

DECEMBER 2012
VOLUME XXXVI No. 6



Walking Horse News

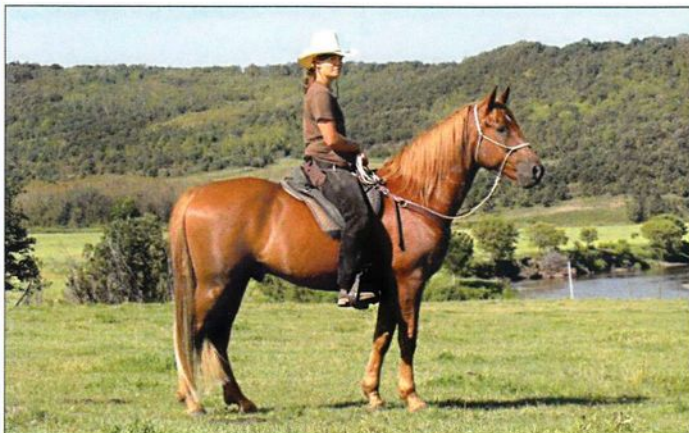


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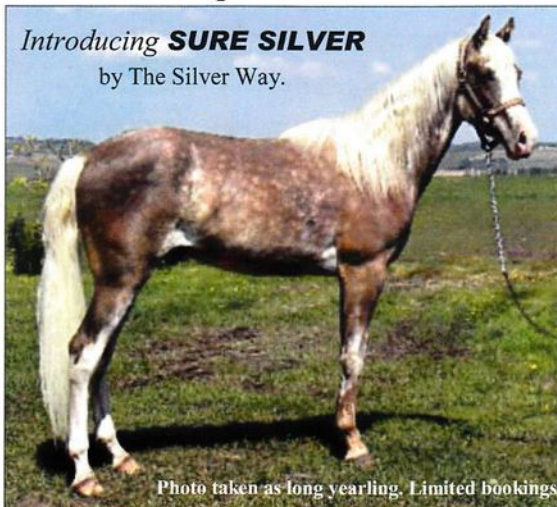


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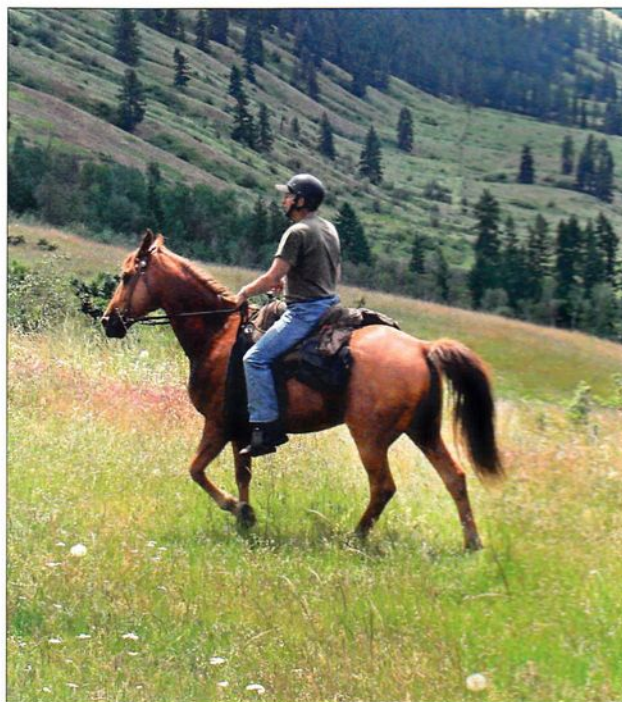
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Walking Horse News is
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Annual subscriptions are

\$21 in Canada

\$32 US Funds in U.S.A.,

\$52.00 CDN - Overseas.

*Please send Subscriptions,
Classified Ads, Display Ads
and Editorial Material to*

Editor/Publisher Marjorie Lacy

Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5

(780) 723-2547

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Website:

Internet WebDeZines

Subs list, CP Presort & Mailing

Jo Kingsland, Alix, AB

Printed by Trail Printing, Edson, AB

On Our Cover

Our cover boy
this month is
Koko's Smokin'
Surprise.

Here 'Koki' puts on
his "proud horse"
look" as he shows
that he knows
how to "step up"
on the pedestal.

See Sue Gamble's story
and some more photos of
her talented equines
on page 14.

*Photo courtesy of
Sue Gamble, ON*

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for Mar/Apr issue

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for May/June issue

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for July/Aug issue

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for Sept/Oct issue

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for Nov/Dec issue

NOVEMBER 7

TO POSTMASTER:

Publications Mail

Agreement No.40050207

If undeliverable please notify

WALKING HORSE NEWS,

BOX 7326,

EDSON, AB T7E 1V5

Volume XXXVI, # 6 November/December, 2012

Dear Subscribers,

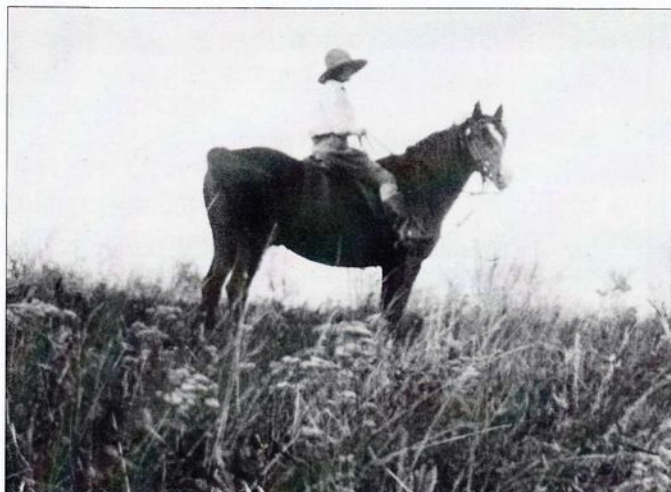
We're making up for our gorgeous fall weather with a very early onset of winter. It's been a colder than average November so far, and we've had around a foot of snow since before Halloween! But the horses don't mind. NO bugs, lots to eat, no work - what's not to like?

We still have room for 2013 cover advertisers. Advertise to your target market *and* make your horses and your farm part of the permanent record of TWH in Canada. *And* advertise your good stallion! Check page 24 for details. I look forward to hearing from you.

I'd like to dedicate this issue of *Walking Horse News* to my mother, Helen Jones Howe who just celebrated her 100th birthday in October. Her stories of the horses of her youth on the farm north of Lloydminster, AB had a lot to do with inspiring me with a life-long fascination with horses - and thus, a lot to do with this magazine you are holding in your hands! When her family came out to Canada from England in 1922, it was an old school pony, Billy Buckskin, who taught her to ride, and stood patiently while she learned to harness and 'hook him up' to drive her Dad to town. I couldn't find a picture of Mum with Billy Buckskin, but below is a photo of her on 'Pete' in 1930.

Merry Christmas, Everyone, and best wishes for the New Year in 2013,

Marjorie



WHN makes a
great gift!

Walking Horse News

December, 2012

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HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

HOW I GOT STARTED WITH WALKERS by Steve Johnston

I wanted to shoot him! You couldn't get near him. He wasn't aggressive or mean spirited - he just wouldn't let you near him. But he wasn't always this way.

He started life seven years ago on Cathy Martinoff's place in Rock Creek and to all appearances lived a charmed life. I had been introduced to the Tennessee Walking Horse earlier and when a friend of mine, Lee Rasmusen of Macklebrock Farms in Kelowna, offered me the use of his pasture, I decided that now was the time to get my very own TWH.

Thus began a two-year odyssey that required patience, money, and support. During my investigation of the TWH I'd come to believe the urban myth that all you had to do was climb on and ride off into the sunset. I couldn't have been more wrong.

He came to Kelowna on a cold winter day two years ago and I was the happiest kid on the block. A cowboy at last! I spent hours with him and thought that we were developing a relationship, if not strong, at least the beginnings of one. He was a little skittish, but I thought that with a little love and patience he would come around.

Let me introduce you to 'Lowell', a Canadian TWH registered as Liberty's Black Flag. He is a bay gelding with star, and very handsome. He had had some round pen work but had never been ridden. (My first mistake - never buy an unbroken horse). I had previously been introduced to Crystal Flichett, a TWH owner and farrier, who suggested that I contact Ralph Livingston who was known to work with Walkers in the Kelowna area. Ralph worked with Lowell for two months. All was going well. Ralph was able to ride him in the round pen and arena. I thought that my time had come. Unfortunately Lowell suffered his first setback and his progress came to an abrupt halt.

I had to leave the country for a few months and when I returned Lowell had reverted to a wild animal. By this time he was boarding at Crystal's place and although I visited daily, very little progress was evident. Crystal could ride him in the corral (she is an excellent horsewoman) but I could tell that he was too much horse for me.

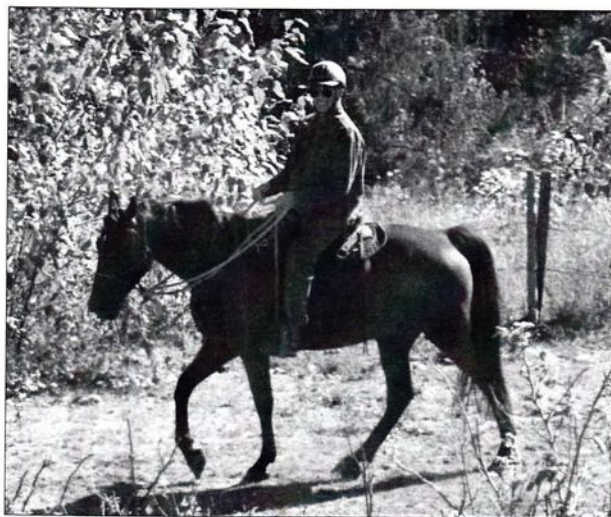
I put him up for sale... but no one wants a green broke horse with an attitude, especially in this market. No one wanted him and I couldn't ride him, so my options were few.

Bill Roy to the rescue. Bill was Lowell's last chance. Lowell did not get off to a very auspicious start when he bucked off the first person who tried to ride him at Bill's place. But Bill thought that Lowell had promise, and besides, who wants to put down a TWH who looks that good? Thereafter began a year of hard work. Lowell was taken back to the very beginning of his training. Progress was slow. As Bill is fond of saying, horses can't tell time. Thanks to Bill's commitment and Sue's care and feeding, Lowell started to be the horse we all hoped he would be.

Lowell came home this September and we spend our time in the hills and trails above Kelowna. He has turned into all that a TWH should be. You will never find us in a competition or a fancy arena, but if you happen to run across a handsome TWH and a happy rider, please stop and say hi.

Special thanks to Cathy for breeding him, to Lowell's trainers Bill and Ralph, to Sue for looking after Lowell's health (and especially for *my* lunches!). Thanks also to Crystal for never losing the faith, to my wife for supporting me, and for Lee, without whom this journey would never have begun.

