

# Stable Sheet



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## “OH, NO! IT’S A NAIL!”

One of the worst things you can find when searching for the cause of a sudden lameness—a nail. It was what I heard early on a Friday morning in June. Nova (HD Villanova) is a 4 year old mare who was about 10 months pregnant with her first foal. Nova had broken her pelvis when she was a yearling, but it healed well and she was given a clean bill of health to breed. One breeding in



“Oh, no! It’s a nail!!” to which I replied, “Do NOT pull it out!”

Nails or any object that punctures, especially in the foot, should never be removed without vet approval because you need to know the tract of the nail or object in the horse’s body to know how to treat the wound and how intensive the treatment needs to be. Particularly in hooves, the tissues will try to

close quickly around a hole if the nail is pulled, making the exact location of the depth and severity of the wound very hard to see on imaging. Once we identified the nail, we called Vermont Large Animal Clinic (VLAC). Since Nova was very painful, we were approved to give her a dose of banamine while we waited for them to arrive. We also bedded her stall heavily to encourage more laying down to get the weight off her leg. See NAIL, Page 2

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See NAIL, Page 2



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# NAIL, Continued from Page 1

One of the first questions asked when the vets arrived was if Nova was up to date on her tetanus vaccination (she was). After a quick initial exam, Nova was very uncomfortable and a bit nervous, so she was mildly sedated to get the x-rays. Everyone gasped and even a few off-color words were spoken as the frightening images came up on the screen. Radiographs showed a very large, bent nail had gone into her heel and looked to possibly have connected with the navicular bursa. I had never experienced a nail in a hoof before, but I knew what all horse people know, “No hoof, no horse.” The vet proceeded to take several more images from many angles to best guess what structures the nail had encountered. Based on the evaluation on the farm, the situation looked like it could be life threatening and treatment needed to start ASAP.

The vet offered a couple of options. One was to take Nova to surgery to explore and clean the wound under sterile conditions and get intensive antibiotic therapy in a hospital setting, but there would also be risks from the surgery itself. Particularly for a mare heavy in foal with previous pelvic fracture, the risk of injury during anesthesia/waking up, and complications associated with a surgery and travel to the hospital. After discussing the pros and cons of traveling to Saratoga, including that Nova had never been off the farm and is nervous with people she doesn't know, we decided to take on home treatment for her.

Based on her low initial SAA (Serum Amyloid A- a blood test checking the level of inflammation), we knew that this puncture had likely occurred just before we found her at breakfast, so no



infection had started. Having a team of dedicated summer students as Nova's support network, we set up a plan. The vet removed the nail, pared out as best she could, flushed the wound and wrapped the hoof. In addition to getting two types of systemic antibiotics both IV (Intravenous) and IM (Intramuscular), targeting the hoof itself with antibiotics through Regional Limb Perfusion (RLP) was important. Placing a tourniquet above the fetlock, IV antibiotics were injected below the tourniquet, which concentrated the medication to the wounded foot and held it in place for several minutes before releasing the tourniquet. After consulting with our farrier, Dr. Jaret Pullen, DVM, we added to Soft Ride Boots with a heel lift. By elevating the heel, it took some weight off the sore part of her foot and lessened the tension on the DDFT (Deep Digital Flexor Tendon) in case it had been injured by the nail. Nova felt immediately better with the boots on, but the next 72 hours were going to be telling; she was not out of the woods yet. We were never so happy to see a Monday Morning as Nova was feeling OK that day!



Deep bedded stall rest, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics IV, IM, and eventually oral for about 3 weeks. She had a total of 3 RLP treatments by the vet and we flushed the wound every day for as long as we could until the tract closed up. Her temperature was taken 3 times a day and never rose above 100.7 degrees F, which is in her normal range. Finally, a week after ending medication and her temp stayed normal, appetite and attitude were good with no signs of the wound turning into an abscess, she went out for her first turnout in a month! We all finally slept well.

