

Mustang/Burro

Newsletter

2/13/09



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www.wildhorseandburroexpo.com

A newsletter supported by Mustang and Burro Owners for
anyone who loves Mustangs and Burros



Happy Valentines Day

Mustang/Burro Owners helping to guide others with their
Mustangs/Burros

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From Cindy:

I've been getting some "not so kind" emails, from a tiny percentage (2% - yeah, I calculated it) of our overall readers about the content of our newsletters. For me, that means that 98% of you *like* the newsletter..... I've been battling with whether or not I say something...then I received another "yucky" email, and I just have to say something.....

When Answering questions, EVERYONE, Please consider the following:

When you write in to answer a question, keep in mind that the person who asked the question is sincerely asking for direction. They don't want to be made to feel like they are "dumber than dirt"...they want help. So, try to word your responses so they are helpful and not hurtful.

AND, for folks who are compelled to complain, read on....

When you read the newsletter, please keep in mind, that I'm not trying to make a political statement, I'm just "SHARING" information that people have sent me. **BEFORE** you shoot off an email of complaint, please think about these points:

1. I do this newsletter for FREE, with spare time I don't have.
2. I do the newsletter because I care about Mustangs and their owners.
3. I do the newsletter to help people have a better relationship with their horses.
4. I do the newsletter so Mustang folks can share their stories with others who love and appreciate Mustangs.
5. I do the newsletter so Mustang folks can do events with other mustang folks.
6. Think about all the positive things the newsletter has accomplished.

After taking time to consider these points, if you still have no option but to attack me with your typed word, then yell at the top of your lungs at YOUR computer, and send me an email asking that you be removed from the newsletter.

98% of our readers/contributors do an awesome job of trying to help each other and support me....I appreciate that top 98% of the Mustang/Burro Newsletter.

For the difficult 2%, If I get any rude, nasty, condescending emails, I'm not even going to comment to those emails anymoreI see NO reason to defend myself! I'm just going to remove "non productive grumblers" from the newsletter email list. PERIOD!

Questions 1: Our horses (Three 6 year old geldings) often come in from the pasture, after a day of play, with a variety of "boo-boo's" We use "Wonder Dust" for leg wounds, but wonder what others use. Also, what do you use on small scraps on the face (near the eye). Once in a while (not very often), someone places a good kick to another horse - it doesn't leave an open wound, but I do wonder if it doesn't bruise them - anything to put on if you think they have a bruised, sore muscle??

Schreiner's Solution is very effective, albeit a bit expensive. I work at a vet-type clinic and we use silver sulfadiazine on minor injuries. I have used it quite successfully on my horses and myself. For larger, shallow abrasions, Granulex is wonderful! It helps the development of granulation tissue and they heal much faster. I have been advised repeatedly by my vet not to over-clean an injury. We as people have a desire to keep every cut spotless, but if you can manage to leave it alone and clean it no more than once every 2 to 3 days, it allows the edges of the wound to come together and heal. Hope that helps!

For bruises or sore muscles that do not require a vet, try Arnica Montana. It is totally natural and available from amazon.com pretty quickly. The friend who recommended it to me said she uses 6 of the pills at a time. The pills are very small and you might want to use more, but 6 has worked on our horses. Arnica Montana can also be used by humans -- the directions for us is on the bottles. The pills have a sugary taste. One domestic horse just eats them with the other supplements. The Mustang neatly sorts them to the side of the tub, so I have to crush them up and mix them in a little better.

I guess I'm a BAD MOM but for the ordinary boo-boos and scrapes of ordinary playing around, I don't worry about it... Boys will be boys, mustangs will be mustangs, donkeys will be donkeys... Well, in fly season I might put SWAT on a scratch or scrape until it scabs over. For the most part I only get involved if there is major blood loss, or an injury that threatens functional use of body parts, etc.

I like to use Corona (ointment), it helps cover up boobos, I use it on my mustangs all the time. It seems to work really well and helps the hair grow back quicker. Also bickmore gall salve, I use that on cuts as well.

We use neosporin on the faces of our horses (truth is, we buy the generic brand in big tubes). It contains an antibiotic and heals fast without scarring.

There are a few homeopathic remedies that are good. I use Calendula Cream for my horses cuts and scrapes. It is safe on the face and does not sting or burn. I've used it right under my horse's eye when she scraped her face with no problems. You can find it at the health food stores or natural/nutrition shops. There are 2 different kinds (one is for cuts/scrapes and the other for burns) so just make sure you get the right one. The brand I use is called "Nelsons." There are a couple more homeopathic remedies you can use for the bruising, trauma, pain and sore muscles.

Arnica is great on pain, bruising and trauma. Rhus Toxicodendron is great on sore muscles (that show improvement with movement). They are for people, but are safe on horses. They help promote healing faster and are natural. They come in small pellets that can be placed right inside the horses mouth just inside the lip. They taste like sugar pills, so the horses don't mind it. You can find them at the same stores as the calendula. I've also found them at Nugget Markets.

Any anti-bacteria cream is good for minor cuts. I am not a dust person, but if it works I don't see any issues. Good old hosing with cold water does wonders for horse injuries, whether it is bruising, cuts or scrapes. Get the dirt out, cool water helps with swelling, eases pain and other good things. I like Novastan, a blue cream, that seems to work well. For really minor cuts I put on some Corona (not beer). Don't cover and let it heal open. Some use hydrogen peroxide, maybe if you catch it early, but lots of people don't like it and say it interferes with healing.



Sometimes less is better. I don't bother with the boo boo's. If something requires stitches, is a puncture wound, is infected, or has something embedded in it, then I worry about it. Otherwise the horses deal with it just fine. And yes, if they get kicked, they will have a bruise. Those get cold water run on them, and sometimes DMSO. If it is pretty swollen, I don't ride the horse that day, but in a day or two, some exercise will really help the bruise go away. With a big wound, I flush it with hydrogen peroxide the first day, then with saline after that IF it needs flushed. Saline made with sea salt is gentler than iodized salt and has lots of beneficial minerals. Then the "medicine" that I use most often is Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a little Tea Tree oil added. EV Olive Oil (which should never be heated) is full of wonderful vitamins and minerals, and is very beneficial for healing wounds, reducing scar tissue and regrowing hair, and the Tea Tree Oil is antibacterial and antifungal. Most of the products available for treating wounds are mostly to make the owner feel better, and some actually contain harmful chemicals.

