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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH: **Happy Mother's Day!**



## Press Release - Inaugural Virtual World Open Horse Show, Open Horse Show Association

This May brings the Open Horse Show Association's Inaugural Virtual World Open Horse Show! This unprecedented event brings competitors from across the US and Canada together virtually to compete for awards and the title of "World Champion!"

OHSA was founded in 2012 with the motto "... show locally ... achieve nationally." And since then, every year, the awards program has increased. From a few thousand dollars in 2012 to over \$25,000 in awards in 2020.

Prizes include saddles to the overall annual high point winner to buckles ribbons, trophies, reins, saddle pads, bridles, halters, grooming tools, and much more. These prizes are awarded based on points earned under OHSA by showing at local open, schooling, and 4-H shows.

When COVID hit the country in 2020 OHSA had to decide their path forward with the cancellation of nearly all open horse shows for most of the year. They decided that hosting their own virtual shows would allow members to continue to show and earn points so their awards program would continue.

They also realized many other venues also began hosting virtual shows. OHSA recognizes those shows and members were able to continue showing, and growing, all year.

Since OHSA's inception nearly 10 years ago the idea of hosting a national or world show has been considered. But many people showing at open shows are unable to commit the time or money needed to show at a national show venue, which would most likely be far from their homes.

If anything positive came from 2020 it was that OHSA realized virtual shows could work. They soon began preparing for a virtual world show. OHSA partnered with The Most Wanted Custom Silver to design custom buckles, awarded to all classes with 10 or more entries. There are prizes for all class winners and placings down to 6th place.

"We are so excited to host the OHSA Inaugural Virtual World Open Horse Show. 2020 showed us that all things are possible, and sometimes changing your course isn't a bad thing. Although very few members earned points at live horse shows in 2020 (thankfully that is changing now) we learned how to host a virtual show, our members learned a lot about taking videos on their phones, and that bloopers can be hilarious! It's ok to laugh at ourselves," says Debbie Dunn, OHSA's Founder.

Although it seems that many areas are starting to get back to a form of a new normal, Dunn believes virtual shows are here to stay. Many people seem to enjoy them as something they can do from home with minimal assistance. Showing at their leisure yet still competing against their peers.

OHSA is also planning a 4 month series for the summer as a dress down circuit, having relaxed attire requirements. All of OHSA's virtual shows pay jackpot money back to entrants with circuit awards.

For more information on OHSA and their programs please visit [www.showohsa.com](http://www.showohsa.com) or call 321-863-0456.





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### A Note from the Owner:

*Hello! And welcome to the Newspaper! I am so glad you decided to pick us up for a read! Be sure to check out our exciting, historical, and informative articles, as well as our wonderful advertisers. We update every month with new information selected especially for our readers enjoyment! Be sure to follow along with us each edition, and feel free to e-mail any comments, questions, or suggestions for material you would like to see right here in these pages.*

*See you next time! - Codi Kern*

### What's new with Valley Horse News? We're on Social Media!

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Follow along for everything horse, every day! You'll find updates about the latest editions, relatable content for every horse enthusiast, awesome facts about your favorite equines, and so much more of the information you love. Make sure to follow today!



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## How to Clean a Stall Like a Pro

By The VHN Writing Team



If there was one word that helps to perfectly describe horse care or owning a horse, it would be the word routine. No matter what happens in your horse life, there will always be a set routine for how you care for your equine each and every day.

And so many parts of horse care are things that must be done at least once if not a couple times a day. Feeding and filling water buckets is one example of a routine chore that must be done twice a day, sometimes more.

Another routine part of horse care is cleaning out your horse's stall. If there's one thing our horses are very talented at, it's making a mess from sun up to sun down.

Some horses are more neat and tidy in their living quarters, other horses not so much. There will be horses that poop in exactly the same spot every day, making you seriously consider placing a bucket in that area just to see how much would end up inside it.

Then there are the other horses who not only poop and pee all over the place, they also manage to do it inside their feed buckets, water buckets, and right where they sleep. These ones might as well have been born as piggies, and have a tendency to be white in color.

No matter your horse's personal potty habits, mucking up what he leaves behind is a priority.

Now, many of us have the automatic inclination to say that mucking out a stall is pretty straight forward. You pick up the dirty and leave the clean, simple as that, right?

What if we told you that there was a way to clean your horse's stall that made it easier each time you did it and could also save you some time and money too.

Intrigued? We thought you might be.

The first thing to do is make sure you have the right tools to clean. If you use a straw form of bedding, a pitch fork is optimal. If you use shavings or wood pellets, use a bedding pitchfork with tines that are much closer together. A broom and a rake will also come in handy as well as a very necessary bucket or wheelbarrow.


Also, if possible, make sure your horse is turned out so the stall is empty for your cleaning. This way you don't have to work around your horse and there's no chance of him walking right through your hard work or adding to it.

Next, plan to section out what's clean in the stall and what's dirty. Clean up all of the poop as best you can. Then start to toss and pull all the dirty bedding towards the middle and the door/ gate. Any bedding that appears clean you should start to shift to the corners of the stall and by the walls. So now all the dirty should be in the middle and front, and the clean should be on the perimeters.

