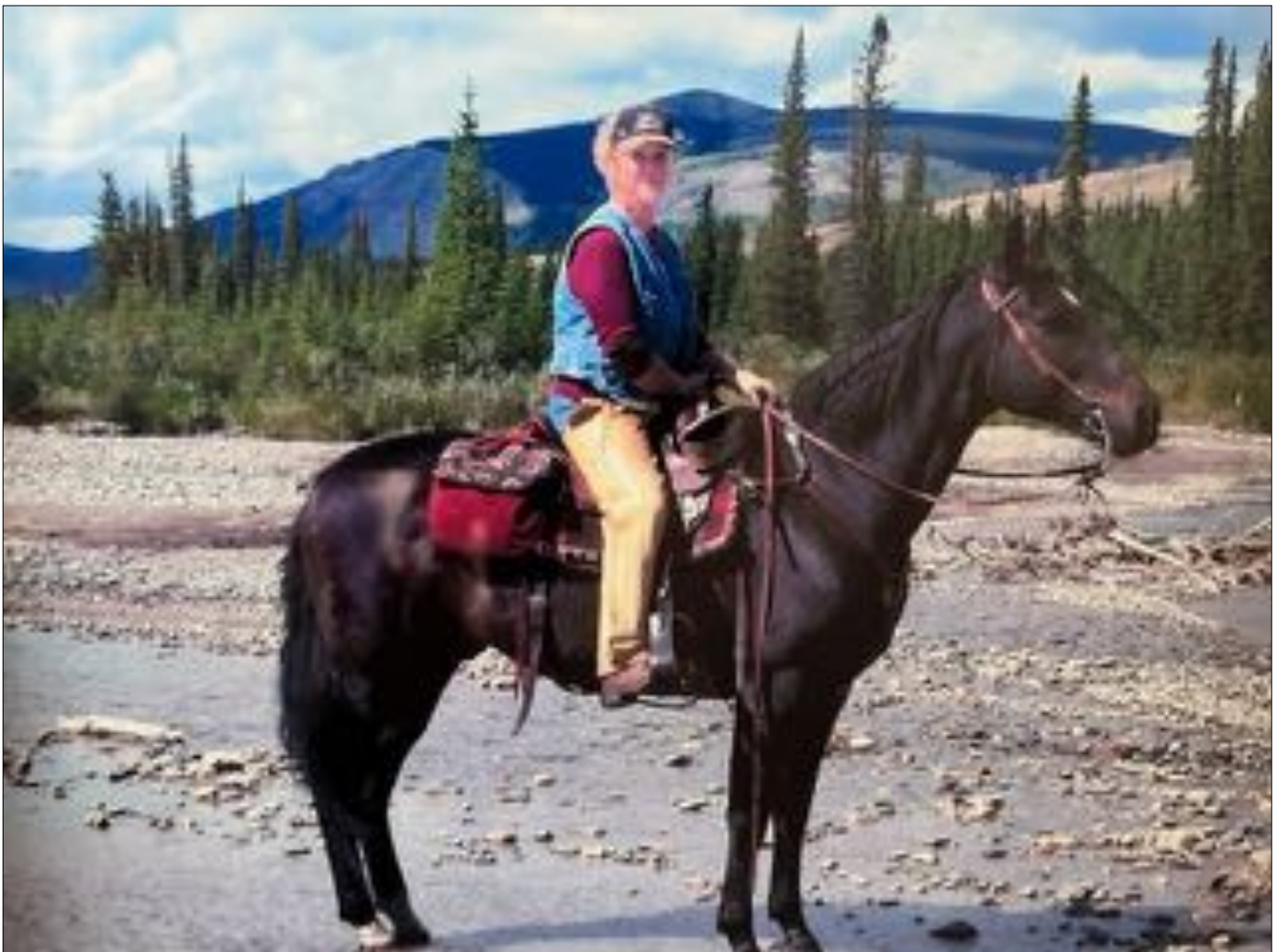


APRIL 2023  
VOLUME XLVII, No. 2



# Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

*Walking Horse News*, Box 7326, Edson, Alberta T7E 1V5

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# Walking Horse News

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## On Our Cover

Lissa Townsend  
with  
Toddy's Apollo  
in his younger years.  
See Lissa's story  
on how she got started  
with Walkers  
on page 3.

Photo courtesy of  
Lissa Townsend

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**NEXT  
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**2023-04**

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## Volume XLVII #2 April, 2023

Dear Subscribers,

We are nearly at the spring equinox and it feels like it's been a *long* winter. There's still a way to go but daylight is staying later now and the sun is brighter. Are there any new foals yet? Send in your birth announcements - then we'll be sure it's spring!

How a foal develops is on page 7, with information taken from *The Horse* by John M. Kays. We have more 'At Stud' ads than we've had for some years, and I've heard from several people who are looking for a new mount. Time to advertise if you have a TWH for sale!

Allanna Jackson gives us important information on equine metabolic disorders in *Backyard Walkin'* and Franne Brandon tells us about a family with 100 years of raising TWH from the same blood-line. Trish Newby sent some *Prairie TWH* history from about 70 years ago, and Keith Oberle suggests something new and useful to do with your Walker.

Thanks to Lissa Townsend who tells how they got started with Walkers. Let's hear *your* story! And thank you to all who sent in stories, articles, ads, news and information. There's no *News* without you!

*Marjorie*



Anna Sawicki updates our WHN website. She has a 23 year old Polish Arab. (TWH are rare in ON.) Anna says, "I've had her about three years. She sure doesn't show her age, does she? She's a flea bitten grey, but so many 'flea bites' make her look part bay!"

