



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

June 2022

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

The Science Behind Horse Whorls

What Is A Whorl?

A whorl or swirl is a patch of hair growing in the opposite direction of the surrounding hair, usually in a pinwheel fashion. It's commonly found on the head, and especially the face. Whorls are also known as trichoglyphs, or cowlicks when they appear elsewhere on the body.

Because every horse's whorls are distinctive, like a fingerprint, recording their location and character is one of the oldest forms of identifying horses—especially those without white markings.

But these days, that's not all they're used for. Ask Doug Carpenter, whose reputation for picking future winners is well established in the performance horse world.

The Sulphur, Oklahoma, horseman has bought or sold such standout individuals as Boomernic, 1992 National Reining Horse Association Futurity champion; Smart Zanolena, 1999 National Reined Cow Horse

Association Futurity champion; and Chics Magic Potion, 2003 NRCHA Futurity champion.

His client list includes the likes of Clinton Anderson, Bob Avila, Shawn Florida, Benny Guitron, Dell Hendricks, and Tim McQuay.

He's clearly the real deal, and one of his criteria for evaluating prospects is hair swirl patterns.

"I started looking at them years ago out of curiosity, then narrowed it down to a system that works for me," he says, noting that his ideal combination—in terms of indicating the likelihood of a willing, trainable prospect—is one swirl centered on the forehead between the eyes, and two matching swirls on either side of the bridle path, "not extending beyond the length of the ears when they're folded back."

He adds that in some lines of horses, a single swirl centered below the level of the eyes is also a positive indication, and two swirls close together can be OK—"though not in all instances," he cautions. "It's like every other theory—not 100 percent."

By contrast, if a horse has two or more swirls that are relatively spread apart on the face, "I'm a little concerned," he says.

Though swirls are an important consideration in Carpenter's evaluations, they're not necessarily a make-or-break proposition.

"If I really like a horse but his swirls don't line up the way I prefer, it's not a crucial deal," he explains. "But if a horse is already questionable, and I haven't really locked in and committed to him mentally, and his swirls are all out of line, it pretty much rules that horse out."

That's how one modern and highly successful horseman makes use of swirls, and though he's tailored his method for his own purposes, he's following in a well-established tradition.

Swirls 'Back Then'

The practice of using hair swirls as predictors of a horse's temperament and usability dates back centuries among gypsies and Bedouins. It was in the 1980s and '90s, however, that

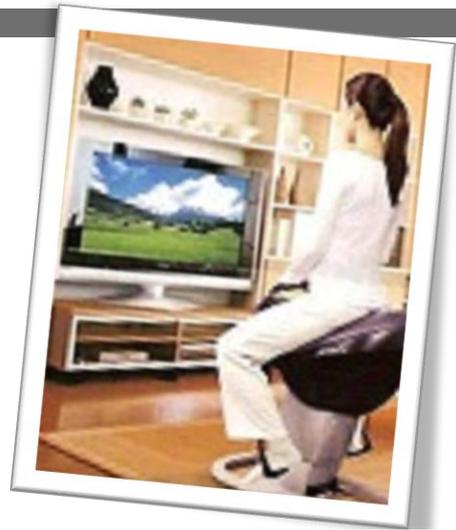
Continued on page 11

UNIQUE EQUINE INVENTIONS

JOBA Presents Virtual Horseback Riding

If you were disappointed by the Thigh Master’s mindless monotony, know that you can now enliven your TV-watching exercise time by saddling up on Panasonic’s JOBA Horse Riding Fitness Equipment, actually a form of exercising. You should also know that there’s a relatively decent amount of seriousness in this product, as it’s built in conjunction with Nagoya University to offer a form of horseback-riding therapy. It seems that horseback riding can be quite good for you. The advanced 3-D virtual reality technology imitates horseback riding and claims to help build strength and endurance. The forward and backward motion strengthens your abdominal, thigh and back muscles while helping you maintain good posture. It also promotes blood circulation and can increase you basal metabolism rate.

