



Horse & Pony News

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References: (1) The Veterinary Clinics of North America Vol. 18, #2, Aug. 2002, Pg. 355-369 (2) "No Sweat" Denise Steffanus, EquineAthlete, July/Aug. 1998, pg. 25-28



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2025 Florida Legislative Session Ended



By Judy Seltrecht,
FAKC President

The 2025 Florida legislative session ended on May 2, 2025. During this session we found the passage of the Pam Rock Act providing continuity throughout counties and responsibility for owners of dogs that are declared dangerous. Florida also passed Dexter's and Trooper's Law strengthening our animal cruelty laws for abandoning or restraining a dog during the time of disaster.

Ineffective Proposed Bills

The most egregious proposed bills, SB 1830 and HB 1481 would have impacted every citizen in the State of Florida who owned a female dog over six months of age, including service dogs, hunting dogs, guardian dogs, dogs enrolled in children's dog programs, responsible breeder and exhibitor's dogs. The list does not address the multifaceted problem of shelter overpopulation.

NAIA Applauds Reintroduction of Bipartisan Healthy Dog Importation Act



By Patti Strand,
NAIA President

The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) applauds the reintroduction of the Healthy Dog Importation Act, a bipartisan and bicameral bill that establishes critical health and vaccination safeguards for dogs imported into the United States.

The legislation, introduced by Representatives Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Don Davis (D-NC) in the House and Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Tina Smith (D-MN) in the Senate, equips the U.S. Department of Agriculture with additional tools necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of foreign animal diseases.

"Each year, more than one million dogs are imported into the United States, many from regions with inadequate veterinary infrastructure or poor disease control," said Patti Strand, President of the National Animal Interest Alliance. "The Healthy Dog Importation Act ensures that imported dogs meet basic health standards before crossing our borders—an essential safeguard not only for animal welfare, but for public health, biosecurity, and the integrity of our domestic pet and livestock industries. It's a commonsense measure that responds to the realities of an increasingly interconnected world."

NAIA extends its appreciation to the bipartisan sponsors of this vital legislation and urges Congress to prioritize its passage this year.

For more info: www.naiaonline.org

**Happy Father's
Day!**



Some of the reasons for turn in of dogs are loss of home, elderly sick dogs which are beyond medical care, dogs with severe behavioral issues, and the simple fact that some individuals made a bad decision in acquiring a dog.

Another proposed bill that did not pass was a Masters Degree Veterinary Professional Associate. Proponents of the bill likened the degree to an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant in human medicine, but the large difference is human medicine will not allow those practitioners to perform surgeries as this bill had recommended.

Some Solutions

Solutions may include limiting housing and HOA's from restrictions on dogs, availability of more low cost veterinary services, restricting retail rescue and importation of sickly or behavioral issue dogs and following the examples of responsible breeders, whereby they will take their offspring back for life. Liken it to if you bring it into this world be responsible for a lifetime.

How You Can Help

What can you do? Buy your pet from a responsible breeder that guarantees health, temperament and if unforeseen incidents arrive, they will take your puppy back. Adopt from reputable rescues and public shelters, where they will also take back a pet if it is not suitable for your family. Ensure the breed and behavior suit your family situation and you can afford food and medical care. Enroll in training classes with your pet. Education is key for a lifetime companion and most of all enjoy the human animal bond. Lastly if your dog does not represent a breed standard, spay and neuter; but do so after you and your Veterinarian decide your dog is mature to avoid musculoskeletal, orthopedic and life threatening cancers.

Continue Contacting Your Legislators

Act now, continue to contact your legislators to only introduce and recommend reasonable dog legislation. Keep Florida Dog Friendly!

The American Kennel Club estimates every two day weekend event contributes \$ 2.15 million to the local economy. Be a part of the responsible breeders, exhibitors and owners of Florida.



The Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Inc.

FAKC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of animals, especially pure bred dogs.

It is a "Club of Clubs", comprised of dog clubs throughout the State of Florida including those affiliated with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and independent of the AKC.

