



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

DECEMBER 2025

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

MAIL ORDER PONIES By Teresa Rogers, 2018

While looking for examples of mail order catalog model horses, I came across the Spring-Summer 1960 Spiegel catalog, and in it the evidence of a small piece of real 1950s horse history. It was a time in our history when you could order live animals -- dogs, birds, monkeys, hamsters, coatimundis (yes), and more -- from mail order catalogs.

I was disappointed, but not really surprised, not to find model horses in this non-holiday issue of the catalog. In the back of this volume, though, I spotted that saddles and bridles for real horses could be ordered and shipped to customers....as well as real, live, Shetland Ponies and burros. Adult ponies, without tack, were about \$300 and Shetland colts up to a year old, \$180. A young burro cost about \$80. And they took time payments.

These listings are placed towards the end of the catalog, after the farm and pet supplies and before the life-size chart that allows you to measure your foot size for shoes.

I read through my research on the subject of buying ponies, burros, and other animals from catalogs with mixed feelings. It's nothing new to have an animal shipped by rail or by truck from Point A to Point B. Still, I imagined what the life of a mail-order pony or burro might have been if its new owners knew nothing about horse care -- to say nothing of its overland journey, shipped in a crate (which the owners had to return) to its excited new young masters or mistresses.

News stories from that era say that Spiegel had begun offering mail-order Shetlands and burros in 1954. A 1960 Spiegel ad shows the source of these Shetlands: the Fashion Club Pony Farm. The Fashion Club was founded by Gene Harris of Chicago. Its branches in Leon, Iowa and Libertyville, Illinois

sold thousands of ponies in person and to mail order vendors.

The Des Moines Tribune had published an article on Harris the previous year. In it, Harris was quoted as saying, "There'll be a pony in every suburban backyard someday." Harris also said that a Shetland Pony "needs no care" would "grow fat" cropping its owners' lawn. An excerpt from the article reads:

"Last year, the tiny animal wagged the tail of a 30-million-dollar industry across America. 'There'll be a pony in every suburban backyard someday', predicts the man who parlayed ponies into a giant mail-order business.

He is Gene Harris, 56, owner of the Club Alabam in Chicago and American's No. 1 distributor of registered Shetlands from his 440-acre Fashion Club Pony sales farm at Leon, IA.

'It cost me only \$60 per year each to feed and pasture my ponies',
Continued on page 11.

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

LeMieux Horse Stable Toys

Keep them busy in the stable with these 3-D horse toys!

Durable suede outer and durable pull-through ropes will keep your horse entertained in pull play. All toys are lined with hessian and filled with natural husk.



Toy Bee



Toy Dog



Toy Cupcake

These toys are fast becoming a stable favorite not just in the UK, but with horse owners everywhere. Not only are these bitable toys durable, but they also offer an outlet for boredom. And think of the posts you can make with your favorite pony with his/her adorable toy in their mouth!



Toy Flying Pig



Toy Apple



Toy Cabbage

Toys are available in 6 colors!

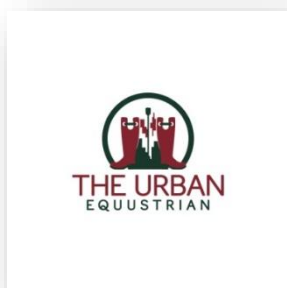
Be sure and use the Hook & Look Strap to hang your stall toys. Made from tough nylon with solid metal fittings.



www.lemieux.com



Our Store is currently open by Appointment.



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.etsy.com

New Items for December



If y'all see me out **Horse**
shopping pushing a 90 yr
old man & his oxygen
MIND YA BUSINESS

dischorsenize

(dis-chors-e-nize)

(v.) Spending time playing
with ones horse, when one
should be doing chores.

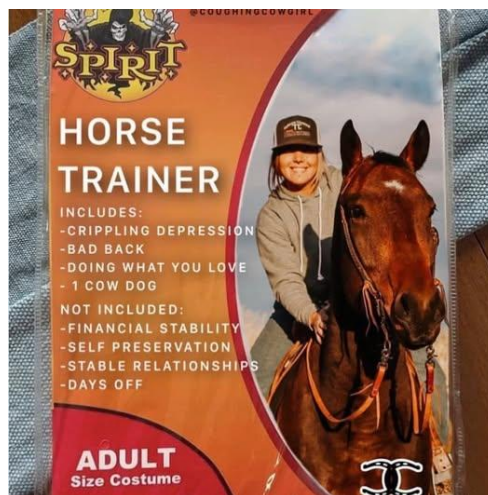


Eg. "I had planned on cleaning my car,
but I ended up dischorsenizing."

