

KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.  
NEWS FOR KANSAS AND THE EQUINE INDUSTRY.



## October 2022 EDITION



News, announcements and events from around Kansas, regarding the Kansas equine industry.

Legislation, Insurance, Equipment & Retail discounts are just some of our membership benefits! Visit our website to learn more.

Join our herd!

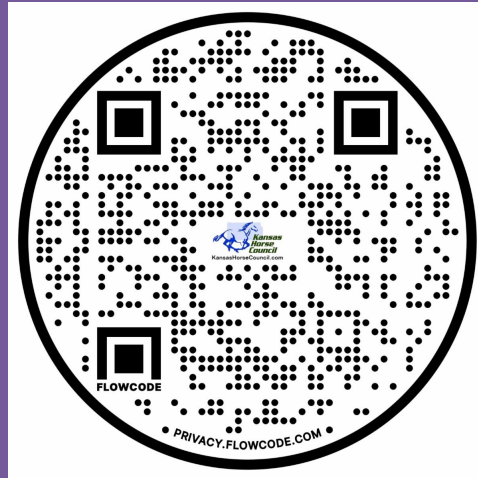
[Visit our Website](#)

## NEW KHC Benefit in 2022 to add to the many other GREATS!

Subscription opportunity to  
The Horse Magazine at 90%  
DISCOUNT off retail-  
Only \$5 for the year to Kansas  
Horse Council Members!

*the* **HORSE**  
YOUR GUIDE TO EQUINE HEALTH CARE

Scan the QR Code to sign - up for your reduced  
subscription TODAY!!



## 2022 Upcoming Events and Calendar

For additional events throughout the year visit:  
*Calendar of Submitted Events*

Any questions regarding events, please call us at  
785-776-0662

If interested in more information or to register for an event, please email us at  
[director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com)





# Calendar of Upcoming Events!

## KHC & Affiliate Groups

- **September 9-18**
  - Horses @ Kansas State Fair!
- **September 10**
  - KHC Region 1 High Plains Horseman's Day
  
- **October 1**
  - Region 3 Lake Scott Trail Ride
  - Region 2 Onaga Trail Ride
- **October 8**
  - KHC & KSU Vet Med present Horse Care 101
- **October 15-16**
  - KHC Region 5 Liberty Clinic with Modern Day Horsemanship's Patrick Sullivan at Saddle & Sirloin Riding Club
  
- **December 3**
  - KHC at the Old Fashioned Parade in Lawrence & KHC Annual Meeting

If you have any questions regarding any upcoming events, please contact our office!

**Email: [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com)**

**Phone: 785-776-0662**



If you are interested in riding at one of these KHC hosted rides, please click the corresponding link below to fill out a registration form. You can also access the registration form via our website.

Once filled out, please send to Kansas Horse Council office via email or mail.

Visit our website

**[Region 3 Trail Ride @ Lake Scott OCT. 1st](#)**



## Lake Scott Registration Form

Come ride with KHC as your guide at beautiful, historic Lake Scott State Park!

*follow signs to gathering area, just beyond the lake.*

On site registration from 8:45am to 9:45am.

\$10 for KHC/\$15 for nonmembers. Kids 12 & under Free.

Call 785-776-0662 for more information.

Primitive Camping available. All vehicles need Park Permit.

Friday Night Potluck if you're camping!

**Saturday Smoked Meat Lunch & Door Prizes following ride!**

**OCTOBER 1st, 2022**



## Region 2 Trail Ride @ Onaga OCT. 1st

### Onaga Trail Ride Registration Form

#### Join us for a KHC Region 2 Trail Ride in Onaga, KS

Hosts are Bill & Linda Price. Trail Boss is Todd Bosswell.

*Linda describes it for us, "From the top of the Flint Hills, we have some of the most spectacular views Vermillion Valley. We have white limestone, Sioux Quartzite, left by the glacier, flint rock, bluestem, sumac, oak trees, Union Pacific railroad, coyotes, maybe a deer or two. Last year, a rider said it was "the funnest trail ride"-I think he was the one who chased the coyote. There is also the stone arch bridge, that was built in the 1880's. This is not a flat trail ride."*

**WHEN:** October 1st, 2022

**WHERE:** Bill and Linda Price, 15605 Day Road, Onaga, Kansas 66521.

**TIME:** Approx. 12pm-5pm

- **1pm** Mount Up & Ride Out to see the scenic Vermillion Valley around Onaga
- **4pm** Return & enjoy a bowl of chili waiting for you

**COST:**

KHC & BCHA-KS Members: \$20

Non-Members: \$30

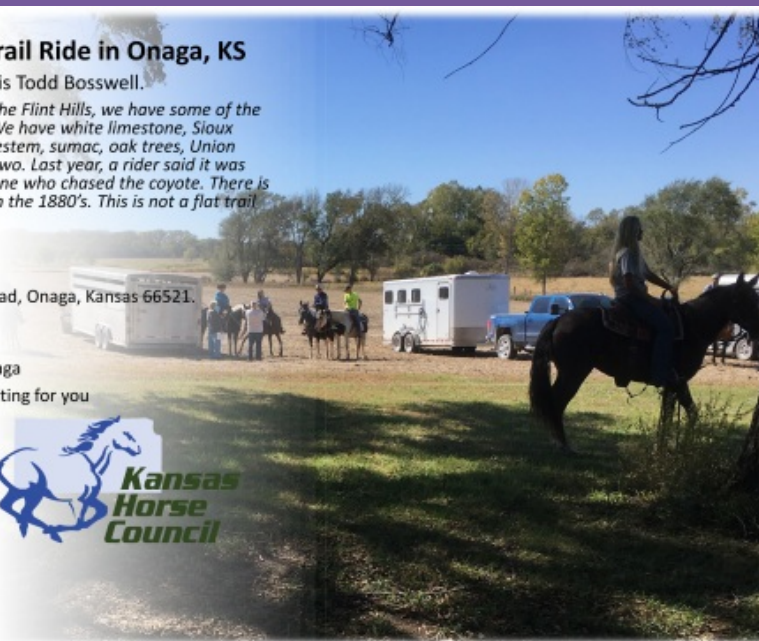
Non-Riders (lunch only): \$10



Questions?

