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Horsemen's  
Association

DISPATCH

Volume XXIV Issue III

Pam Turner, Editor

March 2009

## March General Meeting Equine Law – What every horse owner needs to know March 19 at 7pm

In 1982, the Congress of the United States found that “wild free-roaming horses and burros are symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people...”

Join us on a journey through the myriad of laws related to the ownership of equines that every horse owner needs to know. Learn what kind of liability you have as a horse owner and how to protect yourself. Understand the basic issues that can arise when purchasing or selling a horse. Find out what issues arise if you board horses?

Lisa Lerch, an attorney specializing in equestrian affairs, is our speaker for March. She is a horse owner who recognized the need for an attorney knowledgeable in equine related transactions. So, in 2007 Lisa established Legal Equestrian, a Professional Law Corporation to meet the unique needs of the equine industry. Lisa attended Pepperdine University and the University of LaVerne, School of Law. She is licensed to practice in all California courts as well as the U.S. District court and is a member of the American College of Equine Attorneys. She has taught Equestrian Law, has many published articles regarding equestrian legal questions and has been a frequent presenter at local California events. Bring your questions, bring your friends to the Empty Saddle Club on Thursday March 19 at 7pm as this should prove to be a very interesting evening.

Charlene O'Neil  
VP of Education



## February General Meeting Kruse Horse Feeds Presentation By Erin Ryan

Although this article will go through the various nutritional requirements for our equine partners, you do not have to have extensive knowledge in this field to decide what products you should try out for your particular horse's needs.

If you have an older horse, most bag feeds identify themselves as such, so one would look for "**senior**" somewhere on the bag. You can rest assured that there will be the proper percentages of all the good things that older horses appreciate with the advantage that most senior bag feeds can be swallowed without chewing, while still providing essential nutrients to the aged horse. The same is for horses with high stress or high exercise levels. One would search out feeds offering a higher energy level. This kind of product might identify itself with "**performance**" in its name.

Specific feeds are formulated for particular health issues. For instance, a horse with **Cushing's** would greatly benefit from a low starch diet. Since our guest speakers represent Kruse, I will mention two of their products that would be ideal, Capper's Low Starch Formula or Triple Crown Low Starch. Low starch diets are formulated with low sugar to reduce glycemic peak responses and reduce heating. It would also have highly digestible fibers like beet pulp, alfalfa meal, corn distillers and soy hulls assisting in taste and promoting a healthy gut.

What about the horse who seems to have a constant problem with either bouts of **colic**, **noninfectious diarrhea** or **gastric ulceration**? If the horse does not have a high enough amount of essential bacteria in their digestive tract to process their food, other bacteria will take over that produce substances that can be toxic to the animal. So a feed that stimulates the growth of the "good" bacteria is desired. Kruse offers just such a feed by the name of Revolution-RX ([www.ReSTOREforHorses.com](http://www.ReSTOREforHorses.com)).

There are many desirable elements in feed that contribute to a healthy, happy horse. One such element is **Fiber**. Fiber is critical for your horse's health. Horses are "monogastric" with hindgut fermentation. Horses evolved as grazers and can consume large quantities of roughages. The rule of thumb is 1% of body weight for the mature horse.

**Protein** is a major component of most of the tissues in the body (hair, hooves, muscle tissue and blood). Made up of amino acids, there are 10 essential amino acids. The requirement normally ranges from 0.75 to 1 pound of digestible protein per day. Lactating mares and weanlings requirements are greater than all other classes.

Carbohydrates and fats are primary sources of **energy**. Sugar and starches from the grain in your horse's diet form most of the carbohydrates. Fats or oils have 2.25 times the energy values of grains. Grains naturally make up 2 – 4% of the fat in the diet.

**Vitamins** are a group of complex fat-soluble and water soluble organic compounds present in small amounts of natural foodstuffs.

#### **Fat Soluble Vitamins**

- **A** - Vision, reproduction and immune response
- **D** - Calcium absorption and cell growth
- **E** - Antioxidant

#### **Water Soluble Vitamins**

- **B** - many functions, energy production, red blood cell production, Biotin- cell proliferation. B vitamins are manufactured by the microbes of the cecum and colon. The severe stressed horse or horses on low roughage diets can become deficient.
- **C** - Antioxidant, horses synthesize in the liver

While only a small percentage of the horse diet, **minerals** play a critical role in skeletal development (bone), tendons, hoof and hair, and they interact with vitamins, hormones and amino acids.