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April, 2023

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## TWH HISTORY & HERITAGE



### HOW I GOT STARTED WITH TENNESSEE WALKING HORSES

by Lissa Townsend

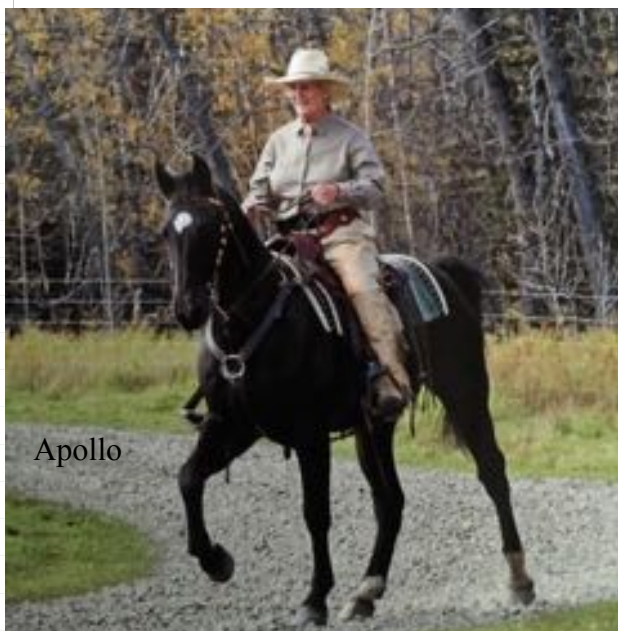
How I got started with Walkers, you ask? Well, let me just say 'it's all Greg Germscheid's fault!' The end of August 2004 found us taking our annual two week vacation camped at Cut Off Creek with our two trail savvy Quarter Horses. That particular day we had enjoyed a fabulous ride for about the first 15 km, and then, as the song goes "we took a little wrong turn"...

It was a long, long trip back to camp, and as good a horse as that big paint gelding Fred was riding at the time was, there was almost nothing smooth about him.

Finally back and on two legs (or in a lawn chair) we noticed three riders and two pack horses making some pretty serious tracks across the prairie coming into camp. I remember Fred saying "Look at those people; they're hardly even moving!". We made our way over to say Hello, where we met Greg, his daughter Becky and a friend who were just coming back from a little pack trip to 40 Mile. Greg was happy to answer Fred's questions while we admired their entourage. He generously offered Fred a ride on his wonderful Diamond.

Well, after the ride Fred had had that day, it didn't take two turns around the parking lot. As he was handing the reins back to Greg he was saying to me, "We're going to get Tennessee Walkers!"

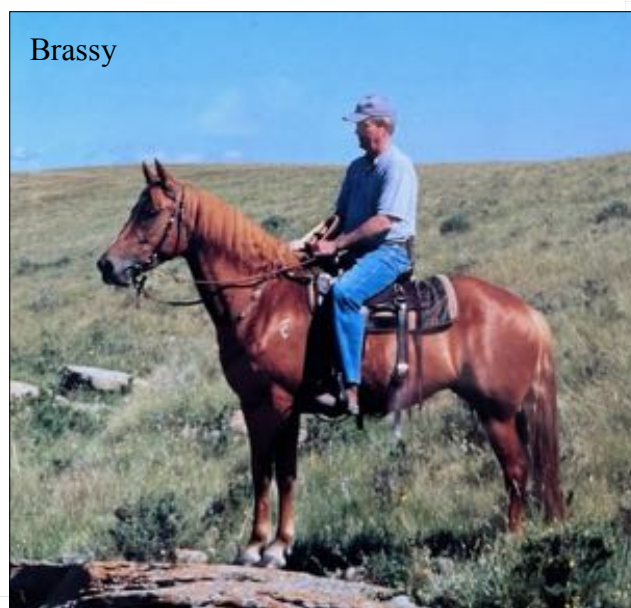
The next spring on April 23, 2005 I purchased Toddy's Apollo from John and Christine Kozba in Pincher Creek (*below*). Apollo reg. 941731 US, 1994-1424 CAD by Midnight Toddy out of Thing's Diamond Li'l had been their breeding stallion until the previous spring. This amazing horse has definitely been my heart horse and remains with me to this day. He will be 29 years old in April, and though now I only ride him occasionally around the property, when you throw a leg over him he is still a horse to be reckoned with!



Apollo

At the same time I purchased Apollo, Fred made the trip up to Entwistle and purchased Chance Footsteps 20100860 US, 2001-3220 Cdn (aka Brassy) from Greg and Maureen Germscheid. So began our Tennessee Walking Horse journey and we have never looked back.

There have been quite a few wonderful Walkers come and go throughout the last almost 20 years, and we consider ourselves very blessed. After all,

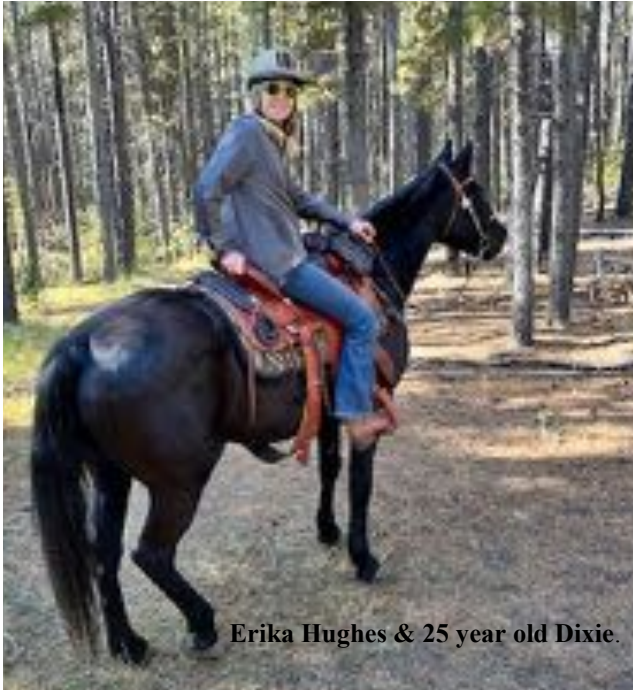


Brassy

how does one resist this amazing breed with its fabulous attitude, wonderful disposition... and then there's that gait (or, as we all know... gaits!) We have settled (at least that's the plan) on two younger Walkers in the yard now... and of course Apollo, the horse with tremendous heart and my heart horse.

Have a safe adventurous 2023, everyone, and maybe we'll cross paths on the trail!

# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



Erika Hughes & 25 year old Dixie.

JENNIFER HUGHES, BLACK DIAMOND, AB, writes, “We would love to get a subscription to your newsletter. We have owned a TWH since 2013 and love her dearly. She is going to be 26 this spring and is still so healthy and the leader of our horses.”