Implications - The Virtual Horseback Riding tool is an amazing example of the way companies are incorporating physical activity into digital formats for the growing population of children and adults who are increasingly dependent on the screen for entertainment. The tool will bring the outdoors inside, and keep you active without ever having to leave your living room!



The machine features:

- 8-CURVE ACTION WITH “FORWARD/BACKWARD” TILT AND HORIZONTAL MOTION THAT STRENGTHENS ABDOMINAL, SIDE, THIGH & BACK MUSCLES.
- IT EFFECTIVELY STRENGTHENS THE SPINE AND HELPS TO MAINTAIN A GOOD POSTURE, DEVELOP MUSCLE STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY AND TRAIN THE NERVE SYSTEM TO IMPROVE MOTOR FUNCTION.

This is not your neighborhood bar’s drunken mechanical bull debacle though. It’s meant as actual horseback riding simulation/fitness machine, allowing you to cycle through several realistic riding styles.

And of course, “cutting edge” exercise equipment is always costly. This one will ding you a pretty \$1,500.

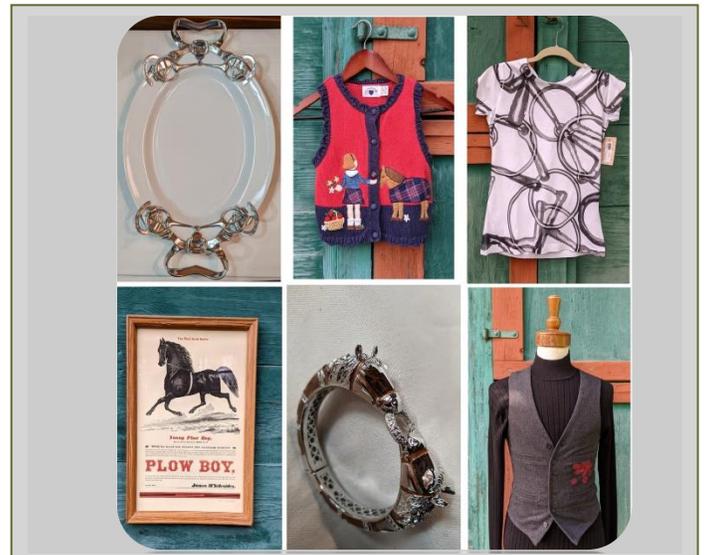


Our store is open 12:00pm – 7:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.com

New Items for June





"I see you have a sammich. I too happen to like sammiches."



NOTIME TO EXPLAIN
FOLLOW ME



I SAY OLD CHAR, WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR A JAUNT?

Horseshoe Nail Jewelry
www.7bitandironshop.com



GO ON SAY FAT ASS I DARE YOU



Get a little girl they said
It will be fun they said



WHEN SOMEONE TELLS ME THEY DON'T LIKE HORSES, ALL I HEAR IS

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, I'M A PSYCHOPATH



DON'T LISTEN TO THEM BABY

WE AREN'T CRAZY, JUST HAVE MORE SPIRIT THEN THE REST



I RAN THE NUMBERS DAD

WE CAN AFFORD A PONY



Maybe you should take some riding lessons. Here's the name of a good instructor.

oh haaaaayyyyyyy



All you need in life is a friend who joins in on your weirdness



HAY MAN...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET SOME GOOD GRASS?

WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



A software engineer finally resolved to

Not be pushed around by the fears in his mind, but be led by the dreams in his heart.

