



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

August 2023

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Vikings and their Horses

August 4, 2023 Keith Ruiter and Harriet Evans

Is your pet part of the family? That's nothing new. Archeological evidence exists to suggest that the Vikings held their own animals in high – even intimate – regard, taking them with them on voyages. Earlier this year, scientific evidence found for the first time that – as early as the ninth century – Vikings brought horses, dogs and other animals with them across the North Sea.

The prevailing assumption had been that enterprising Viking armies had simply acquired horses (along with other items of plunder) in their raids on the British Isles. But these findings suggest that the depth of the relationships Viking-Age people had with animals has been dramatically underrepresented.

But why? After all, the vast majority of people – Scandinavian or otherwise – living through the Viking Age relied on farming to survive. Why has it taken so long for researchers to realize that these

humans and animals sustained deep, complex, emotional and mutually enriching relationships?

Past societies cared about humans, animals and things differently. Some humans could be owned, even viewed as objects and valued far less than some animals. In our research, we use both archaeology and texts to show that some horses in communities such as those of Viking Age Scandinavia and Iceland could be seen as “people” themselves, capable of agency and worthy of careful and deliberate treatment.

Horses in human graves

Horses in the Viking Age were seen as liminal creatures, meaning they were capable of crossing physical and conceptual boundaries, travelling over different terrains, and even between worlds. They also held cosmological significance.

Norse poetry depicts the god Odin riding to the land of the dead on his eight-legged horse Sleipnir. A newly-discovered bracteate – or pendant –

bearing a runic inscription from Denmark might also suggest an association between Odin (or at least someone who identifies himself as “Odin’s man”) and a horse companion as far back as the early fifth century AD.

Historically, horse bodies in Viking-Age burials have been interpreted as symbolic of the journey to the afterlife, part of the possessions of the deceased in the afterlife, or as status symbols. But these interpretations miss something vital – the bond between horse and rider.

Horses have special relationships with their riders, as both have to learn to work with each other. In Norse poetry (some of which links to the Viking Age) horses were a vital part of warrior identities.

Legendary poems about the heroes Helgi and Sigurd depict heroes who are almost inseparable from their horse companions.

Grani, the horse of Sigurd the dragon-slayer for example, is depicted mourning Sigurd after his

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

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Stable climate optimization

A deep breath of clean air refreshes and motivates. Just the thought of clear air and a good portion of invigorating oxygen gives you a kick and new strength. This is especially true for enclosed environments, such as horse stables, with air that is filled with dust, odors and maybe even germs. This will of course, have an impact on the horses living in it.

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Tiny water molecules are sprayed floating in the room. This finest mist binds unwanted particles such as dust, bacteria or viruses in the air and ensures a clean room climate, a pleasant temperature and humidity. Irritations of the respiratory tract and mucous membranes are thus reduced. In addition, the system offers modern options for disinfection or the use of additional active substances to extend a health effect. At the same time, the self-contained system is hygienically absolutely safe. This makes your stable an all-round oasis of well-being.



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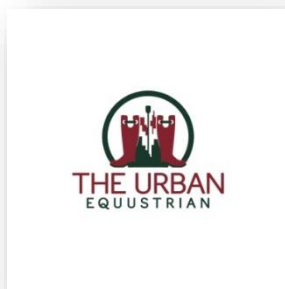
R&AIR Care adapts to your individual needs and the situation in your stable. Different operation modes, such as cooling, dust binding, humidity regulation or feeding, can be conveniently selected via a central control panel. The preset parameters also take spraying duration and spraying pauses into account. For unplannable events, the appropriate performance features can be controlled in manual mode. A dosing station can be used to add beneficial additives to the spray mist, e.g. for air washing, healing support for respiratory diseases or disinfection.

