



Winter Rose News



FOURTH ISSUE, VOL 1.

JULY, 2009



Rachel Mikrut and Ellie (Winter Eclipse) are currently in Fourth place in the National Standings of the 2009 Young Jumper Championships!



Sparky (Winter Chill) is in upstate New York at Tatra Farms, a Holsteiner Breeding facility.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Horse sense means horses are smart enough not to bet on humans." Author Unknown

AROUND THE BARN:

A quick reminder that dogs must be leashed at all times at WRE or use the kennel on the north side of the North barn.

HORSECARE 101:

Do horses see color? :



Rainbow-No Color problems



Rainbow-No red receptors



Rainbow-No green receptors

How the horse sees the world and the colors they can see is something that horse people have wondered about for many years. Researchers in the US have performed a study to investigate what colors horses could distinguish. In humans, light is detected by specialized receptors in the retina at the back of the eye. The receptors responsible for color vision are called cones. People with normal color vision possess three types of cones, each of which contains pigment that responds to a different range of colors. Because they have three separate populations of cones, roughly sensitive to red, green and blue light, normal people are termed trichromats (literally - three colors). In contrast, most nonhuman mammals are dichromats and have only two classes of cones.

Dr Evelyn Hanggi and Jerry Ingersoll of the Equine Research Foundation, Aptos, California, with the help of Terrace L Waggoner of the Eye Clinic at the Naval Hospital at Pensacola, Florida, performed a study to find which colors horses could see. (J Comp Psychology (2007) 121(1), 65 – 72)

Firstly Hanggi and Ingersoll trained the horses to choose between two cards, one of which had a circle marked on it. If the horse chose the card bearing the circle, by touching it with its nose, it received a reward. For this initial training, Hanggi used a circle composed of orange dots on a background of blue-green dots. This combination of colors was chosen because it is visible to all humans, even if they are color-deficient.

Once the horses had learned to choose the card bearing a circle, the next stage was to test different color combinations to see if the horses could differentiate them. The choice of colors was determined by the colors that color-blind humans have difficulty distinguishing. If a horse could not distinguish between the colors, it would be expected to choose the correct card 50% of the time purely by chance. So, to be sure that the horses' response was not down to chance the researchers set a target of 80% correct tests before they would conclude that the horse could differentiate between the colors.

None of the four horses in the study was able to distinguish a dotted brown circle on a dotted green background. Neither could they see the circle when it was made of red-purple or blue-purple dots on a dotted grey background. These findings were typical of people with red or green color deficiencies. However, the horses could identify a circle of yellow-green dots on a grey dotted background. This shows that they were not blue color deficient.

So, it appears that, compared with humans, horses are red-green color deficient but not blue color deficient. It is most likely that horses see the world in a similar way to humans with red-green color deficiencies. Red, orange, yellow and green probably all appear the same; they can distinguish between light and dark, between reds and blues, but not between greens and grays.

Nonetheless, horses do just fine with limited color vision; A horse's eyesight is about 20/33 or worse than the standard human vision of 20/20. He can see almost 360 degrees around him with only a 3 degree blind spot at his tail. The horse's depth and color perception is worse than humans but his night vision is much better.

The take-home is to think about what combination of fence color / background color will give your horse difficulty seeing the rails and adjust your plan accordingly.

FROM THE TRAINERS:

Alicia McNeil
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July's Rider Challenge

Teach your horse something new - mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness! Carrot stretches, bowing, backup, shake, lead by the mane/forelock/tail, kisses, saying "yes", standing still, etc. Summer is officially here and your horse might be sure it's too hot to ride most days - so spend some time inside the barn (thanks to the awesome misters!) and see how smart your horse really is :-). If you need ideas, or if you're having trouble, let me know.

July's Tip of the Month

Respect your equipment. Ever put off cleaning your tack/boots 'till the next day? Ever toss that lunge line or brush down in the corner of your tack box? Get in the habit of taking care of it right then and there - you might actually be saving time! Equipment cannot be quickly accessible if it's not properly cared for and cleaned...and when dealing with horses, things can happen quickly! Also, equipment that's ready to break, will do so at the most inconvenient time - so cleaning and putting it away can give you an extra second to check the stitching, snaps, leather, etc. for any suspicious weak points.

