



Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org

2011 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone,

Thank you to all who have joined the CT Horse Council for 2011. A reminder for those that have not paid dues – please take the time to send in your dues. Dues are payable EVERY January. The CHC 2011 application is on pages 27-28 of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 18-26 and are also posted on our website www.cthorsecouncil.org.

We again have a Calendar photo contest for 2012 – See page 4 for details!

Have a fun and safe Spring & Summer !

Attention All Trail Riders – A friendly reminder to ‘Share the Trail’, use trail etiquette, respect the trails and other people out on the trails. Please clean up at trail heads and on well used trails and Greenways.

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Your CHC Representation around the state...

Legislation



United in Leadership, Service and Education Since 1971
www.cthorsecouncil.org

The Connecticut Legislative session opened January 5th and runs until June 8th 2011. Connecticut Horse Council is tracking a number of bills which may potentially impact our members.

CHC urges our members to testify at the hearings or submit written testimony to the committees.

Members should also email their own legislators to ask for their support and/or cosponsor the bills listed below. Some have already had public hearings

NOTE: *Even though a bill has already been "Heard"— you can still ask your legislators to support the bill as a hearing does not mean that the bill passed.*

To see the full text of the bills, please visit the Connecticut General Assembly website at www.cga.ct.gov and type the bill number into the search box. You may also obtain contact information for your legislators on this site. CHC encourages our members to contact their elected officials to express opinions. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at president@cthorsecouncil.org.

Please go to the CHC website for updated Alerts and additional information on addressing the legislation:
www.cthorsecouncil.org

When contacting legislators please remember to be respectful and polite, and use the bill number and title. Remember to sign your name and full address.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS ARE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR CHC:
Please contact your legislators and ask they SUPPORT the bills below

HB 5010 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS FOR EQUINE USE. Purpose: To preserve certain horse trails in the state. **NOTES:** This bill would expand the list of specifically named trails available for equestrian use. The bill is designed to protect equestrian access to multi-use trails by preventing those trails from ever prohibiting equestrians.

HB 5763 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIABILITY OF PERSONS WHO VOLUNTARILY ASSIST ANIMALS IN AN EMERGENCY. To provide immunity to persons who voluntarily render assistance to animals during an emergency. **NOTES:** This bill would provide liability protection for people who assist towns and animal control officers during individual emergencies involving animals.

SB 720 AN ACT CREATING PENALTIES FOR CAUSING HARM TO, OR THE DEATH OF, A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY. Purpose: To provide penalties for causing harm to, or the death of, a vulnerable user of a public way. **NOTES:** This bill would increase penalties for motorists whose reckless driving causes harm to other users of roadways such as bicyclists, pedestrians, highway workers, horseback riders and others.

Bills pertaining to Municipal Liability:

**FYI: these are multiple bills that have been introduced for this same topic.*

BACKGROUND: On May 2010 a jury awarded \$2.9 million to a mountain biker who was injured by running into a gate at the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Reservoir in West Hartford. As a result, the MDC has given serious consideration to closing their lands to the public, and other municipalities and organizations could possibly do the same. This verdict could have a chilling effect on trail access around the state.

CHC is working with many other groups in support of crucial legislation to correct the current situation and protect municipal land owners who open their lands to the public for recreational use at no cost.

SB 831 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL LIABILITY FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN OPEN SPACE LANDS.

Purpose: To encourage municipalities and other entities to keep open space lands open to the public for recreational purposes.

Public Hearing held January 31st 2011- Environment Committee

SB 43 AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT SB 90 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT HB 5254 AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT

Purpose: To encourage municipalities and other entities to keep open space lands open to the public for recreational purposes. NOTES: In May 2010 a jury awarded \$2.9 million to a mountain biker who was injured by running into a gate at the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Reservoir in West Hartford. As a result, the MDC has given serious consideration to closing their lands to the public, and other municipalities and organizations could possibly do the same. This verdict could have a chilling effect on trail access around the state. CHC is working with many other groups in support of crucial legislation to correct the current situation and protect municipal land owners who open their lands to the public for recreational use at no cost.