Email: [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com)

Phone: 785-776-0662



## Modern-Day Horsemanship Clinic





# Modern-Day Horsemanship Clinic

with Patrick Sullivan

Don't miss your chance to learn and participate in the bridleless training that is Liberty Horsemanship!

Learn proper techniques from demonstrations and one-on-one lessons!!

**Date:**

- October 15th & 16th

**Location:**

- Saddle & Sirloin in Kansas City

**Schedule:**

- 8am - Check-in
- 9am - Demonstration and step-by-step process

**Lessons:**

- Two 30min sessions per person/day
- One-on-one with Patrick or Avery
- Limit to 20 participants
- \$200/person for both days

**Just Come and Watch:**

- Auditor's Fee = \$20/day



**Patrick Sullivan Accomplishments:**

- Completed Level 4 Parelli
- Studied/Interned with Ryan Rose of Ryan Rose Horsemanship
- Worked with Dan James of Double Dan Horsemanship
- Placed Top 20 in the Mustang Makeover and placed 2nd in the newcomers
- Placed 2nd in the Freestyle Pro Division for ILHA Championships
- Gamilah Unbridled - Rode 2500 miles from California to Kentucky completely bridleless.
- Gamilah Unbridled Rescue Horse Project - worked with 7 of the toughest horses in the country using only liberty techniques.



If you are interested and would like to register for this event, please click the link below and fill out the registration form. Once you have the form completed, please return to KHC office.

Modern-Day Horsemanship Registration  
Form

Horse Care 101  
October 8th





# “Abscesses: A Hole Lot to Understand” HORSE CARE 101

**OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am to 2pm**  
**At Kansas State University  
Veterinary Health Center**

Registration & Agenda  
[www.kansashorsecouncil.com](http://www.kansashorsecouncil.com)

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY** | College of Veterinary Medicine



Then trot on over to the KSU Animal Sciences Family & Friends Reunion 4pm to 9:30pm  
Registration: [www.asi.k-state.edu/events/familyandfriendsreunion.html](http://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/familyandfriendsreunion.html)



**OCTOBER 28-30, 2022.** Join Best of America By Horseback at the Broken Wing Ranch Ministries, near Junction City, KS. Come ride with show host Del Shields filming for the RFD TV program- see yourself on TV! Call 620-433-1819.



All riders are automatically entered in a drawing for a new C&L Saddle. Enjoy great food, fellowship & fun. Live band Saturday night. Call today to get registered!





Save  
the  
Date

THURSDAY MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> to  
SUNDAY MARCH 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**EQUIFEST**  
OF KANSAS



SALINA, KS



Visit [KWAH online](#)

*Kansas*

**WESTERN  
HORSEMAN'S  
ASSOCIATION INC**





## **Lifelong Flint Hills Ranching Cowgirl Feature For Pioneer Bluffs Prairie Talk**

**By Frank Buchman**

**“Cowboyin’ is women’s work.” Bobbie Hammond, Olpe, has managed as many as 25,000 acres of Flint Hills grass and 8,000 head of cattle. At the same time, she was a professional rodeo barrel racer. She won in the Old Timers’ Rodeo National Finals when she was a grandmother, and that was 40 years ago.**

**Hammond will share her life’s story in a Prairie Talk, Saturday afternoon, October 8, 2 o’clock, at Pioneer Bluffs. “I always thought cowboyin’ is women’s work,” said Hammond. “It never occurred to me there was anything I couldn’t do because I was a woman. I was working with my dad from the time I was big enough to ride.**

**“I know it isn’t the kind of work every woman would want to do. Probably not every man can do it,” she continued. “It’s a lot of hard**



work. I do everything from breaking colts to fixing water gaps to treating sick steers. It's knowing what an old steer will do before he even thinks of it himself."

Today at age 83, Hammond is still working. "I don't let a lot of grass grow under my feet," she declared. "It is a lifestyle, I think."

There is no cost to attend, but reservations are requested, with additional information, from Lynn Smith at [lynn@pioneerbluffs.org](mailto:lynn@pioneerbluffs.org), or 620-753-3484. Details can be found at [pioneerbluffs.org](http://pioneerbluffs.org), or on the Pioneer Bluffs Facebook event page.

Mission of Pioneer Bluffs is to preserve and share the ranching heritage of the Flint Hills. A National Register Historic District, Pioneer Bluffs is on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177, one mile north of Matfield Green.



## How to Get a 5-Star Rating from Your Farrier

Article by Julie Goodnight [@juliegoodnight.com](https://www.instagram.com/juliegoodnight)

As a kid, I rode show hunters, and back then most of them were off-the-track Thoroughbreds—notorious for their shelly, thin feet and the tendency to lose a shoe right before an important show. I learned the value of having a great relationship with my farrier at a very young age—it was the main reason I learned to make brownies.

I started getting paid to ride horses at 18 (and under the table a couple years before that), riding racehorses throughout college. After four decades as a horse trainer, I still know this to be true: Top-rate veterinary and farrier care for



my horses is critical to my success as a horse trainer.

My personal farrier, Carey Gunderman, told me, “When the farrier, vet, and trainer are all on the same team, the horse usually wins. We don’t always have to agree, but we have mutual respect for one another and work together in the horse’s best interest, and usually with the best possible outcome for the horse.”

