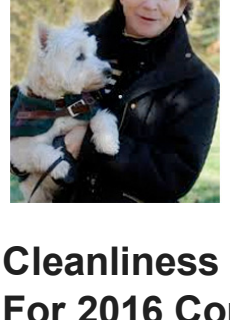




e-Centaur

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016 E-CENTAUR



SAVE THE DATE!

October 8-9

USDF Region 5 Adult clinic with Betsy Steiner and Kathy Connelly At Reverie Farms, Longmont, CO

Contact Victoria Trout at USDF 859-271-7882 or vtrout@usdf.org.

GEORGE WILLIAMS PROFESSIONALS' CLINIC

International dressage competitor and educator George Williams is offering clinics for riders and auditors April 18 - 20 at Paragon Equestrian Center in Berthoud, CO. He is an FEI trainer and rider, president of the United States Dressage Federation and USEF Youth Coach.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info, or go to [RMDS](#) website.

CLICK THRU ADS AVAILABLE HERE!

APRIL EVENTS

CHAPTERS

USDF REGION 5 MESSAGE

MARKETPLACE

CLASSIFIEDS

New USEF Vaccination Rule Required for ALL RMDS Shows

In January, the USEF Board of Directors approved an addition to the rule book, which outlines equine vaccination requirements at licensed competitions. Beginning Dec. 1, 2015, all horses entering the grounds of a Federation-licensed competition must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables.

Send Your Articles, Pictures and Comments

Share What You Learn, Earn Volunteer Hours

Attend an event, write an article and share the knowledge.

Members who write an article for Centaur earn credit for two volunteer hours. A phone photo is great, also. Deadlines are the 7th of every month. For details, contact writers@jcloud.com.

Facebook

Website

Cleanliness Best Biosecurity For 2016 Competitors, Managers

Bring Proof of New Immunizations to RMDS Shows

From Linda Gaber, RMDS Communications Chair

Dressage competitors and show managers nationwide already are on alert for the 2016 season, with new US Equestrian Federation vaccination requirements in place for USEF, USDF and RMDS shows. The goal is to reduce horses' risk of contracting common infectious, biological agents that cause disease. And, at worst, avoiding horse deaths and disease epidemics.

On show grounds this year, be prepared to present vaccination records that show your horses have been immunized specifically against two contagious diseases: Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus. "Shots" must be given within six months of the horse event. Many RMDS shows also require proof of a negative Coggins blood draw in 2016. The goal is to standardize immunization guidelines and to make the process easier to understand. To organize the documents, download the vaccination form from the USEF website usef.org to keep with your horse's health records.

Experts, including veterinarian Katie Mullen, Equine Internal Medicine Specialist at Littleton Equine Medical Center in Colorado, are getting the word out about the "invisible" dangers of common biosecurity risks that can spread disease. LEqMC sponsored the discussion, Event & Barn Biosecurity, this winter, and passed on their presentation notes for E-Centaur.

Culprits Usually Unseen

Yes, strangles, influenza and herpes, the three most common horse show diseases, can and do infect horses at home and away. Recently, there is new and emerging concern about infectious Equine Coronavirus, which has caused outbreaks among adult horses. Typically, it had been seen in foals. And horses in Colorado and surrounding states were among those hit with Vesicular Stomatitis in past summers, closing many horse shows and keeping many competitors at home.

In general, "These infectious diseases are highly contagious and easily spread via airborne particles," said Ashleigh Olds, DVM, DABVP-Equine Practice of Aspen Creek Veterinary Hospital in Conifer, CO. "... many horses in a barn may be exposed and be infected, but usually only a few actually show clinical symptoms," she wrote in her The Horse Docs column in Colorado Serenity.

"While VS is just one example of a contagious, infectious disease of concern, it does highlight the need to ensure that horses are healthy and disease-free prior to entering show facilities," Dr. Mullen said.

Biosecurity starts at home with developing a preventative medicine plan for your horse in collaboration with your veterinarian, she said. Preventative medicine includes wellness examinations, vaccinations, deworming, nutrition, equine infectious anemia testing and basic biosecurity protocols that can be implemented at home and while traveling.

"One of the first signs of many infectious diseases in horses is a fever. Maintaining a temperature log for your horse may help you identify an infectious disease early in its course," Dr. Mullen said. "Temperatures should be taken and recorded twice daily and the show or event veterinarian should be notified immediately if your horse has a fever (temperature above 101.5 F). Any horse with a fever, nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes, cough, diarrhea, neurologic signs or other signs of disease should be isolated and examined by a veterinarian immediately."

[Read more...](#)

Managers Must Plan Ahead for Safe Show

Practicing smart biosecurity is important to keeping horses safe and reducing the spread of disease at equine events. Fortunately, veterinarians and equine organizations are focusing on developing and communicating the best information to owners, show managers and competitors right now.