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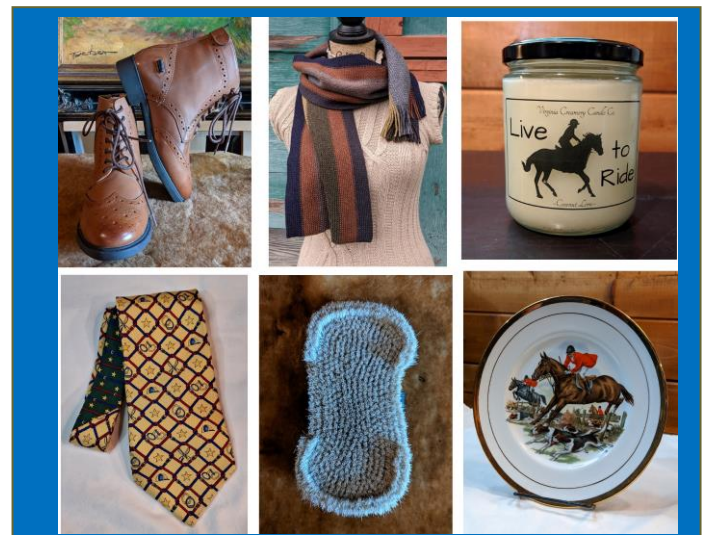


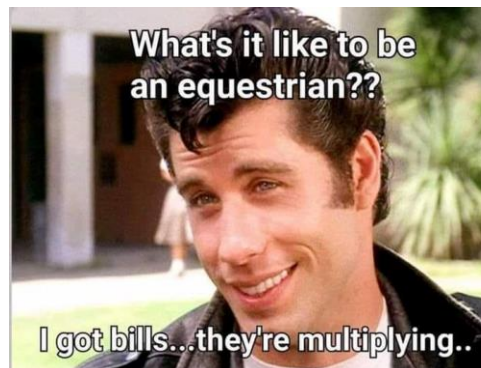
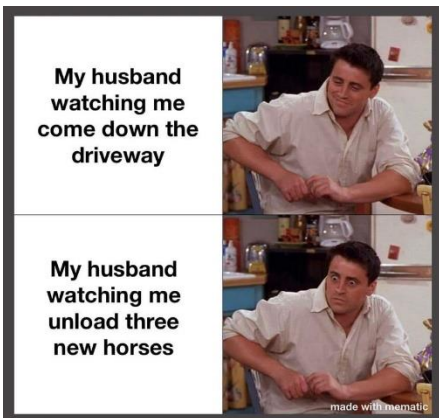
Our Store is currently open by Appointment



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www.thenoblehorsevintage.com

New Items for August





"Do what you love & the money will follow"

Ate pizza, took a 5 hour nap in my underwear, & took selfies with my horse...

Now I wait



When you haven't been riding for a while and you start again...



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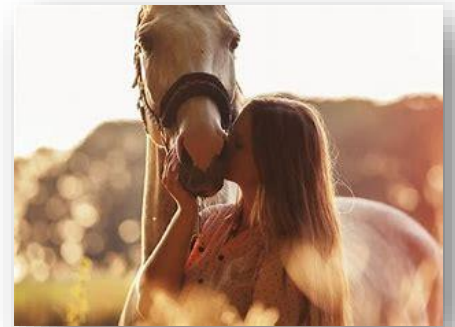
WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PNWA
Riding Academy



“Your horse is a mirror to your soul. Sometimes you might not like what you see. Sometimes you will.”

-Buck Brannaman



“I smile when I catch God watching me through the eyes of a horse.”

-Kevin Weatherby



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PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

AMONG PEOPLE

By David Romtvedt

Alone after working all day among people,
tired, I fall asleep on the couch, radio
playing softly. Voices come toward me —
“Attention!” and I sleepily turn the radio off.
But they continue, “Attention! You are directed
to leave this area. We are under nuclear attack.
Proceed south as quickly as possible. This
is not a test. We are under attack.
Please remain calm.”

Half asleep, heart beating hard
so my throat feels the lump, I get up
and open the door — dusty air and the red trails
of light percolating through it as a car
moves slowly up the road. No one in sight.

Groggy, I run to the horses,
saddle Trouble, put halters on the others,
ready to ride when I feel a fresh wind
on my face, clouds blowing away.
I look up at the stars and clear sky,
the silence and, awake, realize
someone is playing a joke.

