



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

January 2022

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Overnight stabling and an evening feed appeals to horses A University study finds.

Overnight stabling of horses who spent their days on pasture appeared to have a positive effect on chronic stress levels, researchers in Italy report.

Scientists with the University of Milan have reported on the results of a study of 47 leisure horses whose levels of the stress hormone cortisol were monitored in their hair during a year-long study.

Silvia Michela Mazzola and her fellow researchers, writing in the journal *Animals*, noted the growing priority placed on meeting the behavioral needs of horses.

"There is growing opinion that stabled horses may be deprived of opportunities both for social contacts and the possibility to perform natural behaviors, limited by stable designs and insufficient box dimensions," they said.

The researchers described an experiment centered on three stables in the Lake Garda region of northern Italy, based on three different horse management strategies as chosen by horse owners.

In Stables 1 and 2, horse owners could choose whether to allow their horse to spend most of the day at pasture in social groups of about 10 individuals. Each evening, the horses were taken back to their individual boxes, where they received their ration of hay and feed and spent the night. The authors referred to these horses as the mixed management group.

Alternatively, the horse owners could opt to permanently leave their horse in the paddocks, including overnight. In other respects, these horses were cared for the same way as the mixed management group. They received hay and feed, and similar veterinary care. These horses formed the paddock group.

The third group was inspired by the principles of natural management. The horses lived in a herd on six hectares of land, wood, and olive groves. Two natural ponds allowed horses to access water. There were three sheds, open on one side, which offered shelter to the animals, and four hay racks were distributed well apart to encourage the horses to move. Subjects that required additional concentrate feed wore a computer chip around their pastern that was read by the automatic oat dispenser to deliver the appropriate amount of

food daily. These horses formed the natural management group.

The horses across all three groups were similar in terms of sex and age.

In the experiment, hair samples were collected on the same day from all the horses four times during a year, once for each season.

Hair cortisol concentrations, considered a reliable marker of long-term (chronic) stress, were analyzed.

The researchers found that the highest hair cortisol values were detected in the autumn and summer, regardless of the horse management strategy used, and levels were also significantly higher in individuals older than 15 years. The hair cortisol concentration was not influenced by horses' sex or coat color.

However, the comparison of the different management strategies showed that, in the summer, autumn, and winter, the hair cortisol levels were significantly lower in horses who spent the night in stables.

"Spending the night in the stables would seem to impact the well-being of the horses positively, and this could be related, at least in part, to the sleep quality," the study team said.

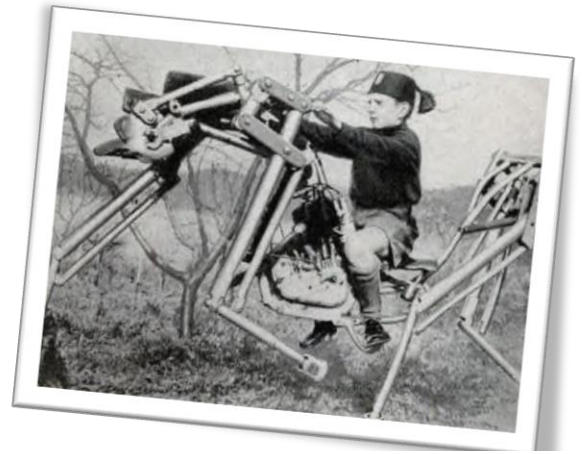
Continued on page 11

The Iron Dobbin The first Mechanical Horse

Little is known about the origins of the Iron Dobbin, the product of an Italian inventor which first appeared in the April 1933 issue of Popular Science as "the mechanical horse that trots and gallops on steel piped legs, under the impulse of a gasoline engine."

With this horse, he declared, children may be trained to ride. The iron Dobbin was said to canter along a road or across a rough field with equal ease. Its design recalls the attempts of inventors, before the day of the automobile, to imitate nature and produce a mechanical steed capable of drawing a wagon.

