



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

OCTOBER 2025

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Dr Peyo – The Therapy Horse that Comforts Cancer Patients In France

Dr. Peyo, a 15-year-old former show horse in France, has an extraordinary gift for sensing illness. He now comforts terminally ill patients in hospitals, offering peace, empathy, and gentle companionship in their final moments.

In a quiet corner of northern France, in the halls of Calais Hospital, a most unlikely therapist walks with quiet dignity—on four hooves. Dr. Peyo, as he is affectionately known, is a 15-year-old Barb stallion with a heart as remarkable as his story. Once a celebrated show horse, Peyo has now become a symbol of peace and comfort for terminally ill patients, offering them something few humans can: a wordless, instinctive presence in their final days.

His journey from show arena to hospital corridors began with a curiosity that his owner and trainer, Hassen Bouchakour, couldn't ignore.

From Spotlight to Silent Comfort

Originally, the duo competed in dressage and dazzled audiences with his performances across Franc: "That actually always went very well, until we rode our test. Then Peyo always went looking for people in the audience and refused to leave their side. That makes it very difficult when you want to leave the ring (laughs). He has a great need for human contact. I think during those competitions he was already picking out people who were not feeling well, individuals who were struggling with their mental health. He would stand quietly beside them, as if sensing their inner battles.

"I didn't understand it at first," Bouchakour admits, as reported in Guardian. "But it kept happening—every time."

Intrigued, he sought help from veterinarians and neurological experts. After four years of observation and testing, the professionals agreed: Peyo's brain function was unlike any other horse they had studied. Though the exact science remains a mystery, one thing was clear—Peyo had a rare ability to detect emotional and physical suffering with uncanny accuracy.

Doctor Peyo Begins His Rounds

In 2016, Bouchakour left his performance career behind to follow his horse's calling. Together, they began visiting hospitals, particularly palliative care and cancer wards. The response was profound.

Unlike therapy animals trained to follow cues, Peyo operates entirely on instinct. At Calais Hospital, he freely roams the halls, choosing whom to visit. He signals Bouchakour by stopping at a room and lifting his front leg—his way of saying someone inside needs him.

Continued on page 11.

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

STÜBBEN STEEL-Tech Flowerrings Hackamore

The STEELtec Flowerrings

Hackamore offers a gentle alternative for those seeking a bitless bridle solution and a revolutionary communication method.

Designed with adjustability in mind, it allows for precise control over the distribution of pressure on the poll and bridge of the nose. By attaching straps to different sections of the ring, the rider can alter the amount of leverage they have and change how pressure is applied to discover what individual horses prefer. The flower ring design makes this hackamore a great choice if you are exploring bitless options with a softer approach while maintaining effective



communication with your horse.

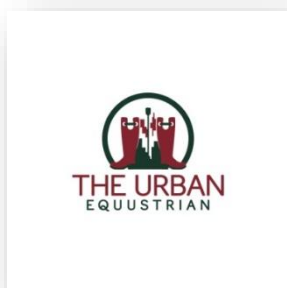
- **Mild Design:** Provides a softer option compared to traditional hackamores.
- **Adjustability:** Customize the pressure distribution for optimal comfort and control.
- **Bitless Alternative:** Perfect for riders interested in non-traditional bridle systems.

Made from high quality chrome-plated metal and real leather, available in pony and horse sizes, and you can also purchase just the cheek pieces.

www.stubbensaddles.com



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www.thenoblehorsevintage.etsy.com

New Items for October



geldings when they get turned out with the mares



A large part of being a HORSE OWNER is



staring at your HORSES like this until they start acting better.

I like mares.
We despise the
same things
and plot world
domination
together...



ME AFTER A LONG DAY LOOKING AFTER HORSES IN THE HEAT



Fun Fact: A group of horses is called a debt.

Just realized that if I put in \$5,000 and you put in \$3,995,000, we could have a little ranch on 100 acres with an indoor arena and lights.

