

POSTED BY HORSELISTENING.COM

# 10 Top Ten Reasons To Ride A Horse

*What are the reasons you ride horses? There must be as many reasons to ride horses as there are people who ride. For those of us that are bitten with "the bug" that is horses, there are few reasons not to get on a horse's back!*

**10. The chance to be in the great outdoors.** Spring, summer, winter or fall—you can find things to do with horses. As you participate in your various activities, you become so much more a part of the outdoor environment. Although conditions might not always be the best, you learn to work with the weather and appreciate the art work of mother nature. You also learn to take better care of yourself as well as your horses in response to the weather conditions of the season.

**9. The joy of being in the world of horses.** You learn new communication skills when you interact with horses. By their very nature, horses are not the same as the pets we are familiar with. They are large, they are prey animals and they allow us to ride them!

**8. The privilege of being al-**



lowed to sit on the back of such a magnificent animal and seeing the world from his perspective. Life on four legs, several hands high is certainly different than what we are used to! Not only does the act of riding bring us new and (at first) unfamiliar experiences, but the places you can literally go is good enough reason to ride. Thanks to horses and riding, I have traveled all over my own province, in other provinces, and in other countries. Certainly without horses as a reason to pursue these activities, our lives would be lacking.

**7. Exercise that is so similar to our own movement that it is healing for ourselves.** Riding horses gives our body the movement it relishes and needs. In the case of hippotherapy, riding can literally be therapeutic. Also, riding as a sport benefits the body and mind in many ways.

**6. The variety of activities and events you can participate in if you ride a horse.** Once you get involved in the horse world, you will be amazed at all the activities and events that you might participate in! From weekly riding lessons to

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## Welcome

*The feature article in this issue speaks volumes when it comes to sharing our passion for the Arabian horse. Please share this article with as many people as you can. This is a big reason, for why we are as committed to the Arabian horse and our involvement in the industry. Each one of these reasons resonates with people around the world, are looking for in life ... an active and healthy lifestyle, enjoying the great outdoor, experiencing the pure joy of being with and connecting to an amazing animal, particularly an animal that shows no judgment towards us, and yet, can tell when we are not at our best.*

*For me the key point in this article is ... "if you ride, you will grow as a human being."*

*Being with horses and riding horses will help us change and grow as people. Being with horses is one of the most constructive recreation activity in which we can participate.*

*Re-read the article again ... then, send it out to all your friends, family and customers. Since we are celebrating The Year of the "Arabian" Horse this article, has the ability, if you use it, to attract more and new people to our world of Arabian horses.*

*I bet you can come up with even more reasons to ride. Email those reasons to me and we'll be happy to include them in future newsletters and post them on the DAH website.*

Share the news ... Gary ■



Gary Millar  
President & CEO

# Calendar

## REGION 17 SPRING MEETING

Saturday, March 29, 2014.  
Calgary, Alberta.

Delegates will be treated to a tour of the new facilities at Stampede Park. The Region 17 Championship Show will be the first event for the facility following it's opening at the 2014 Stampede.

For more information, please visit [www.region17.com](http://www.region17.com)

## THE SPRING FLING

Friday, April 25 to  
Sunday, April 27, 2014.  
Ponoka, Alberta.

For more information, please visit [www.saddlebredsofalberta.com](http://www.saddlebredsofalberta.com)

## PARKLAND SPRING SHOWS 1 & 2

Friday, May 16 to  
Monday, May 19, 2014.  
Red Deer, Alberta.

For more information, please visit [www.showsecretary.ca](http://www.showsecretary.ca)

## IEAHC Memorial Day Classic B Concurrent Show

Friday, May 23 to  
Sunday, May 25, 2014.  
Spokane, Washington

For more information, please visit [www.ieahc.org](http://www.ieahc.org)

## SASKATCHEWAN ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION ICEBREAKER

Friday, May 30 to  
Sunday, June 1, 2014.  
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

For more information, please visit [www.saskarab.com](http://www.saskarab.com)

## AURORA ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Friday, May 30 to  
Sunday, June 1, 2014.  
Ponoka, Alberta.

Region 3 and 4 concurrent qualifier in conjunction with the Aurora Summer Show.

For more information, please visit [www.auroraarabian.com](http://www.auroraarabian.com)

Tell us about your event, e-mail [info@discoverarabianhorses.com](mailto:info@discoverarabianhorses.com) ■

# My Favorite Part of Riding/Competition—SPORTSMANSHIP!

*Firstly, my huge congrats to all the competitors who went down to Scottsdale, Arizona! I'll admit, I'm more than a little envious of the opportunity to ride beautiful horses in the heat in February, but more than that, I have an overwhelming surge of joy and pride for friends who ride their equine partners into the ribbons. I understand the hard work and the excitement of being recognized by the judge for your efforts. To me, celebrating the success of fellow competitors is as much part of why I show as winning myself.*

Recently in the Sochi Olympic games, a Canadian ski coach gave a Russian competitor a ski when his own was broken, so he could finish the race with dignity. I love that kind of sportsmanship and believe in it firmly.

