



HORSE SENSE

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December 2025

*Happy Holidays
from
Chris*

Dakota, Gracie, Liber-T and Spirit

Session 3 Classes will begin the week of January 4th

Thank You for Your Support

American Family Insurance, K Dorian, K Eaton, Fry's/Kroger Shoppers, K Gale, Honeywell ECP, Hubbard Family Swim School, Hudson Family, K Hust, K Kari Birthday Fundraiser, L Lorenz, Malena Family, D Marshall, R Montalvo, Nichols Birthday Fundraiser, Parmenter Family, N Platt, M Shadden, Smith Family, C Stuller, 3 Bars Feed & Tack, R Townsend, S Turnbull, J Voglemann, Wilke Family, Wintermantel Memorial Ridership Award

KIDS COOKING

LIBER-T'S PUPPY PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

Here's a peanut butter cookie your puppy will be sure to enjoy:

¾ C	Pumpkin Puree (plain—NOT pumpkin pie mix)	1 C	Whole Wheat Flour
½ C	Creamy peanut butter (no xylitol!)	1 C	All Purpose Flour
1	Egg Yolk	½ t	Baking Powder

Directions -

Preheat to 375°F and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Whisk together pumpkin, egg yolk, and peanut butter. Combine dry ingredients in a separate bowl, then slowly add them into the pumpkin mix. The dough will be very dry. Transfer the dough to a lightly floured surface and roll out to approximately ¼" thick, then cut shapes with a cookie cutter or knife. Re-combine dough scraps and repeat until all dough is used. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until firm.

Safety Note: Do not add any chocolates, xylitol, or spices that are harmful to dogs.

Get your Tax Deductions and Make Donations -

This year, we ask that you make your year-end charitable donation to Stable Influence. Your gift directly helps people in **Our Community**. You can donate to our 100 for \$100 Campaign, help fill our Poop Bucket with \$10 bills, Adopt a Horse, Sponsor a Rider. Every donation goes to helping our riders be successful.

Volunteers - REMEMBER - Your mileage can give you a cents-per-mile deduction at tax time.

Support Us During this Holiday Season

Giving Tuesday is December 2 - just around the corner. Go to - <https://www.facebook.com/donate/524575970580965/>

and help raise funds to feed our horses.

In addition to your contributions, you can also give back by sharing our social media posts and e-mails. Mark your calendars!

BONUS - AZ Charitable Tax Credit - use QCO Code 22306 on Form 321 to receive a tax credit on AZ State taxes for up to \$470 for an individual and \$938 for couples.

Black Friday is here -

Do you shop on line? Who doesn't these days. Use GoodShop.com or iGive.com. These E-Malls make a donation to Stable Influence when you shop. We all WIN. Just searching the iGive.com e-Mall will rack up donations for Stable Influence

Do you shop at Fry's Food Stores? Enroll your **Fry's VIP Card - #BH909** at www.FrysCommunityRewards.com - so the purchases you make anyway can also help our riders.

Board of Directors

President - Chris Hudson

Vice President - Kathy Wilke

Secretary/Treasurer - Craig Hudson

RIDERS AND VOLUNTEERS - SHARE YOUR STORIES

We are always getting calls from folks to say they've been looking for a program such as ours - for years. Everyone of you can share information about our program with folks you know who may benefit from our services. We can help and serve more people. Your referrals are valuable in helping potential riders and volunteers find us. Riders are why we are here. Sharing your experience with our program is very powerful when you talk to others. Some riders and volunteers are here from FOREVER and some are just starting to work with us. Our volunteers want to keep busy helping riders and are always needed on each day we ride. Your story, shared with friends, care givers, doctors and therapists makes a difference. They may know someone who is looking for a therapeutic riding or would like to help out. Your experience with Equine Assisted Activities and the volunteer opportunities bring participants to us. Help to fill the extra rider and volunteer spaces. Thank you to those who have referred friends to us. We are here to help. Spread the word - There are people out there we can help, they just don't know how to find us.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Chris Hudson

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the barn, the horses were happily munching on their Christmas treats of carrots and apples. With their bellies full and as twilight turned into darkness, Gracie, Dakota and Spirit gathered around Liber-T. Since she had experienced more Christmases than any of the others and was the wise oldest horse in the herd, they asked her to share stories of her adventures before settling down to sleep.