For more info go to www.FAKC.org or contact
Judy Seltrecht: fakc.seltrecht.president@gmail.com



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ONE AC Trusted Support for Non-Sweaters



ONE AC supplement has proven to be a valuable aid in managing anhidrosis in horses. This specialized supplement from MPCO – The Magic Powder Company was developed and patented by the late Raymond F. LeRoy, a

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By addressing the underlying physiological factors associated with anhidrosis, ONE AC helps horses overcome the challenges of inadequate sweating, promoting improved thermoregulation during



exercise and in hot weather conditions. Horse owners often find ONE AC to be a valuable component of their management strategy, aiding in the overall well-being and performance of horses affected by anhidrosis. However, it is essential to consult with a veterinarian to ensure that the supplement is appropriate for an individual horse's specific needs and conditions.

For more information on ONE AC go to our website <https://nonsweater.com> or email mpco@nonsweater.com.

Warmer Weather Warning: Go Slow to Prevent Heat Stroke

By Hannah Beers, University of Illinois

Heat stroke requires immediate medical attention

The approach of summer brings a spike both in temperatures and in cases of heat stroke in dogs. Dr. Maureen McMichael, a boarded emergency and critical care specialist who heads the emergency service at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, urges owners to acclimate their dogs to the increasing heat before engaging them in strenuous exercise.

"Heat is bad, and exercising in the heat is very, very bad," warns Dr. McMichael. "Many heat strokes happen in early spring on a warm day, when owners take their previously inactive pet on a run."

Take It Slow

She advises re-introducing your dog to heat and exercise gradually. "When it is warm, take them on a walk rather than a run. Never, ever force them to exercise. Always err on the side of stopping, wetting them down with cool water from a hose, and giving them cool water to drink."

Simply being overheated is referred to as heat exhaustion. Dr. McMichael says if this happens, "dogs will often slow down, pant a lot, and sometimes stop running, if they are on a run."



Heat stroke, in contrast, is a serious condition that involves significant damage to organ systems, such as the liver, blood, and bone marrow. It requires immediate medical attention.

Signs of Heat Stroke

Dogs with heat stroke may have bloody diarrhea related to damage to the lining of the intestine, and they may bleed from wounds because the coagulation system is impaired. Damage to bone marrow may hinder the formation of platelets. Heat stroke can also cause brain swelling, seizures, and death.

If you suspect your dog is experiencing heat stroke, your first step should be to cool the dog down with cool water. Ideally, place a fan near the wet dog to accelerate the cooling. Then call your veterinarian.

"The faster you cool the dog, the better chance he has of surviving," says Dr. McMichael. "And if you are using

water from a hose, be sure that the water is cool before spraying the dog. When the hose has been sitting in the sun, the water may be very hot."

Treatment for Heat Stroke

Veterinary treatment will continue the effort to lower the dog's body temperature and then attempt to reverse the systemic damage done by the heat. The veterinarian will generally place an intravenous catheter to administer cool fluids. Treatment to address other consequences of heat stroke may include giving a blood transfusion or gut protectants and providing supportive care.

Some pets are more sensitive to heat than others.

"Dogs don't sweat like people do. They use panting to cool themselves, so dogs that have trouble breathing are going to be more susceptible to heat stroke," says Dr. McMichael. "Dogs that are obese, and dogs that have flat faces, such as boxers and bulldogs, are at higher risk of heat stroke."

As you and your furry friend begin to enjoy the warm weather, don't forget the importance of a cool drink of water and a break in the air conditioning. Even after your pet is accustomed to summer heat, avoid exercise during the hottest times of the day, offer plenty of breaks, and be on the lookout for signs of fatigue or illness.

If you have questions about heat stroke in dogs, contact your local veterinarian.



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- Sat, June 7, 8:30am: Ride at Tenoroc Trail boss Susan Buchanon
 - Sat, June 14, 8:30am: Ride at Gator Creek Trail boss Susan Buchanon.
 - Mon, June 16, 6:00pm: Club Dinner & Business Meeting at the N Lakeland Golden Corral
 - Sat, June 21, 8:30am: Ride at Tenoroc Trail bosses Cheryl & Jeff Kreitman
 - Sat, June 28, 8:30am: Ride at Gator Creek Trail bosses Cheryl & Jeff Kreitman
- Facebook Page (Go to Events section)
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Riding Toward Joy: How Our Horse Barn Program Serves Children with Serious Illnesses



At Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, Florida, the horse barn is more than just a place to ride—it's where children facing serious medical conditions like cancer, spina bifida, and epilepsy get to experience freedom, confidence, and connection on horseback. For many of our campers, riding a horse is not just an activity; it's a milestone—one that fosters courage, independence, and unforgettable joy.