The Italian military considered putting the vehicle into limited production to train the children of the Gioventù Italiana Littorio (Italian Fascist Youth Movement) to ride, but the military deemed it impractical. The Iron Dobbin was also rejected as a replacement for mountain troop donkeys.



After seeing the above image in Popular Science, the German military drew up plans for their version to be named the Panzerpferd (Tank Horse) for their Gebirgsjaeger troops, who equally rejected that idea.

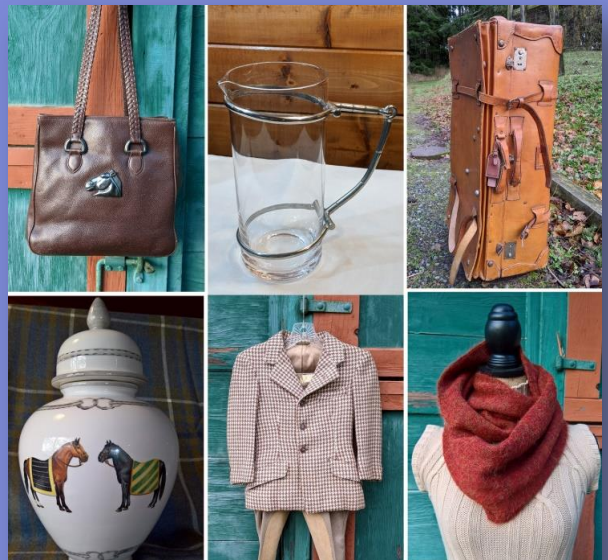


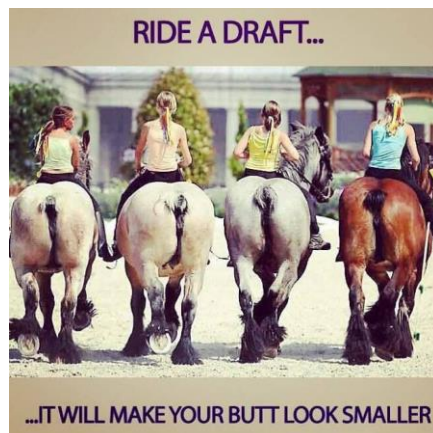
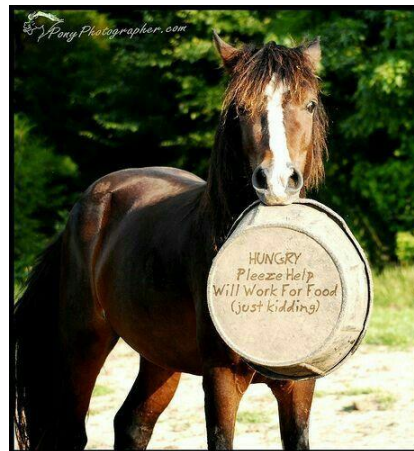
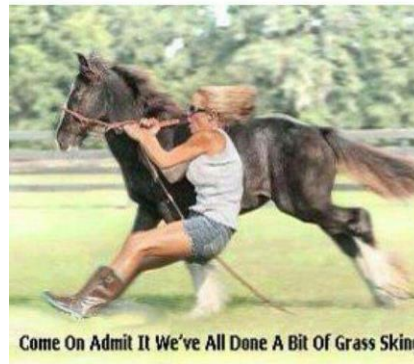
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New Items for January





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“A pony is a childhood dream; a horse is an adult treasure.”

-Rebecca Carroll



“I call my horses “Divine Mirrors” – they reflect back the emotions you put in. If you put in love and respect and kindness and curiosity, the horse will return that.”

