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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Hang Your Lucky Horseshoe Legend

By The VHN Writing Team



It is almost St. Patrick's Day and while many people get a giggle out of wearing the color green for luck (and also to not get pinched) while also hoping to find a big pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, there is one other Irish symbol of luck that is prevalent for the holiday.

The lucky horseshoe is well known as a symbol of good fortune and has been one for a long time according to Celtic legend.

It all started back in the 10 Century when St. Dunstan, a blacksmith, was visited by the Devil in his home. Being a blacksmith, the Devil asked Dunstan for horseshoes of his own for his hooved feet.

He fashioned one, fresh and red hot from the fire, and secured it to the Devil's foot with nails, which caused burning and great pain upon contact.

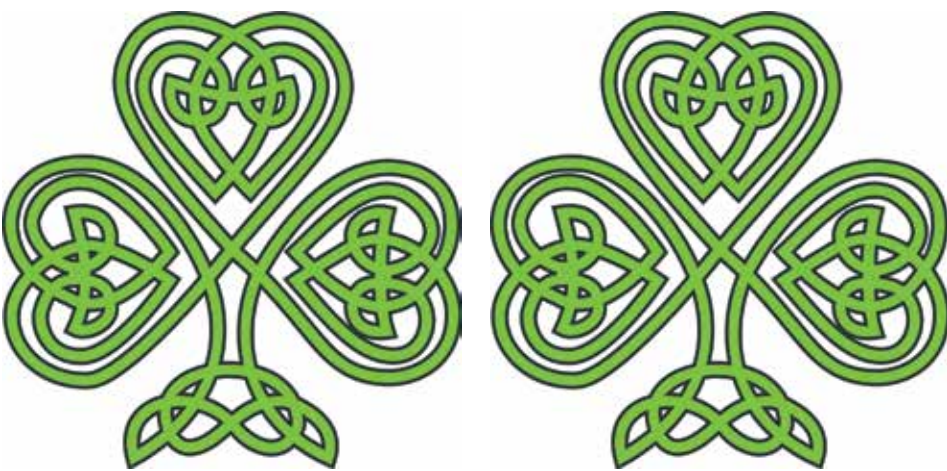
The Devil begged the blacksmith to remove it and Dunstan agreed to but on only one condition: The Devil could not enter any shelter where a horseshoe hung over the door. He must always and forever respect the power of the horseshoe.

It is from this legend that the luck of a horseshoe was born, and people truly believed and still do that a horseshoe can keep evil spirits away if placed properly in the home.

Ideally a horseshoe should be placed with the heels up as well, to "catch" luck inside of it and protect the luck from bad spirits. If you place it the other way, facing down, the luck will flow out of it and out of your home.

There are many people that have horseshoes placed over their front doors and inside of their homes. Fortunately for us horse owners, there is no shortage of horseshoes to choose from.

And we like to think that by hanging your very own horse's shoe in your home, you'll get some extra luck just by association. You can even decorate them to be a part of your décor for the holiday and beyond.





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See you next time! - Codi Kern

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Help During the Hard Times: Financial Resources for Horse Owners

By The VHN Writing Team



There will come a day in every person's life where they will fall on hard times. It's part of being human and having to function with the climate of today.

Whether there is a loss of a job, the price of bills suddenly increasing, injury or sickness sucking up extra money, or maybe all of them put together, everyone will eventually have to scramble and figure out what to do when times get tough.

So, what happens to us horse owners when things go downhill? It's no question that pets, especially animals like horses, can take a huge chunk out of your wallet. And those costs will be routine in nature.

When money becomes few and far between and the animal bills still continue, it can feel like you're at your wits end. Sure, you can cut out the unnecessary expenses. You can cut back on the things you don't really need, and maybe even pick up an extra side hustle.

But even then, it might not be enough.

Thankfully, there are resources for horse owners that are feeling the pinch in their finances.

The first thing you need to do is understand and accept the fact that you can't do it on your own. If you're just starting to feel the stress of finances, you may be able to roll back enough to make it. If you've been through the list of trying to fix it, you'll have to accept that you need to find help.

If you find yourself stretching the limits of your feed supply, deworming schedule, farrier and vet visits, and so on, then chances are you're hip deep in a financial hard spot.

Don't be afraid to speak with your farrier and vet about being financially stretched. While you can't expect a hand out or free service, they may be able to work with you and cater better to your expenses.

There also the option of payment plans to help you organize your budget. Alternative treatments can also be less expensive.

There are also possibilities of getting help from your horse friends. Buying bulk items together when things are on sale can save more than you'd think.


Schedule hay deliveries for the same time, farrier visits, and vet visits. You might get a discount if they can do multiple customers in one day.

If you board your horses, there might be some leeway in paying your rent. Depending on the owner and what they need, you could potentially agree on a trade of services.