#### **Minerals (Macro)**

- **Calcium** - bone, teeth and cell membranes
- **Phosphorus** - bone
- **Magnesium** - skeleton, muscle and blood
- **Potassium** - acid/base balance and osmotic pressure
- **Sodium** - central nervous system and acid/base balance

#### **Minerals (Micro)**

- **Copper** - connective tissue (tendons)
- **Manganese** - carbohydrate and fat metabolism
- **Selenium** - cellular function
- **Zinc** - cellular metabolism, enzymes and immune function

The above is meant to provide a general overview of the more important elements that make up the horse diet. For an in depth study, I would have to refer the inquisitive reader to private investigation, for there is much information on this topic. A few things we should bear in mind. Horse owners tend to overfeed, resulting in overweight animals. Never over do minerals, for they react in different ways making the kidneys work very hard in all animals (for instance, sheep are very sensitive to copper).

Our guest speakers passed out many samples of their various products. I love to test out a product with my horse before buying a lot of it. Not to mention coupons were provided for free bags of Triple Crown and Perfectly Senior feeds. Along with an entire table of treats for the human attendees, a perfect evening of horse nutrition education could not be better. We are grateful to our **Kruse** guest speakers for sharing their expertise and for their generosity. My horses loved all the samples. Little did they know those sample were actually good for them. My horses only knew that Mom was in rare form serving treats left and right.

## FROM THE EDITOR...

### *Hooray for Daylight Savings Time!*

Out of the dark and into the light...longer days to ride and spend time with our equine buddies. Now we just need the trails to dry out a bit and we're off into another season of trail riding, horseshows, team penning, roping and just hanging out at the barn.

So, with the winter blankets heading for the laundry and storage and the shedding blades at the ready it's time to de-shag our shaggy friends.

I look forward to seeing some of you out on the trails. Please let us know if there are any trail issues/problems – like closures, dangerous situations etc. It takes a while for the bulldozer to hit all the trails so we need to communicate with each other as to how things are out there.

The Dispatch new email address: [pvdspatchmailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:pvdspatchmailbox@yahoo.com). Please send your emails to this address.

Happy Trails,  
Pam Turner



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### What's Happening:

**March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Begins!!!**

**March 15 - Los Serranos Awards Circuit Western & Reining Horseshow- Beginners classes available- Ernie Howlett Park. Contact Trish Harik at 310-378-9911**

**March 8 – No Feet, No Horse, a Farrier clinic. For more information**

[www.CowboyBootCamp.net](http://www.CowboyBootCamp.net) or call 310-377-8834.

Having an equestrian-related event? Publish it here!

Deadline for announcements is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Send information to: [pvdspatchmailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:pvdspatchmailbox@yahoo.com)

## *Congratulations to...*

PVPHA Board member, **Victor Otten**, who has been selected for inclusion on the ***Southern California Super Lawyers*** list for 2009. He was selected through an extensive process of peer nominations, blue ribbon panel review and independent research.

The list will appear in:

- Southern California Super lawyers
- The New York Times Sunday, February 8, 2009
- Southern California Super Lawyers magazine
- Los Angeles magazine February 2009
- [www.superlawyers.com](http://www.superlawyers.com)

Congratulations Vic we are very fortunate to have you on the PVPHA Board!

*The PVPHA Board of Directors*

### Member Classifieds

Free- two 11 month old hens- they are laying eggs. I am also looking for a 3horse trailer (bumper pull)  
Please call 310-901-2298- Mirta Abel

### Something to think about:

**The closeness of a horse is one of the sweetest smells in the world.**



## *Rhymes of the Range...*

### **Johnny Rebel**

By Kathy Stowe (sung to the chorus of "The Midnight Special")

Johnny liked Snapple  
And Johnny liked to buck  
If you could stay up on his back  
It was a stroke of luck

Johnny liked to eat carrots  
He loved his grooming time  
He loved his owner, named Jenna  
How she'd make him shine

But when he had to gallop  
Or break into a run  
You'd better follow his trail rules  
Or you'd be on your buns

He said "don't pass me goin' up a hill  
Or you can bet your boots, I will  
Launch you into next year  
Then you'll be on your rear...  
No other horses should be runnin' free  
In those arenas in front of me  
And those loud noises, when they're near  
Just hang on tight when I start to rear  
Cause even though you are my friend  
I might buck you right off again"

Johnny was so pretty  
Not too fat or too thin  
His long mane would make you guess  
That he was Andalusian

A white Arabian Appy  
With spots beneath his fur  
They were only visible  
When moisture would occur

Now Johnny Rebel, Appaloos-a-rabian  
Is no longer with us, he's gone home again  
I loved ol' Johnny, loved him like a bro  
His 29 year story, now you finally know

But just don't pass him goin' up a hill  
Or you can bet your boots, he will  
Launch you into next year  
Then you'll be on your rear...  
But just stay on and you'd agree  
He was the best horse in history  
He's runnin' around with his friend Dawn

All over heaven's spacious lawns  
And I rode him with so much pride  
He was the real e-ticket ride!

