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> Discounts available for multiple months!



Happy Fourth of July!

Keep Horses Vaccinated to Protect Against West Nile Virus

- Testing for West Nile Virus in mosquitos begins to protect human health



(SPARKS, Nev.) -The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) urges horse owners throughout the state to vaccinate against West Nile Virus (WNV).

WNV is the leading mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States and can cause severe illness in a horse's brain, spinal cord and nervous system.

Every year, the NDA monitors WNV and other diseases carried by mosquitos (also known as arboviral), such as Saint Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) closely for the protection of public health and the agriculture industry.

"In the Animal Disease Laboratory, we test mosquito sample pools from across the state to survey for all three diseases and report our findings to local health departments," Laura Morrow, Animal Disease Laboratory supervisor, said.

Nevada residents should take precautions such as eliminating mosquito-breeding sites, using insect repellents and keeping horses vaccinated against WNV, SLE and WEE.

"Owners should consult with their veterinarian to establish a management plan, including vaccination for West Nile Virus," said NDA State Veterinarian Dr. Amy Mitchell.

"Appropriate preventative care, such as decreasing exposure to mosquitos and timely vaccination, are both important in preventing mosquito-borne diseases".

Dr. Mitchell emphasizes that minimizing horse exposure to mosquitos can be just as important as vaccination. Mosquito exposure can be minimized with the use of deterrents and elimination of unnecessary standing water around barns and stalls (troughs, buckets, tires, pans, etc.).

WNV has been prevalent in Nevada since 2004, while SLE and WEE have been widespread in the western United States for decades.

All three can cause severe disease and death in horses and humans. Testing is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

###

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) mission is to preserve, protect and promote Nevada's agriculture. The department has 150 dedicated employees providing services in its five divisions, Administration, Animal Industry, Consumer Equitability, Food and Nutrition, and Plant Industry.

The department's \$232 million budget facilitates regulatory and administrative work in agriculture and food manufacturing industries, protecting public and environmental health and worker safety, and providing food distribution and oversight for the United States Department of Agriculture's school and community nutrition programs

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VHN Deadline is the 15th of every month

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See you next time! - Codi Kern

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Summer Heat and Horse Fun

By The VHN Writing Team

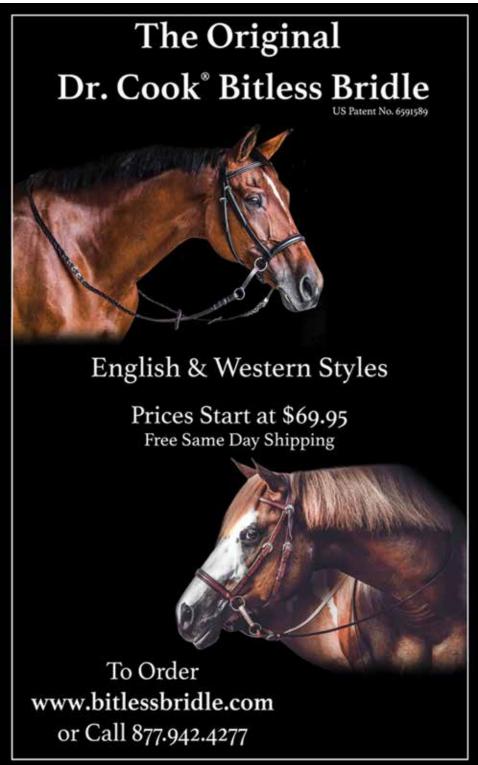


It's official, the hot summer days are upon us. Those days of heat over 100 degrees and nights that never seem to cool down are already here and the horse community is giving the appropriate collective "yuck" in response.

While hot days can be the bane of horse owners, beating the heat is possible while still getting in the time with your horse buddy.

Not sure how to have your horse time? Here are six ways to stay cool and still enjoy your equine.

- 1. Keep your riding activities during early morning hours or after the sun is setting. During these times, it will still be hot, but not as excruciating. The sun's rays won't be beating down on you as you sit in the saddle. It's best to keep your rides during the morning and evening short, to limit the chance of overheating. If you have a spot to ride with lights, consider doing some night riding and getting away from the sun altogether.
- 2. Have a horse buddy picnic in the shade. Bring your horse's favorite treats along, maybe find a grassy area in the shade and spend some quiet time together. He can graze while you read a book or listen to some music. You can both have some apples, watermelon, and more as a tasty snack. To make it even more fun, try freezing the fruits and veggies for a cold treat.
- 3. Any activity you do can be made easier by wearing pre-soaked towels around your neck. Get it nice and wet with cold water, ring it out and place them around your shoulders and your horse's.
- 4. Bath time can be a fun way to get a chore done and keep cool while the sun's out. Your horse will love bath time with soap and scrubby brushes. This will also help cool your horse down long term as he will slowly dry and also lose some buildup of hair, dirt, and sweat. If you don't have time for a full bath or just want a quick way to cool your horse down after a workout, running some lukewarm water over your horse is great for getting his temperature down and ridding him of sticky sweat. You can also just rinse down your horse's legs and wipe off his face with a cool rag.
- 5. Swimming with your horse is a unique experience. Some horses will already know how to swim and some will need some training. If you want to introduce your horse to water and actually getting in it rather than going over it, start small. Start with little bodies of water and getting his feet in. Little by little, he will get braver and go in farther and deeper as you work with him. When swimming with your horse, always take precautions so you both can stay safe and enjoy the fun.
- 6. Many horse owners take the summer as an opportunity to try night riding. This type of riding can be a unique pass time. It's best done by the light a full moon and out away from city lights. It can be more comfortable in groups and in well-known areas. The full/ bright moon will light up much more than you think and allow you to ride when the sun isn't heating you up. Be careful during your first time as many horses are afraid of the initial sounds they hear in the dark. If your horse is naturally spooky, taking it slow will be important. Also remember that while you may not be able to see what's on the ground, what's on the ground can see you. Watch out for areas with snakes and other animals. They can scare your horse and lead to a dangerous encounter. The best way to start is baby steps and staying smart with your individual horse.



