

Wheel to Wheel

Newsletter for the HUB

<http://www.facebook.com/hubclubdrivingclub>

<http://www.hubclubdriving.com>



2021
Club

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A current negative Coggins must be on file with the club secretary in order to participate in any HUB Club event

The HUB Club:
Education &
Camaraderie



From the Editor As your editor, I ask that you send me photos and anything else that you would like to see in the newsletter. I am more than happy to use anything you want in the newsletter, as it is **YOUR** newsletter. If you want to continue to have an informative newsletter, I need material from the membership. You can send them to me directly at briarpatcheast@aol.com by the 20th of each month. Kris Breyer

From the Webmaster: Please submit items for web page. Include pictures of all our members. Please send names of driver, passengers, horse(s), and description of what you are doing, and where.



Prez Message:

Hello all! Hope you are all enjoying summer activities with and without your equine partners. Several shows have recently taken place and Hub Clubbers were well represented. See pictures of our Trish clinic, the Blue Ribbon Show in Ionia, MI and the Midwest Carriage Driving Festival in this newsletter. I'm looking forward to a break in cleaning brass until the Villa Louis Carriage Classic this September. I'm giving Tevis a little break and I've started my yearling, Ritz, line driving to give him something to think about. His first lesson went well.

This summer has been a curious combination of hot, humid weather and then cool days but mostly dry conditions. I know people are beginning to be concerned over hay availability. Everyone keep your fingers crossed. **Our next meeting will be in July, live and in person, date and place to be announced.** Stayed tuned and watch for an announcement. I can't wait to

see you all.

Ann



2021 Driving



Midwest Region (and then some...) 2021 Driving Season

Event	ADS Rec'd	Date	Host	Location	Contact
FVSA Driving Show		7/17/2021	Fox Valley Saddle Assn.	44W300 Rohrsen Rd, Hampshire, IL 60140	kellychuman@gmail.com
Twenty Mile House CDT		7/18/2021	Colorado Driving Society	Salisbury Park, Colorado	Sarah Swearingen 352 275-2226
Tentative Skunk River DT		7/24-25/2021		Skunk River Equine Center, Ames, IA	Jada Rohloff jadarohloff@gmail.com
Robin Groves Clinic		7/31 – 8/1/2021	ENDS	Arlington Training Stable Elkhorn, NE	Garnet Blatchford garnetblat@gmail.com
Rocky Mountain Derby		8/8/2021	Rocky Mountain Carriage Club	Silver Whip Farm Fort Collins, CO	rockymtncarriageclub@gmail.com or Kerri Rochon kerrirochon@hotmail.com
My Revelation Carriage Classic		8/14-15/2021	CDSGKC	Longview Horse Park Kansas City, MO	Linda Barta lindaabs3@gmail.com
Metamora CDE & CT	X	8/20-22/2021		Windrush Farm Metamora, MI	ddaly0037@gmail.com
Thorsten Zarembowicz Clinic		9/3-5/2021	Rocky Mountain Carriage Club	Silver Whip Farm Fort Collins, CO	rockymtncarriageclub@gmail.com or Kerri Rochon kerrirochon@hotmail.com
40 th Annual Villa Louis Carriage Classic + CAA Carriage Showcase	X	9/10-12/2021		Villa Louis Prairie du Chien, WI	Mike Rider www.CarriageClassic.com
Indiana CDE and CT	X	9/17-19/2021	Indiana Whips & Wheels	Hoosier Horse Park	Nancy Dozier ndozier@infomgmtsol.com
Longview by the Lake Driving Trial		9/18-19/2021	CDSGKC	Longview Horse Park Kansas City, MO	Linda Barta lindaabs3@gmail.com
Colorado CDE	X	10/1-3/2021	Colorado Driving Society	Colorado Horse Park	Eric Jensen 303 886-5555
National Drive Fall Drive		10/5 - 10/2021	The National Drive	Hoosier Horse Park, IN	TheNationalDrive@gmail.com Dave and Linda Sadler

Fox Valley Saddle Association's 2021 Day of Driving Show

Location: 44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire IL
(Corner of Rohrsen and Tower Rd)
Location is north of Route 64, south of Route 20.