Inquire about mucking stalls, feeding other horses, helping to turn out, watering or cleaning as payment instead of cash. The owner or manager could possibly welcome the help instead. If there are no trade opportunities for your needs, then you can do some research on local grants or assistance programs.


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Depending on your area, there may be local hay and feed banks at your disposal. These assistance programs and grants are given through a process of application, so it is an awarded opportunity that is given out based on need and meeting certain requirements.

The most important thing about these equine welfare organizations is that you need to be upfront, do your research, and seek help. They will not come to you.

Another option to save is researching local rescues and groups and the clinics they hold. Vets that are affiliated will often times provide a gelding clinic that is lower cost to those that participate. Other clinical services are often given out on first come first serve basis, or through a limited number registration.

It's good to remember that you are not going to be rejected or ridiculed for seeking help. Those that do not seek help and the animals end up suffering because of it are the ones that will face legal repercussions.

Deciding to ask for assistance means you care and are taking the time to do it right for the sake of your horses. Every person will face financial hardship at some point.

It is what you decide to do and the actions that you take that will decide the outcome and the fate of those you care about, including your horse.



• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Basil Burgers with Sun-Dried Tomato Mayonnaise”

Prep Time: 25 min. Cook Time: 10 min. Difficulty: Medium
Servings: 6 servings

Ingredients:

1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes (not packed in oil)
1 cup boiling water
1 cup fat-free mayonnaise
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 pounds lean ground beef (90% lean)
3/4 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
6 whole wheat hamburger buns, split
Additional fresh basil leaves, optional

Directions:

In a small bowl, combine tomatoes and water. Let stand for 5 minutes; drain. In a food processor, combine mayonnaise and tomatoes; cover and process until blended. Chill until serving.

In a large bowl, combine the Worcestershire sauce, basil, Italian seasoning, garlic, pepper and salt. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 12 thin patties. Place 2 tablespoons cheese on six patties; top with remaining patties and press edges firmly to seal.

On a greased grill, cook burgers, covered, over medium heat or broil 4 in. from the heat for 5-7 minutes on each side or until a thermometer reads 160° and juices run clear. Serve on buns with mayonnaise mixture and, if desired, additional basil.
Yield: 6 servings.



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About Happy Trails Kitchen



Sharon Hauht is the owner of Happy Trails Kitchen that specializes in baking and artfully decorated custom celebration cakes, cupcakes, cookies and sugar art for your special occasion. Sharon is an award winning cake decorator who has more than 40 years experience. Sharon competed with her team, Gouly Goblins, on Season 10 of Food Network's Halloween Wars and was featured on the Road to Halloween Wars, which aired on September 13, 2020.

Happy Trails Kitchen (HTK) is registered by the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) as a cottage food operation, which means HTK's food labels have been approved by SNHD, applicable recipes have been lab-tested for shelf stability (pH and water activity), and Sharon Hauht has been approved to bake and decorate cakes out of her home. She can print edible images (logos and Photographs) on your confections. She has her food handler's card for food safety.

You can see pictures of some of her recent projects on her website: www.happytrailskitchen.com. You can contact Sharon through her website or by emailing her at happytrailskitchen@gmail.com or call (702) 277-8000. HTK is also on Facebook and Instagram under HappyTrailsKitchen.



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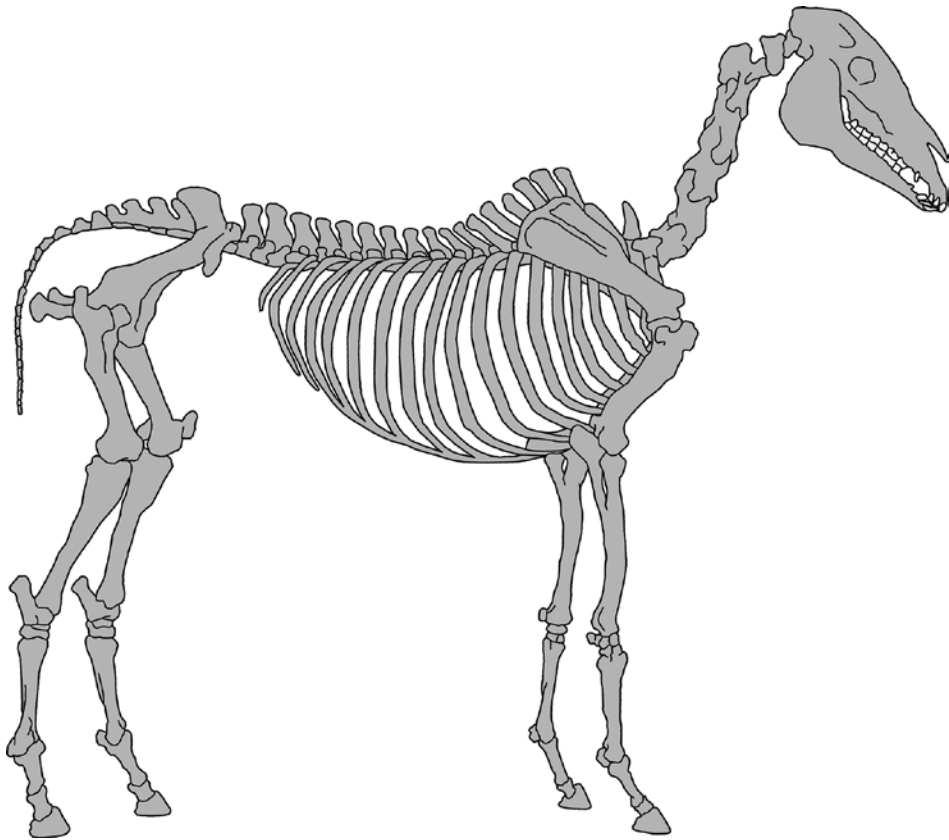
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Back Pain and Kissing Spines

