

The Arena

A newsletter dedicated to keeping NWRDC members in the know about club business, news, history, events and equine issues.

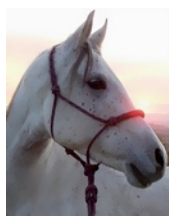
A Monthly Newsletter

July 2010

I'm Your Huckleberry

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Spotlight

Each month, learn about fellow NWRDC members, this month Ursula Ovitt

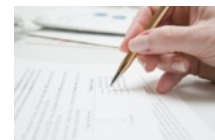
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Event updates and other news

Get event dates on your calendar and learn more about the Club with other news.

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Editors: Veronica Williams, Pierce Williams, Sue Tice

Club News

These notes are from June 8. The next meeting will be July 13, 2010 at 7:00pm at the VFW on Lake Street in St. Albans

June 8 Meeting Summary

We had 26 people at our June meeting. We know attending the meetings means taking a night out of your busy schedule and we appreciate it. Thanks!

The committees presented their show reports. The big item to note was the turnout at the May 27 Gymkhana -76 participants, the most in NWRDC history producing \$2,000 of revenue. It was a long day and we hope that doesn't discourage people from continuing to attend. The WOKO announcement for the NBHA and the gymkhana, the website and Facebook updates seem to be working!

Veronica asked for help updating the Open Shows and the PeeWee Gymkhanas on Facebook. Amanda Hoss and Barbara Rousseau volunteered to help. Thank you both!

Since we haven't gotten any paid advertising, *the Arena* printed in color is not self-supporting and so is now in black & white.



Champion, Johannes Jobst, and Reserve Champion, Abbott Lovett, at the last Gymkhana for the Open Division. The team is back together.

The email version will still be sent in color. If you'd like to change how you receive *the Arena*, please notify Pierce.

Board of Directors Chair, Shirley Langlois, presented this summary of the May 15 meeting: Jim Sullivan will cut the hay on the grounds for as long as he's willing and will keep the resulting hay; Ray Hatin's fee for mowing the grounds increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year due to rising fuel costs and equipment maintenance; members are entitled to a free 20 word listing in *the Arena*; a list of business' who give card-carrying members a discount will be included in *the Arena*; Linda Wood's nephew can take the old metal off the grounds; the culvert on the pony track will get

cut one foot below grade level and filled with dirt.

The correspondence discussed included a bill for search engine listing that the club agreed not to do, and Shirley presented a letter asking for donations to help support a funeral for a child and the club agreed to contribute \$25.

A permit hasn't been obtained for the building of the equipment shed, so no date has been set for construction.

A note to all members: the pony track is only to be used at a walk or trot - no cantering. This is in the By-Laws for the safety of all members. The pony track may be used for parking trailers if space is needed at our Gymkhanas. Please be sure to clean up the manure or hay prior to leaving so it's clean for trail classes at Open Shows.

The Annual Meeting (when we vote for officers and open Board seats) has been scheduled for Nov. 6 at the Abbey.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Club policy on the reading of correspondence
- Job descriptions for the officers
- Extreme Cowboy Committee presents options/ideas.

I'M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY

Hey All...

This past month I have had the pleasure of attending all the events at the club - Pee Wee and Adult Gymkhana and Horse Show. As a result, I would like to compliment the volunteers who put these shows on... they are doing a great job. These events are run spectacularly and to execute so effectively requires a lot of work behind the scenes. It's time consuming and, until you actually participate at that level, you don't always realize how hard it is too to make events run so smoothly. For example, the committee heads start working on the grounds a few days before each event to be sure everything is as it should be on the day of.

Each event requires a certain number of volunteers and I would like to encourage you to help keep the events moving smoothly for everyone by becoming volunteer. See a committee member at the event and see how you can help.

I would like to say from all of the members thank you to all the volunteers and keep up the good work.

And remember, never kick a cow patty on a hot day.



Pierce Williams



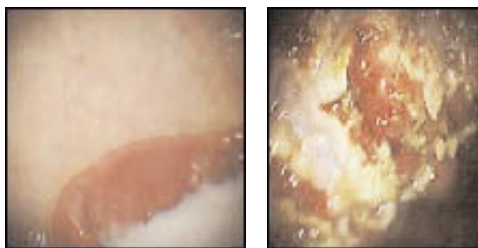
Equine Wellness

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome

by Philip van Harreveld, DVM, MS

Gastric ulcers disease is a common condition in foals and horses. Prevalence estimates have been reported to range from 25-50% in foals and 60 to 90% of adult horses, depending on age performance, and evaluated populations. Although ulcers are similar in foals and horses, they might present with different clinical signs. A diagnosis of this disease relies on the recognition of clinical signs and endoscopic examination of the stomach.

It is important to point out that 50% of horses with ulcers show no outward signs of gastrointestinal disease, but ulceration can interfere with performance by affecting training, appetite, and temperament. Ulcers may heal naturally if horses are turned out to pasture for an extended period of time, but they usually don't heal in horses that continue training.



