I have frequently been coached by other veterinarians, businessmen and entrepreneurs that I need to make this a black box instrument, something that spits out red for lameness and green for soundness, something that requires little thought or effort to learn, and I have resisted. I have resisted because lameness is complicated, and it frequently takes experience, skill, time and hard work to sort out. I have also resisted because anything like this would really be a worthless gadget. The equipment is easy to use, and it can streamline a practitioner’s lameness evaluation because it takes out some guesswork, but you have to work at learning the analysis, and it is not meant to replace a veterinarian. It is to help them diagnose subtle and multi-limb lameness.”

Does the device take into account limb length disparity or high/low hoof pairs?

Yes. Keegan and his associates artificially constructed limb length and hoof angle asymmetry in both fore and hind limbs to test if this was a problem. They discovered induced limb length and hoof angle asymmetry did not alter any movement of the torso, either short or long term, as the soft tissue sling linking the limb and the vertebral column minimizes this circumstance. In the hindlimbs, induced limb length or hoof angle asymmetry does affect results but only over hours or days. Within several days, no effects can be measured.

Does asymmetry of amplitude in fact equal pain? And are there studies that look at factors that do cause asymmetry of amplitude?

For Keegan, this theory was a major concern when the equipment was in the developmental stages, but he found horses are remarkably symmetric in their vertical torso movement on a straight line at the trot, even when the way they move their limbs is quite asymmetric. He claims this is not true for longeing, and while he acknowledges there may be sound horses displaying sizable asymmetry in their vertical torso motion, that would be extremely rare.

Lameness, continued from page 23

out the kinks, but we recognized it was going to be a very valuable clinical tool, so we helped them through their first two grants by doing a number of test cases, and as soon as it was available for purchase we went ahead and purchased it.”

Jennifer Smith, VM, DACVS, from the New Jersey Equine Clinic in Millstone started using the Lameness Locator about a year ago when Scott Palmer, VMD, purchased one for the practice.

“He became involved with it when Equinosid performed a demo, and he was interested in validating the data for Standardbreds trotting and pacing while exercising,” said Smith. “On many occasions we will have people tell us their horses aren’t performing, then when they are brought in and jogged in hand, the lameness will be somewhere else or at speed it will present differently. I think this equipment has been very useful in picking up some of the subtle lamenesses people can’t see during exercise or multi-limb lameness. A measurement like this provides concrete numbers for your analysis.”

Before the Lameness Locator was made commercially available, Keegan added to its appeal for veterinarians by publishing several studies in *Equine Veterinary Journal*, the *American Journal of Veterinary Research* and the 2010 World Veterinary Orthopedic Congress in Italy. He also contributed to lameness and gait analysis studies for the *Equine Veterinary Journal*, the 2005 American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention and Veterinary Clinics of North America, Equine Practice.

His research buttressed the data discovered while working on the Lameness Locator, such as head and



The Lameness Locator evaluates soundness based on the vertical motion of the torso, so the gyroscope placed on the horse’s right foreleg should have no bearing on how the horse’s torso accelerates and

pelvic positioning, while also demonstrating that many veterinarians will have an entirely different evaluation of a horse if their examinations are based solely on the naked eye.

While his validation was an integral reason veterinarians have begun to purchase and use the product, Smith said there’s another element to the equipment’s success.

“I think it’s really nice for the client,” she said. “This is a good way to verify our diagnosis, and it’s a useful tool to show to the client so they can gain some perspective. The feedback from them has been excellent. I think horse people are pretty open-minded, and it’s a cool set of equipment. They want their animal to have the most up-to-date technology.”

Although Allen doesn’t use the Lameness Locator in every lameness evaluation, he agrees with Smith that it aids in diagnosing more complicated cases.

“We do not perform routine medicine or preventative health care, as we are just a lameness and sports medicine practice,” he said. “We tend to use the equipment in more complex cases.”

Article continues on following page

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Lameness, continued from page 24

I do know practitioners who don't see as many lameness cases as we do tend to use it on every lameness case, which is probably a great idea. But we focus it more on multi-limb lameness cases where we are trying to quantitate a block on or with a bone scan. We also use it anytime there is a discrepancy in what we have seen previously or what a referring veterinarian has sent us, or if there is a question on the history of the horse if it is presenting for the first time. We find it incredibly valuable, and it is one of those technologies the more it is put to use in complex cases, the better it performs because those are the cases where human error creeps in."