Valley Horse News wants to hear about your stories and wants to feature them in these pages.

Do you have a story about you and your horse? How you found each other, the things you've done together? What horses have taught you?

Valley Horse News is taking submissions of real horse stories from real horse people.

Send them to us today at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com or go to our website at valleyhorsenews.com/contact.

Happy Trails Kitchen •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

"Baked Lemon Chicken with Mushroom Sauce"

Prep Time: 15 m Cook Time: 40 m Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup butter
- 3 cups fresh sliced mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup chicken broth, or more as needed
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (205 degrees C).

Pour olive oil in an 8x8-inch glass baking dish. Place the chicken breasts in the dish, coating each side with oil. Squeeze the juice of 1/2 lemon over each chicken breast. Slice the rest of the lemon and place a lemon slice on top of each chicken piece.

Bake in the preheated oven until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 30 to 40 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat; add mushrooms. Cook and stir until mushrooms are brown and liquid is evaporated, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle flour over mushrooms and stir until coated. Add chicken broth, stirring to make a medium-thick sauce. Allow sauce to reduce, adjusting with a little more broth to make a creamy sauce. Add fresh parsley at the last minute. Spoon the sauce over the baked chicken breasts.

Notes:

Aluminum foil helps keep food moist, ensures it cooks evenly, keeps leftovers fresh, and makes clean-up easy.



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We hope you are enjoying the monthly recipes from Happy
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We want to know: what types of recipes do you want to see? Breakfast? Dinner?

Dessert? Beef? Chicken?

Crock Pot or Oven Baked? Crock Pot or Oven Baked? The possibilities are endless!

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Nevada State Horsemen's Association

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 NSHA General Membership Meeting July 14, 2020 - 7:00pm
 Olive Garden
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*New Location

NSHAV meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. **Youth meet** at 6:30 prior to the General member Meeting.

*Reminder: Members must sign in attendance a minimum of four meetings per membership year (prior to reading of minutes) - December 1 through November 30 of the current show season in order to be eligible to receive year end awards.

*Year end trophies/awards require 4 meeting attendance with sign in and 4 volunteer hours with receipt (show related).

**See website for New Trophy and Buckle Show Series Qualifications at www.nshav.com .



*All 2020 shows (dates are subject to change) will be held at Horseman's Park (Flamingo Arena), 5800 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas NV. *Shows will be Saturday and Sunday "Day" shows.

July 24, 2020 - NSHA V Open Breed "Tune Up #2" August 28, 2020 - NSHA V Open Breed "Tune Up #3" Virtual Show

...getting ready for Fall NSHA V Open Breed Buckle Series

Fall NSHA V Buckle Series Open Breed Shows: September 19-20 at Henderson Saddle Association October 10-11 at Horseman's Park Main Arena November 14-15 at Horseman's Park Main Arena

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*** See Class Lists Premiums/Patterns and online registration at www.nshav.com

Signs of an Allergic Reaction

By The VHN Writing Team



What might look like a small irritation one minute can quickly turn into an ugly, scary mess the next. Allergic reactions can be mild or they can be extensive, depending on what is causing the problem with your horse.

Signs of an allergic reaction:

Hives: Soft, swelling bumps that indent under a little pressure from your fingertip. They can start out very small with only a few, but can grow larger and spread across the whole body. They can even turn into large welts.

While they might look otherwise, many times these thick hives are not itchy. They are just a swelling response from a reaction. If your horse isn't trying to itch the area, then you don't not need to treat it as a symptom.

Respiratory Difficulty: Coughing and wheezing can indicate a bad reaction. This is a sign that your horse's airways are swelling and narrowing.

Anaphylaxis: This is an extreme allergic reaction in which blood pressure drops and breathing becomes extremely difficult. This response would be to an allergen that your horse is intensely sensitive too. This situation could lead to shock, and needs immediate care via epinephrine/ adrenalin. A corticosteroid can also help to open up airways and relieve swelling.

General itching can be a sign of a reaction just starting, or something that can easily be treated by you. Looking over your horse's entire body and making a list of the abnormalities can help you describe to your vet what the problem is.

Many mild reactions can clear up on their own, and often leave you stumped as to what actually caused it. The best way to think of this is to analyze what your horse has come into contact with, within the past 24 hours or so.

Are there new medications? Spray? Supplements? Food? Bedding? Check the food dish, waterbuckets, and pens. It could be something in the hay your horse is eating, a reaction to new bedding, or even an insect bite.

The cause could be anything your horse has ingested like food or drugs, touched such as a new blanket or fly spray, allergens via plants he has laid upon or eaten, or insects he has come into contact with.

Generally looking at the type of reaction can tell you whether you need veterinary assistance. Breathing problems are an emergency, itching and bumps might be alleviated within 24 hours. Stocking up on ointments and emergency medications can help with sudden instances. Also rinsing off your horse with cool water can help with swelling in the skin, itching, and fever. It also helps to wash off a potential allergen like pollen or a badly tolerated chemical.

Always consult with your veterinarian about mysterious skin problems, breathing issues, fever and swelling. Medication might be warranted, and can help make your horse more comfortable as he recovers from the reaction.

Once an allergen is comfirmed, you should make a list of what to avoid in the future and keep emergency supplies, such as medication, handy for unexpected outbreaks.

Salt Deficiency and What It Means

By The VHN Writing Team



As far as important minerals go, salt is one of the main minerals essential to a horse's diet, but is often overlooked. Many horse owners and enthusiasts understand that salt is linked with a horse's intake of water. But there's a bit more to it than that.