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



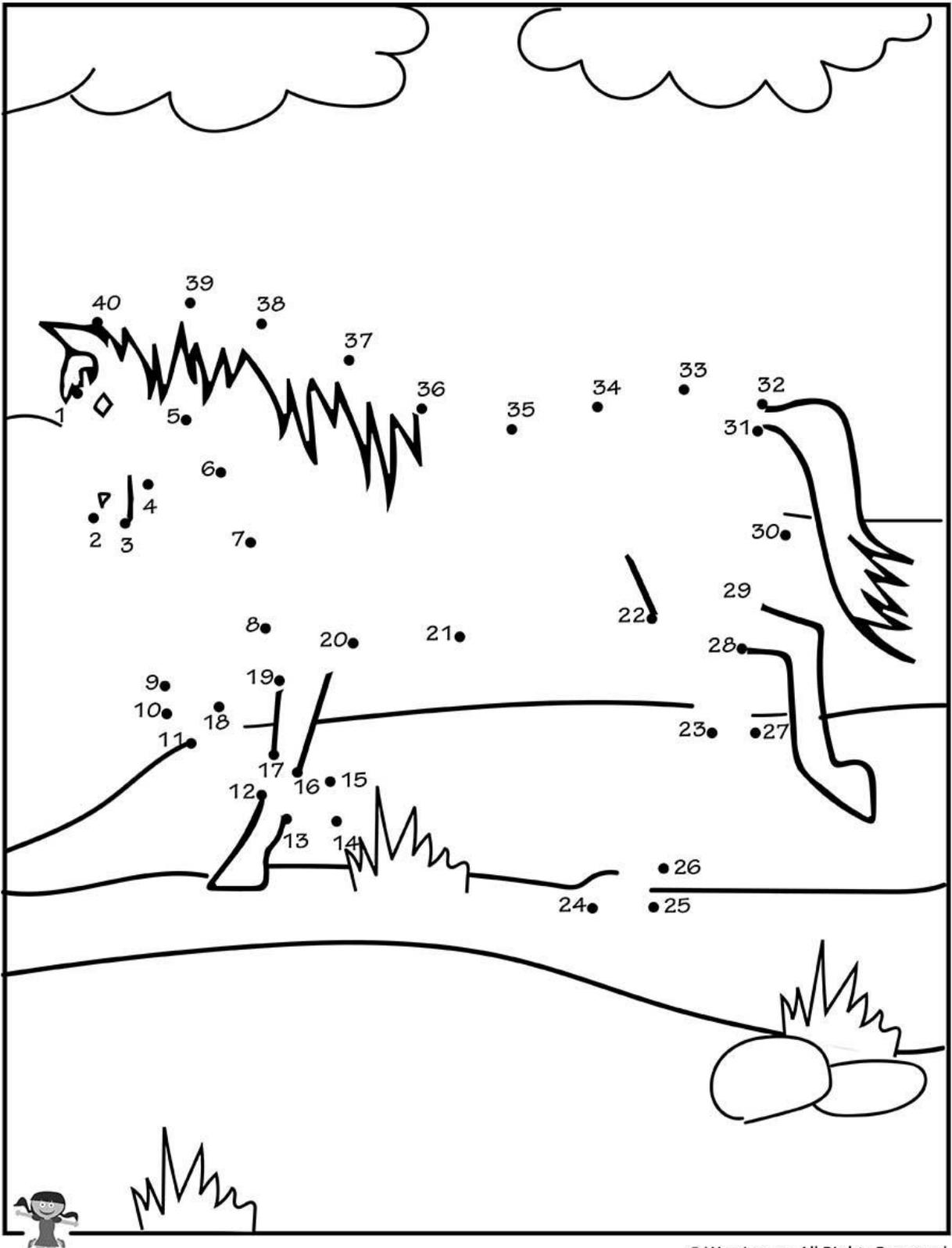
“It is the horse’s gift to connect us with heaven and our own footsteps.”

-Ronnie Sweet



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY



Nutrition Corner

COPPER

The Key to a Quality Coat

When you see a dull coat, poor color, poor shine, poor hair quality, it could be the result of a copper deficiency! One of the many roles of copper is in the pigmentation and keratinization of horse hair, and classic indicators of a deficiency include poor dull coat, poor hair quality and loss of pigmentation eg grey/pink spotting or mottling around the muzzle and eyes. It is an extremely easy mineral deficiency to identify. Feeding your horse a well-balanced diet that includes copper can very quickly rectify the poor coat issue and results can be seen in a matter of weeks with a lovely rich shiny coat!