Here is some of their advice for show and event planners:

- Require vaccination records, a declaration that horse is free from symptoms of disease, exhibitor contact information and advertise the show's preparedness for disease issues.
- Designate an area to isolate an ill horse and the symptoms that warrant moving the horse.
- Develop a plan to transport a sick horse to isolation or a treatment center.
- Gather supplies for controlling horses and people during a disease outbreak: cones, signs, ropes, tape, etc.
- Limit horse contact with complete barriers between horses and separate horses in different events. Assign stalls based on where horses will compete and how long they will be at the event.
- Encourage good hand hygiene. Discourage sharing tack, feed and water buckets.
- Post biosecurity posters promoting good horse care. Restrict visitor access to horses.
- When and how will you clean and disinfect stabling, common use and commingling areas? Include which disinfectant you will use and at what dilution? (eg. bleach & water dilution 10:1) Remove organic matter first, to be followed by cleansing with soap and water and then disinfection.
- Once infected horse is identified and isolated, issue press release, restrict movement of horses and people, implement enhanced monitoring of the horse and all horses by recording body temperature.
- Distribute information to exhibitors on monitoring and infection control practices for horses at home. Recruit biosecurity measures to practice at home. Record exit/release time of horse(s). Complete exposed horse release assessment.

Sources include "Business Continuity Plan for Equine Events" by Jamee L. Amundson, MS, Josie Traub-Dargatz, DVM and Carl C. Heckendorf, DVM, created with assistance from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Provided by Katie Mullen, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Equine Internal Medicine Specialist, Littleton Equine Medical Center, kmullen@littletonequine.com, 303-794-6359.

— From Linda Gaber

President's Message

As the days get longer and we spend more time with our horses, we also find ourselves covered in horse hair. Yep, we are in the middle of shedding season and even if you clipped your horse, the spring shedding season still will be found on and in every piece of barn clothing.

Once again, I encourage our members and their friends to check out the RMDS Calendar for upcoming events. Shows and clinics have been added to the calendar so please take the time to plan and attend these special events.

Our Marketing Chair Una Schade has several plans coming up to promote the organization. If you have any ideas for her, please contact Una so she can discuss the 2016 season. Already this year, we are looking for help and suggestions for sponsors for our Championship Show in September. With the Region 5 Championships being held in Estes Park, CO, this year we are looking to host a few more parties and celebrations.

The RMDS Executive Board is working towards promoting our organization and showing the educational opportunities to the equestrian community. We hope to bring in new members by showing them our sport. With our Education Co-Chairs Michelle Anderson and Mary Jo Hoepner, and our Adult Amateur Michelle DeKrey, we are working on several events. High Plains Chapter hosted a very successful Jr/YR event in February and RMDS is working on more for our upcoming riders.

Professionals Chair Sarah Dodge has begun to organize our professionals to sponsor a dinner at the championships. She also is hard at work helping to get ready for the Professionals Clinic with George Williams. Articles and stories from the professional community will be published in our Centaur as part of our educational goals.

With the dedication of the Executive Board and our membership, RMDS can grow while maintaining our goals to educate and promote the sport of dressage.

Enjoy the longer days and time spent with your equine partners.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

Dolly Hannon Comments On Judges' CE Clinic Article

Editor's Note: Dolly Hannon asked that these corrections be printed, related to an article published in the March 2016 Centaur on her clinic, "Upgrade Your Judging Eye - Consistency in Judging Western Dressage & Judging the 'Average' Horse."

From Dolly Hannon

Dolly is a USEF 'S' judge and USDF certified instructor. Training to Fourth Level, and former Foothills Chapter president.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

B (basics) + C (criteria) +/- M (modifiers) = S (score)

Judging Methodology:

Basics (ALL the elements of the training scale) the fundamentals, starting with the correctness of the rhythm, and ultimately the correctness of the training of the horse.

+ Criteria (You were right here but added a modifier under criteria.) A standard by which something can be judged. The criteria are what the judge should expect to see in a movement or figure, like for example in a shoulder in; What is a correct shoulder in? Did the competitor fulfill the purpose of a movement in the test and show it correctly or not?

The essence of the movement is what is the most important thing in that movement; like for example in a halt/rein back/transition out, the essence of the movement is the rein back. (For the halt the transitions would be modifiers.)

PLUS OR MINUS modifiers

Some examples of modifiers can be the accuracy of a figure or movement, the shape and size of figures and circles, correct placement at the letter, bend, transitions, a slight shy or stumble, loss of focus, head tilt and straightness.

= the final score

This equation applies to judging dressage tests and Western dressage tests (not just Western).

Add to Western dressage section that there are MANY rule differences and differences in their verbiage so in judging these tests you need to read the rules and understand the differences. Like for example they cannot switch from holding the reins in one hand to two hands and vice versa, and they are allowed to pivot in a turn on the forehand, which is contradictory and confusing for most dressage judges.

Under DiDi's comments: add the rider is emphasized even more in Western dressage especially in the collective marks.

Dressage for the Cure Assists Breast Cancer Patients

Start the Mother's Day weekend with an early show-season ride and fund-raiser for breast cancer patients at Dressage for the Cure in Colorado Springs May 6-8.

[MORE INFO](#)

