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# KENTUCKY EQUESTRIAN

DIRECTORY

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Veterinarian  
Swerczek Shares  
the Untold Story

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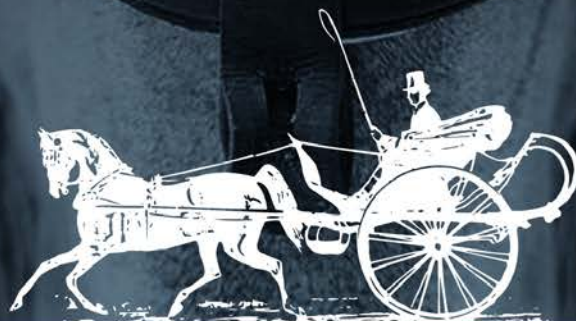
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# 2020 KENTUCKY EQUESTRIAN DIRECTORY

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Secretariat

## ABOUT THE COVER

**Secretariat is without question the greatest racehorse in history.** Although, he has been gone for three decades, October 2019 marking the thirty-year anniversary of his death, fans' intrigue over his incredible story has never died. There is another story, however, that has been untold until now. Dr. Thomas Swerczek, DVM, Ph.D., the veterinarian who discovered the secret to "Big Red's" success – his incredibly large heart, opens up for the first time, sharing memories of the famous horse and the lifetime of research that followed, dedicated to Secretariat's legacy. We are honored to present Secretariat, TWICE the Heart.

We are extremely grateful to Dr. Swerczek for sharing his story with us.

We wish to thank Leonard Lusky of Secretariat.com. Penny Chenery's assistant for seventeen years, Leonard shared many of his own personal insights and generously provided photos for our story. Finally, a special thanks goes to Dr. Bob and Mrs. Jane Coleman for introducing us to Dr. Tom and Mrs. Mary Ann Swerczek.

*Photo at Claiborne Farm in early retirement years -  
Courtesy of Secretariat.com*

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## From the publisher

Welcome to the 2020 premiere issue of **Kentucky Equestrian Directory!**

Kentucky Equestrian Directory was created for YOU – owners, riders, professionals and businesses of all disciplines – to help you connect within the Kentucky horse community. More than just a business directory, it also features content on trending topics, the best practices, and innovators in the industry, plus tips from the pros.

Our first publication, *Ohio Equestrian Directory* has enjoyed huge success over the past three years, attracting interest from our friends in the Bluegrass State.

It is with much gratitude that we present you with this inaugural issue.

You don't have to be from Kentucky to know it is home to Lexington, the "horse capital of the world", nor do you have to know anything about Thoroughbreds to know the name of the greatest racehorse in history. We are honored to feature the legendary Secretariat on our cover!

I would never have imagined that I would be a guest in the home of Dr. Thomas Swerczek, DVM, Ph.D., listening to his account of the day he discovered the secret to "Big Red's" success: his big (huge) heart! Dr. Swerczek was chosen by the Chenery family to perform the necropsy on the famous racehorse, whose untimely death was the result of a severe case of laminitis. Instead of seeking the spotlight, Dr. Swerczek chose to dedicate his life's work to researching the causes of laminitis, and other equine illnesses. He is most passionate about sharing his discoveries on equine diet and nutrition with horse owners, hoping to positively impact the health of horses, and inspire other scientists to continue his work. Please enjoy Dr. Swerczek's untold story, **Secretariat, TWICE The Heart**.

To find out where racehorses go after their careers at the track, we asked the experts at Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA), the racing industry-initiated accrediting organization responsible for ensuring that aftercare organizations and facilities are managed to the highest of standards nationwide. Next, we checked in with Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP), and Retired Racehorse Project (RRP), to name a few, and were pleased to learn how many organizations, including the racing industry, support Thoroughbred aftercare. Perhaps you have thought about adopting a retired racehorse, or getting involved in the process – if so, **The Finish Line is Just the Beginning** will surely inspire you.

Look out Lexington, **EQUITANA USA: A Destination Event for Equine Enthusiasts** is coming! Wait...What? Unless you're an international traveler, you may not be familiar with this German-established equestrian venue. EQUITANA is the world's largest equine trade fair and is making its US debut at the iconic Kentucky Horse Park in the fall of 2020. Everything you need to know to plan your visit is featured in this issue.

Special thanks to the equestrians who generously shared their stories and to the businesses who enthusiastically supported this issue!

We hope you find this to be an invaluable resource and ask you to please support our advertisers, without whom this complimentary directory would not be possible.

–Erika Milenkovich, Publisher, *Ohio Equestrian Directory*/Kentucky Equestrian Directory



Photo by Jessa Janes Photography

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Creating a suitable living environment for your horse can be a daunting task. From stall size and layout to aisleway measurements there are many things to consider. While making these decisions, it is vital to design a space that enhances the health of your horse while lowering environmental impact. Clay Nelson, of Sustainable Stables LLC., is an expert at helping equine facility owners do just that.

After working for the EPA as an environmental chemist for over 10 years, Nelson created a business that focuses on providing solutions for equine facilities that are both environmentally conscious and have the horse's best interest in mind. Nelson shared, "A healthy stall starts with the design of the barn. The best design is one that provides natural light and natural ventilation."

Natural light may be one of the most important yet overlooked resources in the barn. "Beyond energy savings," Nelson shared, "sunlight can act as a disinfectant to your barn, something that can't quite be duplicated by artificial light." While light will not substitute for regular disinfecting, dark, damp conditions are breeding grounds for bacteria, so good lighting is essential.

Air quality in the barn has a dramatic impact on a horse's respiratory health. "Poor air circulation can quickly become detrimental. This is compounded based on the amount of horses in the barn and time spent in the stall." Vents in the roof, functional cupolas, and circulation fans can be used to create better air quality. In addition, Nelson suggested a steeper roof

# Stable Smarts

## Designing a Sustainable Barn

by Lisa Kiley



pitch for new builds.

Properly cleaned stalls will also enhance air quality. This starts with the right stall base. "Laying down a base that allows for drainage is key," Nelson shared, "Concrete is impermeable. Beyond waste build up, hard surfaces can cause soundness issues."

Nelson prefers a softer base, "The ground needs to be compacted and level, then Paddock Slabs can be laid over the surface." The honey-comb shaped slabs, made of recycled plastic, interlock and allow for drainage while protecting the floor from getting uneven over time.

"The slabs should be backfilled with a substrate, like crushed limestone, then topped with mats. The drainage will help prevent build up and odor." Nelson added that if budget allows, installing piped drainage beneath each stall is ideal.

Materials used to bed

stalls should also be taken into consideration. "It's hard to find one perfect product that is absorbent, low on dust, and readily breaks down," commented Nelson, "but if the base of the stall is softer, it will require less bedding overall. Each horse is different in the stall, you have to individually meet their bedding needs."

Nelson is a proponent of turning horse manure into a useful commodity, "composting is still the best solution. A compost pile is its own ecosystem, it must be monitored closely and amended as needed to keep the correct carbon/nitrogen ratio. This balance must be maintained in order to produce quality fertilizer."

When it comes to stall assignments, consider the composition of the herd and how they interact together. Nelson shared, "I'm always thinking about ways to design and reimagine living spaces

that have more flexibility and provide a more natural environment for the horses."

Nelson cited that people often want to re-create what they see in professional barns. "Just because something works for a large facility doesn't mean it's best for a home barn. Stables with higher turn around rates may use full stall walls to help prevent communicable diseases and aggression between horses. At home, horses may do better sharing a common barn space with access to a turn-out or pasture."

At the end of the day, it's worth the time invested to create better stabling solutions for your horses. The benefits gained will far outweigh the upfront investment: a barn that is easier to maintain, environmentally sound solutions that translate into energy savings and, most importantly, healthy, happy horses.

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*Lisa Kiley is a lifelong horse enthusiast who has worked in the equine industry and shown horses for many years. She is a proud member of Cashmans Horse Equipment Team. Cashmans Horse Equipment, located in Delaware, OH has been providing top quality products to the equine & agricultural community for 40 years. They have a commitment to sourcing environmentally conscious products. Cashmans strives to educate customers and provide products that put safety first so you can enjoy more time with the horses you love.*



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# The best slides aren't necessarily on the playground.

When our kids slide, they are not on a playground. They are on a Reiner! Yes, the **Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA)** has kids in grades 4-12 who ride Western (and Hunt Seat and Dressage) in a draw-based format.

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# Our kids are always hunting for a seat.

The best seat in the house is not in front  
of the big screen TV, but on a horse.  
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# Laminitis is a Year-Round Risk: What Can Horse Owners Do?

by GG Equine

Since laminitis is a health issue with no single identifiable cause, we are still far from either a reliable cure or preventive solution. One thing we know for certain is that laminitis is not just a springtime disorder.

Laminitis is inflammation of the tissues that connect the bones in a horse's foot to the hoof wall. Swelling forces the foot bones out of their natural positions. This affects blood flow, causes excruciating pain, and can eventually lead to lameness and death. Some of the horse world's most accomplished equine athletes - Secretariat and Barbaro among them - have died as a result of laminitis.

Laminitis is a secondary condition, which means it's a health issue that arises due to another one. Some of these issues are genetic, indicating there is no fool-proof strategy to prevent laminitis, but there are factors that horse owners can control.

## Hormones can influence laminitis

Risk factors for laminitis fall under three major categories: hormones, diet, and weight. Hormonal disorders like Equine Metabolic Syndrome, Cushing's disease (now known as Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction, or PPID), and insulin resistance are all major risk factors. Aside from these, every

horse experiences hormonal changes as summer turns to fall. These changes can influence a horse's immune system's responsiveness and insulin production, but fortunately, can be tested for and monitored by equine vets over a horse's lifetime.

## Diet plays a role

Diet is probably the first thing most horse owners think of when it comes to laminitis. The prevailing wisdom is that laminitis is caused by lush spring grass. However, the extreme variability in temperatures that occur in the fall as well as drought conditions that often happen in the summer can increase the starch and sugar content of pasture grasses just as much as spring warmth and rains do.

## Obesity is still the biggest risk

Along with diet, weight management is another risk factor that is mostly within a horse owner's control. Every horse - not just "easy-keepers" - can put on and carry around excess pounds. More than hormones or diet alone, obesity may be the single most significant reason why horses develop laminitis.

## Grazing muzzles are a great tool for managing diet and weight

Grazing muzzles are one of the simplest solutions for equine weight



Photo courtesy of GG Equine

management. They also continue to be one of the most misunderstood. Contrary to what some may think, using a grazing muzzle on a horse is far from being cruel. In fact, a 2019 study at the University of Maryland showed that there were no changes to individual or social behaviors in horses wearing muzzles versus those without.\*

The muzzled horses also did not exhibit any "stereotypies or frustration

behavior," nor did they have higher cortisol (i.e. stress) levels. The fact that horses in the study wearing a muzzle also lost weight provides even further evidence that a grazing muzzle is actually one of the best ways to manage weight and reduce the risk for laminitis. ♦

\*<https://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/22043>

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# Going Green Has Never Been Easier

## A Natural Approach to Horse Care That's Good For You, Your Horse, and Your Planet

By John Robert Williams



Laura with Dex (owner, Kim Andrews)

Photo by Photo 243

Making choices to keep ourselves, horses, and our environment safe by using non-toxic equine care products can sometimes be a daunting task. Part of this dilemma is deciding which natural and non-toxic products to use, based on their efficacy, cost, and availability.

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natural insect repellent is integrated into the formula, providing a powerful combo of defense against most other horse-harassing insects. Fly Bye! Plus utilizes two systems in one product to mitigate flies, mosquitoes, gnats and ticks. And all without harmful chemicals!

Guaranteed Horse Products was founded by Laura Gentile. An avid rider and equine enthusiast, Laura leveraged her biology background to create a toxin-free fly spray for her own horse. What began as a fly spray used for personal use, quickly developed into a company whose ethics are deeply rooted in horse, human, and earth stewardship. Fly Bye! Plus is now sold internationally

to discerning horse owners seeking to purchase an effective, environmentally conscious fly spray that is safe for horses, humans, and our earth. Laura's inspiration is realized by Guaranteed Horse Products' motto, "Love your horse, Love your Planet".

Innovative, original, and always ahead of the ever changing equine personal care landscape, Guaranteed Horse Products' line of non-toxic, cruelty-free, all natural products is redefining how we keep our horses healthy and happy.

To learn more about this trendsetting and inspirational company check out their website at [www.guaranteedhorseproducts.com](http://www.guaranteedhorseproducts.com). ♦





# EQUITANA USA

## A Destination Event for Equine Enthusiasts

by Sarah E. Coleman

A three day extravaganza of equine-themed shopping, demonstrations, education, and so much more, the Kentucky Horse Park prepares to throw open its (barn) doors to horse lovers across the nation in the Fall of 2020.

**H**orse lovers, mark your calendars! Whether you're a rider, trainer, work in the industry or simply enjoy being around horses, you'll want to make your way to the Bluegrass on September 25-27, when the world's largest equine trade fair dedicated solely to horses and equestrian sport, touches

down at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

A three day event that includes all things equine, EQUITANA USA includes demonstrations, exhibits, displays, and, most of all, an abundance of shopping! No matter what discipline you ride, or breed you prefer, this event truly has something for everyone - including those





who are casually associated with the horse world, like horse husbands and parents of horse-crazy kids.

### **Something for Everyone**

The concept of EQUITANA is not new; the event first opened in 1972 in Essen, Germany, and has evolved into a nine day event that has become a staple on many equine enthusiast's calendars. However, hosting the USA version at the Kentucky Horse Park, globally known as the ultimate equine destination, is the newest chapter for the EQUITANA brand.

EQUITANA in Germany and in the USA is produced by Reed Exhibitions, an international event organization company that oversees nearly 500 events in 30 countries across 43 industry sectors. Niche events, like equine-focused EQUITANA, are their specialty.

"The great thing about EQUITANA USA, and EQUITANA in Germany, is that the show is really a destination for anyone and everyone with a love for horses. Whether you're a high-level dressage competitor, a weekend pleasure rider, a veterinarian, a budding professional, a member of the United States Pony Club, 4-H, IHSA, or affiliate yourself with anything else in the equestrian world, this show has something for you," says Meghan Margewicz, Event Director for EQUITANA USA.

### **Why Kentucky?**

With an estimated 2 million horse owners in the United States and a total of 4.6 million Americans involved in the horse industry as owners, service providers, employees, and

volunteers, the United States was at the top of the show's expansion plan, Meghan explained. In October of 2018, the Reed Exhibitions team from Germany visited the Kentucky Horse Park with the Reed Exhibitions

The Kentucky Horse Park, home of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the 2019 and 2020 American Eventing Championships, the Lexington Junior League Charity Saddlebred Horse Show, the National Horse

horse through education, exhibition, engagement, and competition." EQUITANA USA embodies all of that and more.

With all of these accolades, the Horse Park "was a decidedly easy choice,"



North America team - and fell in love with all that the Kentucky Horse Park has to offer. "Our team met with VisitLex [the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau], city and state officials, the Kentucky Horse Park team, and multiple equine associations to discuss the potential for a North American event - the amount of support secured the plan."

Aptly dubbed "The Horse Capital of the World," Kentucky is no stranger to passionate horse lovers - with Lexington as the hub of all things horse-related.

Show, the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event, and a plethora of other national-caliber events, was the perfect place to launch EQUITANA in the United States.

The Kentucky Horse Park and EQUITANA USA have joined forces to bring what they plan to be a signature event to the 1,200-acre equine-everything playground. The Kentucky Horse Park is the only facility of its kind anywhere in the world dedicated to all things equine. The Park's mission is "to celebrate the history of our relationship with the

Meghan says. "...it really is a global destination for equestrians." With world-class footing, permanent stabling for nearly 1,300 horses, a number of outdoor competition rings, a convenient campground, and a location that's easily accessible from three different airports all within an hour's drive, "hosting the event at the Park eliminated any concern that the location would not be ideal for the most important participants - the horses!"

### **The Right Stuff**

There have been horses on

*Continued on page 20*



Continued from page 19

the grounds of the Kentucky Horse Park for over 200 years; September 2020 will welcome even more and be focused solely on one thing: being “right;” meaning the right exhibitors, the right horses and the right programming. “We are not launching this in competition with other events; we are launching EQUITANA USA to give the industry an event it doesn’t already have,” says Meghan. “EQUITANA USA is here to support the industry and bring horse lovers together to benefit the horse. The more we can collaborate with associations and organizations with the same goal, the better we all are, and the better our horses will be.”

