

Stable Sheet



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TRAILERING IN THE WINTER

I'm the first to admit that driving the horse trailer in the winter is one of my least favorite things to do, but being better prepared does a little bit to ease my mind. We specifically have our small, bumper pull trailer parked in a shed (our "Pony Barn" for those who have been to Miner) and it is always ready and accessible if needed to move a horse once the snow flies, but for me, that's really only for emergencies. I try to schedule planned trips around the weather, but sometimes, you just can't manage that. A few more attention-to-details preparations and you'll be in better shape to arrive safe and sound.

For your truck, be sure you have really good treads on your tires and even consider having a set of tire chains depending upon where you're trying to travel through. How is the battery on the truck? Winter is hard on batteries and you don't want to get stuck needing a jump start. If you have a bumper pull and it isn't very heavy or you'll be hauling the trailer empty at all, you might want to add some weight in the bed of the truck- sand tubes are good because you can always steal one or two for traction if you were to get stuck! A good ice scraper, snow brush and possibly even a broom can help with snow removal on tall trucks or the backs of a dirty trailer if your latches get crusted. Toss in a shovel of some sort while you're at it. Print out directions, phone numbers, itineraries and horse health documents in case your GPS or phone fails you.

As for the trailer, be sure the lights, brakes, and emergency brakes are in good working order. Extra reflective tape on the sides and back of the trailer can help increase visibility. Check the tires' quality and get a good pressure gauge; cold temperatures reduce pressure in the tires. Low tire pressure increases the friction and generates heat which is the number one cause of tire blow-outs on trailers. Whatever windows and vents are on the trailer should be in good working order; managing the temperature and humidity in the trailer is critical to keeping horses healthy and comfortable.

The day I hauled HD Jefferson to his new home on Cape Cod, MA, it was cold (about 20 °F), but he was the only horse in a 5-horse slant load gooseneck. I was happy for the weight balance of the gooseneck in the bed of the truck, but I had a few bags of sand in there too. Since the ride was going to be almost 7 hours, I set up the trailer for "Tommy" to have a box stall at the front of the trailer by taking out several of the partitions and leaving only the "stud wall" to give him a large, well-bedded space. I closed the roof vents directly over his stall and opened the rear-most two vents facing the back of the trailer to let warm, moist air out. If they were open to the front of the trailer, they'd "scoop" cold air into the trailer and I didn't want to give him a chill. I then cracked open a

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COMMON LUMPS AND BUMPS

At various stages in their lifetime, your horse will present you with a new lump or bump. Most are harmless and short lived, but few could be a cause for concern. If you're ever uncertain as to what the lump or bump is, consult your veterinarian. However hard it is to resist the urge to pick or poke the bump, it is best to leave it alone and prevent further irritation. If the lump or bump is worth getting removed, then it is worth also getting biopsied or tested to better identify what it is/was.

If a new mass or swelling occurs acutely, within hours to days, a hematoma or a seroma is a likely candidate. These swellings are usually linked to a blunt force trauma such as a kick from another horse. The tissues get bruised from the injury and hemorrhage or serum leak under the skin forms the mass. The mass can be sensitive to touch and a bit unsightly to look at, but are usually of little consequence to the horse as its body heals the damage, reorganizing the tissues and reabsorbing the fluid. It can be a slow process while yielding the best cosmetic result.

Typical flat-topped skin nodules known as hives are commonly present when horses have an allergic reaction. Although hives can occur during any season, they tend to have a higher incidence during the summer months and can present as a singular wheal or as multiples covering large areas of the body. Hives can be accompanied by itching, scabs, and discharge. Hives can develop suddenly and disappear just as suddenly as they arrive. They tend to be an immediate skin reaction to an allergen, such as biting insects which are the most common culprit. However, reactions to drugs, fly sprays, shampoos, vaccines, and plants are all possible allergen agents.

