



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

FEBRUARY 2025

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Sue Sally Hale

American Polo Pioneer 1937-2003

By Elaine Woo, May 1 2003

Polo pioneer Sue Sally Hale, credited with breaking the gender barrier in American polo, died at the age of 65 in 2003. Hale was found by a riding partner at her 10-acre polo ranch in the Coachella Valley. She apparently died of natural causes, but an autopsy was planned, family friend Arshia Radpour said. This icon has a fascinating history:

By the time she had turned 11 years old she knew what she wanted to be, "a bronc buster or a polo player". The year was 1949. Unfortunately for Sue Sally, there was no organized polo for women after WWII, and women polo players weren't permitted to join the United States Polo Association (USPA). Thus began her epic journey, from swinging her polo mallet at rocks on a vacant lot, all the way to Polo's Hall of Fame.

Sue Sally began playing polo at the Riviera Polo & Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California, in the late 1940s, an era when there was no organized

polo for women. Her chosen sport was certainly not prepared for her. She was neither wanted nor accepted, but she persevered, going where no woman had gone before. Sue Sally Hale played Sunday polo with the men, at times disguising herself as a man. Working her way up in the sport, she campaigned for more than 20 years to be included in the United States Polo Association (USPA).

Women now make up the fastest-growing segment of the sport. Nearly 500 of the U.S. Polo Assn.'s 3,600 members are women. Hale's daughter Sunny currently is the No. 1 woman player in the country.

"She has been an icon for women to follow," David Cummings, executive director of the U.S. Polo Assn. in Lexington, Ky., said of the elder Hale, often called the grande dame of polo. "I have played against her in the arena and outdoors and always had the deepest respect for her and her abilities. She was very dedicated to the sport and to teaching and bringing newcomers into the game."

A ruddy and ruggedly built woman who liked to say that the first place she went as a newborn infant was a polo game, Hale challenged many of polo's

rules, once even riding a mule in a tournament.

Pushing to open the elite ranks of polo to anyone with a desire to play, she trained scores of players in Southern California and coached teams from USC, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the Marines, who had a team on the now-closed base at El Toro.

"I can't think of any woman who made as big a mark on polo as Sue Sal," said Randy Russell, who has played in tournaments for 16 years and heads Polo America, a marketing company based in La Quinta that organizes polo events. "She could be a thorn in the side [of polo officials], but anything she did was because she loved the sport so much. She did anything she could to make it better."

Hale grew up in Pacific Palisades, the daughter of Grover Jones, an Oscar-nominated screenwriter in the 1930s, and Susan Avery, a former ballerina. After Jones' death when Hale was 4, her mother married legendary movie stuntman Richard Talmdage.

As a child, she would ride her pony, Blue, in the hills above the polo fields at what is now Will Rogers State Park. One day when she was about 12, the
Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

InstantCryo™ Equine Cryotherapy

INSTANTCRYO™ is a natural therapy used within the equine sector for the recovery, pain relief, and wellbeing of competition and racehorses, as well as those in rehabilitation. The uses of equine cryotherapy are wide, from treating common horse injuries and conditions to aiding in maintenance and preventative care.

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- An increase in the amplitude of movement and mobility for the horse is beneficial post-surgery and for horse rehabilitation.
- Controlled swelling and quick drainage of horse hematomas
- Beneficial for performance. Treatments relieve tight and strained muscles pre- and post-racing or training.

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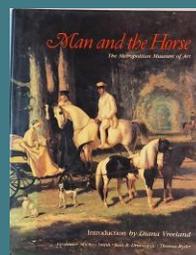


Our Store is currently open by Appointment.