Below, Steve and Lowell - the big smile says it all!



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS

DONNA CURTIS, WINFIELD, writes, "I suppose time goes by quickly for everyone - but for me, it seems to *fly*. I want to renew my subscription but I will do it for two years this time"

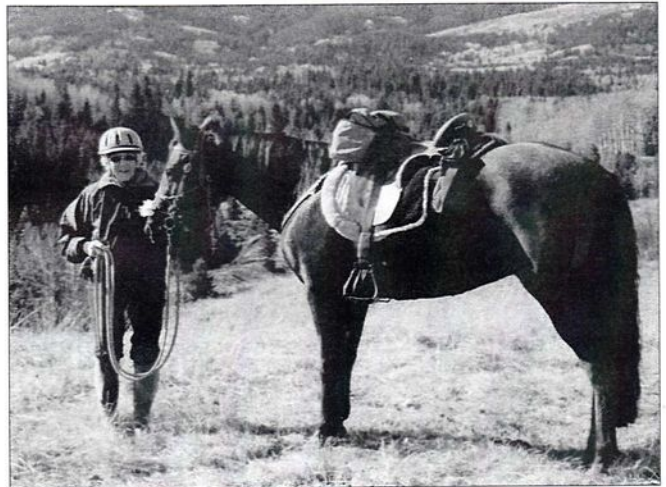
"I don't ride much anymore but I still have my TW saddle horse, Grandpa's Rocky Ride, and he is always ready for anything, even the slow rides I take. No new foals this year but I did breed my champagne mare, Halo. She lost her foal last winter but gave me a buckskin gelding the year before. I am hoping for another one with color - a filly would be nice."

"An interesting story there. In 1962 I bought an Anglo-Arab mare, Betty Lou. I bred her to the Arabian stallion, Abu Alla and got a filly, Areba. Areba was bred to the Arabian stallion, Fafaha, and I got the filly Fahreba. I subsequently bred Fahreba to Mounlis, a big, solid boned Polish Arabian, and raised another filly, Lady. Lady and her full brother, Rock, were my Arab riding, driving and pack horses for years."

When I got into the Tennessee Walkers I bred Lady to Topaz Merry Go and got a champagne filly, Cee Dee Lady's Halo. I have kept that line of horses since 1962 and have raised six generations so I'm really hoping for another filly (by the 16 hh bay horse, Cee Dee Sadie's Fudge) to continue the line."

"I am cutting back on my Walkers, so have brood mares and started youngsters for sale. Also a few well broke saddle horses. Congratulations to Lesa Luchak of Two Hills who purchased the two older mares, Miss Kitty and Cee Dee Rose's Flora. Both of these mares were sired by Calta Allegro Con Moto."

"I spent so many years trying to breed a good moving horse and now "time" tells me it is time to slow down. I hope some younger people will get the bug and continue to love and ride the Tennessee Walker."

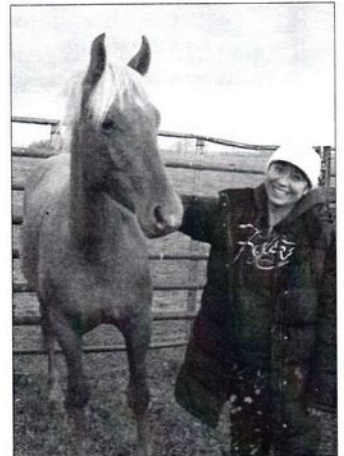


From CHARIS COOPER, TURNER VALLEY, "Thank you for show casing us on the cover and the inside of the October magazine. Above is another photo of me with Trinkette in Kananaskis Country, taken by my riding partner, Lee McLean."

"What a lovely piece by Jo on her adventures with Candy's Bay Lady 2. My thoughts are with you, Jo. My Peppi is on the road to 27 years and I know how hard it will be when the time comes for her to go to horse heaven. But she may outlive me!"

"Congratulations on 35 years of the *Walking Horse News*. It was 25 years ago that I joined CWHWA and signed up for a subscription to the "News".

KARLA FREEMAN, PONOKA, writes, "Hi Everyone. Hope this finds you settled in for winter. I would like to congratulate Charmaine Bell of Ponoka on the purchase of the yearling, Karl as Mida s Touch. He is being a good boy, and is proving to be a good ambassador for the breed. Please send a complimentary issue of the magazine, so Charmaine can join the wonderful world of Walking Horses. And a very Merry Christmas to everyone, and the best of all in the New Year."



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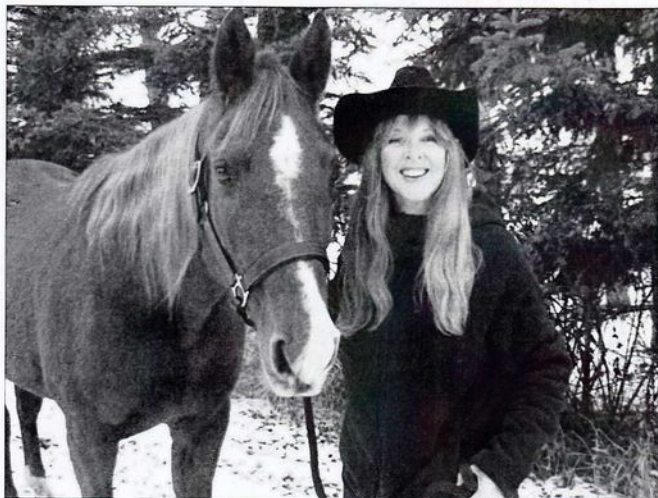
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From MARLENE FAIRBROTHER, MYRNAM, "I'm working as a nursing attendant in Vermilion at the long-term care now. Lots of driving - 62 km one way! I'll be selling all my TWH, if any readers are looking."

A JOURNEY WITH DIAMOND

by Karen Barker, Calgary, AB



I just got off the phone with Keith Doll to give him an update on how Diamond (*above*) is doing. Keith gifted one of his horses, Diamond Snipper, to me. She was bred and raised by Keith. She's by Caribou's Spitfire and her dam was Flash of Diamonds.

Diamond made her way to me from Manitoba on September 21, 2012. She arrived around 5:30 p.m. at Calta Stable, Hilton Hack's place, where she is currently boarded. I was unable to see her for three days as I had just got out of surgery for breast cancer and was very sore. Hilton provided me with multiple daily updates via telephone on how she was doing, and I lived vicariously through him for those three days. I was so anxious to get out to meet her!"

"Finally on Tuesday, September 25, I ignored the surgeon's orders and got in my truck and drove out to Calta. It was the best thing I ever did! There she was to greet me - and it was love at first sight. She was a little concerned about all the new faces, but she was so beautiful, with a personality to match. Since that day I have been at the farm almost every single day, spending time with my beloved Diamond. I credit her for getting me back to life after surgery. Even my surgeon commented that my healing and range of motion are coming along so well, and it's because she has given me a purpose to get up every day."

"There are no words to express my gratitude to Keith for sending Diamond to me. She and I are perfect for each other and she has helped me so much in my recovery from surgery, both emotionally and physically, and she will be there for me as I go through chemotherapy. I have authorization from the surgeon to start riding on October 24 so that will be our first ride. For now I spend my time grooming her and leading her around the stable like my giant dog! *See above.*

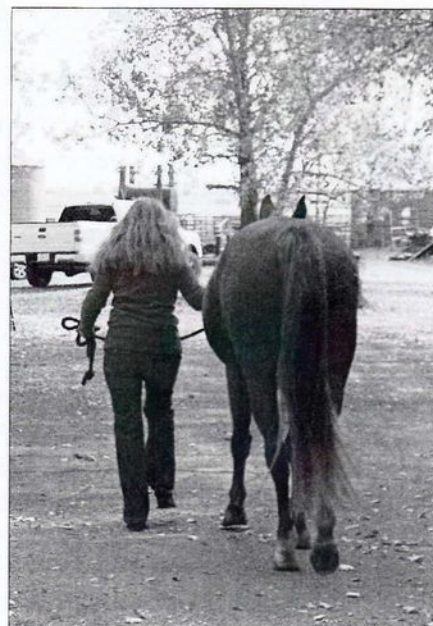
One of the girls at the stable has ridden her for me and she has a fantastic running walk! Hilton has been wonderful too. He took care of her when I couldn't and has been a great encouragement while I am living on disability insurance during my cancer treatment. I may have cancer,

but I am very fortunate to have Diamond and wonderful people like Keith and Hilton in my life."

November Update: "As you probably know, the snow has been falling relentlessly for the past few days so riding outdoors has not been an option. I did finally get a chance to ride her just this past Monday and Tuesday in the arena at Calta. She is an energetic mare despite her 21 years, very responsive to leg and vocal commands. I adore her!"

Keith informed me she had never been in an arena before so she is doing really well despite her initial apprehension to the closed-in space. I have (grandiose) dreams of the two of us doing part of the Wild Pink Yonder ride next summer, but we'll see.

I am attaching some pictures of the two of us, taken at Calta. She's very photogenic! I go out there daily and do chores (to the best of my energy level). It is very therapeutic for me and helps Hilton a bit. The surgery was a success and is healing well. I'll start chemotherapy on Nov 15th (and I am terrified). Time will tell as to what type of side effects I get and how much energy I will have, but I am confident that I will still have 'good days' and I will be spending them at Calta with Diamond.



NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ writes, "Walking Horse News arrived yesterday so I read it from cover to cover last night. My sympathy to Jo on Candy's passing. I know they shared a special bond."

"That was a shock to read about Chris Ball's sudden passing. I was introduced to him in 1992 when Jo and I did the TRAC ride at Tees. He was riding with the Williamson group and I think Gumby was his mount. As I recall he demonstrated mounting his horse from the rear when a group of us were visiting before going home after everything was over. Nice young man, who obviously had a good relationship with his horse."

"Franne's report on the 2012 Celebration was interesting. After reading it I got to wondering if maybe such a drastic decline in the Celebration show might not be cause for celebration after all, at least among us natural, sound horse enthusiasts."

"Glad my hoof boots article was helpful to someone. I did get the new gaitor for Cinnamon's left hind glove and had no trouble installing it. Haven't got around to doing anything about the power straps but that boot has only come off once. The last few rides I've used them the gloves have stayed on. I think Cinnamon's hooves are a little longer so I don't know if that's why they're staying on better or if it's because we haven't ridden through water with them recently."

From STAN POTTER, HAPPY TRAILS WALKING HORSES, FERNANDINA BEACH, "Here's a little update from Florida. I recently attended a county fair in NE Florida. Behind the livestock buildings was a grassy area and I noticed a horse on a long lead being exercised out there. He seemed kind of hyper but looked like a Tennessee Walking Horse. Upon walking up closer I noticed he had platform shoes on and no wonder the horse appeared so frustrated. Why people would do that to a horse I don't know, but it sickened me. It was the first time I had ever actually seen such a thing other than in pictures. He turned out to be a TWH and was getting groomed for showing. I just walked away."

