



YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

## Can Horses See Ghosts?

By Heather Carder, Wildwood Farm

When I was well into my 11<sup>th</sup> year my best friend was Nancy. She lived in my neighborhood on a couple of acres and she had a little black and white pony named Nickels that we spent all of our free time with – exploring the trails, dressing her up, having her pull us around in our make-shift cart. I have many fond memories of that time with Nancy and Nickels, as I had not yet met my own forever horse, Charlee (that would be the following year). Nickels was one of the smartest ponies I knew and she kept us in line; if we said a swear word she would pin her ears and nip at us. If we told her how beautiful and sweet she was she would rest her head on our shoulders and nicker. As opinionated as she could be, she always took care of us and kept us safe. One of my most vivid memories of that year is a supernatural experience we had while exploring with Nickels.

One afternoon we went for a ride after school, and started back home just as the sun was setting. There was a thicket of woods between the neighborhoods that we rode between, and in the day

light they were a welcome portal but once twilight descended the woods became dark and unfamiliar. Nickels was unafraid and forged ahead into the darkness and although Nancy and I clung a little bit tighter to each other we trusted Nickels to get us through to the other side in one piece. About 100 yards into the darkness Nickels stopped abruptly with her ears pricked straight ahead and became solid as a statue, her body tense with a slight tremble. Both Nancy and I knew that when a horse gets into this frame of mind anything goes – a quick 180, a leap and bolt – which made us even more aware of the oppressive darkness around us and the peril we both felt because we could not see or hear anything. Was it a predator or the neighborhood boys pulling a prank on us? Or something more sinister like a person looking to do us harm? Our ears were keenly tuned into the slightest snap of a branch or rustle of leaves...but the silence was truly uncanny. And was it getting colder? It was definitely getting colder, both of us agreed. With increasing desperation we kicked with all our might for what seemed like an eternity...pleeeze move, PLEEEZE MOVE! With a final desperate kick from us Nickels jumped forward but her pace was frustratingly slow like she was walking through a mine field. Just A few

yards ahead a section of the trail split off and there was a thick section of trees just to our right that marked the intersection; I remember thinking how I could just make out their outline as we passed by when suddenly the air around us seemed to be sucked up and the temperature dropped 20 degrees. Nickels breathing became audible and labored like she was working her way through a muddy bog and when she suddenly squealed she made my heart race and sent it thudding against my chest: I was more than certain we were about to be taken out by some unseen creature. It was then that we heard whispers, barely audible at first like a drone from an engine far away, but growing louder as we passed with audible voices just on the edge of being discernable. It was like we passed an open window during an evening walk around the neighborhood and could hear a vast array of voices all talking and whispering at the same time. And just as quickly as we encountered this abyss, it was gone. No longer phased, Nickels snorted quietly and picked up her pace leaving behind the chilling vortex, and before we knew it we were out of the woods and out on the road with the welcome sight of street lights and the sounds of the neighborhood kids playing basketball 3 houses down. *Continued on back page...*

Wildwood Farm  
CLIPS & CLOPS  
Oak Harbor

October 2019

## Ghostly Horse Sightings

This ghostly photo was taken at Sachs Covered Bridge in Gettysburg, PA. Many people believe this bridge is quite haunted and there are many reports of cold spots, people being touched, apparitions and disembodied voices. The photographer who took this photo believes it is a confederate soldier on horse back – one of three deserters who were hung from this bridge in 1862.



This picture was taken by a woman who was taking photos of the sun through the trees in her pasture. When she looked at the photo she saw this foreign image in the frame - it wasn't there when she took the photo. The photographer believes it is an image of her horse who passed away the week before, and she was sure of it because her horse always stood in that spot when she came to feed him. She knows it was him.



What do YOU think  
...are horse ghosts real?



Store is closed in October for our shows in Oklahoma



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## New Items for Fall

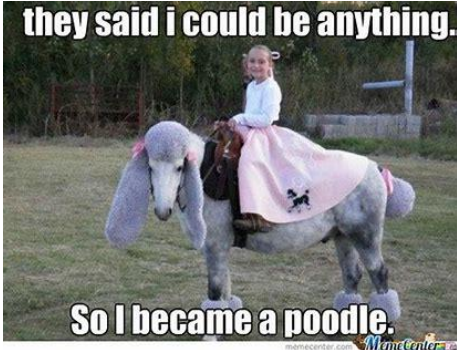




**DID YOU KNOW?**  
If you see a spider on Halloween, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you

The origins of the headless horseman myths comes from Dutch folklore. The horseman was known in native Dutch territory as Dullahan or Gan Ceann. He was always seen riding a black horse with his head under his right arm or held up high in his right hand. The horseman's head was grotesquely disfigured, leading to the depiction of the Jack-O-Lantern