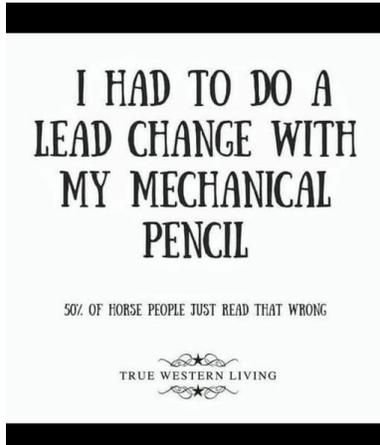
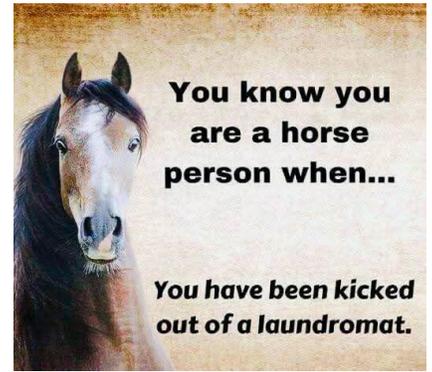
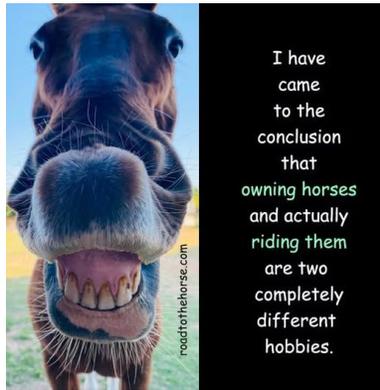


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New Items for February



Walking into the tack store to buy a hoof pick and walking out with a hoof pick, a bridle, two saddle pads, and three pairs of breeches



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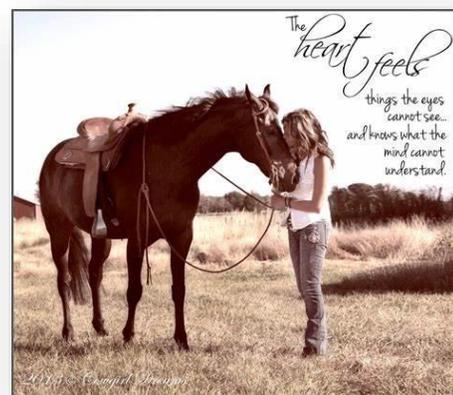
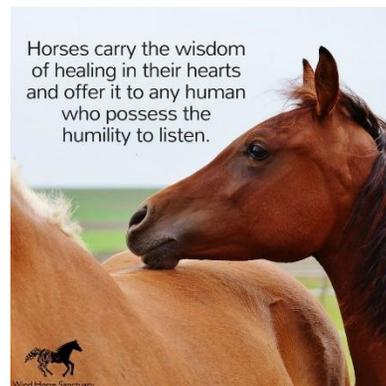
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51 Florida Horses Confirmed Positive for CEM

January 31, 2025 , Posted by Edited Press Release.

The cases are located in Orange County.

As of January 30, the United States Department of Agriculture has confirmed 51 cases of contagious equine metritis (CEM) in Orange County, Florida. The initial case was a mare bred by live cover to a pony stallion, who also tested positive. Most positive cases in this outbreak are geldings at the stallion's facility who were infected via sheath cleaning.

In addition to the 51 confirmed cases, another 136 horses are potentially exposed.

About Contagious Equine Metritis

Contagious equine metritis (CEM) is a venereal disease of horses caused by the bacteria *Taylorella equigenitalis*. It can impact fertility in both mares and stallions. The United States is considered to be CEM-free. Therefore, CEM is a foreign animal disease that is reportable at both the federal and state level. The U.S. horse industry could suffer significant economic losses if the disease became established here.

CEM is spread during breeding or through contact with contaminated objects. It is highly contagious among horses and can be difficult to detect and control. Signs of illness in infected mares may not be obvious, and stallions carry the bacteria without showing any signs at all. In some cases, mares may also become carriers. Foals born to infected/carrier mares can also become long-term carriers of the bacteria.

