



High Desert Horsemen
 P.O. Box 2263
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 hdhorsemen.org

HD Hoofprints

Volume 3 Issue 4
 April 2007

Upcoming Events

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Apr 14—Work day at Hamilton's Arena parking lot, 11225 Silver Lane. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. We will work on the parking lot and weed removal. Bring shovels, hoes, rakes and good work gloves. Brown bag lunch. Saddle Fitting clinic at 1:00 p.m. conducted by Tony Sumner. Contact Kelli 629.0865.

Apr 21 – 3rd Annual Hairy Horse Show, 11225 Silver Lane, Hamilton's Arena, Stagecoach. 9:00 a.m. Info: Kelli Lyon, 775-629-0865 or www.hdhorsemen.org

May 6 – Poker Ride & BBQ, Washoe State Park. 9:00 a.m.

May 10—Board/Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Potluck. Carson City Fire Department, 2600 College Parkway. Contact Kelli Lyon, 629-0865.

May 19 – Ground Manners 101, conducted by Tony Sumner, 11225 Silver Lane, Hamilton's Arena, Stagecoach. 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. Equine Citizenship Test—Level 1 will start at 1:00 p.m. Brown bag lunch—bring your own chairs. Contact Tony 423-9381.

Jun 16—Trail Challenge, 11225 Silver Lane, Hamilton's Arena—9:00 a.m. Brown bag lunch. Brand inspections will also be conducted from 9:00 to 12:00. Contact Tony 423-9381 or Kelli 629.0865.

Jun 30—Formation Riding Clinic 101, conducted by Vince Pirozzi, 11225 Silver Lane, Hamilton's Arena, Stagecoach—10:00 a.m. Brown bag lunch. Contact Vince 841.3563.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR TIME AND DATE CHANGES. SOMETIMES THINGS CHANGE AND WE HAVE TO RESCHEDULE OR CANCEL. www.hdhorsemen.org OR CALL THE CONTACT NUMBER LISTED FOR THE EVENT.

Choosing A Training Method (And a Trainer)

In the beginning there was Buck, the little Spanish Mustang with the huge attitude. Rearing, biting and his specialty : Spook, spin, bolt and buck all in a split second. I needed help, and needed it quickly, before I was seriously hurt. You would think that as long as man has been riding horses, there would be a humane, step by step method that would keep dummies like myself out of trouble. But back in the mid 90s there wasn't much that worked on ol' Buck. Fortunately a little Aussie came to my rescue, with a program that worked wonders on Buck. So my rules for choosing any method (and I tried many) are:

- **It must be safe for me.** There are too many other critters and people who rely on my well being for me to get hurt. Aside from the fact that when I was young I bounced, but now I splatter.
- **It must be safe for my horse.** In no form or fashion do I want my horse being injured either physically or emotionally. It's just not acceptable.
- **It must be explained in a step by step fashion.** I need simple, easy to remember instructions. I don't want to ever guess what the next step is at any time.
- **It must be demonstrated on a green horse.** I don't care what a trainer can do with his horse, I need to see and understand clearly how it is going to work on my horse who has never received this training. I also need to see some progress in a timely manner.
- **It must make sense.** I don't want any mystical training, or the caveat of a "personally correct spirit" for the training to work. The methods need to carry efficacy and veracity. And never be afraid to ask why a method works.
- **It should suit your personality.** There are many, many ways to train a horse, so choose one that suits your personality.

Basically, the element of empowerment must be present, and the degree of empowerment determines the quality of the instruction. If your training methods or trainer are not helping you clearly and directly, you are largely wasting your time. There is just so much to learn about training horses, that any circumlocution detracts from that goal.

These rules have served me well, but took some financing and many returns to e-bay. They, also, have never closed my mind to learning new and improved ways and I am always willing to listen to new methods and approaches. Basically I use the exact same steps with every horse that I work with, I just alter it by breaking it down into smaller steps to accommodate all the different horsenalties out there. Save yourself some money, use these rules and demand more from your trainers and training knowledge.

