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SEPTEMBER 2021



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Hoof Sensitivity Care, and more!

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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

Is it just me, or is 2021 flying by like a jerk in a fancy sports car on the freeway?

Protect Against West Nile Virus by Keeping Your Horses Vaccinated -

Vaccination ensures protection of public health and Nevada agriculture

(SPARKS, Nev.) – Aug. 12, 2021

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) reminds horse owners in Nevada of the importance of vaccinating against West Nile Virus (WNV).

This mosquito-borne disease can cause serious illness targeting a horse's brain, spinal cord and nervous system. The disease can also be transmitted to humans from infected mosquitos.

The NDA monitors WNV and other diseases carried by mosquitos on an annual basis to ensure the protection of public health and the agriculture industry.

“Statewide testing of mosquito sample pools is essential in monitoring diseases like WNV,” Laura Morrow, Animal Disease Laboratory Supervisor, said. “The Animal Disease Laboratory surveys and tests for these diseases and reports the results to local health departments and vector control agencies.”

Taking precautions such as using insect repellents, eliminating mosquito-breeding sites and keeping horses vaccinated against WNV, Saint Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) is strongly encouraged for all horse owners.

NDA State Veterinarian Dr. Amy Mitchell urges horse owners to consult with their veterinarian about an effective management plan, which should include vaccination. Timely vaccination and decreasing exposure to mosquitos is an effective way to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

“Preventing mosquito borne disease is a two-pronged approach,” said Dr. Mitchell. “Vaccination is extremely effective, but reducing exposure is also key. The use of deterrents, in addition to eliminating unnecessary standing water around barns and residences is extremely beneficial in keeping mosquitos away from you and your horse.”

WNV, SLE and WEE have been detected in Nevada, all three of which can cause significant illness and death in both horses and humans. WNV and WEE are reportable diseases in Nevada meaning that detections must be reported to the NDA.

Testing is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

About the Nevada Department of Agriculture:

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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VALLEY HORSE NEWS

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More Than We Can See – Can Horses Sense Health Problems?

By The VHN Writing Team



Every day there are more and more stories and evidence brought to our attention that suggests animals have an extra sense outside of the typical five. A sixth sense that points to things we can't see for ourselves or even anticipate.

From dogs that seem to have the sight for the supernatural, cats that can predict the death of nursing home residents, and even horses that can sense the growth of cancer or other health struggles.

While detecting ghosts or other spookier incidents is hard to prove on a legitimate biological or factual level, horses being able to notice a disease in their owner's body could be rooted in completely provable science.

There are currently health clinics in operation that are backed by scientists utilizing a dog's natural sense of smell to detect cancer cells, with a pretty impressive track record for positive detections.

The number of individuals that have had their cancer "smelled" by dogs as a part of this study reaches into the high hundreds if not more and the study is very young. Scientists' have pinpointed a dog's ability to detect cancer cells and can even train these animals to detect the cells as a job, much like a bomb sniffing dog does.

If dogs can have this heightened ability to detect sickness in people with shocking accuracy, why can't horses have that same ability with the owners they love?

After all, horses have been utilizing their sense of smell to track danger for thousands of years. It's engrained in their very being.

It seems that horses could very well have this extra ability also. It has not yet been studied enough to suppose exactly how a horse would know, whether it's by scent or some other sixth sense altogether.

But there are far too many stories of horses just "knowing" that something isn't quite right with their owners.

There have been cases of horses reacting to a specific bodily area that turned out to have a tumor, a night and day change in personality with the high strung horse when the owner was sickly and needed gentle care, or even stories of horses alerting their owners to the risk for stroke and heart attacks before they actually happened.

It's not clear how they could possibly know these things just by being next to us, but the evidence adds up that somehow, somehow, they knew.

Perhaps it can be linked to the same equine inclination that horses' have with military veterans suffering from PTSD or children recovering from abuse or struggling with a mental disorder.

Even though we can't outright tell a horse in plain english that this person is more fragile because of health problems, or they need to take it slow, somehow, horses just know off the bat that this case is different. That this person in particular needs help.

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And many people have plainly nicknamed this sense as "horse sense" because it's something we can't really describe or compare in anyway, yet they have that undeniable ability to just know.

While there may be people that doubt the intelligence of animals and their true mental or sensory capabilities in any relation to our own, it can't be denied that horses and other creatures have the power to tap into another level of sensing that in the end can only be labelled as amazing.

Has your horse ever shown their "horse sense"? Have you ever been in a situation where your equine seemed to know something you didn't, and it turned out they were right?



• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Flour Tortillas”

Ingredients:

7 cups AP flour
1/2 cup instant potato flakes (optional)
2 3/4 cup warm water (90 - 100 degrees)
2/3 cup lard (155 g)
3 tsp salt (Morton)

Extra:

2 Tbsp water
2 Tbsp flour

Directions:

Mix flour and salt and potato flakes if using. Mix in lard with fingers, squeezing lard into small pieces. Pinch 1 - 2 minutes.

Make well in flour. Pour all water in at once. Combine, squeezing with hand. Should be wet. Add extra water. Combine. Add extra AP flour.

Knead 8 - 10 minutes or put in stand mixer with dough hook. Should feel soft and supple.

Lard hands and dough. Rest at least 10 minutes in covered bowl in oven with light on.

Squeeze into balls (60 gm = burrito size, 40 gm = taco size). Lard hands, coat balls. Roll balls smooth in palms. Cover. Put in oven with light on.

Take a ball out. Put in bowl of flour with press down both sides. Pinch edges thin all the way around. Turn comal on low.

Roll tortilla out into a circle very thin (can see counter through). Lay on coal north, flip over south, wait for bubbles (approx 20 sec) and flip over. Press out bubbles (10 sec). Put tortillas in basket with first cooked side up.