"Hmmm," Liber-T shook her head and stretched her neck before starting to tell her stories. Liber-T shared the fun Christmas events in the past, the obstacle course, the olympic games, the scavenger hunt, the talent show. Spirit said that sounded like a lot of fun. Gracie and Dakota echoed that it was. Liber-T shared how she met Chris when she was only hours old and the adventures they had together. She talked about her mother, Pleasure, her brothers Simon Sez Pleeze and Downy, her sister Diamond and her nephew, Zoomers. She shared about learning to help riders improve their balance, walk, even speak as she carefully carried them in the arena or on the trail. Dakota piped in that she so enjoys helping for the past years. Many volunteers came and learned to ride. Liber-T shared stories about the special riders who came and improved their lives with the help of her and her herd mates. Gracie and Spirit nodded their heads in agreement. She remembered horses from the past, Shasta, a great wise pony, and her daughter Idol, who all the kiddos loved to ride. All the horses that she knew and were now at the Rainbow Bridge - waiting. Kid, Poco, Yeah Gray, Calico, Brighty, Rio, Jewel, Karoyina, Marmalade, Sachmo, Victorio, Bint Allah, Freckles, Indie, Lulu, Shorty, Sierra. These were the ones who lived with us. There were others who didn't live with us but helped out at other places. So many horses helping so many people.

Liber-T stopped to take a breath and sip some water. Then, Spirit picked up her head suddenly and looked out into the desert. They all looked to the west and saw a glow out in the desert. As they watched, the glow seemed to grow and come closer and closer. They blinked their eyes and shook their heads and could faintly make out horses - running toward them through the desert. What was this? As the glow got closer, they could make out a beautiful chestnut horse leading the way. Once they were within sight, Liber-T gasped - it was Kid in the lead, with Poco close behind.

The magic of the night with all Liber-T's stories brought the spirits of all those amazing horses to life to come and share their stories with Dakota, Gracie and Spirit. They gathered and talked about their adventures and all the volunteers and riders they got the chance to play with. They talked about how special they felt when their rider would kiss them or give them a hug or scratch on the neck as they carefully walked - trotted and even cantered around during their classes. The amazement they felt when a rider took their first steps, asked them to turn using the reins or saying, for the first time, "Walk On". Kid talked about how important it was to take care of all these special people and help them in any way they could. Many many stories were shared long into Christmas morning.

As the sun began to glow in the east, Kid announced their time was up and it was time to go. The herd touched noses with each other before heading back out into the desert. Liber-T, Dakota, Gracie and Spirit looked out as the glow of all those spirits faded away leaving a very special feeling in their hearts. It was truly a magical Christmas night they will never forget.

Merry Christmas to All!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE

Facebook Giving Tuesday - <https://www.facebook.com/donate/524575970580965/>

Enroll your Fry's VIP Card - Contribute to our 100 for \$100 Campaign

Donate and claim on AZ State Taxes for a dollar for dollar credit

Shop at GoodShop.com or iGive.com - stores will donate to Stable Influence

Support a Rider - Adopt a Horse - Add to our Poop Bucket Challenge \$10

Buy a bale of hay \$25

Your Mission - - - Riders, Volunteers and Supporters

The Board makes me do it and I hate to ask - but - - - it's my job. Everyone please help find us one new donor in 2026. Supporters, volunteers and riders -- by sharing your stories and asking people and businesses you know to support Stable Influence you can help find new donors. This time of year, companies and people you know are looking to donate to help make a true difference in the lives of another. Our riders, volunteers and even parents benefit by participating in our program. Share a story about Stable Influence with people and companies you know and ask for a small donation. Even though our riders pay a fee for services, it covers only 55% of the cost to run our program, so your help finding donors helps us continue to offer our services..

You all know, all non-profit programs rely and depend on donations to continue their mission. Our mission is to offer the best in equine assisted services and therapeutic riding. Donations and fund raising bridge the 45% difference between rider fees and our program costs. But, 45% is a big bridge to cross. We never waste a penny and don't buy it if we don't have the money. We minimize costs by not owning property and having wonderful volunteer help. This giving season is a great time you can help increase our donor base. Sign up to support Stable Influence through on line shopping at GoodShop.com and iGive.com as well as through Fry's Rewards. Another way to help is you can simply make a donation and get dollar for dollar credit on your AZ State Taxes.