I ride Trouble hard in the pasture,
let him run full speed toward a fence,
lean as he turns hard and gallops
the fence line. Around and around
the dark pasture until he slows on his own.
I get off and, eyes closed, without a brush,
rub him down with my hands — back and belly,
neck, mane, tail. I whisper in his ear,
press my lips to his face to taste the oils
in his hair. Dropping the saddle pad
on the ground and pulling Trouble’s blanket
over my chest, I go to sleep in a field of horses,
the smell of their skin and sweat
rushing up my nose.

Nutrition Corner

Common Feeding Mistakes with older horses

Older horses require adjustments to their feeding program or special management as their needs change over time. It can be tricky to determine the right combination of feed and care for them, particularly if they have digestive challenges, poor teeth or lameness issues. If you're feeding a senior horse, here are some common mistakes to avoid:

DISREGARDING DIGESTION

Horse's digestive systems slow down with age and disregarding how some feeds and forages can be digested can cause issues for your senior horse. Mature hays with tougher and stemmy fiber do not digest as easily in a senior horse's hindgut and may be difficult to chew if they have poor dentition. Hay should be of high quality with softer stem, and feed should be well processed so it is easier to digest and absorb essential nutrients.

OVERLOADING VITAMINS & MINERALS

Slower digestion can mean your horse is not absorbing the nutrients they need. Because of this, supplementing things like fat and fiber maybe necessary for your aging horse. However, it is possible to over supplement certain nutrients.

Be sure to check your feed and forages as they may already be fortified with enough micronutrients to balance nutrition levels.

NOT MONITORING TEETH

Teeth breaking down feed is the first stop for all nutrition in the digestive system—called mastication. As horses age their teeth change and can wear unevenly. Senior horses have problems chewing or even experience pain while chewing because of this. Consider switching to chopped forage to make chewing easier, or preparing feed as a mash; feeding on the ground is very important to help prevent choke. Finally, schedule regular equine dental visits.

NOT PRIORITIZING HYDRATION

Senior horses tend to get dehydrated more easily than their younger counterparts, particularly in the winter months. Besides assuring your horse has access to fresh water at all times, adding water to their feed to create a mash will encourage hydration and entice them to eat something warm in the colder months.

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 JACKS SOLITAIRE GOLD

In late summer 2002 we had not yet purchased Wildwood Farm and Gregg was looking for a good horse for his daughter, Lauren, who was 13, and we tried a couple of previous horses for but neither turned out to be the right one.

The morning of August 8th we had circled 6 horse ads that we intended to go and look at, everything from an American Saddlebred gelding to a bombproof morgan mare. After 4 visits with disappointing results, we decided to try one more place who was advertising a horse named Jack that was a 13 yr old quarter horse who was good on trails and was was a solid 4-H /State Fair horse. He looked promising.

When we called to let the seller know we were on our way, she tried to talk us out of him when she found out we were looking at him for a 13 yr old girl – she said he was probably not the best horse for her. We decided to go see him anyway.