California Quarter Horse Tests Positive for EIA

January 28, 2025, Posted by Edited Press Release

A 10-year-old Quarter Horse gelding in San Bernardino County, California, recently tested positive for equine infectious anemia (EIA). The horse was euthanized on January 20. Eighteen exposed horses on the premises have tested negative and will remain quarantined until their 60-day retest.

About EIA

Equine infectious anemia is a viral disease that attacks horses' immune systems. The virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids from an infected to an uninfected animal, often by blood-feeding insects such as horseflies. It can also be transmitted through the use of blood-contaminated instruments or needles.

A Coggins test screens horses' blood for antibodies that are indicative of the presence of the EIA virus. Most U.S. states require horses to have proof of a negative Coggins test to travel across state lines.

Once an animal is infected with EIA, it is infected for life and can be a reservoir for the spread of disease. Not all horses show signs of disease, but those that do can exhibit:

- Progressive body condition loss
- Muscle weakness and poor stamina
- Fever, Depression
- Anemia.

EIA has no vaccine and no cure. A horse diagnosed with the disease dies, is euthanized, or must be placed under extremely strict quarantine conditions (at least 200 yards away from unaffected equids) for the rest of his life.

Nutrition Corner

Inside information: 5 Signs of Internal Illness in Horses.

Horses give us plenty of cues when they're dealing with early illness. To help you recognize them and intervene accordingly, here is a 5-point list of warning signs.

1. Diminished or absent appetite

Appetite changes could indicate gastrointestinal upsets such as colic. In fact, waning interest in food can signal a wide variety of internal illnesses beyond the GI system, says Kari Bevevino, DVM, of Roaring Fork Equine Medical Center in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

2. Diarrhea

Any change in poop production is worth monitoring. But diarrhea, in particular, deserves special attention. An infectious disease—which can cause severe illness or death and can also spread to other horses—is the most alarming possible cause. Other causes of diarrhea include sand accumulation in the colon, inflammatory bowel disease, and, less commonly, cancer.

3. Lethargy, uncharacteristic calm or inactivity, and separation from the group

A sick horse might stand off by himself and stay quiet; he'll hang his head a little lower, hold his ears a little less

up than usual, and not have his eyes quite as wide and bright as usual. Under saddle he might need a little extra encouragement to get going, and he might run out of gas a little sooner.

4. Unusual Behavior

When caregivers pay attention to their horses and observe what's normal for each, they'll pick up more easily on what's not normal; For example, the very social horse that's normally looking in your pockets for a treat is now standing back with his head down.

5. Fever

You usually wouldn't know a horse has a fever just by looking at him or even touching him, but sometimes you can see subtle signs, like patchy sweating or faster-than-usual breathing, but those don't always occur. Keep a digital thermometer on hand and learn to perform a rectal temperature check. If the temperature is above 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit in an adult horse, chances are you've got a problem. Know that environmental factors such as extreme heat, however, could push the critical temperature limit up to 102 degrees.

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 Jabila Slew

In 2003, the first year we owned Wildwood Farm, the previous owner of Wildwood Farm asked if we wanted to purchase the lovely thoroughbred mare Tiffany for our breeding program. She was in foal to a thoroughbred stallion named Command Performance. This mare was exquisite, and we were excited to have a start to our breeding program. 8 months later the mare we named Tiffany foal a lovely little by filly we named Artie.

Tiffany looked like black beauty with the perfect diamond on her forehead, and a delicate slightly dished face with large dark eyes. She was a granddaughter to Seattle Slew and her dam's side was mostly English thoroughbred lines. And she could run! Most of her career she raced in British Columbia, and she totaled earnings of over \$100K in her 2-3 yr old years. Unfortunately, she was also diagnosed as a bleeder and needed medication which eventually disfigured the bones in her nose and made breathing much hard for her – she was retired from racing at the age of 5.

