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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

“Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?”

Horse Compatible Animals Quick List

By The VHN Writing Team

Horses are social animals that can form positive relationships with a variety of other animals. The compatibility between horses and other animals depends on factors such as the temperament of both the horse and the other animals, the environment, and the management practices in place. Here are some animals that horses commonly get along with:

1. Other Horses: Horses are naturally herd animals and often form strong bonds with their own kind. Keeping horses together in a group allows them to engage in social behaviors, such as grooming and playing, which contribute to their well-being.

2. Donkeys, Mules, and Minis: Donkeys, mules, and minis are closely related to horses and can often share pastures without much trouble. However, it's important to consider the individual personalities and social dynamics of each animal. Minis can be placed in adjacent stalls and runs.

3. Goats: Goats can be compatible with horses, especially when grazing together. Goats' natural curiosity and playfulness can complement a horse's temperament. Additionally, some people use goats as "companion" animals to reduce stress in horses.

4. Dogs: Some horses and dogs develop strong friendships and companionships. Dogs can help guard horses, provide company during rides, and contribute to a more active and stimulating environment for the horses.

5. Llamas and Alpacas: Llamas and alpacas are sometimes used as guard animals for horses, as they are naturally protective and can deter predators. Introducing them gradually and allowing time for the animals to get accustomed to each other's presence is important.

6. Chickens: In some situations, horses and chickens can coexist peacefully. Chickens can help control insects around the barn, and some horses might

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enjoy watching the chickens' activities.

7. Cats: Cats can coexist with horses, especially in barn environments. Cats can help control rodent populations and provide companionship to both horses and humans.

8. Rabbits: Some horses are curious about rabbits, and their presence can be visually stimulating for the horses. However, it's important to ensure that rabbits have safe areas to escape to if needed.

It's crucial to introduce any new animals gradually and carefully monitor their interactions. Each animal has its own personality and preferences, so compatibility can vary widely. Pay attention to the animals' body language, behavior, and any signs of stress or aggression.

Providing enough space, resources, and appropriate introductions can help create harmonious relationships between horses and other animals.

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*See you next time! - **Codi Kern***

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| <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">Codi A. Kern</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Owner, Editor Artist</p> | <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">702-808-7669</p> <p style="font-size: small;">valleyhorsenews@gmail.com valleyhorsenews.com</p> |
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Press Release, Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) Detected in Nevada - NDA issued quarantine on premises

(WHITE PINE COUNTY, Nev.) – July 28, 2023

The APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa confirmed a finding of vesicular stomatitis New Jersey virus (VSNJV) on an equine premises in White Pine County on July 27, 2023. All four horses on the premises have met the confirmed VSV index case definition with compatible clinical signs (oral lesions) and either positive complement fixation test (CFT) on serum samples (two horses) or real-time RT-PCR detected results for VSNJV on swabs from oral lesions (two horses). Oral lesions in the horses were first noticed on July 23, 2023. There is no other livestock on the grazing pasture premises. This is the first 2023 VSV index case for Nevada.

“We are working closely with local veterinarians and the owners of the equine premises to address the situation and prevent potential spread of disease,” said NDA State Veterinarian Dr. Peter Mundschenk.

The index case premises is currently under state quarantine. There have been no movements on or off the premises in the previous two months and preliminary epidemiological investigation indicates the infection was likely due to incursion of VSV-infected vectors. The premises will remain under state quarantine until at least 14 days from the date of lesion onset.

The current ongoing outbreak of VSV in the U.S. was first detected on May 17 in San Diego County, Calif. Texas was subsequently confirmed as VSV-affected on June 15 (Maverick County, Texas). To date, 135 VSV-affected premises have been detected in eight counties in California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura) and one VSV-affected premise was identified in Maverick County, Texas, in addition to this index case of VSV in Nevada. Of these 137 affected premises, 134 have only equine species clinically affected, two premises have only affected cattle and one wildlife park premises had clinically affected rhinoceros.

Vesicular stomatitis virus mainly affects equine and to a lesser extent cattle and swine. Investigation of the situation is on-going to detect and prevent further spread. Livestock infected with VSV usually show clinical signs two to eight days after exposure to the virus. The first sign is usually excessive salivation due to vesicles, blister-like lesions in the mouth. Vesicles may also be found on the nostrils, teats and around the hooves. Vesicles swell and break, exposing raw tissue and causing pain and discomfort. Animals may refuse to eat or drink and may show signs of lameness. Death is rare and affected animals usually recover within two weeks.

If cattle are infected, often the hooves and teats are involved leading to severe economic impact in dairy cattle. This also generates worries because the disease is basically indistinguishable from Foot and Mouth Disease in cattle.

Though very unusual, people can be infected with the virus. In these situations, it is usually among those who handle infected animals (for example, while inspecting a horse's mouth and the horse coughs in the person's face, thereby delivering a large dose of virus onto the person's eyes and lips). Vesicular stomatitis virus can cause flu-like symptoms and only rarely includes lesions or blisters in people. It is not a public health risk, therefore details about the facility cannot be released, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 571.160.

Known competent vectors for transmission of VSV include black flies (Simuliidae), sand flies (Lutzomyia) and biting midges (Culicoides spp.). Biosecurity measures and vector mitigation should be instituted to reduce the spread of the virus. Enhanced and effective fly control measures are critical to disease prevention, as well as ongoing disease mitigation in areas where the virus and insect vectors are actively present.