All donations go directly to helping our riders. Social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are great ways to share stories and request support. There are people out there just waiting to be asked to support an organization like ours. Help find those folks and let them know we are here - willing and able to make a difference in lives.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Feed Our Horses - for the cost of a Pizza

With \$25 you can feed our wonderful horses for a day. In 2021 Hay cost was \$13/bale. This year it will be \$21/bale. YEAH, less than last year. We just purchased hay for this year, but the need is ongoing as the horses keep eating. So, we are asking everyone to help purchase 1 bale of hay - the cost of a pizza - so we can keep our wonderful horses fed.

*** New Car Fundraiser ***

Fund raising for the new car we had to purchase because our wonderful 2001 Elantra has 311,000 miles on it has retired after 23 years. We have received some donations but need \$6,850 more to meet our goal.

GROCERIES - We all need them

Are you a Fry's VIP Shopper? If you are - Thank you - you can sign up on line to have a your purchases become a donation to Stable Influence. Fry's shares \$2M with area non-profit organizations enrolled each year. There are 35 families signed up. Enroll if you shop at Fry's! Our portion of Fry's donation depends on how many shoppers shop for us. The more shoppers - the more we receive. So, go to www.FrysCommunityRewards.com - Sign in or Select 'Create an Account' and follow the directions. SICP Fry's Number is 80063. Please join our Fry's Shopper Family.

Share this with your friends and family through Facebook and Twitter and ask them join in to support a cause you believe in so every time you shop you help our riders. \$5,763 from Fry's since May of 2012.

This works all over the country and in ACME, Jewel-Osco, SavOn, Supersaver Foods, Shaws and of course Albertsons stores. Fry's VIP card works at all Kroger owned stores around the country.

Honeywell, Motorola, Boeing and ??? companies will provide grants to organizations their employees support and Employee Giving Programs will send your donation directly to us. But you have to ask. APS, Boeing, Honeywell, Motorola, Target, United Health Care, Schreiber Foods, all have supported their employees' support for us. Check with your company and ask if they will support our riders too.

AZ Qualifying Charitable Organization

As end of year donation time is here, Stable Influence is qualified as an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization. Anyone donating can use QCO Code 22306 to receive a dollar for dollar tax credit on your AZ State taxes for up to \$470 for a single person and \$938 for couples valid for donations made in 2025. Of course, you can donate at any time of the year.

Everyone is shopping on Line Now - Your Purchase can do Double Duty !

Shopping on line at GoodShop.com or iGive.com will have your purchase do a double duty. Amazon ended their Smile donation program, so these 2 on-line malls have taken up the task of donating to non-profits when you do on-line shopping. It's easy for your purchases and browsing time to do double duty to support our riders.

So - - - Help by signing up to support Stable Influence. You are shopping anyway - have it do double duty.

100 for \$100 Plus

It's still open and slowly we are getting there. Help to finish this up. We want to complete our 100 for \$100 campaign. We've had 59 - 100 for \$100 donors since starting. I know every one of you knows of JUST ONE person who can donate \$100 to help reach our goal.

Companies and folks you know will help - If you ask, they just might give. Your stories about Stable Influence experiences help folks understand our mission and successes - share on your Facebook or Twitter account and ask your friends to support our mission.

Unlike with most charities, over 90% of all donations to Stable Influence go directly to help our riders. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

STATE OF THE STABLE

WOW and THANK YOU everyone who has supported us this past year. 2026 is upon us and here's wishing all of you have a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a safe and prosperous 2026.

We had our share of wind and rain in the spring and again this fall. Summer was really HOT - did I say HOT? We lost more than ½ our summer rides due to excessive. August was a bust. We had 4 riders scheduled, but due to the heat we lost most of the month. September startup was delayed as things were still hot. But, now, we are getting back to riding - and with a few new riders joining us.

Our Tuesday classes never stopped, but it took a few weeks for riders to return to Saturday riding. Riders who didn't ride this summer were eager to get back to riding and the riders who braved the summer heat, continued to come and enjoy their sessions. Once things started to cool mid-October, we had 2 riders on Tuesdays and 4 on Saturday. We met 1 new rider for Saturday the end of October and expect another 2 the first of December. Several riders are coming from far south and we sure appreciate their confidence in us.

