



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

April 2023

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

The Great Epizootic of 1872 *The worst Equine Epidemic in History*

Monday, October 21st, 1872, began like many mid-fall days in New York — overcast and muggy with spitting rain, and a high of sixty-six degrees. There were several plays at uptown theaters, a championship baseball series at the Union Grounds in Brooklyn, and political speeches in advance of the elections next month. President Ulysses Grant, seeking re-election that fall, was in town with his wife to meet their daughter, Nellie Grant, who was returning from Europe, and to attend a performance of Charles Gounod's "Faust" at the Academy of Music on E 14th Street. Business was strong, with high trading in the city's markets and piers.

New York City had expanded considerably in the years since the Civil War. The city had come to dominate nearly every sector of the US economy, helping to drive a national post-Civil War surge in commerce, manufacturing, and finance. The city's population had doubled from 500,000 in 1850 to around one million. The city's physical landscape was also expanding, with an increasingly complicated transportation network facilitating the construction of

new residential neighborhoods in upper Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Westchester, among others. New York City was no longer just important nationally. By the early 1870s, the city had become the "Metropolitan City of the World," generating a new form of urban capitalist modernity that became a global export in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

But as the week of October 21st dragged on, this seemingly unstoppable progress came to a halt. The streets of the city were without their usual torrent of traffic. Opera houses, baseball stadiums, churches, even political rallies two weeks away from a presidential election, were left empty. Workers across nearly every industry were unable to travel to work, leaving thousands without jobs. Untouched boxes piled up along the railroad depots and piers, among the busiest in the world. At a time when New York City was becoming more powerful and rich than ever, it reverted, for a brief period, to a pre-modern city.

The cause of this stoppage was an attack on what was arguably New York's most important energy supply: horsepower. A disease, believed to be an influenza, reached the city on October 21st. Within a matter of days, it

had affected the majority of the city's estimated 70,000 horses. What would come to be known as the "Great Epizootic" was debilitating enough to fundamentally alter the city and reveal the significant ways in which the daily operations of the metropolis relied on horses, from local entertainment to international shipping.

Throughout October, the city's newspapers had been covering an unknown disease that began afflicting horses in Canada in late September and was now as close as Rochester. That began to change on the evening of the 21st, when the first signs of the disease appeared in one of the many streetcar stables, then the city's primary mode of transportation. The initial symptoms were just a light cough, often confined to one or two horses in a stable. But within a matter of hours, the cough progressed into a more serious form, and eventually to what was described as a catarrhal fever. The disease was highly contagious, quickly affecting nearby horses. Once contracted, horses would refuse food and had difficulty moving. Entire stables of horses could be immobilized by the disease within a twenty-four-hour period.

Many stable owners awoke to this dire
Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

MUNCH-N-DONE ANTI-GRAZING MUZZLE

Puts the pleasure back in the ride!

While being ridden on the trail some horses are more persistent in nibbling than others. Any rider with this issue has come to realize it is nearly impossible to train this behavior out of some horses. Riders find themselves frustrated and focusing more on keeping their horses' noses out of the brush, trees, grass and weeds than enjoying the scenery and the pleasure of the ride.

After a horse is tacked up with our Munch-N-Done® Anti-Grazing Riding Muzzle, they realize quite quickly that the snacking days on the trail are over. Munch-N-Done® is to be used ONLY while riding. When stopping for a break or any length of time, the Munch-N-Done® should be removed from your headstall.

The low profile design and fitted shape are pleasing to the eye.

Nostrils are not covered, ensuring your horse has no interference with it's breathing.

With elastic built into the strapping, horses can drink, yawn, whinny and open their mouths freely.



Most horses become used to their Munch-N-Done® Anti-Grazing Muzzle in under 10 minutes, try to grab a few bites, and stop after just a few tries.

No extra strap around the poll is needed. The Munch-N-Done® attaches right to your existing headstall. These work on the vast majority of English or Western headstalls, halter/bridles, bitless bridles, snug fitting halters, and in conjunction with most bits or bridles.