Jack turned out to be an amazing horse and was very

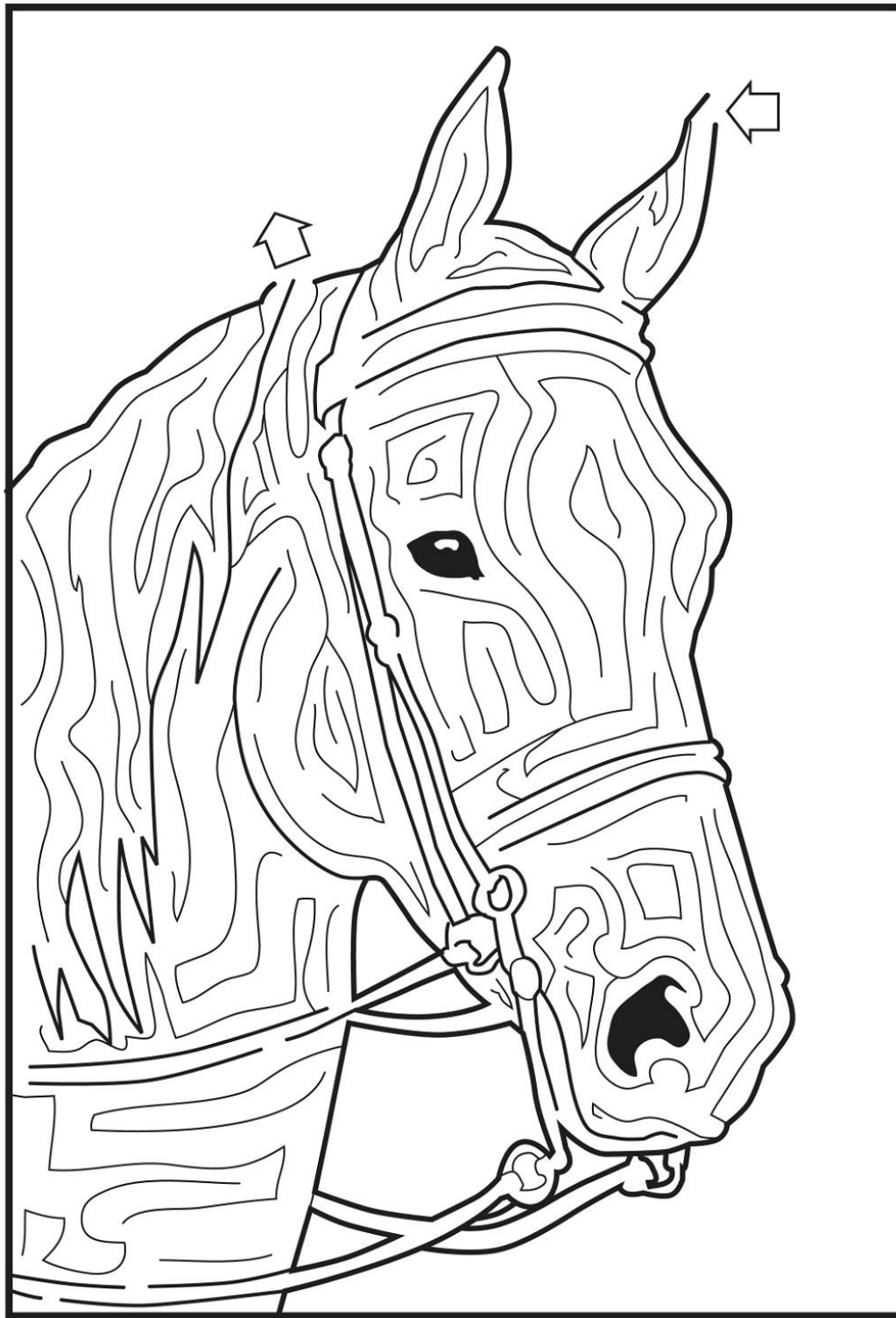


Well trained and gentle with Lauren; he had found his new home with us.

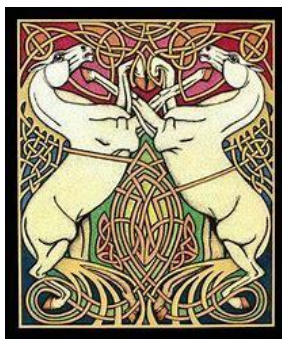
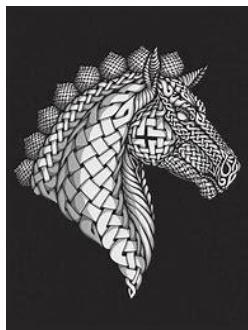
As Lauren grew up Jack was slowly converted to our lesson program and over the years Jack proved himself to be an amazing addition, really the foundation horse that started it all for us at Wildwood Farm. He did everything from summer camps, riding lessons for all ages, trail rides, horse shows, birthday parties; he was unbeatable in his steady and forgiving way with beginners, but unbeatable if you knew how to ride. He was used as a demo horse for jousting, police horse training and weddings.

Jack was with us until he passed in 2016 at the age of 27, and is still remembered fondly by all the students he taught how to ride and to love horses.

FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE HORSE HEAD MAZE!



THE CELTIC HORSE IN ART



The Last Remaining Sigma Derby Machine

Las Vegas, Nevada

Fans of vintage Vegas, kitsch, and toy pony-based gambling now flock to a casino called The D.