**Halloween is more Irish than St Patrick's Day! Its origins date back to the ancient Celtic celebration of Samhain.**



A full moon on Halloween is rare, it only takes place every 18-19 years

A DEA officer stops at a ranch in Texas and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs". The rancher says "OK, but do not go in that field over there", as he points out the location. The DEA officer verbally explodes saying "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me." Reaching into his rear pocket he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. "See this badge? This means I'm allowed to go wherever I wish...on any land, no questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear, do you understand?" The rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores. A short time later the rancher hears loud screams and sees the officer running for his life chased by the Ranchers big bull. With every step the bull is gaining ground on the officer and it seems likely he will be gored before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified. The rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs..."Your badge...show him your badge!"



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# Test your Halloween-Q

Please turn in your entries by 11/30/2019

1. What is a Hallow? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what year will the next full moon occur during Halloween? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What item is banned only during Halloween from 12:00am October 31<sup>st</sup> to 12:00pm November 1<sup>st</sup> in Hollywood, California? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What popular fall festival activity did the Romans bring to Britain when they invaded? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The word Halloween is a contraction of what Christian holiday? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what two countries was "guising", the tradition of dressing up in costumes and going door to door for food or coins for Halloween most popular? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When people go house to house for "souling" what do they ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In what country was the first written account of children using the phrase "Trick-Or Treat"? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In what decade did trick-or-treating as we know it today start gaining popularity in America? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many children have been seriously injured or killed from poison candy given to them by strangers on Halloween? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What were the original Jack-O-Lanterns made from? \_\_\_\_\_
12. In what country did carving Jack-O-Lanterns originate? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Pumpkins that are used for jack-o-lanterns today are native to what continent? \_\_\_\_\_

## Halloween-Q Contest is open to all

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The winner will be announced in our November Newsletter and will receive a Gift Certificate to Toppins in Oak Harbor. (Try to do this without GOOGLE!)

**Congratulations to Jessie Maze for her winning entry from our September Horse-Q Trivia game!**

## Nutrition Corner

### FEEDING THE HYPP HORSE

Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP) is an inherited genetic defect that affects muscle function in the horse. Symptoms can vary widely from muscle tremors to death from cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. A test is available to identify horses who carry the defective gene, HYPP horses are sensitive to high levels of potassium, as well as sudden changes in potassium levels brought on by stress, pregnancy and activity.

Here are a few symptoms to watch out for:

- Loud breathing noises as a result from paralysis of the muscles of the upper airway
- Muscle tremors along the rib cage and under the flank
- Eversion of the third eyelid (turning inside out)
- Tying up or elevated potassium levels

For the HYPP horse keeping dietary levels of potassium below 1.3% is ideal. Hay can have high levels of potassium, particularly Alfalfa, so it is recommended that you feed only grass hays and only a couple of times per day; fill in their other feedings with a low-potassium feed. Here are some suggestions:

- Whole or crimped oats (.4% potassium) + 30% ration balancer to assure they get the essential balanced vitamins and minerals each day.
- TC Low Starch (.75% potassium) at a minimum of 6 lbs per day. TC Low starch is high in fiber (18% max) and can be substituted for hay feedings as needed.
- Have your hay tested. If the potassium levels are higher than 1.5% you may want to limit the amount you feed and substitute with the TC Low starch, you can feed up to 1% of body weight/day.

### 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 Equi-mix 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 Kindred....

Kindred is a lovely black American Warmblood mare who is 18 years young and came to Wildwood Farm in the fall of 2007, making her the longest boarded resident of our farm. She came to stay with us to be trained and sold as her owner at the time had taken a rough fall off of her and was no longer able to ride.

Kindred did have her quirks and had no issues telling her rider what she liked and did not like, but she caught the eye of Jon and Robyn Heath who had started taking lessons in 2008. Taken immediately by her glossy black coat and sweet eye Jon, who had grown up with horses, fell in love with her and wanted to see Robyn ride and maybe show her. Neither had owned horses before, so this was a new venture for them and it was not long before Kindred became a permanent part of their family.

There are three things that anyone who spends time with Kindred will tell you makes her lovable: She has a way of calming you down and centering you when you are flustered; she is always energetic and loves to be ridden; she is not afraid to tell anyone who she is and she never hides it. As Robyn puts it – "Headstrong and full of heart".

When she was a young horse Kindred was started as a sport horse prospect and showed a lot of talent in the jumping and dressage disciplines, although as she got older she made it clear that she wanted to jump at her own pace and rebelled a little at being pushed. When she came to Wildwood Farm she also went through the AWS inspection and received a red/approved rating and AWS brand.