Eosinophilic or nodular collagenolytic granuloma are persistent lumps, also known as "protein bumps". They are usually non-painful firm, bumpy swellings. They can be found as a single bump or in multiples,



1. Measuring the lump let us know how fast it was growing.
2. It didn't seem that big, but because it grew quickly, it was decided to have it removed.
3. The vet clipped and scrubbed the area, then used small injections of local anesthetic before the minor surgery.
4. All stitched up! The vet did a great job; the area never swelled up and it healed beautifully.

varying in size from small to moderate, and are commonly found along the neck, withers, and back of the horse. Although their exact cause is unknown, they are thought to result from trauma or irritation to the underlying connective tissue. Their presentation is often bothersome to the owner as they are typically located where tack contacts the body. This can be a valuable clue to consider if the lumps are in response to an irritation or repetitive trauma such as ill-fitting tack.

Papillomas, or warts, appear as raised gray or pink cauliflower-like growths that are usually fairly small, not much bigger than peas. They may appear singly or in clusters, most commonly on the muzzle or around the eyes, but also occasionally on the ears, genitals and lower legs. The growths do not appear to cause any pain or discomfort. Warts are caused by the equine papillomavirus, an organism that can

survive on skin, equipment and structures for weeks. Younger horses, under 3 years of age, are more susceptible, although warts can appear in adults. Left alone, the warts typically shrink and disappear, leaving no scars, over the course of about four months as the young horse's immune system develops. They are likely to persist for a year or more when they appear in older horses.

Aural plaques are ear papillomas that are flat, crusty, raised white lesions inside the ears. While they are not likely to shrink or go away on their own, aural plaques usually cause no pain and are considered to be just a cosmetic problem. Biting flies may irritate the lesions, and some horses may begin to resist bridling or having their ears handled. It is common for both ears to be affected. Aural plaques are caused by an

See **LUMPS & BUMPS**, Page 9

CONGRATS! HD JEFFERSON HAS NEW HOME!



photo courtesy of Cindy Harding

HD Jefferson
(Democracy x Spring's National Velvet)
2014 Gelding

Congrats to new owner Cindy Harding! Cindy met Tommy last summer when she brought her Morgan mare to be bred to Canon and it was love at first sight. Tommy has already settled in to his new home without missing a beat and is on his way to being the versatile dressage, trail, and pleasure horse she hoped he would be.



photo by Christopher Crosby Morris

TRAILERING, Continued from Page 1

couple of inches the side windows behind his stall. He has a good winter coat himself so I chose not to blanket him. I packed several towels, a fleece cooler with buckles and leg straps, and a spare sheet if I needed to cool him off or warm him up during the ride. I hung up his haynet, loaded up extra hay, a covered bucket of warm water and hit the road, precious cargo in the stall!

Tommy had some experience in a trailer before, so I was confident he would be OK by himself in the trailer. My first stop to check on him was about 2 hours into the trip. At that time, I found that the trailer was more moist from condensation than I thought it would be and he was a little damp on his chest and girth area. I put the cooler on him and opened a couple more side windows to improve the ventilation. Respiratory diseases from trailering are a big risk and I wanted Tommy to arrive healthy for his new owner. He drank a few gulps of water, ensuring that even if he did sweat and breathe out lots of moisture, he would be at less risk of colic due to dehydration. When I stopped again in another 2 hours for a water break, he was comfortable and dry under the cooler and the air in the trailer was much improved. Tommy arrived fresh and happy at his new home

after the final leg of the trip. It is best to avoid direct, cold drafts on the horse, but blanketing can help protect if your trailer's windows aren't negotiable. If you blanket, check the horse often and have spares, both lighter and heavier, if you need to change them out. If you don't have a cooler, stuffing some hay under a sheet can provide a nice air layer to help them dry, but keep them protected from drafts. Frequent stops to check and feel under the blanket are the most important thing for the health of your horse.

Road conditions are the other BIG factor when driving in the winter and should be a huge consideration as to whether or not you set out on a trip or plan for extra day(s). Even if you yourself feel pretty good about your driving abilities in foul weather, we all know it is the rest of the driving public we need to watch out for! Other than having 4 wheel drive and possible access to tire chains for your truck and braking wheels of your trailer, the main considerations are just enhanced versions of what we already know. SLOW DOWN. 4WD can help you GO faster, but it won't help you STOP faster. Increase your stopping distance by taking your foot off the gas way in advance of needing to stop and always have a much larger space between

you and the vehicle ahead of you than you might on dry roads. Increasing the braking "power" of your trailer brakes is not likely to help especially if those brakes lock up. A skidding tire moves faster than a turning one and if the trailer brakes lock up, it will push the trailer and increase the chances of jack-knifing. Your right foot is going to get tired, but do not use cruise control in bad weather as you'll lose the "feel" of the road and the ability to let off the gas instantly.