We help riders who come to us for many reasons. We make their lessons challenging and fun to help them achieve their goals - improve balance and coordination, improve focus, work on fine and gross motor functions, help with speech. Others ride just because they enjoy riding horses. The movement the horse gives them helps them physically, mentally and emotionally. I certainly understand that because I often just hop on horseback to get a quiet ride and enjoy the movement which helps keep me in alignment and more flexible. Everyone can receive benefits whether you are "challenged" (and who doesn't have something to work on) or not. Our lessons usually start by having our riders, who can, play - and yes it should be fun - with their horse "on-line", meaning they are on the ground and use their energy, their bodies and a lead line for connection and communication with their horse. This allows them to truly connect with their horse. It's obvious that the horses look forward to their rider's interaction with pricked ears and eager following directions. Riders learn to be more coordinated, practice balance by asking their horse to move, use fine and gross motor skills to handle the lead rope and even how to better work with their energy. They learn to ask their horses to - side passing along a fence or go over a ground pole, circle around them, put a particular foot in a hula hoop, touch a target with their nose, weave cones or step up on a tire pedestal. Riders learn when to be quiet and when to ask with a bit more authority. Riders this year, Caydon, Charleigh, Oliver and Rhett are improving and learning on-line skills. Some riders, Kaleb, Natalie and Woodrow only ride to help them improve their balance, strength, coordination and focus. We are looking forward to welcoming new riders first of December, Charlie and Dori. Everyone enjoys their time with the horses.

Officers - Our officers, Chris, Craig, and Kathy keep everything running smoothly. Thank you for your service.

Staff - Instructors, Chris is still our only instructor and also is the responsible to work horses 3 or 4 days a week along with daily chores of cleaning pens and feeding, including doing all the office work. Craig has helped with the chores occasionally and steps in when extra hands during class are needed - thank you !

Horses - This 2025 summer was hot, but not quite as hot as 2024 summer even though we had many high heat cancellations. I was able to work the horses a bit more as mornings were a bit cooler. Gracie is coming along, but still not ready to do classes as I've had to focus on horses who could do class now. Gracie's ground work is great and each time I ride, she does well. Just need to have more wet saddle blankets to help her be ready for clients. Spirit, who joined our herd in early August 2024, is 23 and is now sound and working with clients since the spring. Her ground work is getting better and better and every time she gets ridden, she seems to understand more. I think she's a pretty smart horse. She is somewhat narrower than Gracie or Dakota and has a nice smooth walk and trot. Dakota is 24 now. Her quite movement and nice wide back gives those needing support, the movement and support they require. Dakota responds nicely to a rider who is attentive and focused. Liber-T, 32 now, is still helping riders "do it right". She is so good at deciding when riders are ready and responds to exactly what they are asking - even though that may not be what the rider is wanting. When a rider starts to learn, she is patient, but as the rider becomes more skilled, she asks for more precision. She is, however, starting to show her age and we have to be careful on how much we ask of her. Horse upkeep costs have remained stabled with 4 horses to feed. I was able to get hay in for the year and prices dropped just a bit from last year. Increasing economy plays a big role, of course, and hay is about 60% more than just 3 years ago. Monthly costs for our horses, no matter how

many riders we have, is constant. The Equine Dentist's is due (about \$400), they get grain and supplements and every 7 weeks get their feet trimmed. We care for 3 horses and the Hudsons support Liber-T.

Program - Our spring 2025 was not too bad and we only had a few cancellations with wind and rain. Summer, however was a different story as we lost more than ½ our scheduled rides due to excessive heat. Our volunteer staffing is still short going on the past 3 years. We had to cancel classes a couple of times because we did not have enough volunteers to be safe. Horse board and instructor salary we owe are slowly being caught up. Meeting our basic costs is happening and but there is very little reserve. I think we'll have 3 new riders join this year so far. Our basic costs usually remain pretty stable. HA HA HA. Horses cost - - what horses cost. Horse care costs have remained fairly level. I put funds aside every time a rider pays for hay (hay fundraiser \$25 for a bale) for what I expect costs will be next year. I had to increase our rider fees this year to cover very basic costs. But that doesn't cover everything and donations are needed to fill the gap. Every morning, the horses stand in their pen expecting to be fed - every day - whether there are riders or not, whether there is wind or rain. We give a discounted fee (\$15/week) for all riders who pay in advance for the lesson block which mirrors what anyone would pay for a riding lesson. We currently have no riders receiving scholarship money and no riders are being sponsored. I've spoken at length to several potential riders this past year, but until they commit to come, it's just a hope. When speaking to potential new riders they are excited to start - until they find out there are fees. I am very careful to see that riders are serious when offering scholarships. We cannot serve them without donations for scholarships or sponsorships. Fundraising and donations keep fees down for riders and hopefully, will cover the difference. All riding currently is being done at our New River location and are going well.