Place all of the dirty bedding in the muck buckets or wheelbarrow. Take your broom and sweep up any residual dirt, dust, and shredded bedding left on the floor. Once the floor is bare, leave it to air dry out, with any extra wet spots treated with a deodorizer or absorbent pellets.


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Allow the floor to dry out as much as possible. Right before you bring your horse back to his sparkling stall, bring the clean bedding back to the center and add any new bedding as needed.

The benefit of cleaning this way is you don't miss any soiled areas, and the very bottom of the stall is allowed to dry and air out to prevent a build-up of moisture and stool. This can also save you from wasting bedding that gets contaminated from the bottom layer and keeps your horse's stall fluffy and comfy. Your horse's stall won't have to be stripped of everything nearly as often, odor will be eliminated, and flies will also be less likely to hang around.

What should you do if your horse's stall doesn't have a cement or rubber base? If your horse has all sand in his stall, you can still use a similar method of cleaning.

You can pull any poop from the stall and any soiled bedding on top of the sand. Once all of the stool is removed, take a wide, metal rake and go over the area. Sift through every wet spot so that it has a chance to dry out.

Pull piled up sand from the edges that have naturally worked their way over from your horse's activity. Smooth the sand in multiple directions to fluff it up so it can dry out and keep from being packed down again.

If your horse has very wet urine spots, invest in some absorbent pellets. As these pellets absorb the urine, they break down and can be either mucked out or mixed in with the sand during the next mucking. You can also keep a few extra bags of sand on hand to layer onto thin areas, allowing your horse to stay comfy and the bottom layer of dirt to remain moisture free. The more layering you can do, the less saturated and stagnant the sand will remain as your horse uses it.



## • Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

### “Mexican Taco Meatloaf”

Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 45 mins Servings: 4

#### Ingredients:

3/4 pound lean ground beef

1/2 cup crushed tortilla chips

3/8 cup shredded pepper jack cheese

1/2 small onion, chopped or dehydrated onion

1/2 (1 ounce) packet taco seasoning mix

1 eggs, beaten

1/4 cup milk

1/8 cup mild red taco sauce, or more to taste

#### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Thoroughly combine beef, tortilla chips, pepper Jack cheese, onion, and taco seasoning in a bowl.

Whisk eggs, milk, and taco sauce together in a separate bowl. Add to meat mixture and stir until well combined.

Press mixture into a 9x5-inch loaf pan and top with a strip of taco sauce down the center.

Bake in the preheated oven until cooked through and browned on top, 45 to 60 minutes.



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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](http://www.happytrailskitchen.com). You can contact Sharon through her website or by emailing her at [happytrailskitchen@gmail.com](mailto:happytrailskitchen@gmail.com) or call (702) 277-8000. HTK is also on Facebook and Instagram under HappyTrailsKitchen.



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## Is My Horse Peeing Too Much?

By The VHN Writing Team



No matter what kind of climate your horse lives in, hydration is of huge importance. All of our equines need adequate access to water every day, and that need becomes even more imperative when they have routine workouts and competitions.

The more a horse exercises, the more water he will need to intake to replace the fluid he's lost by sweating.

Hydration plays a key role in how our equine's bodies perform internally as well. Our horse's systems all need enough water to function properly, and one way to tell if your horse is getting all of the water he needs is based on how much he urinates.

Your horse should be drinking anywhere from 5 – 10 gallons of water depending on weight and activity level. In a horse that is much more active and in hotter conditions, this could nearly double.

But if you clean your horse's stall and notice that he seems to be peeing more than usual without a change in routine, you might begin to ask yourself, is my horse peeing too much?

If you start to notice your horse peeing much more frequently or you are changing out wet bedding more often, there can be a few reasons why.

Excessive or increased urination in horses is called polyuria. For your horse to be able to pee in excess, he must be taking in extra water. Polydipsia is excess intake of water.

Your horse's kidneys are the main organs that filter out the blood and clean out waste from the urine. The color of your horse's pee will indicate just how much urine his kidneys are filtering. A darker brown or deep yellow color means your horse has less fluid being filtered, while clearer urine indicates more fluid intake that's quickly being processed.

Diet can have an impact on your horse's peeing habits. A horse that is fed a more legume variety of hay, such as alfalfa will be eating more protein and calcium. This is more digestible than other types of hay, like grass. When horses consume alfalfa, they are more likely to pass larger amounts of urine and less stool.

The urine will also have a stronger ammonia odor due to the proteins in the hay and you'll notice a wetter stall or turn out. In contrast, grass hay will produce more of the opposite effect, with less urine volume and odor.

If your horse seems to be peeing much more, it's important to rule out kidney dysfunction, like CKD or chronic kidney disease. With this disease, the kidneys cannot produce concentrated urine so the output is much more frequent. Speak with your vet about testing your horse's blood for signs of CKD.

If everything appears within a normal range, your vet can help you rule out kidney issues and give you ideas on how to test your horse's water consumption and urine concentration.

Excessive drinking and peeing can also be a sign of Cushing's disease and other ailments, so it's important to have a full work up.