Store: Fold pile of tortillas in 1/2 and put in gallon ziplock bag, unfolding to lay flat, remove air, zip up. Should last 3 weeks in fridge.



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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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Caring for Sensitive Hooves

By The VHN Writing Team



Every part of our horses' bodies is important to how they function. Everything from their ears, to their eyes, to their guts, to their legs, to their feet. Every piece head to toe and in between needs special and specific care.

Perhaps one of the areas of our horses' bodies that is not only the most important but also takes the biggest beating are our horses' hooves. If you think about it, with every step your horse takes, his hooves are bearing some of the brunt. And without healthy, comfy hooves, your horse can't even be himself.

If you've ever had a horse with painful feet, it can really break your heart, as you can see just how difficult the condition can be.

So, what are the long term consequences of unhealthy hooves? And what can you do to combat the sensitivity and strengthen them?

When a horse has thin and sensitive hooves and soles, it can put your equine at an increased risk for many hoof ailments, like bruising and abscesses. Not only that, but the pain, with or without a full-blown hoof condition, can impact your horse on a major level.

A horse with painful feet will not want to run or jump, let alone leave his stall in the first place. And a horse in enough pain can start to develop other bad habits, like stiffness, food and water refusal, and the inability to get up after laying down. The potential for going lame or even founder are big concerns as well.

Your horse's feet are the foundation of his health, literally. To take care of this foundation and help with sensitivity, there are a few things you can do.

1. Dry up his environment. You can think of it almost like applying a bunch of lotion to your own skin. With more moisture means a softer exterior. For our skin, moisture is good, but for a horse's hoof, moisture can break down the hoof's harder exterior, thinning it down and softening the sole itself. To combat this, remove the moisture in his stall and his run. Employ nice, dry sand. Not only will this dry out his feet, it can be good for his joints too.

2. Check his nutrition and spot any deficiencies. If you've ever been feeling unwell, your doctor may have taken a look at your fingernails. It may have seemed strange at the time, but your nails can tell a lot about your health and if you have any nutrients that are too low.

This is the same with our horse's feet. Poor hooves can signal a potential lack in nutrition. If you are unsure just what your horse's diet could be missing, a veterinarian can help pinpoint what your horse needs to increase.

3. Exercise, though it might sound counterproductive, is actually a good thing. It will help to circulate the blood in your horse's system, which in turn benefits all of your horse's body including his feet.

4. Try a hoof dressing. There are many different kinds on the market now, many of which will help to dry up your horse's hoof and toughen up his sole to keep him from being painful when he walks.

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Be sure to read the directions of the hoof dressing you use, as depending on what's in them, they can be good for the sole but not for the hoof wall. They can also damage your horse's skin if they come into contact.

5. Have a visit with your farrier to get an in depth understanding of your horse's hoof issues. A farrier will be able to personalize your horse's trimming needs and point you in the direction of therapies to strengthen your horse's feet. Between trimming and also the addition of different shoes or inserts, your farrier can help with your horse's comfort.

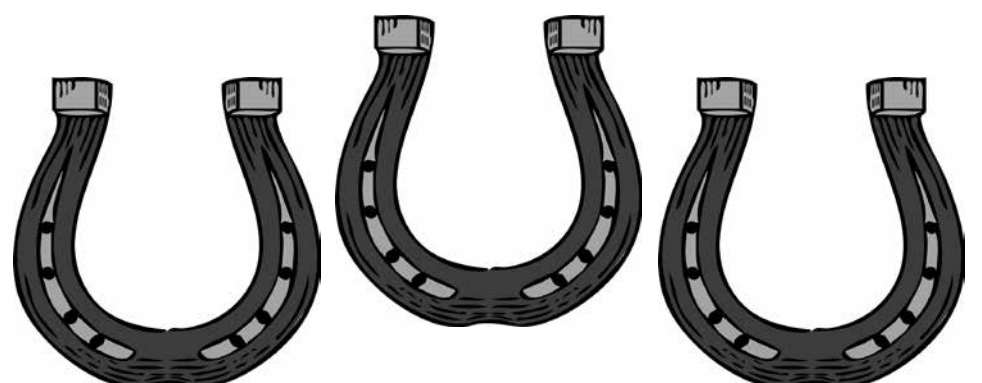
6. Try boots for turn out, if not all the time. There are so many different types of boots to choose from, and they are all beneficial in keeping your horse's feet protected. This way, as your horse's hoof gets stronger, there will be cushion to prevent direct contact with the ground and hard rocks or other substances.

They also keep your horse's feet from getting packed, which is literally like shoving and packing a bunch of muck right into the area of pain.

7. Consider doing more than one therapy at a time, like hoof dressing and boots. This way, there are multiple things working to help your horse's hoof get back to better condition, and the time it takes will be cut down.

Always double check what things you are using at the same time, as certain topical mixtures may interact, or require airing out. Fairly constant observation is also essential when monitoring your horse's condition.

It will take some time to see if he is improving, or if you need some additional therapies to help him, literally, get back on his feet.



Crazy Horse Care Inventions

By The VHN Writing Team



We're only human. Complaining about the mundane or more tedious tasks of owning an animal like a horse is normal. After all, it would be amazing if there were top of the line robots to take care of all the little things so that we could focus on having fun with our animals. No more sifting through poop, filling up water buckets, or cleaning tack.

As bright minds think up new concepts and our world progresses, so do the inventions hitting store shelves.

From completely electric cars, water bottles that make your brain think you're drinking something tastier, chess sets that move on their own, and tires that can't be popped, the tech and invention industry has no limits.