Each summer, our barn comes alive with the sounds of hooves and laughter as we welcome a carefully selected group of leased horses, chosen for their calm temperaments and gentle spirits. These incredible animals become trusted partners for our campers, and our dedicated barn team ensures both campers and horses receive exceptional care and attention.

We're thrilled to share that Indy, a charismatic horse who "volunteered" at camp last summer, will be returning to our herd this year. Named after the Indy 500, Indy is a former endurance horse whose strength and patience are matched only by his charm. His owner once thought he'd retire quietly to pasture life—but Indy had other plans.

One camper, Mo, was unsure about coming back to camp last year. "Maddie, I've been before. Has anything changed? Is anything new?" they asked. Mo had never



been to the barn when horses were present due to the pandemic, and they weren't interested in the usual camp activities. That all changed when Mo saw Indy from across the fence. "When do we get to go to the barn?" they asked with excitement.

On the third day, as their cabin approached the barn, Indy—being his silly self—stuck his tongue out at the campers. While others shied away, Mo lit up. "I love Indy because he is spicy! He has a fire in him. Can I ride him?" they asked.



time about favorite foods, games, and camp memories. Afterward, standing next to Indy, Mo shared, "I love Indy. He's so nice to me, so I know he loves me too. I am so glad I came this year and saw Indy—he's new."

While not every camper will get to ride him, to some, like Mo, Indy might just be the best part of their Camp Boggy Creek experience.

This year, we're also proud to offer more accessibility than ever before, thanks to the addition of the SafeHands Sure Lift—a mechanical lift that allows campers with limited trunk control to mount and dismount horses safely and with dignity. Paired with scenic trail rides through the Seminole State Forest, the barn experience is one filled with empowerment, healing, and joy.

To keep our horses healthy and our barn program running smoothly, we gratefully accept donations. We are currently in need of fly spray, lead lines, adult-sized riding boots for our staff, and horse-friendly treats like apples and carrots.



Every contribution helps us provide magical experiences for campers and keep special horses like Indy happy and healthy. For more info: www.Boggycreek.org

Thank you for being part of the ride.



Camp Boggy Creek Wish List

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Walk the Agility Path

By Christy Gammage, Practice Makes Pawfect



In agility competitions, each course is a unique sequence of obstacles along a path that the judge has designed or selected. The competitors may get course maps the evening before, but no one will have had the opportunity to 'try it out' before the competition. Before each class starts, there is a walk-through period of 5-8 minutes for the handlers to go out on the course and make their plans.

Prior to being able to get out on the course, many people have already drawn the dog's path on the map and started to strategize about where the challenges might be and how they can handle them. They may make preliminary decisions about which side of the dog they want to be on for different sections or what type of cross to use at specific locations. Note: the map may be slightly different than the course that is actually built. There is always a chance of equipment changes or distance adjustments, but knowing the geometry of the dog's path is useful before the course walk even starts.

During the course walk period, handlers will walk their path multiple times to memorize the obstacle sequence and make handling decisions. To make the most of your course walk time, have a specific goal or focus each time you walk your path.

Your first pass around the ring should be to find the obstacles in the numbered sequence. Essentially, just reconnoitering to confirm the dog's path. Try not to make any handling decisions just yet. You may already have an idea from looking at the map, but don't practice those just yet.

Your second pass should be to determine what the dog sees as they navigate the course. Why does it matter? Looking at the course from the dog's perspective will highlight areas where the obvious choice of next obstacle is not where the course goes. These are places where your handling needs to be extra clear or pre-emptive in nature. You don't have to run around on all fours or crawl through tunnels. But it is helpful to actually walk the dog's path through the jumps (if bars haven't been set yet). No matter if your dog jumps long, swings wide or turns tight, walk their expected path. You might see an obstacle you hadn't considered as an off-course possibility. Always position yourself at the end of the tunnels and contact equipment to see what is in the dog's line-of-sight as they exit the obstacle.

