



# Horse & Pony News

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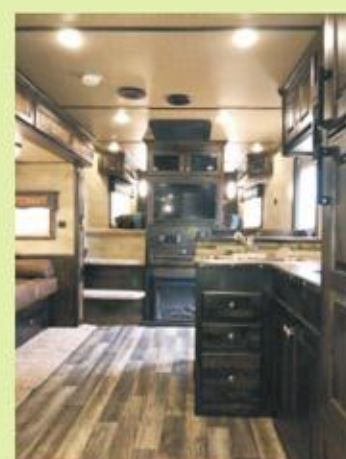
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## Exhibitor Notice: World Equestrian Center – Wilmington & Ocala EHV – 1 Precautions

February 17, 2024- Following the report of a positive EHV-1 case at a local Ohio horse show facility, World Equestrian Center (WEC) extends its thoughts and prayers to the affected horses and their owners, trainers and caregivers.

While no horses have tested positive for EHV – 1 at WEC - Wilmington, horses that have traveled to another competition venue in Ohio and horses who have been exposed to horses that have been at other Ohio competition venues will not be allowed on World Equestrian Center show grounds in Wilmington and Ocala for 14 days

We are reminded to remain vigilant against the transmission of EHV-1 via enhanced health, safety and biosecurity measures. To that end, we continue to recommend that everyone follow biosecurity protocols.

### Implement the following biosecurity best practices with your barn staff:

- \* Take temperatures of all horses twice daily and maintain a log for each horse.

- \* Limit nose-to-nose contact between horses.

- \* Handlers and riders should maintain distances between horses at all times.

- \* Avoid non-essential people touching horses.

- \* Practice good hygiene. Handlers should wash hands in-between handling horses and maintain proper biosecurity protocols in the barns and rings.

- \* Avoid sharing equipment unless it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.

- \* Braidors/Vets/Farriers/Equine Therapists must produce a list to the Show Office of client horses with their appropriate stall number.

- \* Braidors/Vets/Farriers/Equine Therapists should clean and disinfect their hands, equipment, clothing, and shoes between horses.

**The following protocols are required for entrance to either World Equestrian Center facility:**

Statement of Health (14 days) – Required for all horses arriving from instate or outside the states of Florida and Ohio. The statement of health must be dated within 14 days of check in, affirming that the horses entering the facility have not had an elevated temperature, been to a facility where there has been a positive or suspected positive case of EHV, been in a close proximity to an ill horse and receive routine vet care and vaccinations. The Statement of Health must be signed by a licensed veterinarian and on the vet's letterhead.

\*Please note, a health certificate will be accepted to meet the health statement requirement, if it is dated within 14 days of check-in.

Trainer/Owner Health Declaration (New for 2024) – Signed by an owner/trainer confirming that the horse has not experienced a fever exceeding 101.5 degrees or any disease in the 72 hours leading up to its arrival. Additionally, the horse must not have been exposed to or treated for an unexplained fever in the past 28 days and should have tested negative for any disease at least 30 days prior to arrival. If the horse has tested positive within the last six months for any infectious diseases, this information should also be disclosed.

Negative Coggins (12 months) – Proof of a current negative Coggins test within 12 months.

Vaccinations (six months) – It is required all horses be vaccinated for Equine-EHV I/IV (either modified live or killed vaccine) as well as, Equine Influenza no sooner than seven days prior to and no later than 180 days (six months) prior to entering the show grounds. Most EHV-1 vaccines are only considered effective for 180 days. Please check with your veterinarian about which vaccine is right for your horse. We strongly recommend vaccinations against WNV, EEE, WEE, Tetanus and Rabies.

Please contact Horse Show Manager TJ Campbell at [tj.campbell@wec.net](mailto:tj.campbell@wec.net) with further questions or concerns.

## Worrisome Mystery Dog Disease Update; Yes, It's in Florida

The disease, Candida auris, emerged last summer and Florida is now the state with the third highest number of cases. Basically a respiratory disease, it does not respond to antibiotics— which makes it especially dangerous. Symptoms include the same as in pneumonia... fatigue, watery eyes, coughing and sneezing. Some dogs, after contracting it, go downhill really fast— within 24-28 hours.

C. auris is affecting the entire United States, with a reported 60% death rate in some heavy-hit areas. Veterinarians are still encouraging dog owners to continue to restrict your pet's exposure to other canines... like in dog parks, training sessions and even in walking your dog where he or she comes into contact with other dogs, for the time being.

## Ranchers, Take Note... Lab-Grown Meat Could One Day Replace Your Herds of Cattle

No, it won't appeal to vegetarians, because it will still be animal-based. Two companies in California have been the pioneers in this venture, and there are many reasons why everyone will herald it as nothing but a breakthrough blessing for animals and the American environment.