The average person
spends \$255 per year on
hobbies.
Horse people be like: 🤔



In the end, it's all about finding
the person you want to raise
your horses with.



"It's a lot like
nuts and bolts -
if the rider's nuts,
the horse bolts!"
-Nicholas Evans



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

A Marketing Manager realized...

Once you grow up you can't come back.

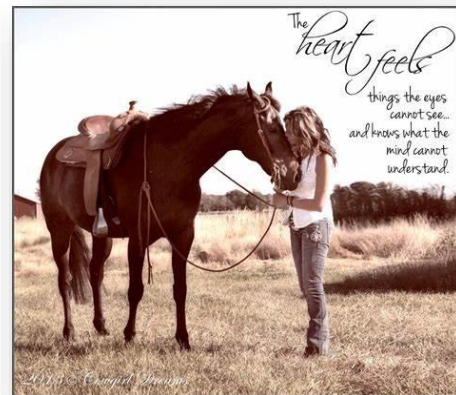
Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

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!



WWW.PNWRiding.com

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY**



December 1, 2025

Summary for 11/01/2025 - 11/30/2025

69 alerts posted reporting on 79 confirmed cases

Ordered by State:

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

Disease	State	Confirmed
Equine Herpesvirus- Neurologic	Alberta	2
	Arizona	1
	Colorado	1
	Louisiana	3
	Maryland	1
	New Mexico	3
	Oklahoma	5
	Pennsylvania	2
	South Dakota	1
	Texas	18
Equine Herpesvirus- Respiratory	Arizona	3
	Colorado	1
	Ohio	1
	Oklahoma	3
	Pennsylvania	1
	Texas	5
	Washington	2
Equine Infectious Anemia	Alberta	1
	North Dakota	1
	Texas	3
Equine Influenza	Nebraska	1
	North Dakota	1
	Ohio	1

Equine Disease Communication Center
<http://equinediseasesedcc.org>

Equine Parvovirus	Virginia	1
Pigeon Fever	Idaho	1
Strangles	Alberta	1
	Maryland	1
	Michigan	3
	Ontario	1
West Nile Virus	Idaho	1
	Oklahoma	4
	Tennessee	2
	Texas	2

For the current status on CEM, please see:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/equine/contagious-equine-infectious>

Nutrition Corner

Supplement might reduce airway inflammation in horses with Asthma.

Researchers on a recent study, including Kelsey Hart, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, professor at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine, in Athens, examined whether polyphenols, a nutritional intervention, could shift airway inflammation in horses with asthma—a novel adjunctive approach beyond environmental management and pharmaceutical use.

In the first part of their study, the researchers examined eight healthy horses and 10 horses with equine asthma over a six-to-eight-week period to determine whether a dietary supplement containing mixed polyphenols (naturally occurring micronutrients with powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties) could reduce equine airway and systemic inflammation (as measured in the horses' blood).

In the second part, the researchers randomly assigned five asthmatic horses to either a polyphenol supplement or a control group (no supplement). They fed the horses in both groups a low-dust diet for four weeks, followed by four weeks of dusty hay to exacerbate airway inflammation.

The team measured outcomes through inflammatory markers in the lungs via bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and in

systemic circulation via blood tests.

Supplementation with mixed polyphenols reduced several markers of airway inflammation in asthmatic horses in the first part of the study compared to the non-supplemented control group.

If your horse shows mild signs of poor performance, an occasional cough, or has a history of airway inflammation, talk with your veterinarian about using a supplement such as mixed polyphenols. However, supplementation does not replace core environmental management (dust control, ventilation, hay quality) or any necessary medical interventions (e.g., corticosteroids).

The researchers' findings suggest that polyphenol supplementation can be beneficial for horses with mild-to-moderate equine asthma by reducing airway inflammation in conjunction with good environmental management and might be a beneficial adjunct to the management of some horses with asthma. However, to best improve equine respiratory health and performance, a holistic approach that considers adequate barn management practices and nutrition remains vital.

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

MEET ROL FAMEANDGLORY

Affectionately known as Famous, this lovely purebred Arabian gelding was at Wildwood Farm for a short time on a care lease to be evaluated for our lesson program. He came to our farm in June of 2012 when he was 20 years old.

At the time we had two resident Arabian trainers - The DesFountains - who thought an older horse would be a great addition to their riding program and help some of their students. With a life time of training and a respectable show record, Famous was a good fit.

Famous was not the most eye-catching horse, but he was still lovely with a rich bay coat and plucky stature (He was only 14 hands). He was owned by a client of the DesFountain's in Ellensburg, WA who wanted him to still stay active while his show career wound down.