Only active lesions are contagious, as these have live virus present, and viral transmission can occur via direct contact with the active lesions, sharing of water troughs or direct inoculation of the virus by biting flies. Livestock with clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis are isolated until they are healed and determined to be of no further threat for disease spread. There are no USDA approved vaccines for vesicular stomatitis.

Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have vesicular stomatitis or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact the State Veterinarian's Office at diseasereporting@agri.nv.gov.

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Press Release, NDA Division of Animal Industry Welcomes New Administrator



(SPARKS, Nev.) – The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has selected Chad Sestanovich as the new Administrator for the Division of Animal Industry. Administrator Sestanovich came to the NDA with more than 30 years of experience in different areas of animal industry.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Chad's background, knowledge and skill to oversee the Division of Animal Industry and I look forward to the leadership he will bring to this position,” said NDA Director J.J. Goicoechea.

Administrator Sestanovich received his Associate of Applied Science in Animal Science from the College of Southern Idaho and an Associate of Science, Veterinary Technician degree from Truckee Meadows Community College. He has spent his life working in all aspects of agriculture, including everything from animal disease to livestock identification. Administrator Sestanovich was first involved in the animal industry as a ranch hand on his family's hay and cattle ranch in Nevada. He spent eight years as a Veterinary Technician, and most recently was assistant ranch manager at Mori Ranches.

Administrator Sestanovich will be based in the Elko office and make his home in eastern Nevada with his wife and two daughters.

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 225 dedicated employees providing services in its five divisions, Administrative Services, Animal Industry, Measurement Standards, Food and Nutrition, and Plant Health and Compliance.

The department's \$288 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.

• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Curry Roasted Cauliflower”

Prep Time: 5 minutes Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

1 head cauliflower broken into florets
4 tablespoon olive oil divided
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon curry powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper

Directions:

Season the cauliflower. Place the cauliflower florets in a large bowl and drizzle them with oil. Mix the lemon juice, curry, salt, and pepper together in a small bowl and pour it overtop of the cauliflower. Toss to coat.

Bake the cauliflower. Transfer the cauliflower to a baking sheet and roast in the oven until the florets are tender.

Tips and FAQs

Add more to this dish if you'd like. Roasted cauliflower pairs well with carrots, potatoes, butternut squash, and chickpeas.

For deeper flavors, add ⅛ to ¼ teaspoon of cinnamon to the seasoning mix, as well as diced onions and garlic.

If you don't have yellow curry powder at home, substitute it for a mixture of turmeric, cumin, ginger, and coriander.

Why is my roasted cauliflower mushy?

Lay the cauliflower in an even layer on the baking sheet before roasting. Overcrowding or piling the florets on top of each other will make them mushy or unevenly baked.

The right oil matters too. Avocado oil will tolerate a high heat, which will help the florets crisp up rather than turn them to mush.

What does roasted curry cauliflower go well with?

If you're serving the baked cauliflower on its own, you can top it with chopped cilantro and some fresh lemon juice to really make the flavors pop. Otherwise, the cauliflower will add bulk and nice warming flavors to dinners and lunches. Try it on a winter kale salad, curry beef bowls, a grilled corn salad, or a Mediterranean hummus bowl.

Need an easy side dish? Add some extra flavor to your pan seared chicken thighs, honey ginger pork, or chicken brussels sprouts salad with the curry roasted cauliflower on the side.

Preheat oven to 425°. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Place cauliflower into a large bowl, then drizzle it with 1 tablespoon olive oil and toss to combine.

Next, whisk the remaining oil, along with the lemon juice, curry powder, salt, and pepper together in a small bowl and pour the mixture over the cauliflower; toss to coat.

Pour cauliflower out onto the baking sheet and bake it for 20 minutes, flipping half way through. Enjoy!

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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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Handling a Head-Shy Horse with Care and Patience

By The VHN Writing Team



Working with a head-shy horse can be a challenge, but with the right approach, patience, and understanding, you can help your equine friend overcome their fear and develop a trusting relationship.

Understanding Head Shyness

Head shyness in horses is a common behavior that stems from a variety of circumstances. Things like negative past experiences, sensitivity, unfamiliarity, inadequate socialization, tack issues, pain or discomfort, rough handling, abuse or injury, trust issues, genetics, and personality can all play a part in this unwanted behavior.

It's crucial to recognize that your horse's sensitivity around their head is their way of communicating their discomfort. By acknowledging their emotions and responding with empathy, you can begin the process of building trust.

A Slow Start

Start slowly and gently with addressing the issue. Approach your head-shy horse with a calm demeanor. Begin by simply spending time near the horse, allowing them to observe your presence without feeling pressured. Gradually move closer, always paying attention to their body language.

Always stay positive in your efforts. Positive reinforcement techniques can work wonders with a head-shy horse. Reward even small steps of progress with treats, pats, or soothing words. This positive association helps your horse view head-handling as a positive experience.

Try teaching your horse to be more comfortable with desensitization. Introduce your horse to various stimuli gradually to desensitize them. Use soft brushes, cloths, or your hand to gently touch their face, ears, and neck. Start with areas they're more comfortable with and gradually work toward the more sensitive areas.