I hope this helps all of you who enjoy the interaction of training your own horse. If you run into difficulties, please be sure to ask one of us here at HDH – we don't purport to know all there is to know about training, but hopefully we can point you in the right direction. HAPPY TRAINING – and its all training, because every time you work with your horse you are teaching it something.

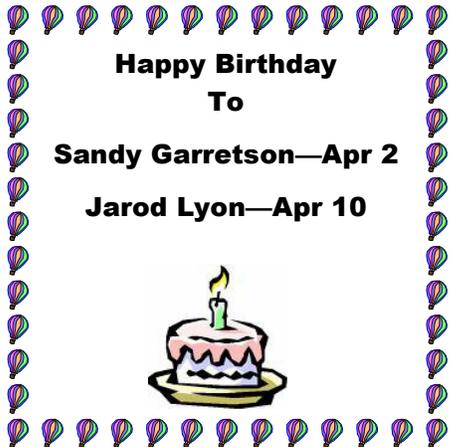
Tony Sumner

WANTED: Round skirt saddle to fit Morab, and smooth mouth snaffle bit. Please contact Melinda Cash @246-0198 or e-mail @ jcash8888@aol.com.

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Happy Birthday
To
Sandy Garretson—Apr 2
Jarod Lyon—Apr 10




If you shop at Office Depot, please give them the following telephone number 775-629-0817 and High Desert Horsemen will earn cash rewards.

The Mule Jewel
by
Harold Roy Miller

After watching the Bishop Mule Days parade, I sorely wanted a mule, so I searched the classifieds ads and found what I considered a jewel. He was incredibly strong, stocky and big around as a cow. I brought him home in my trailer and proudly put him in the corral.

He was just about as white as that friendly ghost called Casper I considered that name a while, but finally renamed him Jasper. His belly and shoulders were huge and his shaggy head was massive but he seemed tranquil and relaxed, and actually kind of passive.

Now I have heard that a mule never forgives and that they never forget, But that didn't bother me any because I considered this one a pet. I knew that there was a chance he might bite or that he might be prone to kick but after having horses stepping on my feet I had learned to be quick.

Now over the years I have had myself a few bucking horse duels but I admit I was green as grass about the quirks of stubborn mules. Seeing this dappled gelding filled my heart with owner's pride so I wasted no time in saddling him up and got ready for a ride.

I brushed him down and bridled him up with a firm gag bit, just in case there was some small chance he'd throw a hissy fit. I figured he might be a little rusty, but then I knew was too, but I didn't have any idea what this mule was about to do.

I stepped up into the saddle and let him have his head and there wasn't a second of hesitation as across the arena he sped. My life flashed before my eyes and I figured I had met my fate. as he ignored my cues and cries for help and crashed right through the gate.

I knew I had only two choices as he headed toward the paved road: one was to hang on for dear life, the other was to unload. I did not like either choice as new prayers I sent on high. I knew I was gonna get hurt real bad or worse case scenario, die.

I tried a one-rein stop but he seemed to think I was only funning. He just turned his head and gave me a glance while he kept right on running. The telephone poles were whizzing by as we moved at an incredible pace. It was then I started mouthing the words to the song "Amazing Grace."

I still don't know how I did it, but somehow I survived without a wreck, though they did have to use a crowbar to pry my arms from around his neck. But now I'm a whole lot wiser and I have learned, when dealing with mules, you do not treat them like a horse. There's a whole new set of rules!

This is the test that will be conducted once again on May 19, 2007

Equine Citizenship Test Level I

Section A - Ground Manners

Disengage Hindquarters
Backup
Disengage Forequarters
Lunge Stage 1 Left
Sidepass against fence

Section B - Desensitized

Throw rope over back - Left
- Right
Handi-stick - Slap ground
- Helicopter
- Flag
Tarp over horse's back

Section C - Handling

Pickup Feet
Lead
Clippers
Trailer Loading

Section D - Under Saddle

Walk on Loose Rein
Trot on a Loose Rein
Disengage Hindquarters
Backup
One Rein Stop from a trot

