



# The Contact

Keeping Members Informed

Nebraska Dressage Association - [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) - May/June 2014 Edition

## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

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Middle Cross Dressage Schooling Show	5/3	Middle Cross Stables Roca, NE
Middle Cross Western Dressage Schooling Show	5/4	Middle Cross Stables Roca, NE
Great Plains Arabian Classic	5/8 - 9	Lancaster Event Center Lincoln, NE
NDA Board Meeting 7 pm	5/12	Fireworks Restaurant Lincoln, NE
NDA Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show	5/30	Quail Run Horse Centre, Elkhorn, NE
NDA 37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhusker Classic I & II	5/31 – 6/1	Quail Run Horse Centre, Elkhorn, NE
NDA Board Meeting 7 pm	6/9	Firespring - 1201 Infinity Court, Lincoln, NE

“As a result of the appropriate gymnastics and training of the horse, the appearance and the movements of the horse will be more beautiful.”

Alois Podhajsky



Melissa and Wintessa  
At the  
Shaggy Show

## Get to Know Our Barn: The Riding Center



While the Riding Center focuses on Classical Dressage training, spring has sprung and come join in the fun! The Riding Center is stronger than ever, we offer opportunities in a wide range of equestrian disciplines taught and trained such as: Basic Hunter Jumper, Classical Dressage, Basic Western, and Horsemanship.

Anyone interested in horsemanship is welcome at our barn. Our main focus is to have fun while learning more about horses. Our barn is fortunate to have a strong camaraderie among our boarders and staff. While each boarder takes his or her discipline seriously, the atmosphere we maintain is to encourage all to work with each other and to look out for one another.

Even with the excitement and competitive nature of entering shows, the staff and boarders focus on the learning experience that is gained in competition and support each individual's efforts.

The Riding Center boarders share in our commitment to ensure that each person has a positive experience with their horses. We are one of the few boarding facilities that has 12 x 12 and 12 x 14 stalls that serious dressage riders require, as well as a competition sized indoor and outdoor arena. We also have an office adjacent to the indoor arena that one can comfortably watch riders perform. Our large tack room provides plenty of space for boarders to safely store their equipment.

Currently, we enjoy three trainers at The Riding Center. Greg Queal, who is the owner, and son of Sally Queal, enjoys nurturing new and intermediate riders in Horsemanship, Hunter Jumper, and a solid foundation in equitation. Greg trained with Sally Queal, Jan Mactier, the Cudmore and Urban families, along with the United States Pony Club. His focus with young riders is on safety and building confidence between horse and rider, thus ensuring these new equestrians a wonderful experience.

Sally Queal, a Grand Prix rider and trainer in Classic Dressage, enjoys working with children and hosting summer riding camps.

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Stephanie and Jane  
at the  
Shaggy Show

### The Riding Center -(cont.)

Crystal Tipton teaches students and trains horses in Classical Dressage, Hunter Jumper including confidence over jumps as well as Basic Western, Horsemanship, safe trail riding, and Therapeutic Riding. Crystal originally trained with Sally Queal and Jennifer Mosier. Crystal demands safety first, and has the ability to articulate the subtle communication between horse and rider which enhances their experience.

The Riding Center has hosted clinics with Jane Fucinaro and Katie Anne Strack. This June 6th, 7th, and 8th we will have a return appearance with Jane Fucinaro instructing in Classical Dressage. The Riding Center is also available for other professionals in multiple disciplines to host clinics. We are hoping to expand our operation in 2015 to host a Dressage Show. Keep an eye on The Riding Center's Facebook page to find out about upcoming events.

You can contact Greg or Crystal Tipton through The Riding Center's Facebook page.



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Karen L. Stricklett, MS, CRC, ABVE-D  
President



## What is EHV-1?

Submitted by Mala Erickson, DVM

EHV-1 stands for Equine Herpesvirus-1, an infectious disease, also known as rhinopneumonitis or infectious abortion in mares, potentially affecting horses and other equines (i.e., mules, donkeys, and zebras). Equine herpesviruses can affect llamas and alpacas as well. Nine different equine herpesviruses have been identified, but EHV-1 and EHV-4 are considered most significant, with EHV-4 usually just causing respiratory disease. The neurologic form of EHV-1 is also called equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM). The equine virus does not affect people; herpesviruses that affect one animal species usually don't affect another species.