In the very best of circumstances (well-mannered horse, good handler, nice facility), being a farrier is an extremely difficult and hazardous job. I have a tremendous amount of respect and empathy for farriers, and I understand that my horses and I are the beneficiaries of their demanding occupation. Having grown up near horse racing in the horse country of central Florida, I was always around top-level farriers, but after moving to the rural southwest, I discovered top-level farriers don’t grow on trees. It was the same with equine vets and medical doctors, who tended to be in the metro areas. Don’t get me wrong—we have some of the best farriers in the country in my neck of the woods—but skilled practitioners are fewer and further between, and I want the very best working on my horses.

Whether it’s a local farrier who helps me out of a jam when I am on the road, a colleague that stands in for my regular farrier in a pinch, or my dedicated farrier on a routine trip, I have the utmost respect for their safety and do my best to take good care of them.

Responsible horse stewardship includes managing this critical aspect of your horse’s care with proper etiquette, attention to safety, a well-mannered horse, and a responsible handler. (If you’ve read comments online about a horse owner being ghosted by their farrier, lacking any of these things could be why. Don’t be that person!)

In this article, I share what I think are the most important things you can do to maintain a great working relationship with your farrier—and to make sure you and your horse are their favorite clients.

### Horse Owner Etiquette

- Be respectful of a professional’s time. Have your horse ready early—caught, clean, and waiting for the farrier. The horse’s legs should be clean and DRY (wet legs are worse than dirty legs).
- Provide a comfortable and safe workspace. A flat, clean workspace, protected from the elements. There should be enough space to keep safe when a horse gets squirrely, but a solid wall can come in handy for keeping an anxious horse still. Many farriers also need access to water and power. Try to put a pause on unnecessary activities in the area during your appointment (i.e. not a good time to run a weed-eater) and keep dogs and kids (haha) leashed.
- Understand and appreciate the farrier’s personal risk. It’s not your farrier’s job to train the horse, and they are the most likely to get hurt by an untrained or ill-mannered horse. The simplest wreck could ruin your farrier’s career—or at the very least, render him unable to make a living for a while. It’s your responsibility as a horse owner to make sure your horse has safe and reliable ground manners.
- Hold the horse—do not tie it. Working under a tied horse is not safe and may lead to huge wrecks. Always stand on the same side of the horse as the farrier (for safety) and monitor the horse’s behavior closely.



- Never allow a horse to put his mouth anywhere near the farrier. It's not cute. All farriers have been bitten from behind. This is rude and unsafe behavior, which tends to get progressively worse. You only have one job—control the horse.
- Manage the flies. Between the stomping, head tossing, and whipping tail, a farrier's work is much harder when the flies are bad. Manage the flies in your barn, tie the tail up if necessary, and use fly spray that your farrier approves of (they are the ones soaking it on their skin). I like to use all-natural Ultra-Shield Green for the vet and farrier.
- Have payment ready, and don't question the fees after the fact. The cheapest horseshoer out there is expensive, and a master farrier doing a complicated job costs a small fortune. Get over it. Try doing their job for one day and you'll see neither one of them make enough money.

### Expectations of the Horse's Behavior

The ideal horse stands perfectly still and squarely on all four legs. The horse should lift the foot when asked, then relax and allow its foot and leg to be manipulated by the farrier, and patiently hold the leg up while balancing on the other three feet without leaning or fidgeting. The perfect horse also allows the farrier to slowly place the foot down to the ground, not jerking or stomping it down as soon as you start to let go.

That last part is important, and it is a precedent that can be set very early in the young horse's training. Whatever the age, I want to teach the horse to allow me to hold the foot all the way down and place it on a specific mark. Not only is this good manners, but there are many horse management practices—from x-rays to foot soaking to measuring for hoof boots—where this skill will come in handy.

Again, it's the farrier's job to take care of the feet of the horse—not to train the horse to behave properly. That's the job of a horse trainer—and the responsibility of the horse owner. And remember, anyone who handles or rides a horse is training them (for better or worse), because horses never stop learning.

Training a totally raw horse to stand quietly for a farrier can be a vigorous and dangerous process. Seek help from an expert if you cannot manage a horse safely from the ground. It's your responsibility to get the help you need to make sure the horse is safe and well-mannered—for its own health and well-being, and the farrier's.

### Training Your Horse for the Farrier

I call this kindergarten for horses. Basic ground manners for the horse include:

- Controlling the feet
- Standing still when asked
- Respecting boundaries, and
- Keeping its nose in front of its chest while being handled

I've written, talked, videoed, demonstrated, cajoled, and pleaded *a lot* on this subject, and there is plenty of information for you on my Academy website. Right now, I'll talk about a training progression that is specific to safely handling the legs and feet and preparing your horse for the farrier. Whether the horse is young and unknowing, a mature horse without any previous training, or a horse that's developed unsafe manners due to trauma or poor handling, these are the steps I would take to ensure the horse is a solid citizen for the farrier.