Copper plays many roles within the body that in fact coat condition and color are actually the least of your worries if there is a deficiency in place. Copper plays a huge role in bone formation and mineralization, soft tissue elasticity (tendons, ligaments, airways, blood vessels), and very importantly, in the mobilization of iron so that it can be used in the formation of red blood cells.

A deficiency in copper will lead to poor red blood cell production, and over time, can lead to anemia. Iron supplementation has always been associated with being an 'energy boost', a 'blood tonic' to boost red blood cell production, in turn increased oxygenation and increased aerobic capacity. However, if there is a copper deficiency the body won't actually get to use that iron and it will remain in storage in the liver. Horses do not have a high tolerance for iron and toxicity can very easily occur. If concerned about red blood cell production try supplementing with copper first. More often than not increased red blood cell production will follow as the iron that is already in the body can now be accessed and utilized. Most high performance feeds already have a good iron inclusion, many hays can have a high iron content, it is quite seldom that a horse actually needs iron supplementation.

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

Meet Kyt-N Kaboodle

On a cold and windy April day we took the journey to Quilcene to pick up a rescue, a doeful little gray horse that had been through some rough times. When we went and looked at her in March she could not have been sweeter, and she was quiet and interested in seeing us, but there was something resigned in the way she greeted us, as if she no longer trusted that humans were all they were cracked up to be.

On this day in April the ferries were cancelled because of the wind so we had to drive around through Gig Harbor and onto the peninsula to get her, all-in-all it was a 10 hour round trip drive – and she was so good.

Upon arrival at Wildwood Farm she quietly got off the trailer and was lightly shaking, perhaps a bit cold and perhaps a bit unsure of what had become of her. Although the rescue facility had done some amazing work getting weight on her, she was still quite thin and we could tell she was depressed. She looked to be an Arabian cross, not particularly beautiful but she had soulful eyes and watched us all the time. We had hopes that she would be a good school horse for our riding program one day, but she looked like a total mess and because no one at the rescue had been on her we had no idea if she was even broke to ride. But there was something about her that made us want to find out more. The first month was dubious and we thought she may have had some brain damage due to malnutrition. She had



Definite handling, but she was dull to the cue and acted like her handler was not even there. She was so totally unreactive that we thought she might be a lost cause. But the second month we witnessed magic. Our little rescue was starting to turn heads, filling out, becoming bold and responsive, and she looked the part of a show horse! She had a lovely arched neck and her eyes had a sparkle, she walked with her tail out like a flag and marched with purpose. She looked every part a purebred Arabian show horse with very nice breeding to boot. The transformation was absolutely amazing. Today, with the help of our worker, Faith Eli, she is becoming a very nice riding horse who is remembering her training more and more each day; she does everything we ask with grace and willinness. A diamond in the rough!



G7 leaders mock Vladimir Putin over shirtless horse-riding picture

G7 Summit leaders mocked Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday over his infamous bare-chested pic atop a horse. Canadian Prime minister Justin Trudeau replied, "Let's wait for the picture." Johnson shot back to laughter, "We all have to show we're tougher than Putin." Trudeau quipped, "We're going to get the bare-chested horseback-riding display."



Horse Mania sculptures vandalized in downtown Lexington

Horse Mania is in Lexington for the first time since 2010. Horse mania is a special art project that fills the streets of downtown, but instead of enjoying the attraction some people are turning to vandalism. The artwork that is meant to inspire people, is being disrespected.



Queen Elizabeth has been horse-riding again almost a year after she was forced to quit due to ill health.

Queen Elizabeth is back on her horse! The 96-year-old monarch has recently been for a gentle ride on her pony at Windsor Castle, PEOPLE has confirmed. "At 96, it's amazing that the Queen has been on her horse," a source tells PEOPLE. It is likely that she was on Fern, her sturdy 16-year-old Fell pony, and was accompanied by her groom Terry Pendry, who is usually by her side when she is riding.