By The VHN Writing Team



The movements of our equines are much more complex than most of us realize. Every individual muscle, ligament, and bone plays a pivotal role in the way our horses function and travel. Like a well oiled machine, it can only take one small piece going out of whack to throw the entire process off.

When our horses display any kind of pain during exercise, a full investigation is important to rule out issues that may not be so obvious. What might appear to be a tack issue can actually be the result of a spinal problem flying under the radar.

Often times, this is exactly the case when it comes to the issue of “kissing spines.”

Some horse owners may know the term or have heard of it in passing from a vet. Others may not have any experience with the ailment.

The term kissing spines refers to an issue with horses’ backs. It can also be called overriding spinous processes and is thought to be one of the leading causes of back pain in horses.

With advancements in medical imaging, veterinarians have been able to get a better visual in how kissing spines presents anatomically.

The horse spine is made up of individual vertebrae, which are connected by ligaments and covered by muscle. Each one of these vertebrae has a bony protrusion that sticks up along the back of the spine. This is the spinous process.

Normally, the spinous process is spaced out evenly, with enough room between each protrusion to allow for bending and flexing with the horse’s movement.

In the instance of kissing spines, the space between is reduced, allowing the protrusions to crowd and “kiss” each other. Without the room to bend comfortably, horses end up feeling back pain during exercise and even routine movements.

It is still not known what causes this issue and it can occur in any horse. Breeds like warmbloods and thoroughbreds seem more likely to suffer from the affliction. Horses can be diagnosed at any age, but between 5 and 10 years old is the most common.

The ailment usually affects the last group of thoracic vertebrae – unfortunately right where the saddle and rider would sit.

The signs a horse may present when suffering from kissing spines can be mild or more severe. They may show stiffness, poorer performance, and an unwillingness to move as fluidly as usual. More intense reactions, like pain with touch, reluctance to bare the weight of a saddle, and even bucking can be present if kissing spines becomes serious enough.

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Diagnosing kissing spines can be a bit tricky as both clinical signs and visual monitoring are necessary. X-rays are the best way of tracking kissing spines, but even these images can be inaccurate based on clarity and angle.

When kissing spines can be confirmed, there are different ways of treating the problem. Much of the treatment is aimed at providing a horse with relief and managing pain. Steroid injections, chiropractic and acupuncture treatment, and muscle relaxants are all pain management steps.

If kissing spines is more advanced and doesn't respond to pain management and continued therapy, surgery may be the only option left to reliably combat the illness. Many times surgery is successful.

Depending on the individual horse's condition, the surgery would have the goal of creating more room between the protrusions to allow for easier movement.

Every other possible reason for pain should be ruled out before confirming the issue to be kissing spines as imaging and symptoms aren't always predictable or accurate. Even with the unfortunate diagnoses, there are options to help your equine feel like his old self again.



The Average Cost of Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



Those that are new to the horse world and owning a horse typically assume that the actual purchase of the animal is the most expensive thing they have to worry about.

They aren't wrong about the expensive part, as horses, depending on breeding and other factors, can be very, very expensive to buy. A Friesian horse can be around \$25,000 or more depending on age and lineage.

But all tried and true horse people know that the biggest and sometimes unpredictable toll on an owner's wallet is everything that comes after getting the horse.

Every monthly expense, every few months, once a year, or those random investments you have to make when the big things wear out.

There are so many expenses to owning a horse that many people wonder, what's the average amount of money horses take every year?

Some estimates state that on average, a horse will cost more than \$3,800 a year, with the median price being around \$2,500. So that breaks down to about \$200 or more a month.