The next day... Surprise!! There was a perfectly happy, healthy chestnut colt in the stall with her waiting for breakfast. HD Venice (Canon x HD Villanova) must have known we needed some sleep, so he saved us all nights of foal watch. What a month!

— Megan Green  
*Equine Intern Alumni*

\* See page 3 to learn what Megan is up to now!

# MEGAN GREEN SETTLES INTO NEW ROLE IN LEXINGTON, KY

Megan Green wrapped up her internship here at Miner in the fall and is now settled into a new internship in Lexington, KY.

Megan is at Spy Coast Farms, a breeding and development farm for performance horses. “I am loving my time here and have learned a lot,” Megan said. “We breed and raise warmblood sport horses, though I handle a lot of different breeds in our recipient mare herd.”

Thus far in 2023, Spy Coast Farms has had 10 foals out of an expected 38. Megan spends most of her time caring for and monitoring foals, moms, mothers-to-be, and barren mares. She and her team do palpating to track mares cycles and help manage breeding. Megan said that she has done 6 follicular aspirations and is now leading the flushing and filtering for oocytes.



Megan Green with Nova and HD Venice at Miner Institute.

She also spends her free time at her supervisor, Dr. Modesty Burleson’s Thoroughbred farm, Burleson Farms. She helps with foal exams and helps track mare cycles to decide when they should go to the breeding shed. “My days (and nights on call) are busy and exhausting but I am learning so much and am having so much fun,” Megan said. “I would have been ill prepared for the busy schedule here if I didn’t spend almost two years at Miner Institute. My foundational education in breeding, cycling, foaling, and farm management that I received at Miner and with Karen were a great spring board for my internship here. I know how to manage fiesty foals and youngsters with patience and composure while at the same time setting boundaries,” Megan said. “I will forever take the knowledge and experience I learned at Miner to whatever future job I receive.”

## HEART’S DELIGHT SPRING PREMIER OPEN HORSE SHOW

May 27-28, 2023

Clinton County Fairgrounds Plattsburgh, NY



- Prize list and entry information is available at [www.whminer.org](http://www.whminer.org)
- Tammy's Lunchbox will be selling food
- Adirondack Tack will be open for your horse show needs as well as equine-themed items for everyone to enjoy.
- Spectators are welcome and admission to watch the show is FREE!



# EQUIDAY 2023

EquiDay is a three-part series this year! You're welcome to pick and choose, but if you join us for all three sessions, you'll be entered into a drawing for a "Miner" prize. What hasn't changed at all? It is still absolutely FREE and open to the public! No pre-registration is required; just show up to enjoy some great presentations and light refreshments. While we are thrilled to be back in person, the last couple of years showed us that we also enjoy learning in the comfort of our own home sometimes. To break up the gray monotony of March, we'll gather for shorter sessions to enjoy speakers on a variety of topics. The BERC is located at 586 Ridge Rd. in Chazy.

EquiDay Part ONE is **Saturday, March 18, 2023**. Doors at the BERC will open at 9:30 AM and the speaker program will be from 10:00 AM – Noon. Author and accomplished equestrian, Denny Emerson of Strafford, VT will lead a discussion that includes his current philosophies on riding, training, horse ownership and the equine industry. If you've got any of his books, bring them along to get them signed too!

EquiDay Part TWO is **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**. Doors at the BERC will open at 5:45 PM and the speaker, Dr. Randy Frantz, will present on the Pre-Purchase Exam from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. You wouldn't buy a car without looking under the hood; a horse purchase is no different! Learn what the vet will look for, what they will want to know from YOU, the potential purchaser, about how you hope to use the horse, and just how simple or extensive the exam can be.