- Desensitize to legs touching and brushing until the horse stands still and is comfortable with the touch of both hands and different types of brushes. For a mature horse that has never been touched or doesn't want its legs handled, this can be a huge step. See my video about desensitizing legs with a hyper-sensitive Thoroughbred mare.
- Next, I teach the horse to shift its weight off and lift the foot on cue, AND to relax and keep the foot up until it's released. Bear in mind that teaching a horse to pick up the foot is easy, and it happens fast. Teaching the horse to patiently hold its leg up and relinquish control of it to you is decidedly *not* easy. These two skills should be taught at the same time, and if you do the former without the latter, you end up training the horse to jerk its foot away—and making matters worse. This is not always an easy job, and it can be quite animated, especially on a larger and/or reactive horse. Done right, it happens fast. Done poorly, you end up teaching the horse bad things. If you're unsure about this process, consider getting expert help.
- Allow the horse time to learn how to balance on three feet, and that it won't kill them. Ignore any fussing and move along with the horse as they move without releasing the foot until it settles. Don't try to hold the horse still or scold it, just hold the foot high with the toe flexed up. Only release the foot when the horse is still and relaxed. Help the horse find the release by *putting* its foot down (not dropping it) immediately when the horse relaxes. With good timing on the release, the horse learns to hold still and relax fast. Pick up and hold the feet repeatedly (working on one leg at a time), holding it a little longer each time.
- If the horse is struggling to take its foot back, hold the foot high with the toe pointed straight up. That will make it harder for the foot to stamp down. If the horse gets its foot back just keep reaching for the leg and pick it back up immediately, keeping the pressure on until it relaxes.
- The horse should learn to stand up and balance on three feet as you hold one foot up and steady the horse. If the horse begins to lean on you, slowly bend down with the horse, lower and lower, holding the foot toe-up, then suddenly remove your support and drop the horse, so it has to pick itself back up or fall down. Horses hate to fall, so even the thought of falling discourages the leaning behavior. Done right, this technique will eliminate leaning the very first time the horse tries it.
- Once a horse is well-trained for routine foot handling, I introduce what the farrier does—squeezing the leg between my knees, pulling the legs to the side more (be gentle), manipulating the foot, rasping and tapping. The way the farrier manipulates the legs and feet for trimming and shoeing is different from the way we handle the feet for daily cleaning. These are positions and sensations the horse must be comfortable with *before* it's ready for the farrier.
- Young horses (foals and weanlings) will probably not need their feet trimmed for a while, but they can get acquainted with the farrier while still on the mare. I want the foal to stand with the mare as her feet are trimmed, taking it all in, contained and waiting patiently (not running about wildly), and to make friends with the farrier. Long before its first trim, the

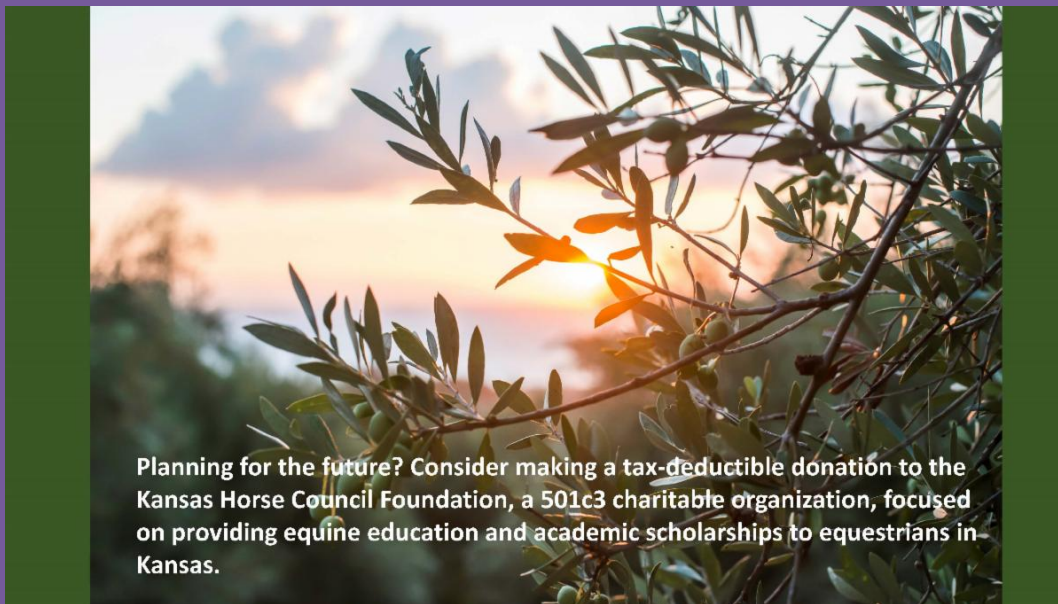
foal will know the farrier and become familiar with the sounds and sights.

- If a mature horse comes for training that has never had its legs handled or stood for the farrier, I still want the first experience to be very positive, both for my horse and for my farrier—I want them BOTH left with a good impression of each other. I will hold off the farrier as long as possible until I get the horse desensitized and trained.

In the presentations and demonstrations I make at horse expos and clinics, I always tell people that one of the kindest things you can do for your horse is to teach it to have good ground manners. Armed with these skills, your horse will always be treated kindly by vets, farriers, barn workers, and the like, and will have a safe and secure future.

All horses need regular foot care from a qualified farrier who is educated and trained to treat the foot, as well as the whole horse, in concert with your vet and trainer. Finding and keeping a great farrier can be a challenge in the best of circumstances. Once found, I want to make sure I keep up my end of the bargain by being the best client they have, so on that rare occasion when I have a big ask or an urgent need, I know they'll be there for me and my horses.

## Check this OUT!!



Planning for the future? Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Kansas Horse Council Foundation, a 501c3 charitable organization, focused on providing equine education and academic scholarships to equestrians in Kansas.

## Learn How You Can Help Your Equine Veterinarians!



Equine veterinarians are in **short supply**. Here's how **HORSE OWNERS CAN HELP EASE THE STRAIN:**



**OBSERVE BUSINESS HOURS**

Only contact your veterinarian after business hours for true emergencies, not as a matter of convenience.



**REVIEWS GO BOTH WAYS**

How would you rate yourself as a client? **Being a good client creates opportunities for your veterinary team to serve you and your horse better.** Things you can do include being receptive and welcoming to veterinarians who are not your regular practitioner — be it the veterinarian on call or a new, young veterinarian. If possible, utilize the same clinic for emergencies and for routine work.



**RESPECT YOUR VET'S SMALL BUSINESS**

Prompt payment of services rendered is critical to ensure your equine veterinarian's small business remains sustainable.

**BE READY FOR THE VET**

Have your horse in from the field and cleaned before your veterinarian arrives. To help keep everyone safe, **train your horse to have good ground manners.**



**TELL THEM YOU APPRECIATE THEM**

A smile and a thank you go a long way when it comes to letting your veterinarian know how much you appreciate your partnership with them.