After her first foal, Artie, we bred Tiffany to an imported Akhal-Teke stallion named Super Star, and



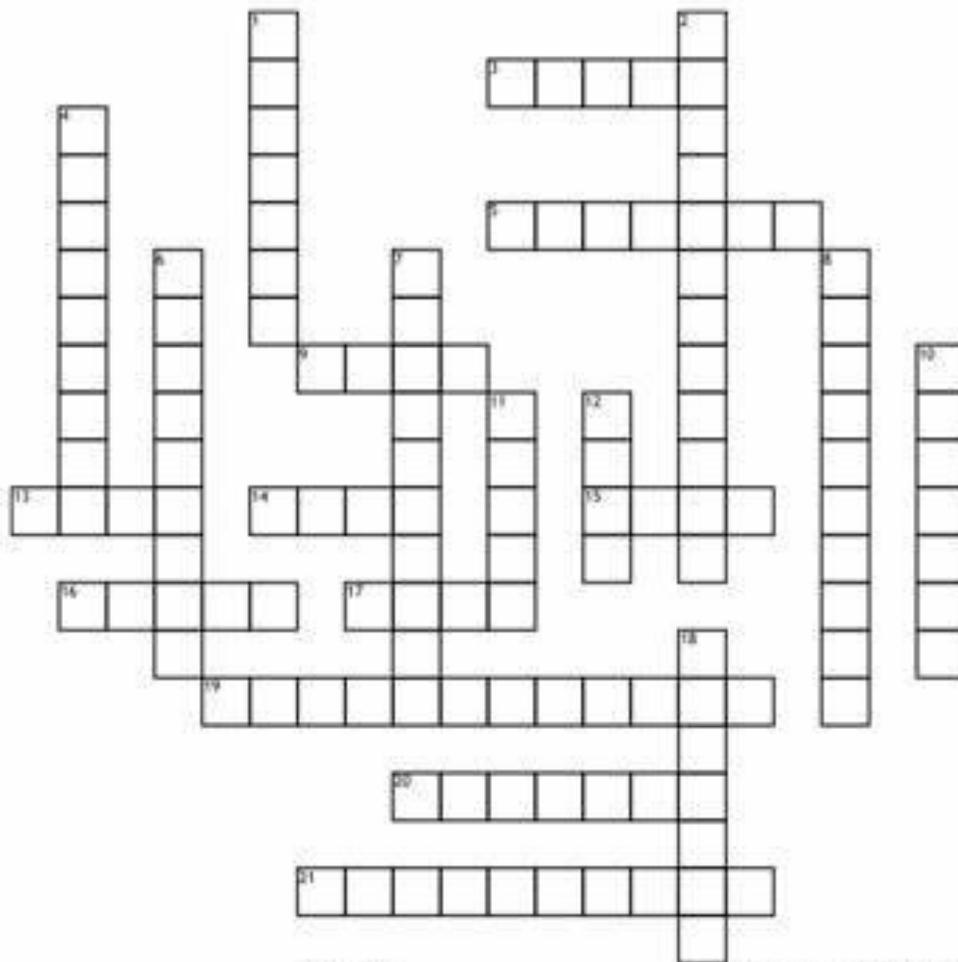
350 days later she foaled a stunning colt that was Perfect in every way... but sadly he died in a pasture accident when he was only 2 months old. We re-bred her to Super Star and she foaled the stunning Leo, as lovely as his mother with a delicate beauty and round, fluid lines. He was sold to the hunter market and is still owned by his original buyer!

Tiffany was also bred to the impeccable thoroughbred stallion Cahill Road and that colt. Phantom was impressive. Standing 17 hands as a yearling he was sought after in the hunter market and found a competitive home when he was just 2 (and 18 hands by then).