July 17th

Classes:

Morning Driving Derby	Afternoon Games
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Horse Trot Only Driving Derby Horse Open Driving Derby Pony Trot Only Driving Derby Pony Open Driving Derby VSE Trot Only Driving Derby VSE Open Driving Derby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiples can request to be run in their own division or can compete with their size group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rainbow Bingo Cones Don't Spill The "Wine" Command Class A Nice Day for Fishing Town & Country Trivia Pursuit Organizer's Choice(s)

Show Schedule:	
<p>8:00 – Grounds Open 9:00 – Secretary's Stand Opens 9:45 – Secretary's Stand Closes until the conclusion of the Driving Derby 10:00 – Driving Derby Begins 1 hour of lunch after the Driving Derby ends Afternoon – Games begin (games will not start before noon) 30 minutes after last round – Awards Ceremony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cone width - 175 cm standard. Driving Derby - Navigator required for large pony (ponies over 120 cm), horses, and multiples (navigators can go around multiple times). Derby - Ribbons up to 6th place! Games – Fun awards only Lunch will be available to order during a limited time only

Contact: Questions please call or email Mike Chuman: FarmAwesomeMike@gmail.com or (630) 723-7648

Fees

\$25 – Derby Entry per horse/driver team	\$25 per stall for non-FVSA members
\$15 – all afternoon games	\$15 per stall for FVSA members

**FVSA reserves the right to require stall rental if weather conditions preclude parking on grass

Attire: All safe vehicle types are welcome. ASTM/SEI helmet, whip, and gloves are required. Safety vest is strongly encouraged. Fun award given to a turnout with particularly fun or entertaining outfits, so be creative.

WARNING: Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.

GENERAL RULES: No entry fees refunded. Judge's decision is final. All stallions must have an adult handler. FVSA is not responsible for any theft, accident or bodily injury. No alcoholic beverages on the grounds. All dogs must be on a leash. Children must be under adult supervision. The show committee reserves the right to combine, split, or cancel any class-based entries. ADS Rules will be followed where applicable. Announcements made the day of the show take precedence over written show bill. State of Illinois proof of negative Coggins Law abided by. NSF FEE: \$20 for returned checks



Baby Announcement:

Madeline Royalia Ziec born June 7, 2021

at 8:32 pm 7lbs

9.8 oz, 21" long



SALE BARN

For sale: Carriage from Jack Stewart's Golden Carriage company, Golden, CO. Purchased circa 1993. Has shaves and pole. Used with pair of 14.2 Morgans. Brakes. Stored inside. Asking \$3,000. Buyer responsible for transport. Located northern Illinois 25 miles south of Rockford, Il.
Don Hayes 815-761-2757 Dnjdyhys@gmail.com



FOR SALE: Wooden driving cart for sale. \$750 OBO Built by Amish - DA Hochstetler & Sons, Topeka IN for a 16H TB. Has been stored inside so the condition is very good – just needs the dust cleaned off. Striking Red with Black pin striping. Wheels are 48". Black leather seats. Rear entry – seat moves forward. Call Nancy Jacoby 847-650-2447 or email nanookj@comcast.net for more details. Located in Wauconda, IL.



Third Time's a Charm with Trish Demers by Lydia Grey

Trish Demers (rhymes with “prefers”) more than made up for the cancellation of last year’s Annual Spring Clinic due to the pandemic with a jam-packed weekend of lessons, assessments, and evaluations May 15-16 at the Fox Valley Saddle Association facility in Hampshire, IL. In fact, several attendees actually added an extra lesson the second day because the first had gone so well! As clinic organizer and one of the drivers, I didn’t get to watch all the lessons or manage to take pictures of everyone, so here’s just a smattering of this fun and educational weekend *(all pictures taken by new mom Krista Ziec)*



Left: Trish tells “Bert” a fish story and he buys it hook, line, and sinker.

First up on Saturday was Lisa Graszer with her Fjord mare “Emma.” Their lesson could have been called *How to be Horse-Friendly in Cones* and featured gems like these:

- Walk cones courses as the **DRIVER**, not as the horse
- Slow is fast; fast is slow
- Your horse is your partner (50%)
- If you find yourself not quite lined up with a set of cones, **GIVE** a rein rather than take

I’ve been playing with this last point ever since

the clinic and my equine partner is loving it!