Coming home from delivering Tommy, the roads were fine in MA and NH, but awful for about 60 miles in VT due to a fast moving, high elevation storm. I'd checked the forecast carefully for the whole of my route and knew I might hit some weather, but it was worse than predicted earlier than predicted. Snow covered roads slowed me down and I turned my lights on to improve visibility. Seeing many cars off the road hinted at very slick conditions so I slowed a bit more. Slow and steady with 4WD on and maintaining a very safe stopping distance, I returned to the Champlain Valley in one piece, albeit with a few bonus gray hairs.

—Karen Lassell
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LOTS TO LEARN AT EQUINE AFFAIRE

Equine Affaire is an annual premiere exposition and gathering of equestrians of almost all disciplines and interests in the industry. As a first-time attendee, I was awe-struck at the hundreds of booths containing horse products and an abundance of information. I promptly filled my time with seminars and demonstrations ranging from saddle fitting, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and insulin resistance, introductions to bridleless riding, body work techniques, overcoming trail obstacles, introductions to Horse Speak, exercises to practice in the stall this winter, and many many more!

Favorites of mine included saddle fitting by Jochen Schleese, The Masterson Method body work techniques by Jim Masterson, and using Horse Speak, developed by Sharon Wilsie, to overcome trail obstacles which was demonstrated by Heidi Potter. I will refrain from going into great detail due to the many videos and books provided by these professionals, but will touch on a few enlightening details that I enjoyed and are aspects we strive to embody with Heart's Delight Morgans.

To understand and speak the language of the horse is something I am not yet fluent in, but continue to practice and improve on a daily basis. The goal in all our handling, training, and care is to become the leader the horse wants us to be. During the demonstrations by Heidi Potter, almost all of the horses had varying levels of nerves in a ring surrounded by hundreds of people. The knowledge driven home was the reminder that the horse is a prey animal. Heidi's advice was to lead the horse around the space with the handler on the outside and horse on the inside. The handler was to walk and "check out" the surroundings by touching and kicking—using clear gestures that the horse can observe as strong, but done so with a "no big deal" attitude. What the crowd could almost instantly observe was the horses all settled considerably as they looked to the handler to lead them and keep them safe.

Jim Masterson performed many fascinating demonstrations of his body work techniques. Coming back to the understanding that horses are a prey animal, they frequently hold tensions in their body so as to not appear a weak target. This is the sympathetic nervous system driving their actions, the flight or fight response. The goal is to then target treatment of the parasympathetic nervous system to allow the release of tension. The sympathetic nervous system directs the body's involuntary response to dangerous or stressful situations. A flash flooding of hormones boosts the body's alertness and heart rate, sending extra blood to the muscles to be ready to flee. In contrast, the parasympathetic nervous system is sometimes called the rest and digest system. This system conserves energy as it slows the heart rate, increases intestinal and gland activity, and relaxes muscles. The driving principle of this body work method is to bring awareness to the horse at their areas of discomfort, pausing with varying amounts of pressure that is accepted by the horse which ranges from an air gap to squeezing a grape or lemon and waiting until the horse shows a sign of release. We have some experience with both body work techniques and observing chiropractic techniques at Miner Institute on our horses; it is a worthwhile practice to learn more about for any type of horse.

Both Horse Speak and the Masterson Method embody what it means to truly listen and see the signs your horse is giving you. Sharon Wilsie and Jim Masterson have published books and videos that I would recommend to anyone wishing to further their relationship with horses across all levels and disciplines.

The last favorite demonstration of mine was saddle fitting by Jochen Schleese. I was impressed and easily captivated at how much anatomy and knowledge goes into saddle fitting! Jochen also has many informative YouTube videos where he

guides you step by step fitting both English and Western saddles. I particularly enjoy the details in the videos where he explains what happens to the horse when a saddle is placed incorrectly at certain points. For example, the billets of the saddle should hang perpendicular to the floor in the heart girth region. Now if the billets are perpendicular but too far back, gravity brings the girth forward pulling the weight of the saddle into the shoulder behind the scapula. This is a sensitive area made of cartilage and you risk chipping away at it as the saddle presses in. With the billets too far forward, the saddle shifts back. Now this may avoid the cartilage at the shoulder, but now the saddle is pressing on the lumbar area spine and muscles as well as close to where the kidneys and ovaries reside.