Salt is integral to the body's electrical functioning. The makeup of what we know as common salt is actually sodium and chloride, both of which are important for the body's processes. These two substances are dissolved in the bloodstream and they are then used for the electrical signaling throughout the body. The musculoskeletal system and nervous system cannot work correctly without them.

Sodium also plays an important role in hydration because of its ability to retain water in the body's tissues. Without the proper level of sodium, dehydration becomes inevitable and it is without this function of sodium that a horse's thirst would not be triggered. This is where the association of water intake and salt becomes well known.

A bad balance of sodium can also cause blood sugar and glucose issues, leading to overall bad health. This imbalance however, can take a longer period to develop and many times the signs of a deficiency are hard to recognize unless they are severe.

One interesting sign of a potential deficiency is called "pica."

Pica is the behavior of licking on surfaces that may have small amounts of salt on them due to a dietary deficiency of the minerals. Horse's will naturally seek out salt when none is readily available. Humans and other animals can also suffer from pica and cause strange habits of eating substances that are not necessarily good for digestion.

Not drinking enough water can also signal a lack of salt.

Experts will often recommend the addition of salt blocks to the horse diet, where the animal can consume salt at its own discretion. If this is not enough, there are salt supplements that can be added to food.

It's best to be aware that salt mixes that appear mostly or all white are not typically made of natural salt. Pink, brown, red, or grey is a better coloring to find.

When you stroll down the grocery aisle with salts and spices, it might be surprising just how many different kinds of salt are available. This is a great example of how researching salt types for your horse can be the difference in how healthy he is.

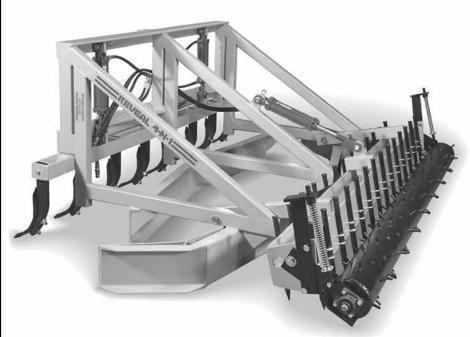
If you suspect a salt deficiency in your horse, it is best to seek the advice of your veterinarian, who can confirm whether or not your horse needs extra dietary support and where to go from that diagnosis.

If your horse lives in hot weather, this deficiency can be aggravated and take a harsher toll, so a quick diagnosis is prudent as well as the correct way of fixing the deficiency.

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The Many Personalities of Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses are like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get. Wait – that was Forrest Gump talking about life. Well, the same goes for our four-legged equine friends.

Any tried and true horse person knows that if you were to pick one horse from a field of ten, it would be impossible to say just what kind of personality it will have. Sure, a non-horse person would say that it's just a horse and will act like a horse so what's the difference. But we know better. Much better.

There's more than one horse personality that you can come into contact with.

The Scaredy Horse – This particular personality is a fun one. The scaredy horse is one of those equines that is absolutely bonkers about anything suspicious. That plastic bag blowing in the wind, the random bush on the walking path that suddenly has flowers, or even the tipped over poo bucket that he sees every day. They are all out to get him and only him.

And goodness knows that if he sees something truly brand new, watch out! Because we all know that a scaredy horse will never be okay with a different colored water bucket, or a pitch fork. One thing is for sure, your horse adventures will never be boring.

The Grouch – Now this personality is sometimes thought to be synonymous with an old, and grumpy horse. But that grumpiness is not unique to It does make for some great memories and picture opportunities. older horses. Any horse of any age can be an absolute grump.

Are you trying to give him his breakfast? He'll give you a nice squinty eye topped with pinned ears. Are you even considering trying to put his bell boots on? It's time to vigorously swish that tail and stealthily aim at your face. Are you daring to try and get a halter on for turn out time? Nope, he's going to turn his butt to you and maybe even squeal a bit with indignation at your audacity and sheer stupidity. The grouch is a grouch about everything, from day one to year thirty five.

The Escape Artist – This personality will surely keep you on your toes. See, there will come a time when you accidentally forget to shut the gate and your horse wanders out. We've all done it. But with an escape artist, these times will be frequent and completely planned out by your horse. Yes, this personality is cunning.

Doesn't matter if he's turned out in an arena, a field, his own stall run, the stall itself, or tied to a post. He will inevitably escape and find the nearest hay or spot of grass to munch. Don't worry, the first few times will give you a heart attack but after that it'll be routine.

The Puffer Fish – If you have one of these personalities, then there's no need for an explanation. If you don't have one or haven't experienced it yet, then this personality is all about gut expansion and avoiding a tight girth. The Puffer Fish will endeavor to puff out his belly like a puffer fish whenever you try to tighten the girth. Every. Single. Time. He'll probably groan and grunt as you try to tame that balloon of a belly and squeeze up another buckle hole.

Then, as your out for the ride, he'll stop blowing out his gut and you'll be swinging over the side as your saddle slips right over the edge. Most often, owners of puffer fish horses become talented at tightening a girth while in the saddle or have really toned legs from getting on and off so darn often to fix their tack.

The Dust Bunny – a.k.a. the dirt bunny, mud bunny, poo bunny, shavings bunny, etc. This personality has a knack for getting dirty. And we don't mean just a few smudges, we mean a total freaking mess that stains the coat just for the heck of it. Typically these personality types tend to be white or gray horses. But they can come in any color.

The Dust Bunny horse will be super dirty and wait patiently while you clean him to perfection. Then to be safe, you'll put him in his stall away from dirt and dust. Rookie mistake, because the dust bunny isn't afraid of a nice poo or pee roll in the shavings just for fun. We feel for you if you routinely show a dust bunny, as extreme measures must be taken to keep him clean until he's in the arena.