Ann McCombs and her mule “Tevis” were next, and I’m disappointed I missed the whole thing. From her registration form though, I knew she wanted to work on dressage and cones as preparation for the MHDVA’s Blue Ribbon Driving Show in Ionia, MI in a few weeks.



From left: “London,” Craig Grant, Trish Demers, Rose Grant

Next were Craig and Rose Grant with their spotted draft mare “London.” They won the prize for traveling the farthest, coming all the way from the Bloomington, IL area! They’re also the winners of the “Most Efficient Use of Trish’s Time” award with this schedule:

- Saturday afternoon: assess fit of one harness and cart with their mare
- Sunday morning: assess fit of a **SECOND** harness and cart
- Sunday afternoon: have Trish drive their mare first then have Rose take a lesson

Right: Grace looks very pleased with how well her two mares performed together.

Another lesson that made good use of the time with Trish was Grace Frejlach-Grubb and her UK Shetland mares “Rhona” and “Rhianna.” This was only the second time they had been 1) put to Grace’s marathon vehicle and 2) put to as a pair so having someone as knowledgeable as Trish evaluate the overall fit was indispensable.



Right: Kelly looks like a pro with the reins in one hand!

Kelly Chuman and Bert came with some concrete goals:

- Kelly wanted to practice her one-handed driving under the watchful eye of an expert
- Bert wanted to work on showing more difference between the Lengthened Walk and Working Walk, and between the Lengthened Trot and Working Trot

Little did they know they would also be polishing up their skills in cones, with Kelly being instructed to sit “elegantly” meaning tall and vertical.



Left: Trish demonstrates a rein technique to Nancy.

New member Nancy Simon brought 6yo, 34-inch “Squirt” for a basic driving lesson, which means just reviewing the basics and making sure that both driver and horse have a strong foundation in the sport. Because Trish is all about safety, education, and FUN, all lessons have an automatic harness and carriage assessment built in.

Below: “Billy” thinks about being naughty and Trish tells him to think again.

Instead of my usual 17-hand equine partner, this year I had a 36-inch partner: “Billy” aka “Bilbo,” owned by Kelly’s mom and HUB Club member Cathy Brock. Because Cathy was out-of-town during the clinic, I had the privilege of driving the chestnut half of her combined driving pair which allowed me to work on some of my personal driving goals (driving one-handed) as well as working through some issues Billy and I were having trouble with (standing still, bending right, transitions). She had as trotting so well at one point that I remember her saying “remember this trot; this is a once-in-a-lifetime trot – ENJOY!”

During the 90 minutes that Trish evaluated Michele Harn for her Carriage Association of American Driver Proficiency Program: Level 1, the rest of us used the time to chat about “Conditioning the Driving Horse” and “What Judges Are Looking For in Driven Dressage.” I had recently given these two talks at Dairyland Driving Club’s 2021 Spring ReStart Clinic so knew they would be popular. A few members took us up on our invitation to have their ponies officially measured for show season, and then it was



back outside to the grass dressage arena for the last lesson of the day, Mary Ruth Marks with “Sedona,” a German Riding Pony mare.

Right: Mary Ruth warms up “Sedona” at the working trot under the watchful eye of Trish

Everyone appreciated this lovely and talented mare! We also appreciated that we got to see the Training Pyramid in action, as Trish and Mary Ruth accessed her athletic ability by starting from the bottom of the scale and working up:



- Rhythm (regularity and tempo)
- Suppleness (elasticity and freedom from anxiety)
- Contact (connection and acceptance of the bit through acceptance of the aids)
- Impulsion (engagement and the desire to go forward)
- Straightness (improved alignment and equal, lateral suppleness on both reins)
- Collection (balance and lightness of the forehand from increased engagement)

For the third time in a row, Trish Demers gave HUB Club members more than their money’s worth over two days in May. What’s so nice about having Trish come once a year is that – no matter whether you or your horse are newbies or proficient, combined drivers or pleasure drivers, big or small – she has the skills and knowledge to improve your confidence and take you to the next level!

Getting to Know You: Emily Berendt

Growing Up:

I was your typical horse crazy kid, reading all the horse books I could get my hands on. When I was 12, my mother took my siblings and me for riding lessons. I was the only one it stuck with. I spent my teenage years with a lovely, kind, grade gelding named Rocky and a very opinionated thoroughbred cross named Dan.