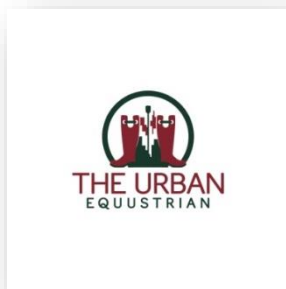
Now Available in Mini B, Pony, Arab/Cob, Standard Horse, Large, and Draft sizes and 10 colors!

Ideal for Dude String or Rent-A-Horse services, the Munch-N-Done® Anti-Grazing Muzzle ensures that your customers have a much more enjoyable ride. The riders will avoid the frustration of trying to prevent their horses from nibbling along the trail, and it prevents your horses from developing bad habits. Not to mention, your wranglers will be getting better tips!

www.munch-n-done.com

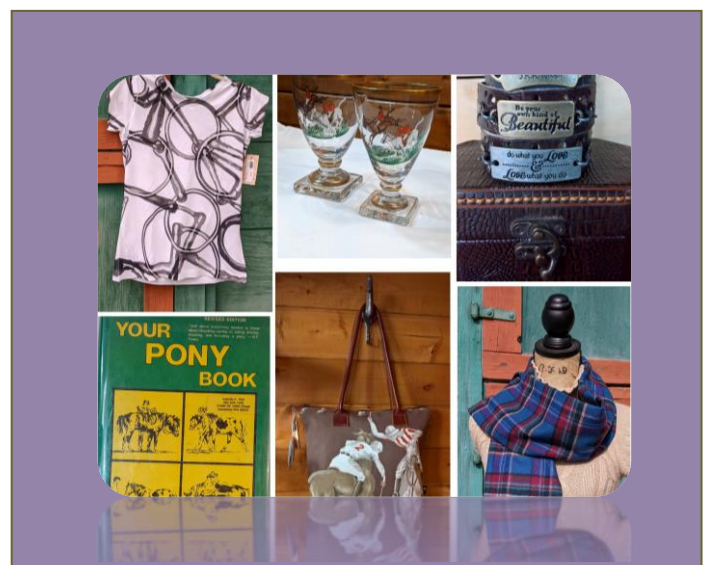


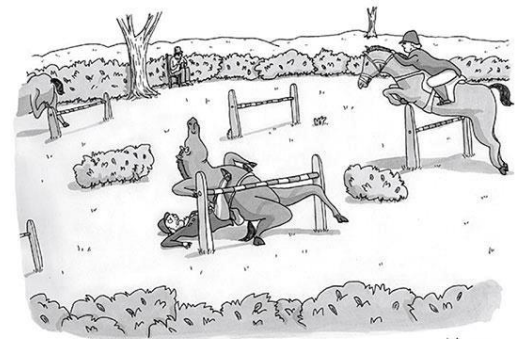
Our Store is currently open by Appointment



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.com

New Items for April

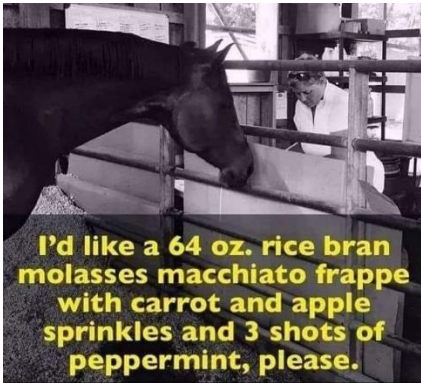




Kanin

"Over, damn you, over!"

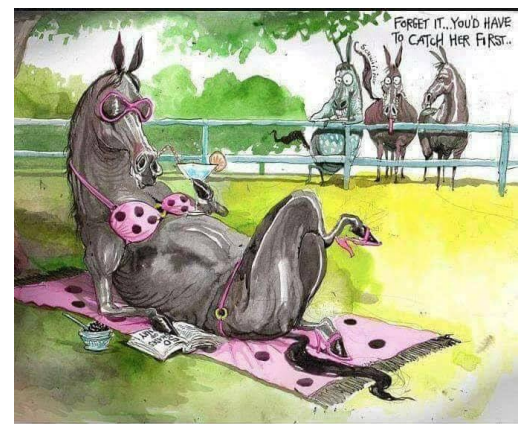
- How long have you been riding for?
- My whole life.
- So, you're a good rider?