Public Hearing held February 14th 2011- Planning and Development Committee

Calendar Photo Contest

Seeking entries for the 2012 CT Horse Council Calendar contest!

You've always known it, but now you can prove to everyone that your horse is truly a picture of beauty. Submit an original photo of your horse (or other horse related photo) to us by August 15, 2011 and yours may be selected for inclusion in the 2012 CT Horse Council Members Calendar. If we select your photo, you'll win more than just bragging rights – you'll also receive a free calendar and your membership dues will be covered for one year. You'll also be recognized in the CT Horse Council Newsletter as a contributor and receive attribution for your photo in the calendar.

This is a great way for you to not only show off your horse, but help the CT Horse Council in the process.

Please note that we can only accept high resolution electronic submissions in JPG format, (at least 1 meg – Set your camera to the highest setting) and that all photos submitted for judging become the property of the CT Horse Council. It is important that you submit only original work, and include the following:

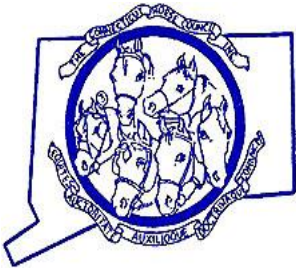
- Name and contact info of person submitting photo (phone & E-mail)
- Name of photographer
- Name of Horse
- A one-paragraph explanation of your photo

So start searching for those precious shots you always wanted to show your friends – perhaps your photo will hang on the walls of barns throughout the state for the entire year!

Entries will be received until August 15, 2011. All entries received after that date will be considered for next year's calendar.

By submitting a photo, you also agree to transfer copyright for the photo to the CT Horse Council for reproduction in the CT Horse Council calendar and other promotional and fundraising materials.

Please submit photos via email to: Laurianne Goulet at lgoulet@att.net



CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol SPRING 2011



Submitted by Diane Ciano

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2010

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over **88** areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces and land trusts. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to you all, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

For 2010, we had a total of **1,795 patrols** with **65 patrol locations** around the state:
15 - State Parks, 13 – State Forests, 6 Wildlife Management Areas, 5 Town Parks/Open Spaces,
9 Preserves, 2 Land Trusts,
and 16 private lands.

There were **3,957 patrol hours** logged with **741** hours of trail maintenance.
saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$77,162.00** for **2010** alone!

77 of the 120 volunteer members were out on patrols for 2010.

There were 34 areas of DEP land and 13 others, making a total of 47 areas patrolled statewide.

The total savings of our 8 years in volunteer service hours is **\$390,6877.00** !

The 8 year totals include **7,879* Patrols**, **16,029 Patrol Hours**
with **3,683 Trail Maintenance Hours**.

2010 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Patrol Hours - Over 100

NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Jim Griffin	140	276
Meg Sautter	87	251
Debbie McConnell	98	233
Jane Samuels	104	197
Vevette Greenberg	54	189
Cathie Mestemaker Harris	68	154
Alesia DiFederico	46	149
Diane Ciano	39	135
Lynda Perry	47	134
Phyllis Alexander	53	117
Penny Foisey	50	103
Jean Morrison	57	102

Most Maintenance Hours

NAME	HOURS
Meg Sautter	72
Gina McManus	56
Jim Griffin	40
Diane Ciano	37
Phyllis Alexander	36
Debbie McConnell	30
Vevette Greenberg	28
Christel Maturo	23
Penny Foisey	20
Melissa Evarts	20
Alesia DiFederico	20

Patrol Hours - Over 50

NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Barbara White	40	94
Kowboy Ken	27	92
Cheryl Mastele	42	73
Gina McManus	52	65
Christel Maturo	40	62
Jeanna Pellino	33	58
Melissa Evarts	28	57
Lori Gmuer	18	55
Cat Wilder	18	53
Krystal Florio	22	51
Steve Pietruszka	22	51
Chris Mard	15	50