I have a friend that had a horse go through a barbed wire fence years ago. He had about 24" of torn flesh. There is a little known but amazing product called "Underwood Horse Medicine" for wounds. It seems very unconventional because of the way it's applied, but I've seen the pictures and know the owner's reputation(she lives north of Gerlach so vets are not accessible)This stuff is amazing. I keep some around. The only place I've ever seen this product is Sierra Feed on S. Virginia St. Reno. It's pricey but worth it. Another friend used it on a wound on the lower leg.

Corona or Swat are good for boo-boo's. I prefer Corona, but if flies are a problem Swat works well. For REALLY serious wounds, Furox spray or ointment is good. Unless there is an open wound, swelling or lameness, I wouldn't do anything about any possible bruising due to kicking. Like us, an anti-inflammatory, non-steroidal drug such as Bute, can alleviate discomfort.

Question 2: Is there any benefit or detriment to putting a piece of "sacrificial" wood in with my burros (or Mustangs)? Other than the hay they receive, there is nothing edible in their paddock. From time to time I have tossed a piece of lumber into their paddock for them to chew on and play with. They seem to enjoy this and prefer cedar. The lumber is obviously played with, as it is in a different place each morning. Ultimately it is gone completely as they eat it down. Is giving them wood a good thing or is there a down side that I'm missing?

We pick up fairly big tree limbs that have fallen etc and put them in our truck and take them home to the pasture for the horses to chew to their hearts content. Whatever kind we can find will do. Treated lumber, no, especially if it has the little marks all over it from an arsenic mixture that has been put in it. But wild wood or your own tree cuttings, if no pesticides, that is great and the horses both need and appreciate having it to busy themselves with. Never had we had any problems at all, only good results.

I have never intentionally offered my critters wood to chew, but they are definitely woodchucks - last summer they ate 2 pieces of plywood that was the wall of a shelter, and this fall they chewed through a pile of cut logs that we had set up as a trail trial obstacle. So far they have come to no harm from it, but to me it suggested maybe a mineral deficiency, so I got them a new mineral lick and a magnesium supplement. Due to the splinter potential, I would rather they didn't eat wood, but they do.

You are teaching your horses to be fence chewers. Not to mention you are risking a splinter in the mouth or throat or stomach or intestines, which could be big trouble for your horse. I know lots of horses like to chew on trees and eat bark, that is different than processed wood. Get them a bowling pin, a bucket, a rubber ball, or other chew toy, but I would not give wood, it is a bad habit than can hurt them physically and create a bad habit or vice which will turn into cribbing or wind sucking.

I would definitely not encourage

horses or burros to take up the habit of chewing on wood. You are encouraging a very bad behavior known as cribbing. I've seen horses end up with large slivers of wood lodged in their mouths and gums. Imagine what it would do to their stomachs or intestines? Not to mention the damage to your barn or fencing. It was my understanding the cedar has some toxicity to horses as well. Some treated wood also have chemicals in them which would also be toxic to your animals. Try getting a jolly ball or large orange cones (like the kind used in construction). They also make large treats like pony pops or lik-its that you can hang in their paddock. They have rollers that the treats can be placed on which will keep them busy and make the treats last longer. Try giving them a long stem hay in addition to their regular feed. This will also give them something to do as it takes them a long time to chew it and would help relieve the boredom.

I think I'd give them other toys, and also put the hay in feeders that slow down the consumption so that it lasts longer. I don't know about the problems wood can cause to their digestion, if any. And I suppose Burros eat quite a bit of woody fiber in the wild, so it may not hurt them at all to give them wooden things to play with. However, we had a mare who got a large abscess under her jaw, and after I panicked and told all my friends with whom I had been riding that she may have Strangles, we found out that it was actually wood splinters that had gotten embedded under her tongue and traveled there. Same thing happened to our dog who chewed sticks. Both had to have the abscesses lanced open and the wood splinters cleaned out, then stitched up.

I can't think it would be good for his digestive system, but you'd have to ask a vet to know for sure. But for his teeth it's definitely not good. He could easily break off part of his molars. Plus he could also get shreds of wood caught between his gums and teeth – like a popcorn kernel. I would strongly recommend against it.
www.WhyFloatTeeth.com

Wood used like that presents a health risk for splinters, etc. If your guys are still "chewy" - there is no harm in offering clean, good quality straw for "entertainment", also likits and "uncle jimmy's hanging balls" are good busy toys. Maybe get them an old hoppity hop to play with as well.

We have two burros that we adopted in the summer of 2006. I would not encourage the chewing of wood. They are natural little beavers on their own. I did discover that they love to play with hoses. They kept pulling my watering hose through the fence and yanking it as far as they could. So, when you can't beat 'em, join 'em! I gave them a 10 foot long chunk of old hose with all of the metal ends cut off. I keep the remainder of the old hose around to replace their toy when it has been pretty well decimated. I eventually tied a jolly ball on the end of the hose to add another toy to their pasture. They play for hours with these toys.

I also have the luxury of being retired, so I am around to feed three times a day. This also cuts down on boredom and creates a more natural opportunity for "grazing" throughout the day.

Hope this helps a bit. We love our "boys." They are great fun!

Rather than placing wood in the corral to chew on, I'd rather have something non-edible for them to play with. I've used tarps, kid's plastic wading pools, tires, detergent bottles with rocks inside, and some regular horse toys. Anything to keep them amused. If the horses need something to nibble on besides their regular hay, bermuda or oat hay might give them something to do.

Question 3: We want to do some camping trips with our horses this summer. Which is better - ground tying or tying off to a high line (of course I know you don't always have the luxury of tying off to tall trees). How do you train your horses to ground tie or tie to a high line?

Ground tying for camping? Maybe I'm not understanding your use of the term. Ground tying as I understand it is simply dropping the lead rope, telling the horse to stay, and walking away. The horse is not actually tied to anything - it's psychological. Ground tying is for very short term, "wait here while I pick up my hat" kind of thing. Asking a horse to respect your command to stand still as though tied to the ground, for several hours while you are sleeping, is just not realistic. The horse will likely be gone in the morning. Yes, learn to highline (it is not actually difficult) or hobble (get someone who knows how to help you teach your horse), or for the desert, you can use a picket line, which is like a highline only lower.

