



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PVPHA Monthly Meeting
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 7 PM
EMPTY SADDLE CLUB

Equestrian Committee Meeting
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 7 – 9 PM.
PENINSULA CENTER

Events listed here are not necessarily sponsored or endorsed by the PVPHA. To add an event, please email: pvpha.dispatch@gmail.com



Left: Sofia riding Dilatado OC owned by EA Lusitanos. Photo by Jason Brekke



Right: Fred riding Comeco V owned by EA Lusitanos. Photo by Brooke Louise Creative

PVPHA January Meeting: Working Equitation

By Jan Spak

Our next meeting will be a very special opportunity to learn from two of the top trainers in the discipline of Working Equitation (WE): Fred & Sofia Bernardino. "Working equitation is a discipline that combines & requests skills from both the horse & rider that you probably wouldn't find in a dressage test," explained Frederico. "It challenges us to constantly get out of our comfort zone and helps us learn when, how, and what we can do to help our horses be successful." Sofia added that working equitation is a fun and exciting way to improve many aspects of your riding, from fluidity of transitions to contact to suppleness to connection with the horse to building the horse's confidence. They both believe working equitation is a sport that can help us a lot so they want to give back, raise the bar, and do their part to take care of this sport. How fortunate we are to have these talented trainers move back to the South Bay to start their training business. Do not miss this awesome opportunity to hear their wisdom first-hand and ask them your specific questions about you and your horse! Mark your calendars so you don't miss this presentation! 7:00 PM Thursday, January 19th, at the Empty Saddle Club.

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Dapplegray Lane Holiday Horse Parade

By Nancy Wildman

Twenty-nine riders met at the Dapplegray Homeowners arena on December 17th to celebrate the holidays with a parade through the Lanes. This year's event, which has become an annual tradition, was organized by Kelly Yates and Jenny Litchfield. Most of the riders met prior to the parade at the homeowner's arena for decorating and refreshments. Becky Buckman supplied a beautiful table spread with snacks and treats for the riders, as well as their mounts, while Debra Regan provided a plethora of garlands to be used to decorate the horses. The parade started at 2:00 PM at the end of Buckskin Lane and wound through the street culminating at the end of Dapplegray Lane. This year the parade was led by Jenny and Joe Litchfield in their Gator from which music was played to accompany the parade. From all the smiling faces in the photos, it looks like a fun time was had by all. Photos on this page and the following.

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Bruce Harneshfeger riding Copper. All photos by Dale Lofgren.



Frank Quiambao on Lex with Carol Sefchek on Revvy and his daughter, Kristy, on Kiana.



Parade organizer, Kelly Yates, riding Quincy. Jenny Litchfield, the other parade organizer, supplied the music from her Gator at the head of the parade.



Dr. Sobek and Blossom



The parade makes its merry way down Buckskin Lane.



On the way to the parade. Front, left to right: Eden Heinsheimer on Duncan, Claire Litchfield on Monkey. Back: Madeline Marshall on Bisquit, Kelly Yates on Quincy.



Above: Jordie riding Luna with her mom, Sarka Jordan, at her side.

Right: Paige Mercado on LeRoy



The Parade concluded at the end of Dapplegray Lane with 29 smiling riders. Thanks to everyone who participated, and thanks again to Dale Lofgren for these beautiful photos!

Searching for a Forever Home: Russell the Terrier

By Dr. Lisa Pierson

Russell is a very affectionate, friendly, and playful four-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix who has been confined to a small concrete kennel for half of his life, serving two prison terms through no fault of his own.

He was originally obtained as a puppy for a young man who was having emotional problems. The man eventually committed suicide and Russell was dumped at a shelter by the father.

A young couple then adopted Russell and had him for one year, eight months until he was again abandoned at a shelter when they lost their home during the pandemic. I recently spoke with the woman and she had nothing but nice things to say about Russell. She said that they would love to have him back if their living situation was different but they don't see it changing anytime soon. So, Russell will continue to lead a bewildered, depressed, and confused life.

His most recent owner surrender notes said that he is affectionate, friendly, playful and has had professional training. He is crate-trained and lived with large and small dogs. He enjoyed daily walks and running/jogging with family members. Their favorite characteristic about Russell is that he will give a handshake when told "paw" and gives High Fives on command. He loves to cuddle and will give kisses. He also knows his "sit" and "down" commands. (Video showing him responding to these commands is available by request.)

Understandably, Russell is suffering from anxiety due to long-term confinement within the extremely noisy, chaotic, and stressful shelter environment. I can only imagine his confusion over losing two homes and ending up where he is.

Whenever I return him to his kennel after an outing, it's heartbreaking to see him balk at going back into his cold prison cell. He makes strong eye contact

and the sadness and confusion in his eyes is very profound.

Recently, he has had many fun play dates with another dog, interacting very respectfully with her, but he would also do great as a single dog. Humans are definitely his favorite beings to hang out with!

Russell is a very happy dog when he gets time outside of the shelter but he also has a fair amount of energy. Therefore, a home where he can get some exercise in the backyard and also outside the home would be great. He would make a fabulous hiking/running buddy.

He recently met many horses along the trail and did very well. I also brought him to my house where he met my cat and ignored her and he played well with my dog who he had just met for the first time. He enjoyed time in my backyard but he really wanted to be in the house. He thrives on interaction with humans but his strong attachment to people sometimes leads to separation anxiety.

Russell has always been a kind and gentle boy but his anxiety sometimes leads him to mount his handler. On a good note, this behavior has mainly occurred within the stressful shelter environment but because of this occasional behavior, and his tendency toward separation anxiety, he needs a dog-savvy, adult-only home.

If you are interested in learning more about Russell, please call or text Lisa at 310-766-5640. Many pictures and videos are available.

See photos of Russell on the facing page. Photo credits to Dr. Ruth Sobeck.



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Never Feed Grapes or Raisins to your Dog

By Charlene O'Neil

Why are grapes and raisins so bad for dogs? For years the culprit has baffled veterinarians. But now, four veterinarians with support from Cornell University Veterinary College have the answer. They presented their findings at the American Veterinary Medical Association in April 2022.

It's tartaric acid!

As for why it affects some dogs and not others: I assume this is because of varying levels of tartaric

acid. Levels can vary so much that wine makers test for tartaric acid with every batch. This makes sense to me when you think about sugars in hay that vary with weather conditions and harvesting.

Bottom line: Never feed your dog grapes or raisins. How many of us have thrown grapes to our dogs to catch and enjoy? They may have eaten them before but if you get a batch higher in tartaric acid — and no way to know whether you have — you may lose your dog.



Photo by Victor Grabarczyk on Unsplash

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MONTHLY PHOTO!

Stephanie Zankich sent in this photo of horseback riding in Bahía de las Tortugas, Baja California. Looks like a lot of fun in a beautiful place!

Thanks so much for sending in this photo! Submit your horsey photos to pvpha.dispatch@gmail.com to be featured!

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