Most Areas Patrolled

NAME	AREAS
Meg Sautter	22
Diane Ciano	17
Vevette Greenberg	14
Alesia DiFederico	10

2010 Volunteer Horse Patrol Member Recognition Awards

1. **Jim Griffin:** 276 Patrol Hours, 40 Trail Maintenance hours, 140 patrols
 2. **Meg Sautter:** 251 Patrol Hours, 72 Trail Maintenance hours, 87 patrols, 22 locations
 3. **Debbie McConnell:** 233 Patrol Hours, 30 Trail Maintenance hours, 98 patrols
 4. **Jane Samuels:** 197 Patrol Hours, 104 patrols
 5. **Vevette Greenberg:** 189 Patrol Hours, 28 Trail Maintenance hours, 54 patrols, 14 locations
 6. **Cathie Mestemaker-Harris:** 154 Patrol Hours, 68 patrols
 7. **Alesia DiFederico:** 149 Patrol Hours, 20 Trail Maintenance hours, 46 patrols, 10 locations
 8. **Diane Ciano:** 135 Patrol Hours, 37 Trail Maintenance hours, 39 patrols, 17 locations
 9. **Lynda Perry:** 134 Patrol Hours, 14 Trail Maintenance hours, 47 patrols
 10. **Phyllis Alexander:** 117 Patrol Hours, 36 Trail Maintenance hours, 53 patrols
 11. **Penny Foisey:** 103 Patrol Hours, 20 Trail Maintenance hours, 50 patrols
 12. **Jean Morrison:** 102 Patrol Hours, 57 patrols
-

Patrol Hours over 50

1. **Barbara White:** 94 Patrol Hours, 40 patrols
 2. **Kowboy Ken Forcier:** 92 Patrol Hours, 16 Trail Maintenance hours, 27 patrols
 3. **Cheryl Mastele:** 73 Patrol Hours, 42 patrols
 4. **Gina McManus:** 65 Patrol Hours, 56 Trail Maintenance hours, 52 patrols
 5. **Christel Maturo:** 62 Patrol Hours, 23 Trail Maintenance hours, 40 patrols
 6. **Jeanna Pellino:** 58 Patrol Hours, 33 patrols
 7. **Melissa Evarts:** 57 Patrol Hours, 20 Trail Maintenance hours, 28 patrols
 8. **Lori Gmuer:** 55 Patrol Hours, 18 patrols
 9. **Cat Wilder:** 53 Patrol Hours, 18 patrols
 10. **Krystal Florio:** 53 Patrol Hours, 15 Trail Maintenance hours, 18 patrols
 11. **Steve Pietruszka:** 53 Patrol Hours, 15 Trail Maintenance hours, 18 patrols
 12. **Chris Mard:** 50 Patrol Hours, 15 patrols
-

TRAIL MAINTENANCE HOURS Over 20

Meg Sautter - 72
Gina McManus - 56
Jim Griffin - 40

Diane Ciano - 37
Phyllis Alexander - 36
Debbie McConnell - 30

Penny Foisey - 20
Melissa Evarts - 20
Alesia DiFederico - 20

MOST LOCATIONS PATROLLED

Meg Sautter - 22
Vevette Greenberg - 14

Diane Ciano - 17

Alesia DiFederico - 10

SAVE THE DATES

Blessing of the Mounts

Saturday, April 30th

Cheshire – DiDominicus Property 9:30 SHARP!!

This year we will join the Cheshire Horse Council's Blessing & St Jude Ride Hospital Charity Ride at the DiDominicus Property in Cheshire CT.

Hosted by Lou Casabona and Cathy Clouse

Coffee and Donuts provided by Cheshire Horse Council Members

Bring your own lunch and donation to St Jude

RSVP REQUIRED - **Blessing is 9:30 AM SHARP !!** – so please plan your arrival and unloading of your horse appropriately so that the ceremony is not disturbed by late comings. The Ride Out is immediately following.