Naturally, these inventions extend to our very own horse world, where there are plenty of niche's for cool gadgets to make every horse owner's life a little easier or a little more luxurious.

1. A pitchfork that sifts on its own. Yep, there is in fact a pitchfork that will vibrate to separate bedding from manure and soiled areas, cutting the hassle and energy drain in half. There's also a stand alone gadget that sifts through manure and bedding all by itself.

2. An inflatable riding helmet. Safety is a big issue that's being pushed in the tech industry. For anyone that uses a helmet, like a bike rider or a horse rider, the new inflatable helmet takes protection to another level.

The helmet starts out as a harness that goes around your neck, and when it senses that you are in an accident and about to hit your head, it deploys its own "airbag" that folds around your head and neck. This cocoon of air protects you from the fall and impact, with much more coverage than the typical helmet from a sporting goods store.

3. A saddle seatbelt. This one might confuse some horse owners, as a seatbelt for a saddle doesn't sound very safe. But, of course, it's a smart seatbelt. So if something happens and the belt needs to be released, it will unsnap upon sensing. This could come in handy for children or handicapped individuals that want some extra protection.

4. Magnetic safety stirrups. These stirrups look a little different than we're used to. The stirrup is missing the outside third of the stirrup shape, leaving it open. In your shoe and where your shoe touches the stirrup are powerful magnets that meet up.

This allows you to have a strong connection in the stirrups, but they can also release in an emergency and your foot will come out of the side of the stirrup instead of getting caught.

5. Safety vest (similar to the helmet). Many riders will wear a safety vest, especially those that jump. Typically these will have a hard shell to them and can decrease movement in sacrifice for safety. But there is a safety vest that works like an airbag.

The vest is thin and flexible and connected to the saddle with a string. Should the rider fall off of the horse, the string will pull and deploy the air cushion from inside the vest. This in combination with the helmet could make for one safe ride.

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6. Self-adjusting jumps. When you tack up and get your horse ready for a day of riding, having to hustle around and get a course ready can be a bit of a buzz kill. All you want to do is get out there and have fun and not have to stop every time you accidentally knock down a jump or a barrel or want to increase or lower the height. Well, now there actually exists self-adjusting jumps. If you want your jump a little higher or a little lower, now, with the push of a button, the jump will adjust itself so you don't have to get off of your horse or do a fairly unflattering reach down while trying not to slip off. You'll still have to set up a knocked over jump, but, hey, it's a start.

7. Fully mechanical horses. While this one isn't exactly the dream of horse owners, it's still crazy to think that robotics has come so far. By utilizing the anatomy and capabilities of animal's bodies, tech geniuses have been able to create mechanical animals, like horses, that mimic the same potential for performance, or even better.

There are even more inventions taking the horse world by storm. Many of them truly boggle the mind and just what types of inventions could come in the next decade or two.

Specific names, photos, and companies of each product have not been contributed, products matching these descriptions can be found online from multiple brands and various countries.



Lateral Bending Exercises

By Zen Equine Bodywork

One of the main benefits of hands-on equine bodywork is that it increases the horse's range of motion through the release of tension in the connective tissues, fascia and muscles.

There are a couple of exercises that I often recommend to my bodywork clients and horse friends, particularly because these exercises, done daily, build more cumulative benefit to the horse's physical wellbeing than if only carried out during a monthly or semi-monthly bodywork session.

One particular exercise that I am going to share with the Valley Horse News readers this month are the "Lateral Bending Exercises."

The Lateral Bending Exercises are detailed in *Activate your Horse's Core: Unmounted Exercises for Dynamic Mobility, Strength and Balance*, by Narelle C. Stubbs and Hilary M. Clayton. A similar exercise was also outlined in Dr. Kim Henneman's *Equine Stretch Handout*. The exercise is well-known by many; I would not be surprised if you figured out the common term used for this exercise before long.

Please consult with your veterinarian before embarking on this exercise for your horse, especially if the horse has known spinal arthritis or has impaired balance capabilities due to lameness or neurological issues. It is also recommended that the exercise be performed on a level, non-slip footing.

You will need some food source (a handful of hay, horse cookies or carrots) in this exercise. If your horse is "mouthy" or aggressive with treats, please refer to the *Activate your Horse's Core* book for tools or devices to address safety considerations.

Let's get started. Start with the horse standing square and balanced. Begin by holding the bait (food source; preferably not your fingers) in front of the horse and leading the horse to flex the head and the neck toward the horse's armpit or shoulder (Picture 1).

Start with asking for a small amount of movement and encourage the horse to extend his or her head slightly further towards the hind with each additional repetition. Hold the position for a few seconds, and then release. Allow the horse's muscles and stance to relax for a few seconds between attempts. Repeat the exercise on the other side.



Picture 1 Above: Patti Scharf and horse Levi of Pahrump, NV demonstrating Lateral Bending Exercise towards the horse's armpit.

There are a few variations for this exercise. In addition to flexing from front to armpit and toward the rib cage, you could also try extending the bait toward the hind leg (Picture 2 and 3, on the right). Another option is to extend the bait between the front limbs and have the horse flex the neck towards the ground in between the forelegs (Picture 4, on the right).

Let the horse control the amount of bending and motion; never force a horse into an uncomfortable position. If the horse has to make a jerking motion to reach the bait, ease back a little bit as the goal is to create mobilization in a repeatable, relaxed state. In the beginning, a horse may shift its position in order to reach the bait.



Picture 2 and 3 Above: Karen Donnahie and horse Joe at B.C.H.A. demonstrating Lateral Bending Exercise towards the horse's hind leg.



Picture 4 Above: Patti Scharf and horse Levi of Pahrump, NV demonstrating Lateral Bending Exercise variation toward the ground in between the horse's forelegs.