Scientists, starting with a live animal's stem cells— the building blocks for muscle and organs— begin the creation of cultured meat by placing the cells in petri dishes, and add amino acids and carbohydrates to stimulate muscle fibers. When enough have grown, the cells are placed in petri dishes with amino acids and carbohydrates to help the cells multiply and grow. Once enough have grown, the

result is cultured meat. A Nation raised on BBQ, fried chicken, wings, fish sticks, hamburgers, pork chops and steaks should welcome the varieties and forms this beef, pork, chicken and fish and shellfish can take.

The US Dept. of Agriculture has already approved the production of the lab-grown meat by the two firms in California. Right now it is a costly product, and will likely appear in high end restaurants first... in grocery stores not for several years. But there's no denying the lives of millions of innocent animals, trillions of acres of farmland and precious water resources spared is a driving reason for public acceptance.



# Information From UF Regarding Equine Herpesvirus EHV-1

UF Large Animal Hospital College of  
Veterinary Medicine

## What is Equine Herpesvirus?

EHV stands for Equine Herpesvirus. There are 9 different EHV's that have been identified. EHV-1 is the type that causes neurologic disease. EHV-1 can also cause respiratory disease, abortion, and neonatal death. EHV-4 most commonly causes respiratory disease, and is very uncommonly associated with abortion or neurologic disease. Almost all horses have been infected with EHV-1 by two years of age and have no serious clinical effects. Once a horse is infected, the virus can become latent (inactive) in the body resulting in a carrier state with no external signs of disease. Latent virus can be reactivated during times of stress, such as with long-distance travel or strenuous exercise. Current estimates are that at least 60% of horses have a latent EHV-1 infection.

## What is EHM?

EHM is Equine Herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy, or the neurologic form of herpes. EHM cases may occur as one isolated case or as an outbreak affecting multiple exposed horses. Outbreaks of EHM may or may not be associated with an EHV-associated respiratory outbreak.

## How does EHV cause EHM?

EHV can cause inflammation of the blood vessels supplying the spinal cord and brain. The neurologic signs (EHM) result from that inflammation and small blood clots that affect the nervous tissue. During an outbreak of EHM, usually only 10% of infected horses develop neurologic signs, but this proportion is occasionally much

higher. We still don't fully understand why some horses get EHM and others don't, but it is likely a combination of factors specific to that individual horse and to the strain of EHV infecting it.

## What does "wild type" strain mean?

There are two strains of EHV-1, known as D752 and N752. D752 is more frequently associated with EHM, and is therefore sometimes called the "neurotropic strain" while N752 is called the "wild type" strain, implying that it is the "normal" variant. This is misleading, however, as either strain can cause neurologic disease. Even though D752 is more likely to cause neurologic disease than is N752, the same control methods are indicated for either strain.

## What are the clinical signs of EHM?

Clinical signs typically begin with fever (rectal temperature 101.5 F), usually 1-3 days after infection although it can be up to 10 days. Neurologic signs usually appear around 7 days post-infection, often just after the fever breaks, and progress rapidly over 24 to 48 hours. During outbreaks, up to 50% of horses with fever go on to develop neurologic signs. Signs may include incoordination and weakness, especially of the hindlimbs, loss of tail tone, urine dribbling, and inability to rise. Signs of brain disease, such as head tilt are seen in a few cases. The mortality rate for horses with EHM varies widely, from about 20 to 80% of the horses affected.

## How is EHV spread?

Herpesvirus is primarily spread by direct

horse-to-horse contact via transfer of respiratory secretions (e.g., nasal discharge). It is not known how far aerosolized virus can spread, although 30 yards is typically considered the maximal distance EHV-infected droplets can travel after a cough or sneeze. Virus can also be spread by contaminated hands, clothing, buckets, tack, grooming equipment, feed and trailers. The virus can live for up to 7 days in the typical environment, but it is easily killed by most disinfectants.

## How is EHM diagnosed?

Horses with a fever and neurologic signs should be tested by your veterinarian. Currently recommended testing consists of a nasal swab and blood sample to detect virus by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) which detects the DNA of the virus. Both samples (nasal swab and blood) should be submitted to maximize the likelihood of making a correct diagnosis. Any horse that dies or is euthanized due to neurologic disease should also be submitted for a necropsy examination to determine the cause of death.

## Who decides how an outbreak is managed?

EHM is a reportable disease in Florida. That means that when a veterinarian confirms that a horse is positive for EHV and showing neurologic signs (i.e., it has EHM), the state veterinarian's office is notified. The state veterinarians are specially trained to deal with animal disease prevention, surveillance, and control programs. They determine the necessity for quarantine or restricted movement of animals.

## Is there a treatment for EHM?

Treatment is primarily supportive. This includes anti-inflammatory and anticoagulant drugs, and intravenous fluids if the horse is having trouble drinking. Nursing care is also extremely important if the horse is unable to rise. Antibiotics are not effective against EHV, but can be used if there is a secondary bacterial infection. Antiviral drugs such as valacyclovir may prevent infection in exposed horses if given before the onset of fever.