Wyo man guilty of animal cruelty for 2020 horse shootings

EVANSTON — A 38-year-old Evanston resident has been found guilty of felony animal cruelty after a three-day jury trial. Justin Berry, who was accused of shooting multiple horses on a property in Evanston in 2020, was tried for multiple charges June 7-9, in Third District Court. According to a sworn affidavit, Uinta County Sheriff's Office Deputy Calvin Robinson arrived at an address on Wasatch Road on July 1, 2020, after a horse was found dead with a gunshot wound near the ribs.



Mystery horse caught wandering loose in Texas neighborhood

June 22 (UPI) -- Authorities in Texas are trying to find the owner of a mystery horse found wandering loose through a residential neighborhood. City of San Antonio Animal Care Services said in a Facebook post that animal care officers responded to the area of Rigsby and Highway 87 when a horse was reported wandering loose through the streets.



Horse pulling Princess Beatrice's Royal Ascot carriage gets spooked

A horse pulling Princess Beatrice into Royal Ascot had to be calmed by handlers after it spooked and became agitated. An onlooker said that the horse spooked as the royal couple were disembarking from their carriage, and the rider on the horse showed "incredible horsemanship" as she prevented it from bolting.



Horse show gallops toward success

This year's Traverse City Horse Shows — June 8 to Sept. 18 — welcomes back spectators for its most robust season yet, said Morrissey, of host Morrissey Management Group. It features 13 weeks of international and national-level hunter, jumper and equitation competition for ranking points and a whopping \$7 million in prize money.

Matt Morrissey stops short of calling COVID-19 a good thing for Traverse City Horse Shows.

The Most Fantastic Horse Statues



"The Kelpies" – Scotland



"The Horse Problem" – Venice



"Leonardo's Horse" - Milan



"The horses of Saint Mark" – Venice



"L'Immortalite Devanent Le Temps" -Paris



"Still Water" – UK



"King Wenceslas" - Prague



"Seagrant Reckless" – Quantico



"Bruce Davidson/EagleLion" – Lexington, KY



"Colossus" - Slovakia



"The day the wall came down" - Berlin



"Horse with a Harrow" - Paris



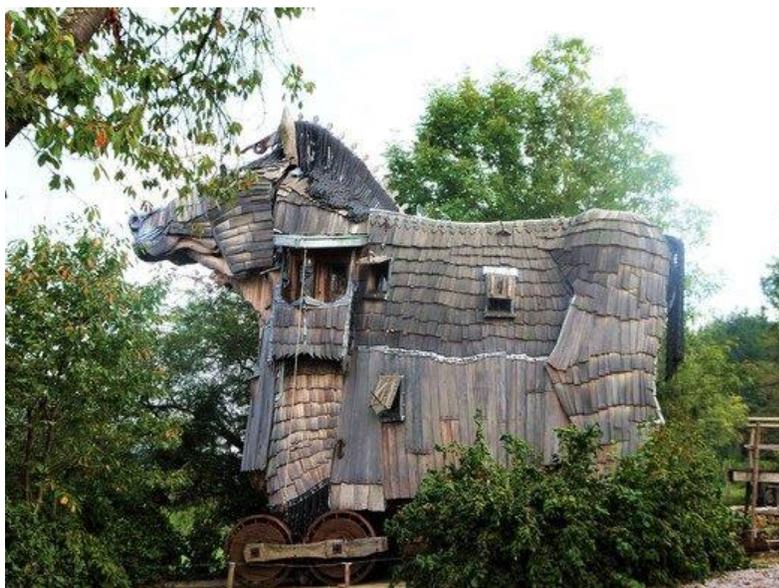
"Chariot of Glory" - Russia

La Balade des Gnomes

Heyd, Belgium

A fantastical bed and breakfast with magically unique rooms.

Add to list



FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A magical place to lay your head for the night, La Balade des Gnomes offers a bed and breakfast experience like no other. The term “theme room” does not adequately convey the imaginative decor and intricate details that transport guests into different, fantastical worlds.