Education: I went to Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, IL and graduated with the useless degree of Art Education since my student teaching experience convinced me I did not want to teach. I worked in retail management with Venture Stores (remember them?) and various other retailers before I decided to go to law school.

Family: In law school I met and married my husband and had two children by the time I graduated.

Work: I practiced law for several years, both in Evanston and later in McHenry County, where I got back into horses, and local politics. I am currently President of the Village of Bull Valley in McHenry County.

Horse Experience: I was involved in 4-H as horse-mom and groom to my daughter, who did a lot of local showing and later doubled as groom and navigator for me at CDE’s. During this time we also spent a lot of trail time with our two old geldings and a warmblood mare named Lacey.

Buying Lacey was a spur of the moment decision. She was pretty. Not a good reason for an adult, returning-rider to buy a 16h, 3-yo warmblood filly. After struggling with a difference of opinion about dressage, and several involuntary dismounts, I decided to see if she could handle being a trail horse. And she definitely could. I couldn’t have asked for a bolder, more confident mare. Except she was terrified of cows, which made for

some interesting moments. As my knees got older, but the rest of me didn't, I found my way to driving and met the love of my life. Many of you have met Jade.

Jade is a Morgan cross baby, born to a beautiful Percheron mare I owned at the time. When she was born, driving her had never crossed my mind until my trainer suggested it. But the first time I held the reins in my hands I was hooked. Jade is the perfect beginner horse. She'll do anything I ask of her and she is still my steady go-to girl when taking friends and family out for a drive.

My other driving mare, Dancastle Circe came into my life when I wanted something faster and more challenging. I certainly got what I wished for. Many times in the early years with her I felt I had made a mistake. We got through all that and she has matured into exactly what I want – very forward, a little opinionated (mares-what are you gonna' do?) but basically obedient and pleasant.

My most vivid memory while driving: My most vivid memory is of Circe saving me from being crushed by a falling tree. She heard it before I did, and ignoring my "whoa" bolted just as the tree crashed around us, missing the carriage by feet. I could feel the breeze as the branches brushed by me.

I struggle sometimes (driving related): I struggle sometimes to discipline myself to drive correctly, since it is so much fun to just "go."

My favorite thing to do with my horses is: Drive up the road to the 324-acre farm nearby with one of my girls. I think some of you have been there when we held pleasure drives in the past. It's an opportunity to do some challenging hills, go around the farm fields and wind through some heavily wooded areas as well. It's a lovely property, currently for sale and being threatened with development and loss of a large trail system on the property.

I'd like to see Hub Club: Survive for the long-term.

My future plans include: I think I'm done competing, except maybe for local fun events. I'll be driving for pleasure for as long as the girls and I can manage. I would like to make it to the National Drive again one of these years. And I really wish Acadia National Park wasn't so far away.



Dancastle Circe at a Bull Valley Riding Club picnic driving demonstration



Dancastle Circe on the marathon course at Indian Hills



Jade at the Indiana CDE in the cones course



Jade with family members in my front yard

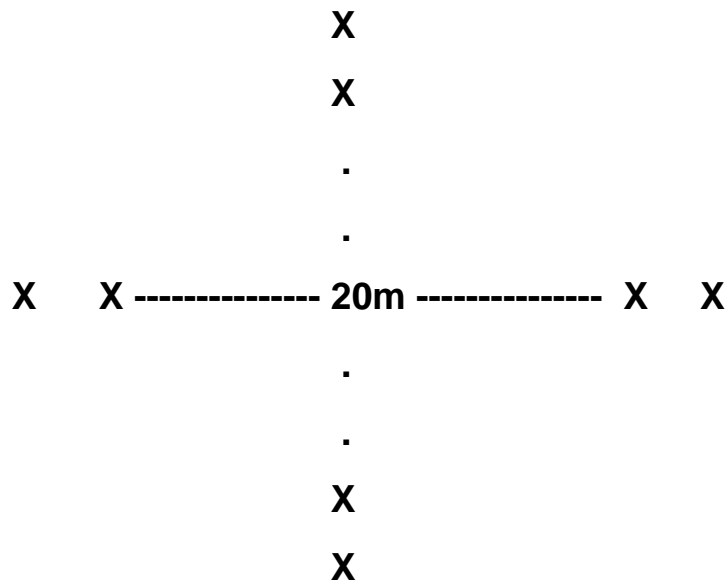
Driving Details for Success by Jennifer Thompson DVM