These exercises are safe to perform before work, though for best results, perform the exercises after the horse has worked and before turning out. It is recommended to repeat 3-5 times of each variation on a regular basis. You might consider limiting the amount or size of the bait or skip a treat between the set. According to the authors, doing these exercises on a regular basis increases spinal mobility and builds functional muscle strength.

From a bodyworker's perspective, these exercises help increase mobility, and with greater mobility, it helps reduce the tension in the body and risk of injury. You might notice that your horse has more difficulty bending to one side. This is quite normal as most horses, like humans, have a dominant side. The dominant side, because of repeated leverage, may be slightly stiffer. You might consider adding 1-2 times on the stiffer side to help loosen it up.

This exercise is great for most horses. For your own safety, be mindful to maintain enough space around you so that if the horse shifts its weight to reach, you are able to maintain enough safe space between you, the horse and the fence.

In case you have not yet figured it out, this exercise is also commonly referred to as "carrot stretches"! I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to email zenequinebodywork@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns or tag me at [@zenequinebodywork](https://www.facebook.com/zenequinebodywork) on Facebook or Instagram if you simply want to share your success in attempting these exercises!

Wildfires and Horse Health

By The VHN Writing Team



Heat and hot temperatures are just as much of a marker for this year as the rollercoaster that is the pandemic. It's even thought that the rest of the year will be warmer than usual, with fall and winter having warmer temperatures than years past.

It is also a given that every year will have wildfires. Last years fires were some of the worst in the states history. Most at risk states plan for them in advance and take the previous year's activity into account to adequately prepare.

Right now, the west coast is plagued by these fires, especially California, prompting evacuations as many people lose their homes and some even their lives. It will not be until the end of the fire season, when all of them are finally put out, that the total damage will be quantifiable, yet again.

It might be tempting to feel secure if the fires are far away from you, but a second threat accompanies the fires and it is spreading even further – smoke.

Western cities in the U.S. are experiencing some of the worst air quality, once again, as a result of the smoke that is building up. Skies have turned murky and gray, and mountains have disappeared, as smoke blocks the sun's light.

As everyone reaches for the fall season and cooler temperatures, as well as hoping for some rain in a record-breaking dry spell that won't quit, many people are wondering what to do about their horses as they deal with the horrible air quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's air quality index or AQI ranks air pollution and accompanying health concerns on a scale of 0 to 500.

Most weather apps and services will list the air quality daily, so that you can monitor just how bad the air is for you and those you care for.

This air quality effects both humans and our animals. As our horses are stuck in outside conditions, it's important to consider their care during this trying time. The air quality can worsen respiratory distress in people, and this can be extended to our horses as well.

Equine asthma, along with coughing and reduced lung functioning can all be blamed on the smokey air. Horses that are exposed to such bad conditions over a long period of time could develop symptoms like coughing, snorting, nasal discharge, labored breathing, loss of appetite, and even fever. Infections and more severe symptoms are possible.

Older horses with heart conditions or poor immune systems can be hit hard by the air quality. Unfortunately, evacuating to an area with better air isn't possible for most people, especially with the smoke reaching into neighboring states. There are a few things owners can do in the meantime to help keep their horses as healthy as possible.

First, stop all exercise for now. Exercising will only exacerbate your horse's need to breath in, irritating your horse's lungs much more quickly and thoroughly.

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To mitigate the sudden loss of exercise, adjusting your horse's amount of feed can prevent serious impact on your horse's body condition. It's also very important to provide your horse with lots of clean drinking water. The water will help to hydrate your horse's body and flush out his airways. Any discharge that may accumulate as a response to smoke will be thinned by staying hydrated as well.

Also consider moistening your horse's environment. While you can't control the smoke in the air, you can control dust and other substances. Keep your horse's pens and arena's wet to limit dust and dirt. Wet your horse's hay and other feed, or even soak the hay to rid it of excess dirt and debris.

If your horse has elevated symptoms, start monitoring his temperature and check for symptoms of infection. If your horse has nasal discharge or cannot catch his breath, he may need professional help.

The last thing you can do is try to maintain a sense of normalcy for your horse as much as possible. Keep a regular schedule and spend time with your horse. He will be able to sense the changes in the air and know that something is off. Stress can worsen your horse's condition, so keeping him as happy as possible will help in the long run.

If your horse is having a difficult time coping with the air quality or is in respiratory distress, contact your vet as soon as possible. Your veterinarian will be able to offer ideas on what you can do and tell you what you're horse needs to recover.

He may be able to benefit from care at a veterinary facility rather than at home. If nothing else can be done, moving your horse to a new place could be necessary.

If you need to move your horse away from poor air quality, doing research is the best option and getting in touch with friends or family in other states.

Due to the pandemic, travelling and staying with those you don't know may be problematic. Renting out a place with little to no contact is the best option. Your vet can also help you plan for the change, which should only be temporary as the wildfires are put out.

10 Inventions Every Horse Owner Wants

By The VHN Writing Team



If you are a horse owner, odds are at some point you have daydreamed about inventions that would make the entire horse care process a thousand times easier. If you say you haven't, you're lying or have way too much energy and patience.

While we have already covered in this edition the inventions that do exist to help us with our horses, there is still a laundry list of inventions that we are all biding our time until a brilliant equine loving brain thinks up a way to do them.

The jury is out on the most desired invention that would solve our horse care woes, but here are some that we would all be pretty thankful for:

1. Jumps and barrels that set themselves back up after we knock them down. You're riding by yourself on a Saturday morning and you want to run some barrels to practice. You get them set up perfectly, and on that first run, you knock one down. Oh the humanity! Now comes the process of getting off, resetting, then getting back on. And the process repeats, and repeats, and repeats.