As a horse owner, Studenberg appreciates the device as a tool, but she sees it as a supplement to her veterinarian's experience, not a replacement.

"You still have to rely on your veterinarian's naked eye," she said. "Obviously, I don't think my vets would have put it on if the lamenesses were not subtle, because if you are grade 2 or grade 3 lame, you don't need the Lameness Locator. But for those hard-to-diagnose lamenesses it's helpful."

Allen and Smith believe this equipment has a bright future and will become more available through an increased number of practitioners in the coming years. "It's like any technology," Smith said. "The more popular it becomes, the cost decreases, so financially more practices will probably look into purchasing it. Technology is a funny thing, as at first a lot of people are all about it, and then it has to be tried. When that has been done, and it's determined this is something that is going to stick around, then everybody is on the ship. The company also seems to be continuing to improve. Initially you could only trot the horses in a straight line for the evaluation, but they have developed a test system for longeing. Obviously, a horse's gait changes under those conditions, and it's really nice to have something with different scenarios available, because a lot of horses are only lame in one position or direction. I think enhancing their system can only be a good thing."

This article originally appeared in the March 25, 2013 issue of the Chronicle of the Horse.



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Upcoming Jake Biernbaum Clinic – Workshop Descriptions

Thursday May 23, 2013 Time 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

“The Power of the Belly Button” Part 1 - ONLINE WORKSHOP

Your belly button is a very powerful place especially for directing energy. When we play with horses we must control our energy so we can appropriately bring it up or down. We must also control where we direct that energy towards if we expect our horses to respond appropriately. This workshop will give new meaning to “watch where you are pointing that thing” and also help you to better your communication with your horse.

Friday May 24, 2013 Time 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

“Prepare to Position” - FREESTYLE WORKSHOP

Prepare to position to make the transition. It is another way of saying “Get ready, get set, GO!” This workshop is designed to help you be ready for your horse, so that you can know the appropriate rein positions, leg positions and where to put the weight (yours and your horses). Through simulations we are going to prepare and then transition to riding our horses with quality so that we can be safer and have more fun!

Saturday, May 25, 2013 Time 1:00pm - 4:00 pm

“Power of the Belly Button” Part 2 - ONLINE WORKSHOP

This one is so good we wanted to give you a chance for more. If you weren't able to make Part 1, we will still review to help catch you up. For those of you that enjoyed Part 1 and have had time to process what you learned, we can now spend more time playing with our horses and perfectly practicing, with supervision, so that we may have a stronger grasp on the concept before heading home. As we understand better and we build our communication with our horses more, we can move on to longer ropes and faster speeds. And you thought that belly button was just for decoration.

Thursday, May 30, 2013 Time 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

“Prior and Proper Preparation” - FREESTYLE WORKSHOP

Sound familiar? This workshop is geared towards getting ready to ride and getting ready

to ride out. What does it take to be safe and ready to have some fun? Whether you like to trail ride all the time or want to be able to prepare your horse for a ride out someday, we want to help you know how to prepare yourself and your horse so that everyone enjoys the ride! Whether you are thinking about riding out or are ready to take the next step this Workshop will have something for you.

Friday, May 31, 2013 Time 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

“Pick a Cone, Any Cone” - FREESTYLE WORKSHOP

Step right up ladies and gentlemen! How many numbers are there between 0 and 1? The answer is infinite. This workshop is designed to help you break down your riding patterns to one of the simplest concepts, put your horse's nose on a cone. Whether it is follow the rail, circles, cloverleaf, figure eight or weave, you can break down the pattern into the tiniest pieces. The easier you cause it to be, the faster your horse can learn it and the more they will enjoy it.

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Jake is currently a 3* Instructor based in Michigan. I have recently had the honor of riding with Pat everyday and have got to work with a great team at Pat's Barn in FL and CO. I am originally from MI and have worked for Parelli as an employee on the Ranch Crew and Tour Team. I started the Mastery Program in Oct 2009. I have traveled across the country, to Europe, met some of the horse industries top professionals and had the opportunity to ride and perform in front of thousands of people because of Pat Parelli.