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It is possible that instead of having a disease that causes polyuria/ polydipsia, it could all be behavioral or psychological. Horses can begin to drink more water than usual because they are restless.

A bored horse will sometimes try to fill the boredom they feel with over drinking. If this is the case for your horse, increasing your horse's turn out time and adding in some more tasks to keep him stimulated will help with this bad habit.

You should also keep track of what supplements and medications your horse is taking, as there are side effects to certain substances that will cause excessive thirst and frequent urination. If you've had any changes in supplements or even in feed type, the increase in drinking could be a reaction to this change, so test of elimination could reveal the culprit.

Any tests should be carefully monitored and short term, especially when denying a supplement that your horse is used to.

You might think that extra water intake that's unrelated to a disease or ailment is fine as it's just additional hydration, but too much fluid intake can actually be bad.

It is extremely important that any excessive drinking and urinating be evaluated quickly, as it can be dangerous for your horse to drink too much over a longer period of time. The extra volume can put too much strain on the kidneys and can dilute the level of electrolytes in your horse's body, leading to problems with regulating body temperature.

If you live in a hotter climate or your horse has intense workouts, this can be a recipe for disaster.

When in doubt about your horse's condition, consulting your veterinarian will always be the best option, as the sooner you can take care of a potential problem, the better.

Your vet will also have experience in riddling out the signs your horse is giving that something isn't quite right. What might seem odd or random to you could be a clear indicator to your vet that your horse is dealing with an issue under the radar.

## Feeding the Problem: Is Hand Feeding Treats a Recipe for Bad Behavior?

By The VHN Writing Team



It seems to be an unspoken rule in horse ownership that regularly giving hand fed treats to your horse will not only create but reinforce bad and mouthy behaviors.

The logic behind the assumption is that your horse will grow so used to receiving treats by hand that the element of being patient and respectful will be forgotten.

While it may seem to make sense, it has actually been proven that treats and food in general is the perfect motivator for horses. It's not only something that they want but something that they need. And truthfully, can any one of us think of a time where our horses weren't ecstatic to receive a treat or any kind of food for that matter?

When treats are used in the right way they can be the perfect tool for training your horse as they are perfect rewards.

Treats are great for positive reinforcement, especially with an audible signal. One popular way of doing this is clicker training. By associating the treat with the sound, you can provide an easy cue for your horse to follow and when your horse hears the sound he will understand that by doing what's asked of him, he will receive that much desired treat at the end.

Utilizing this tool can really perfect behaviors with your horse and allow you to train him in the way you need most.

And you don't have to use a clicker. You can make a sound of your own to use, like a pop or snap. Any quick, specific sound that you can repeat as necessary will do the trick.

An example of how to do this training would be to ask your horse to do something, like bowing or picking a foot up. Right when your horse does the requested behavior, click the clicker or make the sound you want. You must make it right on time, not too early or too late.

Say you want to teach him lifting a foot. You want to click or make the sound right when his hoof meets your hand. Not when he's pulling away. As whatever behavior you are "marking" is what he will repeat for that treat.

Using a clicker may be difficult when your hands are already full, so whatever sound you decide to utilize, stick with it and have it be something you only use for training and nothing else.

Another great thing about treat feeding is it can be used to counter train or counter condition your horse against negative or stressful stimuli. Just as with us humans, food for your horse activates the pleasure center of the brain. This releases chemicals that make your horse feel stable, at ease, and comforted. So food really does equal happy.

For this type of training, find what your horse is afraid of, say a plastic bag. Present the plastic bag or go near it. As soon as your horse starts to have a negative reaction, supply him with some treats.

By associating the item with food, it will reduce the negative response and allow you to actually work with him in overcoming the agitation.

It's also possible to combine both types of techniques when tackling difficult training that requires getting over a stressor and then using that same stressor as a daily or workout tool.

One of the best parts of this kind of training is that as your horse begins to understand the concept of clicker or sound training with the positive reinforcement, it should take less time to train for specific things, as your horse will understand what the clicking is meaning towards each new object or activity.

If your horse is a little too eager for the treats, you can try a treat that's maybe not quite such a favorite but still good while counter training this over eagerness. You can teach him the lesson of patience and the reward he will always get for that patience.

In the case of a horse that is getting mouthy off a treat, always have the treat be a reward for something. It keeps your horse in the routine of doing as told and keeps the reinforcement of the treat being a reward instead of something he can either beg for or just take from you.

You can also train him to only take his treat when you come to him and not when he comes to you. This allows you to keep adequate space between the two of you so he doesn't get grabby and you control the timing. This also really drives home the importance of patience and manners with your horse.



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## Prepping for the Hot Days

By The VHN Writing Team



2021 is flying by as we head into May and the final goodbye of spring.

We've enjoyed some nice, albeit slightly dramatic weather recently with temperatures climbing and then falling. It's that funky time of year where your jacket is still necessary at certain hours and then you're stripping before you bake to death in the sun.

But one thing is for sure, summer will be approaching with a vengeance, or what some of us can basically label pre-summer where the temperatures still get hot just not record breaking like they will be, come June.