Famous was bred by Lervick Arabians in Stanwood. He was born in 1992, and his sire was the famous Fame VF, and his dam was Arabay Hilana. He got his start in Halter when he was young and had many successful



Regional championships. He was also a Scottsdale Champion Gelding in Hand ATH in 2000.

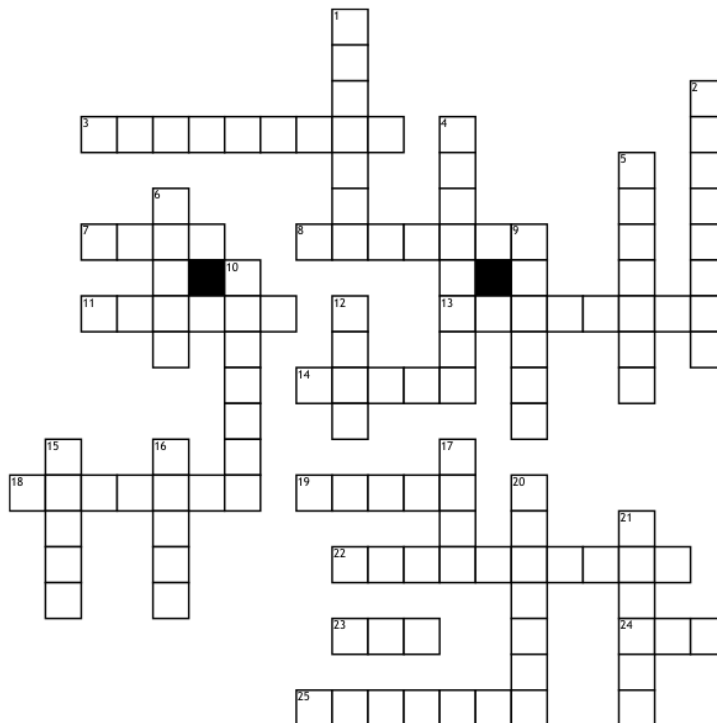
It did not take long for the DesFountains to find a young rider who needed the skills that Famous had to help her on her show journey. Famous spent a show season at Wildwood Farm and then went home with a new owner in the spring of 2013.

A post from 2020 on Facebook reads "ROL Fameandglory, aka Famous, is helping Emma Kate McClosky (who was Reserve Champion in Hunt Seat Eq and also Sport Horse Under Saddle with her horse Cowboys Cocktail) get ready for Eq at this year's Scottsdale". So, at age 28 he was still going strong!

We enjoyed the short time we had with Famous, he was always waiting at his stall door for a scratch and a pat, wanting attention more than his feed!

Name: _____

HORES



Across

3. WHAT HORSE HAS DOTS
7. WHAT IS THE HARD PART OF HORSES FOOT CALLED
8. A NEUTERED MALE OVER AGE 2 IS CALLED
11. WHAT IS A 3 BEAT GAIT CALLED
13. WHAT HORSE HAS A TAN BODY AND WHITE MANE AND TAIL
14. HORSES ARE MEASURED IN WHAT
18. WHAT TYPE OF SADDLE HAS A HORN
19. A ZONKEY IS A CROSS BETWEEN A DONKEY AND A

22. WHAT IS AN EXPERT HORSEBACK RIDER CALLED
23. WHAT PART OF BRIDLE GOES IN HORSES MOUTH
24. MOTHER OF A HORSE IS CALLED
25. HORSE, PONIES, DONKEYS, MULES AND ZEBRAS ARE ALL

Down

1. WHAT IS HORSES RIGHT SIDE CALLED
2. A MALE HORSE IS CALLED
4. THE ORIGINAL HORSE WAS CALLED
5. ONE WHO SHOES HORSES IS CALLED WHAT

6. ART OF GETTING ON A HORSE IS CALLED
9. THE FASTEST GAIT IS CALLED
10. WHAT ARE HOOVES MADE OF?
12. A NEWBORN HORSE IS CALLED
15. A CROSS BETWEEN AN APPALOOSA AND WHAT EQUINE WOULD HAVE STRIPES AND SPOTS
16. WHAT IS USED TO DIRECT A HORSE'S MOVEMENT
17. A FEMALE HORSE OVER 2 YEARS OLD IS CALLED
20. THE HIGHEST POINT OF A HORSE'S BACK IS CALLED
21. WHAT IS THE LEATHER SEAT ON HORSE CALLED



We celebrate these Birthdays in December!

Elaine Marlow December 24th, Leslie Johnson December 25th

MOST FABULOUS HORSE PUPPETS!