### **Shavings**

By Kathy Stowe – (sung to the tune of "Shaving Cream")

I have a fluff story to tell you  
It may hurt your feelings a bit  
But last night as I walked through my horse stall  
I stepped in a big pile of sssh...

Sha-a-vings...stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

I went for a ride with my girlfriends  
My fleece jacket was a good fit  
But as soon as they looked at my backside,  
They found fleece is a magnet for sssh...

Shavings...stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

They have a new pelleted version  
It fluffs when you wet it a bit  
But when horses eat them just like peanuts  
They come out as big mountains of sssh...

Shavings... stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

I gave a big peach to my horsie  
He ate it and spit out the pit  
But when I bent down to retrieve it  
It was covered all over in sssh...

Shavings... stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

At Dapplegray they have an outhouse  
With a sink for you to wash your mits  
If you've gotta go just remember  
That inside there, it smells just like sssh...

Shavings... stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

My friends now my story is ended  
I think it is time I should quit  
And if any of you feel offended  
Just be glad you don't have to rake sssh...

Shavings... stay nice and clean  
Muck twice a day and your barn will look keen!

## **P for Personality**

*Knowing your horse's personality type can help improve your relationship with him and help you tailor your training and goals to meet his needs.*

By Brenda Forsythe Sappington, M.S., Ph.D.

There will never be another horse exactly like yours. You know better than anybody that he's an individual with a distinctive personality and characteristics with little quirks and endearing habits. He's the product of a unique combination of influences: heredity, upbringing, training and living environment. And these differ for each horse, making our equine friends diverse and our relationships with them personal and special. Still, you can generalize about horse temperaments and use these generalizations to strengthen your relationship with your horse. Once you develop a better understanding of your horse's basic nature—the good and the not-so-good—you can tailor his training to best meet his needs. Perhaps even more importantly, you can develop realistic expectations for him. You can recognize and eliminate goals that are too lofty, freeing both you and your horse from the stresses of unattainable expectations. It's a win/win situation.

According to J. Warren Evans in the popular animal science textbook *Horses: A Guide to Selection, Care and Employment*, there are six basic temperament types. He defines them as quiet, interested, nervous, extremely nervous, stubborn and treacherous. While I agree with Dr. Evans that these are the general personality types into which most horses fall, I believe most horses actually fall into more than one category due to their individuality, and that this can vary with the situation and even change over time due to differences in human handling and environmental stimulation. Do you already have a sense of which category or combination your horse fits into at this point in his life? Here's a rundown on the temperament types and how each is best handled:

**Quiet.** This horse is commonly referred to as bomb-proof by owners and a packer by riding instructors for his un-reactive nature. He will tolerate almost anything, from a fluttering flag to an uncoordinated rider with inexperienced hands. This type can generally be trusted to behave safely and to build the confidence of beginner riders, while a more advanced rider might consider him too dull.

**Interested** horses are great for riders with a little training and experience. In well-trained hands, these horses pay attention to the rider's aids but aren't upset by them. While they are aware of their environment and respond to things going on around them, it's unusual for them to react with fight-or-flight behavior. As long as this horse is handled with consideration and sensitivity, riders will seldom go wrong with this sort. Many of the horses you see collecting ribbons at local horse shows fit into this category, as they are both animated and dependable.

**Nervous** is the personality type truest to equine nature, and consequently many horses fit into this category. The flight response in nervous horses is well-developed. They spook easily, perhaps even bolting to escape from perceived dangers all around. They tend to carry their heads high, looking for trouble and ready to react. For a quiet and experienced rider, this horse can eventually make a very nice mount. For a tentative rider, he can be a wreck waiting to happen. Most can eventually develop some trust and a sense of security from confident yet sympathetic riders who allow them to progress in training. They require extreme patience and confident handling from the rider. You cannot rush the trust they require before they can progress. If you can learn to work with the challenge, these horses can be worth it and wonderful to show as they tend to possess an extra brilliance in spirit and movement.

