



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

JULY 2026

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

The Killer Stallion that Became a Movie Star

Western Horseman, July 1961

In the world of movies and television, the early 20th century was the era of Wonder Horses. Among the famous equine stars that received the honorable title was the killer stallion Rex.

Today, with the high costs of movie production, it is said that any actress or actor who becomes too temperamental is politely asked to turn in his make-up and look for other work. That goes for temperamental movie horses also. But there is always the exception. Marilyn Monroe has proven that, and way back in the silent movie days a coal-black stallion named Rex also proved it.

Only the older generation will remember Rex as the daring hero of many-a-silent epic. He was as famous as Rudolph Valentino in

that era, and in many ways tainted with similar legendary history.

Hollywood publicists who have a tendency to overdo it were just about correct, however, when they tagged Rex as the *King of the Wild Horses*. He was wild – an independent thinking and acting horse which rarely allowed himself to be governed by cues from the handler off camera. He would accept no direction as do movie horses today, taking each cue politely and obediently. When it was time for Rex to act a part, cameras would be grinding away before Rex was released from his halter, since he would do what he pretty well pleased and all the cameramen could hope for were a few shots they could edit together for a plausible sequence. In the coming years, Rex starred in a total of 19 films and appeared anonymously in numerous others. Despite spending his days working with people, he never lost his wild and untamed nature, which made him so authentic in movies.

In fact, he was even known for deliberately attacking members of the cast and crew on set. Only former rodeo star and actor Yakima Canutt was bold enough to work “up close” with the stallion, which nearly cost him his life on one occasion!

Why did studios contend with that “ornery,” “warped,” and “arrogant” money-costing horse? Simple... he was good! As a matter of fact, Rex was tops. Many of the roles he played were wild horse parts, a role he played to the hilt. Never since Rex, except for a lovable old horse named Mist-a-Shot, has one horse so convincingly played a wild horse.

Foaled in 1915 in Texas, Rex was abused as a colt and eventually sold to the Colorado Detention Home as a breeding stallion. A few stories have circulated as to where Rex was first found. Some have claimed he was captured wild in southern Utah. Others place the catch rope on him in the Nevada mountains.

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

Flexible Filly | The Most Comfortable Slow Feed Grazing Muzzle In The USA

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Softer, Smarter & Safer!

The Flexible Filly slow feed grazing muzzle is designed to be softer, lighter, and less behaviorally restrictive.

A favorite among saddle fitters, upper-level riders and picky horses!

- Beat the heat in our lightweight breathable grazing muzzle.
- Easy for horses to drink water and play with their pasture mates.
- Customizable grazing hole

Construction

- Safe and pliable food-grade material.
- Infused UV skin protection.
- No wear on equine teeth, comfortably soft on lips.
- Well-ventilated, lightweight, flexible.



- 2 grazing hole size options that can be modified to be larger.

Equine Behavioral Effects

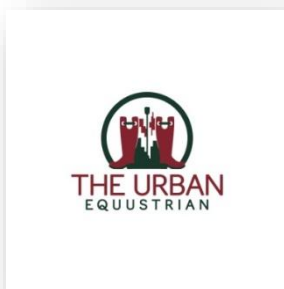
- Radically improves the horses' ability to live a normal herd life in an equine muzzle.
- Returns behaviors like wither scratching and play.
- No fussing when putting the muzzle on.

Horse Owner Benefits

- Your horse is both safe and comfortable.
- You get the correct grazing hole size for all seasons, grass types, and hay.
- Easy hydration with any bucket, trough, or automatic waterer.
- Clear for easy monitoring.
- You get to see your horse happy in a grazing muzzle.



Our Store is currently open by Appointment.



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.etsy.com

New Items for July





We seriously need to bring back courting. What the hell is "wyd tonight?" Arrive on a horse and bring flowers like a man.



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

A Database Developer learned...

They quality of your life is directly related to how much uncertainty you can comfortably handle.

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

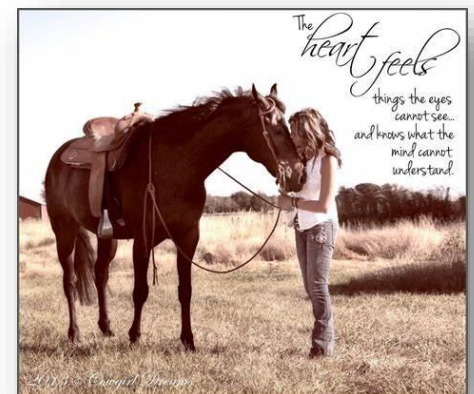
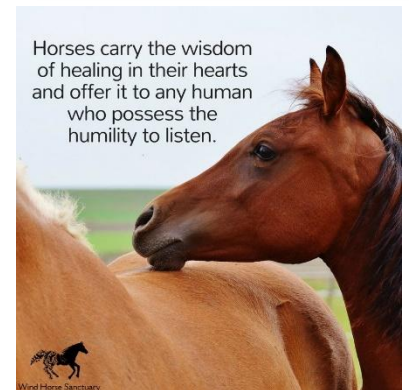
Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