“When a horse enthusiast thinks ‘horse destination,’ one of the first things that comes to mind is Lexington, Kentucky, and the Kentucky Horse

Park. Whether that horse enthusiast is an Olympic-level competitor or a weekend pleasure rider, Kentucky, and Lexington in particular, has always been and continues to be the ‘horse capital of the world.’ The Kentucky Horse Park is already a 1,200-acre equine theme park with the right footing, permanent stabling, competition rings, the massive Alltech Arena, the famous Rolex Stadium, endless equine history, a number of museums (including the Smithsonian-affiliated International Museum of the Horse), and 30 national equine



All photos courtesy of Kentucky Horse Park

associations headquartered on Park grounds. The city is also just a beautiful, easy-to-access destination with great hotels, fun restaurants, endless history, and lots to do outside of the horse world. If you love horses or have a horse lover in your life, Lexington is that ultimate destination.”

And, what if you’re attending the event as a companion of an equine enthusiast? Fear not! There’s something for you at EQUITANA USA as well. True “Kentucky flavor” will permeate all aspects of the event: there will be options

that highlight the Kentucky bourbon industry, local cuisine offerings, Horse Country farm tours, and a unique evening event in the Alltech Arena

that will feature myriad equine performances, shares Meghan.

### What to Expect

EQUITANA USA will use a good portion of the iconic Park, including the Walnut Arena and famed Rolex Stadium, as well as the Annex Ring, for the majority of their programming. Additional event locations will include the Covered Arena and the Wrigley Media Theaters in the Visitor Center. Exhibitor booths will be in both the Covered Arena and along the path to the Rolex Stadium. The footprint of EQUITANA USA will be very similar to

the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event trade-fair portion and BreyerFest, Meghan explains. The Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event is the only premier Five Star event in North America; BreyerFest is an annual, three-day, family-friendly celebration of horses.

EQUITANA USA is expected to host 200 vendors in its first year; the event is expected to grow from there. “There will be a wide array of exhibitors since we really want to make sure the show satisfies all our customers’ needs; think apparel and accessories, farm management, hoof care, veterinary supplies and medicine, trailers, tack and equipment, feed and bedding, supplements, stabling equipment, and more,” explains Meghan.

Each vendor is being vetted by Reed Exhibitions to ensure that the show





## EQUITANA USA BY THE NUMBERS

**3 DAYS:**  
September 25-27, 2020

**3 AIRPORTS** within an hour's drive: Lexington, Cincinnati and Louisville

**200 VENDORS:** of all things equine, including apparel, accessories, farm management, trailers, tack and equipment, feed and bedding, supplements, and more

**1-DAY** adult admission: \$27  
**3-DAY** adult admission: \$70

**1 HORSE CAPITAL  
OF THE WORLD:  
LEXINGTON, KY**

is curated to the highest possible level. Additionally, Reed Exhibitions continues to reach out to attendees to see what products and services they want to see in the U.S. event. "We are creating the event for the industry with a goal to give them what they want," Meghan continues.

There are a plethora of demonstrations slated to take place over the three day event; they will cover an array of topics, multiple disciplines and be held in a variety of styles, all with one goal in mind: to cater to all attendee levels and age groups. We really want to cover as much as

we can about the industry over these three days. It's a great opportunity for the younger generation who are starting to come up through the industry and may not be aware of all the disciplines and opportunities that lay ahead of them."

The programming at EQUITANA USA will also feature educational presentations for those who already have years of industry experience and want to learn more about the latest and greatest breakthroughs in veterinary medicine, horsemanship trends, and more.

To round out the jam-packed days, a nightly marquis event will take place in the Alltech Arena one hour after EQUITANA USA closes. This unique, family-friendly event - perfect for both horse lovers and anyone who wants to enjoy an evening show - "is an experiential performance with a variety of equine talent as the stars," Meghan explains. It's sure to be one you won't want to miss!

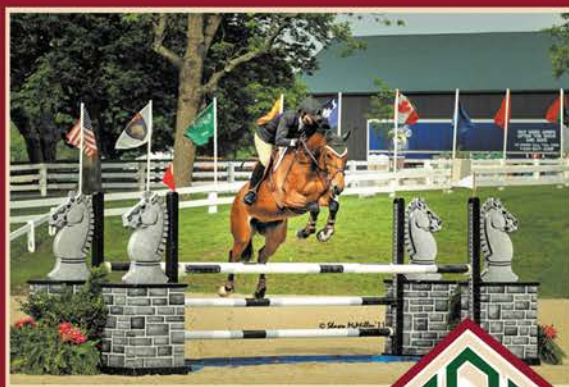
No matter the attendee's age, discipline, or level of equestrian experience, one thing is for certain: They will leave EQUITANA USA with a deeper understanding of horses and what the equine industry has to offer - and they'll be planning their trip back to the Bluegrass in 2021!

Make sure to secure your ticket for EQUITANA USA ([equitanausa.com](http://equitanausa.com)) and book your hotel early. ■

*Based in Lexington, Ky., Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.*

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# What IS an Equine Appraiser and Why Would I Need One?

by **Sara Ballinger**  
SEB Equine Appraisals, LLC

Equine appraisers identify and provide valuations on horses. Why is an equine appraisal needed and who uses them? Equine appraisals are required by banks, attorneys, accountants, breed associations, estate planners, governmental agencies, insurance companies, realtors, and real estate appraisers. Equine appraisal reports are used in bankruptcies, divorce settlements, estate settlements, tax planning (donations), partnerships, and family trusts. Equine appraisers are personal property appraisers. Personal property includes physical assets and the legal rights of ownership of tangible and intangible entities.

**The most common reasons equine appraisals may be conducted are for the sales of horses,** valuation for insurance purposes, and the donation of horses to nonprofit organizations. Appraisers may also be called as "expert witnesses" on the valuation of a horse in a lawsuit or contract dispute. The criteria used to assess the value of a horse may include: age, health, show records, pedigree, lameness history, and training issues. In addition, evaluators conduct extensive research on appraisals of similar horses.

Occasionally, appraisers may have to evaluate a stolen or deceased horse, in which case certain facts are assumed based upon documentation and information acquired from trainers, veterinarians, and others who have been familiar with the animal.

**An equine appraiser's job is to determine the market value of the personal property.**

The owner of the horse must decide the intended purpose of the appraisal, and it is the appraiser's job to establish the type of valuation. An appraisal report clearly states the kind of value being determined. These may include fair market value, replacement value, retail value, liquidation value, wholesale value, or consignment value. An appraisal report also describes the property being valued and details the procedures used to estimate value. Analysis of comparable sales, estimation and analysis of income (if applicable), and relation of the appraisal values to a specific point in time are some of the procedures used to estimate value. Equine appraisers are required to abide by a strict code of ethics as



Sarah and her horse, Wanderprinz



Sara Ballinger

"An appraisal report clearly states the kind of value being determined."

established by the Appraisal Standards Board (ASB) and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) to provide an unbiased opinion. Equine appraisers are also required to belong to the American Society of Equine Appraisers and pass several exams in order to be certified.

**Many good reasons exist for acquiring a certified appraisal.** The IRS requires a certified equine appraisal for any tax deduction greater than \$5,000 on a donated horse. Moreover, courts, judges, insurance agents, the IRS, and other

professionals are now requiring an independent appraisal by a certified appraiser who has no connection to the animal being appraised. A trainer or unlicensed appraiser may be persuaded to give an unsubstantiated value to an animal, and this bias can result in litigation. Certified appraisers are trained and take an oath to follow the USPAP guidelines for developing and writing appraisals that are ethical, objective, unbiased, and based on diligent research.

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# Secretariat, TWICE the Heart

## Veterinarian Swerczek Shares the Untold Story

by Mandy Boggs

Nearly everyone has felt it. The beat of one's heart pounding inside their chest with a momentary pause before exhaling, as if it is the first time witnessing the iconic moment in history. The emergence of tears cascading down a cheek, while being completely immersed in disbelief despite knowing the outcome. You have seen the footage before, yet watching the greatest Thoroughbred race in history never ceases to take one's breath away. The famous lines from CBS television announcer, Chic Anderson, "Secretariat is widening now! He is moving like a tremendous machine!" his incredulity transcending through time as he bellows, "Secretariat by 12, Secretariat by 14 lengths... an unbelievable, an amazing performance!" Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths, on June 9th, 1973, obliterating track records and claiming the Triple Crown title for the first time in 25 years.

It wasn't until his death on October 4, 1989 when perhaps one of the biggest secrets to Secretariat's success was discovered. While many are aware of the discovery of Secretariat's abnormally large heart, only a glimpse of that historic day and what inspired a lifetime of his legacy has been told. Thomas Swerczek, DVM, Ph.D., performed the necropsy (an autopsy performed on an animal) on Secretariat shortly after he was euthanized. Dr. Swerczek shares the untold story of that day and one of the most incredible discoveries of his career.

Secretariat's life is more than just the story of a racehorse. He inspired millions, shattered the dark clouds hovering over the U.S. during the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, with his almost godlike presence casting an extraordinary copper light of hope with every thundering step he took. The gift Secretariat shared with the world for all nineteen years of his life could not be ignored. A horse whose story began with the flip of a coin and a woman trying to preserve her ailing father's legacy, galvanized an entire country into devoted patriotic fans of horse racing.

Secretariat was foaled on March 30th, 1970 at The Meadow Farm in Virginia. Penny Chenery left her life in Denver, Colorado in an attempt to save her ill father's farm, despite



**Secretariat with Jockey, Ron Turcotte, Groom, Eddie Sweat and owner, Penny Chenery - Man O' War Stakes, 1973**

her family's suggestion of selling off the farm and moving on. Unsure if the foal she now owned would ever be a winner, Penny acquired Secretariat in a coin toss, dividing up the potential offspring with mares bred to his sire, Bold Ruler. Secretariat was a massive colt, quick to stand and nurse with a presence about him that captivated everyone at the farm from the very beginning. It has been said that Penny kept notes on their horses and foals. The note next to Secretariat's name was simply, "Wow!"

Many would agree, Penny was the perfect owner for Secretariat. Her almost "First Lady" persona in the racing world quickly seduced thousands of new fans to the sport, becoming infatuated with Secretariat and his story. Lucien Laurin, Secretariat's trainer, was on the brink of retirement when he joined Penny, soon clinching five of six consecutive Triple Crown wins between Secretariat and stablemate, Riva Ridge. Ron Turcotte, the jockey that basked in victory atop Secretariat's Triple Crown wins, grew up in Canada working as a lumberjack with his father. While many have said Secretariat may have won no matter who was aboard, it seems



“Secretariat is  
widening now!  
He is moving like  
a tremendous  
machine!”

—Chic Anderson reaction  
at Belmont win.



**Secretariat in the lead (left) Sham (right) - Kentucky Derby, 1973**



**Secretariat as a foal**

inconceivable to imagine anyone other than Turcotte, wearing the iconic blue and white checkered silks, in the irons. Turcotte trusted Secretariat and respected the greatness beneath him, letting

him ascend across the finish line as if being carried by a mythological being. The story of Secretariat and his unique team hypnotized the country over the horse's career as a two and three-year-old.

Together they won all three races of the Triple Crown in 1973, 25 years since Citation earned the title, breaking track records in each race that still stand today. They won the 99th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 5, 1973, the first horse to ever win the Derby in under 2 minutes with a time of 1:59.40. Only one other winner has come close, Monarchos in 2001, finishing at an official time of 1:59.97. Sham, Secretariat's proclaimed rival, finished 2 ½ lengths behind Secretariat in the Derby, with an estimated time of 1:59 4/5th. In those days, races were not timed to 1/100th of a second, and non-winning times were not taken. Although he also

broke the Derby record of under two minutes, second place Sham never received recognition for yet another of his great accomplishments, overshadowed by Secretariat's luminous glory.

Secretariat went on to win the 98th running of the Preakness Stakes on May 19, 1973 in 1:53. Over 15 million people watched the last race of the Triple Crown on television, with nearly 70,000 in attendance for the 105th running of the Belmont Stakes on June 9th, 1973. Secretariat won in just 2:24 by an astounding 31 lengths. His Belmont race was so incredible that even cameras with the widest lenses were unable to capture Secretariat

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and the closest horse behind him in the same shot as he crossed the wire. Being widely considered the most dominant race in the history of horse racing, the footage of that race is still nearly impossible to witness without a catch in your throat. Over five thousand bettors at the Belmont Stakes held on to their winning tickets, never cashing in on the history they held on a tiny slip of paper grasped firmly in their hands and hearts.

Secretariat's racing record consisted of 21 starts with 16 wins, earning \$1,316,808 on the track. He retired in 1973 to Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky where he stood at stud until his death on October 4, 1989. He sired 653 offspring including 57 stakes winners, eventually being known as a top broodmare sire of his time.

Bennett Liebman, a New York racing official has been quoted as saying, "He was not a horse, he was Secretariat." Secretariat has been described as absolute perfection in every way, the way God intended to make a horse. Standing at 16.2 with anatomically perfect conformation, powerful hindquarters, muscling to rival a Greek god, ideal stride biomechanics, with a 24 foot 11 inch stride. Many found themselves at a loss for words when it came to describing the enchanting presence of Secretariat, especially those who had the opportunity to see the horse in person. Dr. Swerczek has said he has never laid eyes on as perfect a horse in his over fifty years as a veterinarian and scientist at the University of Kentucky.

Thomas Swerczek, DVM,



**Secretariat, early retirement years at Claiborne Farm**

Ph.D, grew up on a livestock farm in Nebraska, where he developed an interest in nutrition and animal health. He obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1964 from Kansas State University. During his time working in the Diagnostic Laboratory and Department of Pathology as a student, his professors encouraged him to pursue an advanced degree in Veterinary Pathology. He obtained a master's degree in Nutritional Pathology, as well as his Ph.D. in Comparative Pathology from the University of Connecticut. In 1969 he

accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science, becoming a professor in 1978. There he spent 49 years at the University of Kentucky, retiring in 2018. He is currently Professor Emeritus in the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Kentucky, where he has dedicated his time to finishing research he has passionately studied during his career.

On a beautiful day in June, Dr. Swerczek and his wife, Mary Ann, welcomed two

strangers into their home, eager to absorb every ounce of knowledge and history he was willing to share about that October day. Gathered in the living room of his home, Dr. Swerczek sat quietly in his chair, almost uncomfortable with the idea that someone was so interested to hear his story. Directly next to him sat a table adorned with a newspaper clipping of Secretariat preserved behind a glass frame, with a small strand of Secretariat's hair taped in the corner. As extraordinary as it was to be welcomed into the home of Dr. Swerczek and his wife, seeing the chestnut hairs within reach was enough to make any grown adult overcome with childlike excitement.

Dr. Swerczek developed an awe-inspired respect for Secretariat just as everyone else had. He watched him on television, enthralled with every accomplishment just as the whole world had been. "I had never seen such a magnificent specimen. Everything about him was just perfect. I was a fan just the same as the next person," he shared.

Dr. Swerczek worked alongside the resident team of veterinarians at Claiborne farm as Secretariat retired from racing, transitioning to a stud career. "I mostly admired him from a distance, but I did have the opportunity to be involved with some of the reproductive aspects during his breeding season. I knew the horse, and knew those over at Claiborne farm. I had actually done the necropsy on his sire, Bold Ruler, along with thousands of other horses during my career, including many prominent racehorses," he shared, "I had always thought to myself that Secretariat would be a



great horse to preserve as a specimen. I was involved with the taxidermy horses on exhibit at The Kentucky Horse Park, so in my mind I thought Secretariat would be the perfect horse to do something like that with and preserve him for future generations to admire as we had."

As fate would have it, Secretariat's days were numbered and the possibility of preserving his body was not an option due to many reasons. He had developed laminitis, a painful and debilitating hoof condition, which was first diagnosed on Labor Day of 1989. By October 4th, he would be dead.

"I had heard news that Secretariat had developed laminitis, but I did not realize how quickly it progressed, nor did I realize it was so critical," Dr. Swerczek



**Owner, Penny Chenery with Secretariat**

explained. "Claiborne farm realized on the morning of October 4th that Secretariat

needed to be euthanized, but they were adamant that they wanted me to do the

necropsy and needed to confirm I was available before  
*Continued on page 28*



**Where were you  
May 5th, 1973...**

Kentucky Derby Photo by Tony Leonard Available



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Continued from page 27

they euthanized him. They wanted the horse to have an autopsy close by and return for a prepared burial at their farm.” They had dug the hole near his sire, Bold Ruler, and planned on him being buried in a silk-lined wooden casket. However, they struggled to reach Dr. Swerczek over the course of the horse’s final days, so he was not aware of what was going on, or the urgency.

