



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

August 2021

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

The Fantastic True History of Unicorns

By Shannon Quinn

Unicorns are magical creatures that appear in just about every fantasy novel, and several fairy tales in recorded history. These stories have even appeared all over the world. According to legend, unicorns could only be tamed by a maiden with a pure heart. Their horns had the ability to purify liquid, and in some legends, their horns could heal wounds. This legend was enough to inspire people to hunt for this elusive creature for centuries. Even well-educated members of royalty purchased what they believed were unicorn horns, and scientists have treated the possibility of their existence very seriously in the past. But did this animal ever really exist? Was it hunted out of existence like the Dodo bird, or was it truly a figment of someone's imagination?

Wild, Weird, and Wonderful

Elizabeth I, Henry 8th, and Charles 9th all owned unicorn horns...At least, they thought they did. People believed that they could take poison out of liquid. Some even believed that the magical horns would help people live forever. So

it was essential for royalty to have cups made out of what they believed to be unicorn horn, but it was usually really ivory from elephants, imported from India. Other times, royals purchased horns that were taken from narwhals.

At the time, explorers would return from their journeys to India and other far-off lands. They published books and travel journals that explained the new species of animals that they spotted on their trip. However, people were skeptical, even back then. They did not just naively fall for claims of fantastic creatures. The vast majority of the animals in these books were real. But back then, people thought some of these animal species were so insane-looking, they refused to believe they existed. One perfect example of that was a giraffe.

In modern times, everyone has grown up going to a zoo and seeing a giraffe in person, or they at least have the opportunity to see it on TV. So of course, it's easy to believe they are real. But for people in the past who were looking at drawings of the animal, it was hard to believe a horse-like-creature could exist, or that it really had such a long neck that it could eat the leaves from the top of trees with a long tongue.

Since unicorns are really just white horses with horns, their existence was actually very believable for most people, compared to a giraffe. Several explorers from India were looking for unicorns, and many of them claimed that they actually managed to spot one, but all of their accounts of the animal were vastly different from one another. In many cases, they were probably talking about a Rhinoceros. A man named Bernhard von Breydenbach wrote the latest known record of an apparent unicorn sighting in 1486. He also included another creature called a mantichore, which was a lion with a human head. Obviously, this guy was not the most honest person, or he was taking second-hand accounts from local testimonies.

The Word of God

Explorers were not the only ones to write about these horses with a single horn. Unicorns are mentioned a whopping 8 times in the Bible. Today, the only edition of the Bible that still has the word "unicorn" is the Authorized King James version. We now know that this was an incorrect translation made when scholars were translating Hebrew to Greek.

The original transcript of the Bible mentioned a one-horned animal

Continued on page 11

Inflatable Riding Helmet

Hövding 3. The world's safest head protection is worn like a collar around the neck. In the event of an accident the airbag inflates to protect your head. The next generation in Swedish safety technology is here.

THE TECHNOLOGY

Created for cyclists, Equestrians will find this technology amazingly applicable. Hövding's accident detection system consists of an algorithm based on artificial intelligence technology. This algorithm is trained by providing it with data, corresponding to both accidents and non-accidents, to learn from.

When activated, Hövding records the cyclist or rider's movements 200 times per second; in the Event of an accident, the rider's abnormal movement is detected, and the airbag inflates in less than .01 second.

Hövding protects nearly all the head, while leaving the field of vision open. It is kept around the user's neck by a zipper holding it together in the front and keeping the airbag in place during inflation. The airbag fixates the neck and provides extremely soft and gentle shock absorption.



The pressure remains constant for several seconds, making it able to withstand multiple head impacts during the same accident. After that the airbag slowly starts to deflate. The gas inflator that inflates the airbag is a so-called cold gas inflator that uses helium. It is placed in a holder in the back system of the collar on the rider's back.