“We are looking for another TWH as our Dixie is getting some age on her and we don't want to use her too much. Her registered name is Dixie's Hot Morning Mist (Dixie's Hot Chocolate x Midnight Fireball). She has been amazing all these years and has the most beautiful conformation and smooth gaits.”

From PAIGE SARGEANT, RIMBEY, AB, “My 2022 Northfork Traveller filly, PS Silky's Cherry Bomb, has spent the winter here with us. By spring she'll be ready to go, with halter, foot and trailer training. I also have coming five and three year old geldings and a really nice palomino stud colt prospect at home as well. The stud colt, Phantom, is one of only five horses in the registry with 25 of 31 Canadian registered horses on its pedigree. Quite a few young horses ... and a torn meniscus in my knee is keeping me from riding!”

“We are only expecting one foal this year, another pairing of Pepper (Northfork Big Sky Spirit) and Luna, (Jewel's Travel'N Luna) adding one more to the five horses in the Registry that have 25 Canadian horses on their CRTWH pedigrees. They are a lovely pair and haven't let me down yet!”

KEITH OBERLE, COCHRANE, AB writes, “At my next birthday (June 18), my age and that of Yvening Sugar Moon (AKA Sugar) will total 100. We're both in good health. I also still have Skylines Regulus, AKA Reggie, who is only a few years younger than Sugar. In summer I usually ride the mountain trails weekly and am looking forward to spring.”

*(See Keith's article on the Foothills Therapeutic Riding Association in this issue.)*

From WINDI SCOTT, MAYERTHORPE, AB, “Here's what we've been doing at the Sawhorse Ranch. Enjoying the winter. Have had the sleigh out a number of times. Looking forward to the riding season.”



“I've started working with my coming four year old: FF-16 Walkin on Sunshine (*above*). He's a lovely boy with lots of potential. I'm taking it slowly because I have lots of time and am not as agile (or daring) as I used to be. I think I'll be doing the liberty challenge with him as well as a wee bit of pleasure riding and a few tricks. I'm looking forward to riding Fergie (Northfork Red Duchess) again this year as my main mount. I'll continue working with Ghost (Ghost of Future Past) on arena stuff with the clicker. It's our 'thing'! Funny how different they all are. As for the others in the field, they all get my attention in one way or another almost every day. I call it 'happy hour'. The warmest part of the day I go out and play with my pals. Soon we'll have warm spring evenings too. Thankful for another year at the ranch. Always a blessing.”

## THE COLONEL'S LAST STAND - The Story of Smokey Mountain Colonel & Donna Rowand

I am not sure of the date, but sometime in the late 1940's or early fifties, my Mom, Donna Rowand was showing a "rescued" Tennessee Walking Horse named Smokey Mountain Colonel around Manitoba, usually in exhibition classes because no one knew what they were!

Donna was the lead rider for prestigious Macdonald Farms located near Winnipeg, owned by Mr. Hugh Macdonald. She mainly rode Mr. Macdonald's high-end Saddlebreds and won countless ribbons and trophies for the stable.



Donna started competing in horse shows at a very young age. She won many ribbons at shows around Winnipeg on her horse, Heather (*above*), The earliest ribbon I have is dated 1937. She had the opportunity, via her friends, to take a spin around Polo Park Racetrack on a competing thoroughbred – at full speed! She said that was the most physically challenging riding she had ever done. She was so exhausted her whole body was shaking - and she was in peak physical condition.

Another friend of hers promised he would teach her to drive a team of horses. He was a very successful show winner himself. So, at the Brandon

Show practice ring he called her over and she had about 1-2 minutes of instruction on how to handle the reins of a team which just happened to be a Four-In-Hand hitch of Hackney show stallions – who were about 15 feet off the ground with excitement. Not your easiest first drive! As they came down the middle of the practice ring, her "friend" jumped off, yelling at her to keep going, the Class was starting! Well, she won the class, managing not to have a runaway or kill anyone! For someone who has never driven a team of excited horses, it's hard work. Mom said she couldn't lift her arms for two days afterwards.

One of the founders of the AQHA said of Donna that she had the most perfect seat on a horse he had ever seen; she was truly one of those athletes who made your mouth drop open watching the pure poetry of her riding. Oh, and she had one other driving experience of note – a runaway Milk Delivery horse and wagon at the age of seven. They ran right past her mother who was out on the front porch. They found Donna with the wagon and horse over two miles away. She wanted to do that again!

So, knowing her background of adventurous horsemanship, Mr. Macdonald telephoned her one day asking that she come to the farm at a certain time. He wanted her to meet a horse that he had bought and see if she could do anything with him. If she felt she couldn't do anything with the horse, it was to be shot immediately. That horse was Smokey Mountain Colonel, a purebred Tennessee Walking show horse.

Smokey Mountain Colonel had been purchased by Mr. Macdonald out of the Southern USA. There was a big kerfuffle at a barn he was visiting, and when he heard the horse's story and saw the horse, decided he would like to try to save the horse. Knowing Donna's ability and special way with horses, he thought maybe, just maybe, the horse could be saved. You see, Colonel was scheduled to be put down the next day. "The Colonel" was a man killer. He had already killed two men and was labeled as unredeemable.

Why was he a man killer, you ask? Simple, he was a show horse who had suffered such abuse and indignities that he had been pushed to the point of fighting back. My Mom told me of the scars from the horrid abuse he suffered. Now this is not for the squeamish. The underside of his tail was covered in a mass of crisscrossed razor blade cuts where they had cut the skin and rubbed ginger into the wounds to make his tail carriage high. His pasterns were

similarly thickened with scarring where not only had they cut his skin and rubbed ginger into the open wounds, but had almost completely peppered it with poke marks from the heavy, tightly applied, spiked chains they wound around them so he would pick his feet up higher and fling them farther out in an attempt to escape the painful chains and butchering. Added in were the usual weighted shoes and he wore one of the most vicious bits my Mom said she had ever seen, with the longest shanks she ever saw. Mr. Macdonald brought these items back because he wanted to display and educate people on the horrible abuses these extremes of showing was inflicting on horses.