Tiffany started having problems getting in foal after Phantom, and she ended up passing away at the age of 15 from a burst ovary. She remains one of the horses that really helped define Wildwood Farm and the foals she created were not only beautiful but loved people as she did.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Crazy for Horses



Across

- 3. Keeps saddle in place
- 5. Squeeze this to raise the foot
- 9. Father
- 13. Mother
- 14. Newborn
- 15. Double fence
- 16. Daughter

17. Son

- 19. Unusual colored Danish breed
- 20. Running in circles
- 21. Fancy in Spain

Down

- 1. Wild in America
- 2. Secretariat was a famous one
- 4. Call me Spotty

6. OH I am SO tiny!

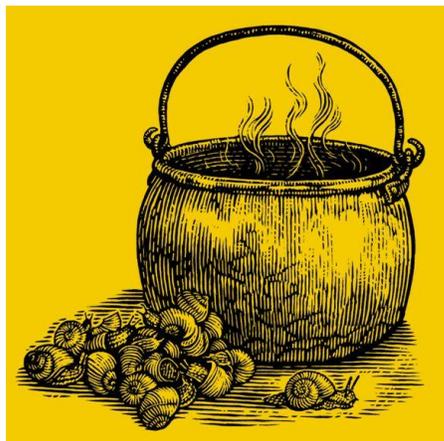
- 7. Type preferred in dressage
- 8. Mom's first owned breed
- 10. The Black Stallion
- 11. Sage
- 12. An amphibian in the foot
- 18. Fluffy footed draft

HORSE BROOCHES!



Artificial Asses' Milk

Donkey milk was once so coveted that people used snails to make an artificial version.



What makes your skin look great, cures what ails you, and can be re-created by mixing milk with an ingredient list featuring snails? For much of history, the answer was donkey milk.

Since antiquity, the wealthy have turned to donkey milk as a cosmetic—Cleopatra was said to bathe in tubs full of asses' milk to preserve her skin. Hippocrates recommended donkey milk for a range of conditions, and from the 1700s to the early 1900s, Europeans considered donkey milk a superfood that cured lung problems, blood problems, and even hysteria. Poet Alexander Pope drank donkey milk for his many health issues, writing in a 1717 letter, "I also drink asses' milk, upon which I will make no jokes tho' it be a fertile subject." Since the composition of asses' milk closely resembles human breast milk, orphanages and new parents found it helpful too.

Cleopatra's donkey milk baths were a huge extravagance, and the distinguished dairy drink remains expensive and rare, costing over \$35 a liter. Donkeys, like other equines, don't produce much milk. A mother donkey produces just one liter a day for six months, and only if her foal is around. But due to demand, people concocted asses' milk alternatives made of herbs, grains, and even snails. grass on Holbein Street, near Hans-Thoma-Strasse and the Günterstalstraße (Günterstal tram to stop "Holbeinstraße").

One 18th century "most excellent receipt for Mock Asses Milk" reads as follows:

Take two ounces of pearle barley, wash & scald it, put that water away—then take two quarts of fresh water, boil the barley in it with half an ounce of hartshorn shavings, half an ounce of eringo root, 8 or 10 shell snails rub'd clean & bruis'd, boil those to gether till half is consum'd, then drain it, & have a pint of Milk just boil'd, & when both are cold, mix them together, keep it for now & when you take it sweeten it with brown sugar.

Although the recipe doesn't sound pleasant, it may have approximated the desired donkey milk, especially its cough-relieving quality. Thistle-like "eringo" or eryngo root was believed to soothe coughs, and doctors recommended snails (shells included) for chest problems. One 1815 recipe for artificial asses' milk called for nine whole snails in the eryngo and pearl barley mix. The author added in a finger-wagging note, "You may leave out the snails if you don't like them, but it is best to use them."

With the introduction of modern health supplements and baby formulas, even real donkey's milk fell from fashion. But its appeal isn't gone. Marketers and doctors tout it as an alternative for people with cow milk allergies, and it has trended in the beauty products and superfoods worlds. If rising popularity leads to a shortage, there are plenty of snaily substitutes ready to be cooked up.