It is a common tradition that great racehorses have only their head (intelligence), heart (courage/spirit), and hooves (speed) buried upon their death as a way of memorializing their greatness. “When they brought Secretariat into the lab, there were 8-10 people from the farm that came with him. They all had plastic bags with them. They wanted to take every bit of Secretariat back with them to be buried,” he shared. This horse meant so much, especially to those who worked with him every day, that it was emotional and difficult for those who loved him to witness the necropsy. And, although Dr. Swerczek performed hundreds of necropsies each year, the one he performed that day on the great Secretariat brought with it an epic sense of respect and reverence felt by everyone - not just in that laboratory room - the entire country was mourning the loss of this historic beacon of light that touched the very soul of anyone fortunate enough to come in contact with him.

“As you know, this horse was one of the most beautiful, anatomically correct horses there ever was. Normally, I would do a typical necropsy

**New Secretariat statue with Jockey, Ron Turcotte, aboard was unveiled at Keeneland in Nov. 2019, and now takes center stage in the traffic circle at Alexandria and Old Frankfort Pike in Lexington, KY. Sculptor, Jocelyn Russell.**



Photo by Pred Milenkovich

and frankly, end up mutilating and dissecting everything needed for that exam. I was bound and determined I was not going to destroy this magnificent horse,” he said passionately.

With Secretariat being insured, a necropsy was required, despite the obvious answer of his untimely death

examined everything related to the laminitis, with no necessary reason to examine every other inch of this horse. I just needed to conclude my findings in terms of the laminitis. When I was finishing up, Dr. Kaufman, the resident veterinarian at Claiborne Farm, asked with really just a passing curiosity,

standing there in utter silence for a moment, Dr. Kaufman finally asked, “Isn’t that awfully large?” Dr. Swerczek took a moment, and replied, “It isn’t awfully large, it is the largest heart I have ever seen.”

“I was amazed. There were no pathological abnormalities of the heart, typically found

**“As you know, this horse was one of the most beautiful, anatomically correct horses there ever was... I was bound and determined I was not going to destroy this magnificent horse.”**

—Dr. Swerczek

being laminitis. Dr. Swerczek emphasized that Secretariat’s laminitis was the worst case he had ever seen. There was no chance of a cure or improvement, they had done the right thing for the horse by humanely euthanizing him. However, he needed to examine the kidneys, liver, and feet to confirm and satisfy the insurance company’s requirements.

“I did a surgical post-mortem, everything was meticulous, as if I was performing a surgery. I

‘I wonder what his heart looks like?’” Dr. Swerczek recalled, “It had never occurred to me to even look at the heart. I was trying to leave as much of this specimen intact, it was difficult to even cut into him, to be honest, everyone idolized this horse. I don’t know if he meant it in a figurative way, as everyone always said the horse had such heart, but it sparked curiosity in us both.”

Dr. Swerczek proceeded to carefully extract the heart, setting it on the table. Both

in an animal with an enlarged heart. All of the chambers were normal. There were no lesions. It was a perfect heart, everything was just bigger,” he explained, “the average Thoroughbred’s heart is about 8-9 lbs. After doing necropsies on thousands of horses, I was very accurate at knowing how much a horse’s heart would weigh just by looking at it. I estimated his heart to be 21-22 lbs., nearly 2.5 times larger than the average heart. I did the necropsy on his sire, Bold Ruler, who did not have a



large heart. Years later, I also performed the necropsy on Sham, Secretariat's famous rival. Ironically, he had the second largest heart I had ever seen, at 19 lbs., and yet he was still coming in 2nd to Secretariat," he recounted. "I have to say, in all the years I have been performing necropsies, no horses have ever come close to either of them."

The discovery of Secretariat's large heart filled the gap of mystery surrounding how a horse could be so magnificent. It was the perfect combination of, well...being perfect! His large muscled body, deep chest cavity and broad girth, paired with his large heart that acted like a V8 engine in a sports car. Secretariat's large heart enabled him to receive more oxygen, allowing his muscles to receive optimum oxygen replacement for faster recovery, therefore increasing his stamina. He continued to run faster with each stride he took due to this phenomenon. His stride length already surpassed nearly every horse on the track due to his flawless conformation. Secretariat was the exact combination of all that made the perfect racehorse.

News of Secretariat's heart also inspired a devoted fan

and researcher, Marianna Haun, to discover the theory referred to as "The X-Factor." Although controversial, many researchers, veterinarians, and Thoroughbred breeders held credit to her theory that the genetic mutation for the large heart gene was carried on the X chromosome. Her research led back to one specific mare called Pocahontas, foaled in 1837, which seemed to prove traceable and could not be produced by stallions. Secretariat's offspring held credence to this theory as he became known as a broodmare sire, due to many of his colts having mediocre success on the track, while his fillies outperformed and produced numerous winners. It has been said that approximately 28% of all Thoroughbreds carry this trait, although it is highly unlikely that there will ever be another Secretariat. History tends not to repeat itself when it comes to those almost poetic cornerstones of history.

Dr. Swerczek had been difficult to reach the day Secretariat was euthanized due to being with his son, Michael, who had been critically injured in an automobile accident. One did not have a cell phone in their pocket for instantaneous

ways to get in touch with someone like we have today. Secretariat's condition had progressed so severely there was no choice but to euthanize right away to eliminate further suffering. "By the time they reached me, I had to rush over to the lab and perform the necropsy. I was not prepared for a full diagnostic necropsy, nor did we see a need for such, we knew his condition was clearly laminitis. The full diagnostic necropsies were no longer being done at The University of Kentucky and had recently been moved to a separate diagnostic laboratory, where the majority of my equipment was located," he explained. "I did not have my photography equipment or scales with me, it all happened so fast, within an hour of the call he was brought to the facility."

There has been controversy

over the years regarding the discovery of Secretariat's heart and the details surrounding Dr. Swerczek not providing proof, such as photographic evidence of the heart, not having a scale for an exact weight, and not preserving the heart.

His wife, Mary Ann, quietly spoke, "my husband is being very modest, which he has always been. Our son, Michael, was critically injured and not expected to live. Tom had been going back and forth to the labs to do what autopsies he could on other horses, but that is also why he was not aware of what bad shape Secretariat was in. We were consumed with our son's condition at the time. When they finally were able to reach him that day, he dropped everything to rush and do the necropsy,"

*Continued on page 30*



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her voice cracking, “he left his son, not even knowing if he would survive, to do that necropsy. That is how much this meant to him, and also why he was not prepared with having all of the necessary equipment that day. There was no time.”

A lot of opportunities at various positions and job offers presented themselves as a result of this discovery, but were turned down, as Dr. Swerczek and his wife dedicated their lives to caring for their son. Their lives never quite returned to normal. They retrofitted their home, including adding on an addition, to bring their son home. Michael lived in a coma for 22 years before passing away. With Mary Ann being a nurse, together they

took turns tirelessly caring for their son for nearly half of his career.

News got out about the discovery of Secretariat’s heart, however, it was not as widely shared as news today would be; spread across news outlets, social media, text messages, and cell phone calls. A few articles shared a brief mention of the discovery over the years, but for something one would assume could bring great fanfare, or the wing of a hospital named in Dr. Swerczek’s honor, that has not been the case. However, fame was not something he was after.

Dr. Swerczek’s wife shared the story of how their daughter suggested he try out for a role as an extra in the upcoming film, Secretariat, being made by Disney. “He was not into fame or recognition, so our daughter

was the one that made a call suggesting he have a role in the movie. He put on his best clothes, which, if you knew Tom, that wasn’t saying much,” she laughed, “He showed up the day of the casting and there are all these people, and every one of them has an agent. Then there is Tom, nobody knows who he is from Adam.”

Dr. Swerczek chuckled as he finished the story, “The casting director started pointing to people they wanted for the movie and telling them to go to wardrobe to get clothing on that was from 15-20 years ago. They sent every person to wardrobe. Then they pointed at me and said, ‘You don’t have to go!’ I guess that says a lot about my style now doesn’t it!” Dr. Swerczek played a small role in the film, and as Mary Ann joked, “if you blinked you would

miss it.”

Inspired after finding the extraordinarily large heart in Secretariat that explained his remarkable racing accomplishments, Dr. Swerczek dedicated his research with ties to nutritional and environmental effects on horses, laminitis, and fetal loss syndromes. As laminitis is a major life-threatening disease in horses, Dr. Swerczek’s research focused on nitrate toxicity as a suspected cause of laminitis, a suspected cause of the very laminitis that affected Secretariat, causing his premature death.

“The results of the necropsy on Secretariat suggested that the etiology for his lesions in the laminae of the hooves was likely related to a toxic agent. At the time of his death, and necropsy, the nature



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**Inspired after finding the extraordinarily large heart in Secretariat that explained his remarkable racing accomplishments, Dr. Swerczek dedicated his research with ties to nutritional and environmental effects on horses.**

**Dr. Swerczek and his framed copy of "Anatomy of a Champion," article published in the Lexington Herald-Leader, May 6, 1995, adorned with a lock of Secretariat's mane.**

of the suspect toxic agent was not determined," Dr. Swerczek said, "However, my recent findings regarding the etiology of Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS) may provide evidence for a common cause of laminitis in horses."

During the 1980 foaling season, MRLS and fetal loss phenomenon occurred in central Kentucky with an unusual amount of aborted foals. Epidemiological investigations revealed that the fetal losses corresponded to a late frost and freeze that occurred on May 9, 1980, damaging late spring pastures and forages. Dr. Swerczek hypothesized that nitrate toxicity was the primary etiology for the fetal loss. Analysis of the cold-stressed pasture forages revealed changes in electrolytes, primarily a spike in potassium and nitrate, with a depletion of

sodium. These imbalances were essentially like horses getting into a grain bin. With the lush pasture and clover, especially in Kentucky, his theory seemed to be proving true the more research he did over the years.

As Dr. Swerczek explained, another unprecedented spike in fetal losses occurred during the foaling season of 2001, resulting in the abortions of several thousand mares, as well as other disease syndromes in older horses that were often fatal such as lesions in the eyes, heart, and hooves, which affected the vessels of the laminae of the hooves, resulting in laminitis.

While analyzing climatic data, he discovered that in the early fall of 1989, the same time Secretariat had developed acute signs of laminitis, sudden climatic conditions of low temperatures that

could have potentially induced frost damage to pasture forages, occurred 11 days before his death on October 4th, 1989, when his condition drastically worsened to the point of needing to be euthanized almost immediately. Because of this revelation, Dr. Swerczek now suspects Secretariat's laminitis may have been associated with the early frost-damaged fall pastures becoming elevated in potassium, deficient in sodium, and toxic in nitrate. This combination of electrolyte imbalances and nitrate toxicity was present in many foals and some adults that were affected and succumbed during the fetal losses that occurred with MRLS in the spring of 2001.

Dr. Swerczek was compelled to determine the reason behind these losses and how to prevent them from happening. Through

his research, he has written numerous scientific papers, studies, and essays on his various findings regarding toxic nanoparticles, the link between nutrition, drastically-changing weather conditions, and the effects created when combining the two.

His findings suggest that fetal loss syndrome and laminitis can be lessened or exacerbated by the amount of nitrogenous compounds in the diet that may induce the formation of excessive nitrate. As he explained, grazing time on high-nitrate pastures should be limited after frosts and freezes, even up to two weeks for cold-stressed pastures to return to their normal nitrate levels, in the late spring and early fall. These spikes can cause pasture forage to go up to 30% protein when these freezes happen. Potassium

*Continued on page 32*

## 2020 FEATURE

Continued from page 31

works like an antifreeze in plants, when a freeze happens, the potassium spikes to protect the plant. These spikes can throw off the entire nutritional balance of a horse, especially in pregnant mares carrying foals, and in older horses. His research has indicated that simple solutions such as adding loose salt to a horse's daily feed, along with limiting protein, carbohydrates, and grazing time during these spikes in pasture nutrition levels, can counteract this deadly phenomenon.

"While the topic is controversial, political, and often unpopular, my theory has been, at least for the horses in our area with these lush pastures, that we need to eliminate the idea that overfeeding a horse will make

them bigger, stronger, faster, or a better athlete overall," he explained, "People think how much you feed a horse is how good they will be. So many other factors play a role, but proper nutrition is one of them. It is better for horses to have quality hay and pasture forage, plain oats and salt, than loading them with excessive protein, carbohydrates, and these lush pastures during spikes and changes in the weather."

Insurance companies put a lot of pressure on the industry in 1980 and again in 2001 when thousands of broodmares living out on their Kentucky bluegrass pastures, were aborting their foals left and right. There were theories believed by many veterinarians and farm owners that invasive caterpillars were to blame, after the weather spikes seemed to cause these caterpillars to "sprout"



Dr. Swerczek in his lab, 2000

everywhere you looked.

"Quite a few veterinarians and farms were willing to follow my theory and suggestions on a nutrition plan for their horses, especially during these massive foal losses. Some of these large breeding farms in particular

switched to feeding just oats, salt, and were conscious of the time of day their mares were on pasture during and after these frosts. Their foal losses were less than 3%, while other farms that continued to feed in their traditional ways were around

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30% loss,” Dr. Swerczek shared. “I was learning from the farms not having problems. One famous farm in particular followed my theory with little to no problems, and went on to have numerous Derby winners.” Interestingly enough, Secretariat’s jockey himself, Ron Turcotte, also shares the same theory of “less is more.” Turcotte even has a patented type of hull free oat named after him, sold by Semican International Feed, in Canada.

Dr. Swerczek has performed thousands of necropsies over the years, using every horse as a canvas for learning, further pursuing his efforts to discover new answers to so many unknown questions. He shared a story about how back in 1969, before taking

the job at the University of Kentucky, he mentioned the job offer to his professors in Connecticut at the time, who explained that he would just be doing necropsies on horses

or livestock all day. He thought to himself, *I don’t know if I really want to take this job.* Today, if he could count all of the necropsies he has done, it would be a safe bet that he

**“While the topic is controversial, political, and often unpopular, my theory has been, at least for the horses in our area with these lush pastures, that we need to eliminate the idea that overfeeding a horse will make them bigger, stronger, faster.”**

—Dr. Swerczek

has done more necropsies on horses than anyone in the world. He never expected one of the highlights of his career, and life, to be one of the most famous discoveries in horse racing’s history. ■

*Mandy Boggs is a lifelong equestrian and animal lover, raised in NE Ohio. Her passions are: the Thoroughbred racing industry and aftercare programs, competing in Hunter/Jumpers on the AA rated circuit, and raising/developing quality sport-horses. She is the Marketing Director of an international equine veterinary software company and owns Aristo Marketing, LLC, a marketing and design firm. Mandy volunteers for numerous non-profit organizations, and enjoys spending time with the love of her life, family, horses, and her beloved Great Dane, Jax.*

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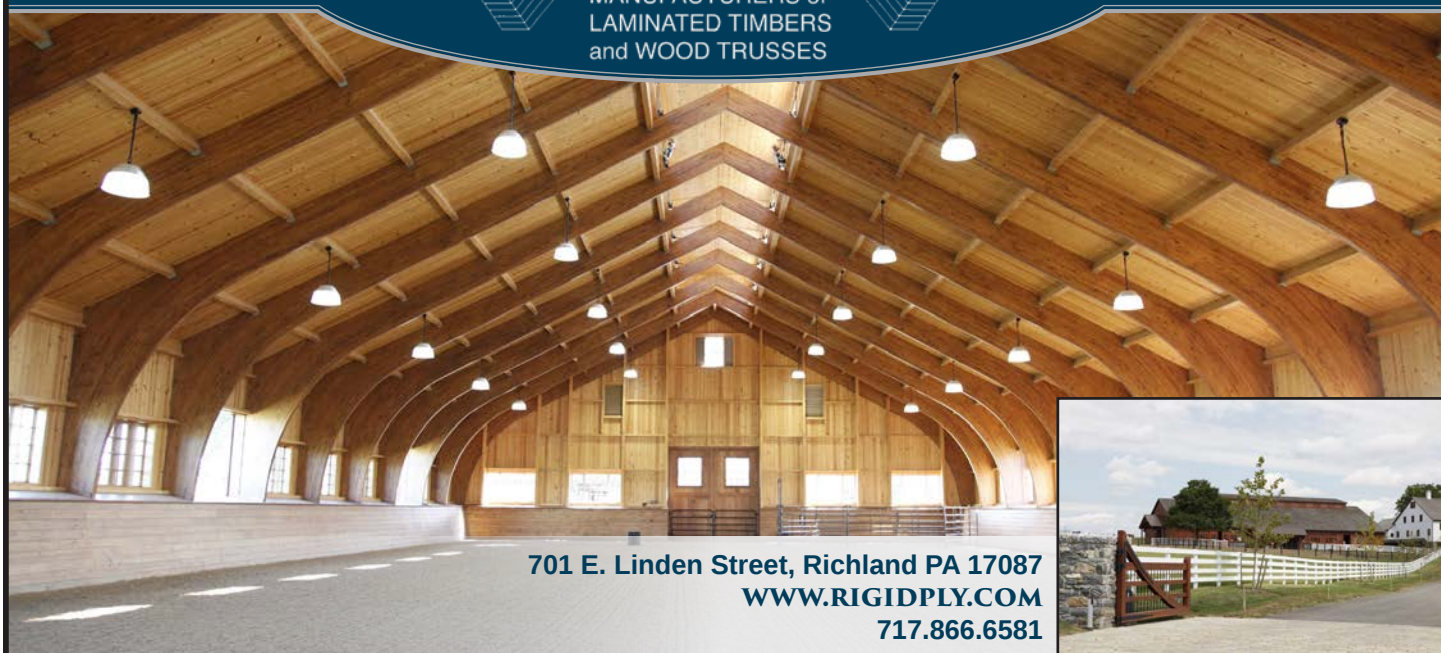
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## What is YEDA?