The perfect excuse for a traffic jam doesn't exist-



USE CAUTION ⚠️ DANGER
A horse is like a very powerful dirt bike with opinions and a flight instinct. And a fear of plastic bags.



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Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

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People Fail Forward To Success

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

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WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PNWA
Riding Academy



“We will never have to tell our horse that we are sad, happy, confident, angry or relaxed. He already knows—long before we do.”

-Marijke de Jong



“It is the horse’s gift to connect us with heaven and our own footsteps.”

-Ronnie Sweet



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PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

WALKING AT NIGHT

ELIZABETH POLINER

Elizabeth Poliner is the author of the poetry collection What You Know in Your Hands and the novel As Close to Us as Breathing. She teaches at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. "Walking at Night" was published in the February 2019 issue of the Sun magazine..

**Sometimes the horses grazing
in the nearby pastures come to the fence**

**and we talk. Or I do, and they seem to listen.
Last night, the pastures empty,**

**I walked to the stables,
stood before one extraordinary body**

**then the next: massive, lean
muscular, gleaming**

**as if just polished, muzzles
pressed forward as I approached,**

**and me too, pressing forward,
eager for another visit. In the dark**

**I have told the horses
my fears and dreams. Have told them**

**I am leaving soon. Said
hello, sweet to see you,**

**Have reached out to them
as they gather close, wait in turn**

**to nuzzle. Someone has loved these horses,
who come near so readily**

**to calm a stranger
offering only the sugar**

**of her prayers. That we are never alone
is something I want to believe**

**and have come to believe, while alone,
deep in the night,**

**taking the path
that leads to the horses.**

Nutrition Corner

How Nutrition Can Help Manage Seasonal Allergies

What is an Allergy?

An allergy is an immune disorder characterized by hypersensitivity to specific protein molecules called allergens that result in an extreme immune and excessive inflammatory response. Most commonly, allergic reactions affect the skin and respiratory airways in horses and generally develop in response to exposure to seasonal allergens like molds, spores, insect bites and certain proteins present in pasture grasses.

Dietary management may provide support for seasonal allergies from the inside out. Fatty acids are constituents of every single cell membrane throughout the body of the horse. There are several types of fatty acids but specifically omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids are directly correlated to the allergic response.

Metabolites of the omega-6 fatty acids induce strong inflammatory responses, which have been linked to many chronic disorders. In the equine diet, cereal grains, like corn, oats and barley, grain-based feeds and corn oil contain high levels of omega-6 fats.

In contrast, omega-3 fatty acid metabolites have the capability to promote a healthy inflammatory response to support seasonal allergies. Fresh grass contains excellent levels of omega-3 fatty acids. Flaxseed and flax oil provide plant-based omega-3 fatty acids and nutrients that are precursors to both docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). DHA and EPA are long-chain omega-3 fatty acids that help promote normal healthy immune response to seasonal allergens.

Other nutritional ingredients such as thymus extract and Quercetin can have a positive impact on the seasonal allergic response associated with sweet itch. Thymus extract supports a healthy immune system. It promotes the maturation and activity of specific immune cells that help support allergic responses. Quercetin is widely used for its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. It is a natural antihistamine and helps maintain normal histamine levels.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

A BLAST FROM THE PAST! Meet HIGHLANDER

We found Highlander in the Wildwood Farm Archives, a place where we keep information on the memorable horses that have come into our lives throughout the years .

Highlander was a beauty! He was a chestnut pinto/American Saddlebred horse that stood 16.3 hands tall and had the most magnificent trot and huge strides. He also had that look of eagles, something only horse people will understand. He was confident but humble and had more heart than just about any horse we had in our sales string.

Highlander was purchased by Wildwood Farm at a horse auction in 2004 as a 5 year old gelding who had just started his show career. He was being sold because the breeder was going out of business and had to sell of his herd in short time. We were able to purchase Highlander for a fraction of his worth and could not wait to get him back to our farm to see what he really could do.

