



ATRA 2010 Mel Hyland Horsemanship Clinic

April 27/28, 29/30 at Colchester Stables or May 1/2 at 3D Equestrian Center, Sherwood Park. Overnight camping and pens or stabling available. The clinic will be groundwork in the mornings, riding in the afternoons. Cost is \$250/participant. This clinic is for current members that were also members in 2009, as it is subsidized by the ATRA casino funds. Each 2 day clinic, will have 8 participants, and will run from 9am - 5pm. A campfire, wiener roast and evening entertainment will complete the first night of each clinic. We ask that participants bring salads or desserts to share.

To book, please get your cheque, payable to ATRA, (post dated March 1/10) to Lisa Friedenbergl at the next meeting with dates on cheque (or email lisa_f@mailcan.com or phone 780-237-7587 for Lisa's mailing address). No refunds after March 1, unless we can fill your spot. Spectators are welcome for a fee of \$20 per day. Visit Mel's website www.melhyland.com for a "Cowboy Country" video clip and other information.

(Please note Thursday & Friday clinics are full.)



Picture by Linda Hokanson

Nez Perce
Ride to Freedom
June 26,27,28, 2010
An Aphcc Sanctioned Trail Ride, hosted
by
Hot Spots Regional Appaloosa Horse Club.
**To register call Linda Hokanson
780 723-7899 and for
information call
Gail at 780 663-3470
email: starmyri@xplornet.com
or rencogeneral@hotmail.com**

This 3 day family Trail Ride, guided by professionals, allows you to explore beautiful Cypress Hills and venture through historic terrain to culminate in a ride to Fort Walsh. Guest speakers reveal Native American History. There is also evening entertainment and included in the price are 2 bag lunches, three supper meals and accommodation - all for \$225 plus GST.
website: <http://hotspotsregionalappaloosaclub.yolasite.com>.

Important Questions Every Horse Owner Should Ask

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AHC) – Many owners are eventually faced with the decision to find their horses a new home, whether it be locating that perfect retirement home, a new job in therapeutic riding, the mounted patrol or even with a new owner. Before giving up care and control of your horse, there are important questions every horse owner should ask, and *Own Responsibly*, the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) handbook can help.

In order to ensure your horse has a home in which it is properly cared for you must ask questions such as, “Does the facility have ample room for horses to graze and/or move about? Have any welfare charges been brought against the facility? What are the physical characteristics of the facility, including barns, pastures and shelters? Will the facility provide routine and emergency vet, dental, and farrier needs? If your horse will be used for breeding or riding purposes at the facility, important questions to ask would be, “How will my horse be used? What is the facility’s policy on breeding and use?”

To ensure your horse does not eventually become unwanted, you will need to address the facility by asking questions such as, “Will the horse stay at the facility or be placed into foster care? Are foster homes screened? Does the facility adopt horses out? What are the requirements for adoption? Does the facility follow up with new owners to ensure the horse is being properly cared for? What becomes of the horse when the adopter or user no longer wants the horse? Does the facility euthanize horses that cannot be placed? If so, will the facility notify the owner beforehand?”

“Asking a potential facility these types of questions can help prevent your horse from becoming neglected, abused and unwanted,” said Ericka Caslin, director of the UHC. “As most owners are faced with the difficult decision of finding new homes for their horses, it’s important to be fully prepared in these situations, for the sake of you and your horse. Horse owners have a responsibility to ask these key questions before giving up care of their horse.”

Other essential information to be familiar with would be the “Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities” prepared by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Find out if the facility subscribes to these guidelines before you make a decision about your horse’s new home.

For more information on these and other important questions and the responsibilities of horse ownership, visit the UHC website at: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.com and download the *Own Responsibly* handbook, which also highlights some of the issues people should consider when buying or breeding a horse.

Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR EQUINE OWNERS...

Effective January 31, 2010, equine owners, intending to sell animals directly or indirectly to Canadian meat processors, are being advised to record certain information. Equine owners who wish to keep their sale options open should record all vaccines, medications given (administered or fed) to their animals and record any occurrence of illness in their animals. The collection of this information will better prepare the equine industry for July 31, 2010 when it will be mandatory for all federally-inspected equine facilities to have complete records dating back six months for all domestic and imported animals presented for slaughter. These requirements apply to owners of horses and their crosses, referred to as equine. In order to help owners collect all of the necessary information, the CFIA is launching a new Equine Information Document (EID) that can be found in the Meat Hygiene Directive no. 2009-49. The EID is the first step in the development of a comprehensive food safety and traceability program for the Canadian equine industry - for both domestic and international markets. Anyone selling equine may have to provide an EID at ownership transfer. The document will require an owner-signed declaration to verify the accuracy of the information. There are a number of medications and substances that are prohibited from being given (administered or fed) to equine intended to be slaughtered for human consumption. A list of these medications and substances can be found on the CFIA web site. For the latest information about identifying and recording health information for your equine, please visit www.inspection.gc.ca or call 1-800-442-2342.