EquiDay Part THREE is **Thursday, March 30, 2023**. Settle into a comfy chair at home (you're responsible for your own snacks this time) and log in for a 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM presentation by Dr. Sue McDonnell. The New Bolton Center's equine behavior specialist will lead us through a talk to help us understand our horse friends just a little bit better! Why does a horse do what he does? Tune in and find out!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83750696431>

Meeting ID: 837 5069 6431

## ARE YOU AN ALUMNUS OF A MINER INSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?

**Mark your calendar and join us for an alumni gathering!**



**Please take a minute to fill  
out this survey:**

**[https://forms.gle/rknPCueuR-  
WVrhzcNA](https://forms.gle/rknPCueuR-WVrhzcNA)**

# BEGIN AND BEGIN AGAIN

An exciting follow-up from the bestselling author of *How Good Riders Get Good and Know Better to Do Better*. (Denny's books are published by Trafalgar Square Books and available at [www.horseandriderbooks.com](http://www.horseandriderbooks.com)) The following was reprinted with permission of Trafalgar Square.

We all start somewhere with horses. As a toddler on a pony. As a teenager with friends who ride. As an adult who always loved horses, but life just got in the way...until now.

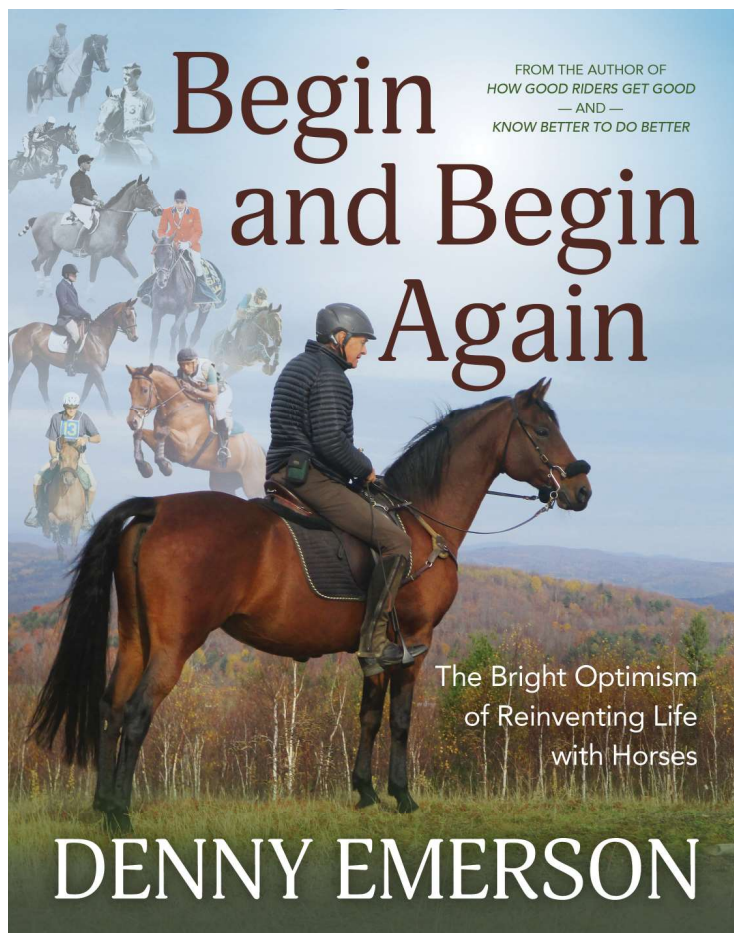
Some of us start over. We sell our horses to go to school, to have careers or babies (or both). We decide to quit dressage and start reining. We fall off...and get back on.

There are all sorts of beginning places, and they can be for the first time or after a "gap." They can mean you are beginning, or your horse is. They can mean you barely got started, or you started badly. Renowned horseman Denny Emerson knows all about the importance of these beginnings. Through an impressive career in the saddle that spans decades, he has worked with all different breeds, competed at the top international levels of eventing and endurance, lost horses and found new ones, taught young riders and adult amateurs, traded Western tack for English and back again, been injured...only to rehab, climb back in the saddle, and start over.

