

Northwest Gaited Horse Club

Summer Newsletter - 2007

Trail Ride Award Winners

Diana Kodad is the winner of the Northwest Gaited Horse Club's Most Logged Trail Riding Hours Award. Diana logged 162 hours in the saddle. Larry Thibodeau was runner-up; Larry logged 128-3/4 hours.

Diana receives an embroidered NGHC jacket and a Field and Stream adventure set containing a multi-tool, hunting knife, and other items that are handy to have on the trail. Diana's prizes have a total value of \$150. Larry receives a pair of Binolux Compact Binoculars, an embroidered club polo shirt and club baseball cap. You can see pictures of the prizes at the Club website:
www.nwgaithorse.com/trail-program.htm

The Trail Ride Awards will be presented during the Breed Demos at the Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic Show on Saturday, July 14th at 7:00 pm.

Congratulations to Diana and Larry for this wonderful accomplishment!



"You can lead a horse to water, but if you can teach him to roll over and float on his back, then you got something."

★ JOE E. LEWIS

2007 EVERGREEN SHOW

The gates on the Sixth Annual Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic Show are set to swing open at the Western Washington Fairgrounds on July 14th and 15th. The Evergreen is the only all-gaited horse show in Washington. The show takes place a week earlier this year. The hope is the earlier date will give us cooler weekend weather than the blistering weekends of the past couple of years.

Last year's Trail Class proved so popular another has been added ~ but this one has a twist!

The Evergreen is a FOSH affiliated show open only to lite shod or barefoot gaited horses. The Evergreen is a show where the gaited horse is exhibited and promoted *naturally*. We are very proud of our record - the Evergreen continues to be a 100% clean show - in our six year history we have never had a DQP violation. This record is due to the quality of our entries and exhibitors, the dedication of our show committee and the Northwest Gaited Horse Club's commitment to the naturally gaited horse.

In 2006, 76 horses were entered in the Evergreen; a total of 368 entries in 65 classes. The largest classes were TWH Pleasure 2 Gait (E/W); Open Novice Horse Walk and Slow Gait; and Open Schooling 2 Gait (E/W) with a total of 12 entries each. The quality of the entries at the Evergreen gets better every year! We look forward to seeing many new exhibitors as well as our many 'veterans' at this year's show!

A few new things have been added to the show schedule for 2007. Last year's Trail Class proved so popular that an-

other Trail Class has been added - but this one has a twist! The Gambler's Choice Trail Class has trail obstacles with varying levels of difficulty. Horse and rider must complete as many obstacles as possible within a given time limit. Riders may attempt the obstacles in any order they choose and may repeat obstacles. Points are awarded based on each obstacle's level of difficulty. Another new class is the Open Equitation class. This class involves riding on the rail as well as riding an individual pattern. Riders will be judged on seat and hands and their ability to guide the horse through the pattern in a smooth, controlled manner. An equitation pattern can include circles, serpentine, and backing. It may also involve changes in gait and bringing the horse to a complete stop.

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That All Important Pre-Purchase Vet Exam

The horse you want may be beautiful and well-bred, but if he's lame or unhealthy he could cost you far more in vet bills and heartache than his purchase price. Here's how to avoid buying trouble.

Things to keep in mind for your the pre-purchase exam:

- ★ Do **NOT** use the seller's veterinarian. It is not unheard of for a vet to "gloss over" problems with a good client's horse.
- ★ Be sure the veterinarian you choose is familiar with the breed of horse you are considering. **This is especially important for the gaited breeds who move differently than trotting horses.**
- ★ Tell the vet exactly what you want to do with the horse you want to purchase. An exam on a horse you plan to use only for pleasure riding will be different than the exam done on a breeding mare or an endurance prospect.
- ★ The pre-purchase exam usually costs about \$250. Some will cost more depending on the area you're in, and how thorough you want the exam to be. Lab tests, x-rays or ultrasounds will add costs to the exam. In the long run spending a couple of hundred dollars on a pre-purchase exam can save you from spending thousands of dollars on an unsound or unhealthy horse.
- ★ Remember, buying a horse is like getting married; it's easy to get into, but a whole lot harder to get out of.