For information: Canadian Food Inspection Agency Media relations: 613-773-6600

Information from Bill DeBarres, Breed and Industry, AEF

Attention Horse Welfare Alliance Canada partners and friends.

The purpose of this Alliance is *"the communication of correct information related to the Canadian horse industry to horse owners and the general public".*

DOCUMENTING THE HEALTH HISTORY OF YOUR HORSE HAS JUST GONE TO A NEW LEVEL.

The attached information needs to be presented in or by one form or another to all horse people in Canada **and** any who wish to present a horse(s) to processing in Canada for human consumption. Partners, it is your job and responsibility to present and/or deliver the important parts of this information to your members. You may wish to ask the assistance of a veterinary practitioner(s) and/or CFIA personnel.

It is not all good news but it is the news. The information is available on the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca and will be available on or before Monday, 01 Feb 2010, on the HWAC website www.horsewelfare.ca . The information herewith is the **"Meat Hygiene Directive"** and includes the **"Equine Information Document"**; when, why and how it should be used. The first twenty-four pages of the Directive are English, the balance is in French. I believe you will find the Equine Information document (Chapter 17 E.2) interesting. The instruction on the terms of **"Equine Written Description"** is interesting and educational although I recognize that some breeds may have a different opinion in some areas of colour description.

IMPORTANT:

Chapter 17 E.4 is the list of veterinary drugs not permitted for use in equine that will be processed for food.

Chapter 17 E.5 is the list of "essential" veterinary drugs permitted in equine with a six month withdrawal period.

I am sure this looks like a major task and it is. I am sure that there are specific issues within the documents that you disagree with. These documents are the product of CFIA and a selected National Equine Working Group. You may e-mail concerns to me and/or call CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.

PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY PROJECT SO THAT HORSE ENTHUSIASTS ACROSS CANADA WILL UNDERSTAND ALL OF THEIR OPTIONS AND, MOST IMPORTANT, WILL SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

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A new supermarket opened in Hudson, Florida .



It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh.
Just before it goes on, you hear the distant sound of thunder and the smell of fresh rain.
When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh cut hay.
In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks and brats.
In the liquor department, the Aroma of fine wine.
When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.
The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread & cookies.
I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.



One spring day a family of moles woke up from their long winter nap. The daddy mole squished his body up through the hole of their burrow, took a deep breath and exclaimed, "Mmmm, I smell honey!" The mommy mole then squeezed herself up through the hole to the outside world, took a deep breath and said, "Mmmm, I smell honey!"

Then the baby mole struggled to squeeze up the narrow hole, pushing frantically between his parents. He tried and tried but could not make to the opening. He fell to the bottom of the burrow and began to sob. When his parents saw this they went to the spot where he had landed. "Why so sad baby?" they asked.

The baby mole explained, "I tried and tried to smell the honey but all I can smell is molasses!"

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THE EQUINE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

2009 was a very rewarding year for the Equine Foundation, with several successful Fundraising Events being held across Canada. These, as well as many gifts for Memorials and other Occasions, has made it possible for us to make a substantial donation of \$30,000 to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine which has made it possible for them to purchase a Dynamic Respiratory Endoscope.

This is the only such machine in Canada, and it is being used to diagnose, as well as for research and teaching Calgary's Vet Students.

In addition to the above gift, the four other Canadian Vet Colleges: Saskatoon, Guelph, St Hyacinth and PEI will benefit from the EFC funding in 2010.

We invite the support of your organization in 2010 so that the Foundation may continue to assist in the Health and Welfare of Horses everywhere. As many of you are aware, EFC is a registered charity, therefore can issue Tax Deductable Receipts. It is run entirely by dedicated volunteers in every province of Canada.

For The Sake Of The Horse, we ask you as a fellow horse enthusiast, to Commit to EFC!

Website: www.equinefoundation.ca

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Feeding Tidbits from the Horse Industry Conference –

Dr. Bob Coleman, PhD in Animal Nutrition, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the new Equine Science and Management degree program at University of Kentucky

- in Alberta calcium and phosphorus in the mineral mix needs to be at 15-18%
- Selenium needs to be at 25-30 ppm
- chelated trace minerals are more easily absorbed by horses
- beet pulp is a good source of digestible energy but must be soaked if it is the sole feed source
- bale feeders reduce hay wastage by 5 - 15%
- round bales put on the ground have a 38% wastage

HORSES DON'T ACT – By Jody Denning

I've been thinking about how to express something that I consider to have been a very important piece of the puzzle for me in my efforts to try and understand horses.