The Cones Circle

The challenge with CDEs is that there are 3 phases and a lot can go wrong in any phase. But I heard a top CDE driver say that to win, you need to be good in two phases and one of those best be on Sunday. While not all CDEs run three days, a lot of points can be lost in cones, either in time penalties or in balls down. There are a few simple exercises that can help dial in your speed and accuracy in cones. This is an exercise that I struggled with when I started working with it at home while schooling, and now I use it in my warmup at a show on cones day. I see many other drivers setting it up also. The exercise helps to create carriage position awareness within the cones. Learn how to place your carriage in the proper place between the cones. And it only requires 4 sets of cones!



The cones are set up as diagramed, with 20m set between each inside cone and the standard cone setting for your desired level and carriage width. A really simple trick to be able to set this up quickly is to measure out a string or rope at 10m and a stake. Place the stake at the center of the planned exercise and stretch the line out and use it to set up the cones at equal distances from the center point.



The first pattern is to be driven as a circle. Start slowly and always drive to the **OUTSIDE** cone. Remember to drive it in both directions. As your accuracy improves, you can slowly increase your speed. Another option to drive with this set up is to change direction through the center of the obstacle, driving it as an exaggerated serpentine. And a third option to drive with this obstacle is to change direction by turning to the outside of the circle and returning to the cones you had just previously passed through. As you get comfortable with the set diameter distance of 20m, shorten it up to an eventual minimum of 14m. Part of the key with this exercise is to remember to always keep contact with the outside rein, remembering to change your outside rein when you change directions!



Happy Driving!

HUB CLUB MEMBERS BACK IN THE SHOW RING! by Sue West

Two members attended the **MHDVA Blue Ribbon Driving Show** June 12 and 13 in Ionia, Michigan judged by Dana Bright who was also available for lessons after the show.

It was a very nice but not well attended Pleasure Show and CT with only 12 entries. This was probably due to there being three Pleasure shows a week apart in June.

Ann McCombs and Sheri Haviza both did very well in the Single Horse division with me as their on grounds groom.

Ann McCombs with Tevis: Turnout 1st, Reinsmanship 1st, Working 3rd, Gamblers 1st and Prelim CT 2nd.

Sheri Haviza with Sami: Turnout 2nd, Reinsmanship 3rd, Working 4th, Prelim CT 3rd, Intermediate 1st and Reserve Champion Overall for the CT.



These are pictures of the horse Turnout class at the MCDA Blue Ribbon Pleasure show held in Ionia, MI on June 12-13. HUB Club members Dr. Ann McCombs and Sheri Haviza competed. They are also pictured individually during dressage.



Above: Dr. Ann McCombs



Left: Sheri Haviza

Many Club members competed or participated in the **Midwest Carriage Festival** held at the Walworth County fairgrounds in Elkhorn, Wisconsin June 18 – 20.

This is a well-organized show which Michelle Harn said runs itself. CT on Friday was judged by Ruth Graves who also judged the Pleasure Show on Saturday and Sunday along with Terry Pickett.

It was so wonderful to see the large Junior Division with seven entries!

The following HUB Club members competed:

Utility Division – Kelly Chuman: Fault & Out 1st, Reverse Psychology 1st, Turnout 2nd, Working 2nd, Reinsmanship 1st, Timed Obstacles 2nd and won Grand Champion

Tiffany Amschl: Fault & Out 3rd, Reverse Psychology 3rd, Turnout 1st, Working 1st, and won Reserve Champion

Novice Horse/Pony – Lisa Graszer: Fault & Out 3rd, Reverse Psychology 4th, Turnout 4th, Working 4th

Junior Division – Riley Schoenecke driving Donna Crossman’s Kali: Fault & Out 1st, Reverse Psychology 2nd, Working 3rd, Turnout 3rd, Reinsmanship 1st, Times Obstacles 2nd and won Grand Champion
CT Training Level – Tiffany Amschl 1st and Grand Champion, Donna Crossman 2nd and Reserve Champion
CT Preliminary Level – Kelly Chuman 2nd and Reserve Champion, Susan Peterson 3rd and Karen Hanson 4th

Many Club members officiated or otherwise volunteered at the show: Michelle Harn TD, Mike Rider Announcer, Jennifer Thompson CT Cones Judge, Chet and Donna Thomas, Terri Delke, Lydia Gray and Sue West.