"On a brighter note Hurricane Sandy passed us by without even dumping any rain. It was very windy but my Walkers put their heads down right into the wind and gave our guests a ride in the Atlantic Ocean just as the hurricane was passing by, quite a ways out to sea. That couple of honeymooners really enjoyed their one-of-a-kind ride that day!"

GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MT writes, "Another of our old TWH breeders has passed away. Opal Jones died peacefully in Powell, Wyoming at the age of 91. Tennessee Walking Horses were an important part of her life. She and her husband Earl got into Walkers after their son-in-law bought Midnight's May Girl 710573 from Ted Mefford of Hot Springs, MT in 1973. Through the years they traded with Pearl Tompkins, Ted Mefford and other Montana and Wyoming breeders and built up quite a large herd of Walkers. Dan and Emily Aadland purchased the stallion, Steve's Eldorado, and nine mares from Earl and Opal, and later the stallion, Ebony's Mt. Trapper."

"Earl continues to live in the Powell Valley Nursing home. He and Opal were married January 16, 1940 and last January celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. There was an article about Opal and Earl and their Walkers in the March-April 1998 *Walking Horse News*."

HUMANE SOCIETY of the UNITED STATES APPLAUDS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

"The HSUS applauds the University of Tennessee for choosing compassion over tradition by showcasing only sound horses at this year's homecoming game," said Keith Dane, director of equine protection for The HSUS. "This sends a clear message that the University will not promote or support the abusive practice of sorning, which has long been associated with the unnatural, exaggerated high-stepping gait."

Attendees of this year's University of Tennessee homecoming game will have the pleasure of viewing the natural grace and beauty of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Once again The HSUS applauds the University for promoting and celebrating the natural athletic ability and beauty of the horse that bears the state's name.

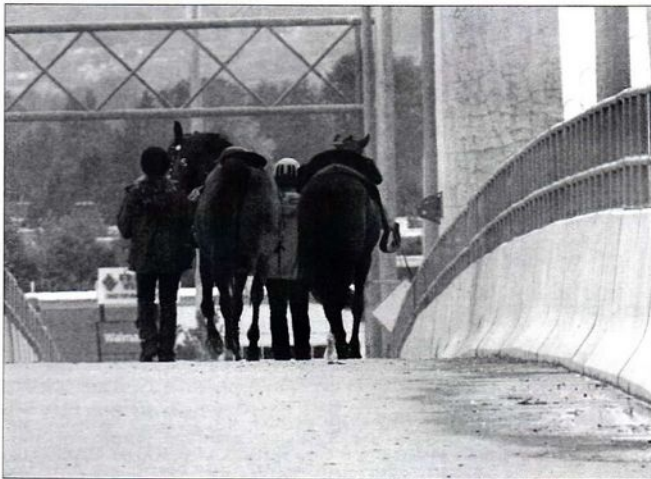


*Right -
Santa makes
an
early visit
to see
'Trigger'
(Uphill Dusty
Gold)
at
Tower Ridge
Stables,
Maple
Ridge, BC.*



OUR 2012 RIDING ADVENTURES by Chris Smith, Maple Ridge, BC

The summer of 2012 has been a fun (though at times rainy) season for me and my 12 year old Tennessee Walking Horse, Smoke Party. We rode through the spring on our beautiful local rainforest trails out of Dave and Debbie Smith's Tower Ridge Farm in Maple Ridge BC where I currently board. This was great riding but it also got us both into condition for our first big event- the Trans Canada Trail Challenge on June 3. This was a 26 km ride on the dyke system through Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows along the Trans Canada Trail, the longest trail in the world. I rode with my friend Kelly and her Arab, Renegade, hence our team name of 'Smokin' Renegades'. In recognition of Smoke's big stride and Renegade's endurance we were the lead riders. We had a lovely ride, the rain mostly held off, we saw lots of wildlife, enjoyed the beautiful scenery, and crossed the new Pitt River Bridge leading our boys (now *that* was interesting). *See below.*



The ride ended at the beautiful Minnekhada Farm property in Port Coquitlam, where the boys enjoyed grass, treats, water and a rest before our support teams (aka husbands) hauled us back to our barns. Some riders did the full loop of 52 k but we felt 26 was fine for us!

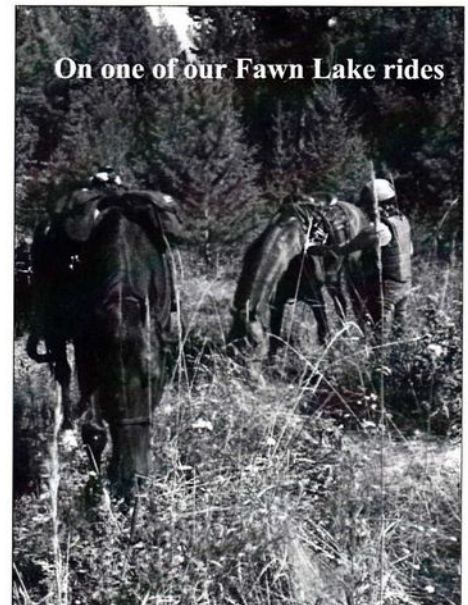
Did I mention it was a rainy early summer? The next event was a horse campout at Allco Park in the middle of June, not far in distance from our barn but miles away in terms of change of scenery and amenities. As Debbie Smith mentioned recently, the heavens opened and it poured almost the entire weekend. Smoke and I had one short ride on Friday night with Debbie and Platino, her lovely Peruvian Paso, and Bev and Kenny, a wonderful old Arab. The horse people (who stayed) had fun; not so sure about Smoke and his friends who all kept looking at us as if wondering when they would be going home.



On June 24, a non-raining day, Smoke and I and Karlene and Hurricane Hannah (Dave Smith's big TWH) took part in the Children's Wish Foundation Fund Raising ride on Thornhill. Smoke had thrown a shoe the day before while riding in Campbell Valley Park so due to farrier logistics, we were a little late for some of the activities but enjoyed our day and were happy to fund raise for a worthy cause. Smoke and Hannah both looked beautiful, braided by Debbie and decorated with sparkles!

In mid-August we attended the second horse campout of the summer at Allco Park. This time we had fabulous rides up to Alouette and Mike Lakes. Smoke's partner was Hannah and she tried as well as she could to keep up with the long striding little guy. Lots of friends dropped by, great food and fireside companionship, and of course, wonderful horse stories were shared all weekend long.

At the beginning of September, our friends Lisa and Harry Riedler invited us to their family ranch at Fawn Lake in the Caribou. Lisa is the owner of Ziggy a beautiful bay TWH. This was a trip of a lifetime for Smoke and my husband Gary and me.



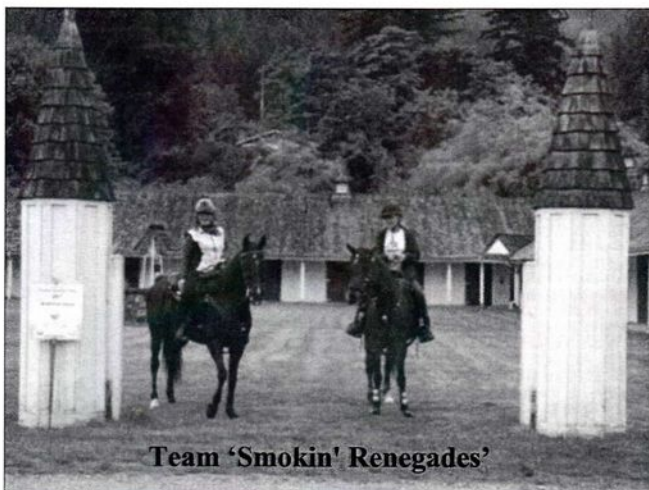
Lisa and Harry were the consummate hosts, feeding and entertaining us (and the horses) and even hauling both horses to the ranch from the lower mainland. Over four days we had three rides which lasted 2, 5, and finally 7 hours. Our husbands were our support teams, accompanying us on the two long rides (also on quads but of the gas-fired type). They brought food, water and chainsaws and we used all three items; in fact they got to be like a Formula 1 pit crew clearing many deadfalls along the trails for us. Smoke and Ziggy were a match both in stride and endurance; they truly were friends on this trip. Ziggy used to live at Tower Ridge Farm and Smoke liked to spend a lot of time hanging with him there. Ziggy left for the south side of the Fraser River a year ago and we miss him and Lisa, but they are doing great over there. The riding on the trip was incredible, the scenery beautiful, and the friendship fantastic.

On our one stormy day, Lisa and I visited Genevieve Amy and her 5 horses at her farm at Dekka Lake, not far from Fawn Lake. Beautiful herd of horses, the TWHs especially looked lovely.

Lisa and Harry have hosted other horse get togethers at the ranch which I believe have been written about in this magazine (I know Natalie and Trigger have been there) but that was before I had my epiphany (3 years ago at 57 years old) that I needed to start riding again after a 40 year hiatus. Two years ago I found Smoke for sale at Stump Lake, near Kamloops. Two years before that he lived in Alberta under the barn name Dezzie, at his second home after being born and bred at Standing Rock Ranch in Montana. He is a little guy with a big heart (and even bigger registered name - Maximus Decimas). It has been a wonderful journey with him.

Now it is fall and the rains have started again. Smoke and I will go out when we can between rain drops. I hope that our adventures continue to be safe and fun and I wish the same for everyone.

Tennessee Walking Horses rock!



Team 'Smokin' Renegades'

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

PETER SYMONS, RAFTER 9S, DAWSON CREEK, writes, "Nancy's Nugget had a cremello colt (sired by Donny G.) born in the wee hours of October 10th. Definitely not a planned parenthood project. But he's a real sweet little fellow and, so far, a survivor. That was a nasty bit of weather we had. Since then we've had over 30" of snow so far and last night it went to -27."

"We sold Reggie's Robin's colt to Hans Halen of Fraser Lake yesterday (Saturday), and last month we sold Reggie's Ricky Ray to Gerry and Marjorie Coogan of DeBolt, AB, all very nice people.

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "Thanks for the latest issue of *WHN*, and once again, congratulations on 35 years of a VIP (Very Important Publication). Keep up the good work. We need you!"

"Did I tell you about Trigger's medical adventures? She has a medical plan with our vet and gets 2 thorough checkups per year, all wormers included. The last one was last month. She gets her shots and teeth floated (she never requires sedation), as needed, and a "mammary lavage". (The vet's assistant liked my description and said she would use it from now on.) The vet was very pleased with her overall, his comment being "very shiny coat, looks great" with a BCS of 3.75/5. However, having said that, he diagnosed COPD, of which I was unaware, as she doesn't seem to get winded when we're on the trails. I have noticed that line along her lower body at times, but then she pulls that up whenever I hose or wash her down. (She's such a prairie chicken when it comes to bathing.) So now I have to give her a squirt of Ventipulmin before we ride out. The vet isn't too concerned, especially since I told him the type of riding we do, which is a lot of moseying, a lot of ambling, some run walking, and a little canter every so often. (No yee-haw, flat out galloping, as I'm the prairie chicken on that.)"