You've found the horse that you want to buy. Before you sign over your hard-earned cash you have one more thing to do: have the horse undergo a pre-purchase veterinary exam. You, as the buyer, have the right to know if there is anything physically wrong with the horse. You would be surprised at how many people will knowingly sell you an unsound or unhealthy horse. A seller should not object to the pre-purchase exam. If he or she does, pick up your checkbook, get in your car and go. Do not look back. If a seller is unwilling to have a horse undergo a vet exam it's a good bet there is something wrong with the horse. There are too many other good horses for sale to compromise on this. Here are the things that should be included in a basic pre-purchase vet exam:

PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW:

Animal ID noting sex, color, markings, size, approximate weight, breed and registration number; intended use of the animal; expected level of exercise; past health history.

GENERAL BODY CONDITION:

General body conformation; foot shape; shoeing issues; palpation and evaluation of legs for swelling, blemishes, or heat; check for any obvious back pain.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

Vital signs are taken system by system. Eyes and ears are examined; dental exam; temperature, pulse and respiration taken; heart and

lungs are listened to. If the animal is to be used for breeding, assessment of the reproductive tract must be

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unhealthy horse.*

done (i.e., vulvar conformation in mares, scrotal/testicular size and palpation in stallions). For mares a uterine culture and biopsy should be done, and a semen evaluation should be done on a stallion. These will cost an additional fee, but they are highly recommended for any breeding prospect.

SOUNDNESS EVALUATION:

The horse should be walked on a straight, even surface to begin this exam. The horse should be turned and backed up to check his coordination. The hooves should be checked with hoof testers. Then the horse should be gaited off in a straight line for lameness evaluation. The horse should also be worked and evaluated on a lungeline because some lamenesses are more pronounced on the curve. Flexion tests should be done on front and rear fetlocks, and on knees, hocks, and stifles. Any lameness or unevenness during these tests should be noted. Some vets may even have the horse tacked up and ridden during the soundness/lameness evaluation. It is important for the examining vet and buyer be aware of the horse's level of fitness. A horse that

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2007 EVERGREEN SHOW

(Continued from page 1)

The Crystal Class has gone from being Peruvians only to a class open to all gaited breeds. Horses must be over age 12 to compete in the Crystal Class. Along with the Crystal Class for our 'Classic' horses, we have a showcase for our 'Classic' riders, too. The Jack Benny/Mae West class for riders over 40 has consistently been one of the largest classes at the Evergreen.

This year our Judge is the honorable Keith Dane. Mr. Dane was one of the founders of FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses), an organization that has been the leading force in the movement to protect and promote the naturally gaited horse. Mr. Dane has conducted many training clinics for gaited horse judges, and has judged several national shows, including the FOSH North American Pleasure Walking Horse Championships, the RMH International Championships, and the UMH World show. This past April he judged the Spring Classic Championship Show for the Southern California Peruvian Paso Horse club and in May judged the Central States Peruvian Show.

The Show Committee has finalized the premium, the class entry form, and sponsorship form and they are available for you to download from the club web site (www.nwgaitedhorse.com). If you have never shown a horse in the Evergreen this would be a great year to start! The show atmosphere is fun and relaxed. The schooling classes are designed so novice riders and green horses can learn while getting some experience in the show ring.

Cookie Lee Jewelry has been a popular vendor at the EGHC. In addition to jewelry, you can browse and shop from Olallaberry Farm Quilt Design Studio, Spring Creek Engraving, Priscilla's Horseland, Innersight Animal Communications, Fossil Productions, Body Talk for Animals, and Pacific Northwest Fox-trotters.

See you at the Show!



Show That Gaited Horse!

Every year there are more shows with classes for gaited horses. We thought you'd like to see some photos from a few of these shows.



Jeannie Ann Williams and her Mountain Horse Magic present a beautiful picture in the ring at the Pacific Gaited Showcase. (Top left)

Rick Brighton and Crusher, the 2006 EGHC Best Gaited Horse of Show at the Pacific Gaited Showcase (top right).



Dan McAlister and his Peruvian mare pick up the NGHC High Point Gaited Horse Award at the end of the Donida Schooling Show Series (above left).

Cliff Kinnaman on Franky, Cathy Kinnamon on Sugar & Lisa Balsam on Spot My Magic Style in the Two Gait Pleasure Class at the Poorman's Schooling Show in Olympia (below).





Sweet Itch can cause so much itching a horse will literally rub its mane off (top).

"Elephant skin" and sores resulting from Sweet Itch reaction (center pictures).

The treatment for Sweet Itch for some horses includes protective fly sheets or clothing like these "pajamas" (bottom).