A horse's actions are always a true and accurate representation of EXACTLY what that horse is thinking and feeling at any given moment. In other words, a horse's actions are always honest. Horses don't act! If a horse is "acting" afraid, he IS afraid. If a horse is "acting" like he doesn't understand, he DOESN'T understand.

Some horses can just accept a given situation and learn to deal with it, even if it is less than ideal. Some horses can't seem to do that as easily and they get worried, they get confused, or they get frustrated. For the horses that get frustrated, some of them will express that frustration with behaviours that most of us don't care for. Sometimes this is when we begin to get the idea there may be a problem – but the problem has probably been brewing for some time.

I realize some people would probably argue with me about a horse's actions always being honest, but that is what I have become to believe. Most of the time, it seems to typically boil down to a few options: the horse is either doing what he has been taught is perfectly acceptable to do, the horse doesn't understand or is confused, the horse is afraid or the horse is frustrated.

It has really helped me begin to understand this concept, and try to apply it. It is SO easy to let our emotions get in the way. It is SO easy to think our horse is "deliberately not" doing something we want (or "deliberately doing" something we don't want). In some cases it is even easy to feel like our horse is "out to get us" or trying to make us look bad. But over the last few years I have come to realize that simply isn't the case at all.

Fortunately for all of us, horses think like horses... and they will never think like people. So our task is to learn and understand how THEY think so we can help them. We are so very lucky that the horse's actions are always a true and accurate representation of what the horse is feeling and thinking. If we learn to believe what they are trying to tell us, and we accept it is their truth (whether or not it makes sense to us), we have taken a huge step towards improving our horsemanship.

This is a pretty hard thing to do – or at least it has been for me. It sure can be easy to fall back into old habits and blame the horse for my lack of understanding and my inability to teach the horse what I am trying to teach him. But it is easier to know now than it was a year ago. Yep! Will it be easier a year from now than it is today? I sure hope so! Will I ever really be able to apply this in every situation with every horse, every time? I seriously doubt it, but I'm sure going to try. Mistakes are allowed, because that's how we learn.

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Mechanic vs Cardiologist...

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop.

The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?" The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle.

The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I make \$39,675 a year (a pretty small salary) and you get the really big bucks (\$1,695,759) when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, smiled and leaned over, then whispered to the mechanic..."Try doing it with the engine running."

Never Argue with a Woman

One morning, the husband returns the boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out.
She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book.
The peace and solitude are magnificent.

Along comes a Fish and Game Warden in his boat.
He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?'
'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't that obvious?')
'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her.

'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.'
'Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.
I'll have to take you in and write you up.'

'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault,' says the woman.
'But I haven't even touched you,' says the Game Warden.
'That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.'
'Have a nice day ma'am,' and he left.

MORAL:

Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.



ATRA SUMMER MOUNTAIN RIDES

The following ATRA ride dates have been tentatively booked for this summer.

June 20 thru 27	Hummingbird	Contact - Carl & Shirley - 780 662 4747
July 18 thru 25	Clearwater Wagon Trip	Contact - Ken - 780 922 3004
July 18 thru 25	Cadomin	Contact - Shantel - 780 231 9155
Aug. 2 thru 8	Ya Ha Tinda	Contact - Lisa - 780 237 7587
Aug 23 thru 29	Kananaskis (Little Elbow)	Contact - Lisa - 780 237 7587



Minutes for ATRA General Meeting on February 18, 2010



18 Members in attendance, meeting was called to order at 7:20pm.

1. *Introduction of members/new board/ introductory remarks* – Don S.
2. *Approval of Agenda*. Shirley M. added 4 items. Tracey C. moved to approve, Shirley 2nd. Carried.
3. *Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2010 meeting*. Not formally.

4. *Reports:*

Treasurer: Barb F. \$17,115.35 bank balance.

Membership: Barb F. Total to date-134, 62-Single, 52-Family, 15-Life, 5-Honorary

Public Relations: Shirley M. mentioned casino funds used for ad in Alberta Bits in addition to the poem on poop disposal in the Hummingbird Staging Area. Murray commented on the photos for Alberta Bits and the Birkie volunteers. Vicki L. mentioned the upcoming CLSC Tack Sale requiring Newsletters and ATRA Brochures.

Local Trail Riding Activities: Chili Ride on March 21 at the Lawrence's. Vicki asked for volunteer to bring more Chili since ATRA is invited. Please RSVP to her.

Sunday Breakfast & Poker Ride on April 18, at the McFall Ranch (Weather and road conditions permitting) Alternate location would be Central Staging Area. Funds raised by the poker ride to benefit STARS.