"I haven't ridden for weeks as I was in Calgary for close to two weeks, had company before and after, the weather didn't cooperate, and the barn buddies were missing. I don't swim alone and I don't ride alone. Hopefully the barn will be its usual busy self on Monday and the sun will shine on us so we can RIDE!"

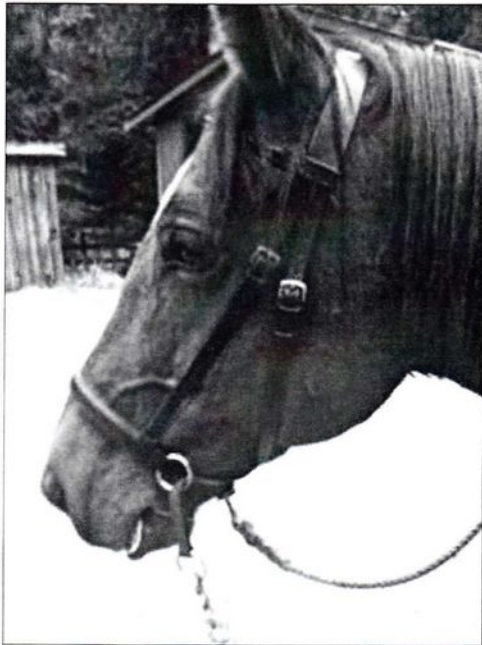
From VICKI McNAUGHTON, "It is lovely here in Kamloops, BC. It is the 5th of November and my girlfriend and I were out riding today in T-shirts and light hoodies. Wow, we can hardly believe we are so lucky to have had such great fall riding. I haven't even had to wear my winter boots or riding chaps yet. It was 17 degrees! Let's hope this weather keeps up. But my Walking Horse, Wizard, is getting a nice fuzzy winter coat. Thanks again for *WHN*; I love my magazine."

OUR READERS WRITE

From MARIAN TAYLOR, VICTORIA BC, "I just read my October issue of *WHN* and had to reply to your article about **Dr Cook's bitless bridles**. I also had read the article in *Horse Canada* and was very impressed. I have been riding my Tennessee Walkers in good quality Myler snaffle bits, but was really interested in going bitless, and had been thinking about it for some time. I bought a Dr Cook's bitless bridle just last week, and so far, I LOVE it. My mare Image (Snips Delightful Image) likes to 'get on down the road' and I was somewhat worried that I wouldn't be able to stop her when I wanted to. No problem! She came right back down from a canter when asked, even with my other TWH, Jester (Successful Jester) hot on her tail. I didn't notice much difference in the steering though, as Image moves really nicely off my leg. I feel that I am doing something really beneficial for my horses with the Dr Cooks."

"And the funny thing – when I picked up the Dr Cooks,

the seller told me, 'If you ever get a chance to try riding in a Barefoot Treeless saddle, go for it. They are wonderful!' I have 2 Barefoot Cheyenne saddles – one for each horse!"



"I have been riding with boots rather than steel shoes for several years, and find that all the styles I've tried work well on my TWH. Right now I am using EasyBoot Epics, but will consider trying the Renegade boots when these wear out. When my horses aren't out on the pasture, they live on gravel footing, so their feet are getting really tough, and I can ride barefoot."

"So now Image is 'iron free', and I can feel really good about riding her. Above is a picture of Image in her new Dr Cook's bitless bridle."

"Keep up your good work with the magazine. I look forward to each one."

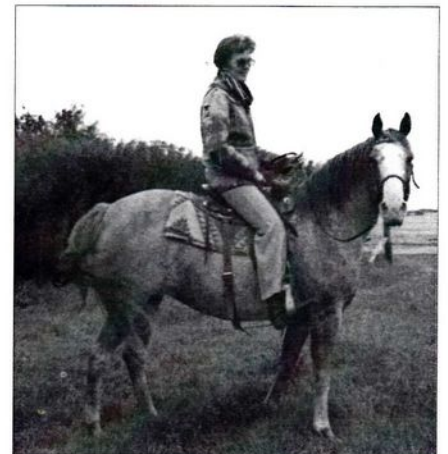
JUDY TAYLOR, PRITCHARD, BC writes, "I thought this ad for Ultra-Kelp might be of interest to Anna Gadica of Melville, SK. regarding her query about Kelpmate in the October *WHN*. Since **Kelpmate** doesn't seem to be available, she might want to find out more about this one. Ultra-Kelp is billed as the ultimate supplement for horses and their website is www.ultra-kelp.com or 1-888-357-0011. It is made here in Pritchard, BC by Flack's Bakerview Kelp Products."

"Also just had to open up my sealed subscription envelope to tell you – Tennessee Walkers were entered in the '**Battle of the Breeds**' at the Pacific National Exhibition this year and took third place overall! This event happened on August 28, 29 and 30 with each team having two different horses ride in each event. These are Barrels, Dressage, Jumping, Gamblers' Choice and the Trail Class. This year there were eight teams – QH, Paint, Clydesdale, Standardbred, Thoroughbred, Welsh, Warmbloods and TWH. The Walkers showed strength in the Trail class gaining the team high score. In the jumping a TWH named Teyha ridden by Katherine Kowalik was last to go and got nearly every fence but the joker fence."

"With only barrel racing left to go, all scores were tallied up and it was a three-way tie for first place among the QH, Paint and TWH teams. The Thoroughbreds were only one point behind and the others were very close as well. The final standings were 1st – Team QH; 2nd – Team Paint; 3rd – Team TWH; 4th – Team TB; 5th – Team WB; 6th – Team Clyde; 7th – Team S'bred; 8th – Team Welsh."

HAZEL PATON, OXBOW, SK writes, "Would you or one of your readers have **the WHN with Sun's Misty Dew and me on the cover?** I have lost my own and I would really like to have a copy, or even a photocopy of the cover. There was a picture of a mare in the last magazine that looked so much like my old TWH, Misty. No Walkers in this area now.

Dog trainers no longer come up here since they have to hire Canadian help instead of bringing their own from the U.S. I still have my Arab mare, but she'll go to a friend's this winter."





FOAL CALL

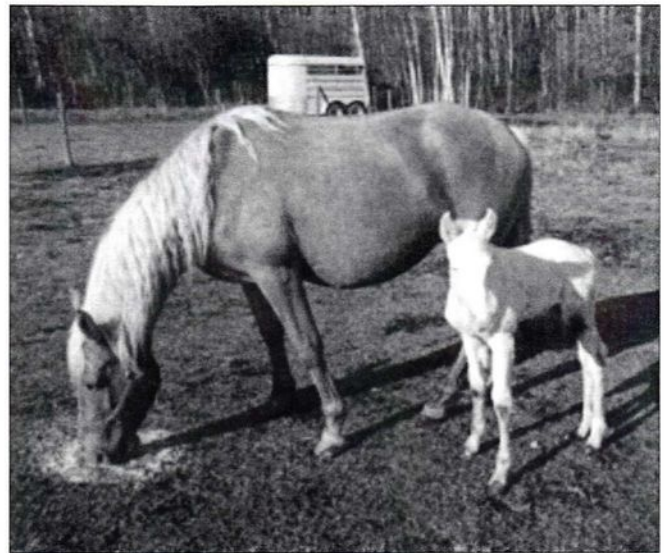


BLACK FILLY (The Dealer? x Images Royal Duchess)
Greg & Maureen Gernscheid, Evansburg, AB

“Look at the little surprise we found on the quarter today after the snow-storm. The mom is our lovely mare, Images Royal Duchess, and we’re still guessing who papa is... I suspect that it is The Dealer, but DNA will tell us for sure. She is tiny, sweet and gorgeous.” *(Filly shown left)*

COLT (The Full Monty x Kodiak's Moon Stone).
Amy Lauzon, Cayley, AB

Our only foal this year, "Full Moon Buzz" is going to make a gorgeous riding partner/stallion prospect!

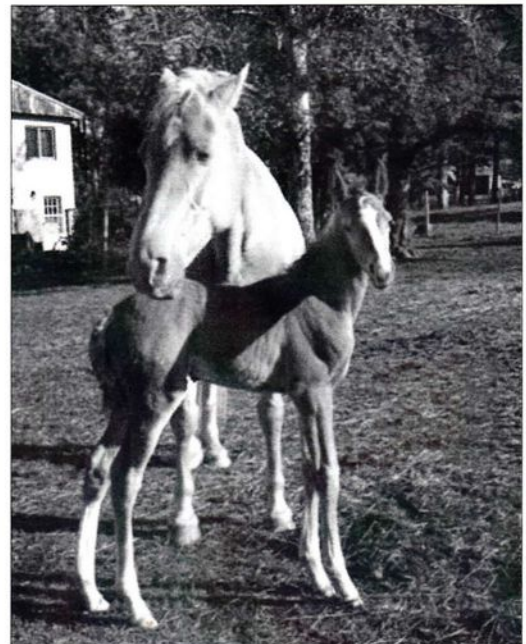


CREMELLO COLT (Donny G. x Nancy's Nugget)
Peter Symons, Rafter 9s, Dawson Creek, BC
(Colt shown right)

SORREL COLT, strip, hind socks
(Uphill Heir Trigger x Neitak's Golden Stardust).
Born Sept. 30. Jack & Margaret Gurnett,
Northfork Farm, Bluffton, AB
(Photo below right)

BLACK TOBIANO COLT, one blue eye *(below left)*
(Miracles Painted Warrior x Love Over Money), born July 4th

SMOKEY BLACK FILLY
(Miracles Painted Warrior x CG'S Gold Sweetheart), July 10.
Lesa Luchak, Maple Lane Acres, Two Hills, AB





TRAINING MYTHUNDERSTANDINGS

BIGGER BITS DESTROY COMMUNICATION

by Ron Meredith

A lot of people think you train horses with equipment. This is one of the biggest mythunderstandings out there. Try this bit, try that bit. If this one doesn't work, try a thinner bit or one with a longer shank. If that doesn't work, tie that sucker's head down or crank him in with draw reins.

Most people believe that you should start a horse with a really quiet (mild) bit. Then the further along the horse's training, the bigger the bit you should put in his mouth because it takes a bigger bit for him to understand more. People think there's a direct relationship between what a horse knows and what kind of bit is in his mouth.

What actually happens is that a horse gets used to bigger and bigger bits. Eventually, you need the biggest bit because the horse is used to the beating his mouth gets from it every day.