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

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PNWRA Riding Academy



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Equine Disease Communication Center
 4033 Iron Works Parkway
 Lexington, Kentucky 40511
 Phone: 859-233-3322
 Email: edcc@aaep.org

July 1, 2026

Summary for 06/01/2026 - 06/30/2026

36 alerts posted reporting on 60 confirmed cases

Ordered by State:

Disease	State	Confirmed
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	Florida	1
Equine Herpesvirus- Neurologic	Florida	1
	New Jersey	1
	Ontario	1
	Texas	1
	Virginia	1
Equine Herpesvirus- Respiratory	Oregon	1
Equine Infectious Anemia	California	22
	Colorado	1
	Nevada	1
	Washington	5
Equine Influenza	Wisconsin	5
Salmonellosis	Maryland	1
Strangles	Florida	4
	Maryland	1
	Michigan	1
	North Dakota	1
	Oregon	2
	Washington	6
	Wisconsin	2
West Nile Virus	California	1

Nutrition Corner

Feeding Horses That Have Dry Skin

Dry and coarse coats can indicate nutritional deficiencies, and there are several ways to enhance coat health through nutrition. Alopecia, or hair loss, in horses is acquired (they are not born with the condition) and can have a variety of causes.

Healthy hair growth depends on adequate nutrition. Many nutrients play a role in coat health; therefore, a balanced diet is critical.

A horse's hair coat is primarily composed of the protein keratin, so for coat growth and maintenance, it's important to supply an adequate amount of this essential amino acid. Other critical nutrients include fatty acids, vitamin A, zinc, copper, and, again, biotin. These nutrients all play imperative roles in coat health.

Zinc and copper both impact the production of melanin, which is responsible for the pigmentation of the hair coat. Additionally, a hair coat lacking in melanin is at increased risk for oxidative damage. Zinc is critically important for the repair and maintenance of epithelial cells (cells that line the internal and external surfaces of the body), and copper plays a crucial role in maintaining structural

integrity and collagen production. These two minerals are present in the forages your horse eats but typically not in adequate amounts, and they often need to be supplemented.

Vitamin A deficiency can also result in a dry, brittle hair coat. Healthy pastures normally contain adequate amounts of this vitamin, but you should supplement it if your horse is maintained on hay. You need to supply other nutrients, such as the potent antioxidants selenium and vitamin E, in adequate amounts to prevent excess oxidative damage that can affect coat health.

You can also supplement omega-3 fatty acids to enhance coat health and shine. Horses do not have a set requirement for omega-3 fatty acids, but adding 2-4 ounces per day of an omega-3 rich oil such as flax or camelina can improve your horse's hair coat appearance.

If you notice your horse losing hair, first consult your veterinarian and determine the underlying cause. Once health issues have been ruled out, investigating the diet is the next step.

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 to 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

From the 2007 Wildwood Farm Archives EXCALIBERR



In the fall of 2006, we adopted an Arabian gelding named Excaliberr. He was a grey gelding with dark grey mane and tail, lofty trot and excellent work ethic. He had a successful show career in his past winning at the regional level in hunt seat equitation and sport horse classes. Now at the age of 18, his owner wanted to give him a job where he could be useful and serve a purpose; we thought he would be the perfect addition to our riding school.

In the following months we grew to love this spunky little horse, and his fan base of students grew every

Week. Everyone wanted to ride Excaliberr, not just because of his gentle nature, but he had the most comfortable rocking-horse canter!

Throughout the winter Excaliberr was going strong and had about 10 students per week that he taught. In April of 2007 we noticed he was starting to get a little short in stride, so we called the vet out and after a thorough exam he gave us the sad news that he had a very chronic case of arthritis that was only going to get worse.

It would not be fair to this amazing horse to keep him in our program, so we were set to retire him at our farm.

Excaliberr had one student who had fallen in love with him and asked us if she could adopt him. We checked with the previous owner to confirm she was ok with this, and after we received the green light Excaliberr was adopted by this student and taken to a private home on the island.

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Excaliberr spent his remaining years being loved by his own family, and I was told he died in his sleep on his birthday in May of 2018.