OR

Section D - In Harness

Walk on Loose Rein
Trot on a Loose Rein
Stop
90 degree turn
Reverse



Colt Starting Demo by Tony Sumner March 10, 2007



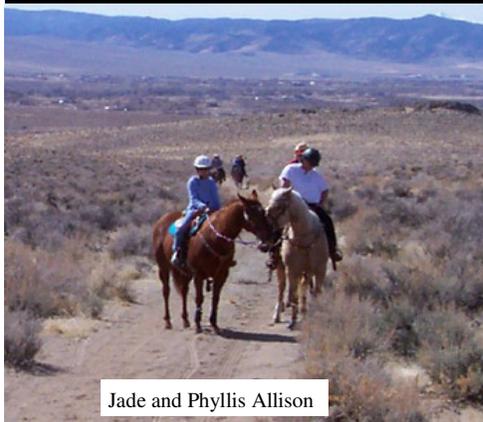
Tony Sumner worked with Linda Mulkey's three-year old filly, Rasha. Tony went over the ground work done prior to getting on a horse for the first time. He worked at desensitizing and then sensitizing Rasha.



When it came time to get on her back for the first time, Rasha accepted Tony without a fight. The demo was very educational.



Ride/Drive at Linda Mulkey's March 10, 2007



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Ride/Drive at Linda Mulkey's
March 10, 2007



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Herb Fawcett, Bonnie Replogle, Diana Goodrick, Jade and Phyllis Allison, Sharlene Cosens



Sharlene Cosens, Diana Goodrick, Theresa Panziera, Bonnie Replogle, Aimee and Tony Sumner, Sheila Aerick



Joanie Soboleski



Herb Fawcett, Phyllis and Jade Allison

Frequently Asked Questions: Equine Herpes Virus-1

Currently, there is an outbreak of the neurotropic form of Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) in Redwood City, California. There also are reports of a recent outbreak in Montana. Below is an article that explains about EHV-1.

What is Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1)? - Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) is a contagious viral disease of horses that can cause respiratory disease, abortion and occasionally neurologic disease.

Is there another name for Equine Herpes Virus? - Rhinopneumonitis or 'rhino.' It is a herpes virus that is common among horses.

How is the EHV-1 disease spread? - Aerosol (airborne) and fomites (feed, clothing, boots, hands, etc.)

Can EHV-1 spread to humans? - No, but people can transport the virus on their clothes, boots, etc.

Can EHV-1 spread to other species of animals? - No.

What are the clinical signs or symptoms seen with EHV-1? - Respiratory disease, abortion and occasionally neurologic disease (lack of coordination, inability to stand, etc.)

Are these clinical signs similar to any other equine diseases we have in our horse population? - Yes. Equine Influenza Virus may cause respiratory disease. Equine Viral Arteritis may cause abortions, and West Nile Virus may cause neurologic disease.

If my horse has some of the above clinical signs, will I be able to tell which disease he/she may have contracted? - No

Is there a vaccine available to help prevent the spread of EHV-1? - Yes, but it doesn't directly protect against the neurological form of the disease cause by EHV-1.

My horse is up to date on its vaccinations, including EHV-1. Can my horse still be at risk of contracting the disease? - It's possible, but horses that have not been vaccinated are at a much higher risk.

Will EHV-1 affect all of my horses or are some of my horses at more of a risk of contracting the disease? - Young, old, weak, high exposure, immune challenged, and stressed horses are more likely to get sick.

How long will it take for my horse to show clinical signs of the disease after he/she has been exposed to the disease? - Horses can shed the EHV-1 from the onset of clinical signs until 1-2 weeks after the clinical signs are gone. A 21 day quarantine period following the disease is recommended.

How do you test for EHV-1? - A blood test is available. Test results will usually take 3-7 days to be completed.

I only have one horse. Do I have to be concerned about my horse contracting EHV-1? - Yes. While the virus is spread more readily from horse to horse via infected droplets in the air, on facility surfaces, fences, buckets and a common water source, etc., there is also the possibility of spreading the disease as a result of droplets being carried on clothes, boots, jackets, etc.