## My horse is vaccinated, so he is safe, right?

Unfortunately, no. While there are several vaccines available that provide protection against respiratory disease and abortion, none is labeled for protection against the neurologic form and there is no evidence for such protection.

## Helpful websites

- \* American Association of Equine Practitioners
- \* Florida State Veterinarian

## More Information

If you have more questions or suspect your horse has Equine Herpesvirus, contact the UF Large Animal Hospital or your veterinarian.

The UF Large Animal Hospital veterinarians treat equine and large animal patients from the Gainesville, Ocala and Jacksonville areas, including Alachua and Marion Counties in Florida, and our clients come from all over the United States. Contact

<https://largeanimal.vethospitals.ufl.edu/contact-us/> to make an appointment.



# Horse & Pony News

April Issue Deadline: March 22

May Issue Deadline: April 19

June Issue Deadline: May 19

July Issue Deadline: June 24

August Issue Deadline: July 19

Sept. Issue Deadline: Aug. 16

Oct. Issue Deadline: Sept. 20

Nov. Issue Deadline: Oct. 18

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# Want to Help Your Horse's Digestion? First Step is to Feed Them from the Ground!



**No raised feeder out here!**

Digestion starts in the mouth....for humans and for horses! But our human "design" is a little different and our dinners are too! Horses teeth, bone structure, musculature, and salivary glands all function at their best when the food they are eating is on the ground.

The first step is getting their food into their mouth. When a horse's head is down, their mandible and maxilla slide to bring their incisors and molars into optimal alignment; the perfect arrangement for both "cutting" the forage they have selected and for chewing it into the tiny particles necessary for great digestion. If you have had a dental by AED, you know that after the procedure, Richard always drops your horse's head down and checks their incisor alignment....perfectly aligned front teeth is what he's looking for! Those incisors are a sign that your horse's



while they are actually chewing so having their head down is a huge benefit as it moves that saliva forward into the food bolus with each "chomp" rather than simply down their throat. And because great chewing for horses is all about repeated grinding, eating with their head down is a benefit as sets them up to move that food bolus more slowly toward their esophagus. They have to rely on their tongue, mastication muscles, and hard palate to push that food uphill (anatomically correct chewing!) ...if their head is upright while chewing, the process of getting food from the front to the back of the mouth is faster and their food is ground less thoroughly!

So...head down eating improves a horse's ability to get their food in their mouth, increases the amount of saliva mixed into the food bolus, keeps the food in their mouth longer for better grinding AND can help your horse have

bone structure and tooth structures are lining up in the best possible way for them to eat!

Once in their mouth, that food is rapidly mixed with the more than 3 gallons of saliva the average horse produces in a day. Horses are a bit different here; they only produce saliva

fewer disruptions of their chewing surfaces....Or as you know them, "Hooks and Ramps"!!! Remember how I told you that your horse's mandible and maxilla align when their head is down....well so do their teeth! Equine "hooks and ramps" occur most often when the alignment of the occlusal surfaces is altered....simply put, when their teeth don't line up as designed, they don't wear evenly! And, once those uneven tooth surfaces develop, they alter the horse's natural chewing pattern until they are removed....they keep getting bigger because they are no longer lined up with another tooth (or portion of a tooth) to wear the surface. While there are some other possible physical causes (structural abnormalities, broken teeth, etc) this is one place where you as an owner can have an impact on maintaining not only great teeth but improving the start of digestion for your horse with one simple step.....feed from the ground all the time and every time!

This article reprinted courtesy of Advanced Equine Dentistry. For more info go to: <http://www.advancedequinedentist.com>



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## HANDY HINTS FOR HANDLING HORSES By Myra Taankink



The power of the voice should never be underestimated when handling or riding. A soothing stream of words will often calm a fractious horse, or reassure him that you mean him no harm. Talking or whistling around horses lets them know where you are, and stops them from being startled. Conversely, a sharp loud word can often distract them from misbehaving.



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# The Stables On Stage Coach Grand Opening April 1st

Are you looking for a full service boarding facility located between the rolling hills of Floral City & Brooksville? The Stables on Stage Coach is truly a hidden gem for those looking for a small, private ala carte boarding facility with an emphasis on an adult atmosphere.

The Stables On Stage Coach offers great amenities for horses and boarders. It is a private, fully fenced 20 acre horse farm with full board only stalls. Stall sizes range from 12 x 18 to 12 x 12 and there is a 160 x 370 lighted arena with sand/clay surface.

### Horse Amenities

Horse amenities include a Stall Saver Mat system,



automatic waterers, fans, Himalayan salt lick and automatic fly insect control. Full board includes Nutrena feed T&A hay twice daily, pasture turnout on large grass pasture and stalls cleaned daily.