Now this pricing might sound right to you or you might be thinking its way off with what's coming out of your checking account and credit card bill.

The price for every horse person will differ depending on circumstances and your horse's needs, particularly as they go through the stages of equine life.

Some horse owners have multiple horses. Some will board with varying levels of added care. Some horses eat more. Some horses have disabilities or medical ailments that require more vet visits.

Every horse will have a different dollar amount for the year.

Here are a few aspects that go into how much your horse costs in a year: Boarding, Hay, Supplements, Grains, Water, Bedding, Waste Removal, Health Care, Shots, Shoeing, Dental, Deworming, Insurance, Extra Savings, Other Miscellaneous Costs.

Not every owner boards their horse or has accompanying care for that boarding. So, this doesn't factor in any associated truck and trailer repair as well as gas.

Hay prices vary depending on type and season, and horses will go on and off supplements as needed. Water can be a part of board or it can be a part of your water bill if your horse is on your property. This can go for electric too, depending on how specific and technical you want to get with your calculations.

For certain horses, vet visits are more than one annual or semi-annual visit. Your horse may need extra therapies like chiropractic work or acupuncture.

Your horse may also need his feet trimmed more often or shoes replaced.

Not everyone will have insurance for their horse either or have a set amount of money they try to set aside for emergency funds.

There are also many, many owners that pay fees for shows and travelling as well as lessons or conditioning for their horses.

Even when the yearly total doesn't seem too bad, even if it requires some saving, the amount can fluctuate and when added together for say 20 to 30 years to span a horse's lifetime, that's a fairly large chunk of money.

If taken the above average yearly total and multiplied by 25 years, the total amount a horse will cost on a basic level from baby to senior will be \$95,000. For the median monthly price multiplied by the same years, it comes to \$62,500.

Even with this calculation, very rarely will someone's income and finances remain steady and dependable over the course of 20 or 30 years. Just 10 years from now you might make a different salary, have more horses, live in a different area, or have more expenses that you didn't before, like children.

It is thought that on average, middle-income parents in the United States will spend well over \$284,000 over the course of raising a child to 18 years of age.

And that's just raising one child to 18, not including what it costs for yourself and everything and everyone else in your life.

Every year this amount would fluctuate as things get more expensive, but when comparing the amounts, it is interesting to think that by the above calculations, a horse would cost an entire third of the amount it takes to raise a child in the U.S.

So while the expenses and what they come to shouldn't be looked at as a negative, they are extremely important to consider before buying a horse.

And the great thing about having these figures and the tools to calculate what you need on a monthly and yearly basis, you can then save up for what you want and know that you will have enough when the time comes to become a horse owner.

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Finding the Right Horse Trailer for You

By The VHN Writing Team



Just like trying to find the right vehicle for your life, horse trailers are no exception to variety. As time has gone on and the number of horse owners go up, the types of trailers and all of their capabilities has increased.

When first trying to find a trailer that will suit your needs, it is best to consider these questions:

- How many horses will you need to haul at a time?
- Where will you be going?
- How tall are your horses?
- What are your individual horse's requirements?
- What do you have to haul it with?
- How long will your trips ideally be?
- What will you need to pack in the trailer?

And perhaps the most important question outside of these: What is your budget?

Looking at all of the shiny possibilities it is extremely easy to get caught up in the add on's and forget about necessity. It's also easy to get wrapped up in a trailer that has all of the super fancy latest technology and comforts and then realize you can't actually afford it.

It's better to start out with a figure you are willing to pay and know what your limit is. Working from there, you can start marking off what you really need in a trailer.

After that, you can start looking at areas with new and old trailers available.

Another important thing to keep in mind: An old trailer can be tried and true and will live up to your lifestyle if in good condition with a strong build. Just because it's old doesn't mean it's not worth a look. A new trailer can be built flimsy to keep the price tag down and allow for the price to cover things like a bathroom, tack room, and storage areas. Just because it's new doesn't mean it's built like it should be.

Some trailers will be marketed according to lifestyle. The way these trailers are built is according to this lifestyle, so choose carefully and prepare for the future. Keep in mind what kind of vehicle will be hauling this trailer as well. It does you no good if you don't have a vehicle with the right towing and capability to pull that brand new piece of equipment.

A few things that a lot of horse owners view as "must haves" in a trailer:

Windows at each head location for each horse. Hatches to go along with these windows. Padding in the places you need it, like on any metal bars, edging, and posts.

Easy access with a wide opening for both horse and handler. An easier to access trailer will make loading less of a headache. A trailer with enough windows and ventilation to brighten and freshen up the inside.

Easy to use all the bells and whistles. If you can't figure out how to work the parts of your trailer, it's not going to be much use to you after you buy it and have no help. Find something you know you can manage on your own. Easy fixing and maintenance. A trailer that is easily repaired will last. Any of the parts that will be in constant use should be easily found and replaced.