If by ground tying you meant using one of those "giant screw" things that you can tie dogs out with, I would warn against it, due to the likelihood that the horse will get its feet tangled in the line.

If a horse knows how to tie well, then they will not test being tied. A high line is not much different than a normal tie. At first the horse will worry about the rope giving and moving, then they may test it, but will give up and accept it as long as they are good at tying before. As for ground tying, you need to first make sure your horse can walk about with a lead rope dragging and learns to give to pressure and not panic when he steps on the rope, after he knows that well, then you can ground tie him and let him get used to that, the more you do it the better he will get at accepting it and will stress him less and less.

We always high line our animals, though we have had a couple of horses in the past that we trained to be tied by a leg with a single hobble. The rope gets tangled around the other legs less than if they are tied by the head, since the rope stays closer to the ground all the time. We have not had good luck just hobbling our horses and having them be there in the morning. They know where the truck is. We have never had any problems with high lining. There is really no training to it, just make sure they have enough room between them.

Our 3 year old got a big scar on his pastern from ground tying.

Just a note of caution - make sure you protect the trees you are tying to with a length of fire hose and keep the horses well away from the roots.

I'm not sure if "ground tying" was to mean staking a long rope to the ground, or tying a horse normally. I wouldn't recommend actual ground tying to something overnight. If a horse already ties well to a fence post, trailer, etc., then high lining shouldn't be a problem. I always try to tie to something at least as high as the withers, without enough slack to get a leg over if the horse paws or pulls back. If you do high line tie the horse so he can stand comfortably, and remove the feed bag before you go to sleep so he doesn't get twisted around it. If you do high line, take care to prevent any tree damage.

Question 4: Are there any mustangs who have won 3-day eventing competitions that could serve as an inspiration? (My 11-year-old daughter rides her 5-year-old mustang at a stable where the owner does a great job of training young riders for dressage, jumping and cross-country. I believe that's called 3-day eventing. Haley has been doing an awesome job with Beauregard in the 8 months she's had him. She's a member of the Sierra Gold Pony Club. To work off her required volunteer hours, we recently attended a schooling show where many young riders get an opportunity to perform under a less stressful environment than other venues. Haley was really excited at the prospect of entering Beau at the March 7th show. After the show we arrived at the training stable so Haley could ride Beau. Haley asked the owner if she thought Beau was ready for this mini-show. The owner said "You'll never be taken seriously with a part draft, trail riding pleasure horse, and you would have to cut his mane." Needless to say, Haley was devastated but listened politely to the owner.)

1 that was an awful thing for anyone to say to a child. #2 your Quote American Warmbloods or sport Horses are part draft. If your daughter loves doing 3 day eventing and her horse seems to enjoy it, and they are working together, then do it. You probably are not going to the World Championships, but, maybe she will. It does not matter the breed on 3 day eventing or jumping, or even hunter. It is how they move. Yes, if she is wanting to show you may need to trim his mane or web braid it, but I think I would find a trainer that cares about the kids and wants to help them grow, and will work with what ever breed they have. Maybe that person needs to come to the wild horse and burro show in Reno and look at some of these drop dead beautiful horses and what they do. good luck!

First of all, I'm happy to hear your daughter is in Pony Club. For now, that's the right place for her to be if she's interested in Eventing.

Eventing is three phases of competition. Only one of those phases is subjective judging, and that is the Dressage phase. Regardless of the breed of horse, if the test is completed well, it's completed well.

The other two phases, Show Jumping and Cross Country Jumping are not judged exactly, the score is based on penalty points (or hopefully lack of). My point is, the breed of horse does not matter. If the horse can do the job and do it well, it doesn't make a difference in the breed.

Our Mustang took my daughter to her C-2 level in Pony Club and she also competed with him at Horse Trials and Combined Derbys, Novice level. They did very well together and they both had so much fun.

As far as the mane goes, it should be nice and neat and pulled. Since your daughter is in Pony Club, that is something they will probably teach in an un-mounted lesson.

The comment from the stable owner was not only rude, it was way out of line and just not true. I'm going to guess that this woman is not an Eventer and it's possible she was referring to another discipline? Eventers are usually very welcoming and a good group of people.

As far as Mustangs being successful at a high level in these disciplines, yes they have! I'm hoping someone else will respond with names.

As long as your daughter's horse is safe and can do the job, tell her to get out there and have fun!

I am so sorry your daughter encountered such a cruel snob. But it's a good life lesson in how NOT to be...

Hi! If I were you I would check with the USCTA (combined training association) or the USEA (eventing association), which may be the same thing now. They do not discriminate based on

breed of horse. I would not let one trainer's nasty attitude discourage your daughter. If the horse is drafty, then jumping could be difficult for him. However, your trainer needs to be reminded that the oh so popular warmblood is a result of draft crossing. The event horses I have met are usually quite large warmbloods or warmbloods crossed with thoroughbreds (and a little bit hot because they like to go). However, depending on what level your daughter plans to compete, I don't see the mustang pleasure horse as being a "non-candidate." I would imagine your daughter will start off with horse trials. If the horse likes to jump, then go for it. If jumping isn't his thing, then focus on the dressage aspect of it.

The mane comment probably refers to the fact that in the show jumping and dressage competitions, the horses' manes are braided in a traditional hunter style of braid. Very difficult to braid small, tight braids with long, luxurious manes.

You know what, treat this like a life lesson. I can't pinpoint when I started being like this, but when someone says I can't do something, by George, I'm going to move heaven and earth to prove I CAN do it. I don't think there is much our Mustangs can't do. You and your daughter need to get out there and show off what they CAN do! If you need a little extra incentive, attend the Wild Horse and Burro show in August at the Reno Livestock Events Center. You will see beauty in motion...and riders that would not take no for an answer!

Wasn't the movie Hidalgo based on a true story of a Mustang? Check it out.