As a horse owner, what should I do to prevent the potential spread of the EHV-1? - Horse owners do not need to panic, but they should following appropriate bio-security measures such as those listed at the end of this article.

What about vaccinations? - There are vaccines available to protect horses against EHV-1. Since EHV-1 is a common virus in horses, it is recommended that all horses be vaccinated at least once a year. For horses congregating at shows and competitions, more frequent vaccinations may be recommended. Consult your local veterinarian to discuss the risk potential and vaccination recommendations for your horse.

What disinfectant(s) are best to use for cleaning my facilities? - Generic disinfectants such as bleach, chlorhexidine, quaternary ammonias and others are effective in killing the EHV-1 virus.

I have only a couple horses. Do I have to follow the preventative measures? - Yes.

I have an active and full barn of horses that frequently travel through out the state and out of state. What preventative measures should I be practicing to minimize the risk of spreading EHV-1? - See the recommendations for isolation and bio-security measures listed at the end of this article. Prior to traveling with your horses, check on the current health status of horses at your final destination.

My farrier is scheduled to come and work on my horses' feet? Should I still have him/her come or cancel the visit? - Have them come unless there is a high level of disease in surrounding barns. Practice the appropriate bio-security measures, regardless of area farm status. If the work is not needed immediately and there is a high level of disease in the area, rescheduling to a later date may be the wisest decision.

If I have new horses coming to barn, what should I do before they arrive and after they arrive? - Your horses

- should be up to date with their EHV-1 vaccinations. Quarantine/separate the new arrivals for 3 weeks.

Frequently Asked Questions: Equine Herpes Virus-1 (continued)

We like to trailer to another barn and ride. Can we still do this? - While your barn may not be under quarantine, the potential to spread the disease is minimized if horses are not exposed to additional sources of contamination. It is important to still enjoy spending time with your horse. However, by taking the initiative to keep unnecessary travel to a minimum, the potential for spreading EHV-1 will be reduced.

How long should we not travel from barn to barn during an EHV-1 outbreak?

No definitive answer can be given as the length of time is dependent on the success of minimizing the EHV-1 outbreak.

BIO-SECURITY MEASURES FOR HORSE OWNERS

- Immediately isolate any sick horses in the barn. Isolate any new horses or horses returning from another location or show for at least 7 days. If horses were exposed to sick horses while away, take further precautions and isolate horses for at least 21 days.
- As the EHV-1 virus can be spread on clothing, all human traffic (clients taking lessons, borders, visitors, trainers, blacksmiths, veterinarians) should be vigilant about disinfecting boots before entering and leaving a different barn, wearing clothing (ex: jeans, jacket) that have not been worn in another horse barn, and washing hands before handling the horses. At the entrance of the barn, provide a tub of disinfectant and instructions for all to use. Bleach water (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) may be used and should be changed daily. Phenolic based disinfectants will be less effective if a lot of feces and other organic material collects in the tub, so clean out and replace the disinfectant solution regularly.
- Do not rotate horses from stall to stall. Don't share feed tubs or water buckets among the horses. Inserting a water hose previously submerged in a bucket of a sick horse can potentially spread a virus.
- Disinfect any areas of the barn that may have been exposed to a sick horse or a horse that is of question, including disposal of all bedding and hay/feed. The above disinfectants can be used. If the stall is needed, allow disinfectant to dry before placing a horse in the same location.
- Always work with the sick horses(s) last in your chore routine and exit the barn without completing any other tasks.
- When possible, separate horses into small groups to minimize the number of horses that may be exposed if you do have an infected horse.

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1350 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Oregon, WI 53575
608-835-0551
Updated: March 2, 2006

Please use common sense when you take your horse out in public.

Do not allow your horse to drink from a common water trough. Bring a bucket from home for your horse.

Do not allow your horse to touch noses with other horses.

Vaccinate your horses and de-worm them regularly.

News Briefs

Congratulations to Cathryn Fox—winner of the Clinton Anderson Walkabout Tour tickets.

Debbie Young is recuperating after injuring her knee and subsequent surgery. We hope you are healing fast!

Jim Hamilton is still recuperating at home. Get well soon!

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