Also consider the types of trailers that exist.

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Are you going to be travelling long distances over many days? Do you travel for competitions? Then living quarters will be pretty important, or at least a bathroom and a tack compartment.

Straight or slant load? This question may be more according to your horse and his needs than your own preferences. How the horse is loaded into the trailer is what makes it either a straight or slant load.

Also, how the horses you are loading together react to one another in a confined space. Do you have a short horse or pony? Or do you have big, tall warmbloods? A taller horse means a taller trailer. You might even have mini horses instead of full sized.

Once you've found a handful of trailers that you like, make some deeper inspections. Find out what it's made out of, when it was made, how long it has sat on the lot or property, how hard it was used before you, when it last had a tire change, and when it last had service. This piece of equipment needs to be able to hold at least one heavy duty horse, so now is the time to go over every inch with a fine-toothed comb.

Don't be afraid to take your time and research. If a seller is trying to push a sale on you, something might be up. You shouldn't feel rushed during the process of buying your trailer, as this is a big and important purchase.

If you feel like you aren't knowledgeable enough to find a good fit, there's no harm in asking friends or people with experience in trailers to help you make a decision. Researching through various sources can help you format questions you didn't know you had, and a second person can help you notice things that you may have missed in the beginning.

In the end, don't be afraid to ask questions and get a few opinions. A trailer with a discount might be good or might not. A trailer that's been used has survived some miles and functioned properly. A pre-owned custom trailer might match what you would want in a custom trailer and come at a discounted price after a certain period of not selling.

Ultimately, finding a trailer that fits you, your horse, and your budget is gonna give you the much needed freedom to haul and travel with your equine buddy whenever necessary or wanted.

Feature: Tule Springs Fossil Beds Mounted Horse Patrol Volunteer Program



Photo Credit: National Park Service

(l-r) Arieana Schultz & Sofia, Desire Schultz (Protectors of Tule Springs), Brian Smith (Funny Farm Mustangs/Protectors of Tule Springs) & George, Jill Smith (Funny Farm Mustangs/Protectors of Tule Springs) & Bertha, Sandy Croteau (Protectors of Tule Springs), Erin Eichenberg (Tule Springs Fossil Beds NM Integrated Resources Program Manager) & Ragnar, and Derek Carter (Tule Springs Fossil Beds NM Superintendent)

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument (TUSK) is happy to announce the commencement of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds Mounted Horse Patrol Volunteer Program. The program was established in 2021 to complement and expand park services to the front country trails and is run by National Park Service Rangers.

The volunteer mounted patrol will serve as the “eyes and ears” of the park rangers and provide valuable support with visitor safety. Currently a team of 5 dedicated local Volunteers in Parks (VIP’s) manage every aspect of care and training of their personal patrol horses, under the leadership of Tule Springs Fossil Beds Integrated Resources Program Manager. These special horses serve as park ambassadors, giving a friendly hello to all visitors they see on the trails at TUSK. [Horse Bio’s below]

While on horse patrol, the uniformed volunteers provide valuable extended ranger services by watching for public safety concerns, for instance hazardous trail conditions and visitors needing emergency assistance, and reporting issues back to park rangers. The efforts of the volunteers also play a critical role in the preservation of park resources and visitor education, as they chat to visitors about sharing multi-use trails safely and the importance of staying out of sensitive and closed habitats.

The Mounted Horse Patrol is also trained on identifying important natural and cultural resources to include fossils, artifacts, and threatened and endangered plants and animals so that they can help inform the park staff of issues or new discoveries.

Patrol volunteers are always happy to provide additional park and trail information to visitors, the park’s natural and cultural resources, and to talk about their horse ambassadors.

For more information please contact Desire Schultz at desires@protectorsoftulesprings.org



Below Left, Photo Credit: National Park Service

Tule Springs Fossil Beds Mounted Horse Patrol volunteers monitor horse trails for safety hazards and to protect natural and cultural resources at the monument l-r: Brian Smith (Funny Farm Mustangs/Protectors of Tule Springs) & George; Arieana Schultz & Sofia

It takes a special kind of horse to become part of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds Mounted Horse Patrol. Meet our current four-legged rangers, and learn why they are good patrol horses.