The Mind Reader – the minder reader personality isn't quite like the other personalities. This one's talents are all about being able to read the handler or rider or owner. This horse's forte is knowing exactly how to get you, and by get you we mean making every single thing as difficult as possible so you no longer want to do it and he can go back to his meal and lounge time. If the handler or rider isn't completely sure of themselves and as solid as a brick wall, the Mind Reader will find a way to push your buttons and do everything you don't want him to do.

This typically ends in angry tears after the Mind Reader is super lazy, bucks, spooks, or does whatever he's figured out will get the rider or handler to give up and get off. This horse requires a rider with nerves of steel and the patience of a saint.

These are just some of the many personalities that horses can have, and what's downright terrifying about it is that some horses will have combination personalities.

Can you imagine a Dust Bunny crossed with a Mind Reader? Or a Grouch Crossed with a Puffer Fish? Even more alarming are those rare horses that are a jack of all trades. We can all probably think of at least one horse we've met in our lifetime that was in fact a jack of all trades when it came to personalities.

We can also think of some horses that were pure gold when it came to quirks and were practically bomb proof in every aspect.

While it's always going to be a gamble on just what type of personality a horse will have and what personalities we will be compatible with, we wouldn't have our messy, grouchy, lazy pains in the butt any other way. Well maybe ninety-nine percent of the time.

What personality is your horse? Or is he something altogether different from this list?

Tell us all about it at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com!



Can We Predict the Personality of a Foal?

By The VHN Writing Team



It's an exciting time when a new foal is born. You've waited so long to meet this little one and now they're here.

They might look like mom, they might look like dad, or they might have the best of both worlds. You might have been blessed with a filly or you might have a stud instead.

Either way, it's a brand new life just waiting to grow.

Just like human babies, foals steadily learn about their environment and develop their own quirks and personalities as they grow.

As we've seen with our adult horses, every horse has their own individual likes, dislikes, and behaviors. No two horses will have the exact same personality or react the same way to their environment.

While it's not possible to predict accurately in the womb or even before breeding what a foal's personality will be like, it just might be possible to have a good idea on how a foal's personality will develop after birth.

Scientists are now studying the behavior of foals at a few months old and comparing those behaviors to how they turn out later in life.

The study aims to discover if it's possible to separate foals into different categories of personality traits and to predict, based on their behaviors at such a young age, how they will be once they've grown up.

Scientists studied a group of foals with different social and behavioral characteristics. Some foals were quiet, and constantly at their mother's side. Some foals were more rambunctious and didn't mind going far from mom. There were those that preferred suckling over grazing and those that preferred grazing over nursing.

All of these characteristics were noted over a time period at a few months old. Then, at three years of age, the scientists came back to observe those same foals again. They were all raised in the same environment with the same handling.

The study then showed that those foals who preferred to remain close to their mothers remained timid and more suspicious as they grew older.

The foals that played and strayed from their mothers more confidently were less afraid of new stimuli and were more naturally engaging in activities.

Those foals that grazed more than suckled showed that they didn't mind being away from their barn mates and wanted new social interactions. Those that nursed more frequently avoided social interactions and did not tolerate social separation from everything they were used to.

There were, of course, overlapping in some foals when it came to the tests and results of their personalities. Some were less enthused about new objects but performed well with new tasks. Some were extremely social but afraid of new objects.



Even though the groups of the foals were not completely the same after the three years, there was a very noticeable number of them that retained their initial personality prediction and proved the study to be effective to a successful degree.

If the owners had predicted to a basic degree what these foals would be like in three years, more often than not, they would have been right based on the foals original peronality at such a young age.

It can be speculated based on the parents of the foal what they may turn out to be physically and also even personality wise as DNA can play a large part in the outcome. The breed could also be a predictor. The behavior of the mother can too have an impact on how the foal's personality progresses.

While we cannot say for certain what each and every foal will be like before birth and after, it is an interesting concept to see what social and behavioral tendencies can indicate about each foal that is born and how they match up with that same foal later in life.

More studies could be done on how the personalities of the parents effects the foal that they produce.



16 Things That Drive Horse People Crazy

By The VHN Writing Team



Horse people are a very passionate and dedicated group of individuals, which is understandable given the animals they are passionate about. It takes a lot of work, love, and commitment to be a horse person.

Being a part of the horse community means that you "get it." You understand what it takes and what it's really about. You understand what horses are about and what it means to own one.

With that passion also comes situations that absolutely drive horse people bonkers. There are things that would drive any person crazy, but there are very specific situations that drive horse people crazy and it's only a matter of time before we've experienced them all.

Here are some things that drive horse people up a wall, let's see if you can relate.

- 1. When the grocery store only stocks so many big bags of carrots at one time and they end up getting taken by people that are "buying in bulk." All you can think is, "you have no idea what buying in bulk really means," as you prepare for some angry horses with no carrots at dinner time.
- 2. Cars that speed around you when you are on a shared back road. Horse people are perfectly happy to share the road when they're out on a ride. We are not, however, okay with vehicles revving past because they won't give the time of day to slow down and give some room.
- 3. This same principle applies to bike riders that refuse to share and zip around corners against the flow of natural traffic. Even more so when they're in groups of five or more.
- 4. How some people automatically believe your rich or extremely well off because you have a horse. *major eye roll*
- 5. Vehicles that follow to closely behind your horse trailer and zip into the extra space you're leaving between you and the vehicle in front. Like don't mind me, I'm just hauling live animals at a high rate of speed, no big deal. Never mind that I can't exactly stop on a dime like your sports car.
- 6. When non-horsey friends or friends of friends/ relatives ask to ride your horse. Even worse, when they just assume that they can or that their children can because it would "be fun" and "they've never done it before." Your flighty five -year -old, 16 hand warmblood is perfect for that experience.
- 7. When the same friends ask if you can give lessons and don't understand why you wouldn't want to. "You already have a horse and all the stuff for it. It'd be good money."
- 8. Any other types of comments or questions that make horses seem like easy keepers or not that big of a deal. We do in fact need to see our horses every day, usually twice a day. We do in fact have to spend that much money on feed and other essentials. We do in fact have to train and ride that often.