This isn't so hard when you have a trainer or friend helping you so that you don't have to get off at all. But when you're by yourself, it can drive you bonkers and zap your energy in no time. So, somebody out there with a mind of inventing, please create a robot or some system that sets jumps or barrels or any other set up back to how it was before it fell. Thank you in advance.

2. A stall floor that sweeps/ cleans itself without you lifting a single finger. Oh mama, that would be the day. When there exists a stall that somehow turns on, sans horse of course, sifts itself, and removes the muck all in one go, horse owners wouldn't know what to do with all the time. We can all dream. But seriously, money in the making here because almost everybody would want one.

3. Tack cleaning machine. So, we will admit, there are times where cleaning tack on a lazy Sunday afternoon with a cool breeze and the birds singing is actually pretty peaceful. Throw in a beer and some music, and it's really not bad. It's satisfying in a weird way. You take your time and afterward your sparkling tack is a glorious sight.

But then there's those days where you have literally everything to clean. Every. Single. Scrap. And it's hot out, and it takes way too much elbow grease to get it all out. And just... bleh. But imagine a machine that washed your tack for you, and maybe even conditions it at the same time. It's beautiful, even in our minds.

4. Self-dragging arena. Whew boy, now who doesn't love riding in a nice, soft, freshly dragged arena? Come on, it's so satisfying and feels so good. Your horse probably agrees with you, especially after a roll. But the amount of time and effort it takes to get that done. Yikes. Wouldn't it be great if, like that self-cleaning stall, there was a self-dragging arena?

Absolutely perfect for riding with the press of a button. No muss, no fuss, just ready to go. We'll take one!

5. A spray to keep every horse clean, especially grey and white horses. Yes, please. A spray that is somehow totally safe, none toxic, and washes out, that somehow creates a barrier to dirt and dust. Can you imagine keeping your horse clean like this before shows and after baths?

No stains, streaks, poo and pee stains, no double baths and hard work wasted. The thought gives us goosebumps.

6. Horse speech translator. Have you ever wanted to know what your horse was either saying or thinking? Usually we can assume fairly accurately, and we probably get pretty close based on our horse's facial expressions and overall lack of enthusiasm. But it would be pretty cool to know what they were saying to each other and to us. To know exactly what they were talking about, to our face and behind our backs.

Then again, having an automated voice tell us our horse's opinion on, well, just about everything might get old, quick. "I want my breakfast, now!" "Those aren't the right treats." "Do we really have to go riding?" "His hay looks better than mine!" It would be never ending.

7. Horsehair Off Spray. Shedding season is such a lovely sight. Tumbleweeds of fluff, galore. Hair everywhere! On your shirt. On your pants. On your face. In your mouth. And it just keeps on coming. But imagine, if somehow there was a spray that repelled horsehair so that it couldn't stick to you in the first place. Kind of like the spray that keeps your horse clean. It could even repel hay and horse snot.

It would be revolutionary.

8. A weather machine that creates your perfect riding day. Now, this could obviously have some real world advantages and make things better for so many people. Disasters could be avoided, food would be plentiful. It's a humanitarian's dream and probably at the top of scientist's lists too. But, we're talking just for the barn at the moment.

Imagine a weather machine that keeps it 75 degrees and sunny, with only a few clouds in the sky. No bone dry afternoons, no muggy moisture making you sweat before you get out of the car, no raining to make arenas muddy, no snow and ice to chill you to the bone.

Just perfect weather, whenever you want it. Your riding game would never be the same after this.

9. Breeches with cushioning. There might be helmets and vests with airbags in them, but what about pants. Some of us might have some extra cushioning down there already, but that doesn't mean we couldn't use more. Falling off would be a breeze.

10. Heated and air conditioned saddle seat. If the weather machine is totally out the window, what about this one? You could have a toasty warm saddle seat in the winter, and a nice, sweat free, cool bottom in the summer.

Yes, there would be some serious safety issues to resolve and it would have to be very compact. It would be insanely expensive if you or your horse broke it. But still, we can fantasize right? It would be the luxury vehicle equivalent of horse saddles. Oh my.

We could go on... and on... and on with this list, but we're trying to stay within sane limits here. So, we'll just end with this: all of you smarty pants out there with horse experience, get on it! We're waiting!



What is West Nile Virus?

By The VHN Writing Team



Viruses are one of the biggest things that can wreak havoc on the horse community in a very short time span. Even with the use of vaccine's, it's still important to be aware of what viruses are popping up in your area and how they can affect your horse.

West Nile Virus or WNV is one of the biggest viruses that can impact horse areas. Also known as West Nile Fever or West Nile Encephalitis, WNV causes inflammation of the central nervous system, a direct result of the infection.

This virus is a threat all over the world and naturally occurs in many areas, like in North America. It was first identified in the United States back in 1999 in New York State.

What is even scarier about this virus besides what it does to the body is that both animals and people can become infected just from the bite of specific types of mosquitoes that are carrying the virus. Horses are however categorized as a dead end host, meaning that once a horse has it, that horse cannot pass it along to other horses.

The virus actually comes from birds and is then passed onto the mosquitoes, which ends up finding its way to humans, horses, and many other animal types.

Over 150 species of birds have found to be carriers of WNV, and the transmission from bird to mosquito has to do with their life cycle and feeding habits.

Right now is the peak time for WNV in this region, and will be at the peak from the middle of July all the way through October.

Weather has a huge impact on the mosquito life cycle and just how big the population can get. Obviously, the more mosquitoes, the bigger the chance of having more infections each season. This year has been on the warmer side, with the heat projected to last longer this year than usual. This could lead to large cases of WNV.