Xuzhou, Chin

Western Han Dynasty Terracotta Warriors Museum

These tiny statues form a terracotta army from China's Han dynasty.



The world-famous terracotta warriors in Xi'an represent the artistic talent of the Qin dynasty. A few hundred miles away and unknown to most tourists, there's an additional, younger collection of terracotta warriors from the Han dynasty.

Unlike the life-sized, incredibly detailed Xi'an statues, the Xuzhou specimens are smaller. The miniature humans are only about a foot tall and are more stylized in appearance. They were discovered buried beneath Lion Mountain in the 1980s and are China's only known terracotta warriors from the Han dynasty.

The Western Han Dynasty Terracotta Warriors Museum features hundreds of these statues and displays them in various stages of discovery and restoration. You'll walk past glass-enclosed pits still in the process of being excavated, as well as displays of fully restored pieces. Similar to in Xi'an, in addition to the soldier statues, excavations have revealed terracotta horses, miniature armor, and assorted infantry gear.

The tiny warriors are a fascinating aesthetic counterpoint to the famous Xi'an warriors: an army of figures that display individual characteristics, but which give the overall impression of uniformity. It's quite literally a nearly faceless army of soldiers, as opposed to the individuality of the Xi'an statues.

The Noma



The Noma is an endangered Japanese breed of small horse. It originates from the island of Shikoku, the smallest of the four principal islands of Japan, and is named for the former district of Noma, the northernmost part of the former province of Iyo, now Ehime Prefecture. It is the smallest of the eight native horse breeds of Japan.

The Noma is a small, compact and sturdy horse. It is hardy and strong, and agile on difficult mountain terrain. They are used for riding and light draft. The breed originated in the seventeenth century and belongs to the Asian group descended from Mongolian stock. As of December 1988, there were only twenty-seven pure specimens living.

Japanese horses are thought to derive from stock brought at several different times from various parts of the Asian mainland; the first such importations took place by the sixth century at the latest. Horses were used for farming – as pack-animals although not for draught power; until the advent of firearms in the later sixteenth century, they were much used for warfare. The horses were not large: remains of some 130 horses have been excavated from battlefields dating to the Kamakura period (1185–1333 AD); they ranged from 110 to 140 cm in height at the withers.

The Noma may originate from the small islands of the Seto Inland Sea between Shikoku and Honshū, where it may have been used for transport. According to one account, in the early sixteenth century the daimyō of the Iyo-Matsuyama Han of Shikoku wanted to breed horses for military use. Larger horses were kept for that purpose, while smaller ones were given to farmers, who found them useful as pack animals on steep terrain. The Noma is thought to derive from these. There were not many of them; the total number in the mid-1800s is estimated at about three hundred.

After the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905, there was pressure to breed much larger horses for warfare. Large foreign horses were imported, and the rearing of the small traditional indigenous breeds was forbidden. Numbers of the Noma fell sharply. Some isolated farmers kept a few for farm work, but with the mechanization of agriculture after the Second World War, their usefulness decreased further.

A government-funded reserve, the Noma Uma Highland, was established in 1989 by the city of Imabari, in Ehime Prefecture of Shikoku; it started with thirty of the horses. By 2008 the number had risen to eighty-four. A study of microsatellite variation among Japanese horse breeds in 2003 found the Noma to be closely related to three other Japanese small-island breeds, the Misaki, the Tokara, and Yonaguni.

Cont'd from page 1

Harris said gleefully. 'I average about \$500 apiece when I sell my top registered animals.'

Harris entered the pony business after his stable of 119 saddle horses burned Feb 6, 1945. His pony breed stock is descended from the greatest Shetland stallion that ever lived – King Larigo. That pony, former Grand Champion of the World, held 896 first-place ribbons, had 144 sons and daughters, and once belonged to Diamond Jim Brady. Larigo died in 1929

Most of Harris' sales are by mail order. Spiegel catalog advertises his animals for \$299.50 -shipped anywhere. The Breck mail- order house in Boston, MA also offers them.

Harris has a "layaway" plan in which a customer reserves a pony perhaps a year in advance. 'All the ponies I bred last year were sold before they were weaned', he said. 'This year's crop is sold before it's even foaled'.

What causes all the enthusiasm about Shetland ponies? (They have been around for years, and Grandpa probably learned to ride on one). 'People are moving out of cities to suburbs', Harris said. 'Their youngsters want another pet beside the family dog'

'A pony can live outdoors in a 4-by-5 lean-to. He gets fat by cropping your lawn. He needs no care; you can feed him in winter for 12 cents per day'.