Midwest Carriage Festival

. Congratulations to the Champion and Reserve Champion drivers!!

Juniors C: Riley Schoenecke (pictured at right), R: Kjersten Olson (also High Point Fjord junior)

Multiples C: Laura Kunze, R: Jess Markham;

Novice Driver C: [Tammy Carlo](#), R: Kay Clements

Novice Horse/Pony C: [Raymond Helmuth](#) R: Susie Weiss

Open Horse C: [Dave Dunn](#), R: Wes Licht

Open Small Pony C: Karen Pausma, R: Terry Hooten

Open Large Pony C: [Raymond Helmuth](#), (also High Point Adult Fjord)

R: Jordyn Anderson

Utility C: [Kelly Brock Chuman](#), R: Tiffany Amschl

VSE C: Barbara Kirby, R: [Jennifer Hinkel](#)



Burt and Kelly Chuman



Lisa Graszler

Junior Driver line up





Riley Schoenecke and Kali

Midwest Carriage Fest 2021 – by Tiffany Amschl

Romeo's first ADS carriage show - is in the books. It was HOT and the pony had some definite pony-tude about the weather, the bugs, the scary draft horses and louder-than-he's-used-to carriages, and the number of times he had to work, BUT I'm VERY pleased with the results:



1st place Training Level (Driven) Dressage
Champion Training Level Combined Test
(dressage/cones)

[Added bonus: second highest dressage
score of all driven dressage tests!]

1st place Utility Division Turnout Class
1st place Utility Division Working Pleasure
Class

3rd place in both Fault & Out cones and
Reverse Psychology cones.

Reserve Champion Utility Division

And first time ever invited for Best in Show.

(I should mention I go to these shows just for cones, not the ring classes, and apparently, I sucked at them...more practice clearly needed!)

And **congrats** to my equally award-winning friends [Donna Crossman](#) (Reserve Champ Training Level CT) and her granddaughter Riley driving Kalli (Champ Junior Division), [Kelly Brock Chuman](#) and Bert (Res. Champ Prelim CT & Champ Utility Division), [Kimberly Cameron](#) and Willy (Res. Champ Intermediate CT), [Tammy Carlo](#) and Hershey (Champ Novice Driver Division), [Terry Hooten](#) and Charlie (?) (Res. Champ Small Pony Division), as well as all the competitors and new friends made! I guess I know some pretty talented people and horses.

<https://youtu.be/TkhtuiKobUU> (Dressage Test)

<https://youtu.be/gpXJPEiMxDw> (Turnout Class)



Hoof Abscesses: Tips for Treatment and Prevention

by Glenye Cain Oakford |

Hoof abscesses can be painful for your mount and cost you time in the saddle. Dr. Luke Fallon of [Hagyard Equine Medical Institute](#) was asked for his best tips about dealing with hoof abscesses, including identifying, treating, and avoiding them. Read on to find out the signs that distinguish an abscess from another problem, what to put in your hoof-soaking solution, and what management techniques can help reduce your horse's chance of getting a hoof abscess.

A hoof abscess can look terrifying to a horse owner, because it can cause severe lameness that appears to come on suddenly. To a worried owner who finds a horse or pony three-legged lame in his pasture, that can look like extremely serious.

“A horse with a foot abscess can look like he’s got a fractured leg,” said Fallon. “Sometimes, if it’s in a hind leg, it’s hard to determine whether it’s in the foot or up higher—in the stifle or hip region—because often they’ll show the same sort of lameness. In a front leg, a lot of times you can tell if it’s a hoof abscess by whether the horse is willing to flex or extend the fetlock joint, the carpus (knee) joint, and the elbow and shoulder. If they have any decreased range of motion or pain associated with manipulation of the upper joints, from the fetlock up through the shoulder, you may well have a lameness that is not caused by the foot.