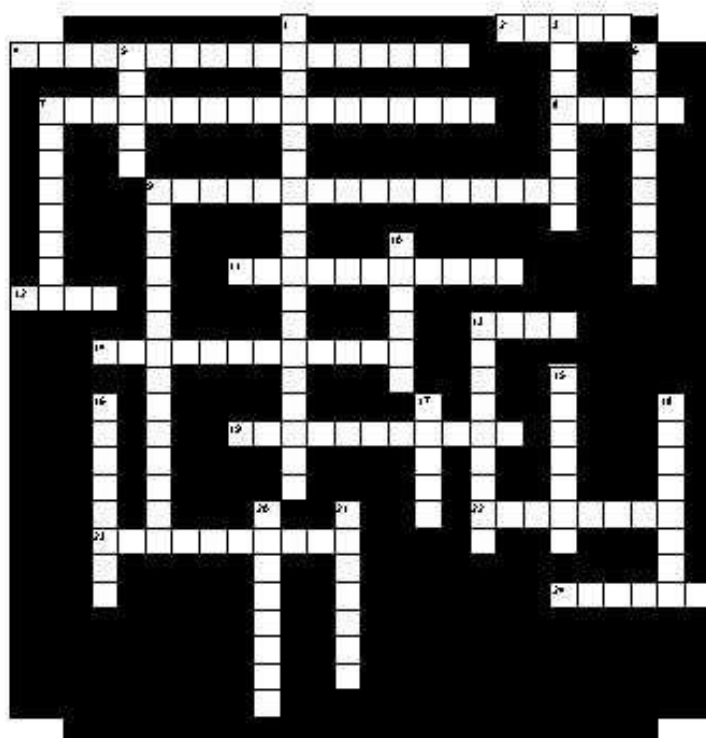
Allan Hamilton



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PACIFIC NORTHWEST RIDING ACADEMY

Horse Crossword Puzzle



Across

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. Another name for a loose ring snaffle bit | 12. Number of inches in a hand |
| 4. Type of pony breed, very similar to the Appaloosa as it possesses the same coloring | 13. Name of the sport that has "chukkas" |
| 7. Estimated number of horses in the world: _____ million | 14. Type of knot that you should always tie your horse with |
| 8. Result of a cross between a female donkey and a male horse | 19. Name of the only breed of horse to descend from a single stallion |
| 9. Name of the only breed of horse that has never been domesticated | 22. Ohio, USA town that is home to the All American Quarter Horse Congress |
| 11. Name of the famous horse story that Anna Sewell wrote | 23. Name of the breed of horse used at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna |
| | 24. Number of months the average mare is pregnant |

Down

1. Breed of the horse that starred as Mr. Ed on the TV series
3. Name of the first cloned mule, produced in May of 2003
5. Name of a type of paint/pinto coat pattern with jagged, irregular spots, and white that does not cross the horse's back
6. Name of the 2003 Kentucky Derby winner
7. Age of the oldest recorded horse, a barge horse in England named "Old Bill"
9. Name of the Tri-County Equestrian Club's president
10. Name of the first filly to win the Kentucky Derby
13. Type of show jumping competition where a single jump is built higher and higher with every round
15. Term for the color of Suffolk Punch horses
16. Inventor of the "forward seat" used in jumping
17. A great companion animal for horses
18. French word referring to the methodical gymnastic training of the horse
20. Canada's national breed of horse, sometimes referred to as "The Little Iron Horse"
21. Name of Roy Roger's famous horse

Nutrition Corner

Know What Cushing's Terms Mean

A case of true Cushing's means the horse has a pituitary tumor that causes abnormal hormone secretions. The classic symptoms – a long coat, unusual thirst/urination, muscle loss, abnormal fat deposits – are highly suggestive but not always reliable. A Cushing's diagnosis must be confirmed by testing.

Pre-Cushing's: In an attempt to categorize horses exhibiting some Cushing's-like symptoms, the term "Pre-Cushing's" appeared, based on chronic laminitis, obesity and, sometimes, confirmed insulin resistance. The term caught on, but there's no scientific evidence these horses will develop true Cushing's.

Peripheral Cushing's: This term stems from the fact that people with large amounts of fat in their midsection have been found to have an enzyme defect in their fat cells that results in abnormally high levels of the active form of Cortisol. The reason is high activity of an enzyme that converts inactive cortisone to active cortisol. The

Theory is that if horses can have a similar enzyme defect it could manifest itself as many of the classical symptoms of a pituitary tumor. However, this hasn't been proven.