Waskahegan Ride on February 21.

Trail Riding Activities: Lisa reminded us to check the Newsletter.

Special Trails: deferred until next meeting.

AEF: Shirley reported as our AEF rep. AEF AGM scheduled for March 19 + 20 at the Red Deer Lodge. There will be 3 guest speakers. Need more board members for representation.

Cancer Ride: by Vicki. Cancer Society has the Rider package. Still need to get a big tent for about 70 persons minimum. We have the tables for the event. Any gifts to be donated please let Anita know and get a business card for Thank you notes. Letters for donations are available as well as posters. The event needs to be on our web page with links to the rider package.

Casino: Shirley has reported that as best can be done all remaining casino funds have been spent. Ads in Alberta Bits, Drayton Valley Horse Club, Trail Development at the Hummingbird, Stove and Pipes, Little Bits, Stars, SATRA, Trail Net. For banking convenience, Don Scott motioned to change the signing authority on both bank accounts to Shirley, Barb and Cindy. Carl 2nd. Carried unanimously.

5. *Clinics 2010*: Polo cross practice Fultonvale, March 6 + 20 at Colchester Stables from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. \$10.00 Haul in fee. Mel Hyland Clinic, April 27-May 2 spectators welcome, fee \$20.00. Bring your own lunch.

6. *Mane Event*: ATRA booth is filled for the volunteer positions.

7. *Summer Rides*: All in the Newsletter.

8. *Added items* :a) Horse Showcase – May 30, 2010. Outside tent with our new stove and equipment. Volunteer sheet will be available at the March meeting.

b) Equine Foundation Canada- donation of \$30,000.00 to the Calgary Veterinarian School for a Diagnostic machine.

c) Stars Ride- April 18, (McFall Ranch)

d) Westwind Vet. Clinics – (1) Caring for Older Horses March 4, 6:30-8:00 pm. bring your own chair. (2) Castration March 3-7 \$150.00, bring your own horse.

e) Horse Welfare; Horse Trailering Course. Look into for next spring Clinic.

9. *Questions/Open Session*; Mantracker scheduled as November, 2010 guest speaker. Possible venue would be Ardrossan Hall.

10. *Adjournment and Next Meeting*: Murray moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Larry 2nd. Carried. Next general meeting on March 18, 2010.

11. *Break*:

12. *Guest Speaker*: Richard DeSmet was unable to attend due to health issues. A video by Steve Rother was shown. Ground Work.

LOCAL TRAIL RIDES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 6		Rafter Diamond K	Halter Showmanship clinic rafterdaimondk.com
Mar 13	CLSC	Looma Hall	Tack Sale -10 am - 2 pm– Barb 434 2000
Mar 18	ATRA	Kirk United Church	General Meeting – 7 pm. Speaker: Melissa Townsend - Bioniche
Mar 21	CLSC	Lawrence home	Trail Ride & Chili Dinner RSVP by March 17 Vicki – 780 922 2227
Mar 26-31		Colchester Stables	Training for Courage Clinics With Paul Dufresne -Lisa 237 7587
Apr 9 - 12		Good News Riding Centre	Horsemanship Clinic with Paul Dufresne – Loretta -464-0447
Apr 9 – 11		Rafter Diamond K	Bitting & Horsemanship Clinic rafterdiamondK.com
April 18	ATRA	McFall Ranch or Central	Breakfast and Poker Ride
Apr 23, 24, 25		Red Deer	The Mane Event – ATRA Booth
Apr 27/28 & 29/30 May 1/2		Colchester Stables 3D Equestrian Centre	Mel Hyland Horsemanship Clinics Lisa – 237 7587 to Register
May 21-24	CLSC	Horse Creek Ranch	Weekend camping and trail ride – Registration required –Barb 434 2000
May 30		Fultonvale Arena	Horse Showcase. Please call Shirley @ 662-4747 if you can volunteer at our booth
Jun 13	ATRA	Bitless Challenge	Details TBA
Jun 25-27		Rafter Diamond K	Horsemanship Clinic Rafterdiamondk.com

If you have an event we should know about, call Anita @ 780 475-3858.

For insurance purposes, each active trail riding member is required to hold a current Alberta Equestrian Federation membership.

- * All riders ride at your own risk.
- * We recommend helmet use and STRONGLY encourage it for those under 18 during ATRA events.
- * Please be responsible and show by example by cleaning up and properly disposing of manure and educating others to do so.
- * Please support the Alberta Equestrian Trail Supporter Program – They in turn support our trails.
- Please be aware that the MINISTIK riding area is closed to horses from March 1 to July 15. We ask that you respect this closure and refrain from riding there during these dates.