In the last couple of years, I've been asked to judge a number of schooling dressage shows. My favorite riders to watch are the ones on green horses, who aren't confident, but have patient and confident riders. The tests aren't perfect, but the riders are reassuring and positive. Instead of rushing and forcing the horse, a good rider/trainer will opt to school

a movement regardless of the points.

Those riders, I've found, are the ones who watch the younger kid's tests/rides and congratulate them for good effort, pretty ponies, nice equitation, etc. I tip my cap and give top respect to people who show kindness. And why wouldn't we? Who on earth does it hurt to simply be a good sport and show kindness to your fellow competitors? Two things irk me: Spoil sports and Sore losers.



Many of us have ridden green horses who lack confidence in unfamiliar surroundings. That's how horses gain confidence, through experience. Rather than taking out our frustrations on an insecure 4 year old, wouldn't it be better for us to swallow our pride and school through? And if that pro-schooled 4 year old wins your class when you've done all the work on your own

horse, and pro-schooled horse's rider only has to step in the stirrup and look pretty, well good for them too! I mean that! Outsiders don't know the dynamics behind the scenes.

My best wishes to you all this show season. I can't wait to get back into the ring myself. Remember to encourage those who place behind you and congratulate those who place ahead of you. ■

.....  
"Who on earth does it hurt to simply be a good sport and show kindness to your fellow competitors? Two things irk me: Spoil sports and Sore losers."



## Video

### ARABIAN NIGHTS - THE ROYAL CELEBRATION

*Arabian Nights' Royal Celebration presented a tale of intrigue, magic, and love for 25 years. This Orlando dinner show invited guests of all ages to witness the magnificent wedding of the beautiful Princess Amirah and the bold Prince Raswan, and the joining of the two most powerful Bedouin kingdoms, the Saglawi and the Ruala. 10 million visitors enjoyed the magic of the great Genie and the mysterious Sorcerer being taken to the corners of the earth to deliver spectacles of wonder on horseback. The grace of the splendid Black Stallion, the mystical Unicorns all enjoyed by all. The performers for this royal wedding displayed daring and skill with incredible acrobatics and intricate riding. In all of its majesty, this will truly be a show to be remembered and a show to be truly missed. ■*

<http://youtu.be/0m2SDidunNc>

BY DEWAYNE BEVIL, ORLANDO SENTINEL

WWW.ARABIAN-NIGHTS.COM

# Arabian Nights-Closed December 31

Arabian Nights, the Kissimmee dinner show with performing horses and a royal story line, closed at the end of December 2013 after 25 years of entertaining tourists and residents, owner Mark Miller announced.

Miller said the attraction's revenue could no longer support the kind of show he wanted to present. "Unfortunately, we have reached a point where the marketplace demands a cheaper product than we can provide," he said.

Over the years, the attraction, which opened in 1988, has presented 10,000 performances for 10 million visitors, Miller said. The final performance was on New Year's Eve.

Set in a horseshoe-shaped arena with a dirt floor, the Arabian Nights show spotlights Al-Marah Arabian horses with acrobatic riders. Customers, who pay \$66.99 for general admission, eat dinner in stands surrounding the action. The show was freshened with new acts and narrative during the summer and dubbed "The Royal Celebration," a story about a romantic merger of two Bedouin kingdoms.

But despite the changes, Miller said, the numbers were no longer adding up. Ticket wholesalers, which handle the bulk of Arabian Nights' sales, would

no longer pay enough for the blocks of seats they purchased, Miller said.

Most of the attraction's 224 employees — from horse trainers to servers — will lose their jobs, Miller said, though a small crew will remain for maintenance and other business needs.

Miller, who grew up in a family that bred Arabian horses, said the company's 40 horses will move to an 80-acre farm he has purchased. He also said he will explore other uses for the Arabian Nights building and will consider selling the land, which is off West U.S. Highway 192.

The closing of Arabian Nights comes as another loss for Highway 192, which has a struggling mix of hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions, some of which have been abandoned. Miller has led the W192 Development Authority, a group of seven businesspeople charged with creating a plan for redeveloping the area.

"We hate to see any business leave Kissimmee ..." said Osceola County Commissioner Michael Harford. "We're all in business to try to make some money."

Dinner-show attractions such as Arabian Nights were once plentiful in Central Florida tourism, and dozens have

come and gone during the past two decades, Miller said. Among the more prominent ones, King Henry's Feast and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede have both closed. Medieval Times in Kissimmee and Pirate's Dinner Adventure near International Drive in Orlando are notable survivors.