Please contact Diane for RSVP and Directions: 203-757-1904 Spirit76@snet.net

Horse & Rider Assessment & Show n' Go Ride

Sunday, May 15th

Shenipsit State Forest 1:00 pm

New Volunteer Members of the Horse Patrol or members that have new mounts will have the opportunity to go through the horse & rider assessment. We'll have a trail course set up at the Reddington Rock Riding Club's Camp Glacier and then go out on a ride to explore the forest's trails and roads.

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED:

- Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest - Workdays for renovations
- Pachaug State Forest - Marking of 5-10-15 mile trail system
- Natchaug State Forest – Workday & camp out at Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp
- Show N' Go Rides – VHP members are asked to host a ride in their area to show other members new places to patrol. Contact Diane for any dates and locations you may be able to do this. Some suggestions are:
 - EAST: Cockaponset (Quinary Trail) – Rockland Preserve – Hurd SP
 - WEST: Nassahegon SF – Steep Rock, Stratton Brook SP, Ethel Walker
- June: National Trails Day Events June 4th (or 5th)
 - Organizations are asked to host events within their communities
 - VHP horses are needed to meet and greet the public.

OTHER TRAIL NEWS:

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Windsor – CT River Trail

The Town of Windsor held a public hearing for appropriating \$870,000 for costs in connection with the construction of a riverfront paved multi-use trail from the CT DEP Boat Launch at East Barber Street South to the Hartford City line.

Diane, Meg & Ruth Beardsley spoke at the Windsor Public hearing in favor of the River Walk Trail asking that a natural surface be considered. The VHP has been patrolling in the other direction from the boat launch to Bart's Restaurant on Rte 159. Pat Kelly of the Ebony Horsewomen also spoke in favor of it at the hearing. The trail proposal was very favorable to all those that spoke at the hearing except for a few people.

Eastern Competitive Trail Association - ECTRA 40th Anniversary Convention – New London

CT Horse Council members Amy Stegall, Diane Ciano, Jan Collins & Melissa Evarts (also LCRVHA & BPC) were on the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association (ECTRA) Panel "Can We Save Our Trails" at their convention. Other panelists included trail advocates from other organizations and from the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Amy Spoke on the importance of being active in local and state legislation, Diane on trail etiquette, Jan spoke on her success story with local planning and zoning and Melissa spoke on the work and success stories of the LCRVHA & BPC.



Left to Right: Paula Burton (New England Mountain Bike Assoc. (NEMBA), Scott Hatch (Pulpit Rock Trail Blazers - Maine), Janet (ECTRA'S Maine Trail Master), Rob Butterworth (CT Forest & Park Association), Laurie Giannotti (DEP Trails & Greenway Coordinator). Jan Collins (CHC, CT Equine Advisory & CT Greenway Councils), Diane Ciano (CHC VP, Trails Chair & Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor, CT Equine Advisory Council), Amy Stegall – CHC President, Melissa Evarts (Bridle Path Conservancy & Lower CT River Horsemen's Association and Bob Brooks (ECTRA).

Horse Owner's Corner: Strategic Deworming:

Why should I change how I deworm my horse?

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, UConn; Education Committee Chair

Spring is coming and that makes horse owners think about deworming. You may have heard some of the recent discussion about how horse owners should switch from rotational deworming to strategic deworming. The main reason that horse owners are being encouraged to switch is that with no new dewormers on the horizon, parasites may develop resistance to existing dewormers. Also, there may be a cost benefit to only deworming those horses that have high fecal egg counts.

What is strategic deworming?

Strategic deworming involves collecting the feces of the horse and examining the feces using a fecal flotation test to determine the number of parasite eggs present. Then, with strategic deworming, only horses with a specific number of parasite eggs or higher (called “shedders”) would be dewormed. Shedding refers to the number of strongyle type eggs present.