Highlander was put into a training program with our



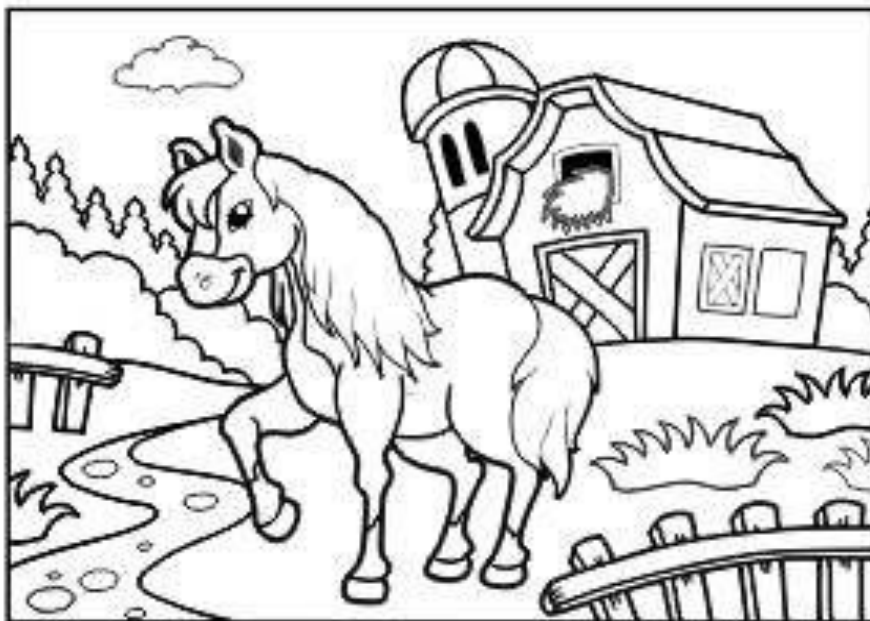
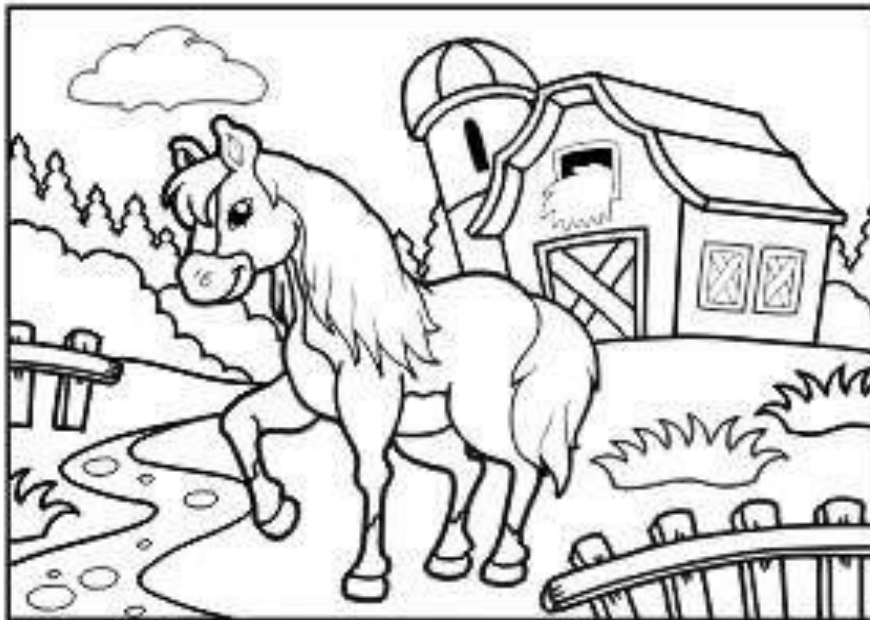
Resident trainer and we were all impressed with his athleticism and calm demeanor. Within a couple of months he was ready for us to find him a show home with someone who would use his talents to their full extent.