The activation system is a magnetic solution that puts the Hövding in active mode when the strap is inserted and a magnetic field is broken.



www.hovding.com



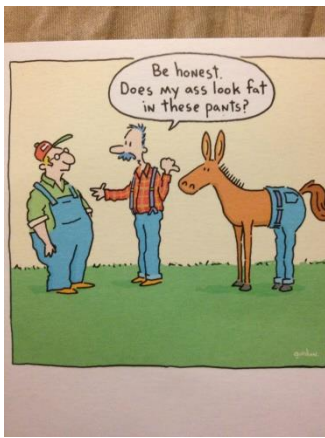
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New Items for August





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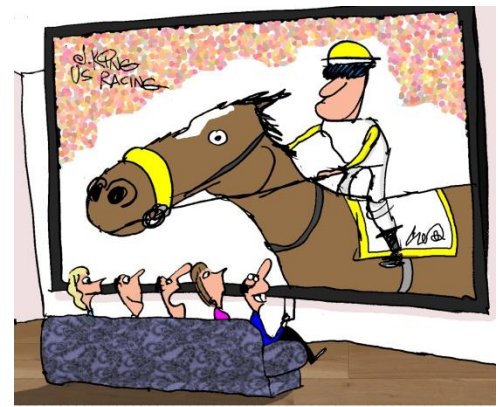
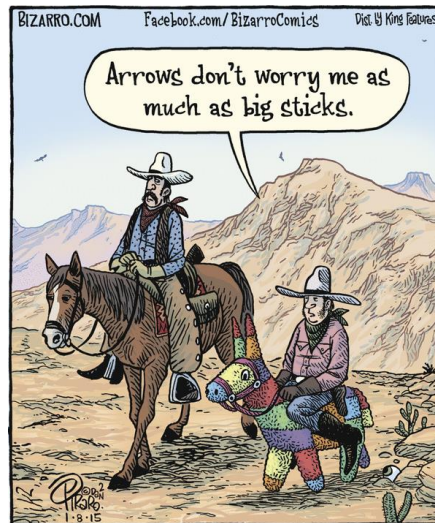
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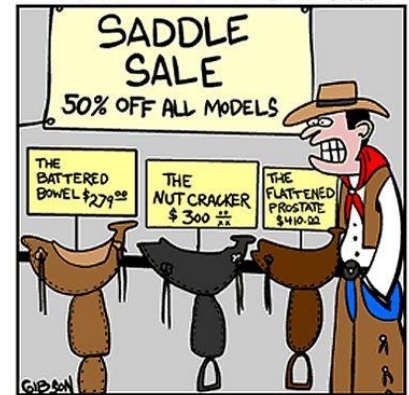


"I just had to see the Derby on a big screen. And yes, it would have been cheaper to buy tickets for the race."



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GiBBLEGUTS.COM By Dan Gibson



TOUCHED BY C. G. HEDENMAN

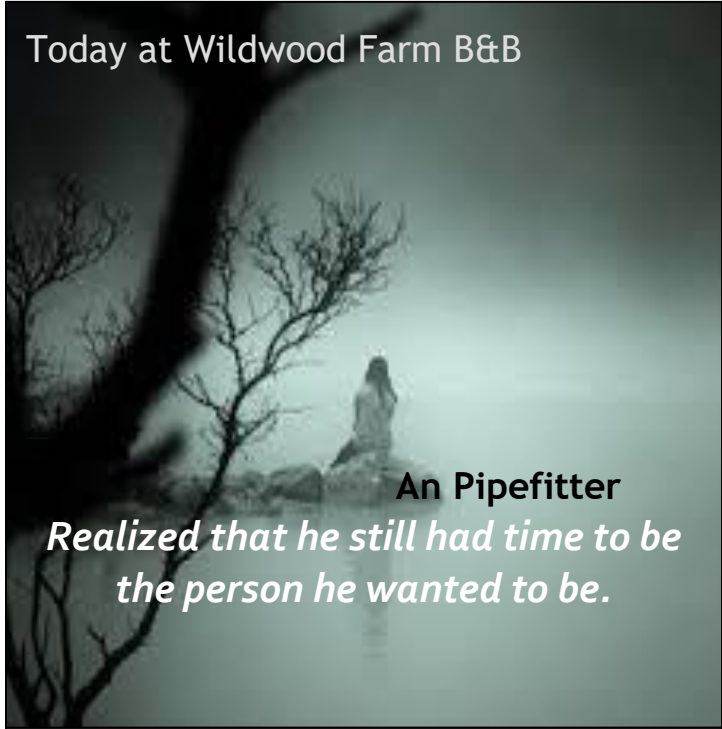


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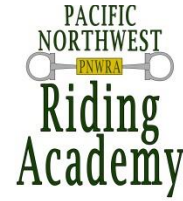
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**“In riding a horse
we borrow
freedom”.**