The picture on the left is a normal stomach and the picture on the right is a stomach affected with ulcers. (Endoscopic views)

How do ulcers form?

The equine stomach secretes acid continuously. Lesions in the upper portion of the equine stomach (the

squamous mucosa lining) result primarily from excessive acidity, whereas lesions that affect the bottom of the stomach (the gastric glandular mucosa lining) result primarily from defective mucosal protection. Like human ulcers, stomach acid appears to be the main cause of equine ulcers. Excess acid can eat through the protective lining and damage the stomach. The high prevalence of ulcers seen in performance horses results from many factors including the way the horses are fed and managed. Intensity of training also may contribute to ulcer formation, but the exact reason why remains undetermined. *Helicobacter pylori*, bacteria that are a factor in the development of human ulcers, have not been isolated from horse stomachs and are currently not considered to be a cause of horse ulcers.

Diagnosis: is based on the presence of clinical signs and confirmation with endoscopic examination. Clinical signs in foals include intermittent colic, laying on it's back, diarrhea, poor appetite, teeth grinding, and excessive salivation. In adult horses clinical sings include poor appetite, failure to consume a meal, dullness, attitude changes, decreased performance, reluctance to train, poor body condition, rough hair coat, weight loss, excessive laying down, and low grade colic. A definite diagnosis can only be made with an endoscope.

Treatment: Inhibiting gastric acid secretion is the mainstay of gastric ulcer treatment in horses. A number of treatment modalities have been used for treatment and prevention of gastric ulcers in horses and foals. Currently, there is only one FDA approved treatment for gastric ulcers, Gastrogard. However, many treatments modalities have been described in the literature.



Spotlight

Ursula Ovitt - one of the kindest, most jovial and easy-going horse-people this writer has had the opportunity to meet.

So we can learn more about each other, we ask that each month, members spotlight a fellow rider within the club. Share the story of one of our exceptional riders and their horse and family.

In the summer of 2008, I started riding gymkhana after a serious horse accident with my (at the time) new horse, Lyle. I was pretty nervous but there were people who made me feel like it was ok, no matter how fast (or slow) we were going. Of course, Pierce and Connie-Sue make the short list, but there were other people, too. Linda and Woody really helped me out because they are always supportive at the gate. And there was this other guy who sometimes volunteered at the gate, Mike, with a big mustached smile and a kind word. Turned out his wife Ursula, who was also riding in the intermediate division, on a nice chestnut gelding, Reno, was the reason he was there (reminds me of someone else I know). Anyway, Connie and I started riding with Ursula and we started thinking of ourselves as the "three amigos," high-fiving each other on the way down the chute and cheering each other on. We still cheer each other on, and even though we still all ride (when Connie and I aren't on the injured reserve list) at NWRDC, I miss the "three amigos" but I still look forward to seeing Ursula.

And that is because Ursula Ovitt is one of the kindest, most jovial and easy going horse-people I've ever met. That's why I wanted to write about her for the Spotlight. We've been trying to be even in the number

of gymkhana write-ups compared to Show and Pee Wees and it turns out, Ursula helps balance the scales because she doesn't just gymkhana, she shows, too. In fact, she may be more comfortable at the Open Shows than riding gymkhana since she was the 1980 Youth Reserve Grand Champion in the Vermont Quarter Horse Association circuit.

As a horse-woman, Ursula has just about done it all. She started riding Western at the age of 7, took up English and jump seat at the age of 8, and began riding dressage at the ripe old age of 9. She started showing in 4H events at 9 or 10, and soon after, people started bringing her horses to train because she just had a way about her. This ease around horses serves her well in her professional life as she is a para-educator who has been working with the same disadvantaged youth for the past 5 years.



The Ovitt Family, from the left Elisabeth, Rebekah, Ursula and Mike

Ursula – who has lived in the Hinesburg area most of her life – is very family and community minded and there are many testaments to her dedication to both. She worked with Mary Blades and the 4H extension to found the Jim Wallace Memorial Pleasure Class (to be held this year at the Vermont State Horse Show at the Addison County Fair on July 11) in memory of her father, a well-known horseman in the Vermont Quarter Horse Association. For years, she and her horse Bumper (who she trained to be near wheel-chairs and crutches) were regulars at the Vermont Special Olympics, where this amazing team introduced disabled athletes to horses. And this summer, if you go to the NWRDC gymkhanas, you'll see Ursula in friendly competition with her husband Mike and daughter Rebekah. Mike and Ursula actually have two daughters, and Ursula talks lovingly about both, but, unbelievably for this family, Elisabeth, her eldest, is ALLERGIC to horses. Of course, this didn't stop Ursula from encouraging her to ride, and so Elisabeth, despite this unfortunate ailment, is also quite a horse-woman.