Though she never had a foal of her own, Kindred became an invaluable teacher to the young horses that Wildwood Farm bred; she offered the perfect Segway after the babies were weaned and gave them a combination of loving auntie and firm disciplinarian. We could not have done it without her!

Today you will find Kindred in a maintenance program with Nola and much loved and doted on by her working student, Jennifer Martin as well as everyone who works at the farm. Jon & Robyn have strived to give Kindred a life she can enjoy even though they are not able to spend as much time with her as they want due to Robyn being in college and Jon with a bad back – they still enjoy the little things with their big black mare and know she has a very happy life here at Wildwood Farm.

## THE INTERVIEW

With Nola Butler, resident instructor & trainer at Wildwood Farm

**What is your idea of perfect Happiness?**

Spending good times with friends

**What is your greatest Fear?**

Being adrift in the ocean with no land in sight...

**What historical figure do you most identify with?**

John Stewart

**What is your favorite journey?**

"Don't Stop Believin'"

**What living person do you most admire?**

Cal Ripkin Jr

**On what occasion do you lie?**

When someone asks me to do something I don't want to do

**What do you most dislike about your appearance?**

Bad Skin

**Which living person do you most despise?**

That answer will get me into political trouble...

**What words or phrase do you most over-use?**

Swear Words

**What is your greatest regret?**

Not spending more time with my Aunt Jackie

**What or who is the greatest love of your life?**

Steven Dryden.

**When and where were you happiest?**

Hanging out in Pacific City, Oregon with Kathy O'Donnell & Adam Preston

**Which talent would you most like to have?**

To be able to sing or play piano

**What is your current state of mind?**

Engaged

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I have hoarding tendencies

**If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be?**

More opportunities to hang out with my brothers

**What is your most treasured possession?**

Viola Volkswagen

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

The Seahawks losing the Superbowl to the Patriots.

**Where would you like to live?**

In a tiny house in Everett over looking the bay or mountains

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

Dimples

**What is the quality you most like in a person?**

Punctuality

**What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?**

Procrastination

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?**

Unreliability

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Chastity

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

Owning horses

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Getting invited to student's birthdays, graduations, weddings, etc.

**What is your favorite occupation?**

Chiropractor

**If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?**

Cat

**How would you like to die?**

Peacefully

**What is your Motto?**

A life lived in fear is a life half lived



# Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

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## **Can Horses see Ghosts... Continued from page 1**

Nickels seemed surprisingly un-phased, although we did note that she had sweat dripping off her neck when we arrived back at the barn.

I believe horses do see spirits, or ghosts, and I am now convinced we encountered a portal that long ago evening. When we think of ghosts we often think of the Hollywood version with the cloud-like apparition showing up at the top of the stair case or in the mirror looking back at you. With the research I have done most experts agree that ghosts are not actually sentient spirits stuck here roaming the earth trying to complete unfinished business; and that the idea of an imprint impression of the once-living person as an independent entity is not accurate. Rather, most researchers believe that it is the living person's psychic energy that is creating the sightings that people see based on stories, history or images our own mind creates – our minds are quite powerful even when they are in the sub-conscious state.

Many theorists agree that our world is not as it seems on the surface, that human life (physical life) is on a linear scale and our perception is tuned into this physical world as a simple requirement for survival. These theorists hold that there are uncounted parallel existences around us that most of us will never see or hear because our filtration system will not allow it. Horses, however, can be sensitive to these in-and-out visitors that are passing through our dimension as their perception is much keener than ours. Periodically the portal to other dimensions will be strong enough that the observing human will sense *something* - an unexpected cool breeze in the house, unshakable negative energy in the back yard, etc. We have all had these experiences, whether we recall them specifically or not.

Imagine what it is like to be your horse that not only participates in the physical world, but can sense energy from other eras, other dimensions. Perhaps the energy of a traveling being decides to stop in the barn and keep your horse company in his stall for a while, or wanders up and down the barn aisles endlessly. Every horse has spooked at something that you cannot see or justify, perhaps it was a portal opening in the arena and a bunch of entities disembarked right in front of him or her. Or perhaps a darker energy decided they like the middle pasture where your horse is kept and you wonder why your horse avoids that area.

So, Yes...I am convinced horses do see energy at a spectrum we cannot sense and that they accept it as a part of the dimension they live in. What sights they may see every day that we will never be privy to! So next time your horse takes a bit of exception to a dark area of the arena or whips his/her head around to look at nothing...they just might be observing a dimensional visitor.