-Helen Thompson



**“A good rider can hear his
horse speak to him. A great
rider can hear him
whisper.”**

-author unknown



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 S C Y K R H O Q U E G B G U Q A Q C O E E M H M
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 I I V R U M G C I N N U A P P A L O O S A I M R
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 W I B V C A Z N M O R Y K Q O C G V R A C M I I
 A C E T Z A M F F H L I I C N Q W Q B Y S F X K

Gidran
 Breton
 Andalusian
 Morgan
 Paint Horse

Dutch Warmblood
 Baluchi
 American Saddlebred
 Friesian
 Quater horse

Comtois
 Azteca
 Clydesdale
 Mustang
 Thourabred

Brumby
 AngloArabian
 Gypsy Vanner
 Appaloosa
 Arabian

Nutrition Corner

High Fiber Options to Combat Drought.

This summer's drought has been devastating to our pastures, reducing hay crops and posing potentially serious horse care management challenges. In general, horses need to consume 1-2% of their body weight in hay every day. Poor pasture quality and quantity can mean fewer calories and nutrients in the hay being harvested, hay shortages and higher costs. We need to be prepared with good quality fiber alternatives, especially when looking toward the winter months. Luckily, there are a variety of forage and high fiber options that can help.

A horse's diet should consist of abundant forage or quality pasture. Ideally, longer stemmed hay is most desirable, like that of harvested hay prepared in small, large or round bales or what is offered to horses out on fresh pasture. Chopped hay is a great option to supplement or replace long stemmed hay. Look for chopped hay with a fiber length of 1-1.5" or longer to assure good gut motility and to give the "scratch factor" effect. This helps promote good gut health and gut muscular waves, known as peristalsis, that help move ingested forage through the digestive tract.

Forage cubes also work well to help supplement or replace the hay portion of the diet and provides a longer fiber length that is more desirable than feeding hay pellets. Historically, cubes consisted only of 100% alfalfa, but today there are a variety of combinations to meet owner and horse preferences.

Other fiber alternatives include shredded beet pulp and pelleted hays. These options have been used successfully as fiber supplements, but only under strict management guidelines. Beet pulp, for example, works very well for senior horses or those with metabolic issues due to its higher calorie content, low starch and sugar and ability to be soaked into a mash. These options work best when combined with a feed program that includes ration balancers to help ensure daily vitamins and mineral needs are met.

Horses should continue to get quality long stem hay or pasture for as long as they are able, but when these options are not possible, there are alternative worth looking at.

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 FOXY

Foxy's registered name was WF Moon Fyre, and she was the first foal born to our mare Luna Rainbow here at Wildwood Farm in 2007.

She was born chestnut and by the time she was two she started turning into a lovely dapple grey. Exceptionally athletic, she was registered as an Anglo Arabian – her sire was Foxfire BHF, a Scottsdale Signature stallion that turn out lovely sport horses.

Her dam gave her that thoroughbred conformation, and her sire gave her refinement and elegance – a really lovely combination. Foxy began her training when she was 3 and showed beautiful and effortless movement for jumping; she was sent to our trainer, Lee Dennie, for 3 months of training and although she could jump like a cat, she really did not enjoy it and would always need a very competent rider, so we brought her home and our resident trainer at the time – Lisa Weiss – gave her an excellent dressage foundation. Trisha Hurtado kept her going after Lisa left and continued to make great progress with her – by the time she was 5 she was the prettiest mare on the farm!



Foxy matured at 15.3 hands and we marketed her for sale as a sport horse/dressage horse. In 2012 she found her forever home with a young woman who owned a cattle ranch in Leavenworth and was looking for a horse she could ride endurance on. Foxy and she had an immediate bond and her fate was sealed – she was going to have a new home!

We still hear from her buyer from time to time telling us how thankful she was for finding Foxy and how they are still going strong on the trails!

INTERVIEW WITH ÁRNI BJÖRN PÁLSSON

One of the most successful riders in Iceland, he has won the tölt class at Landsmót three times, won the Meistaradeild competition series four times and was in the final of the fourgate at the World Champions in Berlin. He is also a very experienced breeder and shows numerous horses in breeding shows each year.

How did you first come into contact with Icelandic horses?

I was first introduced to horses at my grandparent's farm when I was just a toddler, there were around 30 horses on the farm including cows and sheep. My grandfather had a small horse breeding program, and was a great horseman himself. I started to ride horses there when I was a 6 yr old and I spent all of my summers when I was a youth there and every possible weekend, even though I needed to travel by bus alone. So my passion for horses started early.