Beth Walters of Clermont was one of those who enjoyed Arabian Nights. She said she had taken her children there several times in recent years and found the show, food and service to be high-quality, she said.

"Some of the acrobatic activity that they did on top of the horses or while they were galloping was very impressive," she said.

Her kids, now teenagers, were able to see the horses up close after the show, she said. "That was their favorite part."

For the rest of the year, fans were able to see a Christmas version of the Arabian Nights show — and at a discount, Miller said.

"We know a lot of Central Florida residents will want to see the show before we close, and we are offering them half-price admission." ■

# Horse Shoe Lore

Early horseshoes were made to hold seven nails—seven is considered a lucky number. The earliest horseshoe beliefs started in Greece, where the first horseshoes were made during the fourth century BC. The Greeks of this time noted it's resemblance to the crescent moon, which was believed to be a symbol of fertility and good fortune. Horseshoes were also made of Iron, which was believed to ward off evil and weaken nature spirits.

St Dunstan gave the Horseshoe special power against Evil in around 959 ad. Before he became the Archbishop of Canterbury he was a blacksmith by trade. One day while at his forge he was approached by a suspicious stranger. The stranger asked for horseshoes to be attached to his feet. Dunstan noticed that the mans feet were actually cloven. He suspected the stranger was actually Satan himself. He agreed to do the work, but explained he would need to shackle the man to the wall to do so. Dunstan proceeded to make the process excruciatingly painful so soon Satan was begging for mercy. The future St Dunstan made the Devil agree to an oath to never enter a house where a horseshoe was displayed above the door.

As time passed, the horseshoe was held in such high esteem that it went from it's place from above the door, to mid door. The function also changed over the years and not only was it a talisman against evil, but it became a way to announce your presence. This is why so many door knockers have a horseshoe shape to them.

If you find a horseshoe, rub it seven times while making a wish.

If you see a horseshoe, spit on it, make a wish, and throw it over your shoulder. If you pick it up with your right hand, throw it over your left shoulder; if you pick it up with your left hand, throw it over your right shoulder. (England)

For the Hindus the horse is a very spiritual animal that is very close to the gods. They believe that horses' parents were heaven and earth and that horses belonged to the same race "devajata" as the Gods. ■

BY JOCHEN SCHLEESE

# Saddle Fit and Saddles Made for Women

**Synopsis: There are several key points which need to be addressed in more detail as important in determining the proper saddle fit especially for women.**

Saddle fitters should have at least a basic understanding of equine biomechanics and how saddles need to fit to prevent long-term back damage in the horse, and realize that female anatomy also impacts saddle fit.

1. The width between the upper inner thighs affects the width of the twist of the saddle. The twist is that part of the saddle which touches the upper inner thighs. Because of a phenomenon called "Q-flexion" (whereby female thighs tend to angle outwards at the hip and back inwards at the knee), women will carry more weight on their upper inner thigh than a man. The leg is pushed forward, and the knee and toes are out at 45 degree angle when a woman sits on a male saddle that is too wide between her upper inner thighs. The position results in a leg that goes out and forward, and it is difficult to achieve the 'shoulder-hips-heels' straight line. This is different when a woman sits on a female saddle, allowing the toes to point forward while leaving more upper leg on the barrel or sides of the horse.

2. The ratio of the length of the upper leg to the length of the lower leg will determine the position and/or length of the stirrup bar. Most women have a longer upper leg than a lower leg. The analogy here is that the stirrup bar acts like the fulcrum and the stirrup leather is the pendulum. With a regular stirrup bar positioned normally, the female's leg will usually end up being too far forward ("get your leg back!" – does this sound familiar?) because the leg will fall according to its centre of gravity. Therefore, for women an extended stirrup bar (or sometimes even an extra-extended stirrup bar!) which allows the stirrup leathers to be positioned further back will ensure that the leg hangs in the correct position. Most men have pretty equal leg lengths so

that they do fine with the normal stirrup bar length and position.

3. Women's hip bones are articulated onto the pelvis at the joint differently. Especially female adult amateur riders, who started riding later in life or who don't ride regularly, are challenged to have their legs hang straight, because the articulation causes the legs to naturally angle out. Men's legs hang straight naturally, but changing the angle of the flap and possibly also the position of the thigh roll can address this with a female saddle. If the flap is too straight, the knee comes too close to the front of the flap, and in motion the leg will actually go over the flap. Forcing this ("get your leg back!" – again!) can move the pelvis forward, resulting in back pain and discomfort. Proper flap positioning is another small point in accommodating the female anatomy in saddle design!