An architect with a dream created this unique place to stay in Heyd, [Belgium](#). It's complete with 10 differently themed rooms and a gourmet restaurant. Each room is unique, with themes varying from being on the moon, living under the earth as a troll, living on a sailboat (with a real sand beach!), a forest cabin, and a variety of other regions and fantasy worlds.

The most famous suite is a stand-alone, two-story building in the shape of a Trojan Horse. The Trojan Horse suite has its own motorized drawbridge entrance. The horse's head is a room that can be moved around by levers inside. The whole building gives the feeling of being within a mythical, medieval, wooden, post-apocalyptic mobile home. There's also a Jacuzzi tub, as an added bonus.

Know Before You Go

The website is in French and the owners/hosts don't speak a lot of English. A good translator can be handy. The breakfast is lovely, too, and comes in a wicker basket with all that is needed.

The Big Rocking Horse

Gumeracha, Australia

You can climb to the top of the world's largest rocking horse.



STANDING TALL AND PROUD AND (subjectively) beautiful on the side of the road as you drive out of Gumeracha, Australia, is the world's biggest rocking horse.

Of all the things to build on such a scale, a giant rocking horse might not immediately spring to mind. However, in 1973, upon building a toy factory in the newly developing Adelaide Hills region, owner Wal Wilkinson decided that some kind of roadside attraction was necessary to get passing traffic to make a quick stop along the meandering roads. This 60-foot-tall (18.3-meter-tall) rocking horse opened to the public after eight months of construction with a hefty price tag of \$100,000.

The Big Rocking Horse went through a series of owners and closures (for various legal and insurance purposes) before finally finding safety with its current family, and is now open for adventurous tourists to climb it and see the view from the top. Climbing it involves a series of ladders and platforms and crawling up through small spaces, so it isn't for the claustrophobic. But it does have a great view at the top, and more importantly, you get a certificate stating that you've climbed the world's biggest rocking horse!

Know Before You Go

Wear clothes appropriate to climb into the belly of a rocking horse, and in winter, be aware that it may be wet and slippery or even closed.

Horse Whorls (continued from page 1)

it became popularized through the books and clinics of Linda Tellington-Jones.

In 1965, before the horsewoman had established her now-famous "equine awareness method," she analyzed the results of a questionnaire sent to horse owners; the survey netted observations on the swirl patterns and behavior characteristics of 1,500 horses.

Tellington-Jones' resulting breakdown of swirl patterns and their relationship to personality traits is detailed and specific. In general, however, she found that:

- a single swirl in the center of the forehead indicated an uncomplicated nature;
- a single swirl centered below the level of the eyes indicated an intelligent, possibly mischievous nature;
- a single, long swirl between or extending below the eyes indicated an especially friendly, agreeable nature; and
- two or more swirls generally indicated a more complicated personality in some way. Tellington-Jones has consistently stressed that the best use of swirl analysis is in discovering how best to approach a particular horse's training.

"If a horse's swirls tell you he's the more temperamental type, then you know not to get after him for 'attitude,' as that will just upset him more," she says. "Many of my top horses had two swirls. Nowadays we have so many more ways to deal with such horses—to teach them to think instead of react."

More Swirl Studies

The validity of swirl analysis took a huge step forward early in this decade with the work of animal scientist Temple Grandin, PhD, of Colorado State University. She became interested in swirls when her assistant, Mark Deesing, who trains and shoes horses, shared his casual observation that horses with swirls high on the forehead, or two swirls, tended in general to be more reactive and "high strung."

Grandin and Deesing decided to see if these correlations held up under scrutiny. They opted to work with cattle, as they needed a large number of animals without extensive handling so the results wouldn't be influenced by training. (Cattle also have whorl patterns similar to horses'.)

Working at a Colorado feedlot, they observed 1,500 cattle as they were restrained, one at a time, in a hydraulic squeeze chute for vaccinations. One person noted the animal's whorl patterns while the other, positioned so the facial swirls weren't visible (to avoid bias), ranked the animal's temperament using a standardized scale.