So now is the perfect time to prepare for the inevitable hot days making their way here.

Our horses can definitely agree with us that the transition to hot temperatures is no fun, and depending on how much of a left turn the weather takes, the transition can be anything but smooth.

First and foremost, make sure you have all the materials you will need for the warmer weather. Check all of your water buckets. If they have seen better days or have become chipped or cracked, consider investing in some new ones. Always have backup water buckets available as well as you never know when you may need them.

Also be sure to check your hose for repairs, your horse's fly sheets and mask, automatic waterers, any fans in your barn, and all of your emergency materials for restocking. Now is a great time to double check expiration on all supplements and medications. You can also invest in some electrolyte powder in case your horse has a hard time adjusting his water intake with the heat. There are many flavors as well to encourage your horse to drink more throughout the day.

If you tend to clip your horse before the heat turns up, make sure your clippers are in good working order. You can start clipping your horse as soon as the temperatures get reasonably high and begin with small sections and work your way up.

It's important to think of yourself as well, especially if you care for your horse throughout the day. As the temperatures get more volatile, you need to find ways to keep yourself cool and hydrated. Always make sure you are adequately prepared before working in the sun and heat, that way you don't risk suffering from heatstroke or sunburn.

If your horse has a means of shade, check to make sure it is stable and consider expanding it if you feel your horse would benefit.

Adjust your horse's workouts to times of the day when the heat is at its lowest, like earlier in the morning and after the sun is setting. Your equine may need a different routine and activity level until his body acclimates to the new temperature.

As your horse ages, he will need more prompt and even specialty care during the summer, as his body will not respond as well as it did when he was younger. Your veterinarian can help you stay on track with his monitoring and offer tips on how to keep him comfortable.

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While the temperatures increase, be sure to keep an eye on how your horse is adjusting and make note of any excessive sweating, lack of sweating, or puffing during the day. These can be signs that your horse's body is in overdrive and needs some help. Also check your horse's stool and his urination habits to make sure everything is functioning properly with the change.

Lastly, have a list of contacts should you need to call your vet, farrier, or a friend for help. The previous summer seasons will have helped you get a better idea of how your horse handles the heat, but as his body ages and his needs change, his tolerance will fluctuate.

*"I heard Mom asking Dad why a nap had to be so difficult around here... I don't know what she's talking about, seems pretty easy to me!"*



**Happy Mother's Day**  
to all the tired Mama's out there!

## Feature: Shiloh Ranch - The Ultimate Horse Ranch

By Al Marquis



Most ranch owners have a common complaint: “The surrounding area was wide open when we bought this property, but the city has grown around us. Now there’s no place to ride.” You’ll never have that complaint at Shiloh Ranch, where you can ride your horse in any direction as far as you want to go.

Established in 2005 by renowned Hollywood actor Tony Curtis and his wife Jill, Shiloh Ranch became a 40 acre horse sanctuary. Over the years hundreds of horses, otherwise facing mistreatment or death, went on to lead happy, fulfilling lives. With love in their hearts, Tony and Jill chose the name “Shiloh”, which means “a place of peace”. There’s good karma at Shiloh Ranch which is now available for purchase. (For details, go to: [www.shiloh-ranch.com](http://www.shiloh-ranch.com)).

To protect their animals, Tony and Jill constructed a six foot high coyote fence around the entire 40 acres. Gated entryways add to the security.

Shiloh Ranch is 45 minutes and a hundred years from Las Vegas. Remote, yet not. It appears to be in the middle of nowhere, but Vegas is just down the road. Pilots can fly in from anywhere and land on the 3460’x45’ paved runway (with 1,200’ gravel overruns for those occasions when the plane’s a little heavy or the landing is a little long).

The runway runs adjacent to Shiloh’s western boundary, and a nearby 4,000 sq. ft. hangar is for sale. Sandy Valley’s uncontrolled airspace is nothing but blue sky, perfect for aerobatics or just buzzing around.

Few people, even those who have resided in Vegas their entire lives, have ever been to Sandy Valley. Well, that’s just fine with us. A key factor to our privacy and anonymity is that “you gotta want to git here in order to git here.”

The roads into the valley are not on the way to anywhere else. Sandy Valley has to pretty much be someone’s destination in order to truly witness the unique grandeur of this place.

Shiloh Ranch and the surrounding countryside is horse paradise. The sandy-clay soil is free of stones, and there’s nothing but wide open spaces. Neighbors include my place, Kingston Ranch ([www.kingstonranch.com](http://www.kingstonranch.com)), and Sandy Valley Ranch ([www.sandyvalleyranch.com](http://www.sandyvalleyranch.com)), owned by Las Vegas native, Marilyn Gubler. These ranches, along with others, are part of the Mesquite Valley Horse Estates (“MVHE”).

Civilization came to this neck of the woods when retired sheriff Hart Reynolds homesteaded Kingston Ranch in 1931. He chose this area for a number of reasons including the fact that this land is located in the middle of a natural mesquite forest. From May through November, the forest is a lush green, taking on a tropical appearance. We ride through shaded paths within the dense mesquites.