## How common are cases of EHV-1 in horses?

Although disease due to EHV-1 can occur in exposed horses, multiple cases of the neurologic form are less common. Over the past decade, several neurologic EHV-1 outbreaks have occurred in the US and around the world, making it an 'emerging disease'. Affected facilities have included racetracks, riding schools, show facilities, and veterinary hospitals. The prevalence of the virus varies with geographical location and most cases of disease occur in the spring and fall.

Recent large outbreaks have occurred in Ogden, UT in 2011 during which 242 horses from 19 states were exposed to EHV-1; 13 horses died or were euthanized. An outbreak in Ocala, FL in February 2013 resulted in multiple barns in quarantine including the FEI stabling area at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL.

In 2014, in the Midwest, neurologic EHV-1 cases have been reported in MN, WI, IA, and ND.



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What horses can get EHV-1?

EHV-1 infection can affect horses of any age, but it does not always lead to the neurologic form. Older horses and horses experiencing any stress or abnormality of the immune system may be more likely to progress to the neurologic form. Pregnant mares may abort if affected by the virus, without any other clinical signs.

Horses may appear outwardly healthy with no signs of illness, yet harbor the virus in their system due to previous exposure. Once a horse has the virus in its system, it is usually present for life. EHV-1 is considered endemic in the horse population.

How is EHV-1 transmitted?

Virus spread usually occurs between horses through nose-to-nose contact, but can also occur through contact with "exposed" items such as clothing, buckets, and other equipment contaminated with the virus. Exposure can also occur through contact with an aborted fetus or ingestion of the virus. Any surfaces that a horse's nose touches (or sprays with nasal secretions) can be a source of infection. A horse carrying the virus doesn't always have a runny nose when shedding the virus.

What symptoms can a horse infected with EHV-1 show?

EHV-1 may cause respiratory disease, abortion in pregnant mares, maladjustment disease complex in newborn foals (i.e. dummy foals), and neurologic disease. The neurologic form can precede or follow the respiratory and abortive forms, but not always. Although there are 2 strains of the EHV-1 virus, both are very contagious and can lead to the neurologic form, although the D752 strain (neuropathogenic form) spreads more rapidly and is thought to have a greater risk of leading to neurologic disease.

The virus has an approximately 4-6 day incubation period (time from exposure to causing symptoms). Horses can have a low-grade fever initially and may be depressed, have a decreased appetite, and possibly a cough and clear or white nasal discharge. The respiratory form of EHV-1 can resemble equine influenza. Horses may recover or develop neurologic signs about 7-12 days after the initial fever episode. Signs of neurologic EHV-1 can include uncoordinated movements (ataxia), knuckling over on the hind limbs, dripping urine, inability to pass manure, seizures, abnormal behavior, inability to retract the penis, and/or inability to stand ('dog-sitting'). It is important to note that not all horses infected with EHV-1 will get ill.

How are horses diagnosed with EHV-1?

Horses showing respiratory disease and fever or neurologic signs can be tested for EHV-1 by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on blood and a nasal swab. PCR detects viral DNA, regardless of it being alive or dead, so the test cannot determine whether the virus is associated with an active or latent infection. Virus isolation may be used to determine if the virus is alive or dead. Less commonly, a comparison of antibody titers to the virus over time can be used to support the diagnosis. Your veterinarian will determine whether testing is warranted.

What is a carrier or a horse with a latent infection?

Herpesviruses affecting any species, can be present in the body, without causing clinical signs. A horse may have the virus in its system, but it does not shed it continuously in nasal secretions.

## EHV-1 (Cont.)

The virus may be shed during times of stress, or stress may affect the horse's immune system and allow the latent virus to cause disease. For example, a horse exposed to EHV-1 may have a fever and shed the virus, yet not show any respiratory or neurologic signs.