Hypothyroid: Hypothyroidism is well known to often cause insulin resistance in people and other animals. Hyperthyroidism exerts its effects both on a cellular level, by interfering with insulin receptors on the surface of the cells, and at the level of the pituitary as well, where thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels rise in response to low thyroid hormone in the blood and the TSH also can stimulate production of anti-insulin hormones like prolactin.

Insulin Resistant: A horse is "insulin resistant" when the body's cells don't respond properly to insulin. Insulin secretion is triggered by a rise in blood glucose after eating a meal that contains sugar or starch. As glucose rises in the blood, the insulin response triggers cells to take it in, where it is used for energy or converted to fat or glycogen. Normally effective levels of insulin don't work and the pancreas is stimulated to put out more insulin until the cells respond.

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 CEDRIC THE GREAT!

Cedric was born on May 16th, 2009 and was by the bay Andalusian stallion Escogido XXV and out of the WWF Thoroughbred mare, French Dancer.

Cedric was the 1st foal Wildwood Farm bred from this Andalusian stallion, his second was Marengo (see Nov 2021 newsletter). Cedric was registered with the IALHA (International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association) as well as the Iberian Warmblood Registry and American Warmblood Registry. He received a red (preferred) at his AWS inspection when he was just a yearling and an overall score of 78.9%.

Cedric was one of 5 foals Wildwood Farm had that year – 4 boys – and grew up with not only his brother Marengo but with Putter, Nacho and Phantom. The brat pack was kept in the large 5-acre field where now the school horse boys go, but 2009 was a year to remember with all those young boys causing mischief and constantly playing tag and war in the grassy fields, endlessly entertaining us.



Cedric grew into a lovely 2 year old, then when he was 3 his formal education began and he proved to be a very forward-thinking horse. His dam, French Dancer, put a little spice into his personality and his sire's influence kept everything balanced. With a floating trot and a ride-forever canter, Cedric lived up to his sport-horse ambitions, although his gaits were not fancy enough for upper level dressage; he found his niche in Western Dressage.

When he was 5 Cedric was purchased by the owner of his sire and is still living there happily with his now-gelded father and various other stable mates.

The Oldest Horse to Finish Tevis

By WARHorse

Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman—everyone loves a super hero. They possess extraordinary traits, aspire to do good, apply their strengths to help others and are reliable, trustworthy stalwarts that inspire and comfort the rest of us. Endurance rider, Claire Godwin, knows something about super heroes. She has one living in her pasture.

Godwin, 59, is a Companion Animal Veterinarian and Practice Owner at Laytonsville Veterinary Practice, Laytonsville, MD. Like many WARHorses, Godwin grew up loving horses but put them aside to attend college, establish a veterinary practice, and start a family. Inspired by a dinner conversation about endurance, Godwin purchased an Arab and began competing in her 30's. Years later, PL Mercury, or Merc as he's known, came into Godwin's life quietly. At 15 years old his job was to merely be a horse for the kids to ride, but soon he began revealing his super powers to Godwin. Turns out the mild mannered kid's horse possessed a talent for distance. As recently as June this super horse carried Godwin 100 miles in the Old Dominion, defeating "the Beast of the East" as the race is dubbed and finishing sixth! And this super horse is not done yet. On July 28th, Godwin and Mercury will tackle Tevis, one of the toughest endurance events in the world. Godwin hopes they can break Mercury's current record as the oldest horse to complete Tevis (the Ride). This year Merc is 27-1/2 years old!

Typically, a super hero's abilities are a closely guarded secret, but Godwin willingly shares Mercury's strengths with WARHorses.

Where did you and Mercury first compete together? Did your opinion of him and plans for him change following that first race?

As my daughter was finishing high school and becoming more involved with other activities, I rode him a few times to keep him fit. My thought was to sell him because I hadn't planned to compete him anymore but as I rode him I appreciated how fun he was to ride, and how uncomplicated.