Which horse taught you the most for your development as a competition rider and trainer?

I cannot pick one particular horse, there have been so many. My grandfather had a great tölt horse and I was influenced by that. The first horse that I got to compete with at a high level was a mare bred by my grandfather. Her name was Blökk Frá Teigi, she was very easy to collect, so she taught me what to search for while riding slow tempo tölt for example.

Which trainer influenced your riding style the most?

I have learned many good things from different people. It was a good step to go to Hólar University. It taught me to keep an open mind and taught me good basic things to build upon. But the person who has helped me the most is my fiancée Sylvia Sigubjörnsdóttir. We train together every day and help each other out.

Which exercise is most important in your daily training?

I cannot pick one particular exercise, all the exercises that help the horse to carry the rider in balance. The first exercise I teach the young horse is hindquarters out. But I probably use shoulder in the most in my daily work. Shoulder in is the most beneficial exercise to improve the tölt in my opinion. But all exercises need to be correctly executed in order to benefit the balance of the horse. It's one thing to learn an exercise and another thing to master it.

Who is your favorite Stallion?

My favorite stallion is Ljúfur frá Torfunesi, and the reason why is that he has a mindset of a champion, he has a great mind, very cooperative but at the same time forward-thinking, willing and light. He is a horse for everybody, I can compete with him at the highest level but he can also be ridden by a hobby rider or by

children. He has 10 for tölt in breeding shows and also Landsmót Champion in T1.

Can you describe your dream horse?

My dream horse would be quite big (around 145-150cm) with a round and high set neck and a strong topline, also with a very strong back and croup. High movements and best possible quality in all five gaits. A forward-thinking horse with a cooperative mind. In other words, I would like to combine the best horses I have ridden myself in one horse. And that would be the beauty and elegance of Katla frá Hemlu, the tölt of Stormur (T1-9.39) and Ljúfur (10 for tölt in FIZO), the trot from Svarta-Perla frá Álfhólum (9.5 trot in FIZO), the pace from Övar frá Gljúfri (10 for pace in FIZO), the gallop from Ljósvaki frá Valstrýu (10 for gallop in FIZO), the canter from Fenrir frá Feti (10 for canter in FIZO) and Flaumur frá Sólvangi (10 in V1), the walk from Kolka frá Breiðholti í Flóa (10 for walk in FIZO). Those are all horses I have trained and showed in FIZO and competition.

What do you see as the biggest success in your career?

There have been many great victories in the past few years. Winning tölt at Landsmót for the third time in a row was a big thing for me. But it's difficult to pick one particular moment because there have been so many, with amazing horses on the competition track, race track and in the breeding shows. I am Landsmót and Icelandic champion numerous times, I also won Meistaradeild four times, that is something nobody else has done. But the biggest success in my whole career is the knowledge I have gained by learning from other trainers and the great horses that have crossed my path. It really started to work out for me the moment I realized I'm only competing with myself and nobody else.

What do you think of the development of Icelandic Horse Riding in the last few years?

I think the Icelandic horse world is going in the right direction. We have been under the influence especially from the classical training methods. Which is a good thing in many ways, a horse is just a horse, even if it's Icelandic or another breed. Same things apply to riding all horses, that there is communication, understanding, balance and harmony. What we need to think about more is the knowledge of pace training, pace is just one of the five gaits and not more difficult to ride than the others if you have the right knowledge and practice. So teachers in the Icelandic horse world should gain more knowledge in training and showing pace to be able to pass it on to their students.

What advice would you give to young and inspiring competition riders?

Number 1 is to respect the horse as an individual, always try to understand the horse. Number 2 is to seek knowledge, learn from the best available trainers. Think positive, you have to believe in yourself, otherwise, nobody else will. Remember you are only competing with yourself and only you have control of your own thoughts and actions. Be humble but stay eager to learn and become better.

Johnston's J-Bar-B Stables

Las Vegas, Nevada

A private Las Vegas horse ranch adorned with whimsical artwork.



JUST 20 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF downtown Las Vegas, a private horse ranch and equestrian center is surrounded by whimsical, tasteful artwork. Bombs and cut-metal flowers decorate the property's side gate, while sheet metal cowboys and cowgirls can be seen atop various inner structures.

Old farm implements and horseshoes have been converted into decorations, with repeating silhouettes of horses, sunflowers and other designs added to the fences and buildings within. Much of it is painted in a white and blue color scheme.