THEPAINTINGPONY.COM



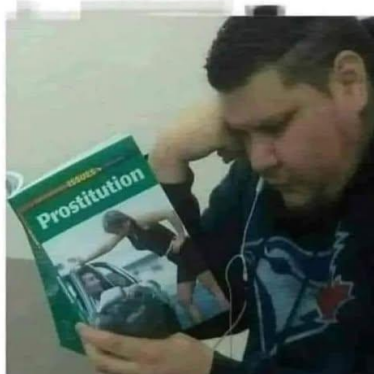
RESPONSIBLE BREEDING



BACKYARD BREEDING

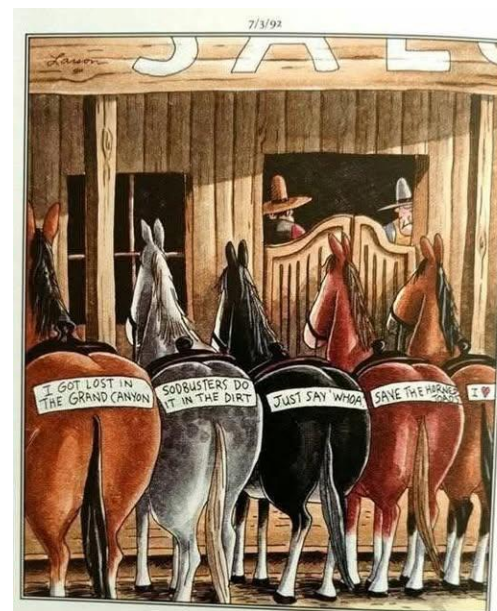


Me working on a plan to pay for Hay and Feed



Me: I'm sick

Also Me: I think I can handle a short trail ride.



Common rumper stickers of the Old West

WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

A CDL Truck Driver realized...

*Life can only be understood
backwards; but it must be lived
forwards.*

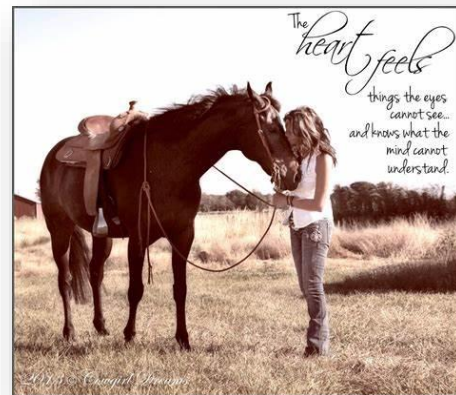
Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at
Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey
Island.

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

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these magnificent creatures and explore the
abundance of silent repose.

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY**



87 alerts posted reporting on 98 confirmed cases

Ordered by State:

Email: cikc@uap.org

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

For the current status on CEM, please see:
<https://www.ashtb.usda.gov/stock-and-trv-disease/contagious-equine-metritis>

Nutrition Corner

How to Feed the Performance Horse on a Budget.

Start at the foundation of your horse's diet and be fastidious about management. Don't scrimp on quality forage—it's the best investment for your feeding dollars. The more you can feed your horse like a horse, the less likely you will incur expensive veterinary bills associated with conditions such as gastric ulcers and colic and the less reliant you will be on concentrate feeds. Make sure the forage is clean and as free of dust as possible, as this will protect airway health. Feed as much forage as you can to honor your horse's digestive tract anatomy and physiology.

Forage, however, cannot provide everything your horse needs all year round. Even if your forage source is pasture, at some point in the year its quality and abundance will likely drop. Neither pasture nor hay typically provides adequate levels of trace minerals, might not provide adequate vitamins such as vitamin E and, depending on the individual

horse and discipline, might not provide adequate calories. This makes a concentrate, commercial feed, or a balancing supplement necessary.