**NEW- Joint membership with KHC & BCH-KS for you!**



NEW FOR 2022

JOINT MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE IN BOTH ORGANIZATIONS

Individual: \$80 (\$15 to BCHA/\$15 to BCH-KS/\$15 to BCH-KS Chapter of Choice/\$20 for insurance/\$15 to KHC)

Family: \$100 (\$20 to BCHA/\$10 to BCH-KS/\$15 to BCH-KS Chapter of Choice/\$40 for insurance/\$15 to KHC)

Message Us to Enroll for 2022!

Trails Advocate Level Individual: \$80

Trails Advocate Level Family: \$100

One enrollment to support two organizations!  
Simple and makes sense!



## *An Overview of GI Issues in Horses*

Horses are known for having delicate gastrointestinal systems. Equine digestion is full of twists and turns, and a lot can go wrong during the process. Colic, diarrhea, ulcers, and other ailments are common in our domestic horse population. Being informed and prepared will help you react appropriately should your horse ever greet you with a bellyache.

### **Colic: The Main Culprit**

Colic is the No. 1 killer of adult horses, accounting for 30% of U.S. horse deaths, according to the USDA's 2015 National Animal Health Monitoring System study. While the clinical signs of colic—an umbrella term referring to abdominal discomfort—might be similar in many cases, the underlying causes and conditions can be vastly different and have a major influence on treatment and prognosis.

Michael Fugaro, VMD, Dipl. ACVS, owner of Mountain Pointe Equine Veterinary Services and a surgeon at B.W. Furlong and Associates, both in New Jersey, says the two most common types of colic he encounters on the farm are gas/spasmodic (gut spasms) and idiopathic (unknown cause), with impaction next on the list.

“Thankfully, most of these cases respond to a single treatment of medical therapy and resolve without further complication,” he says, for example, administering a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) such as flunixin meglumine (Banamine) under your vet’s guidance.

So what causes colic? “Horses are creatures of habit,” Fugaro says, “and when changes in feed, grass, water intake, medication, exercise regime, stabling, environment, etc. occur, the intestinal tract appears to be the most susceptible to that impact.”

Types of colic that end up requiring surgery vary depending on the region and horse demographic. This is because different horses in different parts of the country are exposed to different risk factors. “The signalment (age, sex, breed), occupation, and other variables of the horse appear to influence the type of surgical colic experienced,” he says. “For instance, older horses and Arabians are highly represented with strangulating obstructions



secondary to lipomas (benign fatty tumors); geldings that crib-bite and/or windsuck have a higher incidence of entrapment of the small intestine in the epiploic foramen (a narrow opening connecting the two sacs of the abdominal cavity); and broodmares show a higher prevalence of large colon (the stretch of intestine located between the cecum and the transverse colon) displacement and/or volvulus (twisting) after foaling.”

Nimet Browne, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVIM, an internal medicine specialist at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, in Lexington, Kentucky, with an interest in gastrointestinal disease, echoes these observations. Located in the heart of Kentucky horse country, Browne treats many Thoroughbred broodmares and foals. Common causes of medical colic in her patient population include large colon displacements, spasmodic colic, enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine), and impaction, including from parasites.

The colic type a horse experiences also depends on his age and lifestyle. “The majority of the colic cases referred to us are medical colics (those that don’t need surgery because they can be managed with intravenous fluids, pain-relieving medications, and supportive care),” Browne says. “A colic case can require surgery if pain cannot be controlled, if there is indication of gastrointestinal compromise, or if all other treatment options have failed.” Researchers have confirmed that the faster a horse that isn’t responding to medical therapy gets referred to surgery, the greater his chance of a successful outcome. “Surgical causes of colic that we frequently see include large colon volvulus, small intestinal volvulus, mesenteric rents (tears in the membrane that anchors the intestines to the abdominal wall), intussusceptions (where the intestine telescopes onto itself), and colonic displacements,” Browne says.

While it can be difficult for veterinarians to determine the cause of a colic, she sees certain well-known predisposing factors in her practice population, she adds. These include the immediate peripartum (post-birthing) period, advanced age, stress from yearling sales prepping, horse shows, stall rest, or, as mentioned, intestinal parasite load.

## Diarrhea: How Serious Can it Be?

In short, very. Although occasional loose manure can simply reflect recent feed changes or a brief stressful episode, severe diarrhea (due to toxins, parasites, infectious agents such as *Salmonella*, and more) can signify something is seriously wrong.

“Diarrhea cases are not to be taken lightly and can become fatal in severe cases,” says Fugaro. “If a horse has true diarrhea (waterlike manure that immediately sinks below the bedding), it is considered a medical emergency.”

Here’s why: Diarrhea can cause severe dehydration and protein loss, and advanced cases can even lead to the debilitating hoof condition laminitis and body wide infection in the blood known as sepsis. In addition, acute diarrhea is very difficult to treat.

“Many horses will require around-the-clock aggressive medical and supportive therapies that can only be provided in a hospital setting,” says Fugaro.

So, how can you gauge the severity of a horse’s diarrhea? “It is of utmost importance to consider the systemic health of the horse in question,” Browne says. “Mild diarrhea caused by feed changes is typically transient (one to three days at the most) and not generally accompanied by changes in attitude, demeanor, appetite, or body temperature.”

If any of the latter signs do appear, she urges owners to call their veterinarians and ensure their horses have plenty of drinking water available, temporarily remove concentrates from the diet, and potentially administer a veterinarian-prescribed adsorbent to help neutralize the diarrhea-causing toxins. She also recommends asking your veterinarian whether you should give your horses probiotics (beneficial microorganisms) and prebiotics (micronutrients the good gut microbiota require to survive). Further care, such as antimicrobials and even hospitalization, might be necessary.