In his third book, Emerson once again masterfully intertwines his entertaining reflections from a life embedded in the equestrian world with serious philosophical questions faced by the industry today and practical advice honed by his immense experience. Readers will discover:

- How to make your beginning with horses easier...and how to make it harder.
- How having the right horse versus having the wrong horse can affect a beginning...or mean you should begin again.
- The importance of a team (family, friends, trainers, coaches) you trust and rely upon.
- Ways to identify how you learn, see, hear, and feel, and how to apply that knowledge with horses.
- The need for knowing how far you want to go and how much are you willing to give up to go there.

With inspirational stories of beginning and beginning again from top equestrians, as well as personal reflections from "regular" horse people around the world, these pages promise to inspire a start or a change, and provide a roadmap we all can follow, whatever our ambitions. Emerson reassures us that it doesn't matter where your beginning point is — start where you are. And, even better, there is a do-over button — you just have to decide to push it. This book is for every horse person who continues to dream of something else or something more, and just needs someone to say: "Begin."



Learn more about the  
Heart's Delight Morgan Horses  
and view our sales list

<https://www.whminer.org/morgan-sales-list>



*photo by Christopher Crosby Morris*

Also be sure to follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/HeartsDelightMorganHorses/>

# HD HARKNESS A TRUE MODEL HORSE

Mary Chris Foxworthy is a proud Miner Morgan owner. HD Harkness, “Hark” (DPR Bandstand x Foxglenns Charity) will be 25 in May and he’s spent 23 of his years with Foxworthy in Metamora, MI. This summer, Foxworthy and Hark will spend three days in Lexington, KY at Breyerfest July 14-16.

Breyerfest is an annual festival that is a celebration of horses and allows attendees to meet and greet with the real-life horses who inspire Breyer’s portrait models. This year, HD Harkness was selected as one of Breyer’s special run models.

“Hark embodies all the fabulous qualities of the Morgan breed that make them so popular for driving – loyal, athletic, easy to train, and trustworthy all are apparent traits in Hark,” Breyer stated in its post announcing Hark as a 2023 model.

Foxworthy recalled that when she purchased Hark she was looking for a young horse with driving potential. “We had collected VHS videos from lots of places in Canada and the US so we decided to have a video viewing party with lots of our friends. At the end of the viewing, everyone was to vote by secret ballot on which horse we should get,” she remembered. “Hark was the unanimous choice. Good thing, because he was the one we really wanted! He had a spunk that I just loved!”

Hark shows at local Morgan shows in Michigan, has shown in Kentucky at the CAA show and the Lexington Carriage Classic, in Wisconsin at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic where he won the ladies class at age 24 in 2022, and at Walnut Hill



in NY where he won many ribbons showing there since he was 4-years-old. Hark has also played the part of Justin Morgan in the Morgan parade unit in Michigan.

“Hark makes me happy every day. He lets us know that he loves us as much as we love him. He nickers when I come out of the house and he actually makes eye contact into the house,” Foxworthy noted.

“His antics in the field are hilarious to watch. He is 100% in charge – all he has to do is give the other much younger and much bigger horses his ‘look’ and they know it’s his hay, his spot to be, his everything! When we got a new horse, that horse dumped a load of manure at Hark’s gate. Hark proceeded to calmly walk out into the field and urinate on that horse’s

hay – message received.”

The process for selecting horses for Breyer models is confidential so Foxworthy isn’t even sure how Hark came to be chosen. She was told months in advance of Breyer’s public announcement and had to keep it a secret, which she admitted was really hard. “I think they made a great choice so kudos to Breyer for finding Hark and choosing him,” Foxworthy said, adding that she is looking forward to spending a few days at the festival in July.