It did not take long for Highlander to find a person who immediately fell in love with him, and the feeling was mutual. The sales contract was signed, the deposit was made and Highlander would be moving to his new home in just 7 days.

But....it was not meant to be. The day before his new owners were coming to pick him up we found Highlander not breathing in his stall; the veterinarian found that Highlander had a heart defect and had died of a heart attack. An incredibly sad moment for everyone, but a horse that will live in our hearts for a very long time.

DIFFERENCES

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES.



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MOST EPIC HORSE AND RIDER FALLS



Bolívar Desnudo (Nude Bolívar)

Pereira, Colombia

This unusual monument shows a naked Simón Bolívar stripped of clothing, medals, and swords.



THERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS statue of Simón Bolívar. The Liberator is perched atop a charging steed, his arm outstretched, as he races onward. The horse wears no tack, and, most unusually, Bolívar wears no clothing.

The only public monument showing Bolívar without clothing, medals, or swords is a symbol of liberty and a message for equality. Wanting something unique to commemorate the centennial for the city of Pereira, Lázaro Nicholls, a past mayor, commissioned the famed sculptor Rodrigo Arenas Betancourt to come up with an image of Bolívar that would set up this city's plaza apart from the rest.

Initially the monument was going to depict a Bolívar fully dressed in military attire, however, the artist thought it was a better idea for the sculpture to portray the revolutionary in a different way. Stripped of his military garb and accolades, this statue exudes a sense of freedom. Bolívar is shown galloping on his stallion, unrestrained and independent, while charging onward. Bolívar's nudity serves a second purpose, as the statue's lack of clothing also symbolizes equality.

Naturally, this unconventional depiction of Bolívar attracted its fair share of criticism and backlash. But today, more than 50 years since the monument was unveiled, it remains a celebrated local attraction.

Know Before You Go

The monument is located in the middle of the Plaza de Bolívar.

The Falabella



The **Falabella** is a pony breed that originated in Argentina by the Falabella family. Known for their small size, these ponies are seen all over the world being used primarily as children's riding ponies, companion and therapy animals. Falabellas are unique in the sense that they can be seen in nearly any color or pattern in the horse world. These ponies can be distinguished from other ponies because they are built much slimmer, smaller, and narrower than other breeds.

In fact, these ponies are so incredibly small that they are rarely measured in hands. These ponies can stand between 24 and 35 inches in height which would be equivalent to 6 to 8.3 hands which is tiny! To be a true Falabella these ponies must not stand above 9 hands high or 36 inches.

These tiny ponies weigh hardly anything compared to a normal horse. On average, they weigh between 70 and 80 kilograms or 150 to 175 pounds! This is similar to that of a person they are so small!

The Falabella is a relatively new breed that has a very unique history and bloodlines that might surprise you. Believe it or not, Falabellas are descended mainly from Arabian and Thoroughbred horses. The smallest of these horses were bred to create smaller Arabian Thoroughbred crosses. The smallest offspring of these horses were continuously crossed before being mixed with Shetland ponies. The resulting horses were small ponies who were then selectively bred and even inbred to create the tiny horses we know today.

Because of the excessive inbreeding that took place in the first creation of this breed, these little horses don't always have the best conformation and can appear awkward and odd in build.

These ponies live a really, really long time! 40 to 45 years is the average lifespan of these ponies. This is thanks to their smaller size, excellent health, natural hardiness, and notable soundness. Falabellas don't really have health issues like most other breeds do so living well into their forties or even their early fifties isn't unheard of.

Falabellas or at least purebred Falabellas are rare little horses. This is because there are only a few thousand members of the purebred Falabella genetic pool.

Cont'd from page 1)

situation on the morning of Tuesday, October 22nd. The papers and businesses quickly realized the high stakes of the disease's progression. The horse population had grown significantly over the course of the 19th century, and had particularly spiked in the decades after the Civil War. By the early 1870s, people in the city were taking an estimated 100 million horse trips per year, mostly on the streetcar network. The epizootic threatened to cut off this transportation network entirely, causing a "great panic" by Thursday, October 24th. By the end of the first work week of the disease, the city turned into a "vast horse hospital." Nearly all of the private vehicles were off the road, and the number of streetcars had been cut in half. Nonetheless, the recently formed Metropolitan Board of Health, which held a special meeting that Thursday, decided not to take action, confident that the disease would pass on its own.