Sweet Itch

Contributed by Kathy Johnson



Imagine going to the pasture one day to discover your horse's mane is gone. Where there used to be long, flowing hair (or at least a decent mane) there are only patches of stubble in the midst of raw, bloody, weeping sores and flaky, "elephant skin". Your horse is frantically scratching her neck against tree trunks, branches, fence posts, anything and everything she can find and in the process may be destroying fences and shelters. What's causing this behavior? It could be Sweet Itch.

Sweet itch is nice name for a nasty problem. This skin condition is caused by an allergic reaction to the bites of a tiny fly or 'midge' called a *culicoides pulicaris*. These midges are more commonly known as "gnats" or "no-see-ums". 95% of horses have little or no reaction to the bites of these midges. But in some horses the immune system goes into overdrive. The bloody, weeping sores and hair loss that are the symptoms of sweet itch are caused by the horse's desperate attempts to scratch an inescapable itch. The mane isn't the only part of the horse that can be involved. The dock of the tail and the midline of the belly are also areas commonly affected by Sweet Itch. A horse suffering with sweet itch on the belly will stomp and kick at her belly constantly. Even trying to put a girth on the horse can get dangerous. (The horse isn't trying to hurt you - she's just so itchy!) A bad case of sweet itch can ruin a show season. Sweet Itch is **not** communicable - it doesn't spread from horse to horse - but the tendency of a horse to develop the condition is believed to be hereditary. Icelandic Horses seem to be prone to Sweet Itch.

Sweet Itch (also called Summer Seasonal Recurrent Dermatitis) usually appears in the spring and summer months. The breeding sites of biting midges are wet, muddy soils or areas of decaying vegetation. The larvae develop in the wet soils and are able to survive even severe frosts. Midges are most active in the spring and summer, but can appear year round.

There is no easy cure for Sweet Itch. It is sometimes treated with steroids (usually cortisone) either in shots or in

topical products applied to the affected areas. Vets are reluctant to use Cortisone treatments because they have limited success and may cause other problems like laminitis. Protecting the horse with liberal applications of fly repellent and the use of a good fly sheet can help reduce the extent of the problem. Moving the horse to a pasture that is dryer and gets a good breeze will cut down on the exposure to midges. Adding garlic to a horse's feed can discourage biting flies. Two new products are proving to be effective in healing the sores and helping normal skin and hair to grow back. The first is a spray called "Not So Sweet Itch" by Equi-Spa (see product review below), the other is Belly Salve made by The Farrier's Wife.



"Not So Sweet Itch" This spray combines natural botanical oils that have antihistamine, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antifungal properties in a base of witch hazel. Used daily it stops the itching and allows hair to grow back! **IT WORKS!** An added bonus - It smells wonderful! An 8 oz. bottle is \$17. Order it online at equispa.com or chamisaridge.com.

"The Farrier's Wife Belly Salve"

Another all-natural product made especially for healing sores on the midline of the belly also has insect repellent properties. \$18.95 per 7 oz. jar from salessaddlery.com or cheshirehorse.com



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**Evergreen Show Offers NEW
Video Service!**

Steve Grant of Fossil Productions will be the official show videographer for the 2007 Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic Show. This is the first year the show has had a videographer available.



Steve has worked at many major sporting events including the Super Bowl and has recently begun taping dressage events at Donida Farms.

Steve will have a vendor booth at the show where you can sign up to have your class rides recorded onto a DVD. This service is offered on a "first come, first served" basis. Videos are a great way to preserve your show memories and also serve as a great learning tool!

Don't forget our wonderful show photographer Jay Goss will also be on hand taking pictures inside the ring during classes and taking Victory Shots of all our winners. Jay has been our show photographer for many years and always does fine work. Show photos will be available for viewing and purchase after the show at www.jaygoss.com.

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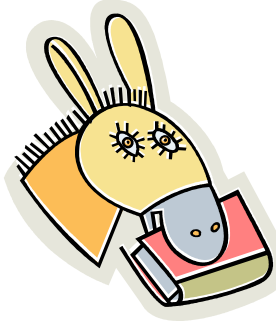
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Information Please!

Keeping up with current information regarding your horse's health can be difficult. Let's face it, books are expensive. In spite of our best intentions, many books just sit on the shelves. Our families, homes and horses keep us so busy that finding time to read even a couple of chapters a week can be difficult.