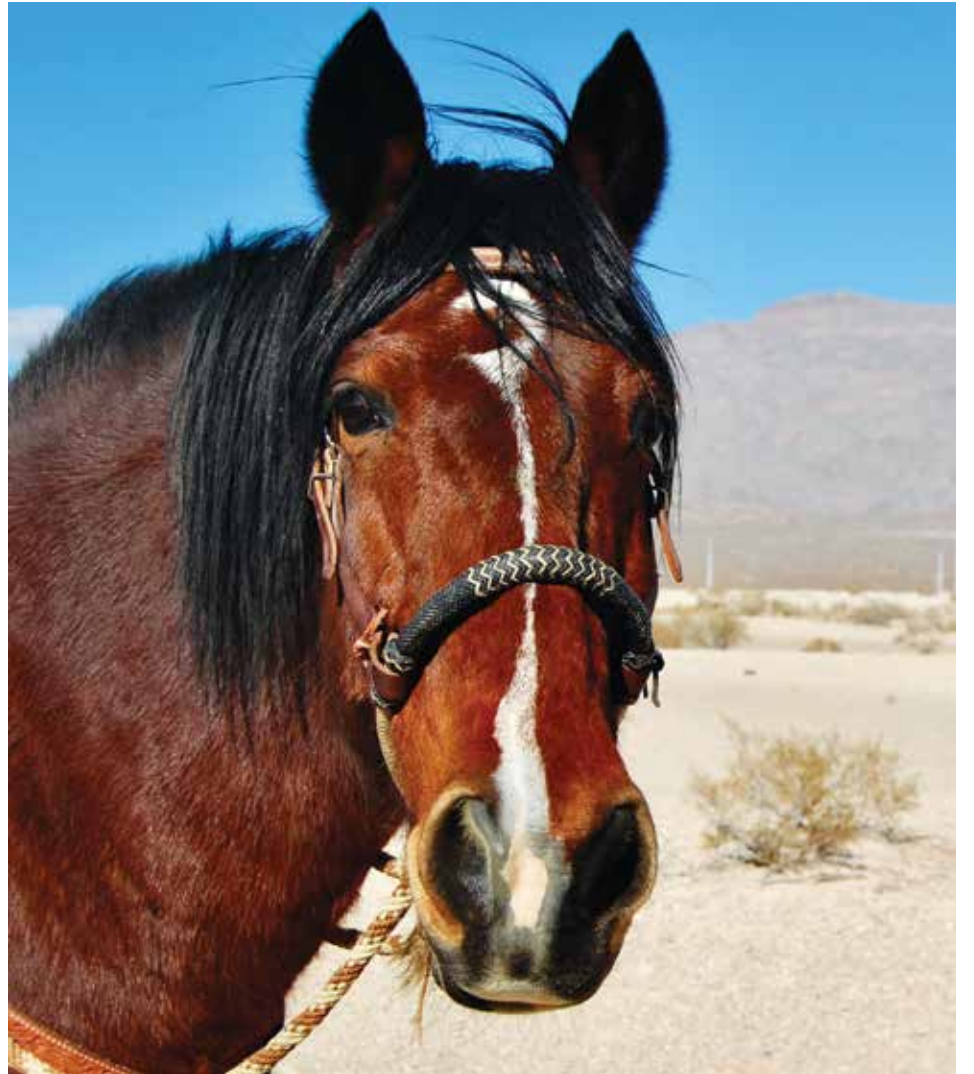
Above, Photo Credit: National Park Service

Ragnar is a 17 year old Friesian gelding who serves as one of Tule Springs Fossil Beds’ equine ambassadors. He prefers the arena over the open range, so he is happy to be the posterhorse of the organization. As an ambassador, Ragnar loves to share leave no trace ethics to other horseback riding enthusiasts through social media and publications.



Above, Photo Credit: National Park Service

Sofia is a 15 year old bay quarter horse. She has a white blaze and one sock on her hind leg. She is trained in barrel racing and is a good fit for the team because she loves to work and only wants to please her rider. She is very talented, and loves to go out on trail.



Above, Photo Credit: National Park Service

George is a 15 year old Mustang who has a unique Robiano color and who's bloodline consists of the ancient bloodline of Turkmen, Spanish bloodline of Galeceno and European bloodline of Hanovarian, which makes him a perfect example of the American Mustang. There is no better than a mustang for navigating the terrain of Tule Springs Fossil Beds and he is a true living legend.



Above, Photo Credit: Brian Smith (Funny Farm Mustangs/Protectors of Tule Springs)

Bertha is a 25 year old Missouri Red mule, standing 17 hands high. This intelligent, gentle giant is well-mannered on trails and in mountain settings. Her bloodline on the horse side consists of Peruvian Paso, Akhal Teke, and Rocky Mountain Horse.

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Apache is nicknamed "Frankie - Ol Blue Eyes" for his stunning appearance and gorgeous eyes. He's seeking a home as a companion animal due to airway disease and intermittent lameness. 15.3hh, approx. 14 yrs old, UTD on teeth/feet/vax. Intermediate+ handlers only, \$400 to approved home.

WWW.LEANhorses.org

Celtic Horse Goddesses

by The VHN Writing Team



Men and horses have walked side by side since ancient history, and through horses' essentialness to us, myths, stories, and symbolism have been born.