How are horses with neurologic EHV-1 treated?

Along with biosecurity measures to try to limit spread of the disease, supportive care is very important. Since horses with neurologic EHV-1 may be unable to stand, transfer to a facility (such as a veterinary specialty hospital or veterinary school hospital) that has the ability to have the horse in a sling is ideal. Nursing care is important to try to avoid secondary complications such as skin ulcers, urine scald, urinary tract infections, muscle damage, and laminitis. Medications used may include NSAIDs (phenylbutazone or Banamine®), antiviral drugs, and antibiotics, if there are secondary bacterial infections. Vitamins B and E may also be used.

My horse gets vaccinated in the spring and fall; isn't it protected against neurologic EHV-1?

Unfortunately, the available EHV-1 and EHV-4 vaccines do not protect against the neurologic form of the disease. Vaccines with EHV-1 help protect against the respiratory and abortion forms of EHV-1. It is recommended to discuss appropriate vaccination schedules with your veterinarian.

Am I putting my horse at risk by going to shows?

In areas affected by an outbreak, shows and other events may be cancelled to try to limit spread of the disease. Any movement of horses should be limited to prevent transmission of the virus between horses. Show managers may implement regulations such as requiring health certificates, checking horses' temperatures on arrival at a show, or requiring a certificate stating that the horse has not been on any property with a confirmed or suspected case of EHV-1. At a show, any sick horse should be reported to show management, receive prompt veterinary care, and steps should be taken to reduce the risk of spread to other horses. At any show or event, even if there is not a current infectious disease outbreak, limiting the possible spread of disease is encouraged - avoid nose-to-nose contact between horses, avoid using 'common' supplies such as a hose to fill water buckets, and avoid using the same feeding or mucking equipment between horses from different locations.

How can the virus be killed? How can I remove the virus from surfaces and equipment?

It is important to remove any organic material (feed, manure, nasal secretions) from surfaces and equipment using soap and water, prior to using an appropriate disinfectant. Your veterinarian can recommend a disinfectant that will kill the virus. Avoid using high pressure water since that can cause "spread and splatter" of virus particles. It is also important to allow enough drying time, and the recommended contact time for the disinfectant used.

How do I know if there are neurologic EHV-1 cases in my area?

Your local veterinarian is your most important source of accurate information and to discuss current or suspected cases of any infectious disease in your area.

## EHV-1 (Cont.)

Neurologic EHV-1 is considered a reportable disease meaning that positive cases are reported to a state's Department of Agriculture or Board of Animal Health. In this age of social media and constantly being 'connected', keep a watch for any discussion of outbreaks or cases in your area. Due to the infectious nature of the virus, also monitor areas that you may be travelling to for shows or clinics or where other horses in your barn have travelled.

How can horse owners stop the spread of EHV-1 during an outbreak?

Quarantines or isolation precautions are usually used to try to limit the spread of EHV-1 by restricting the movement of horses in an area where cases have been confirmed. The environment and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected to try to reduce virus presence. Hand washing and using hand sanitizer can help reduce spread of the virus by handlers. The virus can survive in the environment and on surfaces for several hours to as long as one month, depending on moisture levels and light exposure. Attention should be paid to disinfecting boots, buckets, and any other items that could be contaminated with the virus. Additional traffic such as farriers and trainers to a barn should also be restricted during an outbreak or quarantine period.

I think my horse was exposed to EHV-1. What should I do?

Your first step should be contacting your veterinarian to discuss a plan for possible isolation of your horse and how to monitor for symptoms of disease such as fever. If a fever develops (101.5°F or greater), further testing such as nasal swabs and blood tests may be recommended to confirm the diagnosis. A plan for disinfection of the premises and equipment can also be formulated.

Whenever horses are gathered in one location whether for a show or clinic, or in a barn situation, there is the risk of infectious disease transmission. Since EHV-1 is always present in the equine population, there is always some risk of transmission between horses. As a horse owner, risks can be minimized by being attentive to any changes in your horse's behavior, appetite, or overall condition. If there are known cases of an infectious disease in your area, or if your horse has been exposed to an infected horse, your veterinarian should be your first information source to discuss monitoring, and possible isolation or quarantine procedures, as well as other biosecurity measures to limit the possible spread of disease.