Reply to Haley and Family...Go for it, Girl! You take yourself seriously and do your best, and anybody who is anybody will pay attention. Remember that Warmbloods are part Draft, and JB Andrew was very Drafty. We have a 16 hand, 1300 pound Warm Springs (Oregon) gelding who jumps 3'6" under saddle, and had no problem clearing our 5 ft. fence once when he was hungry. Well, he's always hungry. Mustangs are natural jumpers and generally efficient movers, so if your horse doesn't have any horrible crippling conformation faults, he should do just fine. All of my mustangs learn Dressage, and some are pretty talented. So don't let them talk you out of it. The bad news is, you will have to cut his mane. The grooming is pretty important. Here is a photo of our big horse with our 8 yr. old daughter riding him. He is definitely drafty.

You tell her a lot of people didn't take Walt Disney seriously when he first talked about building Disney Land. Now look at the Disney empire...

Yes, there are. There is a poster of one on the wall at the Ridgecrest, CA BLM office. He is/was black with white on his face.

Is this a pony club instructor that said such rude things to your daughter ? My son was in pony club for years and I have seen quite a large number of rag tag horses in pony club, and everyone of those horses was loved by their child and I never heard anyone say disparaging words about children's mounts - unless the horse was downright dangerous for the child rider. The only factual statement is that she will indeed need to pull his mane to compete in english events with any seriousness. It doesn't however sound like she is at a level where it will have started to matter. There is a book by Susan Harris called Grooming to Win. She has very detailed step by step instructions on some alternative "hairstyles" for english horses with long manes. Maybe you can get her this book?

Myself, personally, I would pull her and her horse from this barn and move her to a setting where she can learn without prejudice. I will be looking for her at Rolex in 9 years ;-)

Mustangs can make great 3-day event horses. They move very well; very fluid and straight - good for dressage. Mustangs know where to put their feet - good for cross-country. At a higher level, pulled manes (and braided for dressage) are the norm. However, long manes can be french-braided along the crest of their necks, which is quite elegant for dressage. It doesn't matter what kind of mane a horse has for the cross-country and stadium jumping parts. It's too bad this little girl had to meet up with someone so insensitive. Hope she continues on with her eventing.

My first thoughts are, let your child ride any horse she is comfortable on. At eleven years old confidence should be first and foremost. Then remind her athletes come in ALL shapes and sizes, and we adults sometimes forget that. As long as the "team" is having fun and learning about the event, the rest will take care of itself. Here is a brief history of my young daughter riding a friend of ours Mustang. While learning to ride English (that comes before the competitions) with many lessons, the pair attended local events to promote mustangs, and perform community services. One of the more dear to my heart community services was volunteering for the Equestrian portion of the State of Idaho Special Olympics. Now let me just say, the horse had already been there, done that, my daughter just got the opportunity to help the horse and the athletes out for two years. She got a real eye opener when the athletes already knew the horse by name. Did I mention athletes come in all shapes and sizes? That was the fun part, now back to more riding lessons. The reality is in order to get ready for ANY type of show, Mini-Show or others, you still need lessons, lessons, lessons,... until finally an opportunity arrives. Which is what your daughter is excited about! Ride, have fun, learn about the sport, and enjoy the shows. At some point your "horse athlete" will tell you if that is the sport for him. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. My daughter did get the opportunity to 3 Day Event in our home town for two years and absolutely loved it. The horses she rode is now retired, and she has had to move on to another, but what a great part of their life. She carries those moments with her everyday while she spends her summers at a local English barn cleaning stalls, managing feeding programs, exercising horses, all for that end moment of a lesson. :D) The two pictures I attached are from a local competition and the second is from the cross country portion of a local 3 Day Eventing competition. Good luck with all the rides and shows. Tonya



EVENTS

DesertSong
Spring Hoedown
Concert and Dance, featuring



nationally- acclaimed Cowboy entertainer
Dave Stamey
with Cowboy singer-songwriter

Tony Vice

and a Barn Dance with **Danance**,
the Legal Contra Band,
Called by **Wayne Thompson**
held in Lancaster's historical
Cedar Center Theater:

Saturday, April 25th, 2009
Show starts at 6:30 PM, so be there early for a good seat!

One low price for the whole shebang:
\$20.00 general admission
\$30.00 per couple or family
kids 14 and under free with and adult

Admission can be paid at the door, but-
seating is limited, so reserve your place now:

For Tickets: <http://desertsong.fanbridge.com/campaigns/show.php?id=504690&sid=87776603>



Sharing Our Mustang Stories

My name is Christina, I am 18 years old and I live in Lostine, Oregon. I saved a three year old mustang from going to the canner. His name is Critter he is a small bay gelding with frost bitten ears so he only has small numbs and he is almost completely deaf, though he can detect high pitched sounds at certain times.

Critter was born in Nevada and brought to Oregon as a young foal, he was sold as a yearling to a set of people, who sold him to the people I received him from. All of which figured he should be canned. He was severely abused and made fun, by his past owners, constantly picked on and pushed around by the other horses he was pastured with. He was to be sent to our local canner, until his owner said; I could have him, if I could catch him. Three hours of catching and trying to load him I finally took him to my new house in Lostine, Oregon. I called the people who claimed they trained him for thirty days to ride as a two year old. When I spoke to the trainer it broke my heart. He called my horse crazy and unmanageable; they claimed they only kept him for three days because they were too nervous to work with him. He was put in a VERY small pen and had a halter thrown on his face and that was it. The trainer claimed to use a cattle prod on him to get him to load in the horse trailer, which is why it probably took me so long to coax him in my trailer. The trainer told me six different times through out our fifteen minute conversation that I should just shoot the poor horse and put him out of his misery.

I do not believe in shooting any horse or canning them and I did not give up on Critter. Though he wasn't much to look at when I got him, he was skin and bones, covered in lice and covered in bloody scraped and cuts I fell in love with him. Now he has gained back his weight, lost the lice, look beautiful and is now completely halter broke plus I have already sat on him a few times. I have done all of Critters training by myself, but in March he and I will head to a training barn in Bend, Oregon where the trainers specialize in deaf horses. There I will put 30 days of training on him along side these professionals, and bring him back to my county in time to begin his first showing season.