Don't push your horse past what they can handle. Respect your horse's comfort zones. If they show signs of discomfort or anxiety, back off and give them space. Patience is key; forcing them will only reinforce their fear.

Keep in mind the kind of environment you are placing your horse in as you try to fix his behavior. Choose a quiet, calm, and familiar space for your interactions. Avoid distractions or sudden movements that might startle your horse. A relaxed environment sets the stage for successful training sessions.

If your horse is head-shy when it comes to bridling or haltering, practice introducing the tack slowly. Let them investigate and sniff the equipment before gently placing it near them. Use positive reinforcement to reward their cooperation.

Patience goes hand in hand with remaining in the positive. It's essential to work at your horse's pace. If they're uncomfortable with a particular step, take a step back and focus on what they're comfortable with. Over time, as their confidence grows, you can gradually introduce more challenging tasks.

Along with staying in the positive and patient mindset, always remain consistent. Consistency in your approach is absolutely vital. Regular, short training sessions are more effective than infrequent, lengthy ones. Repetition and gradual progress will lead to lasting results. It also teaches your horse that you are reliable and what he can expect from you.

If you're struggling to make progress or your horse's head shyness is affecting their quality of life, consider seeking assistance from a professional trainer or behaviorist experienced in working with head-shy horses.

Because head shyness is a fairly common horse behavior, it shouldn't take long to find a professional that is a good fit to work with your horse. It's important to find an individual who matches well with your horse's personality so that he can remain comfortable working toward his goals.

Celebrate every small victory along the way. Whether it's allowing a gentle touch on their face or showing curiosity about a bridle, each positive step is a testament to the trust you're building. This is a great reward for your horse and his work, and it also helps you feel good about your efforts, so that you can keep it up.

Don't sweat the bad days. Every kind of training will have days where it's just not working well. Maybe you're tired, maybe your horse is tired, maybe he feels overwhelmed or something isn't clicking well for whatever reason. That's okay. Every day can't be perfect or a giant step forward. Be prepared for pushback and for some sessions to feel as if no progress was made.

Start fresh the next day and try to move on from any difficult moments as best you can. And most importantly, take it easy on you and your horse.

Handling a head-shy horse requires time, patience, and compassion. By respecting your horse's boundaries and building trust through positive interactions, you can help them overcome their fear and develop a strong bond of trust with you.

The journey may have its challenges, but the rewards of a horse that willingly accepts head-handling and cherishes your companionship are immeasurable.

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Responsibly Navigating Equine Veterinary Costs

By The VHN Writing Team



Owning and caring for a beloved equine companion is a rewarding endeavor, but it comes with its share of responsibilities, including managing veterinary expenses. Equine veterinary care is essential for the health and well-being of your horse, but it's no secret that these costs can sometimes add up. Here we will provide valuable insights and strategies for effectively managing equine veterinary costs without compromising the quality of care.

1. Prevention is Always Key!

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Regular preventive care, such as vaccinations, deworming, dental exams, and routine wellness check-ups, can help you avoid more costly treatments down the line. These measures not only keep your horse healthy but also reduce the risk of serious illnesses that can lead to higher veterinary bills.

2. Establish a Wellness Routine

Creating a routine for your horse's care can help you anticipate and budget for upcoming veterinary expenses. Maintain a schedule for vaccinations, dental care, and other routine check-ups. This proactive approach allows you to plan ahead and avoid last-minute emergencies.

3. Research and Choose Wisely

When selecting a veterinarian, consider not only their expertise but also their fees. Research multiple veterinary practices in your area to get an idea of the typical costs for various services. While cost is a factor, prioritize quality care and a veterinarian who understands your horse's unique needs. It can cost you double to fix the mistakes of a cheaper "professional" than if you were to utilize a more costly but well-rounded expert in the first place.

4. Invest in Education

Learning basic equine first aid and health management can help you address minor issues on your own, reducing the need for immediate veterinary intervention. However, it's essential to know your limits and seek professional help for more serious matters.

5. Emergency Fund

Establishing an emergency fund specifically for your horse's veterinary needs is a smart financial strategy. Can you think of a time that you or someone you know had to spend a large amount of money of a sudden vet bill? We're betting you said yes to that question. It's practically a guarantee with horse ownership. Set aside a portion of your budget regularly to build up this fund. It can provide peace of mind knowing that you're prepared for unexpected medical expenses.

6. Health Insurance

Equine health insurance is an option worth considering, especially for horses engaged in high-risk activities or those with known health concerns. Insurance can help mitigate the financial impact of major medical procedures, surgeries, or long-term treatments.

7. Communicate with Your Veterinarian

Open communication with your veterinarian is crucial. Discuss your budgetary constraints and ask for estimates before any non-emergency procedures. A good veterinarian will work with you to explore cost-effective treatment options while still prioritizing your horse's health.

8. Shop for Medications

When prescribed medications, inquire about generic or alternative options that can be more affordable. Drug price increases are not only prevalent in human healthcare. Compare prices at different pharmacies and online retailers to ensure you're getting the best deal without compromising on quality for your equine buddy.

9. Routine Maintenance

Regular maintenance of your horse's environment, including clean and safe living conditions, can help prevent injuries and illnesses. This proactive approach reduces the likelihood of needing extensive veterinary care. It might feel a bit like baby proofing for your horse, but the extra effort can mean the difference between a "thank goodness I did that" and a "there goes my extra \$500."