It does take a trained eye to recognize strongyle eggs, but large farms may want to consider learning how to perform their own fecal egg counts (FECs). You will need a fecal flotation kit which is commercially available and fecal flotation medium, also commercially available. You will also need a microscope and the time to devote to looking at the manure of all of the horses on your farm. You will have to collect the manure when it is fresh in the stall, or if horses are pastured you may need to stall them because if you just pick up the pile in the field, you can't be sure which horse it is from. Otherwise, your veterinarian can arrange to have a FEC done for you.

Some parasitologists (veterinarian who studies parasites) recommend grouping horses into low, moderate or high shedders. However, they cannot agree on a cut-off number for each category. According to the American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP), a FEC of less than 200 eggs per gram (epg) implies a light parasite load while a FEC of 500 to 1000 epg implies that the interval between deworming is too long. Initially you would perform an FEC 10-14 days before you would normally deworm. You would then do a fecal float exam 10-14 days after deworming to determine if the dewormer is working properly. If it is, you would see a fecal egg count reduction (FECR) in those horses tested. It should be 90% of the previous FEC when tested.

What are the advantages of using strategic deworming?

There are the advantages of strategic deworming:



It may reduce the chances of parasites developing resistance. There are no new dewormers in development. Whenever a dewormer is used, some parasites may not die. These parasites are called resistant. The more parasites that survive after a deworming, which should kill them, the more resistant parasites there are in the population. This can lead to horse owners being unable to control parasites, and is the main reason a lot of parasitologists and veterinarians advocate using strategic deworming.





You will be able to determine which horses are low, medium, or high shedders. Research has shown that this is determined genetically, so you should not have to perform the test again to be sure that a horse is a low, medium, or high shedder unless his health or immune status changes.


You will know if the dewormer you are using is effective. Some dewormers in your rotation will be more effective against certain types of internal parasites than others. For example, when using pyrantel pamoate is not effective against encysted cyathostomes, so you would need to have another dewormer in the rotation to take care of that. If using a daily dewormer, you also will want to add a larvicide and boticide since they are not effective against bots and larva.

What are the disadvantages of strategic deworming?

There are some disadvantages of strategic deworming:

 For large farms, it will be time consuming and labor intensive to perform FECs on all horses. It will also require an additional cost initially.

 You must test all horses on the farm in order to have a truly effective strategic deworming program, at least initially.

 It is often difficult to convince people who have done things a certain way that a new idea is going to be effective. It may be difficult to get a stable manager with years of experience to switch to strategic deworming.

Strategic deworming is a new way of managing the horse to reduce parasite loads. Studies have shown that it is quite effective. You should work with your veterinarian to determine the deworming method that is best for you. It is also important to prevent overgrazing and manage manure in your pastures to keep from adding to the horse's parasite load. Deworming works best when it goes along with best management practices that include good farm sanitation and manure removal. Good luck and have fun with your horses!

References

American Association of Equine Practitioners. Internal Parasites: Strategies for Effective Parasite Control. 2010. http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=125

The Horse Staff. Strategic Deworming Q& A. 2008. <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=13694>

“Triggers” Get Help: Introducing Equine Phobia Reversal Therapy

By Casey Sugarman, Equine Behaviorist

Every barn knows of at least one horse with a hang-up. “She’s a great horse, all except for this one weird thing...” “This horse is bullet proof as long as you don’t...” “Ever since it happened, that’s just the way he is.” Whether it’s a scary object, a scary activity, or a weird reaction... these “fear triggers” can make otherwise good horses unsafe.

There’s no mistaking a horse with a phobia. The obvious sign is when the horse turns into an animal possessed, stops breathing, goes to ‘Mars’, stops thinking, becomes extremely unsafe, bolts, or all of the above. Less obvious signs are when the horse is in a ‘frozen panic’. While absolutely still, the horse’s eyes start moving sideways with a dra-a-ag to them... a dangerous explosion is about to occur.