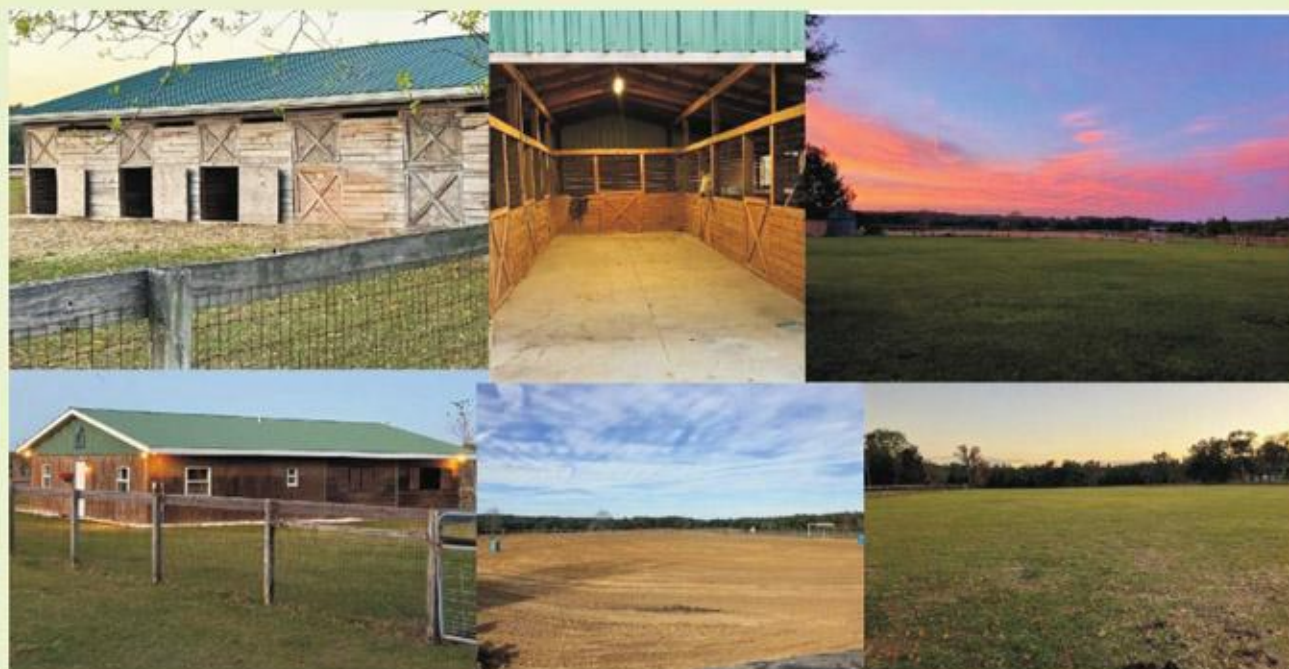
### Boarder Amenities

Boarder amenities include an air conditioned tack room, full bathroom with shower, workout room & gym equipment, full kitchenette with a sink, microwave, refrigerator, washer dryer and break room. The farm is only minutes from two different trail heads in the Withlacoochee State Forest.

### Contact Elizabeth

For information on pricing and reservations contact Elizabeth at 352-257-2601 or [elizabeth.berdick@icloud.com](mailto:elizabeth.berdick@icloud.com)

## The Stables on Stage Coach Located between the rolling hills of Floral City & Brooksville



### Grand Opening April 1st, Taking reservations starting March 15th

Private, fully fenced 20 acre horse farm with 4 full board only stalls including a 160 x 370 lighted arena with sand/clay surface. Stall sizes range from 12 x 18 to 12 x 12. This is truly a hidden gem for those looking for a small, private ala carte boarding facility with an emphasis on an adult atmosphere. Horse amenities include Stall Saver Mat system, automatic waterers, fans, Himalayan salt lick, automatic fly insect control. Boarder Amenities air conditioned tack room, full bathroom with shower, workout room & gym equipment, full kitchenette with a sink, microwave refrigerator, washer dryer and break room. The farm is only minutes from two different trail heads in the Withlacoochee State Forest.

Contact Elizabeth at 352-257-2601 or [elizabeth.berdick@icloud.com](mailto:elizabeth.berdick@icloud.com)



# Good Karma: Aggie Veterinarians Save Horse From Life-Threatening Melanoma

By Megan Myers,  
VMBS Communications

Teresa Porter has been taking care of horses for decades, but none have touched her heart like Karma.

Karma, known at competitions as So Riveting, is a 20-year-old quarter horse stallion with a striking gray coat. But with that color comes a problem — gray horses are genetically predisposed to developing melanoma, especially on body areas with fewer hair follicles like the lips, anus and genitals.

Dealing with melanoma is a lifelong battle, but because this form of cancer does not tend to spread to other organs in these horses, removing the tumors when they are small can help ensure a long, healthy life.

Karma's melanoma, however, developed quickly in a way that threatened his survival.

## Heart Horse

When Porter became Karma's owner about 12 years ago, the stallion was well known as a show horse, having even gone as far as the American Quarter Horse Congress, the world's largest single-breed horse show.

After a minor injury, Karma retired from show work and began a career as a sire, or a stallion used in breeding.

"Karma now has grandchildren out there winning big in the quarter horse industry," Porter said.