The Hokkaido Washu



The Hokkaido Pony or Dosanko is an ancient breed of small horses mostly found along the eastern coast of the Japanese island of Hokkaido. The Hokkaido ponies, having the ability to work in rough terrains, are used for transportation in the mountainous regions where trucks or other vehicles cannot go.

The Dosanko is thought to have evolved from the Nanbu horses, which were brought to Hokkaido from Tohoku, a region in Honshu, by fishermen during the Tokugawa period (1603-1868). Since the fishermen came to the island to look for herring, they imported these horses to help them in transporting their catch. In autumn, the fishermen returned home leaving the horses in Hokkaido to survive without any aid. Many of these equines would survive the harsh winter and would be utilized by the fishermen returning in the next spring.

The Hokkaido Washu breed stands between 12.2 to 13 hands tall. They are extremely sturdy, capable of surviving tough conditions. The breed comes in just about every solid color. Many roam freely in grazing areas and are only rounded up once a year; some are kept in stables. Hokkaido Washus are the most popular of all the native Japanese horse breeds.

A breed registry was formed in 1979, and by the early 1990s, the Dosanko population grew from 1180 to 3000. However, it declined to 1950 horses by 2000. Today, many ranchers and farmers in Hokkaido winter these ponies in the mountains. A research grant is given to the Hokkaido University in order to develop and analyze conservation efforts for the breed.

Cont'd from page 1

players invited her down to the field and discovered she had a knack for swinging a mallet from a horse. Polo great Duke Coulter, who was a founding member of the Will Rogers Polo Club, became her mentor. She played on ponies she bought with money she earned giving riding lessons, and trained the horses herself.

She began to play in tournaments, passing as a boy by tucking her ash-colored hair under a helmet, flattening her breasts with tape and wearing loose-fitting men's shirts. She also wore a mustache, concocted with the help of makeup artists who were friends of her stepfather. She entered under the name A. Jones. With the collusion of her teammates, she succeeded in the charade for two decades. After the games, she would rush back to her trailer, strip off the disguise, then head for the post-game party, where she would often hear others praising a certain sturdily built player who simply vanished after the last round of play.

She married Alex Hale in 1957 and moved to Carmel, where she started a riding school. A few years later, while she was vacationing in Southern California, Coulter invited her to play at the Will Rogers Polo Club. She was forced to leave the field when members of the visiting team refused to play against a woman. "As we drove back to Carmel, I could see that she was mad. Not just temporarily angry, but permanently mad at the world," Alex Hale wrote in an article in the 1980s called "Breaking Polo Wide Open" for *WomenSports* magazine. Hale told her husband that she wanted nothing more than to play tournament polo and that when she became the best woman player in the world, "they'll have to accept me."

She began to invite out-of-town teams to her Carmel Valley Polo Club; they reciprocated with invitations for her team to play "unofficial games" on their fields. But she had to sit on the sidelines during tournaments. Friends she made on the playing field began to lobby the U.S. Polo Assn. to change its rules and allow women to play, in part by threatening to make public the fact that it had, unknowingly, been allowing one into its tournaments for 20 years.

In early 1972, Hale had what she called "the greatest moment in my sports life" when she opened an envelope from the association that contained a stack of membership cards for the players in her club. On the top of the pile was a card for Hale. She was so determined to prove that women were fit for the sport that she played through all five of her pregnancies. Once she finished a game after breaking her leg.

On the field, she frequently was threatened by male players, who said, "Honey, we're going to run over you." But Hale drew on advice her stepfather once gave her, which was to make the guys so mad that they lost control of their game. She told any male chauvinist rivals: "Gentlemen, better boys than you have tried. Be my guest." At the peak of her career, Hale had the highest standing among women players, given a two-goal rank by the U.S. Polo Assn. (Players are ranked from 10 down, depending on the number of goals they are expected to score in a regular game.) "She could ride a horse like a Comanche and hit the ball like a Mack truck," a polo magazine once said of her.