## Ulcers: A Pain in the Gut

Equine gastric ulcer syndrome (EGUS), the most common gastrointestinal disease in horses, refers to ulcerative lesions of the stomach. Equine colonic ulcer syndrome (ECUS)

is a similar condition that affects the horse's hindgut—the digestive tract beyond the small intestine. Ulcers cause discomfort, pain, and often a decrease in body condition. Other reported effects include poor appetite, attitude changes, lack of energy, a dull hair coat, and chronic diarrhea.

While they might not be immediately evident, ulcers are prevalent among pleasure, performance, and especially racehorse populations and linked to many factors. Fasting, lack of forage, high amounts of concentrate feed, stress, stall confinement, transport, and NSAID administration are among the most common. However, there are many steps you can take to help protect your horse's stomach, starting by providing as much turnout and forage access as possible. If your horse needs NSAIDs to manage pain associated with arthritis or other chronic conditions, for instance, ask your veterinarian about using firocoxib (Equioxx), a COX-2 selective NSAID that's gentler on the stomach than nonselective forms like Bute or Banamine.

Omeprazole, an oral antiacid sold under the names GastroGard and UlcerGard, is highly effective in treating and preventing gastric ulcers. Colonic ulcers are more difficult to diagnose and eradicate but have anecdotally responded to gastroprotectants such as - misoprostol.

Consult your veterinarian if you suspect your horse has ulcers. He or she might perform gastroscopy (passing an endoscope through the nostrils and into the stomach to look at its surface) to make a diagnosis and can prescribe the appropriate treatment.

"General principles of restoring a healthy microbiome include removing inciting causes, administering probiotics and prebiotics, and providing high-quality fiber."

**Dr. Nimet Browne**

## Gut Microbiome Disturbances

The horse's intestines are populated with beneficial bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and archaea (single-celled organisms) responsible for digesting and absorbing nutrients. Together, they make up the microbiome, which digests fiber into volatile fatty acids the body can use for energy. Any alteration of the flora within the digestive tract, known as dysbiosis, can impair the gut's normal functioning, potentially causing big problems.

"The microbiome is highly influenced by diet, geographic location, and host genetics, as well as systemic medications and/or supplements," Browne says. "When the microbiome is altered, minor to life-threatening complications can arise, including colic, colitis (inflammation of the large colon), laminitis, gastric ulcers, as well as weight loss, obesity, diarrhea, and systemic inflammation."

When treating these conditions, she stresses the importance of identifying and addressing underlying problems, which could include inflammatory bowel conditions and/or infectious causes of diarrhea.

"Even once these issues are addressed, maintaining and cultivating normal flora can be difficult," Browne says. "General principles of restoring a healthy microbiome include removing inciting causes, administering probiotics and prebiotics, and providing high-quality fiber."

## Malabsorption of Nutrients

Malabsorption occurs when the intestinal mucosa fails to absorb and transport nutrients such as carbohydrates, protein, fat, vitamins, or minerals into the bloodstream correctly. "There is ongoing research about malabsorption, as it is believed to be a contributing factor in many of the clinical symptoms we observe in horses," Fugaro says.

Browne adds that malabsorption usually occurs when inflammatory or neoplastic (abnormal tissue growth) cells infiltrate the intestinal mucosa. Inflammation of the small intestine usually leads to chronic weight and protein loss, while that of the large intestine (colitis) more commonly causes diarrhea. Other clinical signs include lethargy, colic, and



dependent edema (swelling affected by gravity, generally on the abdomen and/or legs). “Chronic inflammatory bowel disease, which is commonly diagnosed in humans but more rarely in horses, is often a culprit,” Browne says. “So are neoplasia, small strongyles (intestinal parasites), diffuse fibrosis (scarring), extensive small intestinal resection during colic surgery, and also infectious conditions such as (equine proliferative enteropathy).” Again, treatment depends on the cause of the malabsorption, which is best determined by your veterinarian.

## Take-Home Message

Horses have sensitive gastrointestinal tracts that are susceptible to a variety of ailments, but owners can take several simple steps to optimize digestive health. Provide constant access to forage and fresh water, make feed changes gradually, turn your horse out as much as possible, and reduce sources of stress in his environment. And, as always, communicate early signs of trouble to your veterinarian. With gastrointestinal issues, rapid intervention is crucial for a successful outcome.



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## The Amazing Places Horses Can Take Us

Blog Post from [The Plaid Horse](#) BY DIANNE MAY

Recently I overheard moms talking about horses at my daughter’s soccer game. One mom smiled and indicated that her daughter loved horses, but

she wasn't going to do the whole "horse thing." I thought about her comments long after the soccer game ended, mulling over the dismissal in her voice. I understand a person's reticence to jump into the world of horses. It's a hugely costly endeavor—an entire world with its own language and many subsets of horse sports. But as most of us reading this know, if that young girl really loves horses, that kind of love is hard to squash. The positives of horses far outweigh the negatives.

There has never been a time in my life that I could pinpoint when horses and my love for them didn't exist. My earliest memories are of stopping at farms to pet them, asking my parents for a pony for Christmas, and then repeating that request every Christmas thereafter. I watched horse trailers on the road, craning my neck to see passing horse farms on long road trips. I felt giddy when I saw both.

Early on, my parents made it clear that as one of four kids, there was not enough money to buy a horse for me, but I could take lessons and lease horses—which I did for years. I learned to ride short stocky stubborn ponies, quick fast thoroughbreds, and everything in between.

When I was nineteen, I hit the jackpot with a little OTTB that my trainer took in as a resale project. Salty became mine in theory to help her train, and after several months he actually became mine. My mother shook her head sheepishly and remarked she couldn't believe they were giving in after nineteen years, but they did. The joy, wonder, and knowledge that Salty gave me and the relationship we forged were immeasurable. I kept Salty for twenty years before he succumbed to colic. A lot of those years were spent doctoring his numerous lameness issues but I wouldn't trade any of it.