Fortunately many of America's leading veterinary colleges make their newsletters available to horse owners free of charge. These newsletters contain up-to-the-minute information on current equine health issues and research. Most of these newsletters are available on-line so you can download and print those that interest you. Others are available by mail. Here is a listing of just a few:

University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/vetscience/ukerf1.htm>

Equine Disease Quarterly - Sign-up here to receive free hard copy newsletter:

www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/q_jan07.asp

Equine Research and Service Report (back issues available for downloading)

www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/vetscience/report.htm

University of California Davis, Center for Equine Health

<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/>

The Horse Report - published quarterly, up-to-date information on numerous topics related to equine health care. Download current copy at:

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/pubs-hreport.html

The Research Review - highlights ongoing research endeavors and reports on discoveries from newly completed scientific investigations. Download current copy at:

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University of Wisconsin-Madison

Equine Hospital Newsletter (Past issues available)

www.vetmed.wisc.edu/equinenews/current/

On Call (General veterinary newsletter)

www2.vetmed.wisc.edu/oncall/

Utah State University Extension Office

<http://extension.usu.edu/>

A wide variety of publications is available for downloading here:

<http://extension.usu.edu/htm/publications>

Equine topics can be found here:

<http://extension.usu.edu/htm/publications/by=category/category=88>

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Pre-Purchase Vet Exam

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has been idling in a pasture may appear as sound in a vet exam as one that is physically fit from being ridden regularly. However, if a horse that has been idle is abruptly put into serious training after purchase problems can develop.

LABORATORY SAMPLE COLLECTION:

These tests may be part of the exam, but most lab tests are only done if requested. Lab tests can include drug screens (which can rule out painkillers and anti-inflammatories used to mask lameness) and a fecal check for worms and parasites. A CBC/chemistry and Coggins test can be done at this time. Any samples that are taken will be sent to the lab so you will have to wait a few days for the results.

Remember, x-rays and ultrasounds are not part of the basic exam. But if your vet feels they are warranted and you really want to buy the horse, it may be a good idea to spend the money and have them done. The results of the pre-purchase exam are the property of the buyer. The seller may have access to the information, but ONLY with the buyer's consent.

Once the exam is done, talk to your vet. Make sure you voice any concerns that you may have about the horse, then listen to your vet's recommendations. Ultimately it is up to you whether you buy the horse or not, but the best decision is an informed decision.

One more thing: it is very important to keep in mind that the pre-purchase vet exam only tells you the physical condition of the horse you are buying *at this time*. While the exam can alert you to potential problems, it is not a guarantee of future soundness.

Don't Bug Me

Summer is here and as the temperature rises so does the number of pesky insects that can attack you and your horse.



Fighting off gnats, flies, and mosquitoes isn't easy especially if they outnumber you by the thousands. As we all know, spring in the Northwest is very wet. Sometimes it can take until midsummer before all the mud dries out in shady, wooded or hidden areas. The moisture from summer rainstorms may remain in unexpected places; standing water is a breeding ground that can cause the biting insect population to suddenly explode in summer. Once the bugs start flying it's much harder to control or eliminate them. Here are some tips to help you get the upper hand before those bugs become an airborne assault force:

Get Rid of Standing Water

Water can accumulate in old cans, buckets, tires, flowerpots, tarps, pet dishes, rain gutters, downspouts, wading pools, and even low spots in concrete, pavement or on flat roofs. If the water has been standing in any spot for more than 2 days it's a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes. Dump the water out or sweep it off! Fill in low spots to keep puddles from forming.



Decorative features around your property like ornamental garden ponds and birdbaths can be prime mosquito nurseries. Mosquitoes cannot hatch

in running water so just getting the water to circulate can eliminate the next generation of pests. Add a pump, a fountain or spray feature to a garden pond to keep the water moving for a couple of hours a day. If that's not possible, stock your garden pond with goldfish, koi or predacious minnows from a local pet store. These fish will feast on mosquito larvae! Change the water in your birdbath every week.

DON'T put oil or bleach in a birdbath or in your ornamental pond to control insects! These can be highly toxic to pets, and also to fish, amphibians, and other insects that are natural mosquito preda-

tors. These substances can also get into your groundwater and ultimately could harm you too.

Your horses watering troughs should also be flushed out regularly, at least twice a week.

Keep the weeds under control and mow your grass! Adult mosquitoes hide out and rest in weeds and on tall vegetation next to the foundations of your house, barn or outbuildings.