**Extremely nervous** horses are so reactive that virtually anything can set them off, and even changes in footing or shadows on the ground could cause fearful explosions at any time.

Calm, consistent handling while slowly expanding their comfort zones will ultimately benefit them, but the road will be long and often dangerous. You must stay especially alert at all times. These horses are best left to professionals or to individuals with loads of experience and a solid foundation in equine behavior principles.

**Stubborn** horses tend to resent work and try to find a way out of it. When pushed, they often become irritable and balky, sometimes even exploding in temper. Trainers often encounter behavior that sets back training, requiring repetitions of lessons already learned. These horses also require riders with a lot of patience, but while the nervous horse requires a quiet hand, stubborn horses need a tactful yet firm approach.

**Treacherous** horses, with the notable exception of a few naturally aggressive stallions, are nearly always either a product of bad handling or benign neglect. They either haven't learned to respect humans or have learned to actively resent them. Such horses may unexpectedly attack humans by kicking, biting or stomping on them. Horses who simply lack an understanding of their place below humans on the dominance hierarchy may sometimes be reformed by the most experienced of handlers. Sadly, euthanasia is sometimes the only safe solution for savage horses. Fortunately, such horses are rare.

Many horses seem to fluctuate daily between these types.

## It's About Martingales...

*You see them on horses all over the place. They are called the Martingale or Tie-Down depending on the discipline. Here is a little piece on the different styles and their purpose. Ed.*

### Running Martingales

First of all, running Martingales are there to help rebalance the horse and are activated when the head is out of position. They are

not meant to force the horse into a restrictive position and should not take the place of gentle hands and effective seat and leg cues.

The running martingale is made up of a Y-shaped strap and is attached to the cinch/girth that runs up through the front legs. It passes through a strap encircling the horse's neck and then forks into two straps, each with a ring attached for the reins to pass through. This works the horse through the bit and not the noseband.

A correctly adjusted running martingale allows for a straight line from your hands to the bit. It should be used with a snaffle bit. A curb bit would be too harsh and should not be used. A running martingale discourages a horse from raising his head too high and sticking his nose out to evade the bit. These sorts of martingales are usually used in training younger horses. Each rein runs through a ring, providing a point of leverage as an aid in teaching the horse to yield to pressure from the rider's hands. When the horse raises his head above a certain point, the martingale will restrict the movement of the reins. This causes the bit to bear down on the bars of the horse's mouth. There are rubber "stops" that should be placed on the reins to prevent the rings from sliding too far toward the bit, where they could get caught on fastenings. Another stop is placed where the martingale strap runs from the girth through the neck strap so that the martingale doesn't form a loop that the horse could put a foot through.

### Standing Martingales or Tie-Downs

The standing martingale or tie-down exerts its pressure through the noseband rather than the bit. It attaches to a cavesson, if riding English. If riding Western, it attaches to the ring in the halter that rests just above the chin under the bridle or a loose fitting noseband under the bridle. The tie-down strap attaches to a ring on the bottom of the noseband at one end and to the cinch at the other.

Commonly, the tie down strap can be run through the ring on the breast collar to secure it. The tie-down or standing martingale helps prevent the horse from evading the bit by pushing her nose out or losing her drive from behind. These devices are helpful in keeping a horse from tossing her head or avoiding the bit. The English martingale attaches at the girth and exerts pressure mainly from the intersection where the neck strap meets the martingale strap. The neck strap should lay about where the neck and chest intersect- fit will vary from horse to horse. This type of martingale should not be so restrictive that it forces the horse's head down to an uncomfortable or unnatural position. The horse should be able to put her head forward at least 6 inches before the martingale is felt. You also should be able to push the martingale's strap back to touch the horses' throat.



## Getting to Know You...

Pam Turner, Dispatch Editor



BV with Pam and grandson son, Dylan Palomino Trail.

## Tell us a little bit about you and your equine background

I come from a cowboy movie stunt family and horses were a part of my everyday life. We lived on a ranch in Culver City that had belonged to Will Rogers Jr., a close family friend. My grandparents were involved in Wild West Shows.

Grandpa did trick roping, bullwhipping and threw his handmade knives at targets to thrill audiences. Grandma was a cowgirl show rider and dazzled onlookers with her riding ability and beauty. They met each other while working on the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show in 1913. The rest is family history....