You can either treat a horse with respect and use a bit that is only a small part of an entire group of aids, or you can force the horse to accept his daily workout in a severe bit that speaks louder to him than do your legs and seat. If you force a horse to accept a bit that shouts, you cut all other communication lines that you could have developed by using your body position and legs.

When a horse worries about how much bit is going to hit him and how often, you have taken his mind off the total picture. To ride a horse accurately and to the degree that will make him a winner, you need to create a total shape for each stride using:

- * an inside leg at the girth
- * an outside leg a little farther back
- * your weight shifted onto a specific seatbone
- * an inside rein positioning the head and softening

the jaw

- * an outside rein following the horse's rhythm
- * your seat either maintaining the cadence of the gait

or

half halting to collect the horse

You must use a full complement of aids or pressures that the horse feels and understands to take a specific shape with his body. The horse will never understand how to take or feel this shape if you don't understand it. The optimum communication between two individuals must exclude violence and punishment and must be based on the feelings and opinions of both individuals. When you choose a bit to communicate with a horse, your first choice should be one that can never speak louder than your seat and legs.

When someone tries to communicate primarily with a loud bit the horse's primary effort is to escape the bridle. And when a horse escapes the bridle the rider often tries to tie his head in position with some device, so that the horse can't get away from the pressure or ruin the leverage. When that's the case, the horse never even feels the rider's seat or legs. The horse feels only the squeeze in his mouth. A horse fighting the bit has lost all feeling for the rest of the rider's aids. It is just like getting your finger slammed in a car door; you can't think of

anything else.

Gadgets such as tie-downs, chambons, draw reins, and head setting rigs are only substitutes for the correct use of seat, leg, and rein aids as a corridor of pressures that shape the horse's body. These training gadgets are molds, not aids. They force the horse's body into an evasion rather than show him the correct shape. These are breaking devices, not training devices.

Breaking is telling the horse what **not to do**; training tells the horse what **to do**. Control does not come from forcing a horse to assume a shape with gadgets. True control over a horse's gymnastic abilities comes from developing his driving muscles to drive and his carrying muscles to carry.

When you drive hard enough from the back, the front comes off the ground. That is called rebalancing. You can't get collection or rebalance a horse by using tricks. So many people think that technology is having a trick to accomplish each thing rather than having a methodical, logical, systematic, conditioning program. You only need tricks and gadgets if your skill is limited.

Many people believe they demonstrate riding skill when their horses tolerate severe equipment. But when you ride with a full set of aids, you never need a big bit or gadgets to put the horse's head in position.

However, a bigger bit can be used effectively in some situations. For example, if the horse has been trained with a rider using the full corridor of aids and understands the rider's body language and positions, a bigger bit can be introduced and used for upper level games. Then all the rider has to do is whisper with the reins. But even a horse advanced in his training can be ridden with a snaffle if ridden with a full complement of aids.

Horse are so sensitive they can feel a fly land on their skin. They also can feel and understand a mild bit if the rider knows how to use it. But you can't train a horse with shouts, then show in whispers. When you put a bit in the horse's mouth and it multiplies your pressures, you lose full benefit of other aids and thus, all effectiveness. All attention is on the "fingers slammed in the car door".

You don't train horses with equipment. You train them by developing a communication system that uses all aids. You introduce each new concept in a horse-logical way, in the smallest, tiniest bites you can reduce it to. You introduce a new concept so it is just one step away from something else you and the horse already successfully communicate about. Remember that rhythm, relaxation, and repetition are the cornerstones of good training.



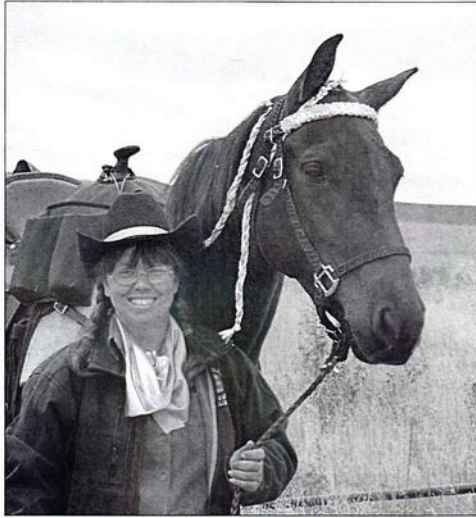
Ron Meredith is president of Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre, RR 1 Box 66, Waverly WV 26184; 304-679-3128



What Did These Folks Do with their Walkers?



They participated in the CRTWH Ride/Drive Program 2011



Right:
Kim Pringle with
'Tracker'.
Kim rode 292.5
hours in 2011,
the most of any
participant.
Congratulations!

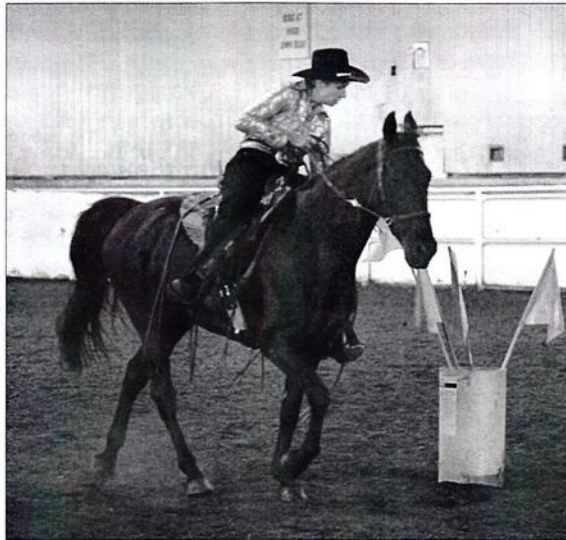


Left:
Fran Kerik with
CSR Midnight
Cuppa Java.

Right:
Rhonda Lemmon with
Ragtime N' Melody
(who also attained the Gold
Award in the PFE).

Elaine Darquin also took part
but I do not have a photo.

Below:
The shadow of
Allanna Jackson with
Backyard Cinnamon at the end
of the Timber Mesa trail.
That's how to take a photo
of yourself while riding!



If you would like to
participate in the
RIDE/DRIVE/ALT
Program
for 2013

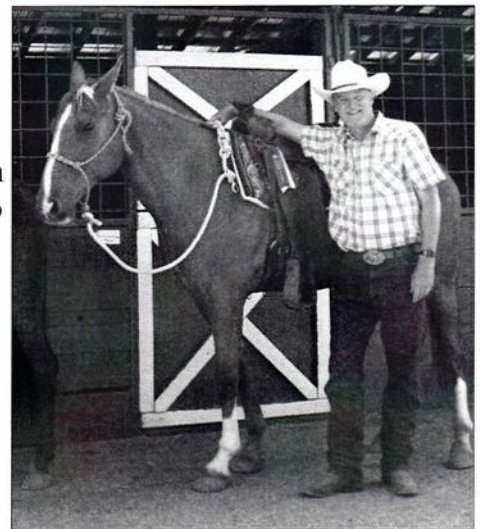
go to www.crtwh.ca

for full information,
or contact
Fran Kerik at
780-768-2250

or
president@crtwh.ca



Right:
Ralph
Livingston with Koko
Cowboy
at the
Interior
Gaited
Horse
Fun
Show.





The Canadian Walker

Volume 11, Issue 6

www.crtwh.ca

www.facebook.com/crtwh

December, 2012

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

President: Fran Kerik, AB

780-768-2250

president@crtwh.ca

• **Vice-Presidents:**

Western: Bill Roy, BC

250-838-2066

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Eastern: Sue Gamble, ON

705-642-3746

• **Recording Secretary:**

Maureen Hummel, BC

250-827-3386

Corresponding Secretary:

Leslie Hunchuk, AB

403-931-2105

secretary@crtwh.ca

• **Treasurer: Dianne Little**

403-271-7391

treasurer@crtwh.ca

BOARD MEMBERS

AB Hilton Hack

403-826-0308

AB Marjorie Lacy

780-723-2547

BC Ralph Livingston

250-764-4482



Seasons Greetings

&

Smooth Riding



*to All Our Members in the New Year!
From the Directors of the Canadian Registry
of the Tennessee Walking Horse.
Thank you for your support during 2012.*

2013 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Reminders to renew your CRTWH membership are in the mail now! Please renew as soon as possible.

What are the advantages of membership? Here are a few... You enjoy reduced fees for registering, transferring or having DNA done on your horses. Fees are less for Clinics and for the Canadian Triple Challenge programs. You may include your contact info on the website if you wish. *And* you'll be part of a great group of people promoting the natural TWH. Join us!

AMNESTY ENDS DEC 31/12

This will be your last chance to register or transfer your horse under the 2012 amnesty. If you send in your application before December 31/12, you will still qualify for the amnesty rates. So go ahead and get your application in to CLRC, even if you haven't rounded up *all* the papers or got the bloodtyping or DNA back from the lab. Don't put it off 'til it's too late!

Questions? Call CLRC 1-877-833-7110.

RIDE / DRIVE / ALT PROGRAM

A reminder for all current participants in the Ride/Drive/ALT Program - You have until December 31 to keep counting your hours and then - it's time to send in your record of hours ridden, driven or doing alternate activities with your horse(s). This should be sent to Fran Kerik at the email at left, or mailed to her at Box 505, Two Hills, AB T0B 4K0.

DON'T FORGET...
our FaceBook Page!
(www.facebook.com/crtwh)

The CRTWH Facebook page has a wonderful collection of pictures that continue to showcase the Canadian Registered Tennessee Walking Horse to the world.

A current example is the Stallion Album, showing a cross section of CRTWH sires and their offspring. Have a look at it now, and then don't forget to add your good horse to this group!



PEDESTAL TRAINING

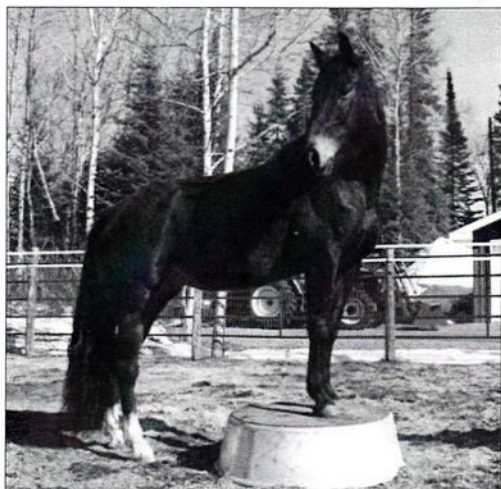
by Sue Gamble



What do we do with our Walkers? We put them up on pedestals and admire them! (*Dixie's Chocolate Fix (Fixie), strikes a pose, above, on Canada Day.*)

Why do we do this? We do pedestal training mostly because it is fun and a good way to bond and communicate with your horse. The side benefits are numerous, from helping your horse have more confidence, developing his balance, stretching his muscles, to aiding in ground training, and yielding the hind quarters. It is also an aid to trailer loading, as confidence on a pedestal leads to confidence in getting on a trailer. Pedestal training also helps with liberty training by giving the horse a sense of place, and teaching him to respond to your commands and body language.