The love of horses, my passion for them, is a thread running through my life. At times, this passion has waned and taken a backseat to raising kids or achieving an education, but it has never disappeared. I've been fortunate to have parents and now a husband who might not understand my passion but certainly accept and support it. This thread has connected me to people I wouldn't have met otherwise, travel to places I wouldn't have gone, and overall enlarged my world.

We bought our six-acre farm thirteen years ago and though at first, I was happy with the newness of owning and running my own barn, over time I struggled with taking care of the horses on my own and loneliness. I took in my boarder, Jennifer and her mother Amanda, ten years ago and that set me on a path I never could have imagined. Due to them and their knowledge and passion for eventing, I started taking dressage lessons and then got back into jumping and finally competing.

Learning to event has been challenging, rewarding and so much fun. Almost paralyzed with nerves at my first event, I trotted around the green bean cross country course of ten jumps my horse could walk over. Five years later I'm still nervous when we leave the start box but we canter out, jump the sizeable sixteen or so beginner novice jumps and don't stop until we cross through the finish flags. The feeling when we do is unbelievable.



Through eventing, I've challenged myself in ways I never thought possible while also enlarging my world by meeting people I never would have known. I've stabled next to juniors giddy with enthusiasm and older confident experienced women competing at levels I can't fathom, parents nervously assisting their children and professionals offering smiles and encouragement. We are all different but are united in the love of these thousand-pound animals. It's humbling and exhilarating.

My horse interest has afforded me a place to escape when the outside world is overwhelming. It has taught me about hard work and perseverance. It has made me cry and laugh, sometimes simultaneously. At times my head has ached with anguish over an injured horse and at other times my heart wants to burst with joy and fullness from a soft nuzzle, a jump well executed or a floating trot down the long side.

A few weeks ago, I fell off competing at Stableview on cross country. Luckily, I popped back up and was immediately surrounded by my trainer, the jump steward, and the medic who all peppered me with questions to make sure I was okay. The medic asked me if I hit my head, if I knew where I was, and if anything was hurt besides my pride. I was able to say no to all the questions, but told her the pride especially hurt. We all laughed.

I understand the mother's skepticism at the soccer game when regarding the horse world, the wariness to embark on a hobby that can cost thousands of dollars with no guarantees of success. But at the end of the day, it is a hobby and passion that can stay with you for a lifetime. It can sustain you through the tough times and along the way enrich one's life immeasurably, which to me is the very definition of success. There's always something to learn and so many different ways to participate with horses—no matter what discipline in the horse world you choose, English, Western, vaulting, trail, endurance, it is the horse that remains. The horse is at the core. All that really matters is this magnificent powerful animal that bestows trust and love. The rest is details.

A few weeks ago I participated in a clinic. On the way to the ring, I talked to an older gentleman riding next to me. He was on a big black Percheron mare, and me on my pony sized red roan Quarter horse gelding. Both of us rode in the same group. I told him I was part excited and part nervous. Five years ago, I wouldn't have imagined I'd be trailering my horse somewhere, much less doing a clinic with a top eventing professional. He smiled and replied, "Me too. But here we are on this beautiful summer day doing the thing that we love. And that's really damn special and lucky." I couldn't have agreed with him more.

## EDCC Equine Health Survey

**Click the button below to take the survey!!**



## HORSE OWNERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EDCC BIOSECURITY SURVEY

There is always a risk that your horse(s) will become ill due to an infectious disease. Because diseases caused by bacteria and viruses (such as Strangles and Equine Herpesvirus) are prevalent in the horse population, they can have a severe impact on a horse's health and welfare. Although vaccination and current medical therapies can decrease illness, using biosecurity knowledge and techniques is the most effective way to prevent infectious disease and spread. With the support of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Equine Disease Communication Center ([learn more about the EDCC](#)) is completing a study to determine the awareness and knowledge of biosecurity in the horse industry. We need your help to determine knowledge and use of biosecurity for your horse(s).

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes with responses collected and tabulated by The Matrix Group, a professional firm with experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research in the equine industry. All the information from this survey will be strictly confidential. The summarized information will be shared with all parts of the horse industry and used to create educational information. The EDCC will use the information to make resources which help owners protect their horses. Please help by participating in the survey ([Use this link to take the survey](#))

**Definitions:**

**Horse:** Defined as any equid (horses, ponies, donkeys, mules)

**Non-Resident horse:** A horse on the property for less than 30 days

**Infectious disease:** Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Infectious diseases can be passed from horse to horse, transmitted by insects or caused by consuming contaminated food or water or being exposed to organisms in the environment.

**Biosecurity:** A set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population.

**Isolation or Isolate:** Horses separated from other horses with no opportunity for direct contact.

**Disease outbreak:** A disease outbreak is the occurrence of disease cases in excess of what is normally expected.

## Kansas Horse Council Specialty License Plate

Kansas Horse Council license plates are available at your local County Treasurer's office. You don't have to be a member to sport one, on your car, truck or trailer! Show your love of horses with this colorful statement plate!



## KHC License Plate Info



# ENJOY THE RIDE WITH KHC!!

## GET A KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL TAG

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are available to  
anyone who owns or  
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FILL OUT a Kansas Royalty  
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PAY a one time production charge of \$50.00 plus  
title fees, registration fees, personal property tax  
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The \$50 tax deductible donation will appear on  
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vehicle is currently tagged, the original plate must  
be returned and the current owner's registration  
and proof of insurance will need to be provided.