I used to have the notion that English saddles were probably more comfortable for the horse due to their lighter weight. What I failed to realize was the obvious knowledge that distributing weight over a larger surface area is generally more comfortable for the horse. The channel or gullet of the saddle should be wide enough to allow complete clearance of the spine. You will not find any Western saddle with a width smaller than 4 fingers wide yet it is a common occurrence in English saddles. The saddle should rest along the back muscles never touching the spine at any point due to the nerves and important ligaments that run along the spine. Jochen advised that if you are going to ride in an English saddle that you can get one that has a western tree allowing for clearance and more surface area coverage.

I gushed for days upon my return from Equine Affaire, going through the notes I took down. The large headline here is that we must continue learning about all aspects of this wonderful industry — our horses will thank us for it — and there are many opportunities to find great information.

— *ShyAnne Koehler*
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SEEM ALUM REFLECTS ON HOW PROGRAM OPENED DOORS FOR HER

It was just over 20 years ago when Adrienne Melis came to Miner Institute from the University of Vermont School of Agriculture and Life Sciences as a Summer Experience in Equine Management student. She grew up in southern Vermont on a small homestead and beef farm. She said that she always loved animals and an older cousin introduced her to horses when she was about 5 years old. She recalled that the first horse she rode was a painted pony named Chief who solidified her love of horses.

Adrienne currently lives in West Chazy, NY with her 3-year-old daughter, Grace, dog Tucker, and three horses. She gardens, grows microgreens and blogs about her homesteading experiences at chasinggracehomestead.com. She works as a receptionist for Adirondack Valley Veterinary Services in Plattsburgh.

“I learned more about horses in my short time as a summer student and intern at Miner Institute than I did during all my years in college and being around horses as a kid combined,” Adrienne said. After graduating from the University of Vermont, Adrienne returned to Miner Institute as the yearlong equine intern. “Though brief in actual time, the amount of experience and knowledge I gained

“I have seen so many faces come and go; employees, students and interns that have gone on to do amazing things, and little fuzz-faced foals that have grown up and found their place in the world. I’ve bonded with champions, I’ve seen real life magic happen and I’ve made lifelong human and animal connections. Some experiences have been joyous celebrations and some have been heartbreaking goodbyes. I deeply cherish them all.”

— Adrienne Melis

at Miner was vast. I learned training techniques, reproduction, management skills, behavior and so much more. Much more valuable than the skills I learned, the real gift that Miner Institute gave me, was confidence in myself and a connection to a phenomenal group of people that I will have the rest of my life.”

A few years after she left Miner, Adrienne had an 8-year-old mare who stopped eating. She took her to the Vermont Large Animal Clinic in Milton, VT. The mare was diagnosed with chronic renal failure and end-stage kidney disease and did not survive. The quality of the facility, the kindness of the staff and the care they provided stuck with her, though. “I recall to this day telling my mother that I really hoped I could work at a place like that one day. Out of the blue, more than 15 years later, that exact opportunity presented itself to me and I knew immediately that I had to take it,” Adrienne said. The Plattsburgh clinic where she works was

recently opened as a sister office to the Milton clinic that worked on her mare. “I am currently, quite literally, working my dream job. I look forward to the opportunity to make a difference in my local equine community,” she said.

Adrienne said that she highly recommends the Summer Experience in Equine Management program. She said that Miner Institute has truly become a special place for her. “You see, I never really left. So many important moments have occurred; as a SEEM student, as an intern, as a part-time employee in years afterward, as a visitor, as a friend, and now in a veterinary capacity. Miner Institute and I have had 22 years of memories,” she said.

“I took a few twists and turns in my career, working in pharmaceutical research, as an assistant for a small animal veterinarian, co-owning and running my own small dairy farm and managing a small private horse farm before I came to my current position,” she said. “But what I learned at Miner has carried over and helped me not only at every job I held (equine or not), but in every aspect of my life. That experience was a turning point that opened doors and changed everything for me. I will always have a special place in my heart for that farm and everyone there, both two-legged and four-legged.”