The symptoms of West Nile Virus are:

- loss of appetite
- fever
- listlessness
- poor coordination
- circling
- limb paralysis
- droopy lips
- twitching
- impaired vision
- difficulty swallowing

The inability to get up and sensitivity to sound and touch can also be present in an infected horse.

Once a horse has been bitten by a mosquito with WNV, it can take anywhere from 5 - 15 days for symptoms to manifest. And not every horse will show symptoms that are severe or show symptoms at all. It may appear as only flu like symptoms in your equine.

It's important to remember that while your horse may exhibit these signs, WNV is not the only disease that presents symptoms of encephalitis.

If you think your horse might have WNV, it's important to have them checked by a vet immediately, both for your horse's safety and the safety of others. While an initial diagnosis can be made based on signs, laboratory testing is the only sure way to know if your horse is infected.

If your horse is diagnosed with the virus, there is not much that can be done in terms of treating the sickness, only supportive care, such as IV fluids and anti inflammatories to combat swelling.

By getting your horse tested and diagnosed, you are alerting area officials that the mosquito population is infected with WNV and needs to be dealt with.

Some statistics state that the fatality rate of West Nile Virus in horses that show symptoms is around 33%. While it is entirely possible for horses to survive WNV and not every case will be deadly, those that do show symptoms and survive the virus could be looking at having the difficult symptoms long term from the infection.

The brighter news is that there is a vaccine for West Nile Virus available to your horse, and many veterinarians will recommend it, especially at this time of year when cases will inevitably go up.

The best way to prevent your horse from being infected is two-fold: get them vaccinated sooner rather than later and create an environment around your horse that is not mosquito friendly.

Use screens where applicable, fans to create a constant breeze, and a reliable insect repellent that can be reapplied regularly. Bug and fly spray systems are also a good idea if you have the funds for installation.

It's also very important to avoid areas with stagnant water like creeks, marshes, and wet lands, accumulating manure piles, and foliage/ weed control. These are areas where mosquito numbers will normally be high.



By limiting or completely getting rid of areas that mosquitoes thrive and begin their life cycle, you can greatly limit the chances of your horse coming into contact with the virus in the first place. This is extremely beneficial as WNV is recurring each year with peak seasons.

Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and other mosquito born illnesses also see a jump in activity during this time of year when the weather is warmer and the chance of a hard freeze won't happen until later fall or winter.

If you would like more information about WNV or other mosquito born viruses, how to protect your horse and yourself, or on getting your horse vaccinated, contact your veterinarian today. They can give you a complete breakdown of how to be proactive for your area and what you should look out for until WNV season is over.



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AVAILABLE:

Belle is an ~11 yr-old (QH?) mare. She is a friendly, greet-you-at-gate horse who loves treats. Due to an old break in her right front, Belle is available as a companion horse only. She is a true beauty with a zest for life and enjoys running and trotting when turned out. UTD on feet/vax. Adoption fee: \$300 Photo courtesy of Jillian Adams.

WWW.LEANhorses.org

Horse Ear Plugs

by The VHN Writing Team



Horses by nature are prey animals, which means in the wild they rely upon all of their senses and basic instincts to keep them safe from danger. A horse's sense of hearing is a major part of sense of safety and how they function and get through life. This goes for both wild and domesticated horses.

The ears of the horse can actually perform individually, or independent of each other, and as many of us have seen, can detect even the most minute of sounds. The crinkling of fresh hay or wrapper crumble of a treat is enough to bring a distant horse in from the juiciest of pastures.

The anatomy of the horse's ear is centered around the pinna, which is the cup shaped, large structure at the base of your horse's ears. This part can swivel around in 180 degrees and point your horse's ears in the different directions.

When your horse is grouchy before breakfast and he pins his ears in indignation, it is all due to the pinna and its sixteen different muscles moving around.

Just as humans lose their hearing with age and exposure to extreme repeated sound, horses can also show a decline in hearing ability as they age. Remember when your mother would tell you to turn down your radio or your headset, otherwise you'd lose your hearing? For horses, it is just the same.

Events like mounted shooting, which involve loud and continuous sounds at close range, can damage a horse's sensitive ears if they aren't prepared properly. Even the loud roar of crowds or heavy machinery at a fair can do damage over time if given the chance.

This is where horse ear plugs come in handy. Horse earplugs have the advantage of keeping your horse's hearing at peak performance and they can also help them concentrate better during competitions.

They won't take away his hearing entirely so that he feels lost without that important sense. Instead, they will filter out the damaging sound waves before they can reach inside and allow him to think without distraction.

These plugs can also be a life saver during holidays or celebrations with fireworks where horses can become easily stressed by the loud noises. It's also a drugless alternative for those horses that don't have many options for staying calm.

If your horse's hearing seems to be declining, ear plugs may help him sustain his ability for as long as possible and keep him calm. They can be found at many horse shops or online.





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Moments

By Anna Dunstone

Life no longer trips me
For I have learned to leap
Over all its hurdles
And swim when it gets deep
The things that keep me going
Are sun and open air
And when I'm on a horse's back
I'm often led to prayer
For when hard work is followed
By moments of quiet rest
On horseback and in silence is
When life is at its best



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Cross Tie Etiquette

By The VHN Writing Team



If a barn has cross ties, then they usually end up becoming the “epicenter” of that barn. Whether a horse is being groomed, bathed, checked by a vet, or having his feet done, the cross ties are an ideal place for working around your horse and prepping him for any and all activities.

The only downsides about the cross ties are their popularity, and if there are only a couple of them for a large amount of people. In a barn full of renters, this area can become packed.

As with any space, like the arena or turn out field, keeping etiquette in mind with your fellow barn or property mates is essential for keeping the peace. And having a steady flow in a barn means smooth sailing not only for you, but also the other owners and the owner of the property.