Signs on the West Gowan side state the Johnston Stable has been there since 1961. The city has long since grown around the ranch, transforming into an outpost of desert country life now surrounded by the suburbs. It's best to view the unusual fence decorations from the road. The stables are a private boarding facility and trespassing is not permitted.

Know Before You Go

The ranch is clearly marked with private property signs. So, unless invited in, all the scrap metal artistry can be observed from the streets along the property, and from the dusty lot to its east.

CELEBRITIES ON HORSEBACK



ZAC EFFRON



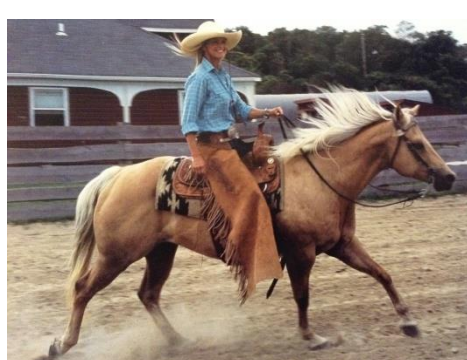
BRAD PITT



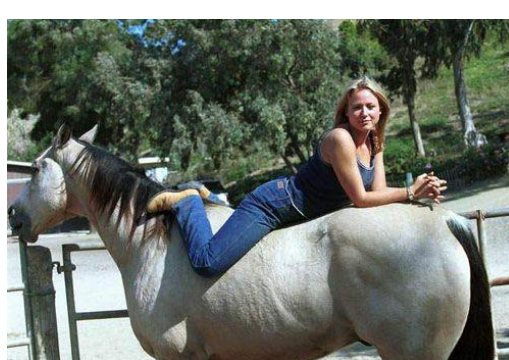
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COLLIN FAREL



RICHARD GERE



HUGH JACKMAN



JENNIFER LAWRENCE



NICOLE KIDMAN



SELENA GOMEZ

Grandfather Cuts Loose the Ponies

Quincy, Washington

This metallic stampede sits frozen on a Washington ridge yet the artist's vision is still incomplete.



TOWERING OVER AN OTHERWISE LONELY stretch of Interstate 90 in central Washington State are 15 life-sized, metal horses. The equines are suspended mid-gallop, their race along the ridge line of a steep cliff overlooking the Columbia River interrupted.

"Grandfather Cuts Loose the Ponies" is the unfinished work of artist David Govedare. Govedare's vision, when he installed the sculpture in 1989, was to have the horses galloping out of a giant, overturned basket. The idea was that the basket was overturned by the titular "Grandfather Spirit," gifting the stallions to the world. However due to a persistent lack of funding, the holy basket was never made and the now graffiti-marked horses are all that exist of Govedare's piece. Critics of the piece have noted that the giant basket would resemble a satellite dish which may be one the reasons the piece is continually unable to drum up the required funds.

Either way, the steel stallions that are in place have been seen by an estimated 100 million travelers from the nearby road, most of whom never even realize that the piece is unfinished. The 1,200 pound beasts are on public land and a close-up view of "Grandfather Cuts Loose the Ponies" (as well as a photo-friendly panorama of the Columbia River) are just an easy (but steep) one-mile hike from the parking lot at Exit 139.

Know Before You Go

Traveling east from Ellensburg, WA, take exit 139 (labeled "Scenic Viewpoint") off Interstate 90.

The Fantastic True History of Unicorns *contd from page 1*

called the "re'em" multiple times. The Greek scholars knew through context clues that the animal was strong, and it had one horn. This sounds a lot like a rhinoceros. But other passages put the re'em in the same category as cows and oxen. It describes the re'em calves skipping, which is not something baby rhinos tend to do, and it sounds more like a baby goat. Since the re'em had been hunted out of existence, no one could really pinpoint what this animal actually was. Since this sounded like a horse or goat-like creature with one horn, they translated it as "unicorn", because that was the closest word they knew that fit the description. Little did they know, adding the word unicorn caused generations of people to believe the Bible was giving them solid proof that these mythical creatures actually existed at one time in history.

Around the 1400's, The Middle Ages were in full swing, and Christianity was the main religion in Europe. Since nearly everyone was reading the Bible, unicorns became very fashionable. It was common for Renaissance artists to be commissioned to paint portraits of upper-class ladies with pet unicorns. Even Leonardo Da Vinci drew a sketch of a woman with a unicorn. One painting by Raphael shows a woman holding a pet unicorn, which was painted over the original image of her lap dog.