4. One of the areas in saddle where the most mistakes occur during measurement is the width of the twist (as previously discussed) and the width of the seat. Whereas the twist is that area of the saddle which is actually located between your thighs, the width of the seat is determined by the space between the seam running along the edge of the seat. In the male pelvis, the seat bones are much closer together and the distance between the two seat bones is much smaller, therefore he fits into the padded part of pretty much most saddles very comfortably.

The female pelvis has the seat bones much further apart, which means that if she is riding in a 'male' saddle, she will likely be sitting on the seat seaming, which is generally pretty uncomfortable. Often this seat twist and seat width are mixed up, and she will end up buying a saddle with a wide twist rather than the wide seat she needs to accommodate her pelvic shape. As a result, the knees and hips will angle out instead of being able to hang straight down and she will not sit comfortably for both reasons – the twist is too wide, and the seat is too narrow.



[http://youtu.be/VIQ\\_BfZ54Cs](http://youtu.be/VIQ_BfZ54Cs) or [www.schleese.com](http://www.schleese.com)

# Video

## JOCHEN SCHLEESE AND SADDLEFIT 4 LIFE

*Certified Master Saddler/Master Saddlefitter received his initial training in saddle making from Passier and Sohn in Germany. In 1984 he was certified as the youngest master saddler ever in Europe, and was asked to come to North America from Germany in 1986 to be the Official Saddler for the World Dressage Championships held in Toronto. From his experience as a former internationally ranked 3-day event rider Jochen Schleese knows not only how a saddle should feel from a rider's point view, but also how it should be made. In 1990 together with the Canadian government, Schleese developed the first ever authorized school for saddle makers and saddle fitters. ■*

You need to look at the distance between the seams on the seat, which should be wide enough to allow the female seat bones to sit on the padding – if this is too narrow, it feels like you're sitting on a ridge, or that your seat bones are falling off the edge of the seat.

5. Another area of consideration is the position of the pelvis itself. The male pelvis has a relatively higher pubic symphysis (ps) – when he sits in a balanced position with his spine perpendicular to the ground on the saddle, his ps will be tipped upwards

and not in contact with anything. In contrast, when the female sits on the saddle with her spine perpendicular to the ground, her ps is much lower and closer to front of saddle – to the point of contact and rubbing. This can result in recurring bladder infections even to the point of bleeding. The pelvic tilt is also affected by the saddle model and the saddle balance.

When a male rider sits on a male saddle, he can balance on his seat bones as on a bipod, whereas the female finds her balance on a male saddle in a tripod position – which means her

ps will be in contact with the front of a saddle.

6. The last area of consideration are the gluteus maximus muscles. The female's 'butt cheeks' are generally higher placed than those of a male, and will benefit from added support or 'push' from behind. This can be accomplished with the use of additional padding in the seat foam to allow the woman to maintain a proper seat without collapsing at the hip and resulting in a chair seat. ■

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

trail riding to vaulting to fundraising rides—the sky is the limit! There are simply too many events to list here. The clincher is that those who don't participate in riding do not have the opportunity to even begin to understand such vibrant experiences.

**5. Learning skills that promote coordination, timing, rhythm, balance, core strength and much more.** Skills, skills and skills! Skill development is one large component of what horseback riding is all about. As you grow as a rider, you'll be amazed at how your physical abilities progress. You will be sure to improve in all the above areas as well as in your mental skills such as problem-solving and determination.

**4. The self-development process that goes hand-in-hand with skill development.** Self-confidence, self-control, patience, empathy—all these

and more traits will be developed as you progress through your riding experiences. There is no way around it. If you ride, you will grow as a human being. **If you ride, you will grow as a human being.**

**3. The life-long, ever-changing learning process that is horses and riding.** If you like learning, and feel a pang of excitement when you discover something new, horse riding is for you! The catch is that you would do well to enjoy this feeling of discomfort-before-learning-something-new because it will happen again and again—even years into your riding career!

**2. Learning to problem solve effectively and ride with enough tact to improve the health and well-being of the horse.** There is nothing more

motivating to realize that one day, you will ride well enough to be able to give back to the horses you ride. As your skills develop, your aids will support, redirect, enhance and even improve the horse's natural tendencies. One day, you might notice that your horse is physically healthier and mentally happier because of the riding experiences he receives—from little ol' you!

..... **1. The ultimate release, and the feeling of oneness when everything is going right.** Well, "If you ride, you will grow as a human being."

though rarely realized, this togetherness is what will keep you coming back for more. Once you feel the connection, you will be able to persevere through every negative experience, setback and obstacle. Because once you have achieved harmony, you will know why you ride. ■

facebook



### DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES IS INCREASING ITS EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

Facebook Pages differ from Facebook Groups and Facebook personal profile pages in several respects and we would like to lay out our reasons for creating the Page.