- 9. Being out and about with your horse and a group of people get too up close and personal with you. This usually involves wanting to take pictures, asking a million questions, kids that want to put their hands all over your horse, and dogs that get too close for comfort or constantly bark.
- 10. That individual that calls a miniature horse a baby. Every. Time. Also, when that person starts talking like they know so much about horses because they used to ride their grandparents old pony when they were five. The kicker is when they start disagreeing with you about "horse facts."
- 11. When you're trying to sell your horse and the person that's interested says they have the same level of horse experience like the person in #10 and they want to test ride. Yea, I don't think so.
- 12. If you're giving lessons to a child and the mother is a nosy nervous nelly with zero horse experience. Odds are good that she'll try and micro-manage in some way or expect an Olympic champion by the second week.
- 13. People that feed your horse treats without your permission. Even worse when the treat they wanted to feed was in no way horse compatible. Then they get annoyed or angry as if you're being too uptight. Please take a look at my typical vet bill and then tell me I'm overreacting.
- 14. Neighbors that complain when you park your trailer in front of your house overnight so you can unload stuff/ stock or charge it for a trip. Sorry to ruin your view of the front of my house.
- 15. When people insult your way of riding, saying that the riding they see on tv isn't like what you do. Or when they ask why you don't do jumps that tall or why you don't do shows like that.
- 16. When strangers complain that all events are abusive to horses and using saddles, spurs, bits and other tack is cruel for no reason. They say that every horse should be set free to roam and live naturally. Sometimes they can be found at rodeos or other shows commenting in the seat next to you or they say these things when you strike up a conversation and mention that you have horses.

How many of these hair pulling experiences have you had? Are there any you would add to the list?

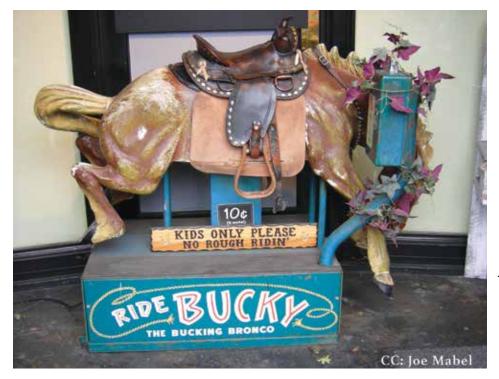
These situations can be annoying and exhausting at the same time, but luckily you can find comfort in the horse community, your horse friends, and your equine buddy. They get it.

Happy Fourth of July! From Valley Horse News



In the Days Gone By: Mechanical Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



Memories from your childhood can be some of the most precious things you have. With just a word, a smell, or a sound, a memory can come rushing back and transport you to a time that you didn't realize you missed. A time when you were a kid, having fun without a care in the world.

Sadly, many of the things from our childhoods will stay in the days gone by. All of the old-fashioned things we used to do no longer exist or have been remodeled so many times that it's just not quite the same. And so many of those things that no longer exist only really exist in people's memories.

One such sweet memory that many fondly remember are the kiddie rides from grocery stores, movie theaters, candy shops, and more. These rides were known by a few names like penny rides or mechanical coin rides. They still exist in some fashion here and there. But back in the day, they were the ultimate outing treat. They came in all shapes and sizes and colors, like spaceships, rockets, and dinosaurs.

A classic fan favorite of the coin rides was the mechanical horse ride. For anywhere from a penny to a quarter you could hop on a mechanical horse and ride like the wind, your hands around a leather or plastic strap and your feet securely in the stirrups.

You could name that horse anything you wanted, like Smokey, Sundance, King and more. For those few minutes, that mechanical horse was your partner and you were transported to a dream land of your making.

Mechanical Horses first began way back during the Depression in 1930. An inventor by the name of James Otto Hahs wanted to make a special Christmas gift for his five children.

He decided that he would make a mechanical horse that felt and moved just like a real one. He covered this present horse in mohair and bought a cow's tail from a local slaughterhouse to make it as realistic as possible. He then added a saddle and reins.

There already existed the well-known rocking horses that everyone loved. Hahs didn't want to create another generic horse that moved like the one that rocked. He wanted real motion. Instead, his creation mimicked the real movement of a horse's gait. By pulling the reins, the horse would go at a walk, its feet circling at a pivot point on each end. With a harder pull, it would enhance into a gallop motion.

Hahs children loved the mechanical horse and even named it Spark Plug. They played with him for hours on end.

At seeing the joy this brought to his children, Hahs realized that his mechanical horse could be marketable to all children. So, he decided to make his horses in larger numbers, and started with wood for the body, like the carousel horses of the time.

The wood was too heavy for the motion he needed and too pricey, so he decided to make them out of aluminum. People told him that it would be impossible to cast aluminum pieces big enough, but being a smart inventor, he found a way.

Hahs Machine Works began manufacturing mechanical horses in Missouri in 1932. The Hahs Gaited Horse won many awards for design and invention, and his awards for his invention kept growing on a larger and larger scale. He eventually collaborated with a supply company so that he could distribute his work all over.

It was Spark Plug that paved the way for the spaceships and dinosaurs of later years, making a huge impact on the market for children's entertainment. In 1953, Billboard Magazine called the kiddie ride's the fastest growing business of the year.

Mr. Hahs continued inventing and building for the rest of his life. The company he started became Hahs Irrigation Equipment and still operates in the Hahs' hometown in Missouri. Hahs' grandchildren still own and run the company.

While the mechanical horse is now mainly a thing of the past along with most of the mechanical coin rides, there are still places where you can enjoy these pieces of history.