10. Evaluate Specialty Services

For specialized procedures, consider seeking out equine hospitals or clinics that offer the expertise you need. While the upfront cost might be higher, the expertise of specialists can often lead to more successful outcomes and fewer complications.

Balancing Care and Budget

Proper equine veterinary care is a non-negotiable aspect of responsible horse ownership. By following these strategies and maintaining a proactive approach to your horse's health, you can effectively manage veterinary costs while providing the highest level of care. Remember, a healthy horse is not only a joyful companion but also a testament to your dedication and commitment to their well-being.



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Can You Teach an Old Horse a New Trick?

By The VHN Writing Team



Age is no barrier to learning, and this adage holds true even in the world of equines. The saying might go, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” But what about horses? Teaching an old horse new tricks is not only a rewarding endeavor but also an opportunity to engage the equine mind and foster a stronger bond between horse and handler.

If you’d like to explore ways of teaching your older horse a few new tricks, read on.

Understanding the Benefits

Engaging in training exercises and teaching new tricks to older horses offers several advantages. It provides mental stimulation, helping prevent boredom and potential behavior problems that can arise from lack of mental engagement. Additionally, the training process reinforces the horse-handler relationship, builds trust, and enhances communication between both parties. It’s a great way to keep your aging horse mentally acute and spry while staying close to you as his handler.

Choosing the Right Trick

Selecting an appropriate trick for your horse is the first step. Consider the horse’s temperament, physical condition, and any previous training it might have had. Some tricks, like bowing or shaking hands, can be well-suited for older horses. It’s essential to choose a trick that is safe, achievable, and aligns with your horse’s abilities. And remember to start safely and simply, so you can work towards hard tricks over time.

Patience and Positive Reinforcement

Older horses may take longer to grasp new concepts compared to their younger counterparts. Patience is key during the training process. Use positive reinforcement techniques, such as treats or verbal praise, to reward the horse’s efforts. Positive associations will make the learning experience enjoyable for the horse and encourage its willingness to participate.



Break it Down

Complex tricks can be broken down into smaller, manageable steps. This incremental approach prevents overwhelming the horse and allows it to succeed gradually. For instance, if you’re teaching your horse to bow, start with teaching it to lower its head and then gradually shape the behavior into a full bow.

Consistency and Regular Practice

Consistency is crucial in training any horse, regardless of age. Set aside regular, short training sessions to work on the new trick. Consistency helps reinforce the horse’s understanding of the desired behavior and prevents any confusion that might arise from irregular training. If your horse knows what to expect from you and your leadership, the process will be much simpler and you can avoid frustration both on your part and your equine’s.

Reading the Horse’s Cues

Older horses may communicate their comfort or discomfort more subtly than younger horses. Pay close attention to their body language and cues to gauge their understanding and enthusiasm for the training process. If a horse appears stressed or unwilling, it’s important to reassess your approach and potentially adjust the training plan. Don’t be afraid to drop a certain trick if your horse is particularly stubborn. This could arise from discomfort and it may be worth your while to move on to something else.

Building on Existing Skills

Leverage the horse’s existing skills and behaviors when teaching new tricks. For example, if your horse responds well to voice commands, incorporate these cues into the training process. By building on established behaviors, you can accelerate the learning process and make it more enjoyable for both you and the horse.

Celebrate Small Achievements

Recognize and celebrate each small achievement. Even incremental progress is a significant step forward in your horse’s process. This positive reinforcement boosts the horse’s confidence and reinforces its willingness to participate in the training. It’s up to you how you choose to celebrate, and it can all be based on what your horse seems to enjoy, whether it’s a good scratch, a treat, or a turn out break.

Know When to Stop

Training should always be a positive experience for the horse. If your horse is becoming frustrated, fatigued, or uninterested, it’s important to stop the training session rather than trying to keep going until you feel accomplished. Pushing too hard can lead to negative resistance and hinder the overall training progress.

And, as always, strive to end on a good note, even if the progress for the day was small.

Training an older horse new tricks can open up a window of possibilities for the both of you and can be a great way to retire your horse from serious exercise and riding when the time is right.

A Journey of Discovery

Teaching an old horse new tricks is a journey of patience, understanding, and mutual respect. As a handler, you have the unique opportunity to enrich your horse’s life by providing mental challenges and fostering a deeper bond. Your horse may be seeing some later years, but that doesn’t mean you can’t both work together to learn some fun new tricks.

Through consistent training, positive reinforcement, and a willingness to adapt to your horse’s needs during the process, you can unlock a world of new possibilities for both you and your equine companion.

Remember, age really is just a number and no obstacle when it comes to embracing the joy of learning.



Safeguarding Equine Companions: Protecting Horses and Donkeys from Wild Animals

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses and donkeys, cherished members of our families and working partners, often inhabit environments where encounters with wild animals are a strong possibility. It's the natural order of prey versus predator, and our equines, regardless of their domestication, will remain on the prey side of that equation.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our equine companions is a paramount responsibility for their owners. Here we will outline essential strategies to protect your horses and donkeys from potential threats posed by wildlife, fostering a secure environment for both animals and humans.