- Page information and posts are available to everyone on Facebook. This makes our events, postings, and pictures available to anyone on Facebook.
- Anyone can like a Page to become connected with it and get News Feed updates. Some find this to be a far more convenient way to stay up to date.
- Groups are basically chat rooms, there's no real "look and feel" to them. Their primary focus is for live discussions that can be continued at any time.
- Pages, however, act more like a blog with actual content pieces and the ability to add new tabs, static information, and the like. A Page is definitely a more interesting place to be.
- When it comes to getting visibility off of Facebook: Pages can be seen by non-Facebook users, and can be crawled by search engines as any other static page would. Facebook Groups cannot!
- Finally, Pages come with analytical tools that administrators use to track visits. These tools help us analyze if we are getting our message 'out there'.

We need your help! There are more than 1400 individuals within our database. The next time you are on Facebook, please visit and like our page. Find the link below or on our website. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Discover-Arabian-Horsescom/626982870651572> ■

# Big Ben Honoured

**Ian Millar's legendary mount Big Ben was posthumously awarded with The Hickstead Trophy during the Equine Canada Awards Gala on Feb. 7 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

To this day, Big Ben remains a household name in Canada and around the world, remembered for his incredible heart, boundless bravery, and captivating presence.

A liver chestnut Belgian Warmblood gelding, Big Ben was sired by Etretat. He was bred by Jacobus van Hooydonk of Belgium and foaled in 1976. Despite having a dam who was just 15hh, Big Ben grew to be 17.3hh, causing many people to believe he was too big to be a suitable show jumper.

He was brought to the attention of "Captain Canada" Ian Millar in 1983 while he was visiting a long-time friend, renowned show jumping rider Emile Hendrix of the Netherlands. Millar has stated he had an indescribable good feeling about the huge gelding the first time they met. Soon after, the Canadian Show Jumpers Unlimited Inc. syndicate was formed and Big Ben was purchased and imported to Canada that same year.

Millar's intuition could not have been more accurate. Big Ben and Millar went on to become the first ever horse/rider combination to win two consecutive World Cup Final titles in 1988 and 1989. Big Ben was also Millar's mount for three Olympic Games (in 1984, 1988, and 1992), and took home both Individual and Team Gold Medals from the 1987 Pan American Games.

Big Ben also represented Canada on more than 30 nations cup teams and racked up over 40 grand prix wins throughout his decade-long career. This included the 1987 Du Maurier International Grand Prix, which was the richest grand prix in the world at that time, and helped Big Ben become the first horse in North America to rack up over \$1.5 million in prize money.

A true hero, Big Ben also overcame more than his share of adversity during his career. He faced two life-threatening colic surgeries and a major tractor-trailer accident, yet he persevered through all of these challenges, always coming back to international-level competition in top form.

In 1994 Big Ben retired from competition, but not before embarking on a final, sentimental tour across Canada. He was well known for his positive, kind nature, and was often seen greeting fans and admirers from his stall at competitions, and sometimes even signing autographs with a hoof print. In 1996 he became only the second horse in history to be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

After enjoying retirement at the Millar Brooke Farm in Perth, ON, Big Ben passed on at the age of 18 in 1999. He has since been immortalized in numerous ways. He was the subject of an official limited edition Canada Post stamp in 1999. His likeness has also been captured as a Breyer model horse. Furthermore, in 2005 the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce commissioned a bronze statue of Big Ben with Millar aboard, which stands on display in downtown

Perth today.

"We all always felt that we simply held Big Ben in trust for all his adoring Canadian fans and supporters," explained Millar.

Equine Canada is proud to recognize Big Ben as one of the greatest show jumpers who ever lived by adding The Hickstead Trophy to his truly incredible collection of achievements.

Previously named the Equine Canada Horse of the Year Award, the title was officially changed to The Hickstead Trophy in 2012 in order to honour Eric Lamaze's legendary mount and 2008 Olympic Champion, Hickstead, who passed away suddenly in the fall of 2011. ■



# Horse Stamp



A four-stamp series honouring famous Canadian horses was released back in June 2, 1999. The first series in Canadian philatelic history to feature horses on their own, this release was presented both in a self-adhesive booklet of 12, a gummed stamp pane of 16 and as an official first-day cover.

Pierre-Yves Pelletier of Montréal, a graphic artist well known over the years to collectors for his arresting designs, has hit the mark again with this series depicting four celebrated animals in dynamic motion.

