



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

January 2024

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

THE DANCING HORSES OF SYBARIS

Long ago, more than 2,500 years in the past, the city of Sybaris flourished on the heel of what is now Italy. Situated on a bustling line of Greek trade, Sybaris was where seagoing merchants unloaded their precious cargo for distribution along the Western coast. The customs and tolls from the Greeks' inexorable enterprise made Sybaris one of the richest towns in the ancient world. According to the historian Diodorus Siculus, the population of 300,000 enjoyed such wealth that all physical labor was done by slaves. Meanwhile, proper citizens wrapped themselves in costly robes and retired to luxurious homes, where they spent their days consuming all manner of exotic meats, pastries and confections. (This is where the word sybarite comes from: one who devotes her life to epicurean pursuits.) So coddled were the citizens of Sybaris that men whose work was disturbingly loud — such as

blacksmiths — were forbidden to work in the city lest they disturb the napping of the blissfully unemployed. Some roads in the most affluent areas, we are told, were covered with awnings to shield citizens from the indignities of rain and Mediterranean sunlight. It was not unheard of for certain noblemen to possess 1,000 servants. Not until America of the 20th Century would there be a place with so many millionaires per capita.

For amusement, the Sybarites taught their war horses to dance to martial music, like circus animals. These finely bred horses were taught to prance and arch their necks and skip to the tunes of the appointed orchestra, and many an afternoon was spent watching these fine animals in their training pursuits with lazy onlookers amused and entertained by the feats. To say these animals put on a show doesn't give the full experience any justice, and it was most certainly the predecessor to the Barnum & Baily circus horse training antics of more modern times and perhaps where

the Spanish Riding School in Vienna got their inspiration.

Unfortunately, around 500 B.C., Sybaris went to war with its neighbor to the East, Crotona, whose natural harbor between Sicily and the North, proved inconveniently competitive on the trade route. When a spy reported to the Crotoniates that he had seen all the horses in Sybaris dancing to the music of a pipe, the Croton general saw his opportunity at once. He sent into the Sybarite territories a large company of shepherds and fifers armed with nothing but flutes and shepherds' pipes, while a little way behind them marched the rank and file of the Crotoniate army. When the Sybarites heard that the enemy's forces were coming, they marshaled their cavalry - the finest in the world at that time - and sallied forth to meet them. They thought it would be fine sport to send the Crotoniates scampering back across the fields into their own country; and half of Sybaris went out to see the fun. What an odd sight it must have been - a thousand fancifully dressed

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

HORSEPAL BLANKET SENSOR

Horsepal® is a revolution in horse management. Developed by Horsepal Ltd, Horsepal® is a stable and horse management app that connects to a sensor designed to fit any blanket. It allows owners to monitor their horse's temperature, humidity and activity from their mobile phone or desktop and stores the history of their horse's well-being.

Horsepal® Comfort Sensor is very straightforward. Simply attach the sensor provided to your horse's blanket ensuring that the sensor is close to the horse's skin. This sensor will monitor the temperature and the humidity inside of your horse's rug, monitor horse activity and collect data for you to download and review using the Horsepal® App. You can also clip the Comfort Sensor to the Horsepal Heart Rate Belt and in when your horse is in training work, collect data such as Horse Heart Rate, percentage of Walk, Trot and Canter. etc.



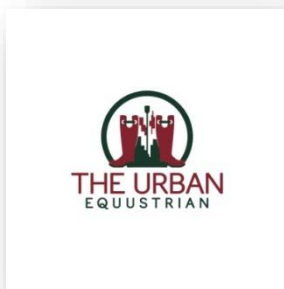
Your Horsepal® Account can be created in the application or on the website. Once the account is created, you can use same account to login in the app or on the website. You can create your account by using your own email address, Facebook, Google or Apple login.

By collecting this data, you can monitor your horse's comfort levels, ensuring that you are blanketing your horse correctly, giving you peace of mind. You can even add users, such as a stable manager, grooms or family members, and have them send you data while you're travelling or away from the yard.