If you've identified any safety issues in your initial walk through, now is the time to bring it up to the judge. After pass 1 and 2, you should (hopefully) have a clear understanding of where the challenges are for you and your dog. Now you are ready to make your handling choices. For the challenging spots, where do you need to be in the ring to help your dog? What handling choices will get you there?

On your 3rd pass, walk the course trying out the obvious handling choices with your imaginary dog (who runs a lot like your real dog). If you walk a section and it feels questionable, go back a couple of obstacles and try a different handling plan (like a rear instead of a front cross). Everyone else will be doing the same thing. Each team has different skills, so don't be swayed by someone else's handling plan. However, you may see someone doing something you hadn't thought about. It may or may not be right for your team.

Note: Those people that spend much of the course walk chatting with friends as they coast around the course are missing the opportunity for analysis, memorization and practice.

By your 4th and 5th pass through the course, you should

have developed a pretty solid plan. These are your 'practice runs'. Perform the course exactly how you plan to do it. It is important to 'watch' your imaginary dog during these runs. This will direct your field of vision to match your real run so timing your movements will be more familiar.

Next, move over to an open, out-of-the-way area on the course. 'Walk' the course in this very small space, envisioning your handling. This is a test of how well you remember the course and where you expect the obstacles to be. If something is fuzzy in your mind, go back to the real course and walk that part again. By now, the whistle or buzzer is going off indicating you must leave the ring. You can still practice the visualization step outside of the ring to solidify your plan in your mind.

As my husband reminds me: what you practiced during the course walk may not be what actually happens in the ring. Your dog may be faster or slower than expected or go visit the ring crew. You may end up doing that front cross you had originally discarded. Regardless, your course walk helped you memorize the course, try out some options and understand your dog's view of the world. At least you were able to practice your part. It is always the first time for the dog. Course walks are another thing you'd Better Practice.



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The Equine Industry In Your Backyard



Waterford's 2023-24 YEDA Team won both National and Reserve National Championship Titles!

Equestrian sports is a constantly evolving and growing industry, featuring a variety of styles and disciplines, including up and coming team riding organizations. The Youth Equestrian Development Association, also known as YEDA, is a fast growing, western catch-draw styled riding organization, seeking to provide youth the opportunity to excel in the equine industry without owning their own horse.

YEDA offers riders the ability to showcase horsemanship in both rail and pattern work in a variety of divisions, categorized by different gemstones, featuring divisions from the walk, jog, and the lope for riders in 4th-12th grade, young alumni, and equestrians with disabilities. Riders competing in the Sapphire division are provided the additional opportunity to showcase their skills in ranch riding and those competing in the Diamond division in reining.

Currently, YEDA has 918 riders internationally and 61 teams, including two teams based out of Florida, located in Saint Augustine and Lithia.

Waterford Stables is a western and english riding facility based out of Lithia, Florida and is concluding its fifth year of competition with its YEDA team. Coached by head coach Kate Waterford and assistant coach Elizabeth Mero, Waterford Stables' YEDA team currently has thirteen riders ranging from elementary to college age and one rider under YEDA's "equestrians with disabilities" (EWD) category.

Since its inception in 2020, Waterford's YEDA team has had great success, with riders from the team consistently qualifying as the top riders in the state of Florida and qualifying to compete in YEDA's National Championship. High school riders on the team have also had success in earning scholarships provided by YEDA through academic achievement, community service, and even their own riding abilities via YEDA's pay out program known as the "Scholarship Incentive Fund" (SIF).



The Waterford YEDA team competed in Georgia & New Smyrna Beach

Several of Waterford's riders have also placed in the top five of point earners overall in their divisions both in the regular season and at nationals. During the 2023-24 season, Waterford had an outstanding performance at nationals, where one of their elementary rider's won a reserve national champion title and their college rider won a national champion title in their respective divisions.

Additionally, Waterford Equestrian's four legged competitors have also had great success in the YEDA show ring. Waterford's horses have won several accolades throughout the years, including multiple "Horse of The Show" titles for their excellent behavior, "Best Groomed" awards for their appearance, and the title of "Pinto Horse of Nationals" which was given to their horse, Harley, at the 2023 National Championship.