Man has always believed and relied on horses and everything they represent to us. So, it is no surprise that we chose in our earlier days to combine them with gods and goddesses to worship and look to for guidance.

There are several goddesses in Celtic mythology that are symbolic of equines.

A well known one, the goddess Epona, comes from the word "epos" meaning horse and "-ona" meaning on. She is part of the Celtic Pantheon and was granted titles such as "The Great Mare," the "Divine Mare," and the "Mare Goddess."

Her worship first came from Gaul or the Celtic France and made its way to Britain and Rome. Those that worked with horses often revered and prayed to her, such as field hands, soldiers, and more.

She is also known as a goddess of fertility and is often depicted with foals. She watches over mothers and many times will be holding a cornucopia as a symbol of fertility and plenty.

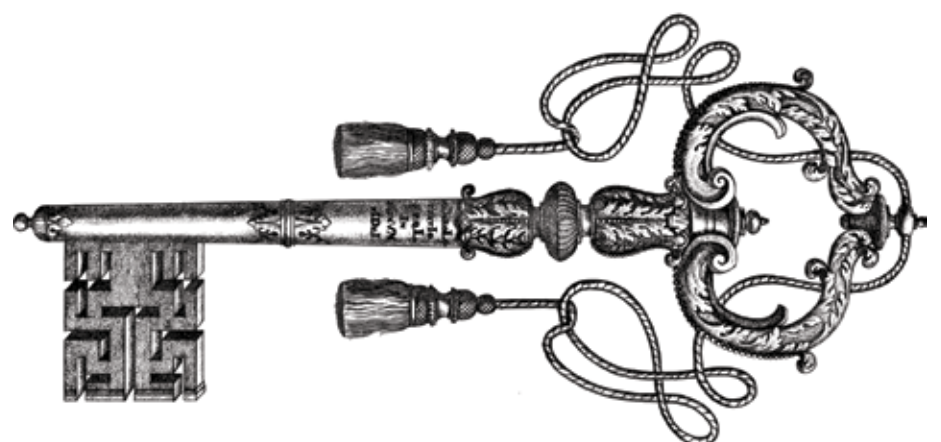
She will also be shown with the image of keys along with her horses as she was seen as a messenger god for the Underworld and the Dream world.

The Roman cavalry named her their Guardian Goddess and took her with them as they conquered, even as far as North Africa. Shrines were set up in stables to protect horses and celebrate her and her feast day.

Horses are also associated with the Goddess Rhiannon, a Celtic Moon Goddess astride a white horse. She's also known as the queen of the Fairies and is associated with magic, fertility, transformation, beauty, poetry, and rebirth.

She can also be symbolized with a horseshoe, a known symbol of luck and fortune.

There is also the third goddess Macha, an Irish horse goddess of battle and war. She also represents fertility, protection, and victory, and has the ability to run faster than any horse. She was a protector of Ireland's safety and welfare. Her symbols were the horse and the crow, both of which could be found on the battlefield. Her name means "mighty one."





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- March 5-7** **Sin City Mounted Shooters**
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- March 13** **Nevada State Horsemen's Association Region**
- March 20-21** **Southern Nevada Gymkhana Association**
- March 20** **Western Heritage & Education Inc. presents the Kelly Griffith Memorial Barrel Race**
- March 27-28** **Southern Nevada Hunter Jumper Association**

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**Changing Weather
By Anna Dunstone**

Winter wafts away
 On tufts of shedded hair
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Signs of a Horse Sale Scam

By The VHN Writing Team



There's nothing quite like the excitement of starting the search for a new horse buddy.

We put together lists of what we want and what we don't want. We decide what kind of breed we're looking for, if we'd like a mare or a gelding, and what disciplines they should be more established in. We also find that ideal price range we're willing to spend on our new equine and how far away from home we are willing to search.

And then comes the fantasies of what our new equine will be like as part of the family when the search is over. It's a fun, albeit stressful, adventure.

On the other end, there's nothing quite like the crushing heartbreak of realizing that you've fallen into a horse sale scam.

Perhaps you've realized in time to not lose out on any money or maybe you've been swindled out of a hefty sum that you set aside special to find that perfect animal. It could be there was no actual horse for sale in the first place or you ended up purchasing an animal that is in no way, shape, or form what was promised by the seller.

Either way, you're left feeling vulnerable, paranoid, and empty of that once promising enthusiasm that you started with in the beginning. You'll also most likely beat yourself up for being stupid enough to fall for the clever ploy. It's completely normal and understandable to feel a sting in your pride, especially when you had laid all your hopes on what you thought you were purchasing.

As tough of a pill it is to swallow, if you find yourself at the tail end of a horse purchase gone horribly wrong, the only two things you can do now are learn from what's happened and remember why you were looking in the first place.