Later, in the 17th Century, The Catholic Church was going through a lot of changes. The painting by Raphael was covered up and turned into Saint Catherine. In her lap, she held the wheel of torment, which symbolized how she died. The church was so embarrassed by the mix-up in translations, that they wanted to replace the history of unicorns with stories of saints. They also edited out the word "unicorn" completely from newer editions of the Bible.

Since the church wanted evidence to be erased, we may never get to see all of the whimsical unicorn-related artwork that once existed. However, many pieces still survived in private collections that passed down the works from generation to generation.

The Mysterious Unicorn Tapestry

The Cloisters is a castle in the middle of New York City that was once owned by the wealthy Rockefeller family. It is now managed by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Walking through its doors feels as though you have stepped back in time somewhere in Europe. One of the many art pieces that the museum has on display is a huge tapestry that depicts the full details of hunters who captured unicorn.

In the beginning of the story, hunters spotted a unicorn in the forest that purified water with its horn. All of the other animals in the forest began to drink from the stream, too. It was captured in the wild and placed in a "hortus conclusus", or fenced garden. A young maiden sets the unicorn free, and the hunters are angry with her. They go after the creature with their hunting dogs. The unicorn fights back, stabbing one of the dogs with its horn. The hunters realize that the unicorn no longer trusts them, and it will never go with them to the fenced garden, so they have to kill it with their spears, and take its horn to possess its power. There are chunks of the tapestry missing, but there are small clues as to what the rest of the story may have been.

There are two ways to interpret this story- literally, and figuratively. Someone who was looking for evidence of real unicorns one point in history could take this as proof that they were a species that did actually exist, but they were hunted to the point of extinction, because of the belief that their horns were magical.

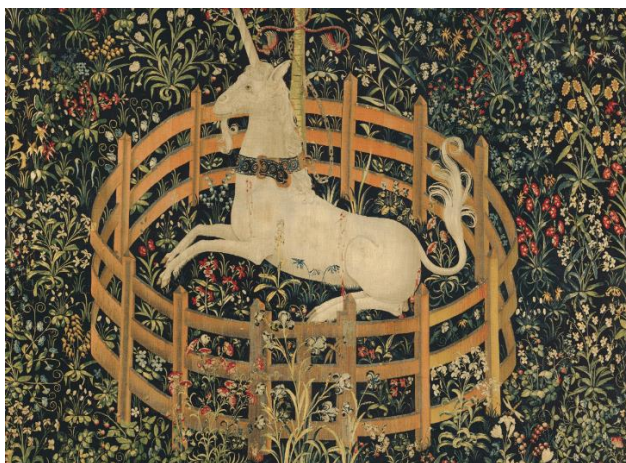
The figurative version of this tapestry comes from the strong surge in Christianity during the middle Ages. Some historians believe that the whole story on the tapestry of the unicorn and the hunters was fiction, and it was one big allegory for Adam and Eve. They interpret the maiden as Eve, who released the innocent unicorn from the fenced garden, similar to the act of original sin in the Garden of Eden. The wounds that the hunters inflict on the unicorn are reminiscent of Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of the world. There is a much smaller tapestry in a different collection with a very similar scene, but all of the details are given very clear Biblical labels, so that there is no room for interpretation. However, it seems like a copy of the original that now hangs at The Cloisters. It is possible to find Biblical overtones in almost every single story, even *Harry Potter*. But that doesn't necessarily mean that was the creator's intention.

In 1827, the first giraffe made its way overseas to France, and it was put on display at a zoo. This was a shock to all of the people who had been skeptical of its existence. In the minds of those people, if a giraffe was real, what's to stop a unicorn

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from being real? How much stranger is it, really, for a horse to have a horn? Especially when creatures like goats and rams have horns, it makes the idea far less crazy, and more like the possibility that there was a long-lost species at some point in time. This is why, even in the 1800's to early 1900's, fantasy authors have still included unicorns in their stories with a hopeful attitude that maybe, one day, there will be evidence to prove that they exist.



Today, the **Arabian Oryx** is the closest animal that you can compare to a Unicorn. They are known for their many similarities, and some describe them as the "Prototype" of these beasts. They grow two horns extending up to 75cm(29in) long, white with a dark tail, and have cloven hooves. They may not have magical powers in their "horns," but they can sense rainfall and migrate towards it, which can be mythical to many individuals.