"We found there was definitely a relationship between the position of whorls and the temperament of the cattle," reports Grandin. "Those with swirls high on the forehead were more likely to fight and move around in the chute. And we've definitely observed enough of the same sort of correlation in horses to know it's a factor for them, as well.

"With horses, I think sometimes people read too much into it in terms of personality," she adds. "How easily the animal gets scared--that's how I prefer to put it."

However you put it, it begs the question: Why should hair swirls and temperament be connected in **any** way? As it turns out, hair swirl patterns form in the developing fetus at the same time the brain is forming.

"The nervous system and the skin, which contains the whorl patterns, come from the same embryonic layer," explains Grandin. "This may explain the apparent relationships between body traits and temperament." (See "Beyond Horses: Humans, Rats, & Foxes," below.)

Like Tellington-Jones, Grandin stresses that the most important use of swirl analysis in horses is as a guide in training.

"I'm not a fan of rough training methods in general, but if you use them on a high-whorl individual, you'll probably traumatize and wreck that animal," she says. "You also need to be especially careful not to frighten a horse with high whorls. That's the key in horse training, anyway--to avoid traumatizing the animal in the first place."

the anecdotal information on swirls is to be found everywhere once you start asking around.

Anne Marie "Bubbles" Hiller coached riders on the open Western circuit on the West Coast in the 1970s; today she's a well-respected judge for the United States Equestrian Federation in the open Western and Arabian horse divisions. She's convinced swirls are linked to behavior.

"I first starting noticing swirls after a trainer friend mentioned them about eight to 10 years ago, when we were both at a show in Reno," she recounts.

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2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

"She told me she'd observed that the horses that were nutty—flighty and hard to clip—were the ones with cowlicks all over.

"Since I started paying attention, I've found that horses with swirls dead-centered on the forehead or just slightly below—plus not a lot of cowlicks over the rest of the body—just seem to be easiest to work with. It pretty much holds up. People tend not to notice until you point it out to them, but once you do..."

In The Final Analysis...

So, what to make of all this? Even those who believe in a link between physical characteristics (such as hair swirls) and temperament caution against putting undue stock in it. Genetics expert Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD, of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine sums it up well.

"It's not outside the realm of possibility that there's a relationship here," he says, noting again the similar embryonic origins of skin/hair and the brain. "That said, it appears to be 'loose' enough that while it might be broadly predictable, the fine details in individual variation overwhelm it in many cases.

"So, due to individual variation, it 'works' some of the time but not all of the time."

Which, if you start paying close attention to hair swirls, you'll find to be absolutely true.

Beyond Swirls: Body Shapes & Hair Colors

Hair swirls aren't the only physical characteristic believed to be linked to temperament. In her research, Temple Grandin has also noticed a correlation between body shape/size, bone structure, and temperament.

"With many different animals--horses, cattle, dogs, even wild species--you find that the smaller, more fine-boned and slender animals tend to be flightier," she says. Think of Arabians vs. draft horses; greyhounds vs. St. Bernards; antelope vs. elephants

"We measured this specifically in cattle, and the ones that tended to race out of the squeeze chute had leg bones that were smaller in diameter than the quieter ones."

Linda Tellington-Jones also finds links between temperament and the various characteristics of a horse's head. "The shape of the face, set of the ears, line of the jaw--all these are indicators of temperament, totally apart from breed differences," she says, noting for example that a horse with broad ears set far apart tends to be the dependable, cooperative type. Plus, "the straighter the profile, the more honest the horse will be."

Even coat color may, in an extremely general way, be related to broad temperament categories. Tellington-Jones believes chestnut mares are "more nervy," for better or worse, and that black horses tend to be especially sensitive. "The most reliable horses are often bay," she says. "They tend to be even-tempered and less problematic in many ways."

Doug Carpenter says he's noticed for his part that blacks and grays seem to be "a little tougher to train than horses of other colors, though I still buy them because people want them.

"The black ones do seem to last longer when you do get them trained," he adds. "They have great longevity."

And as for bays? "They tend to be good, solid-minded horses as a general rule."