Along with her daughter Sunny, a five-goal player, and other team members, she won the inaugural U.S. Women's Polo Open in Indio in 1990. Sunny lives in Oklahoma and Florida. Hale is also survived by two other daughters, Stormie of Pacific Grove, who was also a top-ranked player, and Dawn of Carmel Valley; and a son, Trails, of Simi Valley. Another son, Brook, preceded her in death.

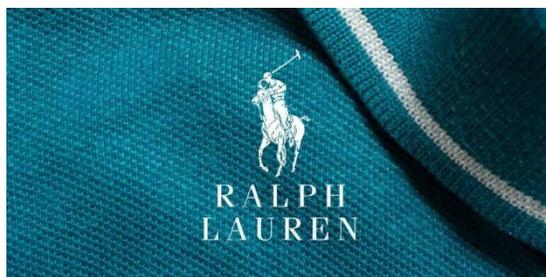
After her divorce from Alex Hale in 1976, Hale ran the Carmel Valley Riding Club until 1980, then managed a polo club in Willow Bend, Texas. In 1986 she opened H & H Farms in Moorpark; it was sold in 1999. In 1995, she opened a second H & H Farms in the Coachella Valley, where she raised horses and cared for a menagerie of other animals, from possums and pigeons to Clydesdale horses.

Hale was also an accomplished painter, sculptor and poet. She continued to play polo in senior levels and participated in other equestrian events, particularly dressage. But to Hale there was nothing better than polo. What she lived for, she once told *The Times*, was "going down the field with seven head of horses broadside, getting bumped by 900 pounds of horse and, man, just holding that line steady for two seconds to make that shot.

WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

Polo Ralph Lauren released its first collection of polo shirts in 1971. They would become one of the brand's most iconic products.

Ralph Lauren is an 85 year old American luxury fashion designer born on October 14, 1939, in the Bronx, New York City. Lauren got his first job working in the clothing industry as a sales assistant for Brooks Brothers before moving on to work for Rivetz, a necktie company. His life changed after he worked for Beau Brummell, a tie manufacturer; Lauren convinced the company to let him design his own line of European-inspired neckties under the name "Polo." He chose the name to reflect the sophistication, luxury, and classic sport often showcased in the lifestyle he aspired to have. In 1971, Ralph Lauren introduced the iconic men's polo shirt, a bestseller to this day. The shirt, with the embroidered polo player logo on the chest, became a staple for the brand's preppy attire. Later that year, Ralph Lauren introduced a women's collection to the brand with tailored shirts.



While Ralph Lauren didn't invent the polo shirt style, he did give it its name; up until this point, they were typically called tennis or golf shirts. The Polo Ralph Lauren brand gained more recognition in 1974 when he created the costumes for the male cast of *The Great Gatsby*. On March 12, 1978, Ralph released Lauren, his first fragrance for women. Polo, a cologne for men, also came out later in the month.

The brand began its global expansion in 1981 when it opened its very first international store in London, England. Around this time, the US Polo Association (USPA) decided to branch out from being a sporting organization to also making clothes and fragrances. In their heads, they were right in using logos and words relating to the game of polo to name their products. Ralph Lauren disagreed and sued them for trademark infringement. The USPA lost and was prohibited from selling products containing a logo depicting the sport and even the word "polo" itself.

On top of clothing, the Ralph Lauren brand opened flagship stores and restaurants in New York City, London, and countless other countries. The most famous store, the Rhinelander Mansion on Madison Avenue, New York City, offers more than just a clothing store; it opens up a whole new world to what luxury shopping really is. Much like the stores, Ralph Lauren restaurants like Polo Bar and Ralph's (Paris) offer a luxurious and curated experience inspired by American and European cuisine.