They may not be easy to find, but they have made some of the greatest memories for generations of people and will continue to be remembered as the epitome of old-time childhood fun.



Q: Do you remember riding a mechanical horse ride? Did you ride any of the coin rides as a kid? When was the last time you saw one for yourself?

A: (*From the owner*) Every so often I still see these mechanical rides out at grocery stores here in Las Vegas, but they are few and far between. I don't remember the last time I saw a horse one though. I think the styles have changed quite a bit from when I was younger. They're also more expensive to operate if you can find them now a days.

When I was a kid, I rode these with friends and we would always try to be first in line to the coolest looking ones. Seems surreal to remember that people actually had to wait to use them because they were so popular. If it was possible to have two people in one at the same time it was even better, like a rocket style one with a two person seat. Sometimes they had characters that you would sit next to also.

When I was very young I had the traditional stick hobby horse toy, with the horses head on a broom handle. That one was pretty fun, but I also had one of the springy bouncey horses as well, it was one of my favorites.

It was one of those with the full body horse and it was connected to the metal stand by springs on each end, so when you sat in the saddle you could bounce like you were riding or racing. Put that in front of the TV with a horse movie on and it's the greatest thing ever. It seems those kind of toys were also apart of the history of the mechanical horse.

It would be interesting to have a store where you could still experience all of these old time toys and rides so that we could all remember them and new generations could experience them like we did for the first time.

- Codi Kern

What was your favorite horse toy or ride as a kid? We'd love to hear your answers to these questions.

Tell us at

valleyhorsenews@gmail.com and share your pictures with us!

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A Horse, Of Course

By DON BLAZER

Buying a Horse

When it comes to buying a horse, there must be at least a million ways to get stuck with a bad one and about five ways to get a good one. To get a good horse, you have to use a little common sense. Emotion is the villain.

It's natural to be excited by the thrill of owning a new horse. But, whoa! Hold on! Shorten the reins! I know the horse is beautiful and the story that goes with the horse is reasonable and the horse may be sold tomorrow, but accept some hard-to-take advice. Buyer, beware!

Before you start looking for a horse, decide what you want and write it down. Your list should include breed, size, age, amount of training, color, sex and price. You're the only one who knows exactly what you want and you're the one who must be satisfied.

Don't let emotion cloud your view. The horse you buy should meet all your requirements or you'll be unhappy later. Think about your physical relationship with the horse. Is he too big, or too small? As a team do you look well together?

A good horse doesn't cost a dime more to keep than a bad one. In many cases the better horse will be less expensive in the long run. Bargain horses usually are not bargains, so beware of sad stories, auctions and the fast deal.

Well-known trainers are most often the best place to start looking for your new horse. They have a reputation to protect and generally will not leave you stuck with a bad horse. A bad horse can hurt a trainer's reputation in a hurry.

So now that you know what you want and you have a good place to start looking, here are five tests and some common sense. Test one – look at the person selling the horse. Is he or she neatly dressed? They don't have to be in their Sunday best, but they should be neat, clean and ready to meet you.

The ranch or facility should well-kept, too. The barn area should be neat, clean and tidy. Equipment should be well cared for and in the proper place. Broken tools, broken fences and sloppy barns is a clue the owner cares for his horses in the same manner. Look at the stall or corral in which the horse is kept. Wood chewers and cribbers leave telltale signs. As do weavers and hole diggers. Bad habits are hard to break.

Test two – look at the horse's conformation.

If possible, ask to see the horse work at liberty in a safe paddock or arena. See how the horse uses his body. Notice how the horse interacts with people. He should be friendly, curious and have clear bright eyes. He shouldn't be jumpy. I like to see a horse in good flesh, but not overly fat. Look for clean legs, free from blemishes, and smoothly put together body. The conformation should be of the type required for the discipline in which you are interested. His conformation should be pleasing to you. Test three – is the horse's performance ability and training at the level you require?

Of course, if you are looking at an unbroken youngster, you won't be able to ride him. But you can review his pedigree, watch the way he travels and take notice of his manners. If the horse can be ridden, ask the owner or trainer to ride the horse and show you how well he performs. This also gives you an opportunity to make a determination based on how the owner or trainer handled the horse.

If the rider is not accomplished, chances are the horse had a bad start and you face some re-schooling. If the rider jerks, bangs, spurs and hits the horse – pack up and move on. You don't want that bundle of trouble. Now it is your turn to ride. The secret of a test ride is to see how slowly the horse will perform and how responsive he is to your cues.

Walk the horse, stop him, back him, jog him, stop him, lope him, and stop again. Change gaits frequently and take notice of the horse's attitude about work. If he works quietly and slowly, if he changes gaits without getting high or nervous, if he listens and responses to your cues, he passes.

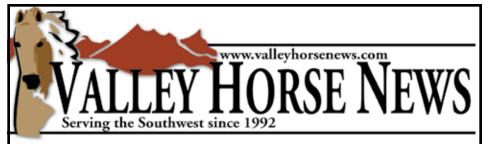
Test four – the vet check. Don't fail to have a soundness examination.

Test five – the price. A horse is worth what someone is willing to pay. Usually you can get the horse for a little less than the asking price. If so, fine. If not, and the horse is the one you want, pay the price. But if a deal is offered to you suddenly, watch out. An anxious seller is a bad sign.

And, finally, this word of advice: don't be afraid to buy the first horse you look at or the tenth, if the horse passes all your tests.

Along the way you'll hear some great stories about some flashy horses, but don't change your list or requirements. Somewhere your horse is waiting.