Youth Equestrian Development Association, Inc. (YEDA) is a program that encourages development of riders' skills, emphasizes exposure to scholarship opportunities, and encourages making connections with college programs.

It's hard to believe that only five short years ago this was just an idea; now YEDA teams are coast-to-coast. The amazing growth of YEDA can be attributed to the non-stop determination of its partners to grow Western Equestrian. Partners, Ric Weitzel, Laura Smith, Debbie Arnold, and Tammy Rath had an idea to offer youth a place to show horses that was quintessentially Western in the "draw style" system. They wanted to use the same basic principles as the AQHA, APHA, NRHA, and other stock horse breed organizations.

The four of us came together in 2015 with the simple idea of forming an organization that we believed would promote youth riding in an affordable way. We all agreed on some basics so we started a business plan and a set of rules. We finally met in a small restaurant in Columbus and approved our business model, thus YEDA was born. There were certain tenets that would become the four cornerstones of our new organization. First, sportsmanship and transparency would guide all of our competitions, and education would be a thread sewn into all of our programs. Many of our YEDA shows offer clinics from NRHA, AQHA, and Collegiate professionals. It was critical to have affordability for the youth and their families in order

# YEDA

## The Fun and Excitement of Western Equestrian Sport.... Without the Expense!

by Ric Weitzel



to introduce new people to our industry. Finally, we made sure we were securing scholarships and college recruiters at events.

When we began our shows, student riders would be placed in one of three categories: Elementary (4th and 5th grades), JR.High (6th through 8th grades), and SR High (9th through 12th grades). The 2019 season saw the beginning of our Equestrians with Disabilities (EWD) category, with two divisions: Amber (walk only) and Topaz (wall/jog). Each division has both independent and assisted classes, and riders choose which division/class is best for them. All classes include rail work and a pattern. We cut the expenses and hassle of finding show clothes by requiring all competitors to wear official YEDA Oxford show shirts.

Like many Western stock breed associations, our point system is based on the number of riders in a class. Riders have the option to ride in two classes, rail

and pattern. We keep our upper level riders interested by offering them "Ranch Riding", "Horsemanship", and "Reining" classes. Judges use score cards for every class, made available online so student riders can read their scores and work toward improvement. Team points are earned on the highest placing riders per class, allowing coaches to focus on individual riders versus trying to guess the best ride. Students qualify for the National Championships from their work over an entire season, using their best six scores (out of ten) to qualify, resulting in less re-rides per show - a huge time saver. We have eliminated the "tiered system" of qualifying, so only the "best of the best" make it to a premier National year-end show. Teams are required to support the shows by bringing one horse for every six entries. We have discovered that diversity of equine partners improves rider's skills.

All YEDA student riders

have access to scholarships usable toward college, trade school, or apprenticeship programs. Many businesses and organizations have sponsored our stand-alone scholarships, which we award at the YEDA Nationals. This year we are adding a "Royalty Contest" for students to become ambassadors for the programs we offer. Another program includes Diamond Elite classes, similar to the NCEA "head to head" style of competition, giving our riders the ability to experience both types of collegiate shows.

## YEDA'S "TRY IT" PROGRAM

This past season YEDA developed a "Try It" program, making it affordable to students and coaches to "try" a program without the commitment. We began to see increased growth, and wanted everyone to be able to participate in the YEDA Nationals. Thus, the YEDA National Championship "Invitational" show was born, offered the day before Nationals, making representation possible for every state in the country and granting student riders the opportunity to participate in the YEDA Nationals. Last year's National Championship show saw riders from 13 states! Member and team growth has led us to expand the National Championship show to four days, moving the venue from Ohio to the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, Illinois. This should make this seasons' Nationals more exciting than ever.

There is no reason to wait! Find a team and join today!

For more information: [showyeda.com](http://showyeda.com) ■



Grooming is something that should not begin in earnest just because you have a show coming up. If you already groom your horse diligently, getting ready for a show is easy. As a matter of fact, consistent good grooming habits will reap longer lasting benefits. The maintenance of a healthy coat is something that takes time - and eventually, your horse will be coming out of his stall gleaming.

Use the following "best practices for grooming" guidelines and watch your horse blossom as you put that extra layer of elbow grease on!

### Get Down to the Skin

Simply brushing surface dirt from your horse's coat isn't enough. You must get all the way down to the skin to circulate healthy skin oils and remove excess dirt and dead skin cells.

This process encourages healthy hair growth and lays a foundation for that shiny, polished look we all want to see.

HandsOn Grooming Gloves are a great solution for really getting down to the skin surface, where healthy oils need to be distributed to encourage healthy coat growth. The flexible five-finger design gives you even more control and articulation, as opposed to a rigid curry comb that can't curve to the intricate contours of the horse's body.

### Don't Ignore the Hard-to-Reach Spots

There's no denying that a horse has a large body. This can make it easy to overlook spots that are difficult to reach, but shouldn't mean



## Show Ring Ready Grooming Tips for Your Next Horse Show!

by Liv Gude

*Founder of Professional Equine Grooms*

that you ignore those areas.

The ears, head, between the legs, under the tail, and just above the hoof and fetlock areas need grooming attention too. Some horses don't love having more "ticklish" areas touched, so you need to be aware of what your horse prefers!

Use your HandsOn Gloves to really get into the nooks and crannies during grooming time. Since you have the separate use of all five fingers while wearing the Gloves, you'll find that you can get into those smaller or difficult-to-reach areas with ease. You can also vary the pressure used to clean your horse to make him really enjoy his grooming session.

Watch out for sweat build up! All of these hard to reach areas are known

to collect sweat and dirt.

Both proper grooming and thorough rinsing during bathing are key here.

### Bath Time Matters, Too

Too much bathing can cause problems by removing too many natural oils from the skin. However, baths should still be a regular part of your grooming routine. But how you bathe makes a big difference.

Take the time to properly wash each part of your horse's body. This includes their face! Many riders skip a proper face wash, especially if their horse resists getting sprayed in the face. HandsOn Gloves offer an alternative as they enable you to give your horse's face a good, gentle scrub. Combining them with a wet sponge or

"You must get  
all the way down to  
the skin to circulate  
healthy skin  
oils and remove  
excess dirt and  
dead skin cells."

towel is the safest way to rinse your horse's face.

Bath time is a great opportunity to give your horse a good, deep cleaning. Using your HandsOn Gloves in a circular motion allows you to evenly distribute the shampoo or conditioner down to the skin to remove that built-up dirt and dander. When rinsing, keep going until the water runs clear. Using the "shower" setting on the nozzle and spraying against the hair growth can help lift the hair and allow for an all-important full rinse down to the skin. You can also use your HandsOn Gloves to lift the hair and allow the rinsing water to remove all of the dirt that it can.

Good grooming takes time. It's not something you can skimp on if you expect your horse to be shiny and, more importantly, have a healthy skin and coat. By setting aside a proper amount of time for grooming and bathing you will see the results and have a happy, gleaming horse in the show ring!

For more information: [ProEquineGrooms.com/HandsOnGloves.com](http://ProEquineGrooms.com/HandsOnGloves.com) ■





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# Dental Basics

## The Who, What, When, How, and Why of Floating Teeth

by Dr. Brad Tanner DVM, AVDC-EQ  
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

### **Why float teeth, ancient wild horses seem to have done fine without a dentist?**

Good point, and I agree it seems ancient wild horses did great without rasping of their teeth. The horse has evolved to be a grass consuming machine. Through the course of millennia, they have developed long teeth that continue to erupt (grow) throughout life. It is important to know that the horse evolved to graze and chew up to 16 hours daily on coarse, fibrous grasses.

Modern domesticated horses may spend much of their time in stalls, eating concentrates and hay, chewing much less than those on pasture. Modern domesticated horses with pasture access typically graze on manicured grasses that are comparatively delicate and lack the gritty silica content consumed by their ancestors and cause less tooth wear. Additionally, as a horse chews grain its lower jaw does not move side to side with the same amount of travel as when chewing grass. This decrease in chewing motion results in developing much sharper points, and at a quicker rate than in horses eating only grass.

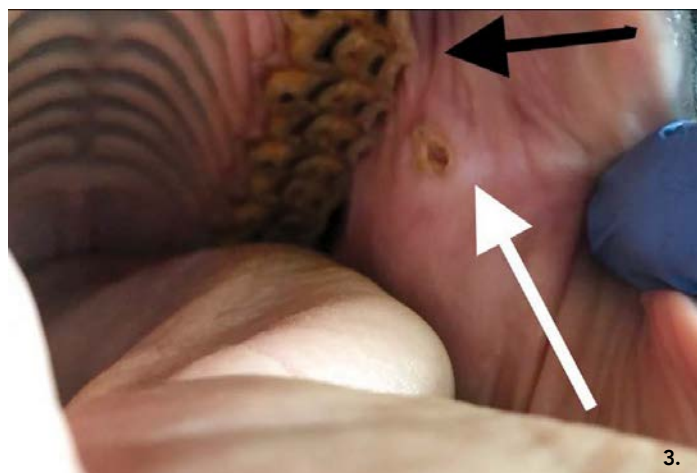
### **Who should float my horse's teeth?**

A skilled veterinarian

with experience in the field of dentistry is the most highly educated and trained individual that could provide this service. This individual will be best prepared to assess the oral and overall general health of the patient. There are times when your horse's general health may be affected by problems identified in the mouth and early detection can be paramount. There are certainly other providers with varying levels of training that also are available in many countries for dental prophylaxis.

### **How does the chewing motion play a role in my horse developing sharp cheek teeth?**

The upper cheek teeth are set wider in the horse's skull than the lower cheek teeth. Another way to say this is that the maxilla



**Figure 3.** Black arrow indicates sharp points on upper cheek teeth. The white arrow indicates an ulceration in the mucosa that was caused by the cheek being drawn into the sharp tooth by a bit.

(upper jaw) is wider than the mandible (lower jaw) and as the horse chews side to side, the lower and upper teeth grind across one another. This narrow bottom jaw is unable to move all the way across the surface of the upper cheek teeth. This incomplete range of motion allows an area of the outside of the upper cheek teeth to not be worn away from chewing, the same is true of the inside of the lower cheek teeth. The lack of attrition to these areas of the teeth coupled with the fact that the horse's tooth continues to erupt

(grow) approximately 3mm annually is the reason horses form sharp points and require floating.

### **When should my horse have a dental exam and floating performed?**

We currently recommend that every horse have an examination performed by a veterinarian annually. However, it may be necessary to check some horses more frequently. Times when this may be necessary include: young horses shedding caps, horses with limited pasture turnout, horses on a high grain diet, and those in year-round competition where unwanted oral pain from sharp points may alter head carriage. Many horses will show clinical signs that they need their teeth examined. These signs include: dropping excessive grain while eating, holding head to one side while chewing, bit avoidance, and eating slowly. If your horse is demonstrating any of these signs it may be time to have a dental exam performed.

### **What should my veterinarian do for my driving horse's dental?**



**Figure 1.** The black arrow indicates sharp points of the lower cheek teeth near the tongue. Above, the white arrow indicates trauma to the cheek from the sharp points of the outer edges of the upper cheek teeth.



**Figure 2.** These upper cheek teeth have extremely sharp points (they look like a bird's beak) near the cheek tissue. Additionally, there are hypodermic needles placed into exposed/infected pulp horns in one cheek tooth.



There are certainly differences amongst the many equestrian disciplines: driving, racing, western, dressage, show jumping, etc. While each discipline is unique in its own way, there is the common thread that rider and horse must be able to communicate.

This communication is accomplished most often through the bridle and bit and paramount for both performance and rider/driver safety. The most important thing that should be done for your horse is a complete oral exam. This should include close evaluation of the teeth and the supporting soft tissues of the mouth. This examination may identify sources of discomfort that are contributing to poor performance or behavioral

.....

## There are times when your horse's general health may be affected by problems identified in the mouth and early detection can be paramount.

.....



**Figure 4.** Severe tongue trauma from repeated contact with a displaced lower cheek tooth.

**Figure 5.** These deep abrasions into the corner of the lips were caused by the bit

changes. Abnormalities in the soft tissue of the mouth or very sharp points on the teeth will

cause a horse increased discomfort with bit contact or pressure from cheek pieces. For these reasons

it is the examination that is more valuable than simply the dental/tooth floating. If sharp enamel points are present they can be rasped away by hand or motorized tools reducing the chance of the cheeks or tongue being traumatized by these sharp areas.

### Summary

Annual dental examinations should be a part of your horse's general health and wellness plan. These exams will most often include dental floating and this may be necessary biannually for some horses. Contact your veterinarian for additional information and to develop a plan that best suits the needs of your horse and stable.

For more information:  
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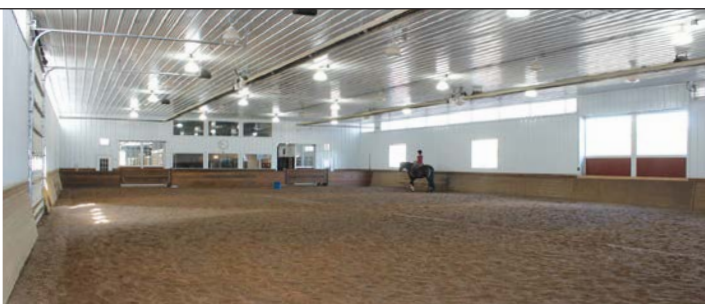
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# The Finish Line is Just the Beginning



**Thoroughbreds are big business in the Bluegrass, but where do they go once they retire from the track?**

by Sarah E. Coleman

**Grade I steeplechase winner Diplomat won the Field Hunter discipline with Sara Katz.** Photo courtesy of CanterClix

Lexington, Kentucky is the birthplace of some of the greatest racehorses in North America and its auction houses are famous for selling some of the most expensive horses in the world. In 2017, just over 20,000 Thoroughbred foals were born; the owners and breeders of each foal were united in a shared dream: Having a horse run in the Kentucky Derby. Now, stop and think about those numbers. There are over 20,000 foals born each year. The Derby hosts 20 of the best 3-year-olds in the world. Only one horse wins. So, what happens to the racehorses that didn't make it to the Derby - or win?

## An Early Retirement

Some Thoroughbreds will continue racing after their 3-year-old debut; some are retired from racing and put into stallion service or kept as broodmares. However, not every horse has the pedigree to reproduce.

The majority of the horses that are retired from racing don't have a future in the breeding shed - but they do have loads of life left to live! The average age of retirement from the track for a racehorse is 3 or 4 years old. The average lifespan of a horse is between 25 and 30 years old. That's a lot of time to excel in a second career!

Racehorse aftercare has

become a hot topic in recent years; "equine aftercare" organizations are those that work to ensure that a retired racehorse has a place to go and that he or she is well cared for. However, just as in the companion animal world, there are some people who mean well, but who fall short of being able to adequately care for the horses they get off the track.

## Allocating Funds to Aftercare Initiatives: The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) was formed to assist retiring racehorses and offer peace of mind to owners and trainers who were retiring their horses, and give confidence to

donors that aftercare funds are being used in the most effective manner. A 501(c)(3), the TAA accredits, inspects, and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations that retire, retrain, and rehome Thoroughbreds, using industry-wide funding.

With 74 accredited organizations and over \$16 million awarded in grants to accredited organizations since its inception in 2012, over 10,000 Thoroughbreds have been assisted by the TAA. The TAA places its "stamp of approval" (accreditation) onto aftercare organizations that adhere to a "Code of Standards" that addresses five areas: operations, education, horse health care management,



facility standards and services, and adoption policies and protocols. Horses in the care of TAA-accredited facilities are guaranteed a transition to life after the track in a quality facility. Currently over 160 facilities hold TAA accreditation.