If you wish you could help your horse become more rational, if you’ve tried the medications and herbal calmers, the sacking out and months of repeat exposure, and are still in the same boat, your story is quite common.

Contrary to popular belief, *even beliefs held by some behaviorists*, phobia reversal in horses and other animals is not only possible, it is achievable, the process is predictable, and complete recovery is routine. But Equine Phobia Reversal Therapy is not an arena for recreational trainers.

A Phobia is a fear that has become something like an addiction. A phobia is an emotional abscess; it is analogous to a layered onion. At the core is a rotten center, a buried unconscious memory of *un-processed* ultra-negative experience that handlers may or may not have witnessed. Countless layers of evasive behaviors, excuses, and irrational beliefs surround the core, like the layers of the onion, to keep it hidden and walled off, in order to shield the brain from further trauma.

Phobia Therapy is based in positive reinforcement but does NOT utilize standard clicker training, standard habituation protocols, cowboy schooling, natural horsemanship, nor any psychic/energy approaches. Phobia Therapy rebuilds the horse’s experience through primal emotions, re-experiencing each layer of his memory and putting the horse in complete control of a new rational approach to the trigger. Equine Phobia Therapy also does NOT teach horses to tolerate; it teaches horses to *seek out* the once noxious stimulus.

The work is done by employing the horse’s breathing, center of gravity, curiosity, personality... In Equine Phobia Reversal Therapy, horses are not rewarded for doing a correct *behavior*, horses are rewarded for rationally taking charge of a situation, and then for sharing that authority with a handler. Horses who have gone through the therapy seem to say: “Go ahead, hit me with your best shot!”

Although each therapy is highly customized to each horse, learning curves go through multiple predictable stages of exponential improvement. Also, the horse will carry the new skills to new homes, new owners, and new jobs.

Horses who have multiple fears or phobias usually learn courage from phobia therapy, as they learn *how to learn*. Horses get very excited about their newfound abilities to control and even seek to *play with* triggers that used to evoke terror.

Following are some beginner tips for helping a horse through a common stable fear. But remember, your safety is always most important. Kicking, biting, striking, and rearing horses should be rehabbed by professionals only. Emotional recovery in dangerous horses should be directed by a professional phobia specialist to reduce risk of injury to people and animals.

Trigger's Trigger Trigger: Fear of a Spray Bottle

For tackling “fear of a spray bottle”, fill a pocket with quarter sized treats. Bring the horse, on 10 foot lead into a large enclosed area with good footing, like a small paddock. The lead is only there to keep you and the horse in somewhat close proximity, but the horse is to always be on a slack line. Bring a reliable spray bottle, set to stream, filled with water.

Before you begin, you must promise the horse one very important thing: EVERY single time you hear the horse give a big exhale (ignore snorts), you will stop what you’re doing and give the horse three treats; exhaling is a jackpot. Invite a friend to watch and listen for those exhales to remind you of your promise.

Start with one spritz aimed in the opposite direction from the horse’s head, so he can see and hear the bottle. After each spray, give the horse one treat until the sound of the spray makes the horse’s ears perk up as if to say, “I heard the spray, here comes my treat!” That’s your cue to start working the sprayer closer to the horse. Every foot closer needs about 3 repetitions before you shorten the distance. Give a treat every 3-5 spritz or so, but don’t spray the horse yet.

The first aimed shot should be onto one hoof; the right front is usually the closest. Spray the hoof wall and then the hair just above the hoof. This is the part of the horse most experienced with weird sensation. The horse will stomp the foot as if it’s being bitten by a fly. This is great because the horse is dealing with the insult in a rational and purposeful manner.

Now it’s time to upgrade our approval criteria: now, every time the horse stands very still that will earn him one spritz and one treat. Now it’s time to start moving the spray with the same goal in mind. The first time each torso and neck area feels the water, it should be in mist form. The first time each leg and rump area feels the water, it should be in stream form; the reason is so that you can aim accurately from some distance and because these are the more insult-ready parts of the horse. Your main job is to keep exhaling yourself and to “take 5” often, and start again when the horse is focused on you.