## WHAT YOUR TAX DEDUCTION SUPPORTS

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## BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF KANSAS

*What's the best way to stay informed of BCHKansas news and activities?*

***Follow Facebook.***

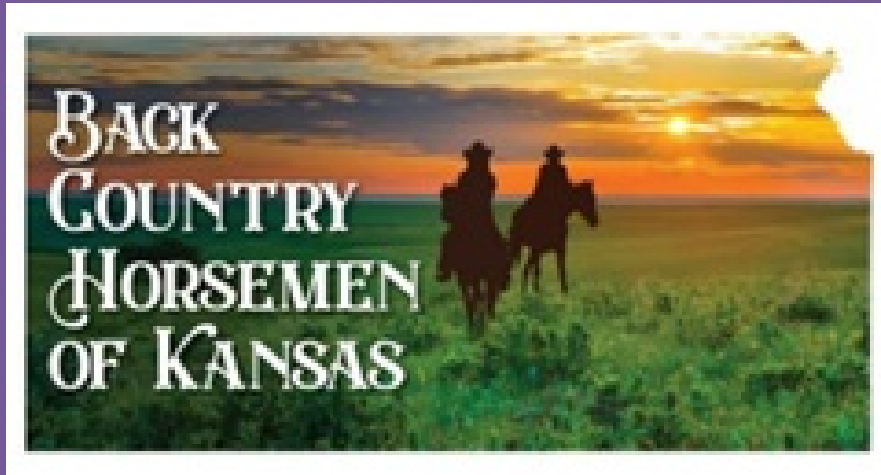
There are several Facebook pages set up to keep BCHKansas members and all equestrians up-to-date on activities on several of our public trails. Here's a list:

Back Country Horsemen of America Kansas Chapter  
Sunflower Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Kansas  
Saddle Ridge Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Kansas  
Tuttle Creek Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Kansas  
Saddle Ridge Chapter  
Big Hill Lake Riders  
Friends of Randolph State Park

Receive notifications of workdays or see reports on trails-maintenance or campground improvements. Join in on workdays whenever possible!

Follow the [www.bchkansas.com](http://www.bchkansas.com) website.

Encourage a new member to join BCHKS and be entered into an end-of-year drawing.



## Kansas Horse Council Rewards Programs

### **DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:**

- When you shop at Dillons and use your Rewards card, KHC will earn a percentage rebate based on your Dillon's purchases!

To link & register your rewards card click here: [Dillons Rewards Link](#) and log into your existing account. Search for Kansas Horse Council or enter our NPO number, KS920 and click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a \*Rewards Card. \*You must have a registered Dillons Food Stores rewards card account to link the Community Rewards program to Kansas Horse Council. (Cards are available for FREE at any Dillon's customer service desk.) SHOP: Purchases will not count towards rebates for KHC until you register your rewards card and link to Kansas Horse Council here:

DILLONS REWARDS LINK Registered Rewards Cards must be swiped at checkout or use your phone number registered with your Rewards Card when shopping for purchases to count. This program does not affect your Fuel Points balance. Points will still accumulate for your personal use. Rebate program is based on purchases at Dillon's stores payable to Kansas Horse Council as a Non-Profit Organization. Thank you for your continued support to the voice of equine enthusiasts in Kansas!

### **AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM:**

Kansas Horse Council Foundation (Scholarship Fund) is also now enrolled in the Amazon.com Smile Program! When you shop Amazon.com you may select Kansas Horse Council Foundation as your Non-Profit charity upon Checkout! KHCF will receive .05% of your total purchase, of Amazon SMILE program eligible products! To learn more about this program and



how it works go here: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



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THE KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL PRESENTS

## HORSEMANSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM

Earn rewards while working with your favorite equine friends! This program is open to anyone who enjoys working with horses, minis, donkeys, ponies, or mules, including "grade" equines.

This program recognizes participation in Equine Activities such as riding, schooling, competing, showing, training, ground work, driving, exercising, and assisting in a Therapy Program or Rescue. The program does not include feeding, stall cleaning and maintenance.

Awards are given at 25, 50, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 1500 & 2000 hour milestones. Upon 2000 hours completed, members are welcome to re-enroll and start again!

**PROGRAM RULES & REQUIREMENTS:**

- Must be a current KHC Member.
- Must pay a \$35.00 initial program enrollment fee the first year and then a \$15.00 annual program fee thereafter.
- May ride or handle more than one horse and it is not necessary to be the owner of the horse.
- Hourly log sheets may be submitted monthly, quarterly or annually. Annual submissions must be postmarked no later than December 31st.
- The KHC Member participant will need an individual membership to track member rewards by name.
- Rewards points are not retroactive. Data of log begins on enrollment date.
- Rewards are subject to change based on availability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL, 8831 QUAIL LANE, SUITE 201, MANHATTAN, KS 66502  
[www.kansashorsecouncil.com](http://www.kansashorsecouncil.com) | 785-776-0662 | Fax 785-539-2928 | [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com)

Saddle up with Kansas Horse Council Horsemanship Rewards members only program! Earn prizes for spending time with horses!

Be sure to renew your KHC membership for 2022 and pay your HRP renewal fee- \$15, to rollover your hours into the New Year!

Logs are submitted quarterly. Saddle up, ride and earn rewards...it's a great way to start a NEW year!



For more details visit:  
[Horsemanship Rewards Info](#)

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Saddle Up and RIDE Kansas! Visit our Kansas Department of Wildlife and U.S. Corps. of Engineers equestrian facilities. Visiting and riding or camping shows support of our parks, and keeps them open for future use and possible funding of improvements. Always leave only hoofprints behind. Share our multi-use trails. Call before you haul if in doubt before your visit. KDWP State Parks info.





Do you have your copy of our Equestrian Trails in Kansas? Copies are provided FREE at all Kansas Horse Council events, or \$3 for s/h and we'll mail you one. These guides are also available at all KDWP offices. Trail info is also available online here: [Public Trails in Kansas](#)





Kansas equestrians deserve a big pat on the back for another impressive year of volunteer work on public trails! Our public land managers and other trail organizations continue to be impressed by the dedication of equestrians to taking care of the trails we love to ride.

BCHKS volunteers reported the following for 2021 - 3,783 hours, with a value of \$259,326 in labor and supplies.

Since BCHKS started keeping track in 2014, equestrian volunteers in Kansas have contributed - 23,000 hours, with a value of \$1,250,943 in labor and supplies!  
We do make a difference!





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