**In Kentucky, the following organizations are TAA accredited:**

**Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Lexington:** sanctuary and equine assisted therapy programming (ckrh.org)

**Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, Nicholasville:** rehabilitation, adoption and equine-assisted programming (kyeac.org)

**Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, Lexington:** Adoption (secretariatcenter.org)

**New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, Lexington:** Rehabilitation and adoption (newvocations.org)

**Old Friends, Georgetown:** Sanctuary (oldfriendsequine.org)

**Our Mims Retirement Haven, Paris:** Sanctuary (ourmims.org)

**Second Stride, Inc., Crestwood:** Rehabilitation and adoption (secondstride.org)

**Mereworth Farm, Lexington:** Sanctuary

**The Exceller Fund, Lexington:** Sanctuary, rehabilitation and adoption (excellerfund.org)

**Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's Second Chances at Blackburn Correctional:** Equine-assisted programming (trfinc.org)

*More info can be found at [thoroughbredaftercare.org](http://thoroughbredaftercare.org)*

**One, Helping Many: Thoroughbred Charities of America**

Providing additional funding for organizations that care for Thoroughbreds when they retire from the track is Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). TCA is a grantmaking organization that distributes funds to Thoroughbred rehabilitation, repurposing, rehoming, and retirement organizations, Thoroughbred incentive programs, equine research, and equine-assisted therapy programs that utilize

Thoroughbreds, as well as to backstretch and farm employee programs.

A 501<sup>c</sup>3 formed in 1990, the TCA's mission is "to provide a better life for Thoroughbreds, both during and after their racing careers, by supporting qualified repurposing and retirement organizations and by helping the people who care for them." The TCA allows supporters to give to one organization while helping many.

TCA has granted over \$23 million to over 200 Thoroughbred-industry related

**2020 FEATURE**

nonprofit organizations in the last 28 years. In Kentucky, the following organizations have received funding through the TCA: Backside Learning Center

Blue Grass Farms Charities

CANTER Kentucky

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope

*Continued on page 44*



**Thoroughbred Makeover Champion Cowboy Swagger and Fallon Taylor prepared to round a barrel in the Finale.** Photo courtesy of CanterClix





Former champion jockey turned off-track Thoroughbred trainer Rosie Napravnik celebrates her win in Eventing with Sanimo. She also placed eighth with Bethel Wildcat.

Photo courtesy of CanterClix

## Continued from page 43

Elite Program

Exceller Fund

Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation

Horse Farm Workers Education Assistance Fund

Kentucky Equine Adoption Center

Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) Program

Kentucky Horse Park Foundation

Kentucky Race Track Chaplaincy

Maker's Mark Secretariat Center

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program

North American Racing Academy (BCTC Foundation)

Old Friends  
Our Mims Retirement Haven

Race for Education

Race Track Chaplaincy of America

Second Stride

Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.)

*More info about the TCA can be found at [tca.org](http://tca.org)*

**Celebrating Thoroughbreds**

## in Second Careers: The Thoroughbred Incentive Program

Launched in October 2011, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.) was created to encourage the retraining of Thoroughbreds into other disciplines upon completion of careers in racing or breeding. T.I.P. recognizes and rewards the versatility of the Thoroughbred through sponsorship of Thoroughbred classes and high-point awards at sanctioned horse shows, year-end performance awards, a recreational riding program, and non-competition awards. To participate in a T.I.P. event or show, the horse must be a "Thoroughbred"- defined as any horse that has been regis-

tered with The Jockey Club or with a foreign Thoroughbred stud book recognized by The Jockey Club.

Since its inception, T.I.P. has offered classes or awards at over 5,760 horse shows and events in 44 states and six Canadian provinces. More than 48,250 eligible Thoroughbreds have participated in these shows and events, competing for thousands of ribbons, hundreds of prizes, and tens of thousands of dollars in prize money - all of this available to them simply because they are a Thoroughbred. In 2019 alone, more than 1,300 shows offered T.I.P awards in 42 states and six Canadian provinces, in every discipline imaginable.

T.I.P. has capitalized on the



momentum Thoroughbred aftercare organizations and granting bodies began; this program has single-handedly led a Thoroughbred revolution. T.I.P. is unique in that it does not solely reward Thoroughbreds that are show mounts; it also recognizes beloved equine partners that may never set foot in a show ring. T.I.P. offers incentives for recreational horses, young riders, and horses in non-competitive second careers, as well as for those horses that compete. This recognition of more than just points obtained at horse shows has changed the landscape of Thoroughbred aftercare: People are purchasing and adopting Thoroughbreds not with the sole intent to show, but adopting them because of the true paradigm shift the program has created in how Thoroughbreds are viewed, proving beyond a doubt that these horses have so much left to give once they retire from the track.

More info about T.I.P. can be found at [tjctip.com](http://tjctip.com)

### **The Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover: A Turning Point for Thoroughbreds**

Begun in 2010, the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) was created to facilitate the placement of retired Thoroughbred racehorses into second careers by increasing their demand in equestrian sport. With a presence that began with a "Trainer Challenge" at the Maryland and Pennsylvania Horse Expos, the organization expanded into a Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium in 2013. This event was the RRP's first national gathering of farms, individuals, and organizations who transition the horses into second careers. In total, 26 trainers in 10 disciplines competed.

Fast forward to 2015, when the RRP moved to the



**Ryan Watson and Hard Knock Life  
aka "Hardy", Western Pleasure**

*Photo courtesy of CanterClix*

Kentucky Horse Park and launched the Thoroughbred Makeover in the format it is in today: Hundreds of off-track Thoroughbreds, each with 10 months or less of retraining since their last race or published work (a timed and recorded specified distance a horse runs at full speed - designed to confirm the horses' fitness to race), are shown over three days of competition in any of 10 different disciplines, vying for a share of \$100,000 in prize money. The disciplines include barrel racing, competitive trail, dressage, eventing, field hunter, freestyle, hunter, jumpers, polo, and ranch work.

Thoroughbred Charities of America has been a staunch supporter of the Makeover since its beginning, and has-

sponsored the event since it moved to the Bluegrass. The Thoroughbred Makeover has become the largest Thoroughbred training competition in the world. Not geared solely at professional riders and trainers, the Makeover welcomes juniors, amateurs, and teams to compete alongside the professionals, with monetary awards for each division in every discipline. A core tenet of the RRP has always been providing education in multiple formats, including online and in-person, with educational panels, trade fairs, seminars, and more during their four-day Thoroughbred extravaganza, as well as throughout the year via webinars and in *Off-Track Thoroughbred Magazine*, their quarterly publication, which features news from the Thor-

oughbred sport horse world, training advice, and more.

At the close of final entries in 2019, 474 recently retired racehorses had been entered to compete in the event. Of these, 163 Makeover horses were bred in Kentucky - a true homecoming as they return to the state from which they came to show off their new skills.

Equine enthusiasts seeking a competition mount are now asking specifically for horses that are "Makeover-eligible," meaning the horses adhere to the rules the Retired Racehorse Project has set forth, which includes hard-and-fast dates on published works and the amount of rides a horse can have before the 10-month training period begins. The RRP has accomplished what it set out to do: Connect those with Thoroughbreds retiring from the track with potential buyers, increasing the demand for Thoroughbreds.

More info can be found at [retiredracehorseproject.org](http://retiredracehorseproject.org)

Lexington, KY, is the literal heart of horse country. With thousands of farms and tens of thousands of Thoroughbred racehorses, there is no better place to learn about the history of the Thoroughbred and the people who revere it.

Each person involved in the Thoroughbred industry is in it because they deeply love the horses. As equine aftercare organizations and Thoroughbred-recognition programs have expanded over the years, racehorse owners and trainers have even more options available to ensure their horses have the opportunity for a fulfilling second career. ■

*Based in Lexington, Ky., Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.*



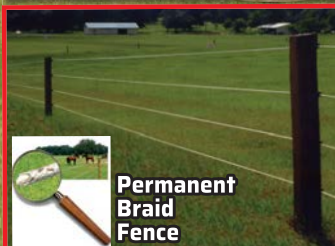
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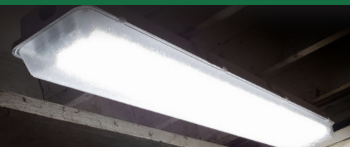


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# Coming Full Circle

by Sarah E. Coleman

The American Horse Publications celebrates its 50th anniversary in the place where it all began: Lexington, KY, the Horse Capital of the World.

Fifty years ago, in Lexington, KY, the publishers of six equestrian publications set aside their breed and discipline differences to establish an organization that promoted camaraderie in the equine publishing realm. Inspired by the creation and collaboration of the American Horse Council (AHC), an organization designed to unite the horse industry, these visionaries knew that a unified front would be instrumental to the continued success of this niche trade. Dubbed the American Horse Publications, this organization was the brainchild of Arnold Kirkpatrick of the Thoroughbred Record; Lucille Shuler of the Arabian Horse World; Melvin M. Peavey of Horse World; Don Valliere of Turf & Sport Digest; Alexander Mackay-Smith of The Chronicle of the Horse; and Snowden Carter of Maryland Horse.

Soon, the organization grew from the six publishers who were involved in the original talks to 20 founding organizations. AHP's current membership includes 91 publications, 159 media professionals, and 187 equine-related businesses and organizations.

Though the publishing landscape has changed drastically in the last 50 years, the organization remains true to the same mission with which it was created:

- To promote better understanding and cooperation among members and between all facets of the equine publishing media industry;
- To foster and preserve the traditions pertaining to the horse;
- To encourage and support all activities which will increase interest or bring about improvement in all things relating to the equine publishing media industry;
- To provide its members with information and knowledge to help guide them in improving the quality of their publishing media.

## Growing Pains

The landscape of "publishing" has changed immensely since the AHP's inception. Originally, magazines and other printed publications were formatted on typewriters and the layout of the magazine involved lengthy, hands-on processes. The advent of desktop publishing was revolutionary and greatly reduced the amount of time necessary to produce a print publication, notes Christine Brune, current executive director of the AHP.

The AHP has repeatedly had to modify its tenets to encompass the changing roles of equine publishing and better serve its members -all while remaining true to its mission. "When AHP started, the only membership category available was for print publications," Chris recalls. To address interest from freelance writers and equine-related businesses who had established relationships with print publications, AHP expanded its membership categories to include these

individuals and businesses, Chris explains.

While many in the publishing realm thought that desktop computers were the most radical things to affect the print world, the industry went into overdrive with the launch of the World Wide Web in 1991. The industry as a whole has been rapidly evolving ever since. By 1999, AHP created the Electronic Publication membership category to recognize online publications, shared Chris. A decade later, a Digital Publication membership category was added for publications that were published electronically only.

As it became apparent that online publications were becoming a part of the overall publication brand, in 2014 the Digital Media membership was eliminated, and Print Publication was renamed "Publishing Media" to include both print and online publishing. "The digital age has certainly been the most challenging for the association to identify



1982 - Past (l-r) Snowden Carter, The Maryland Horse (1973-1974); Don Price, Michigan Harness Horse (1979-1980); Arnold Kirkpatrick, Thoroughbred Record (1970-1971); Tony Chamblin, The Horsemen's Journal (1974-1976); Mike Kalil, Harness Horsemen.



the publishing categories,” Chris explains. “The challenge continues as we shift to a mixed media world of print, visual, audio, and social media.”

AHP President, Whitney Allen, agrees. “I’ve seen the organization grow to include social and digital media, and really embrace providing resources and education on how those in equine media need to know a little bit of everything to keep ahead of the game. By that I mean magazine staffs are becoming slimmer and slimmer, and a writer also needs to be a photographer and a videographer.”

### **Celebrating the Golden Anniversary**

In an effort to keep its membership ahead of the curve, the AHP offers multiple continuing education opportunities each year. These include webinars, workshops, and a much-anticipated yearly equine media conference. The three-day conference is packed with educational sessions, special events, and

the announcement of the prestigious AHP Equine Media Awards. It’s also an opportunity for AHP members to connect with other professionals in the equine media industry, as well as renew relationships, exchange fresh ideas, and make key contacts.

The AHP will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its inception this year—a milestone not lost on Chris, Whitney, and many of the AHP membership. To celebrate this golden anniversary, the organization will return to its roots for its annual Equine Media Conference, which will be held at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington, KY, on May 28 through 30.

Filled to the brim with outings and adventures, Allen notes that the weekend in the Bluegrass will be packed with surprises for conference attendees. “I can’t reveal too much, but I can say that I am bursting at the seams

to show off Lexington to the AHP community,” Allen says. Based in Lexington, Allen is also the Marketing and Communications Director for the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), as well as the Managing Director of the USHJA Foundation.

The 2020 conference is sponsored by Straight Arrow Products, Terra Nova Equestrian Training Center, Central Garden & Pet, Zoetis, SmartPak, and others.

### **We Are Family**

The AHP is a tight-knit community of like-minded equine enthusiasts. Though members are spread throughout the United States, many of the relationships forged at events like the yearly Equine Media Conference have led to decades-long friendships as well as working partnerships.

“It’s the mutual bond of publishing and horses that I enjoy most [about the

AHP] and the reason that members will celebrate in Lexington, KY, on May 28-30, 2020,” says Chris. “AHP’s 50th Anniversary is a milestone in equine media; it’s a confirmation of the importance of communicating horse industry education, news, and entertainment to the equine community. AHP members are the storytellers, historians, educators, image-makers, innovators, and caretakers for the horse. I would encourage anyone who dreams of contributing to the horse industry to become a member of American Horse Publications. The opportunities in equine media are endless if you have the passion.”

Learn more about American Horse Publications at [americanhorsepubs.org](http://americanhorsepubs.org) ■

*Based in Lexington, Ky., Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.*







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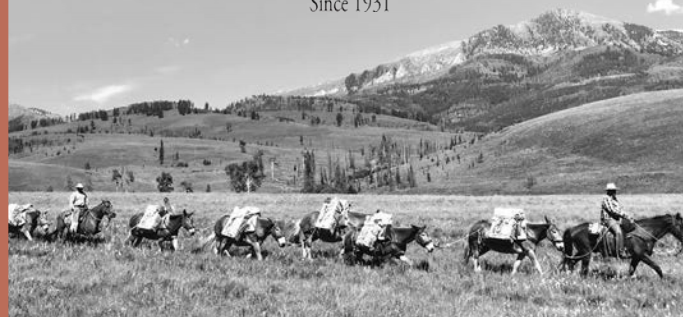


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# Spotting Warning Signs of Problems in Horses

by Liv Gude and Tammy Crouthamel

Horses have lots of ways to communicate with us, and it's our job to decipher their language. Horses will show us when they are in distress. We need to read their physical signs and behaviors to get the full picture and know what is normal for each horse.

## Adult Horse Vitals:

Check vital signs at rest daily.

- Temperature: 99-101.5 F
- Pulse: 28-44 beats per minute
- Respiration: 10-24 breaths per minute
- Capillary refill time at gums: 1-2 seconds; pink and moist
- Listen for gut sounds

## Check in the Stall:

- Daily manure and urine output, and the consistency, texture, and size of manure.
- Does your horse rest? Look for shavings in your horse's tail or a flat spot in bedding.
- Is the stall messy or more tidy?
- Are his appetite and thirst normal?

## Check When Grooming:

- Is your horse happy and alert?
- Does he have a Body Condition score of 4-5 (ideal)?
- Does he stand squarely?
- When picking hooves, take note of how reluctant, or not, your horse is while lifting his legs.
- Digital pulses (around fetlocks) should be weak or non-existent.
- Do you notice any itchy spots on your horse? Any flinching as you groom?
- Do you see any discharge from the eyes or nose?

## Check Under saddle:

- Is your horse "girthy?" A snarky reaction can mean anything from ulcers to poorly fitting tack.
- How does he behave when you start to ride? Any differences in how your horse feels over time should be noted. Same for your horse's willingness to go forward under saddle and be comfortable in all his gaits. This is an example of your horse communicating to you about his saddle, bridle, your riding, the footing, his soundness, sore muscles, and more.

## Check at Turn Out:

- Does he have a routine to play a bit and then get down to eating, or is food the priority?
- Just as when he's in a stall, notice his eating and drinking habits and manure.
- Where does your horse like to spend his time? If your pasture has hard ground, does your horse avoid it? Can you notice his gait and foot falls to monitor for soundness?
- How is his behavior with pasture mates? Does he interact, stay to himself, pace/weave, crib, or get into fights?



If that sounds like an exhausting list of things to check, take heart, as there is new technology available to help you monitor your horse 24/7. These systems, such as Farm Jenny for Horses, allow you to notice behaviors that indicate your horse's overall health and safety. The system includes wearable sensors that attach to your horse's halter or to a breakaway Sensor Holder. Solar Powered Field Receivers create a network around the farm to pass your horse's data to the cloud for analysis.

Machine Learning allows the system to learn what is normal for each horse for comparison. An app on your smart phone lets you see these trends. Horses experiencing illness, injury, or other problems will show behavioral changes such as overall increased or decreased activity levels,

increased or decreased grazing times, changes in sleep, and more.