To protect yourself try these tips: Mosquitoes love fragrances. If you don't want to be a mosquito's "first date", don't wear perfume. Sure it smells good, but to a mosquito you've become a big two-legged flower! Mosquitoes are also attracted to the aroma of beer, limburger cheese and smelly feet! What really attracts mosquitoes is Carbon Dioxide. That's right, the good old CO² that every person and horse exhales. Mosquitoes are relatively weak fliers, so placing a large fan in the aisleway of your barn on your deck is an easy way to keep them at bay.

Wasps!



What's even worse than ants at a picnic? Wasps! Wasps are attracted to protein foods. They will swarm around any food left outside, including dog and cat food, that delicious barbeque you are trying to enjoy, and open garbage cans or dumpsters containing food wastes. Even your compost pile can be a food source. Wasps remember the places where they found food before and will stick around looking for more hours after the food has been put away.

In late summer wasps become even more aggressive. Their preference turns to sweet foods like open cans of soda or fruit juices. Be very careful about taking a drink from a can that's been left sitting even for a moment if there are wasps around. There could be a nasty surprise waiting inside! Both horses and riders need to watch out around orchards or gardens. Wasps are attracted to any apples, pears, plums or other fruits that have fallen from the tree and are soft and bruised on the ground.

While it may give you some satisfaction to smash that pesky bugger hovering around your picnic, don't do it! When a wasp is squashed, the body gives off a pheromone, a chemical secretion that attracts and excites any other wasps that may be nearby. To avoid becoming the object of an angry swarm the best thing to do is just move away from a hovering wasp.



Avoid wearing bright colors or floral patterns. If you look like a flower garden you may start attracting wasps on the hunt for nectar. As with mosquitos, avoid the use of perfumes or other strong scents.

Horse Humor

A Thoroughbred walks up to a betting window at Emerald Downs and plunks down his money. "I'll put fifty bucks on myself to win the fifth race." says the horse.

The clerk looks up in astonishment. "I don't believe it."

"Don't believe what?" demands the horse, "Don't believe I can talk??"

"No," replies the clerk. "I don't believe you stand a chance of winning the fifth race!"



UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Contact
Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic <i>Our 6th Annual Show!</i>	Western Washington Fairgrounds Puyallup, WA	July 14-15, 2007	www.nwgaitedhorse.com
Horse Around Days Clinicians, vendors, breed demos, musical entertainment and more!	Skagit County Fairgrounds Mount Vernon, WA	July 21-22, 2007	More information at: www.horsearounddays.com or Patty (360) 661-4887
Barb Apple Horseplay Centered Riding Basics & Advancing Groundwork Beginning to Intermediate Level Clinic	Horse Play Ranch 39107 Highland Dr. E Roy, WA	July 28-29, 2007	www.naturalriding.com/events/ or horseplay1@barbapple.com
Diane Sept-Sutton Gaited Horse Clinic Private lessons available, discount for NGHC members	M&M Stables 10315 Old Hwy 99 SE Tumwater, WA	August 4-5, 2007	Penny Miller (360) 352-3627 or www.nwgaitedhorse.com/events.htm
Dennis Reis Universal Horsemanship "No Dust Tour" 2007	Western Washington Fairgrounds Puyallup, WA	August 4-5, 2007	www.reisranch.com
Connected Riding for Gaited Horses Clinic with Diane Sept-Sutton	Junction City, OR	August 9-12, 2007	Lisanne (503) 838-2500 or gaitedhorse2@firstserver.com
Oregon State Fair Classes for Peruvians, Tennessee Walking Horses and Paso Finos	Oregon State Fairgrounds Salem, OR	Aug. 24 through Sept. 3, 2007	More information at: www.oregonstatefair.org/fair/ index.htm
North American Pleasure Gaited Horse Championships (AAA) FOSH National Show Classes for TWH, SSH, UMH, Peruvians, Open Gaited Breeds	Douglas County Fairgrounds Castle Rock, Colorado	Sept. 7-9, 2007	Rhonda Azevedo (707) 332-1987 or wkjsmom@comcast.net
The Mane Event Horse Expo Featuring Robyn Hood, Steve Rother, Barb Apple, Jane Savoie and other clinicians, vendors, demos.	Heritage Park Chilliwack, BC Canada	October 19-21, 2007	More information & events schedule at: www.maneeventexpo.com/

Let's Hear from YOU !

Very special Thank-You's to those who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Thanks to Kim Brighton and Kendall Stuckey for contributing pictures and information for this issue of the newsletter!

Your stories, farm news, pictures and comments for the newsletter are welcomed! Please e-mail stories or pictures to:

Kathy at VikingRidg@msn.com.



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