1. Secure Fencing and Enclosures

The foundation of protecting horses and donkeys from wild animals begins with secure fencing and enclosures. Strong and appropriately designed fences act as a barrier, deterring predators and minimizing the risk of intrusions. Opt for fences that are tall enough to prevent animals from jumping over and with gaps narrow enough to prevent curious predators from reaching through.

This is particularly important and dependent on the types of predators in your area. If you have coyotes or mountain lions in your backyard and beyond, you will have to adjust the fencing for those individual predator's capabilities, such as jumping up and over, from a tree branch, and ripping or chewing openings in enclosures.

A special note: Many predators that have securely breached an enclosure and attacked an equine will return later on. Be mindful of the natural behaviors of wild predators and their tenacity to get their prey over more than just a single instance.

2. Proper Shelter

Providing adequate shelter for your equine friends is crucial. Sturdy barns, stalls, or run-in sheds offer protection from not only the elements but also potential wildlife threats. Secure shelters provide a safe space for horses and donkeys to retreat to in case of danger. This is of special importance for pregnant equines and their new babies, as well as smaller equines that are housed solo or away from other animals and their owners.

3. Nighttime Security

Nocturnal predators can pose a significant risk to horses and donkeys. Installing motion-activated lighting around barns and pastures can deter predators by exposing their presence. Furthermore, consider having a designated night watch or using guardian animals, such as dogs or llamas, to help discourage wild animals from approaching.

4. Secure Feed Storage

Properly storing feed and hay is essential to prevent attracting wildlife like rodents and raccoons. These animals can inadvertently draw larger predators closer to the equine areas. Keep feed in tightly sealed containers within secure storage spaces to minimize the risk of unwanted visitors.

5. Maintain Cleanliness

Maintaining a clean environment in and around the equine areas can help reduce the presence of wildlife. Remove fallen fruit, garbage, and other potential attractants from the vicinity. Regularly clean stalls and pastures to minimize scents that might lure predators.



6. Companion Animals

Introducing guardian animals like dogs or llamas can be an effective way to discourage predators. These animals can form protective bonds with horses and donkeys, warding off potential threats and creating a sense of security. Certain dog breeds are natural guardians against predators. There's also safety in numbers, so having multiple dogs that patrol or having your equines with buddies can all help to deter an attack.

7. Natural Deterrents

Explore the use of natural deterrents, such as motion-activated sprinklers, noise-making devices, or visual cues like reflective tape, to discourage wildlife from approaching. These methods can startle and discourage animals, reducing the likelihood of close encounters. Wild animals are naturally cautious of humans, which means finding ways to "fake" human presence at all hours can mean the difference between safe equines and a sudden, midnight attack.

8. Wildlife Education

Educating yourself about the wildlife in your area is crucial. Understand the habits and behaviors of local predators to better anticipate potential risks. Knowing which animals are prevalent in your region will help you tailor your protective strategies accordingly.

9. Regular Supervision

Frequent check-ins on your horses and donkeys can help you spot any signs of potential danger or intrusion promptly. Regular inspections of fences, enclosures, and animal behavior can prevent issues from escalating. If you notice something off or suspicious outside of an enclosure, don't be tempted to brush it off. If there's a sign, that more than likely means a predator is testing your security. Always be aware of animal droppings, paw prints, dead animals nearby, and strange behaviors in your own equines.

10. Collaborate with Local Authorities

In some cases, it might be beneficial to work with local wildlife authorities or animal control agencies. They can offer guidance on local wildlife management strategies and provide information on how to mitigate risks effectively. Many times, larger predators, like mountain lions, will have a singular predator for a wide area of territory. By working with professionals, you can keep your animals safe and allow a creature to live and prosper in its natural home.

Creating a safe environment for your horses and donkeys involves a combination of thoughtful planning, awareness, and vigilance. Though scary to consider, it's best to think of the possibilities before an emergency strikes. By implementing these strategies, you can minimize the risk of encounters with wild animals and provide your equine companions with the protection and security they deserve.



The Power of AI in Transforming the Horse Community

By The VHN Writing Team



In an era defined by technological advancements, artificial intelligence (AI) stands out as a revolutionary force with the potential to reshape industries across the board. While AI's applications are diverse, its impact on the horse community is particularly intriguing.

From equine health to training and management, AI is poised to provide invaluable assistance, innovation, and efficiency to those who work with and care for horses. While AI is applauded by some and dreaded by others, it's important to look at the potential it has to aid us. Let's explore the manifold ways in which AI is benefiting the horse community.

Equine Health Monitoring

AI-driven health monitoring systems offer unprecedented insights into the well-being of horses. Wearable devices equipped with sensors can track vital signs such as heart rate, temperature, and movement patterns. By analyzing data trends, AI algorithms can detect anomalies early, alerting horse owners and veterinarians to potential health issues before they escalate. This proactive approach can lead to faster intervention and improved equine care.

Predictive Diagnostics

AI's ability to analyze vast amounts of data enables the creation of predictive models for equine health. By considering factors like breed, age, and medical history, AI algorithms can predict the likelihood of certain health conditions. This information empowers horse owners and veterinarians to take preventive measures and develop personalized care plans.

Nutritional Planning

Tailoring a horse's diet to its individual needs is a complex task. AI can simplify this process by analyzing a horse's age, weight, activity level, and health status to recommend an optimal diet. This data-driven approach ensures that horses receive the nutrients they need to thrive, helping prevent issues like obesity or nutrient deficiencies.