So, on a warm sunny day, the horse was delivered for my Mom to determine if she would be able to rehabilitate "The Colonel". It took six men with long ropes and whips to off load him and get him into the practice ring on the farm. There was a man from the farm standing by, waiting with a rifle to kill The Colonel, if necessary.

Mom watched Colonel for a while until he finally settled down and began to watch my Mom. My Mom then went into the ring, against all advice. She felt that she had to get closer to see if she could make a connection with the horse.

To make a long story short, that day Colonel chose to try to trust one more human being, my Mom. It took a few months only, because we all know just how smart and willing Walkers can be, for Mom to be able to start riding him.

However, it took that time and more to heal him from his injuries and for a farrier to be able to get close to start trimming his feet back to normal. For a very, very long time, the only man ever allowed to be near Colonel was that very special, patient farrier.

Mr. Macdonald showed his will to my Mom. It was written in his will that if he should die before

The Colonel, and if my Mom could not take him, he was to be shot immediately. A rifle was kept at the barn at all times just in case.

As you can see in the photo, the bit is normal, Colonel's ears are up and he's moving out happily. Colonel never had to face being put down again. He did not outlive my Mom or Mr. Macdonald. Colonel lived out his days contentedly, being very well cared for and loved. Over time, men were able to pet him again but never ride him. He especially liked being petted by children.



*It's time for the annual Brandon Fair and horse lovers from across the prairies are preparing their mounts for the horse show. Here Miss Donna Rowand gives Smokey Mountain Colonel one of his final workouts before leaving for Brandon. The horse is owned by Hugh Macdonald.*

This is an ode to the resilience, intelligence and big heart of the Tennessee Walking Horse, and a testament to what can happen when we take the time to gain trust and to communicate with our horses.

It is also a reminder of why some show practices of what is now commonly known as 'big lick' should, in my opinion, be outlawed. It's also a reminder of just how cruel people can be in order to win at a horse show.

The Colonel is not the only horse to have lost his mind with the cruelty inflicted upon him by such practices, but his is one story we know and we should not forget.

*Trisha Newby*

*This is what my Mom told me and I believe it's an important story. Colonel was not the only horse to face euthanasia due to abuse in the extreme showing world. I am sure there were many other horses crippled and killed. My Mom said that's what she thought as well, because what was done to Colonel was considered normal practice.*

*I have included two photos as well, one of Mom and Colonel from the Winnipeg Free Press (above) and one of some of the ribbons she won as a very young girl. She started showing at around the age of nine, I think.*



## READERS WRITE

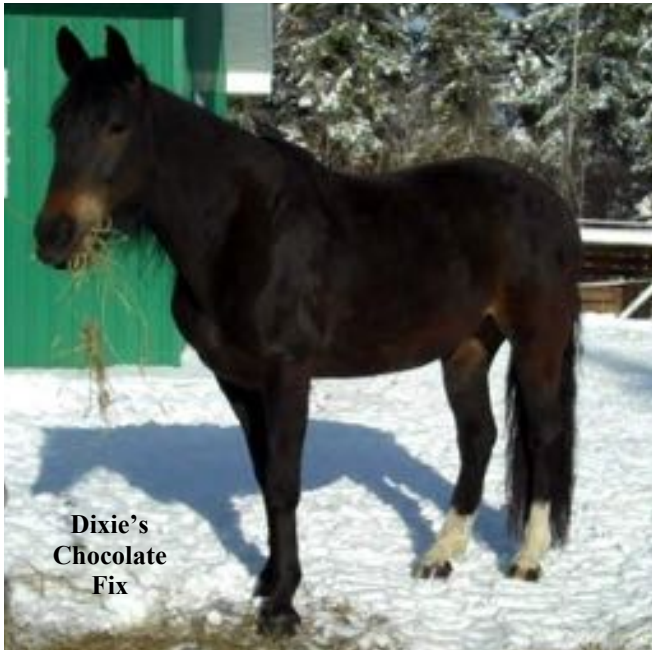
On seeing the cover photo of Langlois' covered wagon on the January/February issue, readers made these comments:

GRACE LARSON, KALISPEL, MT : "Thank you, Marjorie. Wish I was young again! I'd be racing over the hills on Rickey bareback like I used to do!"

ANNA SAWICKI, NEW LISKEARD, ON: "OMG, I wanna be there!" *A lot of us felt the same! MCL*



From SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, ON, "About the day after my new Tennessee Walking Horse arrived from Alberta, I was in the local feed store restocking my horse supplies. An unknown man suddenly appeared at my side. I was concentrating so hard on the new brushes and latest equipment that I didn't even look up, but thought how annoying it was that this person was in my bubble. He asked what kind of horse I had. I answered 'Tennessee Walker' without so much as a glance in his direction. "



Dixie's  
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"Even when he broke into song and sang me "The Tennessee Stud" (with quite a good voice I might add) I was so focused I kept my eyes on the shelves full of horse supplies, and I still felt slightly annoyed. I paid the bill and headed for the truck where Dave was waiting for me. When I got in he asked me, "Did you meet Bobby Hull?" He's in there doing a promotion for a feed company..."

"Who else can claim that Bobby Hull sang them "The Tennessee Stud"? And that's my Bobby Hull story! Rest in peace, Bobby."

## GESTATION IN THE MARE

*For those of us hoping for foals this spring, eleven months is a long time to wait. So what's happening during all that time?*

**After one month** from a successful breeding the embryo is 1 1/2 inches long, & weight is minute.

**By the end of the second month** it's three & three quarters of an inch long, weight still minute but limbs are distinct and sex recognizable.

**By three months** weight is 4 1/2 - 6 oz, & 8-9 in.

**After four months** the embryo weighs 2 lb & is 8-9 inches long, with first traces of hair.

**At five months** its weight has more than doubled to 4 lb, 4 oz. and length is from 9 to 15 inches.

**Six months** shows a big increase to 22 inches and 12 lb, 12 oz. Hair is much more apparent.

**By seven months** the foal is 23 to 25 inches long and weighs 29 3/4 to 34 lbs, and is growing a mane.

**At the end of eight months** it is 27 to 29 inches, 36 to 42 lbs, and hair is apparent all along the spine.

**Nine months** shows a foal of 30 to 33 inches in length and 51 to 57 lbs, with short hair all over.

**At ten months** the foal is 34 to 37 inches and 64 to 74 lbs, The coat and long hairs are fully grown.

**When 11 months are finally up** the foal will be 43 inches or more and weigh from 85 to 107 lbs. Milk molars are through the gums & the foal is ready to meet the world!