## Describe the equine(s) in your life

My first horse experience was with Warrior, a grey Arab-Morgan stunt horse. He was my babysitter and I truly was on the back of a horse before I could walk. Warrior was eventually retired from show biz and sold.

I 'graduated' to riding Rocket, a Cremello gelding, also a movie horse. The ranch was sold and Rocket moved away and so I ended up riding different horses at Pickwick Stables from time to time. After I moved to the South Bay that is when BV aka Color Me Gone came into my life. I could write volumes of our adventures together and how I was able to rehab this beautiful Bay National Showhorse/Half Arab from arthritic-ring-bone lameness to being completely sound. It was a miracle.

We team penned and rode the trails together for many years. When he was called home to heavenly pastures in 2007, I eventually made a few more equine friends who helped me as I grieved for my best friend. There was Espree, a black Paso Fino mare (a fun little gal at 28yo), and Sam, a chestnut quarter horse (good hugger). Today I am sharing in the life of a lovely white Appy-Quarter mare, Keanna- We call her "The Princess".



Keanna, "The Princess"  
Phillips Canyon Trail

**What has your equine friend(s) taught you?**

Losing a horse can break your heart, but it will have been worth it. Every ride is a learning experience. If I listen I can hear what my horse is communicating.

**Words of advice to share, or your favorite equine motto**

A solitary trail ride is more beneficial than six months of therapy with the best psychiatrist or a truckload of prozac.

**Want to participate in Getting to Know You?**

Please complete the brief survey below then email your answers and please try to keep it brief. I know it's hard. If you have a picture of your current equine Pictures need to be sent in JPEG format. It's fun to learn about each other!

1. Tell us a little bit about you and your equine background
2. Describe the equine(s) in your life
3. What has your equine friend(s) taught you?
4. Words of advice to share, or your favorite equine motto

Please send your info and a picture in JPEG format of your current equine friend and/or a favorite of an old friend please include that with your email.

to [pvdispatchmailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:pvdispatchmailbox@yahoo.com)

**The Western Saddle**

by Jim Moore

Originated in the first millennium B.C. on the plains of Eurasia, it was the Turkish who developed the foundation that eventually became the Western stock saddle we know today.

Exported throughout Asia, the Middle East and North Africa during the Muslim conquest it was finally introduced into Spain in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. In 1519, Cortez brought both

Moorish and European war saddles to Mexico and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century a stock saddle suitable for working livestock had been developed.

Until the 1850's, most saddles used in the West were made in Mexico; however, the California Gold Rush brought a wave of saddle-making expertise and soon California became the premier saddlemaking location. Thanks largely to the superior leather availability and the ease at which products could be exported, San Francisco was the West Coast's leading saddlemaking location until the earthquake and fire of 1906. The cattle raising area of Visalia, Calif. was also a mecca for this art. Of course, other areas in the West, including Denver, Cheyenne, El Paso and Dallas also made important contributions to the industry. Many of those early craftsmen's saddles are desirable collectibles today.

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**Members we need to hear from you!**

**How can we better serve you and the horse community?**

**What events/speakers/topics would interest you in attending a General Meeting?**

**What was your favorite event/speaker/topic last year?**

**What would you like to see in the Dispatch?**

**Your feedback is important to us!**

Please email your comments to:  
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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**RENEWALS:**

Renewals are sent out in May and need to be received by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Membership Director, Jim Moore is available to answer any questions: (310) 377-8834

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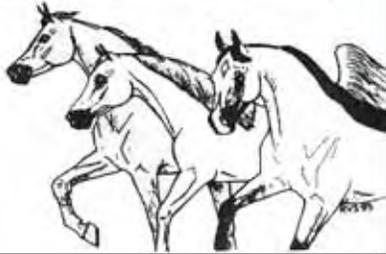
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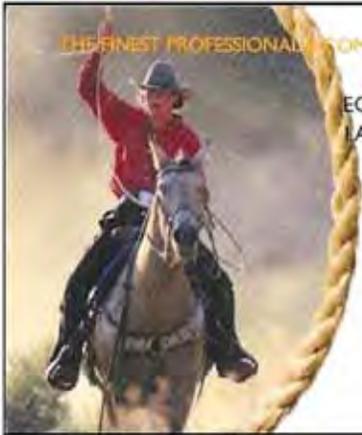
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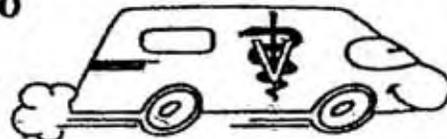


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