This year, the team has had a successful season as six of their riders will be competing in the ninth annual YEDA National Championship in McDonald, Tennessee in June, representing the sunshine state. Their Jr. High riders also managed to secure a spot in the top 25 overall for Jr. High teams during the season and the Sr. High team placed in the top 30.

The Waterford YEDA team is seeking to add new riders to its ranks for the 2025-26 season. Students who range from 4th-12th grade to college age are welcome to join for the upcoming season, regardless of riding or show experience.

Waterford stables offers a safe, inclusive, and friendly atmosphere aimed at providing riders with the tools for success. Kate Waterford prides herself with a great facility including an outdoor, fenced arena, covered barn, and well mannered horses available for lessons and showing. Waterford Stables provides weekly lessons for students of all ages whether they are interested in showing or just riding for fun. Summer camps are also available through Waterford Stables for students ages 8-18 at the Koren's Quarters show facility,



featuring a covered arena and indoor classroom for use during the duration of Waterford's day camps.

Those who are interested in YEDA and Waterford Stables can find more information about the team via Waterford's Facebook page and their website, h2oford.com. YEDA is also seeking to expand in the state of Florida as the demand for new teams grows stronger. Teams only require a coach and three riders; those looking to form or find a team can use all of the information on YEDA's website, showyeda.com, to become a part of the growing organization.



Team Waterford's barn is in Lithia which is located East of the Tampa area.

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Western Dressage: Tips From a Judge's Perspective



By Lynn Palm

In this series, Western Dressage from a Judge's Perspective, I will give you tips from my point of view as a judge that may help your scores and learn to ride with more accuracy and precision. I find there are common challenges that everyone has learning the discipline, or common movements that riders have difficulty learning, which leads to horse and rider frustrations.

Let's take what you learned from the Introductory Level and move on to the Basic Level. With the lope as a new requirement at this level, I have many tips to share!

1. Also coming down center line, if I see a rider with the lower leg off the horse and the feet pushing in the stirrups, I know that the rider will have balance issues. The balance is too much in the feet and not through weight in the seat. I also will see a rider that will have a bouncy movement at the lope. Balance from the feet/stirrups will push a rider's balance up and bouncing will occur.

2. Adjust the reins slightly before and after transitions so you don't have to adjust your hands position to try to achieve the same communication to the horse's mouth. When your hands get out of position, you are late as well as stronger with your reins than you intend to be.

3. Coming down center line and in the corners of the arena, when I see the hands position too high or wide and low, it tells me that the rider's skill level is limited. They could be balancing with the reins to some degree, thus hands not being independent from the seat/balance. A rider who balances on the reins in any way will have struggles with the effective use of aids.

4. Free Walk: lengthen reins without changing hands position and keeps hands moving forward to encourage the neck to lengthen. When a rider's hands spread wide and low, this is trying to get the head down to stretch. One may get one to lower the head, but you will not get the neck to go lower as the horse stretches the nose out as it lowers. At the same time the rider must encourage more activity from the walk to maximize stretch. Practice Free Walk after a set of working jog work or lengthening the jog. Both will encourage stretching after connecting 'on the bit'.

5. Show correct Bending! Riders need to advance their skills and encourage that the horse is straight in his body position when going straight and bending through the body with head flexed in the direction of travel on any curving line. I see too many riders making curves and turns with the horse's head flexed outward, which means that the horse is not bending in his body, thus losing his balance inward, or "falling in". The horse will speed up and stay tight or tense, as the horse is not balanced while turning.

6. For turns at E & B, I see riders turning too early or too late, and or horses not bending before and during the turns. Prepare your horse to bend at the letter before B or E, turning toward the letter on the other side of the ring 12' before the letter. When you get to X prepare your horse to bend and turn 12' before B or E. As you begin the

turn, look at the letter after B or E you are riding toward. This will help you not turn so early or late and have the proper body position for the horse.