Training and Performance Enhancement

AI-driven training systems can offer customized workout plans based on a horse's performance data and goals. These plans adapt over time, optimizing training regimens for improved performance and reducing the risk of overexertion or injury. Virtual training simulations can also provide practice and feedback for riders, enhancing their skills and confidence.

Behavior Analysis

Understanding equine behavior is essential for effective training and management. AI algorithms can analyze behavioral patterns to identify stress, discomfort, or other emotional states in horses. This insight enables handlers to adjust routines, training methods, and environments to promote the horse's mental well-being.

Equine Genetics and Breeding

AI's capabilities extend to genetics, offering insights into equine breeding. By analyzing genetic data, AI algorithms can predict traits in offspring and assess the genetic diversity of specific breeds. This information helps breeders make informed decisions to improve breed health, performance, and longevity.

Administrative Efficiency

Managing a horse facility involves various administrative tasks. AI-powered management tools can streamline operations by automating scheduling, record-keeping, and communication. This allows horse professionals to focus more on their equine endeavors and less on administrative burdens.

Virtual Veterinary Consultations

AI-driven telemedicine platforms connect horse owners with veterinarians virtually. Through video consultations, horse owners can receive expert advice and recommendations, reducing the need for in-person visits for minor concerns. This can be particularly helpful in remote or rural areas.

Community and Knowledge Sharing

AI-powered platforms can facilitate knowledge sharing and community-building within the horse industry. Online forums, educational resources, and AI-based chatbots can provide quick answers to common questions, fostering a sense of camaraderie and encouraging the exchange of expertise.

Teaching the Future Horse Generations

These same technical applications of AI also come in handy when teaching the next generations of veterinarians, trainers, breeders, dentists, farriers, and more. All of these application of AI assistance help to streamline these different fields and levels of care of every kind of equine, allowing for a new future of prosperity and for our beloved animals to thrive.

AI can benefit these areas related to horse care:

- Health Care Monitoring, like wearable devices, diagnostic tools, and health analytics
- Training and Performance Enhancement, like gait analysis, biomechanics, and training optimization
- Breeding and Genetics, like inheritable diseases and hereditary analysis, trait prediction
- Nutrition and Dieting, like dietary recommendations, real time forage monitoring
- Behavior Analysis, like predicting behavior changes, and safety alerts in real time
- Equestrian Sports, like judging assistance
- Equine Management, like scheduling, planning, inventory management, virtual assistance, training simulators
- Job Training, like equine dentistry, imaging, veterinary work, surgical practice, and analysis of equine to healthcare ratios by area

Riding into a Technological Future

As the horse community embraces the potential of AI, a new era of equine care, training, and management dawns. The integration of AI technology offers not only practical advantages but also a deeper understanding of horses and their needs.

By harnessing the power of AI, the horse community is paving the way for a more efficient, informed, and compassionate approach to equine well-being and horsemanship.

As the synergy between technology and horsemanship continues to grow, the future holds exciting possibilities for all those who are passionate about these magnificent creatures.



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

www.LEANhorses.org

*Calling all sponsors!
We're doing it again!*

Our 10-year anniversary calendar turned out so beautiful and was so popular, we are going to repeat for 2024 with another 12 L.E.A.N. success stories!

One month will feature YOUR logo with the Before photos alongside the amazing After photo and a summary of their story (like Jack's below).

Your \$250 donation helps offset our printing costs so we don't use any feed money. To claim your spot, simply donate \$250 at <https://www.leanhorses.org/donate/>, and email us your choice of month to allvegashorses@gmail.com.

Easy! Thank you for continuing to support our herd and mission.

A Little Horse Humor

By The VHN Writing Team



We could all use a little humor in our day, so we've compiled a list of equestrian jokes. Tell us your favorites and more at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com!

How do you make a small fortune with horses? Start with a large fortune!

What do you call a donkey with three legs? A "wonky"!

What do you call a donkey with one leg and a bad eye? A winky wonky donkey.

Why did the miniature horse apply for a job? It wanted to be a "small" business owner!

Why did the miniature horse challenge the big horse to a race? It wanted to prove that good things come in "small" packages!

What does a donkey do when you tell him a joke? He-ha's.

What do you call a valuable donkey? An asset.

What's the hardest key to turn? A donkey.

What do you call a donkey with one leg, and one eye while breaking wind? A stinky winky wonky donkey.

What do you call a donkey in the Arctic? Lost.

How much money does a bronco have? A buck.

Why won't you ever find a horse using an Android phone? They prefer Apples

What do you call a horse who's not wearing a saddle? Neigh-ked!

What sort of horses come out after dark? Night-mares.

What's the hardest thing about learning to horseback ride? The ground.

Why did the owner name his racehorse 'Bad News'? Because bad news travels fast.

What sickness do cowboys get from riding wild horses? Bronchitis.