ONCE A COMMON SIGHT ON casino floors across Las Vegas and beyond, Sigma Derby has become a symbol of Sin City's fading past and a beloved cult icon in its own right. Low rollers and fans of vintage Vegas, kitsch, and toy pony-based gambling now flock to The D to pay their respects and loose change to the last machine of its kind.

The brainchild of the now-defunct Sigma Game Inc., Derby offered a fun new take on the average slot machine experience when it debuted in 1985. Instead of inserting your coins, pulling a lever, and hoping that three symbols aligned, you could wager quarters on mechanical horses, watch them race around a miniature track, and win somewhere between two and 200 times your bet if your combination came in. It soon caught on with gamblers and casinos and flourished well into the 1990s. Caesars had a version with chariots. The Luxor had camels.

Although it's hard to pinpoint the exact date when Sigma Game Inc. stopped producing new models, Derby fans started to notice that machines were disappearing in the early 2000s. As the remaining machines became harder and more costly to maintain, many casinos stopped trying. New, high tech (and higher priced) horse-racing games such as Royal Derby and Fortune Cup have started to appear in their place, but most loyal Derby fans feel these new games lack the charm of the original.

Sigma's story isn't over just yet, though. The Derby that currently resides at The D, purchased and completely refurbished shortly after the casino opened in 2012, is still going strong. Even though finding parts for the machine—and finding people who know how to work with those parts—is becoming increasingly challenging, The D's owner, Derek Stevens, remains committed to keeping the ponies running as long as possible.

Know Before You Go

Unlike almost every other slot machine in casinos, Sigma Derby still runs on coins. So be sure to bring your quarters.

The Narragansett Pacer



The Narragansett Pacer was one of the first recorded horse breeds developed in the United States. It emerged in the 18th century (1700s), and was theorized to have been bred from a mix of English and Spanish breeds, although the exact cross is unknown. The Pacer was associated with, and bred in, the state of Rhode Island and the area of New England; as horse breeding shifted to Kentucky and Tennessee in the late 1700s, it became extinct by the 20th century.

Narragansett Pacer horses were owned and ridden by many famous people of the American Revolutionary War era, including President George Washington, Paul Revere, and others. The last known purebred Pacer is thought to have died around 1880, though the breed disappeared earlier from pedigrees in the late 1700s or early 1800s.

The Pacer was known as a sure-footed, dependable breed, although not flashy or always good-looking. Pacers were used for racing and general riding. They provided the foundation for several other American breeds, including the Morgan and the Standardbred; and, through the Morgan, the American Saddlebred and Tennessee Walking Horse as well. Narragansett Pacers also served as Canadian horse foundation stock; and, through unnamed Canadian horse and Morgan horse stallions, also influenced the Chincoteague Pony of Virginia

The English horses which contributed to the Narragansett Pacer may have been members of the Irish Hobby breed; another possible ancestor is the Galloway pony. In the early 18th century, Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor William Robinson began the serious development of the breed with a stallion named "Old Snip", speculated to be either an Irish Hobby or an Andalusian, and considered the father of the breed. As such, the Narragansett Pacer may be related to the Florida Cracker Horse, the Carolina Marsh Tacky, the Banker horse, and other gaited horse breeds descended from the Colonial Spanish horse.

The Narragansett Pacer was not exclusively a pacing horse, as evidence indicates that it exhibited an ambling gait. The amble is more comfortable to ride than the pace gait, and Narragansett Pacers were known for their qualities as riding and driving horses. They averaged around 14.1 hands (57 inches, 145 cm) tall, and were generally chestnut in color. James Fenimore Cooper described their conformation as such: "They have handsome foreheads, the head clean, the neck long, the arms and legs thin and tapered."

They were very spirited, and carried both the head and tail high. But what is more remarkable is that they ambled with more speed than most horses trot, so that it was difficult to put some of them upon a gallop. Other viewers of the breed rarely called them stylish or good-looking, although they considered them dependable, easy to work with, and sure-footed.

Cont'd from page 1)

Death.