Daily reports give you peace of mind and help you to catch potential problems sooner. This technology allows you to get a much broader picture of your horse's "normal" while freeing up time, energy, and worry, to do more fun horse things - like riding!

Look at the big picture. If you see that something is off, observe his other behaviors to gather more information.

Always consult your Veterinarian, as sometimes strange behavior seems silly, but can be serious. Consider using technology to help you keep closer tabs on your horse when you can't be there. Your horse can't send you a text, so it's up to you to learn his "normal" and notice any changes.

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A day in the life on the farm is like a drink of clear, cool water on a hot Kentucky day. As the sun rises, the rich smell of horses and hay fills the air. Nickers and neighs of the equine royalty set the mood for the day during the morning meeting at the barn. After the meeting concludes, it is possible to catch Dr. Coleman at Walker's Diner in the small town of Olive Hill, having a quick bite of breakfast and friendly chats with the locals

that he has called friends for decades. Meanwhile, you will find Jane tending to the details of lodging reservations for the farm's charming Airbnb's, and wedding planning for the Smokey Valley Chapel. Jane has a unique gift for making people feel at home and her hospitality is unsurpassed!

# Smokey Valley Farm...

**It's Not Just a Destination,  
It's a Lifestyle!**

by Donna Spencer

Smokey Valley Farm is tucked away in Carter County, Kentucky. It is near the small Appalachian town of Olive Hill, one of Kentucky's first certified Trail Towns, located only seventy-three miles from the Kentucky Horse Park. Smokey Valley Farm is within horse-back riding distance of Carter



Trail ride led by Bob Coleman

Caves State Resort Park and just a few miles from Olive Hill, out State Highway 2.

## Extraordinary Gaited Horse Community

Smokey Valley Farm is well established as a gathering place for gaited horse trail riding enthusiasts. Some of the best trail riding terrain in North America is reachable without trailering from the farm. Smokey Valley



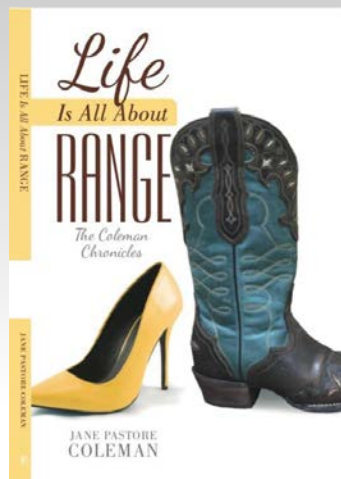
Farm is currently offering a number of residences and land tracts for people who wish to be a part of a very special high-end gaited horse community.

#### ABOUT US

Bob Coleman was born and raised on the farm at Smokey Valley. At a very young age, Bob obtained a great love for horses. He attended Morehead State University to study chemistry, then to the University of Tennessee and obtained his Ph.D. He went on to a faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School, and has since spent his life forming medical device companies and working on a new breed of traveling horse, The Smokey Valley Horse. He is a seventh-generation Kentuckian and is proud of his heritage.

Jane was raised in New York City and later moved to Palm Beach, Florida. It was when she moved to Scottsdale,

*Photos courtesy of Smokey Valley Farm*



Arizona that she met Bob, and they later joined forces in Kentucky. Jane previously owned Quarter horses when she lived in an equestrian community in Florida. She now manages the Smokey Valley Farm wedding venues and lodging. Jane is also a published author. Her book tells the tales of her and Bob's "out west" adventures. The title of her book, "Life is All About

Range", is available on Amazon. **THE HISTORY**

Generations of the Coleman family have pursued a passion for smooth-gaited traveling horses of the finest kind. In the mid-1700's it all began with Reverend James Coleman, a founding member of the Methodist Church in New England. Reverend Coleman rode an 800-mile circuit on smooth-gaited Narragansett, and later, Morgan/Narragansett crosses that were called Canadian Pacers. The ownership of a well gaited traveling horse was more than a luxury and often the only reliable form of transportation. The legend and lore from Rev. James was passed down from generation to generation and still lives on through Dr. Bob Coleman. In 1979, Dr. Coleman began the process of acquiring and breeding exceptional gaited traveling horses with the single-minded

purpose of re-creating the great traveling horse of his family's past.

Smokey Valley Farm started as a country retreat for Bob's grandparents back in 1907. The farmhouse was ordered from a Sears and Roebuck catalog and delivered to the town of Olive Hill by train. There it was picked up by a mule-drawn wagon and brought to this beautiful valley and constructed. The farmhouse is a turn-of-the-century Victorian-style home that has seen many family gatherings over the years and now hosts Airbnb guests from all over the world.

#### THE SMOKEY VALLEY HORSE

The Smokey Valley Horse is a new breed created by Dr. Bob Coleman while in search of that smooth-gaited traveling horse ridden by his ancestors.

*Continued on page 56*



**Coleman wedding**



Continued from page 55

Dr. Coleman has spent the last forty years perfecting his breed and recently created a registry for his new breed of traveling horse.

The Smokey Valley Horse is a grand and glorious traveling horse that is selected based upon its ability to perform its gaits.

Smokey Valley Horses are bred to perform gaits that are a combination of a smooth running walk and/or rack, with a significant overstride of the back feet over the placement of the front feet. The result is a horse that delivers the full "magic carpet" ride sensation. The Smokey Valley Horses perform perfectly smooth gaits over a wide, dynamic speed range - from four to twenty-plus miles per hour. The horse



**Cozy guest cabin nestled in the woods**

*Photo courtesy of Smokey Valley Farm*

naturally exhibits these gaits shortly after birth, with no training methods or artificial devices used to enhance them.

The horses are exceptional equine athletes. They are best

viewed as gaited, all-around horses that are exceptionally competitive in all equine events that involve running, jumping, endurance, working stock, and other demanding equestrian activities.

Imagine you are riding down a country road on your horse. He is coiled up and collected on a light hand...wearing the bridle straight up and down. He reaches under himself with a nice overstride, carrying most of his weight on his hind-quarters. He is reaching and showing off with his front legs, his front feet landing so lightly that you barely feel them, if at all, impacting the ground.

The comfort to his rider, stamina, and distance-covering ability are unsurpassed. You will know with certainty that you are riding a Smokey Valley Horse...a traveling horse of the finest kind.

Smokey Valley Farm always has quality finished horses available for folks who want to come to the valley and experience the ride of a lifetime, as well as a unique opportunity to become a part of their special gaited horse community.


Smokey Valley Farm is where the pursuit of a flawless match for horse and rider is a lifestyle. You can spend your days in the valley enjoying the beautiful outdoor surroundings while riding, and being paired with your perfect lifetime companion. The evenings are filled with charming and luxurious lodging as well as fine wine and dining. With the finest gaited traveling horse available, over forty years' experience, and the elegant accommodations offered by Smokey Valley Farm, your time here will be nothing short of a dream come true.

Every day at Smokey Valley Farm is a unique and custom experience with the ambiance that only Eastern Kentucky's premier working horse farm can provide. The valley brings a sense of peace and tranquility that is beyond imagination.


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**H**orse lands are important to our American landscape. Horse lands and facilities evoke the history and culture of their particular communities and add beauty to our byways. They also have an important environmental impact, helping to protect our waterways, soil and wildlife habitat, and improve the wellbeing of our communities. Not only does the land support local tourism and recreation, it also supports a vital equine industry that contributes \$1.22 billion annually to our national economy.

Here are some other important facts to consider: Alarming, 6,000 acres per day, or 250 acres per hour, of open space is lost to development every day in the

**Alarming, 6,000 acres per day, or 250 acres per hour, of open space is lost to development every day in the U.S.**

U.S. Furthermore, it takes 28 million acres of land just to feed our nation's current population of 7.2 million horses. If we continue on our current path, we will

**If we continue on our current path, we will lack adequate land to support our horse population in as little as 15 years!**

lack adequate land to support our horse population in as little as 15 years! Land loss remains the single biggest threat to all equine breeds and disciplines and the equine industry at large regardless of their geography.

The good news is that much of this land can be saved through smart land planning, land conservation and thoughtful stewardship of the horse lands we have now. What can horsemen, land owners and other concerned community members do? Understanding the facts and learning to articulate them is the first step. Organizing other equestrians, and talking to planning and other local decision makers will help make horse lands an integral part of your city, town, suburb or rural community.

Learn more about protecting land for horses at [elcr.org](http://elcr.org). Together we can protect and preserve our equine places and spaces! ■

"Competition and training sites are **slipping away**, and trails are **disappearing**. Each year, over 2 million acres of land are **lost to development**. The time to **act** is **now**. Please **join me** in working with the **Equine Land Conservation Resource**."

*—Karen O'Connor,  
Olympian*



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# Is an Instant Horse Barn on Your Horizon?

by Nikki Alvin-Smith

The trending popularity of the modular horse barn speaks volumes about how today's horse owner values time and convenience regarding their horse housing needs.

In many respects, a modular barn is virtually indistinguishable from a traditionally built horse barn. However, the differences are what makes prefabricated and modular barns especially appealing to busy, budget-conscious horse owners and trainers.

Barn sections are built within a controlled factory environment, reducing costs with efficient and standardized construction processes.

Raw materials are not exposed to the weather, preserving the quality and integrity of the finished barn.

On-site assembly of pre-built sections is a quick, "no muss – no fuss" process, usually completed within a few days.

Make no mistake, just because a barn is "factory-built" does NOT mean it's "cookie-cutter." A myriad of customization and design options are available to choose from: loft/no loft, L-shaped, overhangs, prefabricated shedrows, storage, and run-in sheds... Create a layout tailored to your needs. Rarely are 2 barns built alike. A generous

list of Standard Features means there's nothing extra to buy. However, a multitude of options and upgrades enable you to create the barn you've always dreamed of.

This makes the one-stop shopping experience with a modular barn company an affordable reality. The natural insulation of wood, the snow shedding power of metal, custom stalls, windows, and doors, loads of color choices for trim, siding, and roofing all come together to make the experience of creating your perfect horse barn a LOT of fun!

Shiny copper cupolas adorned with traditional Currier and Ives inspired trotting horse weathervanes provide a finishing touch to beautifully crafted Amish-built barns. Exterior Dutch doors, where horses enjoy fresh air and an outside view, address horse health needs while mitigating equine boredom and discouraging the development of bad behavior. And let's face it, who wouldn't savor the view (along with a quick morning cuppa) from the kitchen window, of a line of horse faces greeting them from over their stall doors.

Some definite advantages of a modular built barn over stick-built, or on-site pole

barn construction, are being able to choose a reliable and proven partner for your project and nailing down the price without being hammered with unexpected cost overruns due to material substitutions, weather factors, or lack of knowledge on the part of the contractor.

Leading modular barn builders not only offer a guaranteed "to the penny" quote that includes delivery and set up - they can also provide third-party financing, a full warranty, and a wealth of advice on how to cut costs - without cutting corners - to help you stay on budget.

Those who have run a horse boarding operation, or had a barn built on site, know firsthand that when the construction crew comes calling so does a lot of mess. Blowing debris, on-going material deliveries, and pick-up trucks parked everywhere create a host of problems including the likelihood of nails and other "horse hazards" being left behind. The upheaval can continue for weeks or months, creating noise and distractions that horses and riders could well do without.

A modular barn on the other hand offers placement and assembly of the structure

within a few days. A small crew gets the job done quickly and efficiently with minimal disruption to your routine. In the case of a prefabricated barn or run-in shed, it's simply placed on your prepared site and, when the driver leaves, your horses move in.

Whatever type of structure you choose to "plant" on your property, it is worth considering the budget-friendly option of modular or prefabricated construction. Search for a company that offers a transparent purchasing process with the option of talking to previous customers, or arrange to visit a barn in person to "kick the kickboards" and meet face-to-face with a fellow horse owner near you to gain insight into their experience with the builder. Look for a project partner that is up front about all costs and deposits, and puts their terms in writing.

Before buying a horse barn of any type always check the "P's and Q's" - Price and Quality. Happy Horse Barn Shopping!

For more information: [horizonstructures.com](http://horizonstructures.com)

About the author: Nikki Alvin-Smith is a seasoned freelance writer, international Grand Prix dressage competitor/coach/clinician ♦







# Horse Whispering and Embodied Listening

## The true horse whisperer is the Horse...Are we listening?

By Jackie Stevenson

*"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have rather talked."*  
Mark Twain

**H**orse whispering and embodied listening is hearing between the words and beyond what is spoken. This exquisite way of connecting asks that we slow down, sense from a receptive mode, and focus our attention through our senses to the present moment. Horse whispering and embodied listening are

states of being awake and aware, softly speaking from the heart and silently listening from the soul. Sometimes, it is the softness of a whisper that is needed the most. The quiet voice that invites us to lean forward to hear, or the inner voice that calls us home, often are the ones that speak the truth. We have but to listen.

Standing quietly in a horse pasture in the Kentucky Horse Park on a cool spring morning as the dawn was casting its first colors across the beautiful

Kentucky sky, I watched and listened. The horses wandered through the field nickering to their herd mates and enjoying a breakfast of the famous bluegrass of Kentucky. One horse lifted its head, ears forward as if listening, and walked gracefully toward me. She stopped about a handshake distance in front of me and bowed her head in greeting, as if to say, "welcome to our home field."

The brown and white paint horse standing quietly with me was joined by two other horses;

a big bay gelding and a blonde striped Fjord pony, who were greeting me with calm curiosity and sweet horse breath. They are the true horse whisperers and, without words, they offer a deep sense of inner peace and possibility, courage and confidence

"This new day, anything is possible," they seem to say. "Simply listen from the place of inner knowing where dreams become reality."

This fine day in Kentucky, I was here to lead a Women in



Leadership Retreat for twenty top women leaders from a global health care provider company.

The retreat was being held at the **Central Kentucky Riding for Hope Therapeutic Riding Center**, tucked in a quiet corner of the otherwise busy Kentucky Horse Park. Their therapy horses would be partners in guiding the women on their journey to grow more fully into their leadership capacity, and to help them learn to be more collaborative team members.

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope is dedicated to enriching the community by improving the quality of life and health of children and adults with special physical, cognitive, emotional, and social needs through therapeutic activities with the horse. While these special therapy horses most often carry people gently on their backs, for our program the horses would be asked to carry people into the best of who they could be as leaders.

**The focus of the three-day retreat was to support talented women in high-rank-**

**ing leadership positions** to actively find their voice, build skills, strengthen their courage and capacity to act, and to reach their potential as thriving leaders.

Together, with our human two feet on the ground next to the horses' four feet, we were about to walk side by side, exploring leadership and teamwork through engagement and relationship with the horses. This would be achieved through a variety of experiential learning opportunities guided by horse whispering and embodied listening.

Our facilitation team consisted of the Ohio-based **Spirit of Leadership** team and the Central Kentucky Riding for Hope staff, volunteers, and horses. An additional team member was a consultant from a famous New York, Fifth Avenue consulting firm, who had been instrumental in the 1960's Women's Movement alongside her friend, Gloria Steinem. She found herself in the good company of horses who were not impressed by fancy designer boots and

jeans, the Fifth Avenue address, or how many global clients were in her portfolio. The horses wanted to know: Are you honest and fair? Will you show me respect? Can you be a trustworthy herd member? And, most of all, can you listen when we whisper?

Knowing that the horses are the true horse whisperers, I wandered through the pasture, doing my best to simply listen. I was thinking about our task for the upcoming three days, and how we might guide these women to find their voice and strengthen their courage as leaders in their company.

I shared these thoughts silently from my heart to the horses' heart and listened for what I might hear. In a clear message from the horses I heard from within:

*"A voice is not lost or something to be found. Your voice is to be discovered deep within you. Learn to listen for it and learn to listen to other voices that will speak when you listen honestly, openly, and with curiosity. In the silence you can hear what most needs to be heard, on the breath of wind, song*

*of stream, laughter of children, tears of longing. Trust what you hear through the honest heart of the horse and the quiet wisdom of your own heart."*

I believed that by engaging with the warm-hearted Central Kentucky Riding for Hope therapy horses these high-potential women leaders could, within the three days of the retreat, grow more fully into the next highest level of their leadership potential.

*"Listening, from all leadership capacities, probably is the one that's most underrated. Listening is really at the source of all great leadership connecting with what's going on right now."*

Otto Scharmer, MIT

I trusted that the horses could guide the women leaders to find their voice, build skills, and strengthen their courage and capacity to act, by teaching them the essentials of embodied listening and compassionate horse whispering.