The surrounding mountains cause cold air to “puddle” in our valley, keeping temperatures 10-15 degrees below Las Vegas. You can sit out at night and watch spectacular sunsets followed by unsurpassed star gazing. Old Hart knew what he was doing.



The Shiloh property has two beautiful four-bedroom homes with landscaped and fenced yards, sprinkler systems, and double car garages. The “Some Like It Hot” stable area includes a six-stall barn with tack room and feed room, two covered paddocks with 18 stalls, four shelters, three riding arenas, several outbuildings, a luxurious multi-horse wash station, as well as a western saloon (perfect for late night poker parties).

There’s no traffic, no smog, no city noise. The air and water are pure and fresh. Everyone peacefully coexists with their neighbors and the surrounding wildlife. On 40 acres, you’re only limited by your imagination.



Shiloh Ranch is located on the northern boundary of the Mojave Wilderness Area, 700,000 acres of undevelopable land, presenting endless opportunities to venture out with your horses, dogs and whatever else you want to take.

Some of the wild animals within the MWA include jack rabbits, cottontails, horny toads, porcupines, big horn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, grey fox, bobcats, badgers, cougars and wild burros. Features of the MWA include the Mitchell Caverns, the Joshua Tree Forest, and Kelso Dunes.

Family security is an important consideration these days. Our over-crowded, energy-dependent society is far more vulnerable than most people realize. If the electrical grid goes down, city dwellers will be without access to water, food, gas and cell phones.

At Shiloh Ranch, with a generator and a stockpile of food, the entire family can live comfortably until the crisis subsides.

I bought Kingston Ranch 25 years ago, and it was the best decision I ever made. For years I worked as an attorney in Vegas and came out to the ranch on weekends. Over time the “weekends” grew longer.

When I finally retired five years ago, I moved here full time. There’s nowhere else I want to be.

If you’d like to be our neighbor and you can afford a \$1.890 million ranch, give me a call. (Seller financing is available.) My cell is 702-809-6357.

[Bottom] One of the unique features of Shiloh Ranch is the western “town” of Coronado (named after Hotel Coronado in San Diego, where the movie *Some Like It Hot* was filmed). The structures include the Whistle Stop (actually an office), the Livery (actually a shop), the Jail (with a real jail cell) and the Rawhide Saloon (named after one of Tony Curtis’ movies, *The Rawhide Years*).



The classic horse barn is located just behind Coronado (pictured here with Mt. Charleston in the background). The indoor/outdoor stalls are ideal for up to six horses. The barn includes a tack room and a feed room so that everything you need for your horse is in one convenient location.



The saloon has an authentic western feel with its lantern lights, wainscoting and bordello-style wallpaper. On the walls are framed photos of some of Tony’s movie posters. The bar is custom made from old barnwood, and the mirror is similarly framed. The highlight is a centralized poker table which makes you feel as if you’re playing poker with *Maverick* or the *Sundance Kid*. It’s tough for the players to resist a shot of whiskey. Out back is a similarly decorated “outhouse” with a real flush toilet, a sink and a heater.



The beauty of Shiloh Ranch is difficult to describe in words. Come and see it for yourself.



### Shiloh Horse Hotel

Pending a sale (and possibly thereafter), Shiloh is available as a horse hotel. Bring your horse and camp in your RV or stay in one of our newly redecorated four bedroom houses. Utilize our stalls, corrals and round pens, and ride every day in any direction as far as you want to go. For more info, contact Sandi at 702-265-9646.