Submitted by Mala Erickson, DVM with assistance from Francesca Sampieri, DVM, DACVIM (LAIM), an equine medicine specialist from Elizabethtown, KY.

Editor's Update submitted by Mala Erickson:

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/AllNewsItems/2014/04/29/ehv-1-case-confirmed-in-Kansas>

### **EHV-1 case confirmed in Kansas**

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Department of Agriculture Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Bill Brown today reports that a horse in northeast Kansas has been confirmed positive with a wild type of a non-neurotropic case of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1).

The affected horse was euthanized and samples were sent to Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on Friday, April 25. Preliminary tests showed lesions consistent to EHV-1. Additional samples were then sent to the Equine Diagnostics Services in Lexington, Kentucky. Results from a PCR test were received Tuesday afternoon confirming the positive nature of the samples.

## EHV-1 Update (cont.)

This horse had previously been to a large barrel racing event in Lincoln, Nebraska on April 10-13, where in the days following the event, a Wisconsin horse has also been confirmed positive for EHV-1 and euthanized.

Horse owners are encouraged to monitor animals carefully for signs of the disease, including checking temperatures twice a day for changes and implementing good biosecurity practices for an equine facility.

The virus is easily spread by airborne transmission, horse-to-horse contact and by contact with nasal secretions on equipment, tack, feed and other surfaces. Caregivers can spread the virus to other horses if their hands, clothing, shoes or vehicles are contaminated.

Symptoms of the disease may include a fever, nasal discharge, wobbly gait, hind-end weakness and dribbling of urine. The neurological form, including wild strains, of the disease is often fatal.

Due to the nature of this disease, the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health is not imposing any restrictions on equine events or movements at this time, however horse owners are encouraged to take precautionary measures when traveling or participating in equine events. If horse owners are planning on participating in upcoming horse events across Kansas, please call ahead to event planners to confirm if the event is still taking place.

For more information about EHV-1, please contact your local veterinarian.



A horse with nasal discharge due to EHV-1.



A horse with neurologic EHV-1 that is 'dog-sitting'.



A horse with neurologic EHV-1, recovering in a sling.



## 2014 Cornhusker Classic Class Sponsorship Form



May, 2014

Fellow Dressage Enthusiasts,

The Nebraska Dressage Association is in its 37th year of managing USEF/USDF recognized dressage shows. This would never be possible without your support and this year is no exception. The Classic Show touches virtually everyone involved with NDA who help plan, design, and organize to bring horse and rider before a judge, allowing them to be scored and placed in a competition. Many hours go into our show before the first rider ever enters the arena.

This show is for NDA members and dressage enthusiasts from surrounding states. We would ask that you consider supporting the Cornhusker Classic by purchasing a Class Sponsorship. It's one way we can give back to our sport.

You can sponsor classes using the name of your business, as an individual, or a family. Your support will be noted in the Classic program, which is provided to all competitors as well as spectators.

We need enthusiasts willing to sponsor a class or classes and would ask you to please fill out the bottom portion of this letter, indicating the classes you are able to sponsor, and return it, along with a check made out to NDA, by May17th, 2014.

For 2014 Class sponsorships are \$25/class or 3 classes for \$60. Please indicate the class you would like to sponsor below and the name of who we should credit for the sponsorship.

Wouldn't it be great if every class had a sponsored? Thank you in advance for supporting the Nebraska Dressage Association! Our members, sponsors, and patrons are the best!

Lisa Van Stratten  
NDA Fundraising

Introductory Tests \_\_\_\_\_

Training Level Tests \_\_\_\_\_ First Level Tests \_\_\_\_\_

Second Level Tests \_\_\_\_\_ Third Level Tests \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth Level Tests \_\_\_\_\_ Pick a Test For Me \_\_\_\_\_

FEI Tests (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Classes of Choice (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship name(s) (business, individual, family, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

---

THANK YOU! Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per sponsored class or \$60 for 3)

Please return this form by May 17th, 2014 to:

Lisa Van Stratten  
6214 County Road P39  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Questions? Call Lisa at 402-968-4417.