“Abscesses are quite often associated with changes in the moisture content in the soil or environment,” Fallon added. “The white line along the solar surface of the hoof wall will open and close, and the quality of the periople—the waxy hoof coating that extends down from the coronet band and is similar to the cuticle on a human fingernail—can be compromised. That allows the hoof wall to crack and become shelly and split, which, in turn, can allow bacteria to track into the more sensitive regions of the hoof.”

If you suspect a hoof abscess, Fallon said, there are telltale signs to look for.

Feel for heat and/or a pulse in the hoof.

Even if you don’t have hoof testers available, there are signs you can look for, including heat and/or a pulse in the foot. “Your veterinarian can teach you how to assess the foot for digital pulses and increased heat in the hoof capsule or hoof wall,” Fallon said.



A set of hoof testers can help you pinpoint the location of an abscess.

Invest in a set of hoof testers.

With a little proper training, most people can use a pair of hoof testers to apply pressure on the hoof and sole, which can help pinpoint an abscess’s location.

“Your farrier or veterinarian can show you how to apply hoof testers, and anybody who has a number of horses should have a set of hoof testers and know how to use them,” said Fallon. “It’s not hard, they’re not expensive, and they can allow for an initial assessment of the problem at hand.”

Clean the hoof completely and examine it thoroughly.

“Make sure you don’t have a stone or a foreign object stuck up in the frog or in the sulcus. Worse, I’ve seen nails, wood chips, glass, and

sharp rocks lodged in the fleshy portion of the hoof—in the frog, the heel bulbs, or in the sole itself,” said Fallon. “Look for any foreign body or debris there.”

If there is a nail or other hard object puncturing the hoof, **do not remove it**, Fallon emphasizes.

“Your veterinarian needs to know how far that nail extends up into the foot itself and if it potentially touches any critical structures, such as the coffin joint or navicular bursa,” Fallon said. “If the nail is removed before the vet can inspect it and radiograph it, then there’s no way to ascertain how the nail went in and how deep it went in. The best thing to do is to get plain old cotton or a polo and wrap that foot as well as possible, then put duct tape or VetRap™. Protect the foot and call the veterinarian immediately.”

Soak the foot.

If cleaning debris out of the foot doesn’t improve the horse’s lameness, the next step is to soak the hoof.

“I like to use warm water, Betadine® (povidine-iodine) solution, and Epsom salts,” Fallon said. “There are also some commercially available products you can use.”

Fallon suggests soaking the foot for 15 to 30 minutes in very warm water, then putting the hoof in a foot pack, using a poultice, ichthammol, or an osmotic paste.

Medicate if needed.

“If the horse is in abject pain, I think giving them a gram of bute to mitigate the pain is certainly worthwhile,” Fallon said.

“You can still get a diagnosis the next day if he’s had a gram of bute for the night.”

When is a hoof problem an emergency?

Puncture wounds to the hoof, as noted above, require immediate veterinary attention.

“Any sort of obvious injury to the heel bulbs or the hoof wall itself—such as trauma that has split the hoof wall or a laceration to the heel bulb or coronet band—merits immediate attention,” Fallon said. “Any lacerations below the fetlock joint need immediate attention, because there’s not a lot of soft tissue to protect the area, and there are some critical structures in that region. Something that looks as innocuous as a one-centimeter cut might be a deep jab that can become infected and potentially involve ligaments, tendons, or joints.”

Causes of hoof abscesses

Hoof bruises that cause blood to pool at the site can create favorable conditions for bacteria and subsequent abscesses; so can trauma to the frog. A crack or defect in the hoof structure or the hoof’s white line also can promote abscesses by allowing bacteria in.

“Quite often, abscesses are caused by a mix of bacteria, both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria,” Fallon explained. “What causes the pain isn’t just the inflammation, but the physical accumulation of pus and often gas, if it’s anaerobic bacteria, inside the hoof capsule. It can do a lot of damage to the hoof capsule and the hoof wall if they’re not able to get the pus out and drain the abscess where you can treat it directly.”