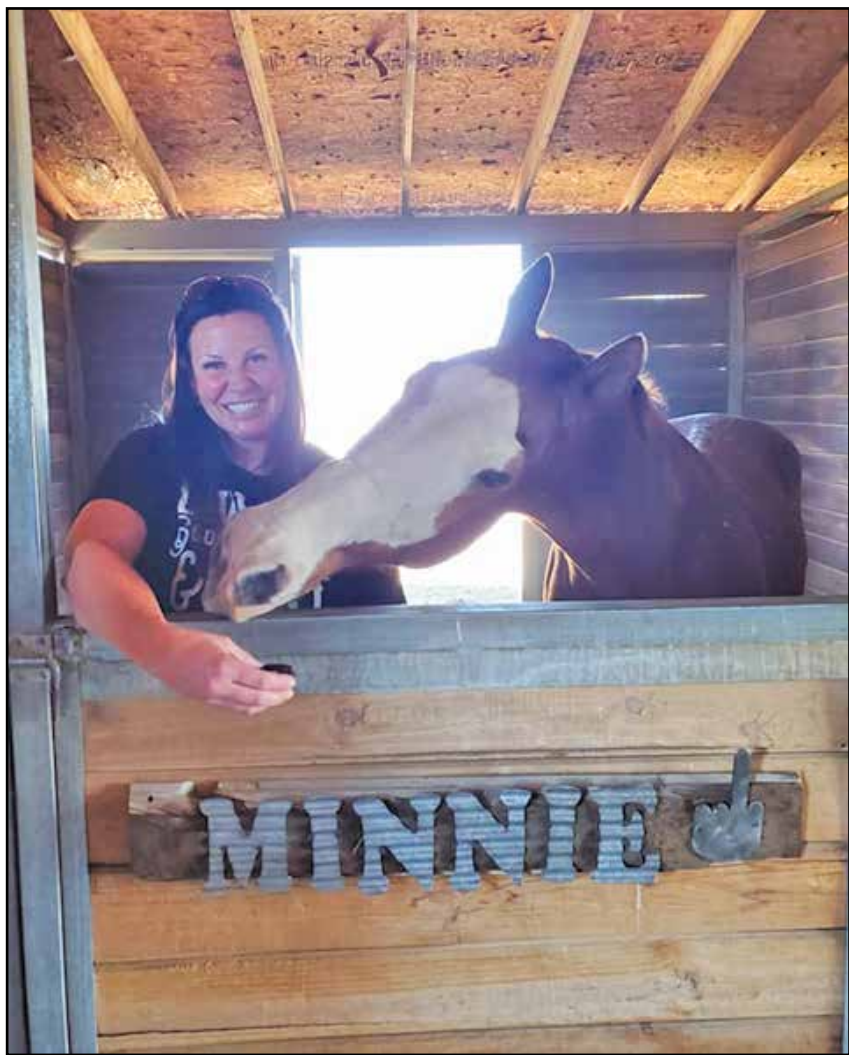


# Local Equine Assistance Network



If you're interested in giving a L.E.A.N horse a forever home, please contact Karin at 702-533-4656 or visit them at [www.LEANhorses.org](http://www.LEANhorses.org)

[www.LEANhorses.org](http://www.LEANhorses.org)



## HAPPY ENDING:

Minnie's adoption by one of her caretakers, Stacey. Her horse Teddy became Minnie's boyfriend during their stay with L.E.A.N. foster Robin Bailey. When it was time for Stacey to bring her horse to their new home, she decided that Minnie was part of the family too, and adopted her for Teddy! Now that's a happy ending! Special thanks to our wonderful community for all the support we received for Minnie and Frieda, who is still awaiting her forever home.

[WWW.LEANhorses.org](http://WWW.LEANhorses.org)

## Protecting Your Equine on Sunny Days

by The VHN Writing Team



We all enjoy sunny days spent outside and so do our horses. It's a benefit to your horse's health and to yours to take advantage of the good weather and have some extra turn out time, riding time, or even a messy but fun bubble bath.

But there are some things to keep in mind while you and your horse enjoy the fun in the sun. Just like us, your horse's skin can be susceptible to sunlight when given in extended doses. Even with all of their hair, a horse can become sunburned just as easily as you can.

If you have a white horse or a horse with white markings anywhere on its body, then the chance of sunburn and potential health hazards increases dramatically.

If your horse becomes sunburned, it will be pretty easy to see. The skin will become pink/red, inflamed, and tender. Depending on severity, the skin may also peel, crack, and cause aggravating pain.

Another potential problem to consider is photosensitivity, which is the combination of sun exposure and the ingestion of plants or medications that contain photodynamic chemicals. St. John's wort, buckwheat, and other plants contain these chemicals, leading to primary photosensitivity.

Some of these plants can grow year round and some of them will be newly bloomed.

The chemicals remain circulating throughout the horse's bloodstream and react when sunlight reaches them through the pink skin. Essentially, the chemicals burn skin and tissue, creating painful swelling and blistering.

From there, the blisters turn into thick crusty sections that tighten and eventually slough off in large amounts. This can lead to potential infection and scarring.

There's also secondary photosensitization in which ingestion of toxic plants, sickness, or medication debilitates the horse's liver, preventing it from filtering photodynamic compounds from the blood. The result plays out the same way as primary photosensitization.

Another possible ailment caused by exposure to the sun is tumors, such as squamous cell carcinoma, that have a connection with ultraviolet or UV light. They often appear on pink skin, around the eyes or genitals, and form into lumpy growths that can be difficult to cure if left without any treatment.

To prevent these and other ailments, limiting extended sun exposure is the best route. Provide ample shade for horses at all times, so they can take advantage of the break in exposure. Also research the plants that grow in your pastures or on your property and speak with your veterinarian about your horse's medications and tips for prevention.

You can also utilize different forms of sunscreen, like zinc oxide or sprays, that will protect vulnerable areas of pink skin against photo, and general sunburn. A sun sheet can also be beneficial.

There are many ways to protect your horse against the harmful effects of the sun, so that both you and your horse can continue to enjoy.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- May 1-2 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumper Association
- May 8-9 Southern Nevada Gymkhana Association
- May 21-22 Nevada Reined Cow Horse Association



**We are excited to announce that the new cover for the Flamingo Arena is now complete! In celebration of the new cover, there will be a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 1st at 8:30am.**

**The public is invited to attend, and can stay after to enjoy the two events scheduled at the park on that day.**

*Thank you sponsors for your continued support!*



**The Old Wrangler  
By Anna Dunstone**

Old weathered hands  
From lack of gloves  
A heart endeared  
With those he loves  
A lifestyle left  
Unconformed  
A frail frame  
That work transformed  
Blue eyes that  
Have seen so much  
A love for horses  
And gentle touch  
A satisfaction  
In hard work  
A person not afraid  
Of dirt  
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A soul that's kind  
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And sound mind



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# Horse Fly Sheets for the Summer

By The VHN Writing Team



The summer heat can be a brutal force, not only for us but for our horses. For our own wellbeing when the temperatures climb, we have to make sure we drink enough water, stay in the shade, cover up as much as possible and where sunscreen.