Based on sports-action photographs, the colourful images of horses rise from their faded backgrounds. Each of the horses is caught in mid-action either bucking, jumping or racing towards the finish line. ■

WITH ... JACQUIE GANTON OF STRIDE EQUINE ARABIANS

## 20 Questions

*about your life with Arabian horses*

**1** What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

*I am a horse trainer and instructor/coach. I train horses and coach amateur riders and Arabian owners to the National level. I own a farm where we also board Arabian horses (some are ours and some client horses!)*

**2** How many years have you been around horses?

*My sister and I started riding when my parents moved out to our family acreage around 25 years ago.*

**3** They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

*It's very true! We quickly discovered our acreage was across the road from a riding stable. Mom and dad could only keep us out of there so long before they caved and signed us up for riding lessons! It just happened to be an Arabian barn. We didn't really know any different at first but in the years to follow we became immersed in the*



*Arabian horse world and now I couldn't imagine working with another breed as my focus.*

**4** Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

*My "kid" horse growing up, Ghiakhon (a grey, purebred Arabian gelding). Although it wasn't always smooth sailing I did everything with that horse (trail riding, showing, jumping, cattle penning, etc). I learned so much from him. He was one of my first "projects" and we spent his entire lifetime teaching each other.*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor?

*I have been so fortunate to work with some AMAZING horse people from whom I have learned so much about these beautiful animals. Brian and Joanne Grossman played a huge role in sparking my passion for Arabian competition and in teaching me about quality horses and maintenance of the breed standard. Carla Jackson has also been a wonderful teacher and trainer that I will always look up to.*

*I have also been so fortunate to have worked alongside*

*Michelle Hansen of Spiritwood Farms. I know of no other individual that works harder and has more integrity than Michelle. She turns out beautiful horses and has a wonderful group of clients. I feel very blessed to have worked with her.*

**6** What is your favorite horse book?

*Black Beauty (at the risk of sounding cliché!!)*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie?

*I don't watch nearly as many movies as I'd like to but my favorites are probably still the "Man from Snowy River" series!*

**8** What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

*Generally, training, lessons and competing on the Arabian circuit! Most of our vacations and summers are spent traveling on the horse show circuit (whether showing or spectating!)*

**9** What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

*It should probably be something horse-show related but I think it might actually be taking our Arabians out cattle-penning when I was in high school. All the cowboys out there laughed when we first arrived but we showed them very quickly that we could look pretty and*

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# Editor Message

At **Discover Arabian Horses.com** we are always excited to bring you this vital line of communication.

The newsletter is published in November, January, March, May, July, and September and will continue to be sent to you by e-mail blasts. It will also be posted on the DAH website with a link on Facebook.

The newsletter will cover many topics:

- We will feature, *The Arabian Horse in History*, where the generally ignored role of specific horses in history will be presented.
- Will also have a spotlight section where we present information on a specific Arabian horse owner, trainer, barn, program, or event in our industry. What a great opportunity to get to know our fellow horsemen and horse lovers.
- "Activities" puzzles, games for the young and the older ... just play.
- Check out our articles, stories and classifieds.
- 20 Questions ... about your life with Arabian Horse ... with.
- The team is more than willing to work with other horse associations regardless of breed type or discipline to assist them in getting their message out.

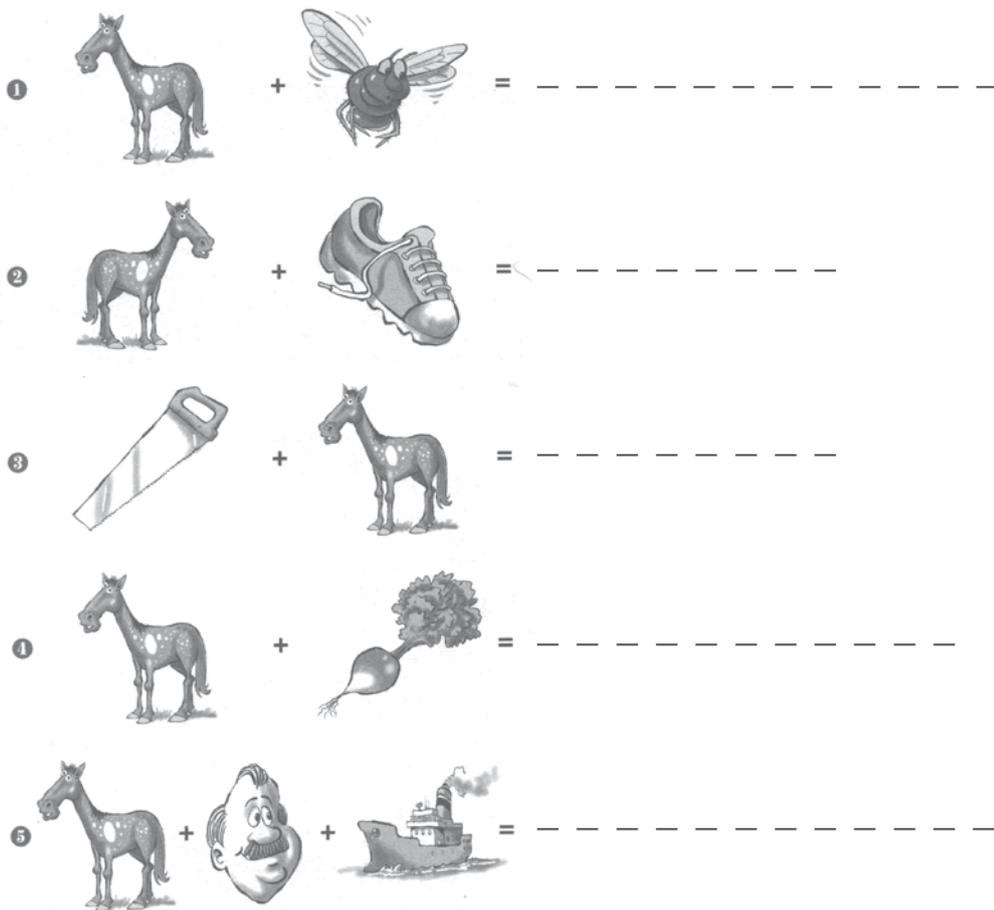
Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