### Annual Fundraising Tack Sale at the Cornhusker Classic

There will be another great tack sale during the show with all proceeds to benefit The Dressage Foundation. There are so many opportunities for funds made available to NDA members and we want to make sure we help replenish these funds to keep the opportunities coming. Please look through all your tack, clothing, trinkets, books, and anything else horsey related that you no longer need and consider donating it to the sale. You can bring it to the show Thursday or Friday morning or contact me to pick it up ahead of time. No need to store it until the show if you want it out of your way! I'd be more than happy to pick it up. When I am able to pick it up ahead of time I make sure it's cleaned up, repaired, and priced for the show to save time. I will consider consignment of larger priced items like saddles and bridles if you are willing to donate a portion of the proceeds to The Dressage Foundation. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at [402-968-4417](tel:402-968-4417) or [dalevanstratten@huntel.net](mailto:dalevanstratten@huntel.net) or you can leave me a note on the NDA Face book page.

Thank you for your support!

Lisa Van Stratten

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USEF High Performance Athlete  
2013 I-1 Festival of Champions  
FEI Developing Horse Prix St. Georges, 2012*

*Student accomplishments:  
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2013 National Dressage Finals  
2013 Dressage Seat Medal Finals Champion*



# give

## To Lincoln Day

### May 29, 2014

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FOUNDATION

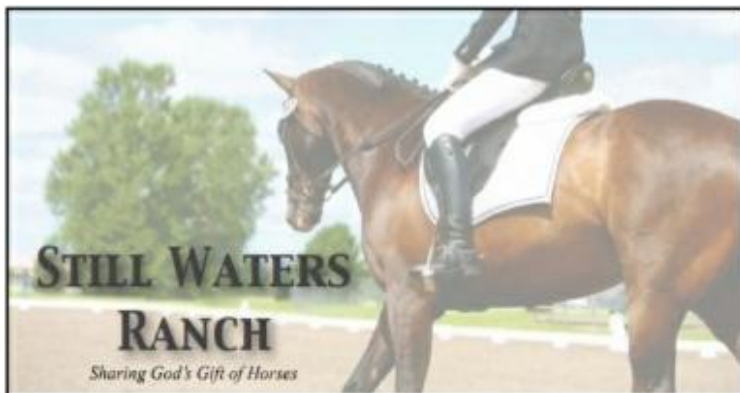
Our direct link:

<http://givetolincoln.razoo.com/story/Tdf>

A little blurb from the Lincoln Community Foundation.... On May 29th from 12:00am to 11:59pm, the Lincoln Community Foundation will host Give To Lincoln Day. We hope to make this a record-setting day of online giving and raise thousands of dollars to support Lincoln and Lancaster County nonprofit organizations. The need for funding has never been greater as our nonprofits are stretched to meet current needs and carry out their work. Every donation your nonprofit organization receives on Give To Lincoln Day will be increased by a proportional match from our \$300,000 challenge match pool.

These donor drawings might also be fun to promote, especially for the very early morning hours of midnight to 6am (for any early birds). One donor per hour will be drawn and the non profit they donated to will receive an additional \$300. So, of course, the odds are better for the early hours since most people will be sleeping! Maybe I'll have to set my alarm to make a donation at like 2 a.m.!...

**Allstate Donor Drawings** – Throughout the day, Lincoln Community Foundation will choose 24 online donors at random, one each hour of the event. These donors will have an additional bonus grant of \$300 added to the donation that donor made to their nonprofit organization.



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



## What is The Dressage Foundation?

The Dressage Foundation was founded in 1989 by Nebraska's very own, Lowell Boomer, who also organized and started the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) in 1973. That's something Nebraska should be proud of! I began working at The Dressage Foundation late January and am re-energized with the progress and difference this organization makes within our beloved sport of dressage.