For more information and how-to videos visit www.horsepal.com

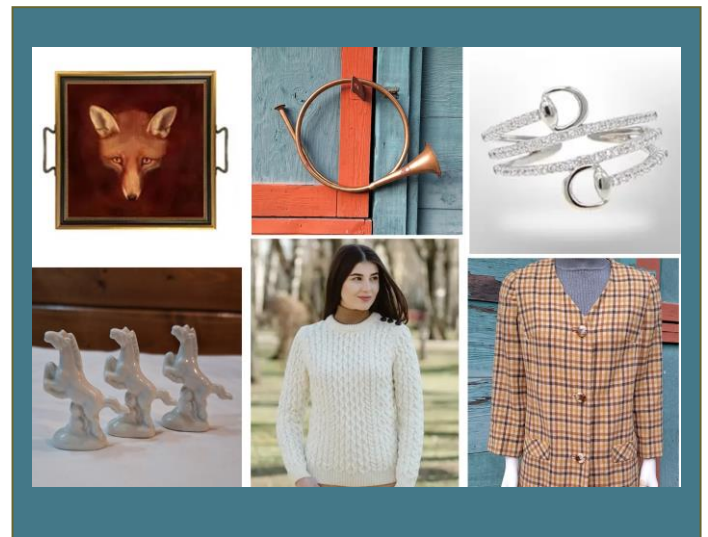


Our Store is currently open by Appointment



Shop Online!
www.noblehorsegallery.com

New Items for January



How my horse sees puddles



A friend asked me what it was like to own a horse... so I stomped on her toes, took all her money, put hay in her bra & told her to come back tomorrow to do it all over again.

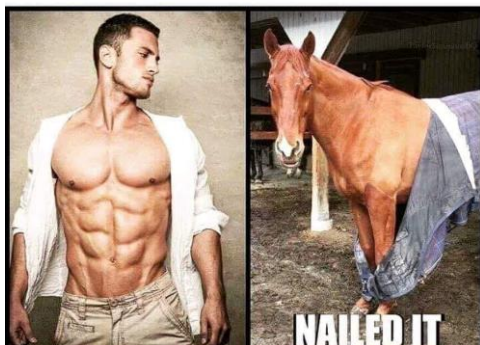
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@borninthebarn



ONE HORSE MIGHT NOT FIX ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, BUT FIVE WILL. OR THEY MIGHT CAUSE SO MANY PROBLEMS THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR OLD PROBLEMS.

SO MAYBE JUST GET SIX.

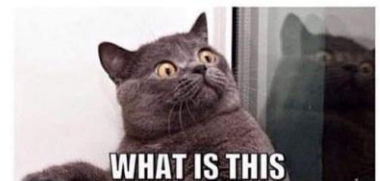


You know that tingly feeling you get while horse shopping?



That's common sense leaving your body.

An accurate picture of My horse at a show:



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



An Anthropologist learned

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.

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.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

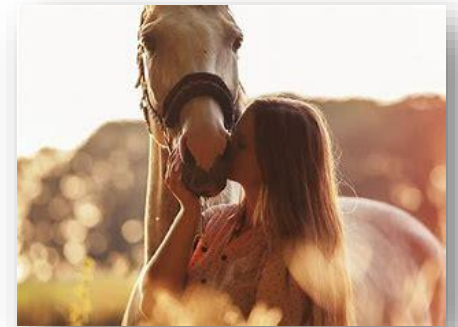
WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

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



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

AS A GIRL, I thought horses were magical, graceful, powerful. I would run in the field across from my house, imagining I was a horse, galloping through the grass. I read all the horse books I could find at the town library.

I wanted horseback-riding lessons in the worst way, but my father thought my desire was snobbish, in part because the only nearby place to get them was a venerable — and snobby — country club. My father said that if I got good grades, I would be allowed to take lessons, but we always fought about it. During these arguments, my mother would sit at the table, casting a distant look through the curl of her cigarette smoke, and offer no opinion.

I eventually met a woman who boarded horses in a small stable behind her house. I would walk or bike to see her, helping out in any way I could. She taught me how to bridle and saddle the animals, how to pick their hooves clean without hurting them, how to curry them until their coats gleamed. I oiled the tack and mucked the stalls, all so I could take her Tennessee walker out in the woods for a ride.