“I can’t wait for 35,000 people at Breyerfest and 26,000 more from around the world in the online event to meet Hark. I made a Facebook page for him, and he’s already got quite a following.” Foxworthy explained that Hark will do autograph sessions each day at Breyerfest. “We are teaching him to sign autographs with paint and a sponge. We do a driving demo twice a day and I’m in the process of selecting music that will get the crowd clapping and having fun,” she added.

Foxworthy hopes that Breyerfest attendees come away with a better understanding of the Morgan breed and get to meet Hark and see some of his spunk. “I hope that everyone comes away with the fact that Morgans are the best driving horses, the best family horses and have the best temperament,” she said. “We love him (Hark) and so does everyone who meets him. He’s got the spunk and attitude that attracted us to him on that video – and a huge Morgan heart,” Foxworthy concluded.

# GETTING CREATIVE TO ADMINISTER MEDS

There are a couple horses here at Miner on maintenance medications and they won't eat it mixed in their grain, so we need to orally dose them. Getting medication into horses isn't always easy and sometimes just getting the meds prepped to give is hard enough! Dosing syringes have a bigger opening than ones for injectable medication, so we have 60cc and 35cc ones on hand. The syringes make it easier to dose, but they get expensive if you're using them daily. The rubber stopper on the plunger can get sticky with multiple uses and we've found that using oil can help keep it well-lubricated. We've tried regular vegetable oil or mineral oil, but the best has been non-stick spray; we get months of daily use out of a single syringe. We have one syringe per horse, so medications don't get crossed. Individual cups of applesauce stay fresh without refrigeration long enough to not spoil and have the waste of a bigger jar. These are pretty inexpensive at a local discount-type store. The paper funnels were found on-line in a sleeve of 200 and work well to transfer powdered medication from the grinding cup into the syringe. After dosing the horse, rinse the syringe and leave the parts separate to dry for the next use.



Step 1. Everything is ready to give "Gonzo" his daily dose of Prascend for Cushing's Syndrome and occasional bute for mild arthritis. Applesauce, funnel, syringe, non-stick spray, medication and grinders.



Step 2. Cover the tip of the syringe; you can use a barrier of some sort to protect your skin such as a plastic glove, piece of tape or I have foil from the previous applesauce cup. A quick spritz of the non-stick spray where the plunger will go in.



Step 3. If you add a few cc's of water, when you drop in the powdered meds, they won't clog the tip.



Step 4. Transfer the meds from the grinder(s) into the syringe, then carefully place the plunger into the syringe.



Step 5. This will generate pressure in the syringe, so only insert the plunger until just into the end. Then carefully invert the syringe allowing water and meds to drop to the plunger end. Carefully remove your cover over the tip to finish releasing the air pressure so you can expel excess air.



Step 6. Draw up enough applesauce to mix the meds and make it palatable for your horse, then mix well. You're ready to medicate!

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## Congratulations!

# HD Providence (Privilege x UVM Kimberly) has a new owner!



“Vinny” was born on a perfect June day in 2018 under the sun and blue skies and in the warm grass. He was the project pony for several Summer Experience in Equine Management students as he grew; both learning things and teaching students how to train the basics along the way. Seeing great potential as a show horse, we sent Vinny to a trainer in Minnesota who had successfully shown a few relatives in Western Pleasure. Dustin Freiheit took the good start that Vinny had at Miner and quickly developed him into a competitive Western Pleasure mount. His willing temperament, beautiful topline and soft-as-can-be lope made him successful in his outings all the way until the Morgan Grand Nationals where he was 4th in a deep class of 4-year-old western horses. He caught the eye of Nancy Yuhasz and sold himself quickly to her under the guidance of the trainer at St. Lawrence Stables, Whitney Roberts. To say we are **THRILLED** that Vinny will come “home” to New York this spring after finishing the winter with Dustin and one more horse show is an understatement! Keep watching for this handsome young stallion in the Western Pleasure division. Welcome to the Heart’s Delight Family, Nancy!



**Learn more about the Miner Morgans at [www.whminer.org/equine.html](http://www.whminer.org/equine.html)**