How do we approach this? Very basically, with the halter on, lead your horse to the pedestal and ask him to "step up". He may be hesitant and want to explore the pedestal with his mouth or by pawing, so give him some time. Once confident in the pedestal's strength he will probably just step up at your request. Offer a treat. Ask him to 'Back' and say "Step down" to get off.



Left, Fixie "steps up" on the pedestal.

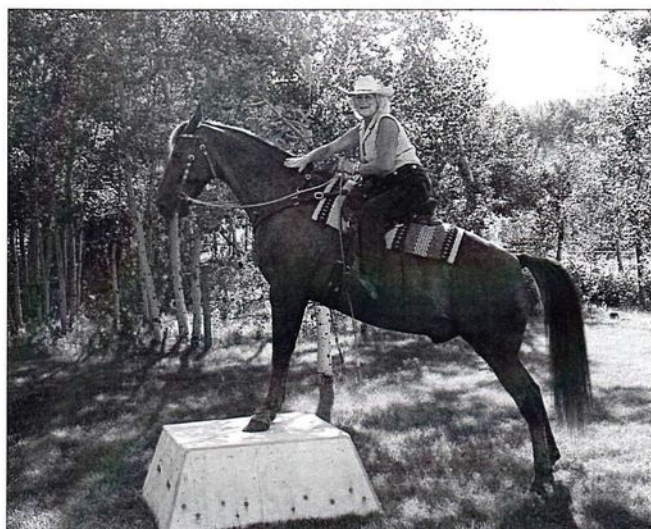
She knows she is beautiful!

Once the horse gets the hang of stepping up (which takes about five minutes with these oh-so-smart Walkers) it's no problem. If you are aiming at liberty then taking the halter off at some point will be necessary. (Make sure you are in a safe enclosed place.) I have not yet tried four hooves on the pedestal as my mare slid off with her back hooves, and I don't want any injuries. I should start with a larger square or rectangular pedestal which I don't have - yet. Just a word of caution, make sure your pedestal is very sturdy, well built, and safe. You don't want a bad experience and then have to deal with a fear issue.

How does this work with two horses? As a bonus to my liberty training with two horses at the same time, I can put one horse on the pedestal and work with the other. They are so proud and happy up there it is a bigger task to get them off! If the pedestal is accessible and we are out in the paddock doing something, Fixie will go over and put herself up on the pedestal trying to impress us. ("Now where's my cookie?") Horses just love pedestals. They like to be up there above everyone - "Look at me, I'm the king of the castle!"

Why do this with a Walking Horse? I have never worked any other breed except my CRTWH so I have no idea if it is this easy with other breeds. I phoned the renowned Sue De Laurentis and Allen Pogue (Imagine A Horse) about trick training. They asked what breed I was working with, and when I said Walkers they said, "Oh, they are so easy!" and "It's a best kept secret".

Sue Gamble, Swastika, ON



Above is Lissa Townsend with 'Dude', Dominator's Grovie.

This is the website for Sue DeLaurentis and Allen Pogue's **Imagine a Horse** where you can order DVD's and get info. <http://www.imagineahorse.com>

IMAGINE A HORSE

I like Sue and Allen because they believe in preserving the dignity of the horse as we have described in the ALT part of the CRTWH website. (ALT = Agility, Liberty, Tricks).

All tricks must preserve the dignity of the horse; hence most tricks become poses and not tricks that show the horse as a brunt of a joke (which is absolutely not acceptable to me). Such tricks as having the horse act drunk with crossed front legs, or push the owner around with his head, or act too cutsey are not what we are after. We should point this out as often as possible so people don't go down the trick road of a rodeo clown.

The trick of rearing is also controversial and Sue and Allan told me they only teach this where a horse has a target to land on, which is the pedestal. They teach the horse to rear and land on the pedestal. They assure me that this is safe and will not result in the horse rearing at inopportune times to offer the trick. Others do not teach the rear this way. Personally I won't teach the rear at this point and maybe not ever. Can you imagine your horse offering the rear to show off and having someone misinterpret that as a rear for other reasons?

Fixie often tries to offer the salute or the beginning of the Spanish walk, and even that could be dangerous as she puts her front leg out and tries to impress. Of course I don't reward this but it is offered quite often any way. I always tell her to put her leg down; it could be dangerous. She usually does put it down once she knows there is no reward.

The bottom line is that if you are going to do trick training you must be informed and know what you believe in. (Like anything else with horses!)

Here are a few books that I own but have not studied enough yet to make a recommendation:

The Horse Agility Handbook.... Vanessa Bee (Founder of the International Agility Club).

Trick Training Horses (Fun Ways to Engage, Challenge and Bond with Your Horse) by Bea Borelle.

From Leading to Liberty (100 Training Games Your Horse Will Want to Play) Jutta Wiemers.

And of course following training programs such as those of Pat Parelli or Linda Tellington Jones helps with liberty and agility. There are obviously many more programs that I don't know about. Check out the CRTWH website crtwh.ca for the ALT info there, and you will find a lot more on this by 'googling' the above topics.

Sue Gamble, Swastika, ON

SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

TRISH MCCARTHY, REGINA, writes, "Greetings to everyone as the season changes. Our TWH, Moses, (DUSTY'S TOUCH'N'GO 2002-[CAN] 2874) is really taking to the harness now. Up until even a month ago, he would 'wrestle' with the harness bit. Now he's just happy to be out. He doesn't even throw his head any more. Going out to drive every week seems to have made a difference, and not challenging him too much all at once makes for good memories to build upon."

"It is now four years since we brought him to our current site after his training in Broadview, SK. Moses listens more attentively to our 'conversation' and is now less likely to rub his head against our bodies in a way that can hurt. It seems that Moses now watches for us at the gate as we drive in. If there is no other car travelling near us when we are driving past his field on Hwy #1 at the White City correction turn, he seems to identify us when we blow our Matrix car horn. His is the only equine head that pops up automatically in the field when we sound it. Having Moses in our family allows us to enjoy another dimension of this beautiful creation."

MANITOBA NEWS

From MARSHA TRINDER, T W RANCH, RUSSELL, "It is starting to look a bit like winter here in western Manitoba. Has not slowed us down very much though! We weaned the foals about three weeks ago and they are doing great. We did our annual cattle roundup two days ago and got the calves vaccinated, tagged and weaned."

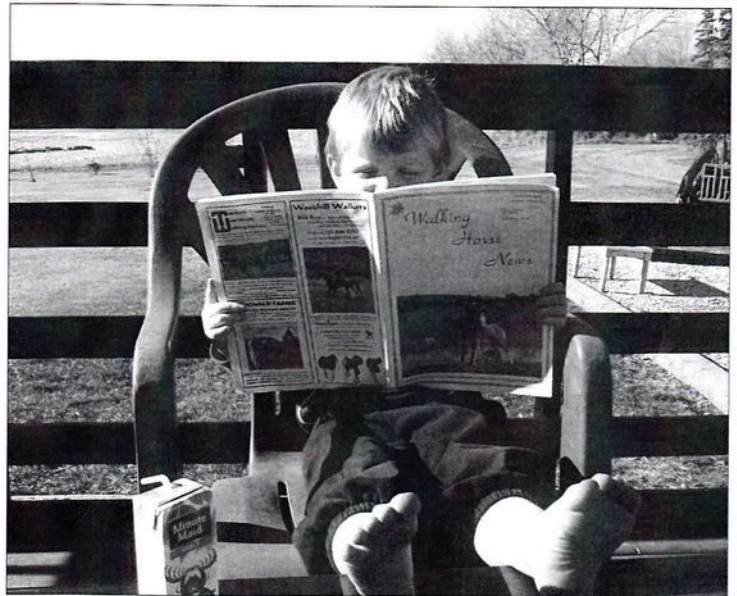
"I am now an Equi-Health Canada Certified Instructor for First Aid and look forward to serving the horse industry through teaching clinics."

"The horse herd is doing very well, and I am sending you a list of our great customers from 2012 so you can send them each a complimentary copy of *WHN*. We have sold horses to people from near home in Manitoba to Alberta in the west and New York in the east. I have been in touch with all of them subsequent to their getting their horses home, and the positive responses make me very proud of how far Cliff and I have come in our breeding and training programs in the past seventeen years."

"We currently have three girls here helping us with ranch operations and training horses - Sarah Munter, Shannon Baines and Nathalie Schromm. We cannot run the ranch without this great help. Judith Graile, owner of a nearby guest ranch (www.parkland-ranch.com) sometimes brings her guests and/or staff over to give us a hand doing roundups and cattle drives."

"Wishing everyone a great holiday season!"

What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?



Above, Cale Dyberg takes time out on a summery October day to read all about Rome, his grandma Lori's Ultimate Canadian Horse, in the October WHN.

Photo sent in by Lori Dyberg.

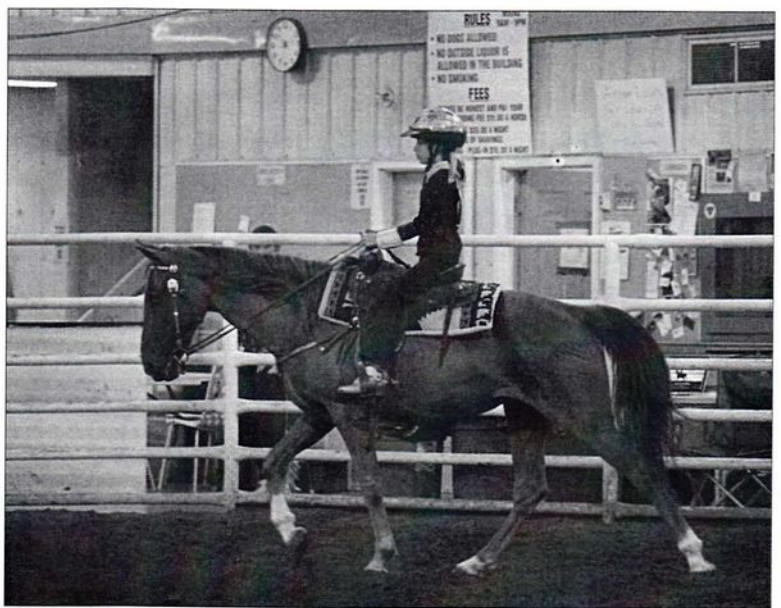


Left, Tiffani and her daughter Anna – Marie on Izzy, after Montana & Izzy showed at the GNR (hence the length of stirrups!) Since Anna rode Izzy, she has tried to jump on all the horses and is no longer scared of riding – no doubt molding our future...

Below: Montana with Izzy at the Thorsby show. Montana loves her horse and after only a season of riding Izzy, she is ready to try to canter.