Select a feed you can offer properly per the manufacturer's directions. If you're only going to feed a couple of pounds a day, don't be fooled by the fact the performance or senior feed is significantly cheaper per bag than the ration balancer. Those feeds have daily feeding rates typically in the range of 0.5 to 1 pounds per 100 pounds of body weight. Feeding less than this will leave your horse with key deficiencies that over time might cause health issues and have you reaching for hoof supplements, coat products, and additives that support topline development. Paying more per bag for the ration balancer and feeding it per directions will likely save you money in the long run.

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 MOORE JET BLACK

In 2001, before we purchased Wildwood Farm, I owned a horse we called Ricoh. He was a raven-black Azteca gelding that I purchased as a dressage prospect.

Ricoh was one of the most handsome horses I had ever seen, with his purple-black coat and lovely Iberian shaped head and short, round Iberian body. Although he was a little short at 15 hands, he was the perfect size for me.

When I purchased Ricoh they called him Diablo – and it did not take me long to understand why. Diablo (Ricoh) was from Mexico where he was used as a bull-fighting horse. And he was a champion, I later learned. He was brought to the US by a family who saw him and fell in love with him, not imagining that he was trained to be a predator. It did not go well, and he was promptly put up for sale.

I found Ricoh to have very good foundational training for riding; however, he turned into a different animal on the ground. Dodging his open mouth and striking feet soon became a feat and the bruises on my arms and legs were testament to my stubborn ideal that



Ricoh could be rehabilitated.

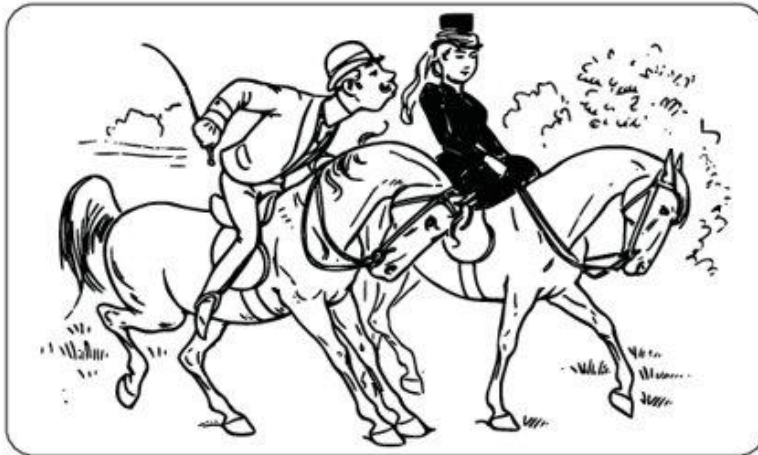
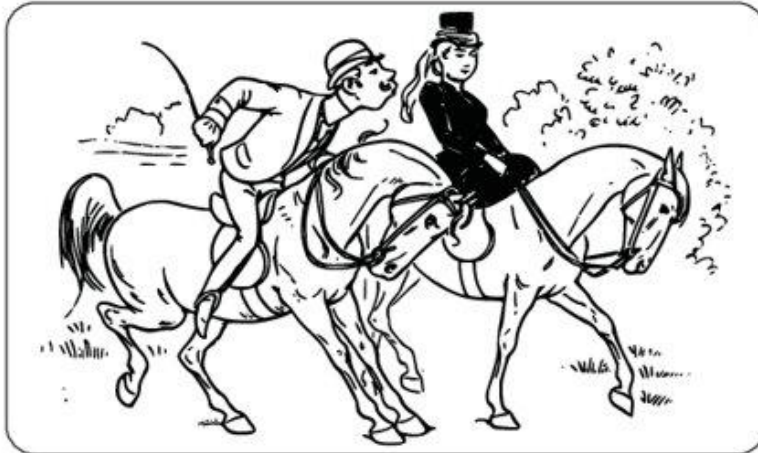
When Ricoh moved with us to Wildwood Farm he was definitely getting better, but I was finding that he was not the type of horse I was having fun with. Though he was lovely to ride, I had to be constantly on my guard when grooming, leading, etc. I decided to send Ricoh to a professional trainer in hopes they could get through to him.