But his pedigree and trophies aren't what make Karma Porter's "heart horse," a term used among horse owners to describe a soulmate-like bond with a horse.

"Out of all the horses I've ever owned, he's the one that I've bonded with the most. He's the most special to me," she said. "He's not like most stallions; he absolutely loves being around people and he's very friendly and easygoing."

This special bond made it even more devastating when Karma was diagnosed with a melanoma tumor that had spread into the rectum and developed into a tennis ball-sized mass, blocking his ability to defecate.

Treating the cancer would not be easy, but Porter didn't hesitate to drive her beloved heart horse almost six hours from her home in Calhoun, Louisiana, to Texas A&M after hearing about the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' (VMBS) Large Animal Teaching Hospital's (LATH) equine specialists and advanced treatment options.

"He is the horse that has given the most to me emotionally," Porter said. "All the world titles in the world would never mean as much to me as this horse, so I was prepared to do whatever I could to save him."

## Finding Care

When Karma arrived at the LATH in July, Porter knew she would be leaving him in the most qualified hands. It was hard having him all the way at Texas A&M and not being able to see him all the time, but I trusted A&M from



So Riveting... AKA Karma

the moment I dropped him off," Porter said. "I knew that he was very well taken care of, and that gave me peace of mind."

As soon as Karma arrived, Dr. Dustin Major, a clinical assistant professor of large animal surgery, began preparing for the procedure to remove the mass, which would have eventually proven fatal if not removed.

"Karma had one of the two worst cases of melanoma I've seen in my career," Major said.

"We began cutting the lesion out of the skin beside his anus and then continued removing the main mass as it stretched to his rectum," he said. "Afterward, he was here for a little over two months to receive chemotherapy injections and additional treatments for his remaining melanomas."

Porter said reuniting with Karma to take him home was emotional. "Knowing that he could come home and hopefully live as long as possible meant a lot to me."

## Improving Treatment Options

While Karma's case of melanoma was one of the worst Major has seen, he sees less intense cases often.

"Some gray horses will get one small lesion and that'll be all they have, but others get what we call 'melanomatosis,' where they have lots of melanomas that start as little lesions and then get bigger and bigger," he said.

Because melanoma in gray horses is so common, several VMBS researchers, including assistant professor Dr. Brian Davis and doctoral student McKaela Hodge, are working to develop genetic tests and new treatment options.

"Back in 2008, Dr. Leif Andersson, a joint professor at Texas A&M and Uppsala University in Sweden, determined that a duplicated sequence within a gene, called

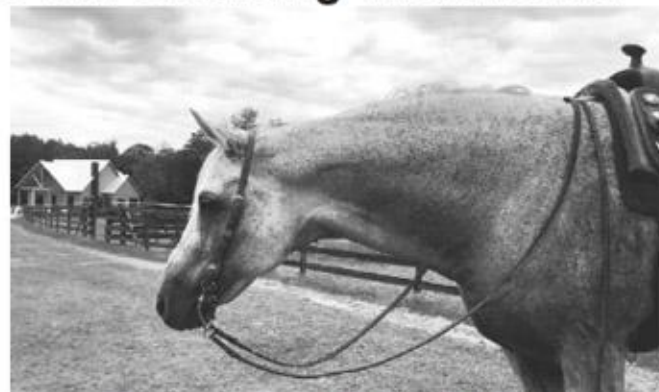
Syntaxin 17, or STX17, was unanimously involved with graying in horses," Hodge said.

This sequence was found to play a key role in regulating the development of melanocytes, the cells that create pigmentation for skin and are also where melanoma develops.

Further research has found that some gray horses possess a triplication of these sequence rather than a duplication, with one study finding tumors that possessed up to eight copies of STX17.

Because additional copies of STX17 come with a much higher rate of melanoma incidence and severity, the VMBS researchers are working to use genetic testing to help clients understand how many copies of STX17 their horse has and, therefore, how aggressive the cancer will be, according to Hodge.

"Further down the line, we hope to provide some treatment options that are less toxic for the individual than



Karma at his home in Calhoun, Louisiana

chemotherapy and, potentially, more effective," Hodge said.

Until the research culminates in practical tests and tools, one of the most important things owners of gray horses can do is keep a close eye out for new lesions and have them removed, or at least closely monitored, by a veterinarian when they are still small.

"Owners should keep an eye on the common areas where the lesions pop up and have a lesion evaluated as soon as they notice it rather than waiting," Major said. "A lot of horse owners know that gray horses get melanomas but not that they can continue to progress. Just because they're not metastatic doesn't mean they can't become a problem."

"When they're small, they're very easy to take out surgically; it is a very easy, safe procedure that is basically curative for that lesion," he said. "The earlier you can have it addressed, the better the outcome, and you spend a lot less money in the long run."

Like Karma, gray horses with melanoma can find a happy ending with help from dedicated owners and veterinarians.