We say 'eleven months' which is a rough average. 340 days is considered the norm for gestation but mares may carry their young 2 or 3 weeks less or up to a month longer in some cases.

Good luck to everyone expecting a new foal this year. Be sure to send us a birth announcement!



## STALLIONS OF THE PAST



## CALTA MIDNITE VICTRY



Born May 29, 1979 #224 / [US]793709  
By Midnight Jester E. x Bell's Little Beauty.  
A big jet black horse, he was bred by Hilton Hack of Calta Stables, Calgary, AB and lived there his whole life. As you can see above, he was an impressive parade horse!  
Vic was a popular sire in Alberta and left over 40 registered offspring when he died in 1994. Check your Walker's pedigree - Vic may be on it. And see the Calta business card on the back page featuring Vic and his son, Caligula.

## READERS CORNER

I've been reading two of Temple Grandin's books,

**ANIMALS IN TRANSLATION**

and

**MAKING ANIMALS HAPPY**

and they offer fascinating insights into how animals think and why they behave as they do. She includes horses along with most other domestic animals, and even if you only check out the sections on horses it will be well worth your while. You'll see your horse's behaviour with new eyes and better understanding. I highly recommend these books for anyone who interacts with any animals.

**HORSE** by Geraldine Brooks is a novel with a horse at its center, the famous American Thoroughbred Lexington, but that just forms the center of a gripping story that reaches back to 1850. Here's the write-up on it: *"A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history."* MCL



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# THE FOOTHILLS THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION

By Keith Oberle



Someone once said, “there is nothing like the outside of a horse for the inside of a child”. The Foothills Therapeutic Riding Association has been putting this advice into action for over 30 years. Children with challenges, especially mental or social, sometimes physical, (or all three), are referred to FTRA by specialists and teachers in the Foothills school division. The Program is active in spring and fall one day a week for six weeks, six children each group, two sessions in the morning and two after noon, so 24 children get to ride each week (the same 24 children for the duration). All “staff” are volunteers. Some have been involved since the beginning, and some are “rookies” like Kathy and me. Some names of volunteers may be familiar to *WHN* readers - Gar Beacom, Leslie Hunchuk, Blane Charles. (*Blane & Leslie , with Sugar and child, in photo above*)

Kathy and I sold our ranch over a year ago and I now board my remaining two horses at Gar’s. I ride almost weekly in the foothills with Blane, so had heard a little about FTRA from Gar and him. Kathy and I thought we could help, so offered and were gratefully accepted.

Word was that they could use more horses to replace some of the older ones. I have one of those! My old TWH mare, Evening Sugar Moon 2002 -[CAN]3503-(Go Shaker Go x Walkien Black Magic), also known as Sugar) is a natural. Leslie even gets to lead her occasionally (and so far, I haven’t...)!

As previously mentioned, the FTRA program consists of putting these special kids on a horse for an hour once a week for 6 weeks. The school folks provide an outline of “issues” that each child may be dealing with. FTRA leaders then devise a program to pro-

vide benefit to the individual. The Okotoks Agricultural Arena is the venue. Each child is provided with his or her own saddle, boots, helmet, and safety belt for the duration of the six weeks. (Keeping this organized is a huge job, but a volunteer has taken it on for several years now and is very good at it. He does get some help from other volunteers.) Three or four adults accompany each child (depending on the child’s needs). One leads the horse, one (or two) walk along side, ready to grab the safety belt if necessary, and a “Captain” who works out the route and exercises for the individual child, based on the child’s needs. There normally are six horses with their teams in the arena at one time, along with the program director and horse specialist who keep a watchful eye on the “happenings” from the centre of the arena. Safety is number one, program number two. The large arena helps.

The change in some of these children is unbelievable! Kathy and I are sold on this program and plan to continue as long as we are able. We have done a spring and a fall session and cannot wait until spring comes again (for more reasons than one - I’m writing this in the winter...). Words cannot describe the satisfaction that Kathy and I have received from this limited involvement. Being retired, it gives us a sense of usefulness in our later years (and something to talk about...).

I must admit to an ulterior motive in writing this: FTRA can always use more adult volunteers and good quiet horses! The horses need to behave in a strange environment and in the presence of strange horses. The children vary in size but very large horses would not work very well. The volunteer does not need to have any horse experience but should be reasonably mobile. We sometimes move fast enough to get a bit of trot (or fast walk from a TWH. Some of the kids can’t handle a trot so the smooth TWH is perfect). The horse comes and goes home with the volunteer or lender. FTRA does not have boarding capability so cannot take horse donations.

Interested people are invited to contact me at

**[keithoberle856@gmail.com](mailto:keithoberle856@gmail.com) or [info@ftra.ca](mailto:info@ftra.ca)**

or go to the FRTA website:

**[foothillstherapeuticriding.com](http://foothillstherapeuticriding.com).**



# The Canadian Walker

Volume 22, Issue 2

[www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

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April, 2023

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## **The CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**will be held May 16 via Zoom.**

**Formal notices will be sent out by letter or email.**

**All members of the Registry are invited to attend.**

**Hope to see you there!**



## **HORSE EXPO 2023**

**APRIL 27 - 30**

Come and meet the Board members and volunteers who set up our booth and love to talk Walkers! There's always something new to see or learn, interesting information or items to take home, and always, great pictures of TWH. *Above is President Bobbie Buck & daughter Chloe getting things set up, and below a visitor signing the guest book. See you there!*



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Members get a \$5.00 credit at CLRC** by sending in the registration certificate of a deceased horse. All you have to do is send the registration certificate to CLRC along with it a note saying when the horse died. Request that the certificate be cancelled and returned to you, and ask that they credit the five dollars to your account.

Why bother? Apart from the credit, it helps keep registration records up to date. For example, any one looking for horses of a certain bloodline won't waste time researching horses that are dead and gone. It also helps keep our registration records current & accurate.