When my mother found out about this, she forbade me from going to the stable and called the woman a gypsy.

Finally, my unhappiness wore down my parents' resistance, and we all went horseback riding together as a family at a local stable. It was a raw April day, and the parking lot was mud and ice. The sun's glare hurt my eyes so much that I could barely see the horses to tell which one was best.

The ride leader, a dashing young man with dark hair, rode a handsome, spirited horse and held another horse by the reins: one of the most beautiful creatures I had ever seen, with a fine, arched neck, prancing dancing feet, and a tail like a fountain.

His own horse bursting with energy beneath him, the ride leader yelled, "Does anybody know how to ride? I need a seasoned rider for this mount."

As much as I yearned to speak up, my neck and face burned with shame that I would even for a second consider myself worthy. I was an amateur.

I was assigned an ordinary horse, not bad, but nothing like that horse. I stayed all the way in the back of the line, apart from my family. The horses walked nose to tail through the woods for about an hour, made a loop, and headed back the way we came. I might have had more fun galloping through the woods on my own two feet, but I didn't complain: I was getting what I wanted, a chance to ride.

By now, the sun had risen in the sky and no longer glared in my eyes. I could see clearly the two lead horses and their riders, talking and laughing. One, of course, was the young ride leader. When the other rider turned her laughing face to me, I felt a wave of hot, confused emotion. It was my mother, completely at home on that magnificent horse.

I found out that, when she was a girl, she'd had her own horse, a thoroughbred. But she waved off the rest of the story. "Forget it," she said. "It's in the past. And anyway, it's none of your business."

Pamela B.

Jeffersonville, New York

Nutrition Corner

SOYBEAN MEAL IN PROCESSED FEED

For years soybeans and soybean by-products have maintained their position as the go-to protein source in horse feeds. In addition to the total protein they provide to feeds, soybeans have another distinct advantage over other common protein sources: they have a beneficial complement of amino acids, particularly the limiting amino acids and specifically lysine," said Kathleen Crandell, Ph.D., a nutritionist with Kentucky Equine Research (KER).

Soybean meal is the most common form of soy in horse feeds. A by-product of soybean oil extraction, the meal is derived through one of two processes: pressure (expellers) or solvent extracted (the most common soybean meal). Soybean meal can be found with the hulls (44% protein) or without (48% protein). Both products will have less than 10% fat.

Horses should not be offered raw soybeans because they contain a specific enzyme that acts as a trypsin inhibitor; trypsin is an important enzyme involved in the digestion of many proteins. Once soybeans are roasted or processed for meal, the inhibitor is denatured and does no harm, according to Crandell. Processing soybeans does not affect the quality of the protein.

Meet OLIVER'S SWIFT

In April of 2011 Wildwood Farm welcomed 3 new foals, and perhaps the most charismatic of the trio was Oliver, a purebred thoroughbred colt.

His dam was Gotta Habbit, a thoroughbred mare we rescued at an auction who had an amazing race record before she was cast away, crippled and damaged, at the age of 4. She was bred twice to the thoroughbred stallion Private Gold, with Nacho Grande being her first foal -a hard-case street kid from the get go with a huge competitive edge. No so for Oliver – he could not have been more opposite of his brother. Gentle, kind, quiet...although they looked quite similar, their dispositions were not even close.

Oliver was a pleasure to raise and train, never a bad mood or behavior. He was the barn favorite that year for sure and when he would trot around the arena carrying his lead rope in his mouth he offered adorable entertainment as well!

Are a lot of horses allergic to soybeans?

Horses can be allergic to any feed ingredient containing protein (hay, grass, or grain). They can also have allergic reactions to many things such as dust, bedding, and blankets within their environment. With this being said, documented reports of food allergies in horses are rare.

Does soy have any estrogenic effects?

Soybeans contain one source of phytoestrogen. Because most naturally occurring estrogenic substances show weak activity, normal consumption of foods that contain these phytoestrogens should not provide sufficient amounts to elicit a physiological response. There is evidence in animal models that phytoestrogen exposure at high levels can have consequences for reproductive health. The amount of soybean meal incorporated in equine diets is minor compared to the rates used in studies inducing reproductive issues.