In finishing off the project, aim to be very *inconsistent* with the spraying, but always give the horse a chance to find the big exhale in between every dousing. The horse’s exhales are what teach the horse’s brain that it’s all nothing to worry about. If the horse cocks the leg you are spraying or if horse bends away from the bottle those are great signs. This is the picture of a horse who is playing the part of the catcher behind home plate; kicking you or the spray bottle is the last thing on his mind.

By the end of this game, you should have a thoroughly wet horse, an empty pocket, and a buddy who can’t wait to play the spray bottle game again. After the horse “sleeps on it” a few times, and forgets why she was ever afraid of that fun toy, he’ll be an old pro, and you can save those treats for some other game about some other spook.

Casey Sugarman, Phobia Specialist/ Behaviorist

Sugarman focuses on inter-species learning dynamics. She was a senior veterinary biologist at New England Aquarium, Boston, and has been rehabbing dangerous horses for 18 years. For help with behavior problems or brain-based instruction across New England, email your story to: info@partnershipengineering.com

www.partnershipengineering.com Niantic, CT



Are You Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such emergencies

Flood

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.

Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safedeposit box.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit containing—

First aid kit and essential medications.

Canned food and can opener.

At least three gallons of water per person.

Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.

Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.

Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.

Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places . . . a friend's

home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

When a flood WATCH is issued—

Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.

Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

Stock Number NOAA PA 92059

or

ARC 4458

Rev. Aug. 1998

A flash flood from a broken dam or levee or after intense rainfall of one inch (or more) per hour often catches people unprepared.

Regardless, the rule for being safe is simple: head for the high ground and stay away from the water. Even a shallow depth of fast-moving flood water produces more force than most people imagine. The most dangerous thing you can do is to try walking, swimming, or driving through such swift water.

Still, you can take steps to prepare for these types of emergencies. Have various members of the family do each of the items on the checklist below. Then hold a family meeting to discuss and finalize your Home Flood Plan.

Prolonged rainfall over several days or an ice jam can cause a river or stream to overflow and flood the surrounding area.

_____ Determine whether you're in a flood area.

Flood area: ☐ Yes ☐ No

_____ If in a flood area, is flooding covered under your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy?

(Most insurance policies specifically exclude flooding from rising water.)

Flood insurance: ☐ Yes ☐ No

_____ If flooding is not covered under your homeowner's or renter's policy, obtain separate flood insurance.

Insurance company: _____

_____ Keep current copies of all important papers or valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Location of safe-deposit box: _____

_____ Put together a Disaster Supplies Kit in a clearly labeled, easy-to-grab box.

Location of Disaster Supplies Kit: _____

_____ Write instructions on how and when to turn off your utilities—electricity, gas, and water.

Instructions written: _____
(date)

_____ Decide where your family would go in case you must evacuate. Clear your plan with the relatives or friends you plan to stay with—or go to a Red Cross shelter. Also, get an extra map and mark two alternate ways to reach that destination. Add the map to your Disaster Supplies Kit.

Evacuation plan completed: _____

(date)

And remember . . . when a flood, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other emergency happens in your community, you can count on your local American Red Cross chapter to be there to help you and your family. Your Red Cross is not a government agency and depends on contributions of your time, money, and blood. For more information, contact your local Red Cross chapter, National Weather Service office, or emergency management agency. You can also visit these Web sites:
American Red Cross: **www.redcross.org**
National Weather Service: **www.nws.noaa.gov**
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Supporting Members

Welcome to all members who have joined or renewed since the last newsletter. Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Horse Council. If you have not renewed I hope you will support the CHC again and do so. If you have any changes to your address, phone, or email please let me know. Thank you.

Carol Birdsey

Membership Chair

Your support is what keeps the Connecticut Horse Council able to fight for the rights of horse owners in the State of Connecticut with trails issues, zoning, and legislative issues.