Are you a college undergraduate looking for a PAID summer internship?

The Summer Experience in Equine Management may be for you!

The 2020 program runs from May 18 to August 14. Application materials are due Feb. 15, 2020.

Learn more at <http://whminer.org/education/summer-experience-in-equine-managment.php>

A GUIDE TO TACKLING ESTATE PLANNING FOR THE HORSE OWNER

By Sarah E. J. Collier, JD

As seen in the New York State Horse Council's 2019 fourth quarter newsletter.

It is not a hidden secret that horses are very expensive to own. A recent expense report I completed totaled the annual expenses for a ten-year-old horse, stabled at a boarding facility, at approximately \$6,500 per year. Assuming the horse lives until age 40, the horse will cost at least \$195,000 over the next 30 years. These expenses are something that we, as horse owners, are willing to accept for the companionship of our loving horses, but what happens in the event you become incapacitated or pass away while owning your horse? Who is willing to take on the responsibility, both the time and financial commitments, of owning your horse?

This is a difficult decision, which can be overwhelming. This article will break down the thought process into steps to hopefully make this overwhelming task more manageable and ready to implement.

Step 1: What are my horse's annual expenses?

Although a horse's expenses are likely to increase over time, this gives potential caregivers an idea of the financial responsibility before they accept the role. Examples of annual expenses include: insurance, vet care, hoof care, hay and feed, supplements, and stabling costs.

Step 2: Who will care for your horse?

- Identify any family members or friends who would be a good fit for caring for your horse.

Ideally, find someone who is familiar with your horse and is willing to continue to care for your horse just as you did. If you have multiple horses, you may want to

think of multiple individuals depending on the horses' needs and the resources of possible caregivers.

- Donate the horse for educational purposes or farm sanctuaries.

Unfortunately, there may be circumstances where you do not know anyone that is able to care for the horse. In this situation, donating your horse to a 4-H program, college equestrian team or other similar organization may be a good fit to ensure your horse is properly cared for. As a last resort, farm sanctuaries may agree to care for your horse especially if accompanied with a donation to cover future expenses.

- Sell your horse through your Estate. Aside from debt collection, there are two common examples why the horse may be sold. One example is by a specific request in your Will/Trust that the horse is sold. The second example is the beneficiaries/caregiver of the horse disclaim the gift (i.e. reject owning the horse), thereby requiring the Executor or Trustee to sell the horse if no other option is available. In either circumstance, instructions on selling your horse should be provided to the Executor/Trustee to avoid unintended consequences, such as the horse going to an unsuitable owner or a kill pen. These instructions could include a request that the Executor/Trustee hire a reputable broker as well as a few suggestions of names that you deem acceptable.

In addition, separate from your Will, keep a running portfolio of your horse's characteristics and skills including riding disciplines, achievements, registration and pedigree, vices, food and medical needs etc.. Once complete, keep the

information in a safe place that is easily accessible to your Executor/Trustee in the event they need to market your horse.

Step 3: Determine whether you wish to fund the care of your horse.

If someone has accepted the role of caregiver, depending on the circumstances, you may want to make a monetary gift to cover your horse's expenses. This can be either an outright lump sum or series of payments gifted to the caregiver, or assets placed in a Trust for the Trustee to manage.

Tools that could be used are: Last Will & Testament, Trusts, insurance products, Transfer on Death Account/Payable on Death Account, etc. At this point, you may want to speak to your financial advisor to look at which tools may be best financially for you to accomplish your goals.

Step 4: Prepare for when you are unable to make decisions for yourself (incapacitation).

When you speak with your attorney, they are likely to ask you to name an Agent in your (Durable) Power of Attorney if you have not done so already. Along with other powers that your Agent may have, they can be given the authority to manage your finances, including the care of your horse. If the Agent is given this authority, the Agent should have direction on caring for and rehoming your horse if needed. These are likely to be similar instructions you give to your Executor/Trustee.

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EquiDay 2020 is March 14!

FREE and open to the public!