After 6 months the trainer told me that, although he had made progress, Ricoh really had no desire to change and the more he asked him to the more defensive and dangerous he became. He came back home to Wildwood Farm.

After a clinic with Dominique Barbier – where Ricoh actually unseated him – I decided to quit fighting the inevitable and started looking for a home he would want. And I found it at a cattle ranch in Wyoming. Ricoh went there and thrived with the work – he was finally back with the bulls!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Find and circle 10 differences between these pictures.



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HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

We celebrate these Birthdays in October!

Clara Beier October 24th, Dusty October 25th

MOST FABULOUS HORSE COOKIES!



Falkstone, England

Folkestone White Horse

One English town's celebratory landmark spurred more trouble than anticipated.



One of England's youngest horse geoglyphs is carved onto a hill in Folkestone. The figure's legs are outstretched as if it's either galloping or has slipped and landed on its barrel. Its stringy mane flows behind a head raised high with unbridled glee, perhaps in triumph.

For Folkestone locals, their hill horse is indeed a source of triumph. The nearly 300-foot-long equine was planned as a celebratory Millennium Landmark with the hope it would spur new interest in the area, but its creators had to jump a few legal hurdles before turning their vision into reality.

Though the proposal to create the horse was submitted in the late 1990s, opposition efforts stalled construction work until 2002. English Nature (a government watchdog group), the Green Party, and Friends of the Earth opposed the plan, as the hill the horse was destined to roam is protected under the European Habitats Directive as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

In 2003, the European Union even declared that the horse was unlawful and behooved the United Kingdom government to either explain its decision to create the figure or restore the site. However, work had begun by the time the EU's ultimatum arrived. The horse was already part of the hill.

A crew of volunteers, directed via radio by artist Charles Newington, had laid a canvas template of the horse onto the landscape. They then dug shallow trenches, which Gurkhas (Nepalese soldiers serving in the British Army) stationed nearby filled with limestone slabs. In 2004, nearly a year after its completion, a time capsule full of the names and remarks of the horse's supporters was buried in the spot that marks its heart.

The Gidran



The Gidran is a very rare horse breed indeed—only about 200 such specially bred animals remain in the world. All Gidran horses originate from one lineage—the desert-bred Arabian stallion named Siglavy Gidran (also named Gidran Senior). At 15.1 hands high, he was a chestnut stallion with a star on his chest and socks on two hind legs.

In 1816, Baron von Fechtig bought Gidran Senior and imported him to the stud farm in Bábolna, Hungary, where the Gidran breed story begins. One son, Gidran II, was born in 1820; his mother was a Spanish Naples mare named Arrogante. Thus, through two key stud farms in Hungary, Gidrans were a breed developed in Hungary. Gidran II is the foundation stallion for the Gidran horse breed, meaning every Gidran in existence can be traced back to him. While the Gidran started with Arabian breeding, over decades it slowly became the Hungarian Anglo-Arab breed we know today.

Horse breeding records are so accurate, we know that the mares selected for breeding up to 1855, were 33% Arabian, 22% Transylvanian, 16% Spanish, 16% Nonius, 6% Native Hungarian, and 6% Gidran. Selecting genetically varied mares improves the breed and prevents inbreeding.

After 1893, the Gidran line was crossbred with English thoroughbreds every second or third generation. Those 1893 thoroughbreds produced horses with excellent jumping and galloping ability. From there on, Gidran was a well-preserved Hungarian breed that nevertheless at times was threatened with extinction, especially during the Hungarian-Romanian War which lasted from November 1918 to March 1920.

Horse aficionados like to think of the Gidran horse as an exclusively chestnut Hungarian Anglo-Arabian horse. However, since the breed has gone through numerous changes over the decades, all coat colors and markings that define the Arabian breed are accepted to identify a Gidran.