Izzy (Ima Ultimate Masterpiece) *above and right*, is a mare that Bud Massey brought up to Canada. When Izzy was bought, the previous owner said she was used as a kid's trail horse. Izzy has turned out to be our 'Gem'. I thought I would *never* find a horse for my kids. So when I took Izzy to Nicole to try out to see what all she knows and Nicole said Izzy was very nice, I was ecstatic! Nicole rode her around the arena twice... and Montana has been riding her ever since. Prior to this Izzy hadn't been ridden for at least 5 years; she was 10 when Nicole put that first ride on her. I know she is a 'once in a lifetime' horse, and her breeding is the icing on the cake! (She's by Iron Works out of an Ebony Masterpiece mare.)

Photos above and left submitted by Lisa Lambert.



COLOUR REVIEW SINCE 1982 by Franne Brandon

Anyone checking the initial pages of the first edition of *The Register of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America*, published in 1938, will find a list of sixty-one deceased sires and dams. This is followed on page 36 by nine colours for the breed: sorrel, chestnut, black, roan (red), roan (strawberry), roan (chestnut), roan (blue), white, bay, brown, grey, and yellow. Unlike what the younger American Quarter Horse Association would do, the founders of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association did not restrict markings on the legs or body. With deceased foundation sires like the Standardbred Allan, a minimal black sabino, his daughter Merry Legs, a minimal sabino in bay, and his son Roan Allen, not a roan at all but a classic chestnut sabino, to have attempted such restrictions would have been suicidal to the growth of the infant registry. Over the years, the popularity of color within the breed and the progress of the science of equine color genetics have led to a number of changes to what the original foundation era gentlemen deemed were acceptable colours for their plantation horse, officially christened the Tennessee Walking Horse.

It was in the early eighties when trail riding resumed its former role as a popular recreational outlet for the Tennessee Walking Horse in Middle Tennessee. Trail riders, unlike their sisters and brothers who only mounted a horse to enter the show ring, rode in three seasons, but they took an equal pride in their saddle companions. With the trail rider, one appeal that did not apply in the show ring of the early eighties was colour. Trail riders wanted to swing their western saddles on coats that were not basic black, bay, or red. One type of horse that they chose was the spotted horse, not the "lit up roans" that still cropped out despite many breeders efforts to avoid producing them, but the spotted horses like those that had been popular in the fifties. Eventually, fanciers recognized that the correct term for this pattern is "tobiano", not spotted.

The tobiano pattern with its limited face markings and white covering the back at some point in all but the minimal expressions was in great demand. Tobianos were rare in the walking horse breed in the eighties, with only one bloodline that could be traced back to foundation era horses available, but by the early nineties they were very much a part of the overall breed picture.

All tobianos registered in the nineties forward had to have at least one tobiano parent on record, and three photos had to accompany the foal applications.

The next "colour" to gain in popularity in the

eighties was the grey. The foundation era stallions Bramlett F-9 and his sire Buford F-11 assured that the grey horse was a presence in the breed throughout the years, along with other noted gray stallions like Top Wilson. Today, the grey Tennessee Walker is found in both the show ring as well as on the trails, with a popularity that has not diminished over the decades, perhaps because no homozygous grey stallion has ever supported a large court of mares. Grey is a dominant gene, requiring one parent to be grey for the offspring to be a grey as well. Some grey horses hold color well, while others will lighten considerably by age six or seven. Grey can be found with all colors and patterns, and it is no longer recognized as a specific color, but is listed along with its base color on pedigrees, a definite plus for breeders who purchase a gray that no longer shows any indication of its initial base colour at foaling.

In 1996, TWHBEA officially explained the champagne gene to its members, and the horses once lumped together as "yellow" were then sorted into groups of dark skinned, dark eyed, and sometimes not even dilute horses, and the freckled skinned, amber eyed horses. Both the cream gene, which dilutes only red tones, and the champagne gene, diluting red, bay, and black basecoats, are dominant genes, but the black carrying a cream gene can sire or produce a palomino or buckskin foal with the right mate, while a champagne horse must always have a champagne parent. Certain bloodlines known to sire golden horses with white manes and tails became recognized as cream lines, while others were finally known to be champagne lines.

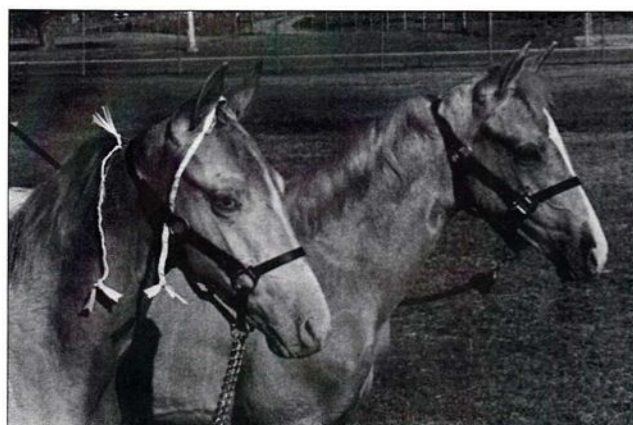
After a tremendous demand for both kinds of dilutes in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, a market flooded with offspring of homozygous cream sires tanked. Today, buckskins are still in demand, while others continue to advertise the red base champagnes as palominos or champagne palominos. There is no such term or animal as a champagne palomino. The expression of both genes in one horse with a red base results in a horse that is creamy or pastel golden, that often has unusual blue-green eyes. It does not look like a palomino. The old term, "ivory champagne," is more indicative of the colour's appearance than the current term "cream champagne."

In 2000, after 65 years as a breed registry, TWHBEA finally recognized that the horses with high stockings, blazes or bald faces, possible body spots, and white hairs in the coat were not the same as the dark-headed horses with white on the body also known as

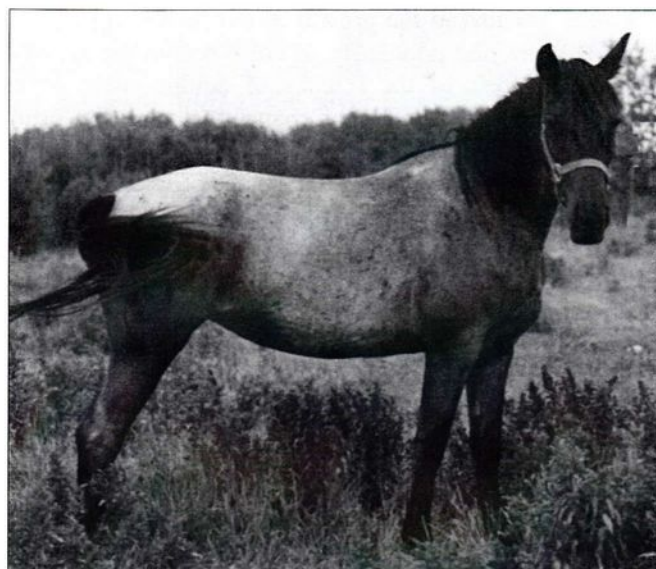
roans. The registry accepted the term being used by other equine groups for these stocking-legged horses. They may now be registered as sabinos, and since sabino is a spotting pattern, photos must also accompany the foal applications. A DNA test for the sabino1 gene is now available, with many walking horses testing positive for this gene. Sabino1 behaves as a simple dominant, so that in mating two sabinos, the breeder has a 25% chance of a maximum sabino, sometimes referred to as "sabino white." The white horse would be the dominant expression of the sabino gene. Even now, after twelve years, there are breeders who still continue to register black and brown sabinos as "grey roans" rather than black or brown sabinos. Grey roans can and do exist in the walking horse breed. The action of both the grey and roan genes are so predominant that a weanling foal with a red basecoat can appear black!

True grey roans are uncommon, though. The roan gene is one of the rarer of the dominant genes that impact the walking horse breed. Its evidence is a dark head and points, with minimal markings, and white hairs evenly mixed in the coat, but not in a dappling pattern. A roan must have a roan parent. Geneticists once taught that the homozygous roan did not exist, but DNA tests have recently confirmed a number of homozygous roan horses, including some in the walking horse breed. Roan can exist with all colors and patterns. When it coexists with sabino, the roan gene appears to suppress the expression of the sabino gene, but a roan sabino can sire or produce offspring that are true roan or classic sabino.

The color nomenclature within the Tennessee Walking Horse breed has undergone many changes since 1935, all designed to better express the phenotypes of the horses recorded in both the TWHBEA and CRTWH registries. Prior to bloodtyping, however, there were unscrupulous breeders who were more interested in money in their bank accounts than the integrity of the breed they were raising. These individuals registered stallions and mares which were not sired or produced by the animals on the papers that went with these animals. TWHBEA grandfathered in all such horses when blood typing became mandatory. For those choosing coloured horses, who want more assurance than the word "grandfathering" provides, it would be a wise use of time to check the IPEDS records of TWHBEA or the online records of CRTWH. There one can ascertain that the horses being purchased for breeding purposes do indeed trace back, horse by horse, color by color, to horses whose owners first recorded their stock in the studbooks of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America.



Above you can see some of the obvious differences between a champagne (left) and a palomino (right). These are both weanlings, so the near champagne colt still has the blue eyes. He shows lighter, mottled skin around the muzzle and eyes. The palomino has dark eyes, and dark skin except under his white blaze.



Above is a black 'true roan'. Right is a black sabino.

Can you pick out the characteristics that make one a roan and the other a sabino?



HOW CAN I DEAL SAFELY WITH A TRAFFIC SHY HORSE?

I have been working with a great TWH who, with other horses, is brave and nothing seems to bother him. But when Skip is alone, most things scare the day-lights out of him (and me - to his reaction.) He is a solid horse when with other horses but becomes less confident when I ride alone. I have made progress, but would like to be able to trust him better than I do right now. Progress has been slow but solid. We are now trying to get him used to traffic. This is scary to me but I really want access to more riding. I would not mind a reaction if I knew I could safely contain his reaction to the vehicles. (Vehicles vary a lot on our road from cars to trucks with trailers carrying quads or boats).

He does not have a tendency to run away, but balks with power (almost like he is going full speed to a fence and stops and changes direction fast). The fast change is continuous so if I lose my seat or the saddle slips at the beginning I am challenged to stay on.

I have managed so far for the last 6 years by trailering him to ride with other horses or keeping our rides on our trails. I am missing getting out on the trails I did with my now retired TWH but that would mean some road riding.

I would be interested in input from anyone who has a safe way to deal with a vehicle phobia or insecure horse that only reacts this way when he's ridden by himself. Does anyone have any tips to SAFELY train a horse that moving vehicles / trailers etc. will not eat him?

Thanks.

Rosemary Hartley, Nipigon, ON

PS I am doing this on my own. I am a good rider, just not a horse trainer!