7. 10 meter loop: When a rider shows the correct bend of the horse in the corner, the loop usually goes well. However, the middle loop is where I see riders not getting the correct bend, not making X in this figure. My tip here is after you make the turn going toward X, at the quarter line straighten your horse and bend as you pass the quarter line. Keep the bend through X and the next quarter line, straighten the horse, bend the new direction returning to the rail and corner. The change of bend on the quarter line should be within 3 strides as you are passing the quarter line.

8. 1/2 circle 10 meters can be a challenging figure at this level, however, done properly it is really fun! It is a must to have the correct bend BEFORE turning the 10 meters 1/2 circle to X. Know your distance that you must meet in the first quarter of the half circle. It is very important for accuracy here. As you are to meet X, view with your eye the letter you are going to ride to and have accuracy. In this figure when not done correctly the rider is behind the horse, as it comes up quickly. Keep your eyes ahead, looking for the 5 meters distance to ride the half circle, X to find 10m wide half circle, and looking to the letter you are going to complete the figure. Look further ahead than usual to help you perfect this figure. Remember, you must control the same tempo before, during, and after the figure. I find the horse will change the tempo in the half circle is the horse is not bending and straight!

9. Free Jog, at this level is not going to be much change in the horse to stretch, as they are not asked enough before the stretch as in Level 1 or higher. However, in Basic, I see riders, not able to control the horse's balance/bending, and the roundness of the circle. Learn to trust your horse and ride the circle with your leg aids! The reins should not be loose and dangling, but the horse should be stretching to the contact. The more the rider controls the horse with the leg aids and does not use the corners (not round circle) the scores will get higher. When you don't use your reins to steer the horse on the circle, he can stretch more and relax as you are using 95% of your leg aids to control the horse on the circle.

10. During the 20 meter circle at the lope, I find most riders want to hurry! I see this with an abrupt transition up or down, the horse will be tight, tense, swish the tail or other things saying they don't need to have hurried or harsh cues. Plan to have your transitions in the middle of the last quarter of the circle or middle distance where you are asked to do the transition. The transition is the key to have control and direction and speed as you are loping a short distance. Know your 4 points of a circle to perfect and take your time to ask for clear cues to the lope and down to the jog from the lope. Keep your eyes looking ahead for the spot in your circle to a round circle and precision where you ask for your up and down transitions.

Enjoy working through these Basic Level tips. I'm looking forward to the next month's Level 1, when I will share tips from the judge's box from my experience as a USEF R Western Dressage Judge.

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AKC Reunite Encourages Owners To Have A Disaster Plan

AKC Reunite, the largest non-profit pet identification and recovery service provider in the United States, encourages all dog owners to make sure they are ready for the unexpected when it comes to their pets.

As natural disasters increase in frequency and intensity, it's more important than ever to have a disaster preparedness plan in place—for every member of your family, including your pets. Emergencies can happen without warning, and having a clear, pet-inclusive plan ensures your animals stay safe whether you need to evacuate or shelter-in-place.

"When disaster strikes, chaos follows—and in those critical moments, having a plan can be the difference between safety and heartbreak," said Tom Sharp, CEO of AKC Reunite. "National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day is a powerful reminder that our pets rely on us to be ready. At AKC Reunite, we urge every pet owner to build a plan, because in times of crisis, preparation isn't just peace of mind—it's protection."

AKC Reunite encourages all pet owners to review their emergency kits, keep up-to-date ID and microchip information on hand, and work with local emergency management officials to stay informed and ready.

We encourage you to use this day to:

- * Review your family's emergency response plans for natural disasters.
- * Share resources with your community about creating a pet emergency kit.
- * Ensure your pets are microchipped and enrolled in a 24/7 recovery service like AKC Reunite. Also, be sure to keep the contact info in the microchip profile up-to-date.

Key tips from AKC Reunite

for you and your pets:

- * Assemble a portable disaster supply kit including food, water, medications, identification, and important documents for each pet.
 - * Identify pet-friendly shelters and evacuation routes ahead of time.
 - * Have a printed photo of your pet with you in case you are separated.
 - * Practice your emergency plan with your pets.
- Find additional resources and a downloadable Pet Emergency Guide at akcreunite.org.
Learn more about pet disaster preparedness at www.akcreunite.org/relief.