Once you have your dream horse, enroll and take the online equine courses at Equine Studies Institute. Work one-on-one with instructors. Earn certificates upon completion. http://www.equinestudiesinstitute.com/



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Fishing By Anna Dunstone

The fish are in a good mood Unfortunate for me My feet are sunk in mud and water to my knee Around my legs fish twirl My eyes are on the prize But teasing me, they dance With evil gleam in their eyes My pole and bait seem pointless Because the fish pretend To chase my lure, but instead Dart away in the end Fishing always leaves me mad; Hollering and grunting The fish collectively laugh at me--Maybe I'll try hunting.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

We are excited to announce that construction on the Flamingo Arena has begun. Upon completion, the Flamingo Arena will be rebuilt and will include a shade cover, bleachers for 600 spectators, lights and sprinklers. The corrals will be redesigned, a new announcer's booth will be built, and accessible walkways will be added. During construction, all events will be held in the Main Arena. We hope to give you

periodic updates over the next few months!

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Do Horses Smile?

By The VHN Writing Team



A question such as "do horses smile?" might have images of a talking Mr. Ed or a cartoon pony with a toothy grin floating around your imagination. It seems like a rather silly question and a silly image to think about with any seriousness.

But in a way it makes sense to consider the possibility of there being the horse form of what we know as a smile.

When humans smile, there is actually a lot of science behind it.

Say you are in a situation where you run into an old friend that you haven't seen in a long time or your family throws you a surprise birthday party.

During that moment of intense happiness our bodies produce a bunch of endorphins and neuronal signals are sent from our brains to the many muscles in our face triggering a classic smile reaction. When these muscles contract to make a smile, it is stimulating a loop happiness system. Essentially, we smile when we are happy, and our brains are happy. When our brains sense happiness we smile.

This effect goes back and forth from one end to the other in that happiness loop system.

It's been proven that by "faking" a smile, you can actually boost your mood by this very same effec. You are falsely triggering the happiness hormones in your brain and then those same chemicals will trigger a real smile on your face.

If we experience this looped process with happiness ourselves, doesn't that mean that animals can as well?

Like a dog wagging its tail, or a bird dancing and singing. What does happiness trigger in our equines? A smile?

Many owners can already tell when their equines are happy. They notice the typical queues that any horse will give and also some that are more subtle and unique.

Scientists believe there is sort of a middle ground happiness expression in horses, or what could be called a horse smile. During studies involving grooming and the positive responses is elicits, scientists were able to narrow down a specific expression that each horse in the study ended up displaying.

The expression the horses showed was a slightly lowered head, half closed eyes, a bunched or extended upper lip with some twitching, and their ears were pointed backward but not completely flat.

If you've ever groomed your horse and found his "itchy spot", that expression of a pointy lip quivering back and forth with a stretched neck is what scientists believe to be the equivalent horse smile.

This is a natural reaction to positive and enjoyable stimuli.



The expression can be extremely subtle or over the top, very much like our own variety of smiles. Sometimes we grin, sometimes we have a pristine and picture perfect smile, and other times we have a broad, full toothed smile that we just can't contain.

Observations showed other little nuances in the horses' reactions, like a tightening in the corners of the lips or a kind of softening but still focused look in the horses' eyes.

It might seem odd for us to call this kind of reaction a smile, but in terms of what it represents for equines and the feelings that are evoked, it technically can be thought of as one.

There's also the "smile" that we can teach our horses, where they learn to stick their heads straight up in the air and flop their top lip up to show their teeth, like the picture to the left.

With enough patience, you can have your horse smile on command with the promise of a cookie or carrot, though it can take some time to train the stubborn ones.

Perhaps the best way to recognize your horse's true smile is to spend time providing positive stimuli in various ways like grooming, treats, and training to see the different expressions your horse provides and how they change from one activity to the next.

We could all agree that our horses can have some very strange and absolutely hilarious expressions, and who knows just how many you can discover with a little elbow grease. Your facebook photo albums or your instagram are about to get very glamorous with your equine buddy photoshoots.

Let's just hope that they don't start giving us the stink eye behind our backs anymore than they already do when we're late with breakfast.

Have you discovered your horse's smile? Or maybe some other handsome or not so pretty expressions?

Send us your horse glam shots today at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com!



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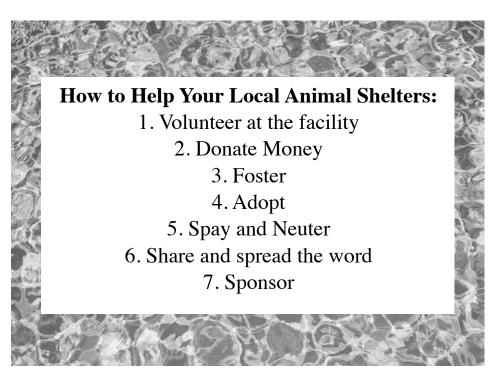
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Happy Fourth of July! From Valley Horse News









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TAGE TO VALLET HOROC	JULY 2	020 CAI	LENDE	R OF E	VENTS	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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12	APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse- shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ WULFY'S Hwy 160 Pahrump 775-727-9576	15 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com	16	17	18
19	20	21 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	22	23	24	25
26 NSHA V Open Breed "Tune Up #2" Virtual Show www.nshav.com - pg. 6 for more info	27 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	28	29	30	31	
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16	17	18 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	19 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 NSHA V Open Breed "Tune Up #3" Virtual Show www.nshav.com - pg. 6 for more info	29
30	31 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV					

Farm Animal Adoptions



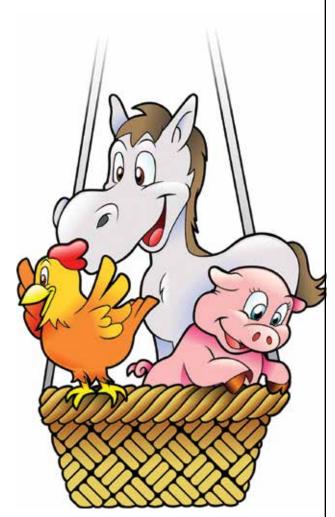
Golden Howdy Beauty aka "Buttercup" Buttercup is a registered QH but thinks she's a big yellow lab! Comes from champion bloodlines. Easy keeper, only needs food, water and love. Companion only, as barrel racers blew out her knees.