BILL ROY,
WOODHILL WALKERS, GRINDROD, BC answers:

Dear Rosemary

The problem you are describing is one that I am asked about a lot. If you were closer I would come and spend some time with you and your horse.

A horse is a herd animal, and if it hasn't developed confidence outside the herd, we have to build that confidence both in the horse and in your partnership with the horse.

The best way I have found is to start over. Start small and simply. Your horse, as you say, has a phobia. He is afraid.

Take some time. 15 minutes of good time is better than an hour of negative. Don't hurry! You need to have the time and space to be calm and steady, your

energy low, confident and accepting. Start where the horse is confident and happy. Do some routine ground work that firmly but calmly puts you above him in the pecking order. PRAISE him constantly for positive responses.

When you feel you have this established, it is time to move out of the horse's comfort zone into one you can be calm about. It should be small, something you can build on daily.

For example: after the horse has eaten, halter him and do a short form of your ground work when you are both calm. I would even tack him loosely so he knows it's time to work. If there's something near-by that usually bothers him, I would, as long as I could safely control the situation from the ground, move towards it. Do not use force; this should be done on a loose rein. Only get as close as you safely can. This first step is huge and usually seems silly, but it is half the battle. If it means walking him around a parked car, quad, or tractor, YOU must remain calm and believe you can do it. Project calm assurance and low energy. You are the lead horse. It is safe to go there, it is safe for your horse to go with you. No matter how far you get, Praise, use easy words and gentle rubs as his reward. Go only as far as you can. If at all possible, ride him a little, even in his paddock. Do whatever it is you can do with him that is positive. Always end with something that simply shows you being the leader, something that the horse routinely accepts.

Keep working on this, inserting a small amount of what makes him uneasy into a routine that is comfortable and positive. Keep challenging yourself. It is not good if you and your horse become bored.

There is a horse training phrase "make the wrong thing difficult and make the right thing easy". I have found that when training, making the right thing easy WORKS. People get hooked on what is difficult, and leave out what is easy. When all the focus on the problem, the problem just gets bigger!

Below, Bill leads Lady alongside Trooper.



ADDED FAT IMPROVES BEHAVIOR by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Diet affects behavior. This makes sense. A well-fed horse is healthy. And a healthy horse feels good. Conversely, a poorly-nourished horse is suffering. A variation in hormone levels, for example, can have a temporary effect on how the horse sees the world. Just as reaction to sugar intake varies in humans, so it does in horses. Horses may feel ill or 'off' from an overindulgence in sugar/starch, and they certainly have been reported to exhibit 'sugar highs and lows' caused by the sudden surge and subsequent drop in blood glucose from a high carbohydrate (sugar/ starch) meal. Although there is, in fact, little scientific evidence that proves a sugar/starch-driven behavioral component, many horse owners will attest to their own horses showing adverse behavioral responses and will therefore avoid feeding anything that contains starchy cereal grains or is sweetened with molasses.

There are plenty of good reasons beyond the scope of this article to avoid high sugar/high starch diets, but in terms of behavior, what alternative does a horse owner have if the horse simply needs more calories? Hay and grass simply cannot provide enough energy (calories) to support the additional requirements created by exercise, work, and performing. The answer is fat.

Gram for gram, fat provides more than double the calories of carbohydrates or protein. And it is well digested. But there's an added bonus! Fat has a calming effect on horses' behavior.

Researchers at Virginia Polytechnic Institute¹ noticed that horses fed a high fat diet are less reactive to startling stimuli and had lower levels of excitability and anxiety than horses fed a more traditional grain-based diet. The horses in their experiment received 15% of the total calories from fat, which is high for most horses. However, the study reveals that fat is worth trying if you have a sensitive horse who may become easily excited by everyday activities.² (Please note: Ponies, minis, donkeys, and mules should **not** receive high fat diets.³)

WHAT TYPE OF FAT?

All fat has the same number of calories, regardless of the source. But from a health perspective, it is best to steer clear of animal fats, as well as oils that have too many omega 6s (which increase inflammation) in relation to omega 3s (which have an anti-inflammatory effect). Oils high in monounsaturated fatty acids are a good source since they neither increase nor decrease inflammation.

Below are some commonly fed oils:

Flaxseed oil: Has a 4:1 ratio of omega 3s to omega 6s, making it an ideal choice

Canola oil: 10% omega 3s and relatively low in omega 6s. Also contains monounsaturated fatty acids (no harmful impact on inflammation)

Rice bran oil: Only 1% omega 3s but low in omega 6s and high in monounsaturated fatty acids

Soy lecithin: Only 4% omega 3s but also contains choline, a helpful component of neurotransmitters

Soybean oil: Only 7% omega 3s and mostly omega 6s (less desirable choice)

Corn oil: No omega 3s and higher in omega 6s than soybean oil (poorest choice)

HOW MUCH?

I prefer to limit fat intake to no more than 10% of the total calories, though some athletes are fed levels as high as 20%. For the lightly exercised, mature 1100 lb (500 kg) horse, the National Research Council recommends a minimum total diet of 20 Mcals per day to maintain body condition. Ten percent would be 2 Mcals per day from fat. One cup (8 fluid ounces or 240 ml) of oil will meet this requirement. It weighs 240 grams and at 9 kcals/g, provides 2.16 Mcals.

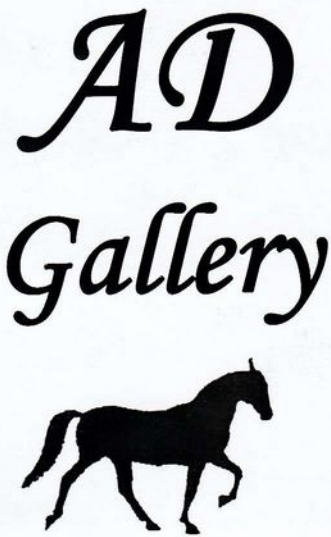
HOW TO ADD?

When adding any amount of oil to your horse's feed, start with a small amount (say, one tablespoon or 15 ml). Most horses do not like oily feed, but more important, it takes several weeks for the horse's cells to become accustomed to metabolizing more fat.

SUMMARY

Short attention span, spookiness, reluctance to work, excessive sensitivity and alertness to surroundings, irritability, and 'hot' behaviors can be reduced by adding fat to the diet. Fat is high in calories, so limit the amount you feed based on the horse's weight and his caloric need. Omega 3s need to be in balance with omega 6s, so choose oils carefully. And finally, build up to desired intake by starting slowly and increasing over 4 to 6 weeks.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected equine nutritionist available for private consultations and speaking engagements. Sign up for her informative and free monthly newsletter, Forage for Thought, read articles, search her nutrition forum, enroll in upcoming tele-seminars and purchase previously recorded events at www.gettyequinenutrition.com. Contact her directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.



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(Photo on right.)



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HORSE COUNCIL BC presents the 3rd Annual Equine Education Conference Jan 19-20 in Kamloops, BC. Dr. Deb Bennett Ph.D. is among the speakers featured. Phone 604-856-4304 or toll free 1-800-345-8055 for tickets. See www.hcbc for further info.

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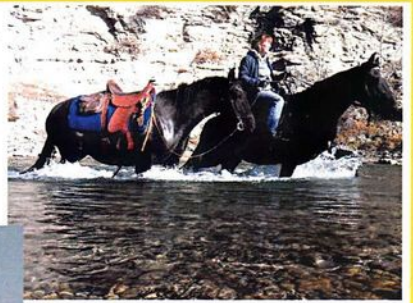
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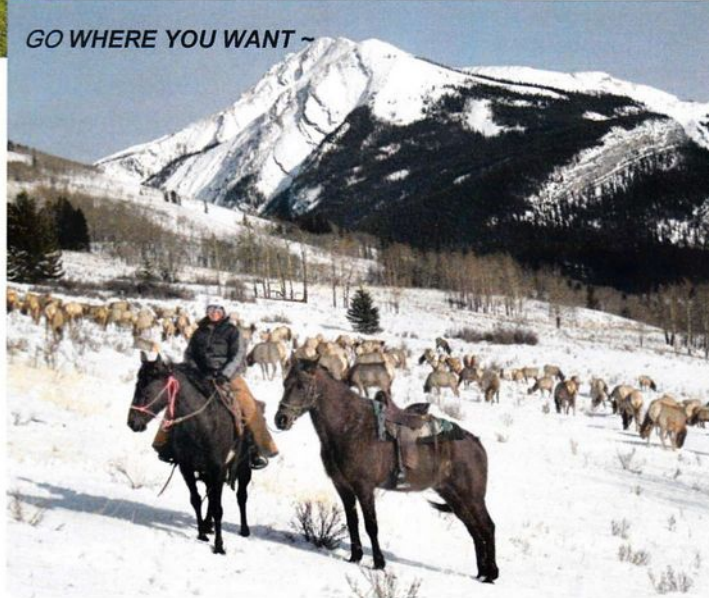
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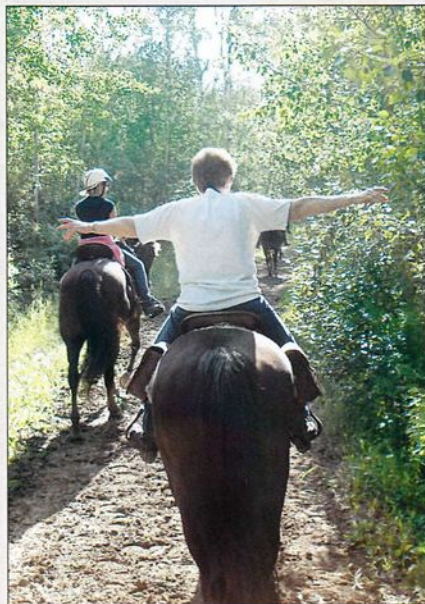


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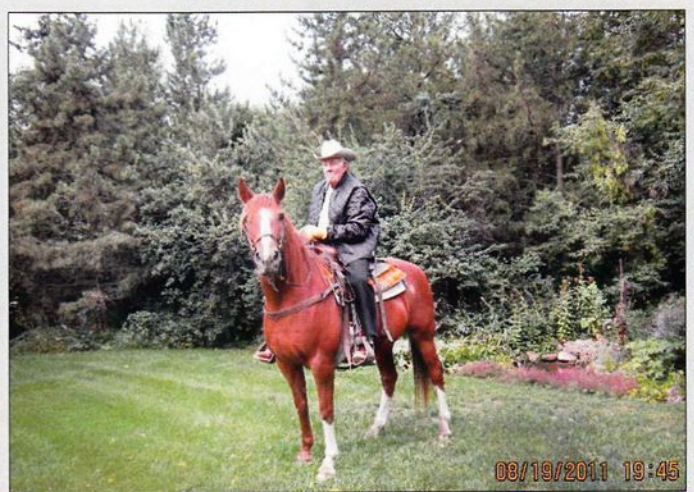
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