"Not enough people know about melanoma in horses, and I just wish more people knew that there are possibilities to treat it," Porter said. "It's worth it to keep your horse going and with you for as long as possible."

*This article reprinted courtesy of Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.*

For more information about the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, please visit our website at [vetmed.tamu.edu](http://vetmed.tamu.edu) or join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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# Hold Your Own Event

By Christy Gammage,  
Practice Makes Pawfect



We engage in our hobby for fun. But once you become proficient, you may want to test your skills in an official competition. These shows, trials, or events are usually sanctioned by some national organization and involve lots of people, money, and travel. However, participating in a recognized event is quite different than taking lessons and practicing at home. If you are lucky, you may be able to practice at smaller/local non-sanctioned events, such as Fun Runs, Matches, Play Days, ... or maybe not. If there is nothing around you that will give you the 'event' experience, what about putting together your own mini-event and inviting friends and other local enthusiasts?

The first thing to consider is where you can hold your event. For dog agility, a decent size back yard would be enough. For other sports, you may need to see if your instructor or other friends have a suitable space and talk them into hosting something. Another option is to use a public space in an informal manner. Take equipment to a park or commercial area (where you have permission). Renting a public area, ring or facility could even be cost

effective if you pool money with friends. Word of warning: do not charge others any money to participate as that opens a whole can of worms about insurance and liability. Don't forget to plan for the amount of parking you will need as well.

What if you don't have enough equipment or supplies? Pooling resources with other would-be participants might give you all the obstacles you need for a realistic event practice.

The next thing to plan is what 'classes' you want to offer. Just having friends over to practice, while fun, does not give you the same feel as an event. Try to offer more than one thing. If you can accommodate different skill levels, you can encourage more people to participate. Have a schedule, even if it is very informal. Example: "We'll start at 4pm with an XYZ class, then we will do ABC and end with 123." If parking is an issue, you could stagger when people attend.

Start small. Pick a date that 4-6 invited people can commit to. Keep the event limited to only an hour or two. If you can, have things set up the day before. At rented or public places, you will need to add setup/teardown time to your schedule. Enlist a friend or two to help with setup & teardown.

When the event start time arrives, plan on being the master of ceremonies to keep things going. Have a way to display the event 'schedule' which can include the order of classes and order of participants if needed. This can be as simple as a piece of paper on a table or pinned up somewhere.

Once you have held an event for just a few people, evaluate how it went and what to change for the next time. Need more parking? Toilets? Are there easier ways to

do things? Was it too casual, do you need it to be more like a 'real' event to get any benefit? Ask the participants for feedback (and accept any criticism gracefully). Revamp and schedule another. Keep the goal in mind and stated for the participants, so they know what to expect.

If done well, word might get out and your mini-event may grow organically. If you need more 'advertising' to get participants, use email for targeted invites or Facebook for a more open invitation. Holding your own mini-event can be an effective way to bridge the gap between just practicing your skills vs. practicing to participate in a sanctioned event. And we all want to do Better Practicing!



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## The Art of Clipping

By Lynn Palm



Clipping is one of my least favorite tasks with a horse. However, I make it fun and view it as though my horse is in the beauty parlor! And in addition to making your horse look more tidy and attractive, clipping can actually enhance the appearance of your horse's conformation.

Most European countries only allow the bridle path to be clipped. This is also honored by USDF Dressage in the USA. However, like dog grooming for the show ring, horses can look beautiful with clipping.

I have a DVD that will teach your horse to accept clippers and clipping. This is especially important for clipping sensitive ears. Please review this if your horse in any way resists clipping! You have to spend time with anything your horse doesn't accept. Consistent handling is important, as is touching with the back of your hand before you clip to avoid pricking the horse with the clipper blades. If you prick the horse with the clippers on an ear, you are in trouble! Horses especially dislike pricking with the clippers on the ears or muzzle.

### GOLDEN RULE

When you clip against the hair, you are going to get a close cut. When you clip consistent with the way the hair grows, you will thin and blend the hairs.

Let's review: Size #10 blades are for thicker cut: legs, coronet band, under jaw, bridle path.

Size #30 or #40 blades are for fine cut/surgical cut: muzzle, nose hairs, eye whiskers, inside and outer edge of the ears.

### MUZZLE

Clip all the whiskers. Be careful while clipping the inside of the nose hairs; the horse is very sensitive here. Taking off all the hairs will make the muzzle look smaller, and leaving nose hairs will make the nostrils look bigger.

### CHIN AND UNDER JAW

Make a close cut going from the chin to the jaw. Blend and thin the hairs on the side of the face from the muzzle to the jaw. Clip close under the jaw. Blend the side of the jaw and any long hairs on the throat latch. This will make the horse's head look more refined and make the jaw look bigger.

### EYES

Take the eye whiskers off. I use a #10 blade and clip against the way the hair grows on the bulb of the eye. This will make the eye look larger.