The Shetland pony is a true little giant. He stands about 42 inches high, weighs 75-125 pounds as a weanling; 150-200 as a yearling; and 250-450 full grown. He can carry a man on his back all day long. He had to be tough to get where he is today. Here's how he became a pony:

In the sixteenth century, some ships of the Spanish Armada ran aground on the Shetland islands, just off the coast of Scotland.

The ships carried prize horses, which were turned loose and had to scrounge for themselves. They nibbled sparse moss that grew in crevices on the barren islands. They ate fish heads left on the beach by canners. The sparse diet caused the horses to become smaller with each succeeding generation, although they became even more rugged.

After the civil war ponies were put to work in American coal mines. They would be there yet if it hadn't been for youngsters – your grandpa and his generation. In the pony, these youngsters found a perfect playmate. They could twist his tail, bounce on his back, tickle his nose, and the pony just stood there happily. 'The ponies are the perfect pet,' Harris said with pardonable pride"

And there were burros. I was able to trace one source of mail-order burros through articles in the Arizona Republic, April 3, 1955. It and other stories described the mail order burro business of Dr. Fred Schmidt's Poverty Flat Ranch in Douglas, Arizona.

The article says a gift company in New Jersey was selling 40 burros a day. For his mail order house customers in the midwest and eastern US, Schmidt would order 50 to 100 burros, 3 to 6 months old, from sources in Mexico.

The Arizona Daily Star, April 1, 1956, told more about Schmidt's burro sales. He describes burros as "wonderful pets for youngsters," as loyal as dogs.

This news story says Schmidt foresaw the day when the burro supply from Mexico would start to dry up, so he planned ahead and had 200 jennies (female burros) at his ranch to ensure he would have an ample supply of young burros to sell.

Not all small equines from major retailers came through catalogs. Sears sold Shetland ponies from at least some of their bricks-and-mortar, as a May 31, 1959 ad in the Nashville Tennessean shows.

With advertising and news stories as persuasive as this, how was a parent to explain to a child that not all suburban zoning laws allowed livestock to be kept in a small backyard? How to counter the published claim that a Shetland pony was "no trouble," and the implication that it only needed to graze on the lawn to be fat and healthy? Some newspaper articles from that era describe anxious parents going so far as to remove the catalog pages showing the real ponies and burros while their children slept.

Eventually the fad of the mail order equine ran its course. The *Arizona Republic*, June 20, 1958, reported that more than 4,000 burros had been sold "back east" to date, and supplies were running low. And a classified ad in the *Des Moines Register*, September 9, 1962, announced that the Fashion Club Pony Farm was having a Closing Out Farm Sale.

Select your favorite pet from christmas.musetechnical.com

Sears Pet Shop

Buy on Sears Easy Terms . . . See Opposite Page for Details



Shetland Pony
\$29995
\$60 down
\$45 monthly

Shetland Colt
\$17995
\$36 down
\$27 monthly

Shetland Pony
\$7995
\$16 down
\$12 monthly

NOW! Friendly gentle Mexican Burros
Shipped to you from Importer in Northern Illinois

This NEW shipping point will save you many dollars in shipping charges . . . so many that you still save on total delivered cost to you, even though our quoted price is higher than it was last Spring, when we shipped from Texas.

These mild-mannered little pets can be trained for riding or driving and are easy to care for. They live on small quantities of grass, hay and grain and need only a moderate shelter from cold weather and storms.

Approximately 18 months old, they range from 36 to 40 inches high. Will weigh from 135 to 165 pounds. Soft, shaggy coat is usually a grayish-brown. Their bray is not as loud as a dog's bark. Care and feeding instructions sent to you. No choice of sex. Saddle and Bridle are not included . . . see listings below. Available on Easy Terms . . . see opposite page.

71 G M8975F—See shipping information below . . . \$79.95

Burro Saddle and Bridle . . . Specially designed
Palomino (natural) colored skirting leather with waxed finish. Brass spots. Specially shaped. Mailed from M.O. House-Burro Saddle. 11-inch seat with 6 1/4-inch swell fork. Leather-covered horn, 2 1/4 inches high, 2 1/4-inch diameter cap. Full double rigging with 2 white cotton cinchas; brass rings. 5x13-inch woodskin lined skirts. 6 1/4x10-inch fenders. Rolled border design. 2 1/4-inch hooded stirrups. Shpg. wt. 13 lbs.

32 G 03917—Jaws: \$2.50 down \$3 monthly. Cash . . . \$23.95

Bridle, 1-inch straps, brass hardware; aluminum bit.
32 G 4103—Shpg. wt. 1 lb. 9 oz. . . . 3.79

Important Shipping Information for

Pure-Bred Shetland Ponies and Colts Guaranteed to Completely Satisfy