**info@discoverarabianhorses.com** ■

SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN SOLVE

## Picture Words

The following puzzles, called rebuses, string together pictures, letters, and symbols to represent words and phrases. They're easier to figure out if you say the clues aloud. Try them. ■



ANSWER: 1. horsefly, 2. horseshoe, 3. sawhorse, 4. horseradish, 5. horsemanship

## Wacky Phrase Craze

If the answers to the clues below tend to come a little slow, try thinking of two-word phrases that rhyme and you'll have all the solutions in practically no time.

Here's an example so you can see: What do you call a barn with TV? There is indeed a comic label, and that would be a cable stable. ■

- 1 young female horse that's funny
- 2 moldy dried grass
- 3 route taken by extremely slow horse
- 4 piece of tack that's not in use
- 5 small fake horse
- 6 worn-out saddle blanket
- 7 black baby horse
- 8 locomotive that's transporting horse feed

ANSWER: 1. silly filly, 2. gray hay, 3. snail trail, 4. idle bridle, 5. phony pony, 6. bad pad, 7. coal foal, 8. grain train

# Video

## HORSE'S PRAYER



Well, here's a new video for you! I really enjoyed making this one. Don't

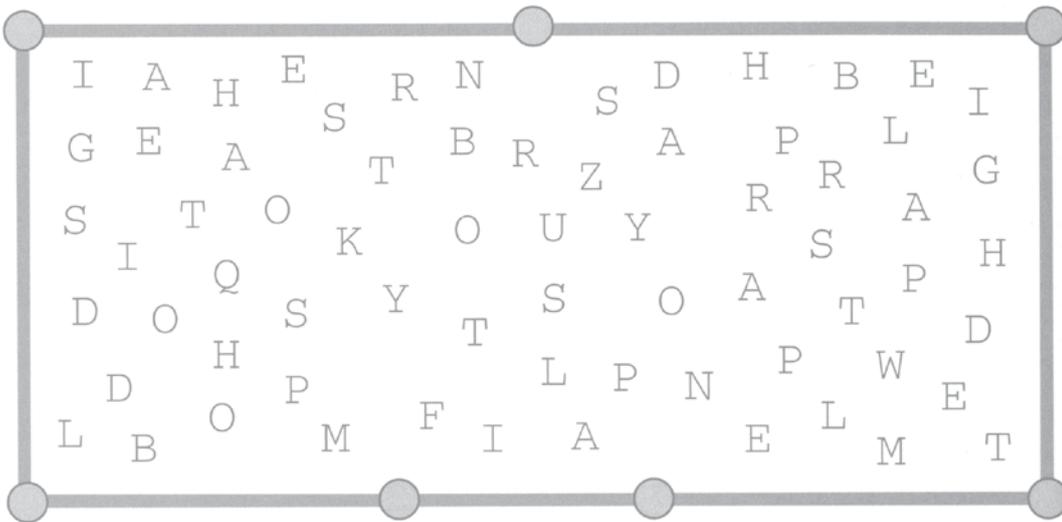
know why I never had the idea of making a video with the "Horse's Prayer". The first time I read it was a long, long time ago, and I still love the words of it today. In addition, I love this piece of music. It's one of my absolute favorites! So yeah, I really liked making this video, it brought me peace, and I hope it brings you as well. Enjoy! ■



<http://youtu.be/TajYVpHiGJo>

# Round Up the Herd

The cowboys at ABC Ranch have asked you to help them gather the herd. It's a very special herd, as each horse or pony is a different breed. To find out which breeds they are, all you have to do is use the letters in the corral to fill in the blanks in the list below it. Cross out the letters as you use them, and it will get easier and easier to round up the next horse. ■