For our horses, the same rules apply to stay safe. Drink water throughout the day, provide adequate shade, and wear sunscreen on white and pink areas.

One unfortunate aspect of the nasty summer heat and monsoonal humidity that often accompanies it are the surge in flies. As the days get warmer, the chances of swatting at flies or being dive bombed by a rogue insect go up dramatically.

These pests are also a pain in the butt for our horses, literally. Flies can be a nuisance to our equines, biting and driving them crazy. Fly masks help to keep the insects away from our horse's eyes and even their ears. But what about the rest of them?

Many of us have invested in fly sheets as a way of keeping flies off of our horses' bodies long term, especially when fly sprays fade or don't work well enough.

Some horses are also allergic to fly spray ingredients.

But are fly sheets a safe form of protection when the degrees skyrocket?

Our horses have different ways of keeping themselves cool, one of them being sweating, as we've covered elsewhere in this edition. When our horses cannot sweat properly, it can lead to serious consequences like heat stroke.

Heat stroke can lead to neurological problems and organ damage if not stopped.

When our horses sweat, the moisture they secrete is meant to be evaporated by the air, thereby cooling our horses' skin and their blood. If a fly sheet is placed on our horses and they sweat, it can put them at a disadvantage. They may not be able to cool down properly and will steadily build up heat until their bodies sustain damage or they get help.

Should our horses wear fly sheets at all then?

If you want to place a sheet on your horse, keep these things in mind.

Get a proper fly sheet that has a weaving meant for air circulation. If the fibers/ mesh are too tightly woven, air cannot get to your horse's skin and sweat, and he will not cool down properly. The moisture will also stay trapped beneath the sheet. This can cause skin problems and make your horse itchy.

With a sheet that allows reliable air flow, your horse can stay cool and beat the annoying flies that refuse to obey spray. While the sheet can be used regularly, always keep in mind the heat index for your area. The greater the humidity, the hotter it will feel. Horses will often times start puffing as the heat index rises and humidity becomes overbearing.

Your horse's color, the color of the sheet, access to shade and drinking water, likelihood of a breeze, hair thickness, and body condition score all play a part in how well your horse tolerates heat and the wearing of a fly sheet.


If you're unsure about any of these things, hold off on the fly sheet and contact your vet to get the okay. Every horse is different and will tolerate things individually.

Even after you get the go ahead from your vet, it's important to monitor your horse's condition while wearing the sheet, to ensure it's doing its job and your horse is comfortable from morning to evening. One day it might be working fine and keeping the bugs away. The next, your horse may have a layer of sweat beneath the fabric that's causing discomfort and raising his temperature.

Temperatures are also slowly getting hotter each year which means summer months and monsoons are more turbulent. Heat records are continuously being broken, so the need to adapt our horse care is not a matter of if but when.

With some investigation and preparation, your horse can stay cool and stay pest free during the heat.



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*Happy Mother's Day!*



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# MAY 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<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>						<p><b>1</b> LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>5</b> WCBRA BARREL RACE FINALS 6pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b> FIRST FRIDAY @ LEGACY PARK 6pm, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<p><b>8</b> SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz COLOR COUNTRY EQUEST. CLUB WORKING COWHORSE SHOW 9AM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>
<p><b>9</b> SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz</p>	<p><b>10</b> APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332 4-H HORSE SHOW JUDGED 6PM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<p><b>11</b> 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</p>	<p><b>12</b> 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</p>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b> COLOR COUNTRY EQUEST. CLUB 9AM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park STAMPEDE FLYBALL TOURN. 8 am, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b> SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne &amp; Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>	<p><b>19</b> LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com WCBRA BARREL RACE FINALS 6pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<b>20</b>	<p><b>21</b> ULTIMATE OUTDOOR &amp; RECREATION SHOW 10 AM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<p><b>22</b> SWBRA BARREL RACE FINALS TBA Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park CCEC DRESSAGE HUNTER AND JUMPING SHOW 9 AM, Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park ULTIMATE OUTDOOR &amp; RECREATION SHOW 10 AM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>
<b>23</b>	<p><b>24</b> 4-H HORSE SHOW JUDGED 6PM Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park</p>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<p><b>31</b> S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>					

# JUNE 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<p><b>8</b> 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</p>	<p><b>9</b> 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</p>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b> APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</p>	<p><b>15</b> SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne &amp; Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>	<p><b>16</b> LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com</p>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b> S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<p><b>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE</b> <b>15th of EVERY MONTH</b> <b>valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</b></p>		



## Making Tracks: What to Do When Your Horse is on the Loose

By The VHN Writing Team



We horse owners can probably think up our worst fears fairly quickly. There's falling off being embarrassed in front of a large crowd and getting hurt. Our horse getting sick or deciding to colic when we aren't around. Blowing a tire on our trailer or vehicle out in the middle of nowhere. The list can go on for a while.