Other News...



ASM Equestrian is proud to welcome "Believe It Or Not", aka "Ripley" from Bakersfield, CA. Ripley is an 8 year old Trakehner/Holsteiner stallion whose grandfather is Landgraf - one of the most important showjumping sires of all time. As a young stallion, Ripley's sire, Landjunge (pictured) completed an excellent performance test with top marks for jumping talent. He was then successful in young jumping horse classes, ridden by Kurt Maier, before he was sold to the US and achieved numerous successes in Grand Prix for his new rider, Margie Goldstein. Certainly, the future looks bright for this young stallion!

Sign up for lessons this week and next - space is limited due to the heat. Also, don't forget the 24 hr cancellation policy is in effect.

Lessons are available...

Tues - Sun anytime in the morning (5a-10a)

Wed and Friday evening (5p-9p)

Other lesson times may be available by request.

**Please bring water/Gatorade and wear sunscreen*

LEASE A HORSE FOR 1-2 MONTHS over summer break

The summer is a great opportunity to take advantage of lease offers. Most of the kids are out of school and can come ride a few extra days per week (and stay out of trouble! lol). There are several horses available to lease over the summer (1-2 month lease options), and the leases are uncomplicated. Some of the lease fees include lessons! All of the leases are half-lease options, meaning that the leasor has access to the horse 3 days per week. For more information and to try the horses that are available, contact Alicia. Also, check the website (www.asmequestrian.com) for more details.

FROM THE TRAINERS:

Hunters ♦ Equitation
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Melissa Duven

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melissa_duven@yahoo.com

Remington Hill welcomes **Antonio Salim** as a new riding student! Antonio is eager to learn all that there is about these wonderful four-legged animals. He is equally interested in their mannerisms (learning all their subtle nuances) as he is in becoming an equestrian!

Remington Hill would like to give special thanks to **Ann Wick** for making her fabulous "*Lincoln*" available to us for lessons. He is a saint and is developing quite a following amongst his students that share in his care. Thank you Ann and Steve!

Remington Hill welcomes Rebecca Spelman as a new riding student!

FROM THE TRAINERS:



Stacey and Randy Tucker

tuckerquarterhorse@msn.com

Randy's Cell Phone: (602) 677-9506

Stacey's Cell Phone: (520) 405-9609

FROM THE GROOMS:

Please be courteous to the other boarders and pick up after your horse makes a mess in the grooming or wash stall.

COMINGS & GOINGS:

Welcome Dr. Nicholette Jackson and her TWH "Markey" in the North Barn #25.

Welcome "Ripley" in training with Alicia in the North Barn #06.

Welcome "Fletcher" a yearling gelding in training with Stacie & Randy Tucker in the South Barn #09.

Lilly, Spot and Doc are on vacation in the mountains during July.

Hope Greig has moved "Seven" to a facility closer to her home.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 18th - VSAHA Mini Circuit Show. All shows are held at Horse Lovers' Park - Tatum Blvd. north of Union Hills in Phoenix. The shows start promptly at 6 p.m. Registration opens at 5 p.m. The shows are not limited to Arabians and Half/Anglo Arabians. Pre-registration for the shows is strongly encouraged. Entry forms are available at VSAHA.org. Please contact Layna Taylor at (480) 838-6605 for more information about the shows or if you are interested in volunteering at the shows—help is always needed!

Sept. 26 - HUNT CUP SEPTEMBER, WestWorld, Scottsdale, AZ. A great way to start off the fall show season ... an affordable one-day Hunt Cup show! Don't worry about the heat ... with two covered arenas at Westworld, who cares that it's still 90+, degrees out! Both hunter and jumper classes will be offered!

OPEN BARREL RACING, Wednesdays, Arizona Horse Lovers Park, 6-9 p.m. For info (602) 534-4656.

SCOTTSDALE SADDLE CLUB GYMKHANA. Once a month at Phoenix Equestrian Center/Reach 11. Kathy Libonati at (623) 566-8732

RANCH SORTING PRACTICE, every Tuesday and Friday, 7 p.m. Tyler Wiese, 27413 N. 40th St., Cave Creek, AZ. (480) 242-2666.

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