Note: Genetic modification (GMO) of soybeans has led to a decrease in the use pesticides and herbicides. Data have confirmed that GMO plants are safe for animal feeds.

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



Oliver grew into a very handsome yearling, and although short on stature (about 14.2 hands as a yearling) he was built quite powerfully with a huge hind quarter and a wide, open chest; high-set neck and deep, expressive eyes. He was often mistaken for a Quarter Horse by his many admirers.

We had plans to race Oliver in his 2-going-on 3-year old year, but we were contacted by a person who saw him when visiting the farm and she would not take no for an answer – she wanted to buy him and train him for eventing for a young rider program she ran. He was the perfect size and temperament, and had fantastic bloodlines.

In 2014 Oliver went to his new home in Ohio and proved a very successful eventer, and is still owned by this owner. He has taken and continues to take many young riders to the championship ring and is beloved at his barn.

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCES?



BESTEST NON-HORSE BUDDIES!



Lunt Roman Fort

Baginton, England

This reconstructed ancient fort was home to one of the few horse training rings in the Roman Empire.



DATING BACK TO THE FIRST century, this ancient Roman fort near Coventry, England, was unearthed in the 1930s after numerous Roman ceramics were discovered at the site. Excavations revealed that the site originally functioned as an army camp occupied by a complete Roman legion (5,500 troops) around 60 AD, in the wake of a rebellion by the native Iceni tribe of East Anglia.

The camp was then used again about four years later by a much smaller cohort of soldiers, about 10 percent of the previous garrison. This second phase reduced the size of the fort, and many buildings were demolished to allow space for a 100-foot-diameter “gyrus,” or horse training ring. Evidence suggests the Lunt fort was used as a cavalry center for breaking and training the horses seized from the native Iceni to ready them for battle. The horse training ring at Lunt is the only known example in the Roman province of Britannia, and to accommodate the circular structure, the fort’s outer wall was curved, making it an unusual shape among Roman ruins.

The gyrus and other parts of the fort complex—including a section of the wall, a timber gateway, ramparts, and three granaries—were reconstructed in the 1970s on top of the original foundations. The engineers used the same tools and methods that would have been used by the Roman army at the time, and the recreated fort appears today much as it would have to the legions garrisoned here nearly 2,000 years ago.

Know Before You Go

The fort is open for public visits but opening times are very limited and may require advanced booking. (See the [website](#) for details.) Located about 10 minutes south of Coventry.

The Jennet



The term "jennet" was used to describe a kind of horse rather than a breed. In fact, during the Middle Ages, this was a common term used to refer to a particular kind of horse mostly gaited.

The majority of the medieval horses bred in Spain in the 16th century could not be categorized as breeds. The Italian writer Claudio Corte, in his treatise "Il Cavallarizzo", writes about these Jennets, mentioning them to be good war horses, being commonly used by the Spanish cavalry. The castle of Venafro has many frescos where the Jennet is portrayed and seems to have a close resemblance to the Peruvian Paso or Criollo horses of the recent times. The Jennets originating in Spain had uniformity as all of them were produced in a particular geographical region, also being the result of selective breeding in the Middle Ages for the purpose of creating a smooth riding equine breed suitable for a la jineta (a riding style where the person rides with his legs tucked up). In fact, during that time, the breeders or horse enthusiasts would call their animals by names of the regions they thrived in or the family they were bred in.

The Spanish Jennets gradually came into being as the assorted Iberian horses migrated to America. The Peruvian Paso horse and Paso Fino are the descendants of the Spanish Jennet.

The Spanish Jennet Horse Society is making efforts in creating and preserving this new breed of horses. According to the criteria of the registry, the animals belonging to the Pintado division (pinto patterned horses occurring in shades of Tobiano, Sabino, and Overo) should completely bear the Paso Fino lineage whereas those of the Atigrado division (leopard patterned) should have at least 50% of Paso blood.