Although the range for the modern Gidran horse is from 15.2 to 17 hands high, the average is 16 hands and for a Gidran horse to be registered it has to be minimum 15.2 hands high.

The Gidran has small ears, a well-sloped neck, well-proportioned legs, and a deep, wide chest. Its well-proportioned legs make it ideal for equestrian sports but is equally suited for farm work. Its balanced temperament allows it to be trained well. Its courage and nobility empower it to strive in racing and jumping competitions.

Cont'd from page 1

In many cases, Peyo enters the rooms of the very sick—those near death. He gently rests beside their beds, allowing them to touch his thick mane or lean against his warm body. The reaction is often emotional: tears, smiles, or sudden, unexpected words from patients who hadn't spoken in days.

A Ritual of Care

Cleanliness and safety are essential, and Peyo's daily hospital routine is strict. Each day, Bouchakour spends nearly two hours grooming the stallion—brushing his coat, braiding his mane, cleaning his hooves, and applying antibacterial lotion before draping him in a clean hospital-grade blanket. He is then allowed to roam—at his own pace, by his own choosing.

Peyo's interactions have surprised medical professionals. Patients suffering from severe anxiety calm down in his presence. Some who had lost the will to move began walking again. A few elderly women even visit the hairdresser the day before his visit—just to look their best for him.

Roger, a 64-year-old patient, confirms: "Peyo is my favorite doctor. I know I will sleep well today because I saw Peyo". His wife smiles, "When he has seen Peyo, he sleeps like a rose".

The patients themselves have nothing but praise for the horse: "My son never wanted to go with me to the hospital to visit his mother. He found it difficult to be in her pain, which of course I understand. In the end, he's only seven years old," one father recounted. "Now Isaac associates the hospital with Peyo and likes to come along. That also does his mother good so you can speak of a real win-win situation in this case".

A Gentle Goodbye

For more than 1,000 terminally ill patients, Peyo has been more than just a visitor—he's been a companion on their journey out of life. His presence offers not just comfort, but a kind of validation: a reminder that they are not alone, not forgotten. It seems like he automatically senses which room has cancer patients in it.

Bouchakour remembers when he insisted on going into a room. The woman who was in the room at the time was dying. Peyo did not leave her side until she closed her eyes and never opened them again.... I accompany him but in the end, it is he who decides," Bouchakour continues.

Bouchakour recalls the case of Daniel, a 67-year-old man dying of cancer and a former equestrian. "He was overcome with emotion," he says. "It was as if Peyo knew him." When Daniel passed away, his family asked that Peyo and Bouchakour walk beside his coffin at the funeral.

"In the past, people died at home," Bouchakour reflects. "Now, many pass away in sterile hospital rooms, often alone. We've lost the softness of death, the dignity. Peyo brings some of that back."

"Of course, Peyo doesn't work out every day," says his trainer. "We regularly take a walk on the beach in Calais. It's important to be able to clear our heads once in a while. Yet I notice that even in those moments Peyo only wants one thing most: to go back to the hospital."

The Mystery Remains

Science still can't fully explain Peyo's sensitivity. His brain scans show rare neurological patterns, but no one knows why he can do what he does. Some call it intuition, others magic. But perhaps it doesn't need a label. Today, Bouchakour works with a therapeutic organization called Les Sabots du Coeur (the clogs of the heart), which is conducting a study of Peyo's extraordinary abilities.

"Patients who wouldn't speak suddenly find words. Some who had nothing left to give smile again. He gives them a moment—sometimes the last moment—of peace," says a nurse at Calais, as reported in Uplifting Today.

As he continues to visit those at the edge of life, Peyo remains quiet, patient, and ever-gentle—a silent companion for those taking their final breath. In a world that often fears death, Dr. Peyo offers something rare: the courage to face it with calm, dignity, and the soft muzzle of a friend by your side.