ANSWER: PINTO • MORGAN • ARABIAN • FJORD • PALOMINO • CLYDESDALE • PAINT • WELSH PONY • APPALOOSA • SADDLEBRED • LIPIZZAN • THOROUGHBRED • SHETLAND PONY • QUARTER HORSE • TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

P \_ N \_ O                      \_ A \_ O \_ \_ N O                      A P \_ \_ L \_ \_ A                      \_ \_ E \_ L \_ N \_ \_ \_ N Y  
 \_ O \_ G \_ N                      C L \_ \_ E \_ D A \_ \_                      S \_ \_ D \_ E \_ R E \_ \_                      \_ U A \_ \_ E R \_ \_ O \_ \_ E  
 A R \_ \_ I A \_                      \_ A \_ N T                      \_ I \_ \_ \_ Z A N  
 \_ J O \_ D                      W E L \_ \_ P O \_ \_                      \_ H \_ R \_ \_ \_ H \_ R \_ D  
 \_ \_ N N \_ S S \_ E                      \_ \_ L \_ I N \_ \_ O R \_ E

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more games and activities, check out the Discover Arabian Horses website "For Kids" section at [www.discoverarabianhorses.com](http://www.discoverarabianhorses.com) ■

get-er-done!! I'll never forget when one of our greatest skeptics said "Those little Arabs, they did a kick butt job out there tonight"!!!

**10** What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

*We have had some great victories that ended with prizes and some great victories that were simply for the satisfaction of the ride/accomplishment! One of my proudest moments was when one of my Junior riders took home the National Championship in Sport Horse JTR on a horse I've trained. Also, when my mom successfully navigated the Region 17 Adult Equitation class (with a pattern!!) on one of our more challenging horses, I couldn't have been more proud!*

**11** Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present?

*Well, I am probably the most drawn to the big, "rolly" hunter performance horses (maybe a Half Arab, crossed with one of the big-moving breeds!). I believe the Hunter division has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 15 years in regards to quality and integrity of the standard and I would love to one day turn out a national champion in this division!*

**12** Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person?

*Patience and humility. You learn very quickly that trying to rush things or having an inflated ego don't get you very far in this industry. I try to be constantly*

*learning and changing things up. Every new horse brings a new challenge and a new opportunity to grow. Never say you've seen it all!*

**13** What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse?

*Without a doubt their personalities and beautiful nature. There are few things more satisfying and pleasurable than a gorgeous horse with as much character as the Arabians seem to possess!*

**14** What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

*I would definitely point them towards riding some well-trained Arabians, and possibly even coming out to a horse show and checking it out! Many people don't realize how versatile an Arabian can be (i.e. Western/Hunter/Saddleseat/Working Hunter/Dressage/Sport Horse/Working Western, etc) and many of our horse shows are a great showcase of the breeds talents and abilities!*

**15** What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

*Find a good, reputable trainer and coach, and don't rush into buying a horse. There are many options (such as lessons, leasing, horse sharing, etc) that are available before making a purchase. Get some exposure and education, ride LOTS, and get a bigger picture of where in the industry you'd like to focus before you make the commitment to a horse!*

**16** Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share?

*I'm an avid reader but a great book for those looking to learn more about the Arabian (especially in relation to competition/showing) is "Flight Without Wings" by Patti Schofler. It was published in 2006 and gives amateurs/newcomers a great, comprehensive look into the world of Arabian Showing.*

**17** What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

*Train and show a country pleasure horse! Although I've ridden them, I've never trained one from the ground up and have never shown one. It has nothing to do with getting another, new outfit either (just in case my husband asks!)*

**18** What about "kids" and an Arabian horse?

*Although some believe that Arabians can be too high-spirited for kids I've never found a kid who didn't love our Arabians as much as any other horse. It might just be because that's what I grew up with, but I've worked with many Arabians throughout the years that have been smart, reliable and safe for riders of all levels and ages. That, and their endearing personalities are unbeatable for kids!!*

**19** Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

*There is something about the grace and honor that is present when working with these amazing animals. It's really quite crazy when you think about what they do for us. There are few other activities in this world that involve the trust and relationship with an animal that we find with horses. Getting to train and show such a beautiful breed is truly wonderful.*

**20** What are your words to live by?

*Never stop learning. Never stop growing. Never be afraid to admit you are learning and growing. There are so many amazing people in this industry and we can always take something away from everyone we work with.*

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

*I truly appreciate everything that is happening to bolster and support the Arabian breed. As someone who deals with a lot of newcomers to the industry, I appreciate the value in encouraging people to get involved with Arabians!! ■*

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