What happened to the lady who owned a riding school? Business kept falling off.



| January | | | | | | | 2023 |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

WWW.LEANhorses.org



**2023
BLACK & WHITE
Display Ad Rates**

• **Full Page:** 10w x 16
One month \$465
2-4 months \$425 p/m
5-8 months \$380 p/m
9-12 month \$365 p/m

• **Half Page:** 10w x 8
One month \$330
2-4 months \$310 p/m
5-8 months \$280 p/m
9-12 month \$260 p/m

• **1/4 Page:** 5w x 8
One month \$220
2-4 months \$185 p/m
5-8 months \$170 p/m
9-12 month \$160 p/m

• **1/8 Page:** 4.7w x 3.85
One month \$130
2-4 months \$115 p/m
5-8 months \$105 p/m
9-12 month \$100 p/m

**2023
COLOR
Display Ad Rates**

• **Full Page:** 10w x 16
One month \$581.25
2-4 months \$531.25 p/m
5-8 months \$475 p/m
9-12 month \$456.25 p/m

• **Half Page:** 10w x 8
One month \$412.50
2-4 months \$387.50 p/m
5-8 months \$350.00 p/m
9-12 month \$325.00 p/m

• **1/4 Page:** 5w x 8
One month \$275
2-4 months \$231.25 p/m
5-8 months \$212.55 p/m
9-12 month \$200 p/m

• **1/8 Page:** 4.7w x 3.85
One month \$162.50
2-4 months \$143.75 p/m
5-8 months \$131.25 p/m
9-12 month \$125 p/m

**2023
Business Card
Ad Rates**

One month \$45
3 months \$120 (\$40 per month)
6 months \$210 (\$35 per month)
12 month \$300 (\$25 per month)

**2023
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Ad Rates**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9-10 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumper Association

September 15-17 NGRA Bighorn Rodeo

September 23-24 Nevada State Horsemen's Association Region V

Are you interested in having an event at Horseman's Park in 2023? We are currently accepting reservations. Please email info@equineeventlv.com if you would like more information about the park, or are interested in making a reservation.



Thank you sponsors for your continued support!



A Simple Donkey Anonymous

In fields of green,
a lone donkey brays,
Ears a-flop in the
sun's warm embrace.
He carries heavy burdens,
steadfast and true,
With gentle eyes of a
calming hue.

A comical trot, an endearing
wobbly grace,
Innocence shines in every face.
With hooves that plod and
a scraggly mane so fine,
A most humble friend,
a true creature benign.

Oh, donkey dearest,
you teach us all,
In simplicity's stride,
you will always stand tall.



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**EXCELLENT - CLEAN
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Call to Action! Spread the Word About Our Adoption Section

By The VHN Writing Team



Calling All Valley Horse News Readers!

The publication is asking for everyone's help in spreading awareness about our adoption section, located on page 17 of the newspaper.

There is a growing crisis locally and beyond of animals that are in desperate need of homes. Shelters are starting to have to turn animals away because they have reached max capacity and euthanizations are also on the rise as a result of so many animals being in need with nowhere to go.

Please help to spread the word!

The adoptions section of this publication is FREE for all animals that are seeking forever homes*. Any sanctuary, non-profit, rescue, or individual who needs to rehome their animals can "advertise" in the section.

The section has been open in the past 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!

Because so many places are feeling the strain and so many beautiful and deserving animals are in need, this section will now be open to animals OF ALL KINDS. Birds, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, lizards, hedgehogs, turtles, hamsters, and more! Any animal can be now placed!

Valley Horse News wants to do its part in helping the animal community. Here's what we need from our readers:

Spread the word about the adoptions section. Let local facilities know that it is available. Let your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and businesses know that we are trying to help.

Post on Facebook groups or share the Valley Horse News contact information if you see an animal seeking a home.

The section will be first come, first serve. It will remain open for animals indefinitely. If necessary, should the need arise, we will expand the section as best we can to fit as many animals as possible. As we start to fill the section, followers can still help by adopting those featured.

*The animals placed in the adoptions section must be truly up for adoption. *This is not a for sale section. Animals will be featured at VHN's discretion.** There will be a limit on the number of animals allowed per facility/ individual. Animals adoptable as a group is one hundred percent allowed. **Please go to page 17 for the full details on how to place animals for adoption! And contact with any questions. Thank you all for your help!**

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Immunity

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Gut Health

TruEquine™ yeast stabilizes the hindgut environment. Calcium helps regulate stomach acidity while naturally occurring glutamine acts as fuel for small intestinal cells, helping to promote a robust gut lining.



"My horses' tails and hooves are growing faster. They also love eating *Symphony* — and beg for it! They love the taste on its own and it's a treat. It's easy to feed, it's easy to use, and I'm saving money because I was able to eliminate all the extra products I was using, especially the expensive amino acids and probiotics."

—Tilly Jeniski, a professional rodeo athlete and horse trainer



SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|--------|---|
| VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com |
| 10 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com | 11 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332 | 12 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 | 13 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 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com | 20 | 21 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Third Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

OCTOBER 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com |
| 8 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com | 9 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332 | 10 NSHA 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 | 11 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 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com | 18 | 19 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Third Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com | 30 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com | 31 | | | | |

Animal Adoptions

EXAMPLE:



EXAMPLE ENTRY:

Dolly is a six year old female goat with a warm personality. She needs companionship with other animals as she doesn't do well alone. Other goats are preferable. Needs continued training and does well with leading and small kids. She loves her food and isn't afraid to let you know. For more information call or email:
example.example@exampleonly.com
000-000-0000

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 ANIMALS: Horses, Donkeys, Mules, Miniature Horses, Cattle, Piggies, Goats, Sheep, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Farm Fowl, Rabbits, Alpaca, and Llamas, Birds, Dogs, Cats, Guinea Pigs, Lizards, Hedgehogs, Turtles, Hamsters, and more! Any animal can be now placed!