Your expo sounds VERY interesting and I would like to know how I would go about entering Critter into it this year. I have to doubt he will be ready to compete and I know that if he went there would be a large sum of people in my town who would be greatly surprised. Many have said that he is worthless, ugly and needs to be shot, but Critter continues to surprise me everyday as he comes closer and closer to becoming a well rounded performance horse. If you could send me anymore information on how to get Critter into your expo I would greatly appreciate it. I would love to show my county that mustangs are not crazy and can do great things. I have very high expectations of Critter which I know he will fulfill. Thank you for you time and any info would be great! **From Cindy – This person is a new member of our Mustang Family and I hope to share more of this story with everyone!**

I hope you can open this...it is a blog of one of the trainers who will be competing in the Extreme Mustang Makeover (in Albany at the horse expo in March). She apparantly has never trained a mustang. It is so interesting reading from the beginning when she gets the mustang in early December, up to now and how this horse has completely changed her mind about mustangs. As she states it: "I am a believer." Lots of typos but it is interesting. I think her name is Jasmine Ison and the horse is Weston.

<http://sealrockstables.tripod.com/blog/>

Sad News.....

Kitty Laumans Grandpa, John W. Sharp, 94, of Prineville Passed away February 10, 2009 of natural causes.

John was born April 19, 1914 on the Choctaw Reservation in South Eastern Oklahoma to Wylia and Dessie Belle Sharp. The family moved to Duncan, Oklahoma when John was still a baby. There he grew up. He first traveled to Oregon in May of 1932 with two other friends in a Model "A" Ford. After a summer in Oregon and due to a promise to his mother, John rode the freight trains back to Oklahoma to finish school. He returned to Oregon in 1934 where he worked on several ranches in the Paulina country before buying his own, 10 miles west of the town of Paulina in 1941. John was a very active member of the Paulina community where he was one of the founders of the Paulina Rodeo. In 1971 he sold the ranch and moved to Prineville to pursue the love of his life; horse training. During this time he also wrote his first book, "Knots Hitches and their Use" which is now in it's 11th printing. In 1978 he moved to his "horse training ranch" on the Madras Hwy where he spent the remaining 32 years of his life. John had a varied work life which included helping with the family dairy, ranching, driving the Paulina School bus, working at Erickson Super Market and mill work. Although his work life varied, everyone that knew John, knew that he only held those jobs to support his true love, horses. From the time he broke his first horse at the age of nine he continued to break, train, ride and teach others to do the same. In his later years his bamboo pole horse training method became well know with the Wild Mustang organizations, allowing him to assist in BLM's gentling clinic leading to adoption of many beautiful mustangs into loving families.

John married Patricia Straight in June of 1940. Pat passed away in June of 1991. John then married Joyce Bissell in May of 1993.

John is survived by his wife Joyce, his daughters Linda C Sharp and Jeannie (David) Searcy, his son Pete (Norna) Sharp, and his daughters-in-love Geannie (Stew) Butts and Linda K Sharp all of Prineville; 10 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews plus an extended family to large to count in the US and Africa.

John was preceded in death by his parents Wylia and Dessie Belle Sharp, wife Patricia Sharp, 7 brothers and 2 sisters.

Contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice 1201 NE Elm Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754 or Ochoco Humane Society 1280 SW Tom McCall Rd., Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Whispering Pines Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

MUSTANGS NEEDING HOMES....

There is a lady in Apple Valley, CA who has contacted me for assistance....Her name is Sheila and her email is cataswampus@yahoo.com and her phone number is 760-240-9094

The owner needs to be out of the house early March, so horses need to be moved by end of the month. She hopes to keep 4, or at least 2 but will most likely have to place them all...I know this is a tall order and she needs to know they won't go to auction/slaughter....

If you know of anyone looking please let her know...she is beside herself about having to get rid of her horses and would love to be able to get her heard back one day but realizes it may take 3 or 4 years to be in a position where this could happen so she is looking either for basically a foster home to keep the horses till she gets back on her feet or new homes for them and does realize that chances are she will need to place them in permanent homes....

Some horses say "titled to me" "me" would be the owner...

Stallions

1) Jasper, from Kansas sanctuary, an absolute love, easygoing, laid back sweetheart that looks like Spirit of Disney fame. He was born in 2001. Titled to me. Halters, Ties. O.k. w/ farrier.

2) Toby, the few spot leopard colt you may remember from 2002... when he was the victim of the not so neighborly rock thrower. Spirited. A handful, but friendly. Titled to me too.

3) Tumbleweed, a silver dapple gray who will no doubt become a flea bitten gray like his momma. Sensitive spooky big boy. DOB May 1, 2004 (Same day of my only daughter's 25th birthday. We celebrated together that day. Now, sadly she is the reason we are being forced into homelessness:^(Tumbleweed's BLM Momma has issues due to being abused by a certain farrier. I was ill a lot in 2004 and had major surgery in Sept 2004. T'weed should have been handled more, I'm sorry to say. August 2004 was about the time my relationship with my only child began to sour...she would not help me, and my struggle began. Born on ranch.

4) Peppy, bay dun looks like his sire Jasper. DOB 6/2006 Friendly, tall. Quick, like his name. Born on ranch.

Geldings

5) Lightning from Newpass-Ravenwood DOB 1999

6) Chaco BLM from Area 51 AKA Nellis Range DOB 2000.

Both Titled Bays. They are buddies. If I am forced to narrow it to keeping only two... if possible, these guys would be it because of the bond they share with each other. Chaco had surgery on his penis by Dr. Johnson in May 2004 (who retired a year or two later) since then, his sheath swells up in the summer (summer sores?), so a must to keep SWAT on him for that, applied daily in the summer. Chaco is Tumbleweed's sire. Chaco was gelded by Dr. Johnson in November 2003 after his testicles finally descended. Tumbleweed was a surprise in May 2004, so was Garnett in July 2004. Lightning easy going, ride able. Chaco a bit 'sketchy' one farrier said. But he was solid and well behaved for Doc Johnson on more than one occasion when being treated for by the vet. The other time, he had a foxtail resting up his eyelid on his eyeball, but that was resolved with no issue and I was so proud of him. Doc Johnson seemed surprised that Chaco was so well-behaved. Chaco's a sensitive boy. Kind, shy boy. He seems to 'know' when he needs help and will permit people to do so. Upon arriving at my place, as a weanling, he was vacc'd by the vet, he scooted off with the needle stuck in his rump. We caught him and the vet pulled it out with some effort, but it must have hit a nerve because the very next day he was limping and dragging his hoof on that side and limped that way for two weeks. I freaked out. Chaco recovered from that. He has been sound since. Farriers always say he has perfect hooves. Zack Shuler tied him up to the pen rails, and I think Chaco didn't like that too much either. Not exactly into getting trimmed, but once settled and trusts the person, he's fine. Halters o.k. too, but will pull back. Once the snap broke; he did not forget that and tries to pull when tied to see if he can get away with it. Leads. Friendly but sometimes shy. Depends on whom people-wise, he's with.