AGENDA:

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration & Refreshments
- 9:30 - 9:45 **Why Biosecurity is important: A Miner Case Study**
ShyAnne Koehler, Equine Intern, Miner Institute
- 9:45 -10:45 **Taking Steps to a Healthier Horse Farm**
TBA
- 10:50-12:00 **Conformation Analysis - Developing your Eye!**
Karen Lassell, Equine Manager, Miner Institute
- 12:00- 12:45 Lunch Break – available for \$5 in the cafeteria annex
- 12:45 - 1:15 **Adirondack Tack's annual fashion show**
Carol Tetreault, Adirondack Tack
- 1:15 – 2:30 **Equine Behavior and Learning**
Dr. Lindsay Goodale, Lecturer, Cornell University
- 2:30 **Door Prize Drawing - must be present to win**



**EquiDay is held at the Joseph C. Burke
Education and Research Center
at Miner Institute
586 Ridge Rd., Chazy, NY 12921**

www.whminer.org

For more information, contact Karen Lassell
518-846-7121, ext. 120
or lassell@whminer.com

32nd Annual Equine Reproduction Workshop is April 3-4, 2020

Lectures and hands-on lessons with Miner Institute, Balanced Rhythms, Inc., Meadowbrook Equine, LLC, the UVM Animal Science Department and the UVM Morgan Horse Farm.

Contact the UVM Morgan Horse Farm for further information, including how to register for this event.

Space is limited. Uvm.morgans@uvm.edu or (802)388-2011

MORGAN GRAND NATIONALS 2019

HD Redford (Tedwin Titlist x Perinton Serenity) was born in 2003, a huge chestnut colt with the perfect letter “i” star and strip on his face. His barn name was Johnny, after Robert Redford’s character in the classic movie *The Sting*. We often joked that Johnny inherited his sire’s sweet and cooperative temperament and his dam’s appetite; he just kept growing and topped out at over 16 hands. He came up through the training program at Miner as a great “project pony” for summer students to learn basic horse starting skills. Although canter circles eluded him as a youngster, Johnny was fun on the trails and just an easy-going kind of guy.



Dr. Josie Trott and HD Redford relaxed and ready for the coliseum awards presentation.



Red painted to show muscle structure demonstrates the levade at an education day at UC Davis.

After many years at the University of Vermont, Dr. Josie Trott had come to appreciate the Morgan Horse. When she and her UVM professor husband, Dr. Russ Hovey were planning their move to similar jobs at UC Davis in California, she felt the time was right to buy a Morgan to be Russ’ horse and a companion to her FEI dressage horse, Pookey. Time was short, so I trucked Johnny over to Charlotte, VT for Josie to try out and he was declared the right fit!

With his new California name of “Red” (and occasionally Freddy Frog!), Josie took to riding him as well as her horse and over the last decade both had lots of fun and lots of serious discipline to bring Red up through the dressage levels to the pinnacle of the sport, Grand Prix. Josie is kind enough to give props to Red’s good start in life, but truly it is the horse’s kind temperament, love of all things cookies, and Josie’s methodical training that got him to finally passaging, piaffeing and one-tempi lead changes to receive their awards in the coliseum at the 2019 Morgan Grand National Horse Show in Oklahoma City. The literal chills I got watching his near-perfect center line in one test (it scored a 9) was worth the trip alone for me!

It should not go unmentioned that in addition to being a great dressage horse, Red is often asked to perform as a painted horse at UC Davis equine education days, be Dr. Russ Hovey’s riding prop for his Introduction to Animal Science class, jump small cross country and hunt courses like a pro, and take visiting guests on trail rides.

While Josie says that 2020 will be a year away from the dressage ring for Red, it will hardly be a year off! Josie’s got her eye on the growing sport of Working Equitation and thinks they’re going to give that a whirl. HD Redford’s Heart’s Delight family has no doubt that he’ll love it the way a pony loves pasture.

— Karen Lassell

LUMPS & BUMPS, Continued from Page 2

equine papillomavirus that is thought to be spread by biting flies, such as the blackfly, that target the ears.