These horses were well-proportioned with a moderate height standing 13.2 to 15.2 hands; medium-sized head; straight or convex profile; well-arched, high set neck; strong back; dry legs with large-sized joints; small and tough hooves; they came in the colors of dun, roan, champagne, brown, grullo, perlino, cremello, palomino, buckskin and black. Gray is the only color that these horses did not appear in.

They were known by their Pao gait, exhibiting a four-beat lateral gait, with each foot touching the ground in a uniform way at intervals, leading to an unbroken rhythm, leading to a musical sound taca-taca-taca-taca.

Cont'd from page 1

horsemen, splendidly mounted, riding out to meet an army of unarmed shepherds and a handful of ragged foot-soldiers! The Sybarite ladies waved their handkerchiefs and cheered their champions to the charge. The horsemen sat proudly in their saddles, ready at a word to make the grand dash - when, hark! A thousand pipes begin to play - not "Yankee Doodle" nor "Rule Britianna" - but the national air of Crotón, whatever that may have been. The order is given to charge; the Sybarites shout and drive their spurs into their horses' flanks - what fine sport it is going to be! But the war-steeds hear nothing, care for nothing, but the music. They lift their slender hoofs in unison with the inspiring strains. And now the armed Crotoniates appear on the field; but the pipers still pipe, and the horses still dance - they caper, curvet, caracole, pirouette, waltz, trip the light fantastic hoof, forgetful of everything but the delightful harmony. The Sybarite riders have been so sure of the victory that they have taken more trouble to ornament than to arm themselves. Some of them are pulled from their dancing horses by the Crotoniate footmen - others slip to the ground and run as fast as their nerveless legs will carry them back to the shelter of the city walls. The shepherds and fifers retreat slowly toward Crotón, still piping merrily, and the sprightly horses follow them keeping step with the music. The dancing horses cross the boundary line between the two countries, they waltz across the Crotoniate field, they caracole gayly through the Crotón gates, and when the fifers cease close enough, their playing the streets of Crotona are full of fine war-horses! Thus it was that the Sybarites lost the fine cavalry of which they had been so proud. The complete overthrow of their power and the conquest of their city by the Crotoniates followed soon afterward - for how, between so idle and so industrious a community, could it have been otherwise?"

Sybaris, once the proudest, finest, very greatest community in the Greek empire, was so completely sacked and burned that it disappeared in a day. Around 75 years later, when a group of esteemed Athenians, including Herodotus, established near the site a new colony called Thuri, not a trace of awnings, robes or luxurious palaces remained.

-Michael Konik 8/16/2019 from his blog



WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

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Oak Harbor WA 98277

These dancing horses have another place in our modern educational lives: Adventures from the book of Virtues is an animated children's television series that follows the adventures of a young boy named Zach and his talking animal friends as they learn important values and life skills. In season 1 Episode 30, titled "Self discipline" – the dancing horses of Sybaris" Zach and his friends travel to ancient Greece where they learn the value of self discipline.

The episode begins with Zach and his friends learning about the city of Sybaris, known for its magnificent horses and their beautiful dances. The group is excited to see the horses perform, but when they arrive, they find that the horses are no longer dancing. The horses have become lazy and undisciplined, and no longer have the motivation to perform. Zach and his friends meet a wise old owl named Plato who teaches them about the value of self-discipline. Plato tells the group that self-discipline means making good choices even when it's difficult and requires a lot of effort. He explains that the horses of Sybaris have lost their self-discipline, and it is up to the citizens of the city to help them regain it.

Throughout the episode, Zach and his friends encounter challenges and setbacks, but they persevere and never give up. They continue to work with the horses and help them regain their self-discipline, teaching them that even though it may be difficult, the rewards of hard work and dedication are worth it in the end.

As the episode comes to a close, Zach and his friends watch proudly as the horses of Sybaris perform their beautiful dances once again. They have learned the value of self-discipline, and have applied it to help others. The episode ends with Plato reminding the group that self-discipline is a virtue that can be applied to all aspects of life, and that by continuing to practice it, they can achieve anything they set their minds to. Timeless wisdom, for certain.