Mares

7) Sugar, from same herd as stud Toby and mare Ruby. Sugar the Booger is white, few tiny golden spots about tail...appy. Leads, ties. But did try to run off on me once in the arena while leading. She never pulled that in the street however. Dresses up fine. But bucks. DOB 1997, she is the oldest horse on the ranch. Wants to be alpha, but tends to go off by herself or with the younger ones.. again alpha-ing. Montana kicked her butt bad when they first met. (Montana is the Alpha, ever since) Titled to me.

8) Montana, a gray that was originally called a red roan by the BLM from Area 51 AKA Nellis Range . Titled to me. Montana was coming along nicely until a certain farrier undid all the work done with her. He tied her hind legs, and cut them just above the hoof (tendon?) with a 1 inch rope... telling me it was nothing, a rope burn. Well, it was not "nothing".. Montana was never the same with me or anyone after that. And I would not push her again after that time. Montana 's delivered three foals here: Tumbleweed 2004,(see above)

9) Bandit 2006 Buttermilk bay, (may go grey, hard to tell yet) out of Montana and Jasper DOB 6/2006 Friendly; needs work. Born on ranch.

10) Danika-Sue out of Montana and Jasper DOB Indy week 2007. The Little Princess with THE attitude in the herd—she thinks she is the QUEEN! Observant quick study and applies what she learns- bossy, energetic and assertive. Dani was born black, will be a gray when grown. Nose is going gray/white already. Friendly, but has been nippy on occasion. Neighbors have been caught feeding her on at least one occasion, against my request. She hollers at them when I'm home, when she sees them out about—they deny feeding her, but the behavior indicates otherwise. Born on ranch.

11) Ruby: Bay mare, from same herd in Northern California as Sugar and Toby. Friendly, but does not like shots! Incredibly, every time she will know you have a needle no matter what and try to push you into the fence. Ruby had strangles in late winter 2001 and the vet ordered antibiotic shots everyday, she never forgot. Leads very well, I took her to Target over a mile away to visit my daughter when she was working in the Garden Center there. Gallops on air! I love to watch her run, no others move floats above the earth like she does. The preteen next door was led about by me with her onboard Ruby a few times before CPS removed the children from the home in 2004. Has had two foals: Garnet 2004 and Peppy 2006. Kind, friendly. Has a little bit of a clubbed hoof on right front hoof, but moves fine according to farrier. Ruby is awesome to see gallop, barely touches the ground. Titled to me in 2001.

12) Garnett: Bay filly. Friendly; needs work. DOB 7/2004 Born on ranch.

Another Mustang, Needing a Home

Leslie, in Sisters, has had to drop out of the Extreme Mustang Makeover due to other time commitments - namely college. We would like to be able to place her horse in another home rather than bring him back to the corrals. Buddy is a bay Beattys Butte gelding. 15.1 hands at 2 years. He is approved for the Trainers Incentive Program with Mustang Heritage Foundation. \$700 flat fee paid with adoption in 90 days! Please pass the word!!!

Ramona

BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program
Burns District Office
541-573-4439

Adopter Outreach and Compliance
Hines, OR 97738
Ramona_Bishop@blm.gov

Update on Nevada's Virginia Range (Estray) Mustangs

Assemblyman Tom Grady is advancing a measure in the state legislature that would add some protections for the Virginia Range horses. The idea is for the NRS to classify land use as agricultural for landowners of open properties of sufficient size who formally agree to provide primary grazing for Virginia Range horses. Such lands would be taxed at the lower agricultural rate, providing incentives for landowners to protect the horses.

This is a small but very positive step. Even the Farm Bureau and cattle associations have endorsed the proposal.

ATTENTION EQUESTRIANS AND HIKERS!

(Information From a Mustang Family Member)

If you are a trail rider and/or hiker, your comments are VITAL to ensure our safety on National Park back country trails.

BACKGROUND: You are riding uphill on a single track switchback trail and suddenly a 30-MPH downhill mountain bike appears from around the corner and your horse nearly leaps over the edge as the biker lays down his bike in front of your horse to avoid a collision. Is this the horse and rider's fault? Is this the biker's fault? Or is this a case of two entirely different trail users who shouldn't be meeting under these circumstances?

We don't add fast moving cars to sidewalks and expect the walkers to be safe. Should we be adding fast moving mountain bikes to back country trails currently used by walking users such as hikers, horseback riders, or families with dogs, and expect the walkers to be safe?

Yes, as long as the current National Park Service rules are followed. They would never combine walkers and fast moving bikes on unsafe trails.

BUT...Bush, just days before he left office, pushed through a rule that the process that National Park Service uses to determine safety of trails will be drastically changed...forever...unless you comment NOW!

Good planning, oversight, public input, and safe construction is required for all trails if new users, such as mountain bikers, are to be added. Rules since 1987 ensured that proper oversight would be given to all trails in the National Park system. WE DON'T WANT THOSE RULES CHANGED!

The Bush rule would open millions of acres of National Park backcountry to mountain bikes without this federal oversight. According to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), the Bush rule is a direct result of International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) lobbying campaign to loosen restrictions on bike access to all park backcountry trails. Any park manager, alone, could change a current hiking/equestrian trail to add mountain bikes in just 30 days WITH NO FEDERAL PARK SERVICE OVERSIGHT.

THIS MUST BE STOPPED!