Check out our Facebook post every Saturday to keep up on events, sunsets, and what our riders are doing each week. Riders enjoy seeing highlights of their fun. I add fun pictures and news - just for grins and giggles. Share your stories and information with everyone you know and ask for support. #Giving Tuesday and our status as an AZ Qualified Charitable Organization can benefit both us and donors. The best way to spread the word is by word of mouth or sharing on social media of how our riders are minimizing their challenges by riding in our program. Jot a message and share your story for everyone to enjoy. People don't know of the miracles you have seen our riders achieve unless you share stories.

Fundraisers: We are once again approved as an Arizona Qualified Charitable Organization. Which means, if you donate to us during 2025 and until April 15, you will get a dollar for dollar reduction when doing your AZ State Taxes. Use QCO Code 22306 on Form 321 for donations up to \$470 for a single person and \$938 for a couple. We have a finish paying off the New Car Fundraiser to pay for the KIA which replaced our Elantra. Without even breathing hard, you can shop through GoodShop.com and iGive.com. They will donate a percentage of your purchase price. Fry's (Kroger) shoppers - you can join the 38 families who have enrolled their Fry's VIP Card to help increase donations. Enroll your VIP card at www.FrysCommunityRewards.com and select Stable Influence (#BH909). Every time you shop at Fry's, SICP shares the \$2M they have for Community Rewards in our area. Giving Tuesday is on December 2 through Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/donate/524575970580965/>

We are always and continually looking for fundraisers to bridge the gap between riders fees and costs to do our program. It's what a non-profit must do. If you have a fund raising idea - share it with us? You know - if each one our Supporters gifted us just \$10 for our Poop Bucket Challenge and found 5 friends to join in, we would be well on our way to easily support our amazing horses. Contribute to our Buy a Bale of Hay to feed our horses for a day Fundraiser. Adopt a Horse is available to support one of our horses, or you can send a gift for our Horse Board Fund or add to our 100 for \$100 Campaign so we can continue our mission to help riders with special needs.

Donations - Thank you for your continued support - the Smith Family, the Hudson's who support Liber-T and have been supporting Dakota, Gracie and now Spirit these past years,. Thank you to all the Fry's shoppers, American Family Insurance, Boeing and Honeywell employees, all those who have contributed to our Hay Fundraiser. Even little donations help, so keep spreading the word. Thank you to all who have donated this past year - Page 1. Donations this past 12 months were \$8,100 less than last year, but about \$2,000 more not considering the windfall from last year. Thanks to Smith Family, Parmenter Family, Malena Family, Wintermantel Ridership Scholarship, American Family Insurance, Wolfe Family, M Shadden to name a few. Thanks!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it. Let's all pray for a better and more stress-free 2026. Stay safe and stay healthy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Mark Your Calendar - 2025-2026

December 21 Christmas Break - No Classes 2 Weeks
January 4 Session 3 Begins - 6 Weeks
February 15 Session 4 Begins - No Break - 6 Weeks
March 29 Easter Break
April 5 Session 5 begins - 7 Weeks
May 25 Session 5 Break - Memorial Day
June 1 Session 6 Begins - 9 Weeks

I WANT TO Help Stable Influence

YOU play a major role in the continued success of SICP through your tax deductible contribution. THANK YOU - your support makes a CRITICAL DIFFERENCE in the lives of Cayden, Charleigh, Charlie, Dori, Kaleb, Natalie, Oliver, Rhett, Woodrow. Donations in any amount helps guarantee our riders will continue to benefit from the proven benefits of equine assisted services and therapeutic riding.

Sponsorship:

_____ \$10 - Newsletter Sponsor
_____ \$10 - Poop Bucket Challenge
_____ \$25-\$199 - Friend of Stable Influence
_____ \$200 - \$499 - Supporter of Stable Influence
_____ 100 for \$100 Campaign
_____ \$_____ Horse Board Sponsor
_____ \$1,500 - Insurance Sponsor
_____ \$_____ A monthly pledge contribution
_____ \$_____ Other Donation

Sponsorships for a Person with a Disability:

_____ \$510 - Six-Week Riding Session
_____ \$3,570 - 42 Week Riding Session

Other:

_____ \$300 - Adopt-A-Horse for a Month
_____ \$3,600 - Adopt a Horse for a Year
_____ \$25 or ?? Fee Our Horses for a Day

Please mail your contribution to: Stable Influence Charity Programs, P. O. Box 54006, Phoenix, AZ 85078-4006 or you can use a bank payment check or simply Zelle to stableinfl@aol.com.