Cancer – Tenderhearted Trotter (June 21 – July 22)




Cancer
Jun 21 - Jul 22

Strengths: Nurturing, Emotional, Intuitive

Weaknesses: Moody, Insecure, Suspicious

Around the Stable: This loner likes long trots on the beach, at sunset, with you and only you.

A hard exterior shields the highly sensitive interior of your Cancer horse. This horse's desire is guided by emotion, and how they feel in the moment will determine their actions. They also tend to bottle things up and need emotional space to express their feelings.

It's not easy to get the Cancer horse to open up to you, however, the reward is great once you've won their affection. They are often one-person-horses that are happiest spending time with their special person. This is not the best horse to lend to your friends and you may hear comments about them acting differently in the company of strangers.

This careful fellow is a great companion for the trail. The Cancer horse's intuitive ability and tenacious nature make them an excellent navigator of the challenges in the wild. Treasure this horse as they are yours forever.



We celebrate these Birthdays in July!

**Betsy Buchman July 4th, Comet July 7th,
Margot Carter July 24th, Gregg Lanza July 27th**

MOST FABULOUS HORSE JEANS!



Stanford, California

Stanford Red Barn

The world's first stop-motion film was created on the racetrack outside this building.



If it weren't for a wager between colleagues, we may not have movies as we know them today. In 1878, the world's first stop-motion film was made outside this barn—to settle a bet about how horses run.

The question at hand: When a horse is galloping, do all four of its hooves leave the ground at the same time at any point? Leland Stanford, the founder of Stanford University, claimed that they did, while some of his colleagues held that at least one hoof was always touching the ground. Stanford looked to Eadweard Muybridge, an English-American landscape photographer, to help him prove his answer.

Stanford bred and raced horses and had a barn on the northernmost corner of Stanford University's campus in [California](#). The Intercollegiate Riding & Equestrian Center—more commonly known as the Red Barn—would be their proving ground. With the help of several railway engineers, Muybridge set up a series of 12 cameras with tripwires along the Red Barn's racing track. They had a horse circle the track at its fastest gait and took a series of photographs. After several failed attempts, Muybridge was eventually successful in capturing a series of continuous images which he compiled into a single "gallery card" called *The Horse in Motion*.

The photographs proved Stanford's theory correct and also laid the groundwork for the invention of modern cinema. Several years after the experiments at Stanford, Muybridge would invent the zoopraxiscope, a device for displaying motion pictures that was a predecessor to movie projectors. The device helped inspire the Kinetoscope, the first commercial film exhibition system invented by Thomas Edison and William Kennedy Dickson.

Update as of December 2022: The barn is not open to visitors. You can still see it and the statue from a distance.

The Frederiksborg Horse



The Frederiksborg is the oldest horse breed in Denmark, and can be traced back to the horses of the royal stud at Frederiksborg. In its prime, this was one of the finest studs in Europe. During the eighteenth century the Frederiksborg was one of the world's most famous horse breeds. The breed was highly valued as a good school horse, reliable and elegant. It also made a high-class carriage horse and military charger. Frederiksborg horses were used to form or improve other breeds through the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The breeding was directed to developing a riding horse, with beautiful and supple action, and a second type, larger, for pulling the royal carriages. For carriage horses, the color was of utmost importance in order to present a complete team of six to eight horses of exactly the same color.

Due to the popularity of this breed, it was exported in great numbers to many areas of the world. This left low numbers of the breed in its homeland. The breed began to decline, until by 1839 the stud was closed. A small number of pure individuals were maintained over the years by private breeders devoted to the breed.

Efforts were started in 1939 to reestablish the breed using Friesian and Oldenburg blood, and later Thoroughbreds and Arabs were used. Currently numbers are low. Connections between the Frederiksborg of today and the old stock are very slight. Up to 1920, the aim was to produce a light carriage horse that could also be used for farming. Then as motorization developed, the demand changed toward riding horses.

The Frederiksborg is a strong, attractive horse, always chestnut in color. Usually, the mane and tail are a lighter, flaxen color. White markings on the face and/or legs are common. The head is well proportioned, with a straight or sometimes convex profile, pointed, mobile ears, and large, expressive eyes; the neck is of medium length, well-proportioned and slightly arched and muscular; the withers are pronounced, broad and muscular. The back is short and straight; the croup rounded and broad; the chest high, full and deep; and the shoulder sloping and muscular. The legs are well muscled with strong, broad joints, good bone, and clearly defined tendons. The feet are small and tough.