How do you prepare/train Mercury for an upcoming race?

Merc gets a couple of months off from riding in the winter, and as the season ramps up, in early February, I start ponying him in the mountains for 7-15 miles once or twice a week. He only needs a few outings to ready him for 50-mile competitions, since he has a solid base on him. I really like ponying him rather than riding him as a means of conditioning, because I think it keeps the muscles on his back in better shape. Merc doesn't need a rope to pony, he is perfectly well behaved just running along with the ridden horses.

Which do you prefer, 50 or 100 mile races?

I like them both. It's more about what the horse that I am riding is ready/best suited for, and what I'm trying to accomplish that day with that horse. I usually have three to four horses that I am actively competing, and one to two that I have others riding. I've been blessed to have a couple of

young people share my horses and compete on them. It is very rewarding to see the young riders grow and get into the sport.

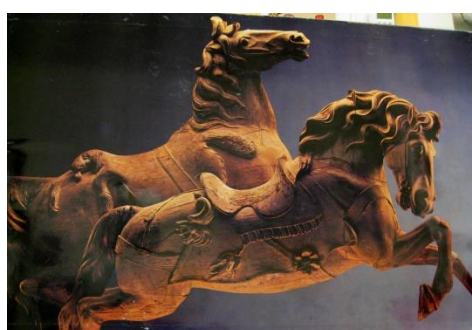
What inspired you to participate in your first Tevis with Mercury?

Merc's first 100 was Tevis, in 2009, at 18.5 years old. I had taken him out there as a backup horse to the horse that I intended to ride, Reveille. It takes five days to drive the horses across the country, and you don't want to get there with a lame horse and nothing to ride. So we took Rev and Merc. We stopped at the Black Hills on the way, one week before the Tevis start. Rev seemed like he was handling the trip fine, so I put Merc into a 50-mile ride in the Black Hills that weekend. He won it, and I figured he would just get a nice rest in California while I rode Rev in the Tevis. However, a good friend's Tevis horse tied up a few days before the Tevis and so I let her ride Merc. They finished well. It was both her and Merc's first 100-mile ride, and that friend died unexpectedly at age 47 a couple of years later. Just goes to show you never know, and you should do what you love today because you never know what tomorrow will bring, right? We were not planning to go to Tevis in 2010, but a friend, John Crandell, called me up two weeks before the ride and asked if I wanted to take a horse since he had room in his trailer. Well, we wound up having him drive my trailer, which fit two of mine, and two of his horses. We had them all loaded on the trailer less than 24 hours after he called, and heading for California. That year, my friend Lisa Bykowski rode Merc, and I rode another horse, and we finished fifth and sixth out of 192, and John Crandell's two horses finished first and second. What a ride! Merc tied the Tevis record for oldest horse to "Top Ten" the ride, at 19.5 years. After that I figured Merc had probably done all he was destined to do, and so he had a junior riding him mostly, for the next two or three years. In 2014, Lisa and I went back to Tevis and finished in the top 15. Then, because we were hopelessly hooked on the Ride by then, we went back out in 2015. Unfortunately that year, Merc failed to meet pulse criteria at the 92-mile vet check within 30 minutes (his pulse was 68 instead of the required 64). Of course we couldn't let that be his last Tevis, so we did it again in 2016. That year, we decided to ride separately since I had a horse I thought could do well (and she did), and Lisa just wanted a completion. She rode Merc slowly and got a completion, I think 74th place. At the finish line there was a crowd there to cheer them. Lots of people know Merc. This year is the first year that I will actually ride Mercury myself at Tevis. I am very excited about it.

If Mercury could speak, what would he say to you at the beginning and end of a race?

All of my horses would say different things. I have one that calmly eats grass with his eyes half shut until they say that TRAIL IS OPEN at the start, and then he takes off like a fire breathing dragon, ready to conquer all. But Merc is just a steady Eddie kind of pony. It's all just another day at the office. At the end? Merc wants to know "Whatcha got to eat?"