First, don't allow yourself to feel like a total idiot. It can happen to just about anyone, especially in this age where scams run rampant every single day. So many horse sales are started online these days, and the ease of advertising a horse for sale makes it even easier for scammers to post ideal and believable false ads.

If you started your deal gone wrong online, whether you found out in time or ended up losing your money, try to help the next person that may come along. Report the sale to the website or forum owner if done online. This can help both locally and internationally. If you lost money to a sale that is based out of the country, it will be very difficult, if not impossible to get your money back.

Consider speaking with your bank to see what can be done. If done online locally or in person, you have the option of getting the police involved for an investigation. It might also be a good idea to consult a lawyer about the next steps, especially if you lost a larger amount of money in the process.

Hopefully if you purchased a physical animal but they were advertised as something they obviously weren't, you have some paperwork and physical communication records to help your case.

After you've exhausted all avenues for recourse, there are some things to keep in mind should you decide to venture out again in search of your new equine buddy.

1. Watch out for fishy details as you speak with potential sellers. Location is very important. If the seller switches up details a few times or needs to have the horse shipped to you from a different location altogether for a fee, it may be best to move on.

2. Any seller will be willing to speak almost immediately and through a normal phone number. If communication is only done through text or email, something isn't right. You can even push to do a video call to feel more secure.

3. Don't go looking for "deal" pricing. If the price is way under normal, especially for certain breeds, that's a big red flag. That either means there's no horse at all, the horse being sold is having trouble being sold due to problems or is another horse altogether, or the seller is extremely desperate/uneducated about pricing which is still a warning sign in itself.

4. Tread carefully with how you pay. If you are selling instead of buying a horse, watch out for individuals willing to pay over your asking price, especially if they haven't even seen the horse. Certain ways of paying, especially electronically, are harder to track and easy to scam with.

5. Remember your horse knowledge or ask a friend. Go over every ad with a fine-tooth comb and if something sounds odd for a horse's age, breed, location, etc. it could be a scam. Language is also important, as bad grammar, misspelling, and more can be a clue to a foreign scam.

6. Always ask for more pictures than what is just listed. If you do not ask to see more than the pictures already posted online, then you are opening yourself up for a serious scam. Many scammers will use photos found online or from professional horse catalogues, websites, and calendars.

7. If a picture looks almost too perfect, there's a chance it's a recycled photo that's been stolen. Try googling the horse's breed or something specific about them like coat color or markings. You might just find that same picture online somewhere else.

8. If you are doing a deal in person, always test ride, take pictures, get medical histories, and keep all of your paperwork. Every bit of the sale, from beginning to end, should be recorded in some fashion so that should the deal go sour or something isn't how it should be, you have evidence to fall back on. A real horse person and real horse seller will understand your motives and reasoning for being so careful.

9. And last but never least, 9 times out of 10, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. That's how scammers like to get their unassuming prey. They want to make you feel like you've found something perfect for an amazing price and they want to make it quick and easy for you without having to give anything concrete or in person.

Never feel guilty about walking away from a sale, whether you are the one buying or if you're selling. There will always be someone else or another horse that comes along.

And when in doubt, get some opinions from other horse people, family, friends, or maybe a lawyer/ police officer. It's better to have someone be honest and point out how odd something seems even though you may be willing to overlook it because of the deal you think you've found.



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MARCH 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>*The scheduling of events for all organizations and locations is currently under constant change due to COVID-19. For the most up to date schedules, attendance, and virtual show dates/ info please regularly visit the corresponding websites.* <i>Thank You</i></p>						
7 EARLY THAW HORSE SHOW 9am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	8 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	9 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	10 HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456 BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419	11 DIXIE CLASSIC BARREL RACE 1pm, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	12 DIXIE CLASSIC BARREL RACE 10am and 6pm, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	13 DIXIE CLASSIC BARREL RACE 11am, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
14 DIXIE CLASSIC BARREL RACE 9am, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	15	16 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	17 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com	18	19	20 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz KB TEAM SORTING 9am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
21 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz	22 WCBRA BARREL RACE 6pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park 4-H HORSE SHOW 6pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	23	24	25	26 JR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO 5 pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	27 JR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO 11 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park
28 JR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO 10 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park	29 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	30	31 WCBRA BARREL RACE 6pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park			

APRIL 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
11	12 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	13 NSHA GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ WULFY'S Hwy 160 Pahrump 775-727-9576	14 HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456 BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419	15	16	17 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz
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25	26 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	27	28	29	30	

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8645 Trails End. Dream 2 acre horse prop. with unique house-barn. State-of-the-art barn, 16x16 stalls, vet, tack, 265' X 120' arena & dressage arena. Access to FLP for best riding in town! \$994,500

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