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The way home for lost pets. AKC Reunite, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club®, is the largest non-profit pet microchip identification and recovery service provider in the United States. Since 1995 AKC Reunite has helped pet owners reunite with their lost animals via identification and 24/7 pet recovery specialists, enrolling over 10 million companion animals and recovering more than 650,000 lost pets. AKC Reunite microchips are a popular choice of pet professionals throughout the country for permanent pet identification.

AKC Reunite has donated more than \$10 million since 2002 for pet-related causes including disaster preparedness and relief like the AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailer donation program. AKC Reunite also has the Adopt a K-9 Cop matching grant program to help police departments acquire

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The never-ending battle against bugs!



By Fran Severn

We love to spend time with our horses. But when we're swatting away flies and scratching mosquito bites, it's not as much fun as it should be. Getting rid of bugs – or at least controlling them – is the Holy Grail of the horse world.

If you think there's no way to completely get rid of flies, you're right. A single pair of flies can spawn over 200-million offspring in 60 days. Despite all the sprays, traps, and repellents, those annoying insects will never be eradicated. But we can still reduce their numbers and make life a bit more tolerable.

Start with prevention. Flies love manure, trash, and garbage, so managing those is the first tactic. Keep your trash in covered garbage bins. Empty them as soon as they are full. Keep feed rooms clean of dirt, loose hay, and spilled grain. Mesh screens hung in the barn entrance keep flies out of the stable area. Dealing with the screens also desensitizes horses.

Keep stalls clean of manure residue. Use a hose sprayer filled with Pine Sol and scrub the stall walls and floor. Leave the horses outside for at least an hour since the smell and airborne residue can irritate a horse's lungs. To disinfect the stall, sprinkle a mixture of water and Lysol on the floor and walls.

Put your manure pile as far from the barn

as possible. Use fly predators; they feed on fly larvae. Sprinkle the pile liberally with Diatomaceous Earth. This powder dries out the manure which eliminates it as a food source. Hang wide sheets of fly paper around the posts and walls of your manure pile to trap flies.

A few spritzes of fly spray does nothing but scent the air. To be effective, the hair must be damp. Use a sponge or saturated cloth and wipe it on the horse. That also makes it easy to treat hard-to-reach areas, like between the legs.

Hanging strips of sticky fly paper are part of every barn's summer décor. More effective are sticky trap balls placed outside. Coated with black paint or adhesive and heated by the sun, they send out an infrared signal that attracts flies. They either land on the sticky ball and or fly into a collection jar. Brands like "Bug Ball," "Bite-Lite," "Horse Pal," and "Epps trap" are commercially available and there are many DIY versions.

Odor traps are plastic bags that contain a slurry of water and a non-toxic chemical. It is a pheromone that tells flies that there's a great party going on inside the bag. They cannot escape once they are inside. The bags are incredibly effective but smell like a dumpster in August, so you need to place them downwind of your stable.

To repel flies, wipe drier sheets around the horse's face and ears. They contain citronella and linalool which flies don't like. Rub Vicks Vapor Rub or Skin-so-Soft in the horse's ears to keep flies and midges away. A paste of baking soda and water or hemorrhoid cream eases the itch from bites.

A smear of bacon grease or petroleum jelly does the same.

Ticks spread many diseases, live for about two years, and are almost indestructible. Since they thrive in grass, brush, and moist, dark areas, it's impossible to avoid them. Removing habitat is the best protection. Clear grass and brush from around buildings. Place a 3-foot barrier of gravel or sand around buildings. Stack wood and equipment neatly, and don't let grass and weeds grow around them.

Wrap strips of fly paper around the tops of your boots and bottom of your jeans to catch ticks. Keep a lint roller handy and run it over clothes, shoes, saddle pads and saddles. Washing clothes does not kill ticks. Instead, tumble-dry clothes on high heat before washing. The heat kills the ticks. Then wash the clothing as usual.

Mosquitoes are almost as annoying as flies. In her one month of life, a female mosquito can lay up to 2,500 eggs. Any damp spot will do: a wet spot by the water hose, upturned garbage can lids, discarded carry-out cups, even a fraction of an inch of water in a tire track. Once again, prevention is the key. Drain anything that holds

standing water.