## **WALKING HORSE NEWS ARCHIVES**

We've made a start on putting the *WHN* issues up on the CRTWH website. So far the first years, 1977 & part of 1978 are posted along with 2017 to 2022.

Apart from looking back at TWH history in Canada, the magazines can be used as a resource. Find any article or topic by looking at the 'Contents' pages. For example, for an article about photographing horses, you could go to the April 2021 issue to read Jo-Anne McDonald's interview with Sue Gamble. There's a wealth of info available.



**THE CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE  
TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**



***CONGRATULATES***  
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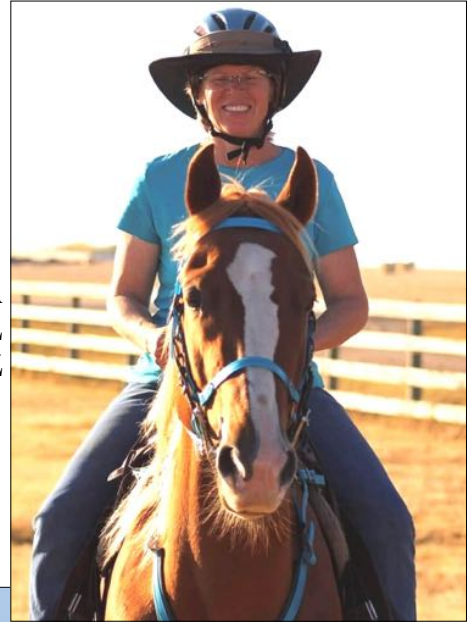
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## **GENERATIONS** by Franne Brandon

In 1923, exactly 100 years ago, Marshall County, Tennessee farmer and horseman R.H. Clark purchased a two-year-old sorrel stallion. The colt was sired by a black horse named Major Allen and the colt's dam was a daughter of a popular Coffee County stallion named Roan Allen. Clark named the stallion Red Allen and offered him at public stud. Twelve years after Clark acquired Red Allen, in April of 1935, a group of men met in the county seat of Marshall County, Lewisburg, to organize a breeders' association for the area's native saddle horse with its unique running walk gait. Three of Red Allen's four grandparents were accorded foundation status as Mitch F-5, Merry Legs F-4, and Roan Allen F-38. Two years after the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America was formed, Clark registered his fourteen-year-old stallion as Clark's Red Allen 370021.

Clark's Red Allen was a popular breeding horse. When Mr. Clark passed away, his daughter, Sara Clark Oliver and her husband, Herman Oliver, inherited the old horse. Oliver stood Clark's Red Allen until he died. He did not keep a son of the big sorrel, but Sara Oliver's brother, Jesse Clark, had taken his mare by Hunter's Allen F-10 to the court of Red Allen in 1937. The following spring, she foaled a chestnut colt that was registered as Red Bud Allen 380833. Red Bud Allen was walky enough to win blue ribbons in the show ring but smart enough to respond to Jesse Clark's many voice commands, including going up and down the stairs of the Victoria house on the farm where Clark lived.

In 1965, Jesse Clark's nephew, Leon Oliver, finished his service with the U.S. Army and returned home to Middle Tennessee. A preservationist at heart, he decided to take the family's bay walking mare, Merry Man's Star, to the court of his uncle's stallion. In 1966 and again in 1967, Star produced a red colt by Red Bud Allen. The older colt died, leaving the younger one to carry on the tradition. Leon registered him as Red Bud's Rascal 674900.

Red Bud's Rascal arrived during a period when the show walker was very popular and the natural walking pleasure horse ignored by many people. Trends began to change in the late seventies, however, as trail riding began an upswing and classes for flat shod walking horses returned to some shows. In 1987, when Old Bud, as the stallion was then known, was twenty years old, Leon had a set of business cards printed advertising his jack stock and Red Bud's Rascal, pleasure horse stallion. Old Bud offered

bloodlines that were totally different from the popular show lines; he was gentle, friendly, and a natural walking horse. Mares began to come to his court from owners who wanted foals with those traits rather than fire and pace.



**Leon with Old Bud at 25**

In 1988, Leon's good daughter of Old Bud, Red Bud's Lady, foaled a chestnut grey colt by a black grey Ebony's Senator son named Senator's Sterling. Leon registered the grey colt as Buds Sterling Bullet and offered both stallions at stud until the old stallion died at age 30 in June, 1997.

While Bullet, very popular with local mare owners and well-known around the country, continued at stud at Brown Shop Road Farms, sons of Red Bud's Rascal saw service in the stud. Among this number were the bay Bud's Buddy, the blond sabino Bud's Final Souvenir, Leon Pierce, Oliver's Crackerjack, Red Bud's Rambling Slim, Souvenir's Rascal, Total Flashback, and Wind Dancer in the Storm. Most of these were at stud for only a few years, as owners tired of stallion ownership and management. The one stallion that continued to pass along the Red Bud's Rascal genetics over the years was Red Bud's Rambling Slim, a handsome bay stallion out of a mare by Mark's Crackerjack named Mark's Black Madge.

Slim was owned for most of his life by Tod Finley, also a part of the family legacy of the Clark's Red Allen horses. Slim stood at Tod and Penny Finley's Plainview Farm for his entire life. Slim was attractive, well-conformed and gentle. His foals had the looks and the fine walking gaits. Slim represented the fourth generation of the Clark's Red Allen line.

Leon and Mary Lou Oliver did not have any children. Leon's younger brother Buddy, however, did and son John Wallace Oliver inherited his dad's love of



horses and desire to preserve the family's equine bloodlines. John took his red trail mare, Sterlings Signature Lady, by his Uncle Leon's Buds Sterling Bullet, to the court of Red Bud's Rambling Slim. The first foal was a filly registered as Ladys Rambling Rose. The second was a heads-up horse colt with a strong hip and driving back end. John liked the colt, registered as Slim's Gun Runner, so much that he decided to give the youngster a chance to prove himself in the stud. And Gun Runner has not disappointed.