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Alpaca, and
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Any farm animal in need
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for as long
as they need it!



Welcome all rescues, sanctuaries, and non-profits!

Now is the chance to give farm animals in need of adopting and fostering an extra spotlight - **on the house**.

Valley Horse News will now have an adoptions section solely for farm animals at shelters and organizations that need to find a loving, forever home. On this page, every month, you will find photos and information about wonderful animals that could be the perfect addition to your home or farm. You will also find the organization that they come from and how you can get in contact.

This section will remain in the paper *indefinitely*. As long as there is an animal that needs it, it will be open for listings.

Are you an organization or know of an organization that helps farm animals? Contact now for more information and to be featured on this page every month. Remember, this page is for **adoptions only**.

Animals for sale by owner must be advertised in other sections.

Please spread the word far and wide about this section so we can facilitate as many adoptions as possible. These precious animals need and deserve all the help we can get. It is a personal goal to make this section explode every single month! A home for every animal that comes on this page is not only a worthwhile but completely possible goal.

Just imagine what could be done by this time next year. So let's make it happen!

Have questions? Email us at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com or call 702-808-7669

We will provide all of the information you need and answer any inquiries you may have.





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 $\sim \overline{NW - SW - MT} \sim$

Terri Gamboa 702-528-5473

Jenny Parker 909-322-4601







2410 Trumble Creek Rd. 20 acre Whitefish river ranch, in Kalispell Montana, 3944sqft gorgeous home, \$2,350,000 - Keven Guercio, PureWest Real Estate - Whitefish







6673 Maverick St. 5bed/4bath - 4,000+ sqft, \$250K in dream home upgrades, no HOA, Horse permitted. \$975,000







3360 N Maverick St. Unique Wild West Horse Property, 3bed/3bath, Almost 1 acre w tack, stalls, lighted arena & coop, tortoise habitat and connex. Multi fruit trees. \$649K







0 Rosada. Very Desirable 1.02 Acre Lot \$179,999

The Canyons. 2 Prime land opportunities in mountain range above McDonald Ranch Henderson. \$600K & \$850K

Excellent Land Lenders - 80% Financing!!



Call Terri Gamboa (702) 528-5473





Website: www.TerriGamboa.com



Terri Gamboa Team

#1 Horse Property Specialistsin Las Vegas





Cindy Parker 702-528-1048

Sommer McDaniel 702-370-2404

South Valley - Henderson

Terri Gamboa 702-528-5473

Jenny Parker 909-322-4601







1462 Rawhide st. Beautiful 4 bed house w/ private pool in Equestrian Community. Shared 5 acre facility w/ 3 lighted arenas, round pen, hot walker. Beautiful interior with new flooring. \$360K







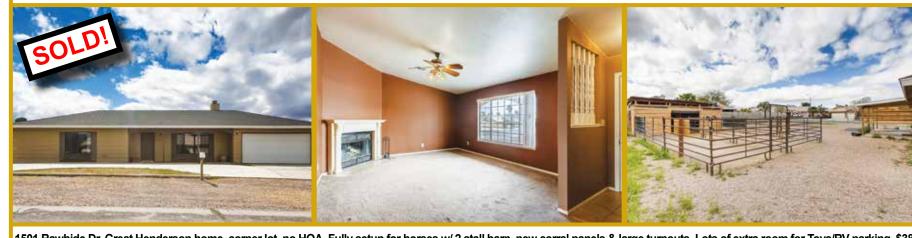
1050 Morning Sun Wy. Gorgeous home on huge lot, Beautiful mtn views. Open floor plan. Amenities: Pool, Tennis, Basketball, Free Rv/toy Pkg, 20 Horse Stalls & Huge Arena \$379,000







8390 Windmill Lane. 5 Acre Equestrian Estate. Huge Covered Arena, Professional 16 Stall Show Barn. 8,860 SF Home & Guest House. Lush grounds & views!! \$3,750,000



1501 Rawhide Dr. Great Henderson home, corner lot, no HOA. Fully setup for horses w/ 2 stall barn, new corral panels & large turnouts. Lots of extra room for Toys/RV parking. \$380K

Call the #1 Horse Property TEAM to list your property here! Call us to find your DREAM Horse Property!!



approx. 2,000 acres, best ride in town!

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Terri Gamboa Team

#1 in Luxury Homes on Acreage in Las Vegas





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Sommer McDaniel 702-370-2404

~ NW& NW by Floyd Lamb ~

Terri Gamboa 702-528-5473

Jenny Parker 909-322-4601







7061 Winstar St. Stunning 1 Year Old Emerald Dr Horton Home, 4,230sq ft, 5 bed/4bath, Open floor plan, Modern decor, State-of-art kitchen, beautiful community, great location!! \$749K







5 Acre Farm Rd. Next door to the Top Dressage Facility! So Green Feels like you're in the Country, Individual Pastures & trees \$1,145,000







6188 Wittig Ave. Gorgeous Equestrian Ranch on 2.3 Acres. Huge 1 Acre lit Arena. All new beautifully remodeled interior w/ large living spaces. Outdoor swimming pool & shady trees. \$759,990







6420 Whispering Sands Dr. 3,000+ sq ft home w/ no HOA & mountain views. 3 bed, open floor plan. Corner lot, RV parking, horses permitted \$550,000

Floyd Lamb Park - 1,500 Acres - NEW TRAILS - Best Ride in Town! ***GREEN ROLLING HILLS, PONDS, BIG TREES, TRAILS!!***



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