Mosquito 'dunks' are small discs that float on water and release a bacterium that is toxic to all species of mosquito larvae but are harmless to animals and fish. They last for several weeks and are suitable for use in small ponds. Encourage natural predators, like bats, Purple Martins, swallows, and dragonflies. They eat several times their body weight in mosquitoes every day. Citronella, lavender, marigold, basil, rosemary, and lemon balm look nice, smell good, and repel mosquitoes.

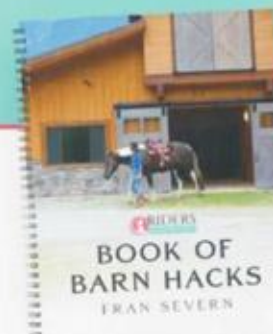
Which is probably about the best we can hope for when fighting bugs!

Author Bio:

Fran Severn is the award-winning author of *Riders of a Certain Age: Your Guide to Loving Horses Mid-Life and Beyond*, *Creating Your Journey*, *Barn Fires: Preventing a Disaster*, and *The Riders of a Certain Age Book of Barn Hacks*. She is a regular contributor to equine publications and a speaker at equine expos. She can be contacted at fran@ridersofacertainage.com. All are available at www.ridersofacertainage.com and www.bookofbarnhacks.com.

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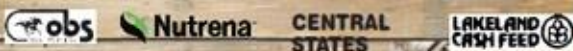
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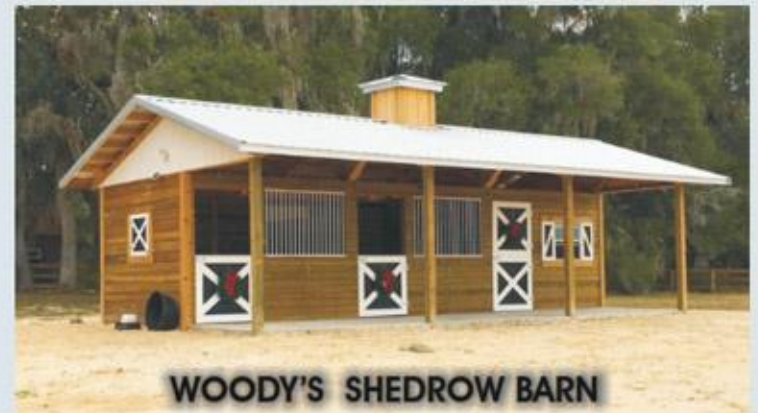
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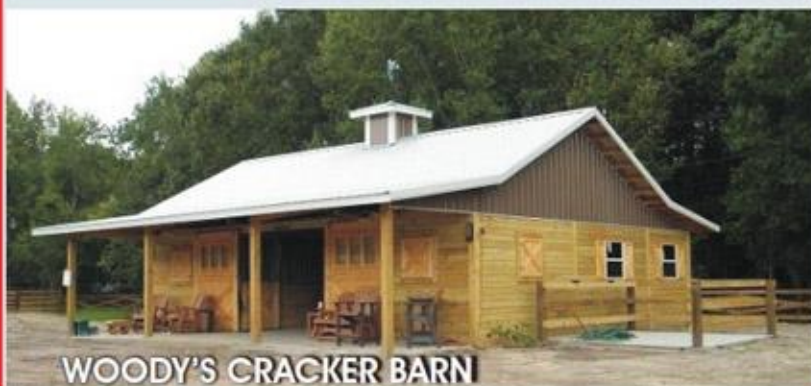
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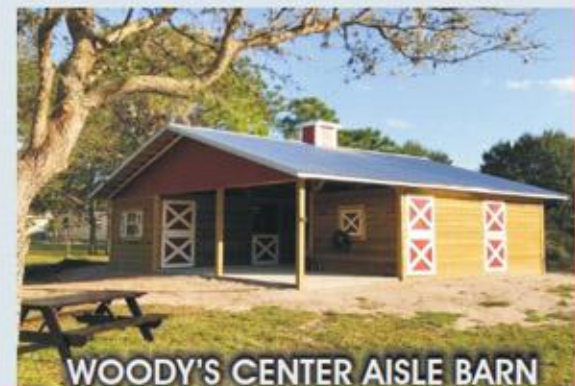
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