We don't want the park service to ban bikes from all trails, just those trails that are unsafe for fast bikers or those easily eroded. We MUST maintain the federal oversight that has worked well for over 20 years.

Opposed to Bush's last-minute mountain bike rule are:

-National Parks Conservation Association <http://www.npca.org/media_center/press_releases/2008/mountainbikes_121808.html>

-Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
<http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1141>

-California Equestrian Trail and Land Conservation Association

-Sierra Club

<<http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/mtnbike.aspx>>

--Action Coalition for Equestrians (ACE)

.ACTION NEEDED NOW! WE ALL NEED TO SEND OUR COMMENTS OPPOSING THIS NEW RULE!

There are already hundreds of comments from the well organized mountain biking lobbying community. If they don't hear from equestrians and hikers, this new rule could become LAW.

Currently, the 84-million acre national park system remains largely closed to mountain bikes on trails because most of their trails are too narrow, too steep or have limited sight lines to be safe for current walking users. Today, bicycles are already allowed on park roads, dirt or paved, as well as on trails in developed areas, such as the South Rim Village at the Grand Canyon. This battle is about bicycles on single track backcountry trails, now used by walking hikers, horseback riders, bird watchers, etc.

Regarding the current rule in place since 1987, said PEER Board Member Frank Buono, a long-time former National Park Service manager, "These rules ensure a thoughtful, consistent review before opening trails to mountain bicycles." The current rules are in place because the Park Service wanted increased scrutiny to avoid potential visitor use conflicts and damage to park resources.

WE ALL NEED TO SEND OUR COMMENTS OPPOSING THE NEW RULE.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE VITAL IF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS TO KNOW THAT EQUESTRIANS CARE ABOUT OUR TRAILS AND OUR SAFETY.

Your comments may include:

- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 in the Federal Register that loosens National Park's trails restrictions to mechanized vehicles (mountain bikes).
- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 because adding fast moving mountain bikes to walking trails creates trail user conflicts, compromises safety, and damages park resources.
- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 because trail safety will be compromised to the extent that hikers and equestrians will abandon trails that are taken over by fast moving bikes. -
- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 because you are concerned that back country trails will be eroded by wheeled vehicles.
- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 because you will no longer be able to enjoy the quiet experience expected of walking trail users.
- You are strongly opposed to the Bush rule 1024-AD72 because wheeled vehicles disturb and frighten wildlife.

Send your comments no later than February 16, 2009, to Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior, online or by letter to:

ONLINE <[http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?](http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=NPS-2008-0006)

main=DocketDetail&d=NPS-2008-0006> Click on: NPS-2008-0006-0001 Vehicles and Traffic Safety 12/18/2008 PROPOSED RULES Then click on: "Add comments" User Tips on how to submit comments: <<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=UserTips>>

----OR----- WRITE: National Park Service Attn. Regulations Program Manager

1849 C St. NW. MS-3122 Washington, DC 20240

All submissions received must include the agency name (Department of Interior, National Park Service) and RIN 1024-AD72



NEWSLETTER #10, February 5, 2009

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DEAR FRIENDS:

We are busy this winter setting things in motion for spring and beyond!

We are working on setting dates for programs with the McGee Center, Social Services and HUFY.

We're also in the beginning stages of seeing how we can partner with Wraparound in Nevada and other organizations.

Our volunteer orientation process is undergoing some re-vamping and will include a regular training schedule and more clarity on how to get involved and stay involved and informed.

The Center for Program Evaluation up at UNR knocked our socks off when we met with them in January with what they could help us with in terms of evaluating our programs.

We're getting excited about what 2009 has to offer and we hope you'll be there with us every step of the way!



RESERVE YOUR SPOT: VOLUNTEER TRAINING - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009

Spots for the training are limited and we'll fill them on a first come, first serve basis - so **RSVP now** if you want to attend! Email volunteers@horsesforthespirit.org or call 224-5999 and leave a message.

This training, although still being formulated, will include doing Human Conga Horse demos of the 7 Games. In January we ran out of time to cover that as we intended, so we'd like to give volunteers a chance to learn more about the 7 Games before our programs start in March.

Time: TBA

Location: HFTS Classroom

January 10th Volunteer Training Wrap Up

On January 10th our classroom was packed with new and veteran volunteers who wanted to learn more about how to provide our clients with the experience they need and deserve. Robbie Maus, co-founder and program director, and Juanita Chapman, board member, volunteer and licensed therapist, put together a training to cover some basic skills needed to work with the kids successfully.

Juanita covered some strategies for working with the kids -- attendees had many great questions and shared ideas about how to problem-solve utilizing the tools Juanita shared with the group. Juanita's session of the training was so engaging that we actually ran out of time for Robbie to conduct her portion of the training the way she planned! We're just planning to use that as good feedback for the amount of time we'll need in the future for trainings. (Look for a video clip of Juanita's training on the new interactive volunteer website that is under construction... read more about that below.)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: NEW INTERACTIVE VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

We are in the process of building an interactive website for volunteers. This site will be exclusively for invited members. Our goal is to develop a site for and about our volunteers -- there will be a discussion forum for asking questions and sharing answers, a calendar of events, video clips and pictures and a profile of members of the site. Our hope is that this will offer an empowering way for our volunteers to stay connected.

We're setting our sights on a March 1st date to go live with the site.

COMMITTEES COMING SOON!

As our organization puts the finishing touches on the strategic plan for 2009, we're setting in motion the development of various committees to ensure we meet our goals for the year.

We hope all of you will consider getting involved in a committee to compliment your efforts as volunteers in our programs. Working directly with the kids and horses is an important part of what we do, however, without supporting the bigger picture of all that goes into making our programs happen, our programs won't be as successful!

The committees will likely include fundraising, marketing, volunteer development, facilities maintenance and improvement and more. We're looking forward to all that we can accomplish with the help of our dedicated volunteers!

PROGRAMS IN 2009

March and Beyond - our calendar is filling up!

McGee Center Program

Wednesday, March 18th through Wednesday May 20th
9 am to 12 pm

Contact Jan Koval at volunteers@horsesforthespirit.org if you are interested in volunteering for this program. (Volunteer positions are limited; if you are able to bring your horse to the program, please let Jan know.)