The Most Beautiful Carousel Horses

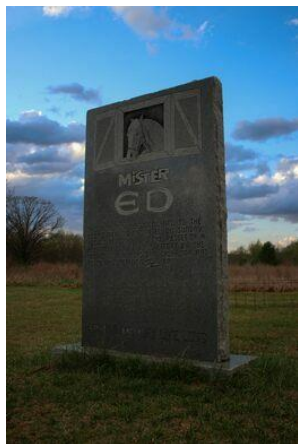


Mister Ed's Grave

Tahlequah, Oklahoma

The granite monument is engraved with the image of the talking horse's head coming through a barn door.

BY ERIC GRUNDHAUSER DECEMBER 21, 2017



BENEATH A GRAVE MARKER DECORATED with the logo of the classic television show Mister Ed, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a horse who portrayed the title character rests peacefully. But which horse?

Most visitors and locals believe the horse in the grave is Bamboo Harvester, the palomino horse, born in 1949, who played Mister Ed on television between 1961 and 1966, then retired to the Oklahoma farm where the five-foot granite marker now stands. He reportedly became sick in 1968 and was euthanized before being laid to rest near a cherry tree in 1970.

But Alan Young, who played Wilbur Post, the only person to whom Mister Ed would speak on the show, says that Harvester actually died accidentally following a shot of tranquilizer in California and was cremated, his ashes spread around by his trainer, Lester Hilton. Young says the horse buried in Oklahoma was a different palomino horse named Pumpkin, who died in 1979. Pumpkin was used for publicity shots for the show, and took up the mantle of Mister Ed after Harvester died, but never played the role on television. A third story has Harvester dying in California and being buried in Oklahoma.

Fans are devoted to the marker on the farm in Tahlequah regardless of which horse is buried there. The gravestone was marked by a simple wooden cross and a horse shoe until 1990, when a special stone was engraved for Mister Ed, complete with the image of his head sticking out through a barn door. There was a ceremony for its arrival that included a color guard and carrot bouquets.

The marker is engraved cautiously: "According to media reports, Mr. Ed moved to Oklahoma in the late 1960s, after a successful Hollywood career. Mr. Ed continued to entertain and bring joy to many Oklahomans, finally retiring in this very field. May his memory live long."

Know Before You Go

The farm has had a few different owners since Mister Ed's burial, most of whom have been accepting of the tourist traffic their property receives. Currently, the stone is still standing and is well tended by the owner. Still, this is private property so be sure to get permission from the homeowners before visiting, and be respectful. The property sits right in an awkward curve of Highway 82 just north of Tahlequah, OK. It is easy to miss if you aren't looking for it. Look for the GPS coordinates on the map before setting out and you should have no problems.

Grave of Pat the Horse

Fort Sam Houston

San Antonio, Texas

Soldiers honored the beloved Pat with a special grave.



AFTER COMING TO FORT SAM Houston in San Antonio in 1912, the young brown thoroughbred known as Pat soon became a favorite for the military men to practice training drills and maneuvers. This dedicated affection would save Pat from the end of the cavalry horses, and he would finally be honored with a military grave that still rests the grounds of the post.

During the 1930s, the Army started to dispose of its cavalry horses, either by selling them or destroying them. The beloved horse Pat was saved from death and the stripping of his military rank by soldiers who lobbied Washington to spare him.

After surviving the elimination of the Army horses, Pat lived a life of leisure for the next 20 years. He had his own paddock at Fort Sam Houston that included his own groom and he wore a special blanket decorated with service stripes.

In 1953, Pat died at the old age of 45. He was honored with a military funeral attended by more than 100 mourners and dignitaries who joined in a service that included a eulogy and the playing of Taps.

Pat was buried under a marble grave that stands near the post entrance at Cunningham Street. Four horse shoes are embedded in concrete over the wide burial site, and a portrait of Pat is etched on the headstone.