Sarcoids vary in appearance ranging from thickened flat hairless lesions to a warty fibrous-like nodule of considerable size. They can be found anywhere on the body. Treatment is variable, depending on location, type, and size of the tumour with no one treatment considered to be curative. The squamous cell carcinoma is found in association with the mucous membranes near the skin in locations such as eyes, vulva, and penis. Recommendations for treatment are based on their individual specifics. Surgical removal or cryotherapy are the most common treatments, and are best attempted early when the mass is small.

Melanomas are most commonly found in grey horses and typically appear under the tail and along the perineum or vulva. Generally they are best treated with a watchful eye while being left alone. If chosen, treatment is variable and includes removal and chemotherapy.



— Photo by Christopher Crosby Morris

While some lumps and bumps present as more bothersome than others, it is not uncommon. Here at Miner Institute we have dealt with cases of hives, aural plaques, hematomas, and unsightly warts. The yearling gelding, HD Hamilton “Alex” presented with a black, vascularized bump on the side of his neck under his mane. We measured the lump and noted that it grew over the summer, we decided to have the veterinarian take a look. A quick on-farm surgical procedure by the vet removed the lump and we followed the sage advice that “if it is worth removing, it is worth biopsying.” All of us, vet included, were surprised that the results came back as melanoma! The protocol for Alex is for us to monitor the site as well as all of his skin for reoccurrence, but the vet felt confident based on the procedure and lab results showing clean margins of the removed section that the whole tumor is gone. Alex healed beautifully and enjoys his thorough groomings and check ups by us!

— ShyAnne Koehler
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PLANNING, Continued from Page 6

Step 5: Discuss your intentions with your family, chosen caregiver and agents.

Communication with family members and friends about your plan is vital to avoid surprises that may increase tension following your incapacitation or death. For example, some decisions left to those you name to act on your behalf may be emotionally difficult to make in your absence such as rehoming or euthanizing your horse. By informing them ahead of time about your wishes, it may lessen their stress and increase the likelihood they follow through with your plan.

Step 6: Speak to an attorney!

Depending on the size and type of assets in your total estate, your attorney may recommend different estate planning

tools such as a Last Will & Testament and/or Trusts (revocable, irrevocable, living, testamentary, etc.) to execute your plan. If you have a financial advisor, you should also have them look over your estate plan prior to execution to ensure it coincides with your tax and legacy objectives, as well as any other financial plans already in place.

Step 7: Implement and update.

Implementing your estate plan goes beyond executing the legal documents. For example, it could require working with your financial advisor to open accounts and fund them accordingly. In addition, you should review your estate plan, at the minimum, after one of the four D’s (Death, Divorce, Disability, and

Debt). As it pertains to horse owners, you should also review your estate plan whenever your horse’s expenses change. Unfortunately, implementing and updating the estate plan seems to be the most forgotten step and forgetting to do so can have adverse effects on your estate plan.

Creating a thorough Estate Plan takes careful planning to achieve your key objectives and limit unintended consequences. Depending on your unique situation, your financial advisor and attorney may advise certain financial or legal tools to implement your Estate Plan. Therefore, it is important to work closely with these professionals to ensure that your financial goals coincide with your estate plan objectives.

HORSE TRAINING: 2 STEPS FORWARD, 1 STEP BACK

We have seen it in the movies, girl meets wild untrainable mustang. Lifelong bond forms instantly. Girl leaps on horse and gallops off into sunset. It's a romantic thought, but with even the most domesticated of horses, it is just a fantasy. It is surprising how often the non-horse owning public believes this is how horse training works; just throw a saddle on and hop up there! There are still some "trainers" who "break" the horse to accept the saddle and rider bronco-style by letting them just buck it out and get used to things, but that isn't the approach we take at Miner.



HD Springfield (UVM Springfield x Stonecroft Deuce's Wild) 3-year-old stud colt lunging with a saddle on.