Currently, the Ovitt family has 6 horses: Reno, Ursula's horse; Leo, Ursula and Rebecca's new horse; Ginger, Rebecca's older horse; Taran, Ginger's foal 2-year old foal that Ursula and Rebecca are training; Chief, the horse that Mike is now riding; and Jacob, a 7-year old, green horse that Ursula hopes to ride on the 11th! Good luck with that.



Pee Wee Gymkhana

As submitted by Sue Sullivan

June 19 Pee Wee Gymkhana.

We had a great day, with 17 lead-line riders and 10 non-lead line. The Pee Wee committee would like to thank the parents for the drinks and snacks they brought for the children. And I personally would like to thank the Pee Wee committee for all of the work they do and hours they donate.

We have been handing out stuffed animals at our gymkhana, the children love to pick out an animal. If anyone has any stuffed animals or toys that they would like to donate, we would love to have them as our goal is to hand them out at every gymkhana.

Here are the results.

Lead-line champion: Jenna Bennett with Winter's Rebel

Reserve lead-line: Nick Blaney with Sierra's Really Grand

Non-lead line champion: Sarah Lunn with Winter Hawk

Reserve non-lead-line: Megan Bruyette with Shenandoah.

The next Pee Wee will be on July 10th. Please pre-register before that date.

For more information email Sue at jsstables@hotmail.com or call Sandy at 524-3261.

Horse Show

As submitted by Sue Sullivan

Hi all here are the results from our June 27 horse show. Thank you to all that helped out at the show.

Adult Champion: Jessica Guenther - Partner In Crime
Adult Reserve: Krista Paradee - Pinicon Prince DB

Senior Champion: Brooke Mobbs - Cha Ching Cha Ching
Senior Reserve: Tiffany Couture - PCE Show Stopper

Junior Champion: Jennifer Dickinson - Zoe
Junior Reserve: Katelyn Rosenberger - Tin can Tucker

Green Horse Champion: Lisa Johnson - Smokin Jacks Cash
Green Horse Reserve: Veronica Dusablon - Woody Apache

Novice/Green Rider Champion: Suzanne Jaques - Absolutely Sensational
Novice/Green Rider Reserve: Stacy Bennett - Lightning Strikes

Adv. Beginner Champion: Tyler Parah - Independence Day
Adv. Beginner Reserve: Katie Reed - Panda

Beginner Champion: Hannah Martel - Colorless Crimson
Beginner Reserve: Clifford Patterson - Independence Day

2 and Under Champion: Vicki Foster - Luna

Lead Line Winner: Emily King - Faylin

Total High Point Same Horse / Rider:
Brooke Mobbs - Cha Ching Cha Ching

Gymkhana

As submitted by Tracy Webb

June 26, 2010 Gymkhana Results:

Youth Champion:
Bridget Mayo on Rock In My Sock
Youth Reserve:
Nick Sears on Mega Bucks

Youth Open Champion:
Cassie Fraser on Nell
Youth Open Reserve:
Michaela Ross on Rosie

Novice Champion:
Bridget Duhamel on Foxy
Novice Reserve:
Laney Rambone on Rusalee

Intermediate Champion:
Katie Boutah on Misty
Intermediate Reserve:
Jenn Grenier on Peter B

Open Adult Champion:
Johannes Jobst on Gallant
Open Adult Reserve:
Abbott Lovett on Breeze

We look forward to seeing everyone at the July 11, 2010 gymkhana. Start time is 11:00 am.

Member Pricing to advertise in the July – November issues of the Arena

Members receive FREE 20 word listing in The Arena for your business:

Company Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Website: _____

20 Word Description: _____



Or take advantage of these sponsorship rates for display ads.

These are total prices for the 6 ads (please circle ad size):

1/6 page = \$50 (\$40 with discount), 5.33" (w) x 2.25" (h)

1/3 page = \$100 (\$80 with discount), 2.66" (w) x 10" (h)

1/2 page = \$200 (\$160 with discount), 8"(w) x 4.75" (h)

2/3 page = \$216 (\$160 with discount), 5.33" (w) x 10" (h)

full page = \$400 (\$320 with discount), 8"(w) x 10" (h)

To receive 20% off, you must agree to run the same ad for all 6 months, you must supply your ad electronically, and the club needs to receive payment in the full amount before we can run your ad.

All proceeds go to supporting the Arena and the club. If you are interested, please contact Veronica or Pierce Williams.

Your Name: _____

Your Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Please send ads, sized correctly, as a jpg, eps, png, or pdf to: pierce@piemanproductions.com

Mail completed form and check to:

Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc.

PO Box 1314, St. Albans, VT 05478

Present your NWRDC membership card at any of these establishments to receive the following discounts:

Walker's in St. Albans - 10% except grain, pet, and bird food, and sale items

Tack Box - 10% storewide

Guy's Farm and Yard - 10% on horse items only

Oliver Seed in Milton - 3% storewide except grain

Bison Creek Natural Hoof Care
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