Left untreated, an abscess can gradually create its own draining track. “That might mean it will go from the toe or the sole all the way up to the coronet band,” Fallon said. “That can take quite some time and put the horse through a lot of pain. It can also cause permanent damage to that coronet band, in many cases. If they get recurring abscesses or a big enough abscess, it can permanently alter the way that hoof grows out. You don’t want to leave it untreated.”

Guarding against abscesses



Remove rocks and debris and examine the hoof closely on a regular basis.

There are management tips that can help reduce the chance of abscesses, Fallon said. These include

- **Routine farrier care.** “This is key, because otherwise that hoof wall is going to split and splay and open up that white line to allow infections to track up into the soft tissue structures,” said Fallon.

- **Avoid extremely wet and extremely dry hoof conditions.** “I think wet conditions tend to damage the periople more and tend to pull the periople away, but the dry conditions tend to make the hoof crack more and open up that white line,” said Fallon. “Also, if they’re stomping flies, they’re damaging that hoof wall and potentially splitting that foot open and opening up that white line. You need to watch that hoof all year long.

“If you’re bedding on shavings, remember that they can be very drying to the hoof,” he added. “If you’re bedding on straw or a hay bedding, that doesn’t tend to dry the hoof out as much.”

- **Apply hoof dressings.** “There are a lot of excellent hoof dressings out there that you can apply daily or several times a week if your horse doesn’t have a good-quality hoof or periople,” said Fallon. “There are also plenty of great supplements, like ones that contain biotin and other trace minerals which can help improve the quality of the horny laminae that create the hoof capsule.

“Petroleum products are often not as good as products that contain natural resins such as pine tar and turpentine,” explained Fallon. “I’ve used products that contain lanolin or beeswax, and those are superior. Petroleum can be a little more irritating and more of a drying agent.”

- **Think about shoeing.** For barefoot horses that do not have a good hoof, Fallon suggests the owner consider shoeing “to offload that hoof wall and lift that foot up off the ground,” said Fallon. “And, to me, steel shoes are superior to aluminum shoes as far as preserving the quality and integrity of that hoof. But I would leave it up to the farrier to see what they think might work best.”
- **Scout for trouble spots in your horse’s paddock or pasture.** Pick up rocks that might have surfaced in your horse’s turnout area, and look for less obvious potential problems, too.

“On farms that perennially produce multiple abscesses, you’ll often find that they have, say, #2 rock around their waterers,” Fallon said. “Or maybe they’ve got wood chips in a gateway to help keep it from getting muddy, but maybe those chips are getting lodged in the foot’s sulci or the frog. We’ve had pastures that used to be cattle pastures where, rather than pulling the steel fence posts out, they just broke them off. Those might have been two or three inches under the ground years ago, but on occasion a horse might work its way down to that level and bruise a foot.”

- **Pay close attention to horses that might be more susceptible.** Horses with chronic laminitis, poor-quality hooves, or even white hooves can be somewhat more susceptible to hoof abscesses, particularly if they are in an environment that might also be more likely to produce an abscess. “You can learn how to manage those horses,” said Fallon. “Shoeing, supplements, and hoof dressings can all help. There are some simple things you can do even for a horse with average to poor-quality feet that will improve their long-term health and eliminate abscesses or the propensity to get abscesses. If they do blow out a big abscess at the coronet band, I think dressing that coronet band is key—and, again, I go back to dressings like Corona or even something as simple as Bag Balm, because it has lanolin in it. ... You need to protect those structures.”

Wheel to Wheel

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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HUB CLUB Membership Application Year _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE :(home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____



HUB CLUB

Please check preference: Newsletter sent via email _____ U.S Postal Service _____

Also member of: _____ ADS _____ CAA, _____ USEF, Local club _____

MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATIONS:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: 18yrs or older, 1 vote per membership

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Couple and any underage children (<18), immediate family, 2 votes per membership.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: Child under 18yrs of age, no voting privileges. (Must have an adult member as sponsor).

Also, parent/guardian must sign on application for Junior Members to participate at club events.

I accept the benefits, obligations and responsibilities of membership and agree to abide by the HUB Club bylaws

Signature(s): _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date : _____

Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 (Renewing or New)* \$ _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$35.00 (Renewing or New)* \$ _____

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 (Renewing or New)* \$ _____

*New memberships received after June 30 will be pro-rated for 6 months

Send check with completed forms to: check # _____

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Sue West

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