Any animal in need has a place in this section for as long as they need it!

NEW! NOW OPEN TO ALL ANIMALS!



Welcome all rescues, sanctuaries, non-profits, and individuals!

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

Valley Horse News will now have an adoptions section solely for animals at shelters, organizations, and individual homes 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 or place 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 the number of in need animals increasing and euthanizations on the rise, facilities are at max capacity.

We want to help! 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. First come, first serve, and animals are featured at Valley Horse News discretion.

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? Contact now! Email us at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com or call 702-808-7669

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





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~ SE, HENDERSON ~



7080 S Pecos Rd

3.9 Acre Secluded Property in Very Popular Tomiyasu Area of Billionaires, Casino Owners, Celebrities, the Old Wayne Newton Ranch, Multi-Million Dollar Homes. Private Electric Gate Entry. Block Wall and Wrought Iron, Approx 10 Car Garage Converted Horse Barn, Small 2 BR, 2 BA House Perfect to Live In While Building Then Use as Guest House. Over 100 Tall Pine Trees. Fabulous Location, a Piece of Paradise Close to the Strip & Airport. **\$1,875,000**

3716 Greencrest Dr.

Gorgeous Home in Highly Sought after Paradise Crest. Lushly landscaped beautiful neighborhood. Truly a paradise in the desert! NO HOA. Single story w/ guest house. 5 bedrooms in main house. Guest House has full kitchen, private entry, fireplace, washer/dryer & sauna. 6 total bedrooms for this property + additional flex space for office/gaming etc! Incredible income producing potential here w/ guest house. Amazing floor plan w/ inclusive kitchen w/ double ovens and new dishwasher. Wood burning fireplaces. Tons of storage. Full RV hookups, parking. Huge pool w/ entertaining spaces & covered patio. 0.30 acre lot. Great location, easy access to airport, freeway, shopping & restaurants. **\$775K**



712 Fife St.

Incredible Equestrian Property with all Horse Amenities in Place. 3,097sq ft single story house. 3 bedrooms +Den & extra office space. Oversized 3 car garage. Massive 72' X 17' covered RV/Boat parking. Stamped concrete circular driveway. Gorgeous pool. 5 stalls, Large arena, 3 tack rooms, Covered hay storage and Wash rack. Multiple access gates with direct pull through. Trail riding right from the property! Beautiful strip & mountain views from most areas in the home and outdoor entertaining areas. This is an impeccably kept and welcoming property that instantly feels like home. **\$875,000**



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TERRI GAMBOA TEAM
REAL ESTATE AGENCY



#1 In Horse & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ NW LAS VEGAS ~



NEW PRICE!



6265 N Fort Apache Road

Spectacular 1.94 Acre Ranch Estate Santa Fe style with large 4 BR Main House (Master downstairs) & 2,200 sf Guest House with HUGE Master Bedroom & Bathroom, could be connected to main house, Pool & Spa, 8 Car Garage, 5 Stall Barn w/ runs & tack room, 4 add. large shade stalls, Large Arena w/ lights excellent footing, beautiful mature landscaping surrounding property. Property is 2 separate parcels of .97 Acres each. Property being sold in As-is condition, no fix-ups will be done by seller, needs TLC and repairs so priced well to sell quickly. Great opportunity to purchase this incredible one-of-a-kind Estate!! Perfect for Car & Horse enthusiasts. **\$1,950,000**

7790 Scottie St.

Gorgeous 4,382 sq ft log built house on 2.27 acres. 4 Bed, 3 Bath + Huge loft. Incredible 360 degree views of surrounding mountains & elevated valley views. Private well w/ 3,500 gallon tank. Fully owned solar w/ battery bank. Inclusive kitchen, beautiful granite & walk-in pantry. Multiple large bedrooms + bathrooms downstairs. Contemporary heat, A/C for home plus commanding floor to ceiling stone hearth w/ rustic wood stove. Full outdoor kitchen, entertaining spaces. Storage shed. 55 x 30 RV garage/shop, 14' automatic roll up door. Fully fenced & gated. Plenty of room for horses, toys etc. Trail riding from property! 10 Min. to Las Vegas shopping & 25 min. to Mt Charleston. **\$1,490,000**



LOG CABIN 2.27 ACRES!



NEW!



7295 N Torrey Pines Dr.

Remodeled Ranch Home on Over 1/2 Acre With Rare to Find 1,750 Sq Ft Basement for Lots of Bonus Space. Zoned for Horses! Charming 3 Bed, 2 Bath Custom Home in Quiet Cul-de-sac, Lots of Potential! Laminate Flooring Throughout. Ceiling Fans and Blinds. Vaulted Ceilings in Living Room with Wood-burning Fireplace. Custom Cabinets, Granite Countertops, Stainless Steel Appliances and Large Island With 2 Sinks. Unique RV Camping Area, Nicely Setup With Hookups, Fence, And Lawn. Easy Access to Shopping and the 215. Private Well & Septic. Large Open Backyard with Plenty of Space for Extra Amenities And/Or Horse Facilities **\$625,000**



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