### BRIDLE PATH

I clip a small bridle path, as most of my horses are English/Dressage. With a larger number of braids in the mane, the neck looks longer. I usually have a 2" to 3" length bridle path. Make sure that you clip toward the ears at the start of the mane. If you go the other way at the mane, you will clip some more mane and next time, more of your bridle path gets longer. If I have a horse with a short neck or thick throat latch, I will clip a longer bridle path, about 5" to 6".

### EARS

Clip against the way the hair grows to get a close cut. Even if you use a #10 blade you will make the ears look clean. You can enhance the outer edge of the ear and shape it and make the ears look sharper. Clip close along the shape of the ear. To make the ear look sharper, cut more hair on the edge at the upper and lower curve of the ear. If you have a horse with big ears, only use a #10 blade. If you use the #30 or #40 on big ears, you are going to make them look bigger!

### LEGS

Always use #10 blades on the legs, no smaller! You want to blend or thin the hair on the back of each leg. Clip close around the back of the fetlock joint. I always twist the ergot off. Then thin the hair above the coronet band by clipping downward toward the hoof. Then clip upward on the coronet band leaving a real clean line. With white legs, I clip the entire leg closely. Clipping long hairs on the legs makes the legs look more refined. Clipping the white leg keeps the leg cleaner and whiter after washing.

If you clip your horse, plan on putting on a fly mask with ears on your horse. Your horse will be just fine clipped, but remember you're taking off their natural hair they use for feel or protection.

Have fun and make your horse beautiful! If you show your horse, this is just part of the turn-out that judges will appreciate!

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\* Cyril and Lynn offer clinics throughout the country and abroad as well as online coaching. Join them on their teaching tours or their Palm Equestrian Academy European Journeys.



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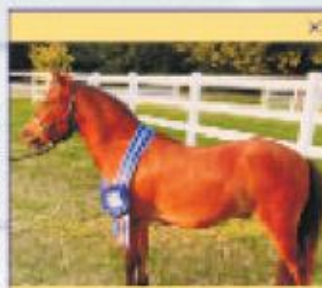
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# We May Be Crazy....But the Club Makes it Fun!

By Janet Schneider



One of the best things about a good club is the fun we can have with other horse-crazy people. While I enjoy solo riding, I have also realized that riding with other like-minded individuals carries a lot of benefits.

Several years ago I hunted around for other people with whom I could ride and found the Florida Sport Horse Club. It was a pretty small group with monthly meetings and scheduled rides at least once per month. I liked that there didn't seem to be any back-biting between the members, people with grade horses and second-hand equipment weren't shunned, and safety on the rides seemed to be a prime consideration. So I joined.

The club has grown a fair amount since then but hasn't lost the "small town" hospitality that first attracted me to it. The organized rides (mostly in Polk County) are

now held every Saturday, with frequent pickup rides during the week. We still have a monthly business meeting and have added a monthly "dine-around" at local restaurants.

We try to have a few community service/outreach projects each year; these have included funding the new mounting blocks at Lower Green Swamp, placing picnic tables at trail heads, contributing to Colt Creek's equestrian campground water line and pavilion, and showcasing our horses to kids at the Tenoroc Fishing Derby and Polk County's annual "Water, Wings and Wild Things."

At last count we have 14 different breeds represented in the club, and why we try to hold the organized ride speed to around 3 miles per hour. The gaited horses may have to slow down and the quarter horses spurred



so we can ride as a group, but it works for us. Everyone must provide his/her own mount; none of our members have horses to "share." Non-members are welcome to participate in a few rides before deciding whether to become a member.

To learn more about the Florida Sport Horse Club, visit our website (<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSportHorseClub>) pages. You can also email your questions to [floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com](mailto:floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com).



## Submitting Articles to H&P

When submitting articles for Print issues of Horse & Pony News please keep articles under 600 words. Digital ONLY issue articles can be up to 800 words each. Send articles as a Word document or in the body of your email to [Horsepny@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Horsepny@tampabay.rr.com)

# Colt Creek State Park News



At long last, the new Colt Creek equestrian shirts are available! The design features 3 regular park riders and their trusty steeds at the Flatwoods Trail bridge. The tees are a 50/50 cotton polyester blend (\$20 for sizes S through XL, \$22 for 2XL), and the tank tops are 100% cotton (\$25 each). All profits from the shirts—as well as other items such as books, caps, and water bottles—are funneled back into the park.

The new trail map has also been published; it features a great deal more detail than the previous map, and it is hoped that users will find it a great improvement. Pick yours up at the park office.

Scott Duncan has served as Park Manager for 8 years in Colt Creek and been very supportive of the equestrian community. We wish him the best as he moves to his new position as Manager of Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Scott will

be moving the last part of March.

Do you have a yen for giving back to the park? Volunteers serve many functions in the park, including welcoming guests in the office, checking in campers, mowing and maintaining the trails, performing small repairs, and more. If you have a commercial driver's license (or are willing to be trained for it), you could drive the tram tours around the park. The Friends of Colt Creek would pay for the training. If interested, call the park office at 863-815-6761.