Social Services (schedule subject to change)
Saturday March 21st through Saturday, May 9th

HUHFY (schedule subject to change)
Saturday, May 30th through Saturday, July 18th

McGee Center Program (schedule subject to change)

Wednesday, September 23 through Wednesday, November 25th
Stay tuned for further details.

EQUINE ASSISTED GROWTH & LEARNING LEVEL 1 TRAINING APRIL 15-17, 2009 - PLACERVILLE, CA

Are you interested in pursuing certification the field of Equine Assisted learning models?

Deb Conrad plans to attend this training and is looking for at least one other individual who wants to attend. That rate for a group (2 or more) is a bit less than the rate for an individual.

Please email or call Deb if you plan to attend: deb@horsesforthespirit.org; 224-5999.

For more information about the training, visit www.eagala.org and click on the "Events" tab.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Sunday, February 8th - Tack Sale benefiting 4H, Reno Livestock Events Center. Starts at 8am

Wednesday-Friday, April 15-17 - EAGALA Level 1 Training, Placerville, CA

Friday-Sunday, May 15-17 - Parelli Celebration, Reno Livestock Events Center



SHOP ONLINE AT COUNTRYSUPPLY.COM AND HORSES FOR THE SPIRIT GETS 5%!

Need to buy horse-related products? Try shopping online at countrysupply.com and we'll receive up to 5% of your purchases.

It's easy! Simply go to the website, shop and before you complete your order, enter our code (horsesforspirit) in the Country Care box at the top of the online order form.

We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter and encourage you to send it to friends, family and colleagues who might be interested in Horses for the Spirit. Please send us an email if you have any trouble viewing this newsletter or if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Robbie Maus

Erin De Los Santos

RanDee Banovich

Juanita Chapman, MA, MFT, LADC

Deb Conrad

A MANS GUIDE TO A HORSEWOMAN

EASY TO LOCATE. She's either off on the horse or out in the barn

UPHOLDS THE DOUBLE STANDARD, Smooches with the most bewhiskered beast, but quickly recoils when you need to shave.

OWNS ONE VACUUM CLEANER and operates it exclusively in the barn. (for me its the leaf blower)

A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY. Providing the party is given by another horsey wife. Falls asleep in her soup

at all other functions.

ECONOMY MINDED. Won't waste your money on permanents, facials, or manicures.
A CULINARY PERFECTIONIST. Checks every section of hay for mold but doesn't blink when she petrifies your dinner in the microwave.

OCCASIONALLY AMOROUS but never leaves lipstick on your collar, at worst, slight trace of chap stick.

EASY TO OUTFIT. No need for embarrassing visits to uncomfortable little boutiques. You can find all she wears at your local tack store.

FEATURES A SELECTIVE SENSE OF SMELL. Bitterly complains about your sticky-sweet cigar smoke while remaining totally oblivious to the almost visible aroma of her boots drying next to the heater.

UNMISTAKABLE IN A BATHING SUIT. She's the one whose tan starts at the nose, ends at the neck, and picks up again at the wrists.

A DEDICATED CLUB WOMAN. As long as the words "horse" or "riding" appear in its name.

HAS YOUR LEISURE AT HEART. Eliminates grass cutting by turning every square inch of lawn into pasture which, in turn, converts itself into mud.

A MASTER AT MULTIPLICATION. She starts with one horse, adds a companion, and the next time you look there are five.

KEEPS AN EAGLE EYE ON THE BUDGET. Easily justifies spending six hundred dollars on tack or feed but croaks when you blow ten on bowling.

AN ENGAGING CONVERSATIONALIST. Can rattle on endlessly about pedigrees, training or breeding.

SOCIALLY AWARE. Knows that formal occasions calls for clean boots.

A MOVING FORCE IN THE FAMILY. House by house, she'll get you to move closer to horse country (and farther away from your job).

EASY TO PLEASE. A new wheelbarrow, custom boots, or even a folding hoof pick will win her heart forever.

SENTIMENTAL FOOL. Displays a minimum of six 8x10 color photos of the horse in the house and carries a crumpled snapshot of you (taken before you were married) somewhere in the bottom of her purse.

SHOWS HER AFFECTION IN UNUSUAL WAYS. If she pats you on the neck and says "you're a good boy", believe it or not, she loves you!

MOTHER HEN you say you feel bad , she says she is sorry , take some meds and go to bed ,essentially your on your own. the horse(s) get sick or injured you may not see her for days as she has temporarily moved in the barn.

Things every man should realize before marrying a horsewoman.

1. The horse(s) will always come first, understand this going in.
2. A clean house is a sign of an ignored horse, this is unacceptable.
3. You can be King of the castle. That makes it your responsibility.

4. I'm Queen of the barn, Invasion of your things will be considered an act of war.
5. Grass is sacred. However, the horse is allowed to tear up the sod with his hoofs. If you do the same with your 4-wheeler, you're dead.
6. I fed the horses, you're allowed in the kitchen so feed yourself.

7. Horses can't use pitchforks, but you CAN use the vacuum.
8. If you must write in the dust, please don't date it.
9. Manure is a wonderful aroma and useful by-product. Make the best of it, plant me some roses.

10. If I helped you 'mess' the bed, don't expect me to 'make' it too.
11. Kitchen closed on all beautiful days.
12. A little horse hair in the washer won't kill you, it's clean.

13. Whenever you think you are a 'real stud' go take a closer look at the fellows in the barn.
14. Ring bell for maid service. if no one answers, do it yourself.
15. The house was clean once this season, what more do you want.

16. If you don't like my standards of cooking and cleaning. then lower your standards
17. A clean barn makes a happy horse, A happy horse makes me happy, A happy me is much easier to live with.
18. PMS is nothing compared to a woman kept from her horse.

19. A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and my kitchen is delirious.
20. YOU can help keep the kitchen clean. take me out to dinner.
21. If you want dinner on the table when you get home. Bring the pizza with you.

22. A dozen leafy green bales in the barn mean more and smell sweeter to me than a dozen roses in a bouquet.
23. The hell with a real fur coat, (my horse already has one) give me real fence instead.
24. If you want to know where you rate with me. Just count the horses and add one.

25. So this isn't home sweet home... adjust!