On Friday, October 25th, that outlook changed, when the number of sick horses jumped from 7,000 to 15,000, creating "a great feeling of dread." By Saturday, the newspapers described the number of horses affected as "impossible to estimate". As far away as San Francisco, reporters began to cover the disease in New York, initially focusing on valuable trotting horses who had fallen sick, such as Ethan Allen Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson, Lady Wheeler, and Captain Jinks, some of whom were worth over \$15,000 and whose outings were frequent topics of conversation. But the disease was equally debilitating for horses outside of high society, who formed the backbone of the city's business network. With about a quarter of the city's horses sick by October 26th, streetcar companies were losing over \$2,000 a day. Nearly every business and individual relied, at some point, on horsepower, for construction materials, freight deliveries, mail, trash, firefighting wagons, power supplies, even the removal of dead horses. By the end of the first week of the disease, life in the city had been reduced to a trickle.

The Great Epizootic reached the height of its effects in New York City in the final days of October and early November; from stopping transportation and cartage, the disease's impacts grew to touch nearly every aspect of business in the city, and consequently around the country. Piles of freight were beginning to accumulate at the city's railroad depots and on its piers, as well as those across the river in Brooklyn and New Jersey. Even if shipping companies were willing to pay exorbitantly high prices, at least double normal costs, it was often the case that the towns on the receiving end couldn't handle goods because of the disease's effects in other towns along the East Coast, and eventually around the country. City services had likewise been severely affected. Only two of the fire department's fleet of 150 horses were still healthy by the second week of the disease. Horse bodies, usually quickly picked up, were left to decompose for days. The real estate market had experienced a "decided falling off." People were beginning to lose jobs. A reporter in New York City wrote in the *Manchester Guardian* how at a time of year with heavy trade, "Many thousands of persons were temporarily thrown out of employment, and there was scarcely an individual who did not feel the effects of the horse disease in one way or another."

Washington Market, one of the city's major commercial markets, was reportedly losing \$50,000 a day. Even Wall Street was affected. In addition to stocks for streetcar companies dropping in price over the first week, the *Herald* believed that the disease's effects in the money markets prompted the Treasury Department to print more currency. Indeed, a total of about five million new greenbacks were issued at the end of October, a highly controversial move at the time.

The end of the second week of the disease was the weekend before the 1872 presidential election, with President Ulysses Grant up for re-election. But the talk among horse owners, and in much of the papers, was the horse disease. There was an increasing realization that without horses, 19th-century society, and its visions of grand National progress, would be fundamentally challenged.

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

But the disease was generally not fatal, and horses did not disappear, as many feared would happen. By the start of the third week of the disease on Sunday, November 3rd, enough horses had improved to the point where transportation and commerce began to pick up. The papers, which had been devoting wall-to-wall coverage to the disease, reduced their reports to a column. Despite fear that the presidential election on November 5th might have been affected by people's inability to get to the polls, Grant won in a landslide. Following the election, the streetcar lines were running at nearly full capacity. By the weekend of November 9th, there was little mention of the disease, which resulted in the death of just under 2,000 horses in New York City, in the city's papers.

Mid-way through the disease's progression, on October 31st, a reporter estimated that the commercial loss to New York City, ten days since it first arrived, was around six million dollars. Extending that impact to the full two-and-a-half-week period when the disease was at its height results in \$8.4 million in total losses. Calculated for inflation, this translates to about a \$180 million loss in today's dollars and it provides some indication of the significance of horses to New York City in the late 19th century. The near absence of horses severely affected not only the city's transportation network, but the very but the very foundation of its daily functioning. Interestingly, the reliance on horses only grew in the episode's aftermath, reaching a peak population of 130,000 horses in 1900 and the episode, which dominated conversation for weeks, with endless speculation over how the city might change in its aftermath, became little more than a curious blip.