Cont'd from page 1

The more likely story is that he was purchased by Chic Morrison, who had heard of a “devil” horse at a riding school near Golden, Colorado. As the story goes, one day, a student took him out for a ride and never came back. They later found his body near a stream and concluded that he had been dragged to death. Consequently, Rex was deemed a killer and put into solitary confinement for 2 years. However, his luck turned when Hollywood horse trainers Chick Morrison and Jack Lindell picked him to star in *The King of the Wild Horses* (1923). Chic Morrison worked him for a time and so did Jack Lindell, both late masters of movie horse training. Lindell, who had handled some of the smartest horses in Hollywood, tagged Rex as *the* smartest horse he had ever handled.

Rex was the first horse to be given star billing. In other words, whenever he appeared in a movie, his name appeared first on the cast heading. Stories such as *Wild Beauty*, *Plunging Hooves*, and *Stormy* were written especially for Rex to star. He also appeared in three 15-chapter serials, one of which he co-starred with the popular dog hero Rin-Tin-Tin.

With the spread of his fame across country, many wild rumors began to circulate about the horse. One claimed Rex had killed two men, and as far as the oldtimers around Hollywood are concerned “they wouldn’t be a darn bit surprised if he had.”

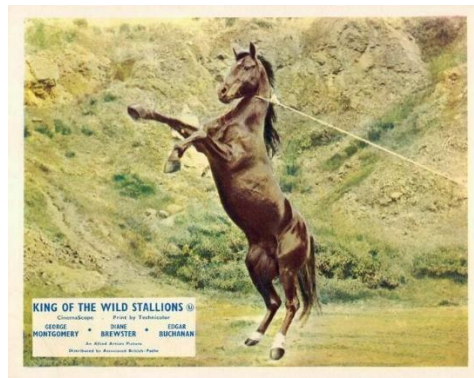
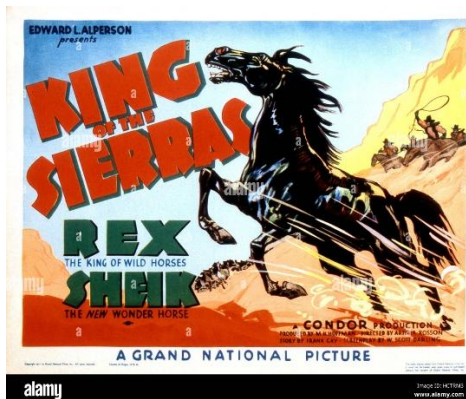
Eugene Forde, who directed the first *Smoky* picture back in 1933, recently claimed, “Rex had a tremendous personality. He was a vicious horse and dangerous to work with. I stayed away from him.

Forde went on to explain that one scene showed Smoky (Rex) charging a cowboy, knocking him down, and trampling him to death. First of all, it took a lot of talking to finally get a stunt man who was willing to work the scene with the horse. During the filming, two women fainted when Rex charged and knocked over the cowboy. They were certain the horse had killed the man. Some of that footage was finally cut from the film, the feeling of the producers being that the audience would be certain that the cowboy was trampled to death and not just a victim of realistic acting.

Cowboy artist and writer Will James was never too happy about the manner in which the movie developed his plot. For one point, the story, as he wrote it, was hashed around; also, the acting of the celluloid cowboys soured James. To James, however, Rex was the only actor which rang true to the book and the way Smoky would have been like in real life.

Smoky was a talking picture and, at that time, Rex had been in the movies nearly 15 years. It seems Rex had no trouble at all making the conversion from silents to talkies which, incidentally, washed out many a matinee idol. Two more later pictures were made with Rex, but all too noticeable was the dying of the fire and spirit that had made him a one-time top box office draw. And then too, Mist-a-Shot was catching the eyes of producers.

Thus, the wild horse of the screen drew his last curtain and spent the final years of his life on the ranch of an admirer near Flagstaff, Arizona. Many of the old pictures Rex made are now on television, and many of the old wranglers around Hollywood always enjoy seeing the horse working again. They respected Rex and, with reverence, they remember that black stallion as the horse which could never be trusted, but was still *The King*.





HOOF BRANDING

Hoof branding is a **temporary, non-permanent method of equine identification** that uses a hot iron to mark a horse's hoof with information such as a phone number, zip code, or postal code. It is often used by breeders, trail riders, and during disaster seasons when a lasting brand is not desired.

How It Works

- A **hot iron branding tool** is applied to the hoof wall for a few seconds.
- The mark is made by pressing the heated iron into the hoof, creating a temporary impression.
- The process is **painless** and, when done correctly, does not cause long-term damage to the hoof wall.
- The brand is **not permanent** — as the hoof grows, the mark is gradually worn away.

Maintenance

- Because hooves grow continuously, the brand must be **re-applied every 4–6 months** to remain visible.
- A little water can help make the brand visible in muddy conditions.
- It is best applied by a **qualified farrier** who understands hoof anatomy and growth patterns.