He is not just a pretty face, with his hooked ears and intriguing wide snip. He served as a trail mount before meeting his first mares, and he proved responsive and gentle enough to be ridden on the trails by ladies as well as gentlemen. His first foals inherited his good conformation and strong gaits. They come in a variety of colors, depending on the mare, since as a chestnut, Gun Runner has the recessive ee gene. But he also has recessive agouti (tested aa), which means that he will not sire bay foals out of



black mares. Mare owners that want a black base baby can get them with Gun Runner. His 2022 foals, both colts, were friendly and very walky at their dam's sides. The black colt is out of Delinas Lady Senator, while the red colt's dam is the tobiano pony mare that the Oliver children once rode.

The Double O Farm is home not only to Gun Runner but to several very nice mares. John's wife Kate Oliver is a teacher by profession and an avid trail rider on the weekends. Her mount in 2022 was Ostella Brown Sugar, bred by Leon Oliver, a big and beautiful flax sorrel mare with strong walking gaits that takes care of her rider on the trails. In 2022, John rode the homebred black mare Buds Fullmoon Dancer, by Bud's Divine Masterpiece, another Red Bud's Rascal grandson.



John and Kate's daughter Shelby is as at home on the rail as on the trail. A high school senior, she is an accomplished young rider who has already started young horses under saddle. Son Jake is more interested in trail riding than in showing. His gelding Rango is another homebred that, while not registered, still carries many of the bloodlines that have been in his family for decades.

Tennessee has many century farms, owned by the same family for 100 years or more. The Tennessee Walking Horse breed does not have many century families that have owned and promoted and loved the same bloodline for a century or longer. R.H. Clark, Herman and Sarah Oliver, Leon and Buddy Oliver, John and Kate Oliver, children Shelby and Jake Oliver. Clark's Red Allen, Red Bud Allen, Red Bud's Rascal, Red Bud's Rambling Slim, Slim's Gun Runner. Five generations of owners, five generations of stallions tracing back to before the organization of a breeders' association for Tennessee's native saddle stock. While a number of families have been involved with the breed since before a registry existed to record its pedigrees, very few, if any, other families have persisted in perpetuating and promoting the bloodlines that their ancestors developed for a hundred years. More families like this will insure the success of the breed in years to come.



## **Back Yard Walkin'**

by Allanna Lea Jackson © March 2023

### **EQUINE METABOLIC DISORDERS**

Before Cinnamon was diagnosed with Pituitary Par Intermedia Dysfunction, I was aware of the existence of an alphabet soup of acronyms for equine metabolic disorders including: EMS, HAL, ID, PPID. I was also aware that researchers have been learning that these are different problems with similar symptoms. But what are they and what can we as owners do about them?

After Cinnamon's diagnosis I needed to know exactly what we were dealing with and what the best management options are. I began researching veterinary school websites for the most current information on equine metabolic disorders. Sources I found include: The "Equine Endocrinology Group's 2022 Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Management of Equine Metabolic Syndrome"; "The Equine Endocrinology Groups 2021 Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Management of Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction"; "Proceedings from the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Equine Endocrine Symposium, Jan 3-5 2023" held at Bern, National Horse Center in Switzerland; and the "2022 American Association Convention Highlights" report in the Spring 2023 issue of "The Horse" magazine.

Equine metabolic syndrome is abbreviated EMS. EMS is an increased risk factor for Hyperinsulemia-Associated Laminitis, abbreviated HAL, and Insulin Dysregulation, abbreviated ID. HAL and ID are the most common causes of laminitis. EMS results from an interaction of genetic and environmental factors, so any horse can develop equine metabolic syndrome.

To over-simplify it, Equine Metabolic Syndrome is a horse form of diabetes caused by too much food and not enough exercise. Easy-keeping horses are more susceptible to EMS simply because they become obese more easily than other horses. EMS is prevalent in breeds that were developed in harsh environments and for working many hours per day at moderate speeds. In those

circumstances the genetics that make these horses thrifty are beneficial to both horses and their owners. When people turn thrifty horses that were bred to work into pampered toys who loaf in lush pastures or stand around in stalls or small corrals with high grain diets and little or no work, this unnatural and unhealthy lifestyle creates EMS.

EMS can be prevented by giving the horse regular exercise and maintaining a body condition score between 4 and 6 which is from moderately thin to moderately fleshy. Working an hour or more per day several days a week at moderate speeds will keep a good-doing horse healthy and fit for anything you want to do. Endurance horses, race horses, event horses, and horses living in hot climates do well on the lean side of the ideal weight range. Slightly plump horses fare better through harsh Canadian winters.

The management of EMS is weight loss, low sugar feeds, and exercise. Eliminate grain! The rule of thumb is that horses need to eat 2% to 2.5% of their body weight in grass or hay every day and eating 1.25% of ideal body weight per day is the absolute minimum a horse can have without developing health problems. My experience is that easy-keeping horses need only 1.5% of their ideal body weight in hay per day plus regular moderate exercise to maintain the optimum body condition score of 5, which is moderate. That is so close to the minimum amount of roughage a horse needs it doesn't give much wiggle room for dieting, so slimming down a fat easy-keeper is an extremely slow process, especially if the horse can't be exercised. Preventing EMS is much easier than trying to manage it after it happens!

Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction or PPID, also known as Cushing's Disease, is another metabolic problem that has been identified in horses. The symptoms of PPID are similar to EMS and a horse can have both conditions simultaneously so a veterinarian needs to do the appropriate diagnostic tests of every horse showing metabolic symptoms to determine which problem it is.

Over-simplifying again, the key words to note about PPID are pituitary dysfunction, because this causes problems with every system in the horse's body from hooves to hair, from teeth to reproduction, metabolism and more. Getting a mare with EMS pregnant may help manage her condition because pregnancy increases her caloric needs. Getting a mare with PPID pregnant may be impossible because PPID disrupts the mare's hormones so she may not be able to conceive or maintain a pregnancy.

PPID is a very insidious disorder that begins wreaking havoc in the horse's body years before causing identifiable symptoms. The earliest symptoms

of PPID may look like several other things. PPID has many symptoms that are very similar to EMS and both conditions cause insulin dysregulation that triggers laminitis. However, the cause of PPID is different than EMS so there are differences in treatment and management.

As my Cinnamon's case demonstrates, PPID can afflict horses that have always been within the ideal weight range and in regular work, and do not have EMS. A PPID horse can have insulin dysregulation without having EMS. Cinnamon is an easy-keeper so keeping her at a healthy weight and in regular work protected her from EMS, but not PPID.