*The Dressage Foundation is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, whose mission is to cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage. – TDF Website*

Whether you are an adult amateur, young rider or a professional, The Dressage Foundation provides grant opportunities for all riders. From a week at the Spanish Riding School, a grant to Europe, to USDF Instructor Certification, there is something for everyone-even our very own GMO!

## The Dressage Foundation and NDA

The Dressage Foundation has provided financial support to the Nebraska Dressage Association over the years, on various occasions. Two funds NDA has tapped into have been the Dancing Horse Fund and the Violet M. Hopkins Fund.

In 2010, NDA member Molly Pearson organized a clinic with Melanie Michalak with the help of the Dancing Horse Fund, which is dedicated to improving the quality and participation of dressage through Musical Freestyles. One of the Foundation's board members, Michael Matson, who chairs the Dancing Horse Committee, understands that Musical Freestyles are a very catchy part of dressage that draws attention from the public eye, which is why this group is so passionate about providing funding for education with Musical Freestyles.

The Violet M. Hopkins Fund is dedicated to providing grants of up to \$2,000 to USDF GMO's (such as NDA) to support quality instructional events for riders of all levels and ages. When it comes to NDA and the Hopkins Fund, we have been very fortunate to have received the funding that The Dressage Foundation offered. NDA has utilized this fund since 1997! The most recent events that we might all recall are the USDF Certified Adult Dressage Camp held in 1999, a clinic with Terri Ciotti-Gallo (Freestyle designer) in 2004, the Biomechanics clinic with Arlene Rigdon in 2005, the Lilo Fore clinic held at Providence Farm in 2011 and most recently, the Teaching the Rider to Feel clinic with Sarah Martin held in 2012. Without the support of The Dressage Foundation, these outstanding clinics would not have been possible!

NDA members Dallas Van Stratten and Jami Kment have also successfully applied for grants from The Dressage Foundation. Dallas Van Stratten was awarded a grant from the Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund in 2012 to attend the Region 4 Junior/Young Rider Clinic in which she trained with Olympian Jan Ebeling. Dallas says, "My favorite part of the clinic was not only Jan, because he was fantastic to work with, but the people." Dallas continues to say how great it was to see other young adults working towards the same goals as her.

## Dressage Foundation – Continued

Jami Kment received the Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship in 2013 to aid with training in Florida with Kathy Connelly and her own horse, Zania. She and Kathy have made plans to also ride with Robert Dover and Debbie McDonald while in Florida! Jami reports, "With this scholarship I will use what I learn to strengthen the Midwest in good quality instruction and training. I am passionate to help others and to contribute to the good of our sport. I desire to continue to expand my knowledge and experience to become a successful international trainer/rider/instructor." She goes on to say, "The Dressage Foundation is right here in Nebraska, and there are opportunities for scholarships for just about everyone."

### **Grants, Funds and Scholarships**

While there are many programs that The Dressage Foundation offers, I wanted to focus on a few that may peak interest with NDA's members including; The Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund for adult amateurs, The Heldenberg Training Center Fund for adult amateurs and young riders, the Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund for professionals and young riders, and finally, the two scholarships designed for dressage instructors, the Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship and the Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors fund.

The Gifted Memorial Fund was set up with donations in memory of Carol Lavell's great Olympic horse, Gifted. This scholarship is given to adult amateurs to set a week aside from everyday life and dedicate quality time with their horse for concentrated training. Up to nine \$1,000 grants are given to deserving riders (one in each region), plus two wild cards from any region. This would be a wonderful opportunity for the adult amateur looking to find the time and funding for intensive training!

The Heldenberg Training Center Fund was founded in memory of E.L. Dreitzler, who was one of three women to be trained at the Spanish Riding School (at the time she was there). This grant is awarded to an adult amateur or young rider to attend theoretical sessions at the Spanish Riding School's training center in Heldenberg. If you are an adult amateur or young rider looking for an opportunity of a lifetime, this is it!

The Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund is for either professionals or young riders that are looking for a financial boost to attend a clinic or educational event. Originally set up for the USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series, this fund has grown to provide funding for professionals or young riders seeking advanced training. This fund would be great for those with an excellent history of volunteering and a great work ethic.

Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship valued the education of US Dressage Instructors and put forth much effort in teaching almost 1,000 Instructors through the Violet Hopkins National Seminars for Dressage Instructors. The Dressage Foundation offers up to \$10,000 every year in Major Anders Lindgren's name, funded through the Gifted Fund.

Finally, the Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors Fund is for GMOs or individuals to conduct or attend USDF Instructor Certification. Maryal and Charles Barnett made this fund possible because they were inspired by individuals such as Lowell Boomer and Violet Hopkins. They value the importance of education for instructors in the US and wished to give back to the sport. This fund is administered by The Dressage Foundation and is offered in amounts of up to \$1,000 for GMOs and \$500-\$1,500 for individuals.

## Dressage Foundation - Continued

These are just a few of the scholarships that The Dressage Foundation offers. Please visit the [website](#) to see the full list of opportunities, or feel free to talk to myself or Jenny Johnson at TDF's office at (402) 434-8585.

### The Importance of Giving Back

As you have read, The Dressage Foundation was started and is maintained through generous donors that are enthralled with the sport of dressage. Education is priceless to the development of dressage in this country, and funding by organizations like The Dressage Foundation makes the advancement of the sport possible within our communities. Without caring donors and supporters of the sport, this wouldn't be possible! Look at what The Dressage Foundation has done for our own state, not to mention the hometown pride that it was started *in* Nebraska! I strongly urge each and every one of you to get involved with The Dressage Foundation, whether it is a small donation, a glance at our website, or a "like" on Facebook. It is a fantastic organization and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Jane Fucinaro

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2014  
Horse Shows  
April 4-6  
April 17-20  
April 30 - May 4  
August 27- 31  
September 3 - 7

Watch for future dressage shows hosted by Urban Equine Events

[www.urbanequineevents.com](http://www.urbanequineevents.com)



2014  
Horse Shows  
May 28 - June 1  
June 4-8  
June 11-15  
September 10-14

[www.midstateshorseshows.com](http://www.midstateshorseshows.com)

Dressage riders must be quick-thinkers and problem solvers.

I instruct my students to break down their difficulties and have them quickly tell me what they need to do as a correction. Many times riders feel over whelmed with the fact that their figures and movements aren't maintaining quality. I encourage them to think in terms of gradual improvement. Instead of riding for perfection, I have them ride to do better.

As they ride the long side they tell me what they feel is needed fundamentally to improve. Impulsion, straightness, steadying the tempo etc. On the short side they make their corrections. The next long side they ride having isolated the main problem. The idea is too quickly use the tools the instructor has given them and do "better" each long side. They must be quick to assess and correct. The fundamentals are the key to achieving the lightness and harmony we all seek to perform the exercises with ease both for us and our horses.

Remember the fundamentals are in the training scale. No matter what sport you engage in or what level you have achieved, the key to success is a strong understanding and ability to perform the "basics".

I encourage all riders to take the responsibility of knowing the fundamentals of our sport and to develop their skills in explaining them to their partners.

Melonie Kessler  
USEF "S" Dressage Judge



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**Nebraska Dressage Association**

*A charter member of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) since 1975.*



education. competition. community.

*The NDA's guiding purpose is to further the use of classical dressage techniques by disseminating educational material and sponsoring clinics, workshops, and shows.*

#### Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the monthly newsletter, *The Contact*
- Group Membership in the USDF
- Subscription to USDF monthly publication, *USDF Connection*
- Eligibility for NDA Year-End Awards
- Eligibility for USDF Rider Awards
- Reduced fees for NDA events

**JOIN TODAY!**  
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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

[newsletter@nebraskadressage.org](mailto:newsletter@nebraskadressage.org) by June 15, 2014. Thank you!

[www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org)

### NDA Sale Barn Advertising Policy

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Advertising images, documentation, and any questions should be sent to Lisa Van Stratten at [dalevanstratten@abbnebraska.com](mailto:dalevanstratten@abbnebraska.com). Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Tish Gade-Jones, 1900 South 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

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