Evidence of partnerships between humans and horses has been found in burials from across northern Europe, from the grand ship burials of Ladby and Gokstad, to the equestrian burials of tenth-century Denmark, to the more modest human-horse burials in Viking-Age Iceland. But horses weren't just buried with men.

At Trekroner-Grydehøj in Sjælland, Denmark, a woman was buried with a horse next to her, one leg partially overlapping with the human body. Something about this human and this horse meant such an intimate arrangement was appropriate.

The woman is thought to have been a ritual specialist, possibly a sorceress, buried with an iron-tipped copper rod and a range of other objects including some knives, a bucket and a small wooden box. A large flat stone, a dog which had been cut in half and some sheep bones, as well as some iron pins (possibly for fastening baggage to a saddle) and a dog chain completed the burial.

At Løve in Vestfold, Norway, a tenth-century burial also has a horse laid next to a woman. Like the woman at Trekroner-Grydehøj, they are thought to have been a ritual specialist. But the woman wasn't the only one buried with the tools of her trade. An iron rangle (a metal ring with smaller rings attached to it) was laid on the chest of the horse buried alongside her. When attached to wagon harnesses or bridles, the metal rings would jingle. It is thought that it may have played a role in Viking-Age rituals.

Were these women buried with these horses because they had special relationships? Or because they were sorceresses? Or did being a sorceress entail close relationships with these animals? We believe that, among other rituals, horses appear to have been vital participants in the processes and practices of funerals.

GOOD TO DIE WITH, GOOD TO LIVE WITH

Research shows that relationships with horses have a host of benefits, especially for young people. It's interesting then, that there is a repeated insistence in Norse poetry and medieval sagas that young men should practice horse grooming and training. Horses are considered partners in farming and often even members of families in these texts.

The 13th-century saga Bjarnar Saga Hítðœlakappa even depicts a woman who appears to benefit from a medieval form of equine-assisted therapy, finding relief from her ailment by sitting on her horse as it is led around a field: The most relief was offered to her by sitting on horseback, as Bjarnar led her horse back and forth, and he did so, even though it was a great pain to him, as he wanted to try to comfort her.

In a time of ecological upheaval, looking to the past to understand the relationships humans have had with animals can inspire different approaches to the present and the future. Given a recent victory by Māori activists granting legal personhood and rights to a river, looking for historical analogies, such as the Vikings and their horses, can encourage us all to continue to push for more responsible relationships with the non-human world.

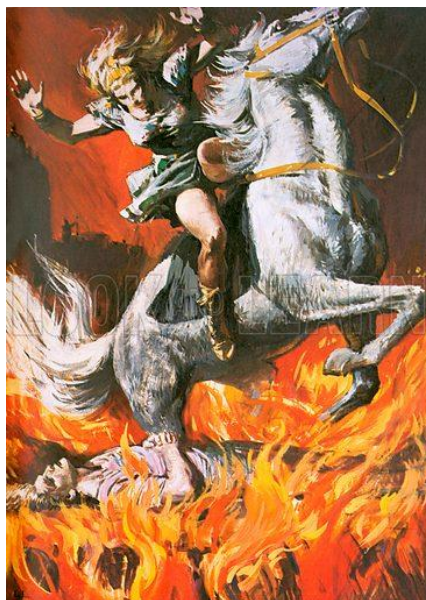
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MYTHOLOGICAL VIKING HORSES



Sleipnir



Grani



Hófvarpnir:

Sleipnir is perhaps the most famous horse in Norse mythology. As Odin's eight-legged steed, Sleipnir is considered the best among horses. He's described as able to travel across land, sea, air, and even the world of the dead. Sleipnir's unusual form symbolizes his ability to transcend normal physical boundaries.

Grani is the horse of the hero Sigurd, who killed the dragon Fafnir. Grani is a descendant of Sleipnir and is known for his loyalty and courage. The horse played a pivotal role in several of Sigurd's adventures, including his quest to win the hand of the Valkyrie Brynhildr.

Hófvarpnir: This horse belongs to the goddess Gná, who serves Frigg, the queen of the Aesir gods. Hófvarpnir can travel through the air and over water, similar to Sleipnir. His name translates to "hoof-thrower" or "hoof-flinger."