Every horse is an individual and learns a unique pace, but there is a general order to the training of horses. Starting from day one, they begin socialization other horses and humans too; it is astonishing how much of a horse's manners and communication towards humans and other horses comes from their mothers and being part of a herd. As for human interaction, Miner's foals are taught to accept human touch and begin with the basics of wearing a halter, leading and picking up their feet. As a yearling, we begin layering new skills such as walking politely around new places the farm (we call it "adventure walking"), standing quietly for longer periods for grooming and the farrier, trailer loading and more. As a two year old we introduce equipment for the horse

to wear and start to physically exercise to prepare for a career as a riding or driving horse. Beginning with basic free lunging in a round pen or our "Pony Barn", we evaluate the horse's movement, body language and readiness to connect with a trainer and pay attention. Next we move on to adding one piece of equipment at a time allowing the horse time to adjust to the feel before increasing the level of demands. Lunging helps the horse learn discipline and voice commands; longlining starts to connect the bit in their mouth directly to the trainer's hands. By the age of three, the lower leg bones' growth plates have fused and the horse is strong enough to be able to balance a rider for short periods of time. Saddle training is a slow process that involves introducing a saddle, doing

ground work of with the saddle on, stepping into the stirrup, and ultimately "backing" the horse where they are sat on.

This sounds like a straightforward and linear process, but often this isn't the reality. It's not easy, there are days that are amazing where your horse does everything perfectly and it seems that they have moved forward at an exponential rate; you are so excited because you have taken 2 steps forward. Then the next day comes and your horse seemingly "forgot" a basic skill such as halting, or how to turn, and it feels

as if you have now gone one step back. With persistence, patience, curiosity and a sense of humor, you will get there; it can be frustrating at times, but can be one of most rewarding experiences you can have with a horse. One of the best days of your life will come when you take those first steps seated in the saddle! Remember to enjoy the small moments and take in every little victory because at the end of the day, even the smallest of steps will lead you to your goal of a true equine partner.

— Emily Davie
2019 Summer Experience in Equine
Management student from Washington
State University

NY STATE HORSE COUNCIL NEWS

Now is the time to join or renew with the NY State Horse Council! The sooner you're a member, the sooner you'll get the benefits including the supplemental liability insurance coverage. It is easy to join and pay online at www.nyshc.org



New York State
Horse Council

New for 2020 is a Youth Newsletter Editor Internship for individuals between 18-24 with an interest in horses and publications. The NYSHC's newsletter is published quarterly with the elements of: news/content, advertising/sponsorship, design, and editing. The Youth Intern will learn each of these about through interaction with the NYSHC Newsletter Committee and is expected to contribute about 10 hours of work per edition through compilation of informative articles, editing of content and advertising, and formatting.

The successful candidate can expect the benefits to include complimentary youth membership to the NYSHC (no insurance associated), one free admission to a NYSHC clinic or event, opportunity to write articles for publication, and a \$50 stipend for each issue the intern works on.

More details and application information is available at www.nyshc.org, but move quickly; the deadline is January 3, 2020.

GET READY FOR SPRING!

Conference hosted by the Saratoga Driving Association - valuable information for all equestrians.

February 15, 2020 in Latham, NY

Guest speakers Richard and Martha Hanks-Nicoll will explore in depth what the new driving dressage tests expect from the training level horse (with video). With their unique perspective as judges, they can share how they've been directed by the ADS and how they will use the "comments" section of the test to reflect that.

Is your horse being resistant? Is it acting out? Jeff Morse will present on Deciding when the Problem is Physical vs. a training issue. Plus more and always a great lunch and raffle!

Every penny raised goes back into the sport of Carriage Driving.

For fee and registration information, visit the SDA's website www.saratogadriving.com

Do you have topic suggestions for Stable Sheet articles?

Or

Are you not yet on the mailing list and would like to be?

Contact Rachel at dutil@whminer.com or 518-846-7121, ext. 115

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FEATURED MINER MORGAN: HD VILLENOVA



photos by Christopher Crosby Morris

HD Villenova (DPR Noble Viking x Spring's National Velvet)

Nova was the only filly born in 2018. She both enjoyed and endured the attention of the three colts also born that year, but as with all sibling relationships, sometimes it gets rough and in March of 2019, Nova ended up on the wrong side of the fence and was found down on a patch of ice in the paddock. Radiographs after about 4 months of very well behaved stall rest confirmed the diagnosis of a broken, but now healed pelvis. Time will tell how she progresses in training or as a broodmare prospect, but for now, she has no idea she's a little "funny shaped" as she runs through the pasture and hangs with her besties! Watch for a full report on Nova's injury and recovery in the next issue of *The Stable Sheet*.

Learn more about the Miner Morgans at www.whminer.org/equine.html