PPID can be managed but it cannot be cured. The only known risk factor for PPID is age and it occurs in about 20% of horses over age 15 regardless of breed, with a higher incidence in horses over 20. Pergolide mesylate is the only drug approved in the USA for the management of PPID and it only controls the symptoms, it does not stop the underlying disorder or prolong life. Pergolide may trigger abortion if a mare is pregnant and may cause her to have no milk if she does maintain the pregnancy full term – if the PPID itself has not made her infertile. Other drugs are authorized for treatment of PPID in other countries but pergolide is considered the best medication for most horses.

Pergolide mesylate is used to treat Parkinson's disease in humans. Both disorders are caused by a similar neurologic degeneration. In horses the neurologic degeneration affects the pituitary gland and that damage cascades into disrupting all of the horse's bodily systems so the metabolic issues are only one aspect of what is going wrong in a horse with PPID. The good news is that a 12-year study done by Dr. Harold C. Schott II, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, professor of equine internal medicine at Michigan State University, has found that pergolide improves the quality of the horse's life and can normalize the horse's endocrine status.

Horses with metabolic disorders have a high risk of recurring and worsening bouts of laminitis, which is often what kills them. They are also more susceptible to infections and parasites. In addition to regular veterinary check-ups, metabolic horses need the same basic health care that normal horses need: proper diet, exercise, free-choice access to fresh water, frequent grooming, shelter from extreme weather, regular hoof care, annual vaccinations, appropriate deworming, and yearly dental exams. A metabolic horse is more susceptible to health problems, may be limited in how much it can work, and is more likely to suffer negative consequences from lapses or delays in care. The good news is that if the owner is diligent in managing the horse's care, a metabolic horse can have a good quality of life with a normal life-span.



The Alberta Walking Horse Association had their AGM on February 25. It was well attended with some folks participating in person and some by Zoom. There was a guest speaker, Tahn Towns, who gave a very informative presentation on "When, Why and How of Prebiotics and Probiotics for horses

The Annual elections were held and all board members agreed to take another term. This board has worked very hard over the past year and has put in place significant improvements to our website, facebook page, and general ways and means. It is now possible to acquire or renew memberships online with a fully interactive process that is easy to negotiate. Our membership fees are reasonably priced at \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$10 for youth.

Fees can be sent by mail or e-transfer. The association requests the 'signing' of a waiver and this can also be done online. Please journey the website to discover what AWhA has done in the past and what's ahead for its members.

The AWhA has been able to subsidize clinic fees because of membership revenue and the procuring of funds through associations such as the AEF. This has given our participants a break on the costs incurred when travelling sometimes considerable distances to attend. We are appreciative of organizations such as the AEF.

Here is a list of our upcoming rides and clinics (to date):  
**Amazing Horse Country Liberty Clinic** with Scott Phillips  
May 4-7

**Anna Langlois Gaited Horse Clinics (2)** May 20-22 and  
May 26-28

**Ivy Starnes Gaited Horse Clinic** June 2-4

**Rocky Mountain House area trail ride** with Anna Langlois  
May 23-25 weather permitting

**Fort Assiniboine Sandhills** Wildlands Provincial Park  
Camp-out June 23 -25

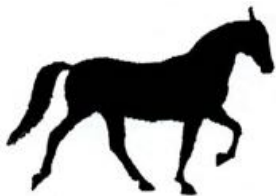
Don't forget the **on-line auction** April 8 - 22! Donations for the auction welcome anytime up to the start date of April 8th.

Please check the Alberta Walking Horse Association website for details at [awha.ca](http://awha.ca)

AWHA will be sharing a booth with the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse in Red Deer at the Horse Expo at the end of April. Drop by and say Hi!

*COME RIDE WITH US!*

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## **CARBONADO'S MIDNIGHT MOON**



was foaled in May 2020. He is a friendly, curious and easy to handle, black sabino (Ee N/SB1) triple registered colt, (CRTWH, TWHBEA & IHWHA) by NFF Echo's Blue Moon (Echo's Star Gray Wilson x Red Bud's Angel), out of Echo's Midnight Sally (Sun's Smokey Midnight x Chance's Society Paige). Midnight was imported from Carbonado Farm in Montana as a weanling.

We almost lost Midnight last May to a bad leg injury. He has recovered nicely from it, but his one front leg might never be quite back to normal. It doesn't seem to slow him down, as he still shows a nice gait and canter chasing around with Red Rascal in the pasture, but we will have to see if he will ever be riding sound.

**LL'S CANADIAN RED RASCAL** is a May 2020, red (ee, Aa) double registered (CRTWH & IHWHA) home bred colt. His sire is LL Chance's Red Rascal, by Darkie's Last Chance out of Moonlit Laughter (Red Bud's Rascal x Gold Before the Storm). His dam is LL's Ginger Spice (Carbonado's Chief Joseph x Miss Kitty)

Red Rascal has a natural, easy way of going into his four-beat gait. He has just the right combination of swing and square to his gait that allows him to stretch out into a nice walk. He comes from gentle using horses who can go all day without tiring. His sire, Jack, has proven himself to be gentle enough for anyone to ride, and this colt is proving to be very similar to his sire. We sent Red Rascal to Jesseca & Steeve (near Viking, Alberta) for some groundwork as a long yearling, and in May 2023, he will go back to further his training and be started

under saddle.

See more pictures on Facebook - Tennessee Walking Horses of Maple Lane Acres.

Contact us by

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## COMING EVENTS

**AWHA Events** - See page 16 for listings.

On-line auction items may be donated until May 8.  
We're at the Horse Expo, Red Deer, AB April 27-30.

**CRTWH** - Horse Expo, Red Deer, AB - April 27- 30.

**AGM** - May 16 via Zoom. Full info to follow.

## THE NEXT *WHN* DEADLINE IS

### MAY 7, 2023

*Submit news, articles, info*

*& ads with payment to*

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# The CANADIAN REGISTRY of the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE



*CRTWH will once again be co-hosting a booth at The Horse Expo, Red Deer, AB April 27 to 30, 2023*

*Booths from past years...*

*2008*

*2009*



*2016*



*2013*



*2017*



*2019*

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