Here are some things to keep in mind when you are working with the cross ties and sharing them with other people:

1. If there are cross ties positioned side by side or close to other horses, keep the other people in mind. Often times the cross ties can be a little scary for horses or make them more on edge. They can also get noisy. With all of the activity, remembering to be aware of who is around you will save you from unintentionally putting a person, their horse, or your horse in a difficult spot.

2. Keep them clean. As we said, cross ties are a popular place in the barn. As such, leaving a mess behind for the next person to walk through and cleanup is rude and even unsanitary. You might curry your horse in the ties, pick out his feet, or even bathe him. This can all mean a big mess when you are finished.

If your horse goes to the bathroom in the ties, pick it up immediately or before leaving the area. Also sweep up any dirt and hair you leave behind. Not only does it benefit the next person using the space, it will also make any mats, ropes, and drains last longer.

3. Store your things in your tack box or designated area, not the cross ties. Sometimes we can accidentally leave behind some wraps or brushes. Other times, we may think we’ll be quick and pick up our things after working our horse. To save yourself the hassle, pick up the area and don’t leave your materials behind.

Even if it’s just a hoof pick or a brush. You’ll be less likely to misplace or have something stolen, and you also won’t look like that person who’s taking advantage of the group area.

4. Train your horse. This is especially important if the cross ties are in a high traffic area. A horse that is nervous or unpredictable in the cross ties can be a danger in many ways. The last thing you want is your horse to injure himself, you, or the horse/ person next to you.

Find a time when the cross ties are empty, and get your horse used to the ties, how they function, and going in and out of the space. If there is a person around with or without their horse, ask permission before training. It can take some time for your horse to get used to the area, so patience is key.

5. It might be tempting when you’re in a rush but please, don’t be that person who leaves their halter attached to the ties. If you’re bridling your horse, make sure to detach the halter and store it elsewhere. Walking away and leaving the halter attached is frustrating and cumbersome for the next person who is wanting to use it.

And it kind of looks like you’re trying to hold/ hog the space till you get back. You’re time is precious, but so is everyone else’s. And it won’t be worth the tension and bad feelings that happen when the next person tries to use the area.

8. If you’re not working on your horse, don’t tie them up and leave for a long period of time. If you move your horse to the cross ties, but then get side-tracked and leave him standing, you are taking up a space that someone else needs. This is important especially if there are only a couple of ties for a lot of owners.

Move your horse back to his stall if you feel you need to do something right then, or make sure to use the restroom and do any other tasks before placing your horse in the ties. This way, your horse will always be monitored for safety, and you won’t be causing unnecessary conflict with other owners.

9. Volunteer for maintenance and upkeep. If an area is high traffic, it’s going to get dirty and wear out. Eventually new ties will be needed, new clips, new mats, and new hoses or other equipment. If you use the cross ties then it’s an unspoken understanding that you should pitch in to do the dirty work.

A good idea for large barns is a schedule that everyone can agree too. One week, a couple people will be responsible for the area, and the next week another two, and so on and so on. This doesn’t mean make the job harder for those two by mucking up the area or not cleaning at all. But a little extra elbow grease by all of the people using the area can keep the ties a place you want to utilize.

10. At the end of the day, be nice, be honest, be safe, and always ask even if you think it’s not necessary. The time you take will be appreciated, and often times will also be reciprocated by other people. The effort you put in as well as the effort of others will be returned tenfold in the long run. If your barn doesn’t have cross ties, it may be a worthwhile venture to install some.

Not only will your boarders love it, so will your farrier and your vet. The horses will appreciate it too. Most cross ties are attached to solid wood or metal poles and are equipped with quick release clips in case of an emergency. You can also place rubber mats at the ties for easy cleaning and for bathing.

Shade above the ties would be ideal for working and an area with good air flow will keep the ground from becoming too wet. If the cost seems high, consider holding a vote with your boarders or splitting the bill between everyone if they all would like to have ties installed.



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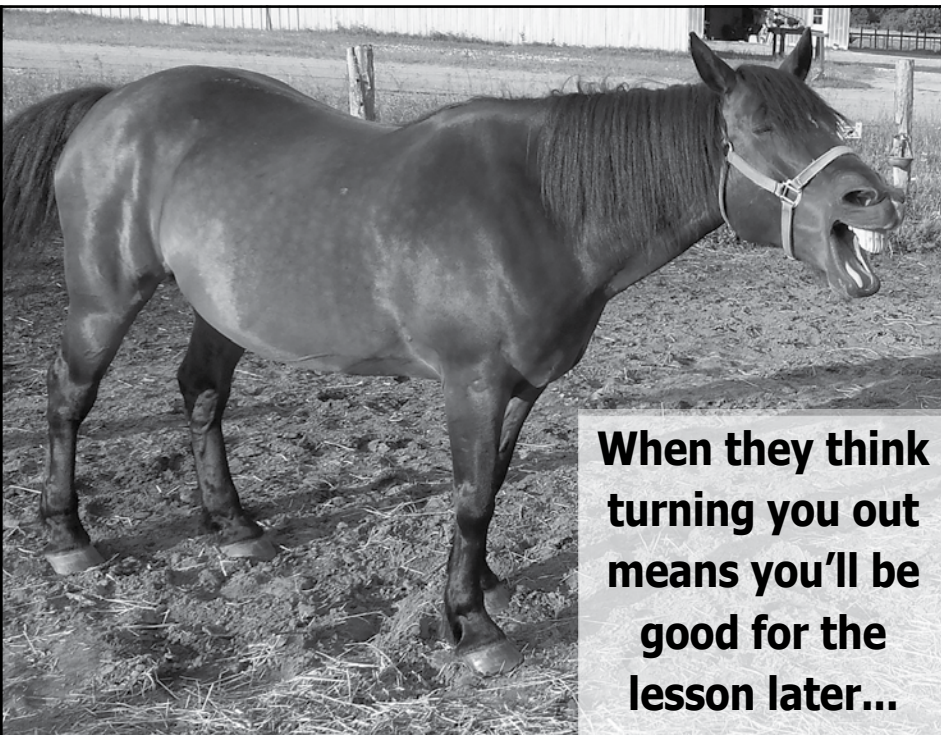
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			1	2	3	4
<p>*The scheduling of events for all organizations and locations is currently under constant change due to COVID-19. For the most up to date schedules, attendance, and virtual show dates/ info please regularly visit the corresponding websites.* <i>Thank You</i></p>						
5	6	7	8 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	9	10	11 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com
12 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com	13 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse- shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	14 NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576	15 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING. 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@ aol.com	16	17	18 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasgymkhanaassocia- tion.com
19	20	21 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	22	23	24	25
26	27 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 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 POSS Open Breed Horse Show, Pahrump NV, for information, premi- um and location go to SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com
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31						