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Check Out: PACKAGE OF FIVE WORKSHOPS with EARLY BIRD PRICING

Questions, Flier & Registration Information Contact:

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Why Vaccinate Your Horse?

Courtesy of Nebraska Equine Veterinary Clinic

Why vaccinate your horse? This is a very logical question to ask. Most horse owners equate spring with spring vaccinations. But why is this important? To answer this question effectively we must first understand what a vaccination is and secondly how does this apply to horses.

First, what is a vaccine? Listed below are two definitions taken from the dictionary:

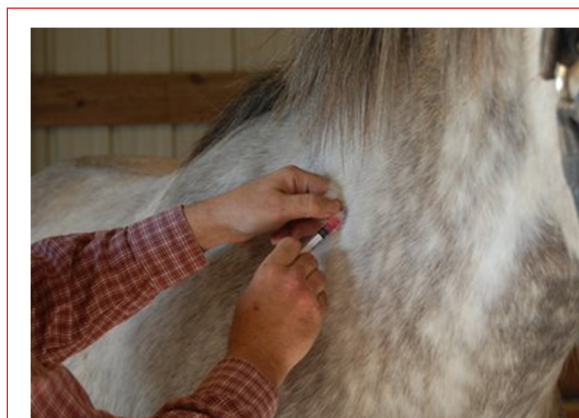
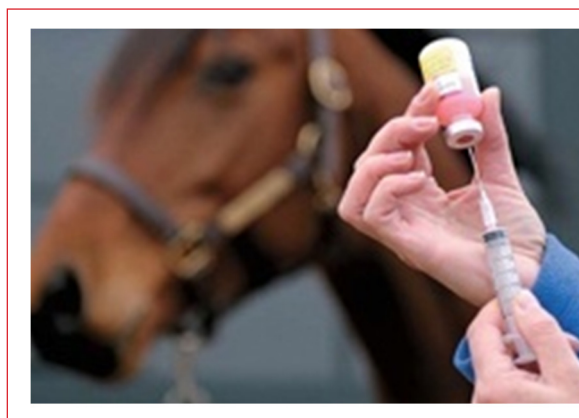
1. *A preparation of killed microorganisms, living attenuated organisms, or living fully virulent organisms that are administered to produce or artificially increase immunity to a particular disease.*
2. *Preparation containing either killed or weakened live microorganisms or their toxins, introduced by mouth, by injection, or by nasal spray to stimulate production of antibodies against an infectious agent. This confers immunity to that agent, since the B lymphocytes remain sensitized to it and respond to later infection by producing more antibodies.*

In summary these definitions are saying; through the administration of a product (vaccine) specific to a disease in which horses are susceptible too we are stimulating the horse's own immune system to help the horse protect itself from becoming sick if and when exposed to this particular disease.

With this understanding we move onto the second aspect, how does this apply to horses? In general horses are exposed to many different diseases both through comingling with other horse such as pasture/stall mates and at equine events (trail riding, shows, and clinics). Through this exposure it likely your horse will pick up a new virus or bacteria and may or may not become sick. There are also many diseases that are spread between horses via insects, such as Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness) and West Nile. In addition to these threats there are also environmental threats such as Tetanus which is introduced to horses via a cut or puncture wound and the threat of wild animal bites which may spread Rabies.

With all these daily threats, your horse's body is continually fighting off potential diseases. Vaccinating will greatly help facilitate this process. All quality vaccines have been studied and we know their duration of time in which they provide adequate immunity. For your "core vaccines" this is typically 12 months or yearly. Therefore, it makes sense to booster this immunity each year with the annual spring vaccinations.

Outside the "core vaccines" this time period may vary depending on type of vaccine, what agent we are vaccinating against and the risk factors associated with each individual horse. Thus, there are varying vaccination interval recommendations and different vaccine type to use. An equine veterinarian would be best able to advise you on what your horse's risk factors are and make recommendations for your horse to provide the best protection.



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Nebraska Dressage Association Contact

Do you have any submissions you'd like to share? Photos? Upcoming events? Please send all ideas and articles to Shaina Kennedy at shaina.plum@gmail.com by June 23, 2013. Thank you!

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