- Listen with more than your ears to what is going on within you, and be aware of what you sense is going on with your horse partner and your human herd. Listen with all your senses, and by way of your mind, heart, and gut, you can hear what most wants to be spoken, honestly, in the present moment and with integrity.
- Align what is happening within us, with our intentions and choices of action. Think of this as mindfulness in action.
- Practice compassion and loving kindness, by listening through our hearts to ourselves, our human herd mates, and horse herd mates from their point of view, honoring differences and discovering their best.
- Be aware of body language and embodied communication. Horses and all beings communicate primarily through

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nonverbal body language and movement. Learning from the horses about embodied communication will help us in our communication with people - to be more clear, honest, and heartfelt.

Thinking about embodied listening, I became interested in the horses' "super-power" hearing and listening. How might the horses inspire the women to listen with more clarity, empathy, and insight even with their small human ears that can't move in any direction?

*"The senses are an important part of what makes horses behaviorally distinct. They are the tools that a horse uses to interact with its environment. Horses' ears can move 180 degrees using 10 different muscles (compared to three muscles for the human ear) and are able to single out a specific area to listen to. This allows the horse to orient itself toward the sounds to be able to determine what is making the noise. This unique anatomical feature allows horses to focus on the direction from which the sound is coming, isolate it, and run the other way. Horses' ears are primarily for hearing, but they are also utilized to express and communicate. That said, they do use their exquisite sense of hearing to pick up on changes in their environment."*

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

Engaging with the horses could help the women appreciate and extend their capacity to listen, an essential prerequisite to finding their voice. Having courage to speak in the presence of the horses could help the women learn to slow down, permitting inner stillness and quiet listening within, to reveal the "whisper" of what needs to be heard. Horse whispering and embodied listening might allow them to connect to their best selves, to an authentic presence



Photo courtesy of Spirit of Leadership

that wants to emerge. In the presence of the horses, space can be created to acknowledge the good that already exists in our present lives, and open the way forward for something incredible to emerge in the future.

Listening to horse whispering, we can hear whispered from within, our authentic purpose and why we are meant to be here. The real horse whisperers are the horses themselves. We listen to horses so that we can understand what is going on within us and around us. Learning to listen from another's perspective is a major part of our horse work and essential in our people work.

The first day in the horse pasture the women prepared to

enter the culture of horse and herd, a culture that has much to teach us about successful leadership. Horses' lineage can be traced back 65 million years. A culture thriving by:

- living in harmony with themselves, each other, and their environment
- adapting efficiently and effectively to change
- collaborating and cooperating for the good of the herd
- moving in a positive and forward direction to the next best place to be

By listening and living more like horses, we too might thrive into the next generations.

We took great care to prepare the women leaders before they entered the culture of the horse

herd so that they and the horses could take something of value from the experience; they could be safe physically and emotionally, and could have fun, meaningful horseplay and learning.

**The first step was to create the best possible field conditions for developing respect**

in preparation for a mutually beneficial relationship between horse and human, and human-to-human. We first prepared the women leaders to listen and to respond to the horses by teaching basic "horse language" to help them understand what the horses are trying to tell them, and to help them be clearer about what they are trying to tell the horse. This gave people the opportunity to



directly communicate with the horses (without an interpreter) and it made the horses' job of being with people, and bringing them into the herd, easier.

Paying attention to how we enter each others' space can be an expression of respect. We invited the women into a process that required entering the herd with respect for themselves, each other, and the horses. We asked them to recall their leadership strengths and challenges, and to incorporate them in some way when entering the herd. We suggested that they extend their interest or intention in some way to the horses before approaching them. They could do this through their eyes, their heart, or through the spoken word. We asked that they wait for an invitation from the horses, and get a "yes" from within themselves, so they could meet at a common place of, "Yes, we are ready to meet."

We invited them to be guests of the herd, and to be aware of what was happening within them and around them, and to listen for the relationship to unfold. We encouraged them to be clear about their intentions, align their intentions with their actions, and let go of attachment to outcome. This mindful and heartfelt attention and intention creates clearer communication and respectful, meaningful, and trustworthy relationships in the horse pasture, in our homes, and in the workplace.

Learning to be guests in a herd of horses, we can learn about respect, trust, and care. In the presence of the herd, we learn about deepening the connection to our purpose, enhancing the quality of relationships, and being more of an embodied presence. As we are invited in and join the herd, we experience ourselves interconnected with the world. We become part of that larger culture of collective wisdom and can bring that wisdom into our human herds,

creating a world as leaders in which we are all proud to live.

**On day two of the retreat, we built on the respect, trust, and positive relationships** the women had created with the horses, each other, and within themselves. Engaging the horses, they expanded their capacity to be more aware of their leadership presence and influence. Through a series of experiential learning opportunities with the horses, the women explored correct use of influence and power. This experience prepared

## **“Learning to be guests in a herd of horses, we can learn about respect, trust, and care. In the presence of the herd, we learn about deepening the connection to our purpose.”**

them: to be more aware of their leadership presence, to be more inclusive in their leadership practices, and to expand their range of choice in how they lead. The horse activities helped them gain insight about cooperative teamwork and how to lead a team as collaborative leaders working toward a common, actionable vision.

**On day three of the retreat, with a new awareness of their ability** to create respect and trust, and to be aware of their leadership presence, the women explored how they might manage conflict with integrity and wisdom. Partnering with horses to work through relational dilemmas, and moving together with them to overcome physical obstacles, helped the women build their strengths to face the challenges in their leadership roles and in life. This learning

is applicable whether people are grieving a loss, merging a company, or transitioning as part of a succession plan. Engaging with the horses helped them listen optimistically, find value in any situation, and become more innovative; thereby, turning challenges into possibilities. The horses moved them to strengthen their resiliency and to become more agile in successfully managing work and life challenges.

While interacting with the horses, these highly-engaged

meant to learn. Engaging their leadership and life dilemmas in the presence of the horses' nudges, the women explored their self-limiting patterns with curiosity, courage, and compassion. With a gentle nudge of a horse to help them, the women reframed their negative thoughts and dilemmas into learning opportunities and expanded possibilities.

In the silent, grounded, grandness of the horse we can more easily find our voice and give voice to our heart, to our inner sense of truth, and let that voice guide us. By slowing down inside, paying attention with intention, and being curious about what is being spoken, we can bring greater wisdom to solving dilemmas and making decisions.

Horses, when interacting with humans, synchronize their heartbeats to ours; they can hear our heartbeat from four feet away. When we listen silently to the whisper of the horses, when we deeply listen from within, when we listen from the heart to each other, what we hear is wisdom. **The real horse whisperers are the horses themselves.** They teach us to listen deeply within ourselves to hear from the heart, and to listen compassionately and effectively to ourselves and to others.

**We ended the last day of the retreat in the horse pasture, gathering the collective wisdom** in a closing circle. The tired, but inspired women leaders reflected on their experience, sharing in confident voices what they learned and what they might take back with them to incorporate in their work and daily lives. The horses glanced over with some interest, and as the women began to speak from their hearts, they slowly joined the human herd becoming an outer circle around us. As the horses joined us, our insights became deeper as our

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hearts opened wider, recognizing the privilege of being with each other and the horses, and just how precious life can be in simple ways.

When sharing, the women leaders spoke about what they learned that had value for them, and what they would take away from this experience:

- Quieting thoughts and allowing for silence
- Being open-minded, interested, and curious, rather than judgmental
- Finding their “hooves” and being grounded in the reality of the present moment
- Listening with the intent to understand and be interested in the other, rather than with the intent to reply

- Understanding and valuing the other from their point of view
- Actively listening through the senses with body, mind, and heart to the best of the person and their highest future possibility
- Listening with the heart of compassion

The women leaders joined their horse partners to offer appreciation for their generous presence and presents, offering their horse buddies a sweet, embodied goodbye hug.

**With the retreat complete, the women on their way home, and the day blending into a sweet Kentucky night,** I wandered through the pasture to offer my appreciation and gratitude to the horses, and to say my goodbyes to them.

In the presence of the horses, listening one last time to their whispering, I was reminded of words from one

of my favorite authors, Parker Palmer:

*“Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you.”*

*I must listen to my life and try to understand what it is truly about - quite apart from what I would like it to be about - or my life will never represent anything real in the world, no matter how earnest my intentions.*

*The soul is like a wild animal - tough, resilient, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for a time at the base of a tree, (or at the side of a horse), out of the corner of our eye we will catch a glimpse of the precious wildness we seek.*

*It is a silence that forever invites us to fathom the meaning of our lives - and forever reminds us of depths of meaning that words will never touch.”*

Nature, horses, and the wild operate from an authentic, inherent, and collective intelli-

gence and can guide us to that place of wisdom within ourselves, a place words will never touch. In the good company of horses we can slow down, quiet our minds, and open our hearts with loving kindness. As inspiring leaders and simply as human beings, by listening for the good and positive, we can move beyond our current reality, create the best possible future to emerge, and then be there to greet it. The horses will already be there waiting patiently for us. ■

Jackie Stevenson is the founder and CEO of Spirit of Leadership, LLC, providing coaching, leadership, and team building training and seminars for corporations and non-profit organizations.

For more information:  
Spirit of Leadership: [spirit-of-leadership.com](http://spirit-of-leadership.com)

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# Breeders' Cup Returns to the Horse Capital of the World in 2020



Photos by Pyrois Media/Melissa Bauer-Herzog

**L**exington, Kentucky is home to some of the most iconic Thoroughbred farms in the world; the entire city is preparing to welcome some of their progeny home for the Breeders' Cup World Championships in the fall of 2020.

By Sarah E. Coleman

Thoroughbred horses and the pageantry that surrounds them are nothing new to the town of Lexington, Kentucky. Though Lexington has a nothing-to-sneeze-at population of over 320 thousand, one would be hard-pressed to find more than a handful of people who haven't been to Keeneland Race Course for some reason, whether it be for an event held in the Keeneland Entertainment Center, to run a 5K to raise funds for charity, to attend one of the four Thoroughbred sales held annually in its prominent auction house, or for its world-

class racing.

Truly some of the most beautiful grounds in the state of Kentucky, Keeneland sits on more than 1,000 acres just west of downtown Lexington, directly in the heart of the Bluegrass. The track was named for Jack Keene, an internationally known horseman who was building a private racing complex that he sold to the Keeneland Association in the early 1930s. Keeneland opened in October 1936, and 50 years later Keeneland was named a National Historic Landmark.

Racing at Keeneland takes

place twice a year, during April and October. Both meets boast multiple Grade I (the most-elite level of racing) races. There are two \$1 million races: the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes in April (a major prep race for the Kentucky Derby) and the Shadwell Turf Mile in October. Ten of the Fall Meet stakes are Breeders' Cup Challenge races, awarding each winner a place in the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Unlike the Kentucky Derby, which is always held at Churchill Downs in Louisville, the Breeders' Cup is a two day racing extravaganza that rotates to host locations. A year-end championship for North American racing, the races attract first-class athletes from around the globe. In the past, the event has been held at race tracks all over the US, including such tracks as: Chur-

chill Downs, Santa Anita Park, Belmont Park, Gulfstream Park, Monmouth Park, and Hollywood Park.

In 2015, Keeneland was selected as the host track for the races. Though Keeneland is at the heart of the Thoroughbred breeding industry, there was some concern over the venue's ability to host the number of fans who traditionally attended the event.

Thankfully, there was nothing to worry about. The 2015 Breeders' Cup was a resounding success, with record attendance for the Friday races and a sold-out crowd on Saturday to watch American Pharoah gallop into history by winning the Grand Slam of Thoroughbred racing, which includes the three Triple Crown races (the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes) and the Breeders' Cup Classic.



### **The Breeders' Cup Festival: A Week-long Celebration**

There is no doubt: Kentuckians know how to party! The celebratory atmosphere of the 2015 Breeders' Cup wasn't isolated to just the track, however. The Central Kentucky community welcomed guests in a big way, highlighting everything Kentucky has to offer and encouraging people to arrive early in the week so they might stay and play. Guests arrived from around the world to a city literally swathed in rich purple, the color central to the Breeders' Cup. Lexington's downtown boasted a carnival-like ambience, with a clock prominently on display, counting down the days, hours, and minutes to the start of the Breeders' Cup.

As the 2015 event was such a smashing success, officials at Keeneland and Breeders' Cup

Ltd. are planning a 2020 Breeders' Cup Festival with the help of the Breeders' Cup Festival Committee, which is chaired by Kip Cornett. Committee

Additional offerings in 2015 included the Bourbon Backstretch, which featured nearly 40 different whiskies and signature cocktails from nine

**"Truly some of the most beautiful grounds in the state of Kentucky, Keeneland sits on more than 1,000 acres just west of downtown Lexington, directly in the heart of the Bluegrass."**

members representing various sectors of the Lexington community include: creative, hospitality, tourism, media, business, and the Thoroughbred industry. The 2015 week-long lead-up to the event included everything from outdoor concerts to art exhibitions to food truck competitions (the "Feeders' Cup") and a fun run.

distilleries on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail ®: Bulleit, Four Roses, Heaven Hill, Jim Beam, Maker's Mark, Old Forester, Town Branch, Wild Turkey, and Woodford Reserve. An exclusive Master Distillers' Night also took place, where guests could interact and ask questions of the distillers.

Even Red Mile, the city's

harness racing track, rolled out the red carpet to racing fans by hosting the Breeders' Cup Bash, which offered guests food, drinks, music, and wagering on Breeders' Cup races. Free art exhibits at the Headley-Whitney Museum, LexArts, and the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park were available to anyone who had some downtime.

Horse farms around the area threw open their barn doors to welcome guests to the birthplace of many of the contenders in the weekend's races. Since then, Horse Country has taken the reins and is dedicated to sharing the stories of Kentucky's horse country. They are now the central hub for both group and private tours of the area's premier stud farms: WinStar Farm, Three Chimneys,

*Continued on page 68*



Team Coyle - Breeders Cup Classic, 2015



Continued from page 67

Darby Dan, Gainesway Farm, Adena Springs, Airdrie, Godolphin, Claiborne, Taylor Made, Lane's End, Spendthrift, and Coolmore; as well as nursery farms: Stonestreet Farm, Pin Oak Stud, Denali, Hermitage, Keene Ridge, Mill Ridge, Runnymede, Saxony, and Stone Farm.

Want to see even more of what makes Lexington unique? Horse Country also offers tours to other equine institutions, including, Blackwood Stables training center, Spy Coast Farm, Hagyard Equine Med-

Thoroughbred racing. For help building your itinerary, visit [visithorsecountry.com](http://visithorsecountry.com).

The leadup to the 2020 Breeders' Cup looks to be even bigger and better than its debut in 2015!

## Keeneland's Preparation

With a spotlight on quality over quantity, Keeneland focused heavily on providing a top-notch experience to patrons in 2015. Construction of a Clubhouse Chalet, a Saddling Paddock Chalet, Trackside Chalets, and premier seating options ensured the track was able to accommodate the anticipated crowd.



ical Institute, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Hallway Feeds, Keeneland, and Fasig-Tipton. You can even check out what racehorses do once they retire from the track at Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, and New Vocations Racehorse Adoption - Lexington. Also available are custom-tailored events like meals at Taylor Made, VIP stallion experiences, family-friendly excursions, and so much more!

The 2020 event, again sponsored by KentuckyOne Health, will be chock-full of educational, entertaining, and experiential programming, with an emphasis on international connections, which makes the Breeders' Cup the world championships of

Delectable food, including many Kentucky staples like burgoo, bread pudding, and hot browns, graced multiple stations throughout the facility; drinks were poured freely and cheers could be heard across the track as the horses thundered down the stretch - there truly was not a bad seat in the house.

New in 2019, the venue has added a Bourbon Bar adjacent to the Paddock, which offers premium bourbons, including Maker's Mark Keeneland Private Select Bourbon and Blanton's Single Barrel Select for Keeneland.