Farm Animal Adoptions

All you have to do:

Is provide a photo of the animal/ animals. Give a short description explaining why they are such a great candidate for a new home. And lastly, provide the best contact information for those that are interested. Your photo, description, and contact will go here for everyone to see and hopefully will make it to the perfect new home.



Open to all: Horses, Donkeys, Mules, Miniature Horses, Cattle, Piggies, Goats, Sheep, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Farm Fowl, Rabbits, Alpaca, and Llamas!
Any farm animal in need has a place in this section 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. With COVID on the decline many animals are in need of new homes, so here will be the space to feature them.

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.



Terri Gamboa Team

#1 in Acreage Properties

in Las Vegas



Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Sommer McDaniel
702-370-2404

~ NE, SE, HENDERSON ~

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473



7080 S Pecos Rd. 3.9 Acre Secluded Prop., 2 bed/ 2 bath house to live in while build then as guest house. 10 car garage converted horse barn, electric gate, 100 tall pine trees \$1,975,000



424 N Kiel St. Fantastic Equest. prop. w/ Top of the line horse amenities. 1,800sqft + 600sqft of separate living space. \$250k spent on horse accomm. Roomy stalls & trail riding right from property! \$699K



3751 Crellin Cir. Well maintained single story 3bed/2bath. Kitchen w/ Island, granite, SS appliances. Ceiling fans, wood flooring. Covered patio, large rear lawn, RV parking. \$425,000



1330 Morning Sun. Huge elevated .89 acre lot. Gorgeous location nestled at the base of sunrise mtn. Strip, valley & mtn views. Perfect setting for custom home. Zoned for horses. \$185K

Excellent Land Lenders - 80% Financing!!



Call **Terri Gamboa**
(702) 528-5473



Email: TerriGamboa@aol.com



Website: www.TerriGamboa.com



Terri Gamboa Team

#1 Horse Property Specialists

in Las Vegas



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702-370-2404

- NW -

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473



6600 Via Provenza Ave. 5.27 Acre Equest. Est. 3,458sqft House + 2 Add. Guest Houses. 10 Stalls, 5 Pastures & 1 Rehab Pasture. Lighted Dressage Arena + Practice Arena. Warm Up Riding Trail \$3,250,000



8545 W Hammer Ln. Custom single story ranch style home. Over 5,000 sqft, 6 Bed/3 Den/4 Bath/Basement. 1 acre. Huge 50' X 30" garage/Workshop - 11 garaged cars \$1,099,000



3443 N Bronco St. Immaculate almost 2 acre Equestrian Estate. 4,027sq ft, gorgeous kitchen, 4 spacious beds, sauna, U-shape floor plan. 164' X 96' Arena, Paddocks, 27' X 15' new Hay Barn \$975,000



8140 W la Madre Way. Upgraded family style 4 bed/3 bath horse prop. 2,418 sqft, 0.70 acres. Well cared for landscape, covered patio, large deck. Treehouse. RV parking & hookups. Arena & horse barn w/ 5 stalls (Or 4 w/ Tack room) \$699K

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



"Ride in Floyd Lamb Park, approx. 2,000 acres, best ride in town!"

Call Terri Gamboa
(702) 528-5473



Website: www.TerriGamboa.com



License #: S.0066408



Terri Gamboa Team

#1 in Luxury Homes on Acreage
in Las Vegas



Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Sommer McDaniel
702-370-2404

~ NW & NW by Floyd Lamb ~

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473



6385 Iron Mountain Rd. 2 Acre Equestrian Estate. 3,550 Sq Ft, Pool, 21 Stalls, Large Arena, Round Pen, Hay Shed, Across 1,500 Acre Floyd Lamb Park. \$1,390,000



4820 Pounding Surf Ave. 2 Story Home 2,156 sq ft, in a private gated community w/park. Tall ceilings, Fireplace, granite countertops. 4bed/3bath + loft. Pool size backyard. \$475,000



5661 Rowland Ave. Almost 1 acre income producing prop. Renovated 3 bd ranch style + detached casita. Beautiful kitchen butcher block island/Countertops. Farming backyard designed to earn w/ cultiv. garden, grow veg/fruits \$749,900



4335 N Fort Apache. 1/2 Acre Lot in Private 4 Lot Cul-De-Sac, Priced as Package to Include Gorgeous Architecture Plans for Custom Luxury Home \$279K

Floyd Lamb Park - 1,500 Acres - NEW TRAILS - Best Ride in Town!

*****GREEN ROLLING HILLS, PONDS, BIG TREES, TRAILS!*****



"Ride in Floyd Lamb Park, approx. 2,000 acres, best ride in town!"

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