Know Before You Go

Enter Fort Sam Houston through the Cunningham Street gate. Visitors must present a driver's license or valid ID.

"Sleep is an essential facilitator of physical well-being and optimal mental functioning, especially when we consider that horses, being large prey animals, sleep for an average of only three hours a day.

"Our results demonstrated that, for horses that spent the day grazing, with social interaction and free to move, stabling could represent a nocturnal environment that promotes sleep."

Multiple factors could negatively influence the well-being of the horses spending the night in the paddock. These include the weather, ambient temperature, insects, or interactions with other horses. They suggested that the lack of differences seen in the spring could be related to the mild climate of this season in this particular area of Italy.

The authors noted that some of the mixed management horses wore a blanket continuously during the coldest months.

"Although the number of subjects was limited, the statistical analysis revealed that those without blankets had statistically significant lower hair cortisol levels."

It is possible that, not being exposed to particularly demanding thermoregulatory challenges, horses experienced the blanket more as a limitation in movement than a thermal benefit, they said.

The researchers said the higher cortisol concentrations found in horses aged over 15 could be related to the lower ability of elderly subjects to cope with stressors, which is why older horses should be even more carefully managed.

In conclusion, the authors said the growing awareness that leisure horses' welfare is related to the satisfaction of their behavioral needs makes it increasingly necessary to investigate the question from a scientific perspective.

"At present, due to the lack of scientific literature about the effect of management on horses' welfare, breeders, stable managers, and owners can only rely on experience and common sense.

"This is the first study that has shed light on the relevance that some management variables, so far scarcely considered, could have on horses' homeostasis using the hair cortisol concentration, a reliable and noninvasive indicator of chronic stress in the species."

The findings, if confirmed by further studies, may be useful to enhance horse welfare and assist in management choice decision-making, they said.

The study team comprised Mazzola, Carla Colombani, Giulia Pizzamiglio, Simona Cannas, Clara Palestrini, Emanuela Dalla Costa, Alessia Libera Gazzonis, Arianna Bionda and Paola Crepaldi.

Mazzola, S.M.; Colombani, C.; Pizzamiglio, G.; Cannas, S.; Palestrini, C.; Costa, E.D.; Gazzonis, A.L.; Bionda, A.; Crepaldi, P. Do You Think I Am Living Well? A Four-Season Hair Cortisol Analysis on Leisure Horses in Different Housing and Management Conditions. *Animals* 2021, 11, 2141. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11072141>



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

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Horses have helped humans create vaccines

The horse has made a significant contribution in the field of medicine. Now nearly eradicated thanks to vaccinations, diphtheria, a virulent respiratory ailment with a high mortality rate, especially among children, was rampant in America during the 1920s. Scientists discovered that horses could be used to produce a serum to treat and prevent the bacterial infection. Akin to an inoculation, a small amount of the bacteria was injected into the horse, who then suffered an immune response which produced antibodies to neutralize the toxin. Scientists collected blood from the treated horses and then created the serum from the blood products. The diphtheria vaccine was administered to children and adults to prevent them from contracting the virulent illness

In addition to creating diphtheria antitoxin, horses also led to the formation of a federal medical regulator agency. Jim, a retired milk wagon horse, produced over 30 quarts of diphtheria antitoxin, however, while still producing antitoxin, Jim contracted tetanus. His illness wasn't immediately caught, though, and active tetanus bacteria made its way into one batch of the antitoxin. Several children who received the contaminated vaccine later died from tetanus complications. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research was formed to regulate the biological industry. Today, this agency falls under the wing of the Food and Drug Administration.

Horses are often used as models to test human vaccines, especially those intended for the elderly, because of the animal's longevity, but its use in that regard is limited. However, research of equine vaccinations has led to important developments for humans, including a modified live, temperature-sensitive intranasal influenza vaccine, a live attenuated West Nile virus vaccine, and a DNA-based West Nile vaccine, as well as a Hendra virus vaccine.