Keeneland and the city of Lexington set the bar high in 2015—don't miss what they do for 2020! ■



## WHAT: Breeders' Cup World Championships

**WHEN:** November 6 and 7, 2020

**WHERE:** Keeneland Race Course, Lexington, KY

**MORE DETAILS:** [breederscup.com](http://breederscup.com)

## FUN FACTS

In 2015, 65 percent of attendees polled at the races said that they had never been to a Breeders' Cup before

The 2015 Breeders' Cup had an economic impact on Fayette County, KY, of over \$65 million

Over 450 private jets flew into the Blue Grass Airport during the Breeders' Cup weekend

Fans wagered \$20,633,054 over the course of Breeders' Cup weekend in 2015

Hotel occupancy during the Breeders' Cup weekend was 95 percent

## What will Lexington do for Breeders' Cup 2020?

*Based in Lexington, Ky., Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.*



## BARN BUILDERS

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## BOARDING STABLES TRAINING BARNs

### Ballyhigh

**Show Stable**  
Joyce Brinsfield  
320 Pinckard Pike  
Versailles, KY 40383  
859.948.2632  
[BallyhighShowStable.com](http://BallyhighShowStable.com)

### Cloud Nine Farm

Stevie McCarron Wigley  
480 Lansing Lane  
Midway, KY 40347  
859.537.7324  
[TheCloud9Farm.com](http://TheCloud9Farm.com)

### Cornerside Stables

Michelle + Laura Shea  
460 Tarr Road  
Paris, KY 40361  
860.268.3714/860.933.2006  
[CornersideStables.com](http://CornersideStables.com)

### Lamp Post Stables

Shanna Kierle  
10022 National Turnpike  
Louisville, KY 40118  
240.353.1788

### Liftoff Equestrian

Ashley Watts  
2108 Hometown Road  
Versailles, KY 40383  
859.221.9085  
[LiftoffEquestrian.com](http://LiftoffEquestrian.com)

### Louisville Equestrian Center

6720 Mount Washington Road  
Taylorsville, KY 40071  
502.477.0830  
[LouisvilleEquestrianCenter.com](http://LouisvilleEquestrianCenter.com)

### Olive Hill Sporthorses

Diana Conlon  
4746 Huffman Mill Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.221.3302  
[OliveHillSporthorses.com](http://OliveHillSporthorses.com)

### Paddle Stone Equestrian Center

Sandra Middleton  
4864 Bryan Station Road  
Lexington, KY 40516  
859.983.3251  
[KYHorseBoarding.com](http://KYHorseBoarding.com)

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### **Queenslake Farm**

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Georgetown, KY 40324  
702.885.1263

### **Razor Creek**

#### **Stables**

Nikki Peterson,  
USHJA Certified Trainer  
4515 Old Heady Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
502.536.9129  
**RazorCreekStables.com**

### **River Mountain Farm**

Elaine Schott  
3085 Troy Pike  
Versailles, KY 40383  
859.489.0481  
**RiverMountainFarm.com**

### **Scott Keller, LLC at Townsend Springs Farm**

571 Russell Cave Road  
Paris, KY 40361  
917.609.9663  
**ScottKellerLLC.com**

### **Top Venture Farm**

Sarah Berkowitz  
1901 West Lane  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
610.613.1576  
**TopVentureLLC.com**

### **Twin Oaks Farm**

4402 Potts Road  
Jeffersonton, KY 40299  
502.432.2623  
**TwinOaksFarm-ky.com**

## **BREEDERS**

### **Coppertop Clydesdales**

Laurie Gallatin  
13445 County Home Road  
Marysville, OH 43040  
937.707.9216  
**Facebook.com/CopperTopFarm**

### **Harvey Arabians**

Jim and Louise Harvey  
7487 Wooster Pike Road  
Seville, Ohio 44273  
330.722.7781  
**Facebook.com/Harvey-Arabians**

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### **Smokey Valley Horse**

**Smokey Valley Farm**  
Bob and Jane Coleman 5183 KY-2  
Olive Hill, KY 41164  
606.286.6588  
**SmokeyValleyFarm.com**

## **CLUBS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **ELCR**

Equine Land Conservation Management  
4037 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 120  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.455.8383  
**ELCR.org**

### **IEA**

Interscholastic Equestrian Association  
877.743.3432  
**RideIEA.org**

### **IHSA**

Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association  
844.307.4472  
**IHSAInc.com**

### **KHC**

Kentucky Horse Council  
859.367.0509  
**KentuckyHorse.org**

### **OHC**

Ohio Horseman's Council  
614.600.1972  
**OHCOnline.com**

### **YEDA**

Youth Equestrian Development  
Association  
**ShowYEDA.com**

## **EDUCATION UNIVERSITIES**

### **Lake Erie College**

391 West Washington Street  
Painesville, OH 44077  
855.467.8676  
**LEC.edu**

### **Ohio State University**

281 W. Lane Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614.292.6446

### **OSU.edu**

**Otterbein University**  
1 South Grove Street  
Westerville, OH 43081  
614.890.3000  
**Otterbein.edu**

### **Spirit of Leadership**

9796 Cedar Road  
Novelty, OH 44072  
440.338.1752  
**Spirit-Of-Leadership.com**

### **University of Findlay**

1000 N. Main Street  
Findlay, OH 45850  
419.422.8313  
**Findlay.edu**

### **University of Kentucky**

Lexington, KY  
859.257.9000  
**UKY.edu**

### **University of Louisville**

Louisville, KY  
800.334.8635  
**Louisville.edu**

## **EQUESTRIAN FINE FURNITURE**

### **Created**

**Hardwood**  
16 West Poplar Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43215  
330.447.1780  
**CreatedHardwood.com**

## **EQUESTRIAN MARKETING GRAPHIC DESIGN**

### **Aristo Marketing**

Mandy Boggs  
440.478.5772  
**Aristo-Marketing.com**

### **ENSO Media Group**

PO Box 470603  
Cleveland, OH 44147  
440.668.2812  
**KentuckyEquestrianDirectory.com**  
**OhioEquestrianDirectory.com**

### **Topline Communications**

Sarah Coleman/Jen Roytz  
2857 Kearney Creek Lane  
Lexington, KY 40511  
330.518.9001  
**TeamTopline.com**

## **EQUESTRIAN MEMORABILIA**

### **Secretariat.com**

PO Box 4865  
Louisville, KY 40204  
**Secretariat.com**

## **EQUESTRIAN WEDDING VENUES**

### **Smokey Valley Farm**

Bob and Jane Coleman  
5183 KY-2  
Olive Hill, KY 41164  
606.286.6588  
**SmokeyValleyFarm.com**

## **EQUINE APPRAISERS**

### **SEB Equine Appraisals, LLC**

Sara E. Ballinger  
419.348.3771  
**SEBEquineAppraisals.com**

## **EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY PROGRAMS**

### **Central Kentucky**

**Riding For Hope**  
PO Box 13155  
Lexington, KY 40538  
859.231.7066  
**CKRH.org**

### **Spirit of Leadership**

9796 Cedar Road  
Novelty, OH 44072  
440.338.1752  
**Spirit-Of-Leadership.com**

## **EQUINE DENTISTRY**

### **Rood & Riddle**

#### **Equine Hospital**

Dr. Brad Tanner, DVM, AVDC-EQ  
2150 Georgetown Road  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.233.0371  
**RoodandRiddle.com**

### **Valley Equine Dentistry**

Gian P. Gargiulo, DVM  
440.356.9550  
**ValleyEquineDentistry.com**



## EQUINE INSURANCE

**C. Jarvis Insurance Agency**  
49 East Garfield Road  
Aurora, OH 44202  
440.248.5330  
[JarvisInsurance.com](http://JarvisInsurance.com)

**Fry's Equine Insurance**  
PO Box 820  
Grove City, OH 43123  
800.842.9021  
[FrysEquineInsurance.com](http://FrysEquineInsurance.com)

**Mavon Equine Insurance**  
118 Constitution Street, Suite 110  
Lexington, KY 40507  
859.455.6781  
[MavonEquineInsurance.com](http://MavonEquineInsurance.com)

## EQUINE TRANSPORTATION

**EquiJet**  
International Air Transport  
3 Raritan River Road  
Califon, NJ 07830  
833.378.4538  
[EquiJet.com](http://EquiJet.com)

**Horse Trailer Taxi**  
10022 National Turnpike  
Louisville, KY 40118  
240.353.1788  
[HorseTrailerTaxi.com](http://HorseTrailerTaxi.com)

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**Cashmans Horse Equipment Outlet**  
1646 US HWY 42 North  
Delaware, OH 43015  
740.363.6073  
[Cashmans.com](http://Cashmans.com)

**Reveal 4-N-1**  
Mt. Orab, OH 45154  
937.444.2609 330.345.9023  
[Reveal4-N-1.com](http://Reveal4-N-1.com)

**Willandale Golf Cart Sales**  
111 N. Wooster Avenue  
Strasburg, OH 44680  
330.663.3824  
[WillandaleGolfCartSales.com](http://WillandaleGolfCartSales.com)

## FEED/BEDDING HORSE CARE SUPPLIES

**Cashmans Horse Equipment Outlet**  
1646 US Highway 42 North  
Delaware, OH 43015  
740.363.6073  
[Cashmans.com](http://Cashmans.com)

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**SmartPak**  
800.461.8898  
[SmartPakEquine.com](http://SmartPakEquine.com)

## FEED/SUPPLEMENTS

**Buckeye Nutrition**  
330 E. Schultz Avenue  
Dalton, OH 44618  
800.417.6460  
[BuckeyeNutrition.com](http://BuckeyeNutrition.com)

**SmartPak**  
800.461.8898  
[SmartPakEquine.com](http://SmartPakEquine.com)

## FENCING/STALL SYSTEMS & DESIGN

**Heritage Equine Equipment**  
74 Quail Lane  
Box Springs, GA 31801  
706.575.5153  
[HeritageEquineEquip.com](http://HeritageEquineEquip.com)

**RAMM Horse Fencing & Stalls**  
13150 Airport Highway  
Swanton, OH 43558  
800.434.7919  
[RammFence.com](http://RammFence.com)

**Swiss Valley Fence**  
2411 State Route 39  
Sugarcreek, OH 44681  
330.852.4460  
[SwissValleyFence.com](http://SwissValleyFence.com)

## HORSE CARE SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

**Farm Jenny**  
24/7 Equine Monitoring  
139 Pearce Road  
Mars, PA 16046  
833.327.6536  
[FarmJenny.com](http://FarmJenny.com)

**GreenGuard Equine** Grazing Muzzle  
888.994.2070  
[GreenGuardEquine.com](http://GreenGuardEquine.com)

**Guaranteed Horse Products. LLC**  
Fly Bye! Plus  
Hudson, OH  
330.687.3353  
[GuaranteedHorseProducts.com](http://GuaranteedHorseProducts.com)

**HandsOn Gloves**  
Grooming Gloves  
817.477.0017  
[HandsOnGloves.com](http://HandsOnGloves.com)

**Orange Slow Feeder**  
253.363.7801  
[OrangeSlowFeeder.com](http://OrangeSlowFeeder.com)

## HORSE CARE SPECIALTY SERVICES

**K.B.'s Sheath Cleaning**  
Kristen R. Boltz, RVT  
330.205.3008  
[Facebook.com/KBSSheathCleaning](http://Facebook.com/KBSSheathCleaning)

## HORSE SHOWS VENUES

**Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic**  
Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field  
3799 Chagrin River Road  
Moreland Hills, OH 44022  
[ChagrinHunterJumperClassic.org](http://ChagrinHunterJumperClassic.org)

**Equine Affaire**  
Ohio Expo Center  
717 E. 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211  
740.845.0085  
[EquineAffaire.com](http://EquineAffaire.com)

**EQUITANA USA**  
Kentucky Horse Park  
4089 Iron Works Pkwy  
Lexington, KY 40511  
877.547.6398  
[EquitanaUSA.com](http://EquitanaUSA.com)

**Kentucky Three Day Event**  
Kentucky Horse Park  
4089 Iron Works Pkwy  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.233.2362  
[KentuckyThreeDayEvent.com](http://KentuckyThreeDayEvent.com)

**World Equestrian Center**  
4095 State Route 730  
Wilmington, OH 45177  
937.382.0985  
[WEC.net](http://WEC.net)

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Jessa Janes Photography**  
440.669.7860  
[JessaJanes.com](http://JessaJanes.com)

**Silk Studio Photography**  
Stephani A. Kame  
Charlene Williams  
330.354.6809  
[SilkStudioPhotography.com](http://SilkStudioPhotography.com)

## RESCUE/ADOPTION THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

**CANTER Kentucky**  
PO Box 2996  
Louisville, KY 40201  
312.513.1259  
[CanterUSA.org/Kentucky](http://CanterUSA.org/Kentucky)

**Kentucky Equine Adoption Center**  
1713 Catnip Hill Road  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
859.881.5849  
[KYEAC.org](http://KYEAC.org)

**Maker's Mark Secretariat Center**  
4155 Walt Robertson Road  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.246.3080  
[SecretariatCenter.org](http://SecretariatCenter.org)

**New Vocations Racehorse  
Adoption Program**  
OH, KY, PA, NY Facilities  
937.947.4020  
[NewVocations.org](http://NewVocations.org)

**Old Friends**  
1841 Paynes Depot Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
502.863.1775  
[OldFriendsEquine.org](http://OldFriendsEquine.org)

**Retired Racehorse Project**  
2976 Solomon's Island Road  
Edgewater, MD 21037  
410.798.5140  
[RetiredRacehorseProject.org](http://RetiredRacehorseProject.org)

**Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance**  
821 Corporate Drive  
Lexington, KY 40503  
859.224.2756  
[ThoroughbredAftercare.org](http://ThoroughbredAftercare.org)

## SADDLES SADDLE FITTING

### Barnes Tack Room

Robert Barnes

808.557.1371

**BarnesTackRoom.com**

### Saddles 101

Heather Soones-Booher

SMS Qualified Saddle Fitter

135 Hunt Road

Portersville, PA 16051

240.431.1318

**Saddles101.com**

### The Saddle Tree

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Johnstown, OH

440.983.1495

**TheSaddleTree.com**

\*(See TACK / RIDING EQUIPMENT/  
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## TACK/RIDING EQUIPMENT/APPAREL

### Becker & Durski Turf Goods

Wagner's Pharmacy

3111 S. 4th Street

Louisville, KY 40214

502.375.0001

**WagnersPharmacy.com**

### Boot Barn

2200 War Admiral Way, Suite 110

Lexington, KY 40509

859.264.7388

**BootBarn.com**

### Boot Barn

4511 Outer Loop

Louisville, KY 40219

502.961.8468

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### BootBarn.com

### Central Kentucky Tack & Leather

3380 Paris Pike, Suite 1100

Lexington, KY 40511

859.299.TACK (8225)

**CentralKentuckyTackandLeather.com**

### Dover Saddlery

8740 Montgomery Road

Cincinnati, OH 45236

513.792.0901

**DoverSaddlery.com**

### Equus Now!

420 Wards Corner Road, Suite D

Loveland, OH 45140

513.630.1197

**EquusNow.com**

### Fennell's Horse Supplies

1220 Red Mile Road

Lexington, KY 40502

859.254.2814

**Fennells.com**

### Hitching Post Tack Shop

11403 Main Street

Middletown, KY 40243

502.245.4672

**HitchingPostTack.com**

### Horse Cents, Inc.

199 Markham Drive

Versailles, KY 40383

859.873.4707

**HorseSenseInc.com**

### KBC Horse Supplies

140 Venture Court, Suite 1

Lexington, KY 40511

859.253.9688

**KBCHorseSupplies.com**

### Luckett's Tack Shop

3735 South 4th Street

Louisville, KY 40214

502.363.4131

### Pinkston's Turf Goods

1098 West High Street

Lexington, KY 40508

859.2252.1560

**Pinkstons.com**

### Quillon Leather & Tack

1929 Main Street

Paris, KY 40361

859.987.0215

**Quillin.com**

### Schneiders Saddlery

8255 Washington Street

Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

800.365.1311/440.543.2700

**SStack.com**

### Skylight Supply

2906 Axton Lane

Goshen, KY 40026

502.228.0070

**SkylightSupply.com**

### SmartPak

800.461.8898

**SmartPakEquine.com**

### The Bitless Bridle by Dr.Cook

PHS Saddlery

5220 Barrett Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80926

719.576.4786

**BitlessBridle.com**

### The Tack Shop of Lexington

1510 Newtown Pike, Suite 124

Lexington, KY 40511

859.368.0810

**TackShopofLexington.com**

### Wise Choice Tack

1019 Georgetown Road

Lexington, KY 40508

859.224.8976

## TRANSPORTATION SPECIALTY TRUCKING

### Shuman Specialized

### Transportation

2925 Columbus Avenue

Springfield, OH 45503

937.324.4429

**ShumanTransport.com**

## TRAVEL TRAIL RIDING

### 7LazyP Outfitting, LLC

891 Teton Canyon Road

Choteau, MT 59422

406.466.2245

**SevenLazyP.com**

### Smokey Valley Farm

Bob and Jane Coleman

5183 KY-2

Olive Hill, KY 41164

606.286.6588

**SmokeyValleyFarm.com**

## VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS HOSPITALS

### Hagyard Equine

### Medical Institute

4250 Iron Works Pike

Lexington, KY 40511

859.255.8741

**Hagyard.com**

### Ohio State

### University

Veterinary Medical Center

Galbreath Equine Center

601 Vernon L. Tharp Street

Columbus, OH 43210

614.292.6661

**Vet.OSU.edu/VCM/equine**

### Rood & Riddle

### Equine Hospital

Dr. Brad Tanner, DVM, AVDC-EQ

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