One of the biggest fears of just about every horse owner is the possibility of our horse taking off and being on the loose.

You could be on a ride by yourself or with a group out away from anybody or anything. You might have been trail riding closer to busy roads. Maybe you were just leading your horse from arena to stall. Or maybe your horse wasn't even with you in the first place and managed to undo a gate or hop over a fence.

No matter if your horse bolted out of fear or excitement, alone or with company, the site of your horse taking off by himself with nothing to stop him can send your adrenaline through the roof and your mind racing with "what the heck do I do now?!"

The first thing you should do is take a quick second to compose yourself and don't go running after your horse. It might be your first instinct to sprint after him, but running after him may only cause him to go faster and get farther away from you. There's no way you'll be able to catch up as your horse will outrun you very quickly.

If you are on a property with your horse's barn mates and stall, try to keep him in your sights as he will likely stop by another horse or stop to munch on some grass or fallen hay. If you happen to have treats on you or near by, grab one to entice him to stay still so that you can grab his halter or bridle. If he escapes with nothing on, grab a halter and especially a lead rope as quickly as possible.

Once you are close to your horse, quickly and quietly slip the lead line around his neck and hold the end, this way if he starts to try and step away, he will feel the line and should hold still while you place the halter on him.

Others around you may be able to help out by blocking any aisle ways or other paths he might take to scamper off.

If your horse has gotten loose on a trail ride, stay calm and still try to keep him in your sights. If you are with a group, keep the horses together as it may entice him to rejoin the "herd". Grab a treat with a wrapper or even just a trick wrapper so you can crinkle something. He may return for the treat you have. If he doesn't stay in sight or in the area, consider where you are located.



If you are by any roads, however busy, immediately alert the police, as the last thing you want is for your horse to enter a roadway and get hit, thereby making it dangerous for your equine and other people.

It is likely that your horse will head somewhere more open, like a field, and if you have neighbors, he might just stop around their property.

Often times horses will follow streets and dirt roads and only stop where it's open rather than venture into areas that are thicker with more vegetation or water. You might be able to track him depending on footing in the area.

If there is thicker dirt, mud, or snow, you may be able to see hoof prints and follow them if you are lucky.

If you find that you've looked for awhile either by yourself or with a group and he isn't found within an hour or so, it's time to regroup. As difficult as it might feel to head back and start over, your not going to find him by wandering around in all different directions on your own.

If you are close to home, there is the chance he will have found his way back. Consider looking their and then hopping into a vehicle to cover more ground.

You've already notified police of the loose horse, but if he is now officially missing, file a report with as much detail as you can. Include the specific location, direction he was headed, what he was wearing if anything, any special markings he has, etc.

You can also contact local park rangers depending on where you were when he took off. Animal Control is another great contact you can make so you can have as many people looking as possible.

If the search has ultimately stretched on into another day, be prepared with photos of your horse, a list of notified contacts with phone numbers, and a game plan. Notify local horse groups as other riders may come across him while they are out and about. Have his microchip info handy as well as any tattoos or brands.

He may have already been picked up or lead away by someone, so proof of ownership will be important.

Post photos of your horse with contact information wherever possible and make them available on social media sites. Word travels quickly across the internet, so don't be afraid to post as much information as possible on many sites, and encourage friends, family, and the horse community to share the post. There are many community groups specifically for horse people, and they are usually eager to help out fellow horse owners.

No matter what, don't lose hope. Most lost horses will be found within 24 hours.

In general, horses don't like to be alone and your horse before too long will be searching for home, other horses, or people. Anything that's truly familiar to him will be his next priority.

In the future, consider investing in tracking equipment for trail rides, this way there's a chance you'll be able to track your horse's location should he bolt out in the open.

Also check your horse's surroundings regularly. Make sure he can't jump over a fence or unlock a gate. Take stock of the entire property before hand, so that in the chance your horse does escape with or without a halter, you'll know the layout you're working with.

It's a scary thing to prepare for, but with such big animals that can cover large distances when prompted, it's important to prepare for the difficult possibilities beforehand rather than when misfortune strikes.



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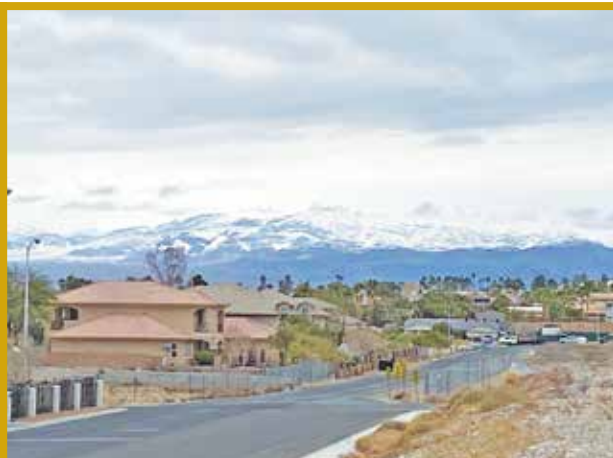
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