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## Calendar of Events

Calendar listings are FREE if you are also running a display ad in Horse & Pony News. Listings without ads are \$12 each. Call 813-967-1931 or visit [www.HorseAndPonyNews.com](http://www.HorseAndPonyNews.com).

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February 29 - March 10: Plant City, FL, Plant City Florida Strawberry Festival, [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com). 3x

## HORSE SHOWS

March 1-5: Newberry, FL, Alachua Co Youth Fair, ACAEC, 352-472-6758 (see Back Cover). 3x

March 14-17: Ocala, FL, Live Oak International, [liveoakinternational.com](http://liveoakinternational.com) 2,3x

March 15-17: Jacksonville, FL, Florida All Breed Horse Show Series, Jacksonville Equestrian Center, 904-274-4200 (see ad pg 13). 3x

March 16-17: Newberry, FL, Horse Shows in the Park, ACAEC, 352-472-6758 (see Back Cover). 3x

April 6-7: Newberry, FL, Spring Kick Off Dressage, ACAEC, 352-472-6758 (see Back Cover). 3x



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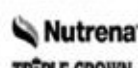
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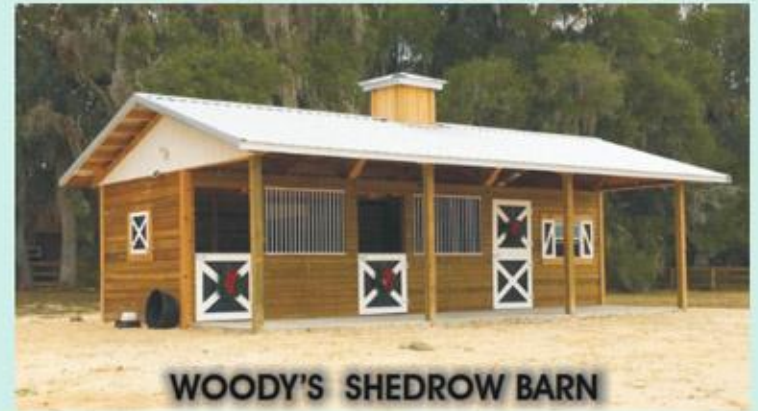
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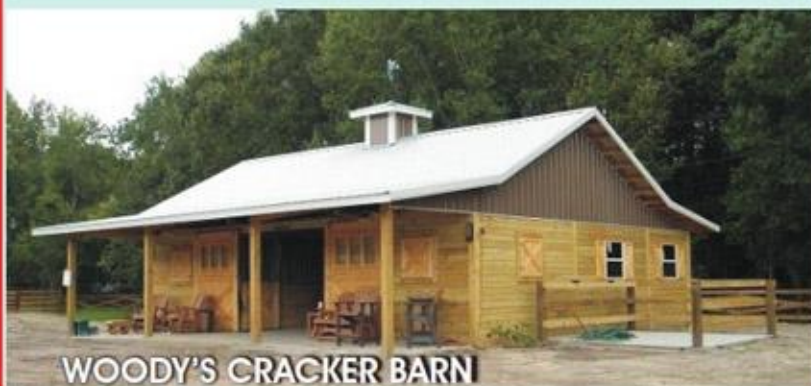
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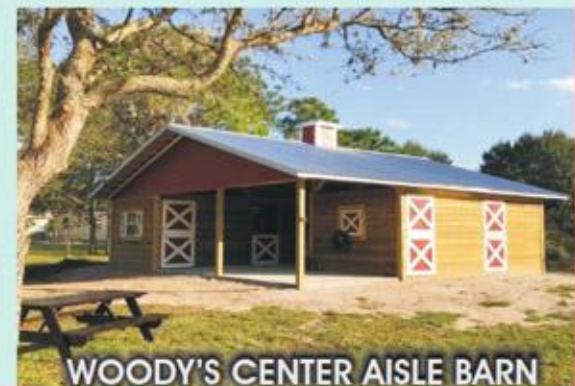
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### Upcoming 2024 Event Schedule:

March 1-5	Alachua County Youth Fair
March 16-17	Horse Shows in the Park
March 23-24	Gig and Rut Fest
March 30-31	Easter Holiday
April 6-7	Spring Kick Off Dressage
April 13-14	Spring Fling Goats
April 20-21	Spring Fever Dressage
April 27-28	Florida Color Horse Company
May 4-5	Master Gardener Plant Sale
May 11-12	May Day Qualifier Dressage
May 18-19	Horse Shows in the Park
May 25-26	SFHS Memorial Classic
June 1-2	Summer Sizzler 1 Dressage
<b>June 8-9</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
<b>June 15-16</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
<b>June 22-23</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
<b>June 29-30</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
<b>July 6-7</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
July 13-14	Summer Sizzler 2 Dressage
July 20-21	Horse Shows in the Park
<b>July 27-28</b>	<b>Open dates, plan your event</b>
August 3-4	Summer Sizzler 3 Dressage



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