Tell a friend about the CHC!

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CT Ranch Horse Association -*Newington*
CT Trail Riders Association-*Warren*
Fairfield Bridle Trail Association-*Green Farms*
Litchfield Hills Driving Club-*Norfolk*
Lower CT River Valley Horseman's Assoc.-*Killingworth*
Marlborough Tails & Trails 4-H Club-*Wethersfield*
Mystic Pony Club-*Ledyard*
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President Eric Lehman 203-393-2222



Cheshire Horse Council

www.cheshirehorsecouncil.com



CT Dressage & Combined Training Association

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CT Valley Driving Club

www.cvdrivingclub.com



www.eote.net/ctrha/wordpress

CT Trail Rides Association



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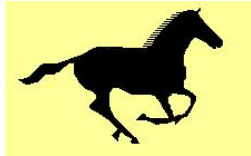
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Sylvia Preston www.middleburybridle.org



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nyuc.ponyclub.org/



New England Arabian Trail Organization

www.orgsites.com/ct/neato



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www.nblact.com



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Pomfret Horse & Trail Association

www.pomfrethorseandtrail.com



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www.RRRCLUB.ORG



www.tristatehorsemen.com

Business Member Directory

CHC would like to encourage horse owners to use the services of our member businesses. This will help our industry to prosper. If your business does not appear here, consider joining CHC so that we may add your listing as well. This information is made available at our trade show booth and on our website.

Note: Listings in our business directory is a service to our members only, and does not necessarily endorse any individual, business, or product.

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THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

Membership Classification (Check One)

☐ **Individual** \$10 ☐ **Family** \$15 ☐ **Student** \$8 ☐ **Business or Professional** \$20

☐ **Club** * \$20 **(1-50)** **(51-100)** **(101-200)** **(201-350)** **(351-500)** **(500 & up)**
 1 Delegate 2 Delegates 3 Delegates 4 Delegates 5 Delegates 6 Delegates

*Note: Club Membership is based on the number of club members and number of delegates for voting privileges. Please submit this form with main contact name. Attach listing of additional delegates with name, address, phone & E-mail address.

☐ **NEW** ☐ **RENEWAL** **Membership decal available** ☐ **Static** ☐ **Sticker**

Check which one you wish to receive with your membership. Additional decals are available for \$1.00 each

How did you hear about the CHC? _____

CLUB or BUSINESS NAME (if applicable) _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY / STATE/ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST (Please check all that apply)

☐ Trails ☐ Zoning ☐ Booth ☐ Legislation ☐ Website ☐ Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

☐ Volunteer Horse Patrol ☐ Education ☐ CT Horse 911

I would be willing to serve on a committee of my interest. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More info, please

I would be willing to have my name listed with CHC Connections as a person to contact in an emergency involving horses, or for emergency resources. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More info, please

Please describe resources/services you would be able to provide on the back of this form.

I wish to join The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

_____ Date _____

Signature

Make checks payable to:

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 57
Durham, CT 06422-0057

Telephone: 860-482-9500
www.cthorsecouncil.org

(over)

Connecticut Horse Council **Connections** is a volunteer network being developed to provide assistance and resources to our fellow horse owners in the state during times of natural or man-made disasters, or emergency incidents such as fires, loose horses, or trailer accidents. When there is an incident or emergency situation involving horses **Connections** will be a resource for local fire departments, first response dispatchers, and, as they continue to organize, with local CTSART Region Team Leaders. If you choose to participate in **Connections**, CHC will add your name to our list of people who can be contacted when help is needed.

[] CHC has my permission to make my name available to my local Fire Department/local Emergency Dispatcher as an experienced horseperson to call in the event of an incident involving horse/s.

My local FD is _____ Local Police _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency trailering for horse/s.

Type/size of vehicle _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide temporary emergency shelter/housing/paddock space for horses which need to be relocated in emergency situations.

Describe _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency supplies (feed, bedding, or other) for horses involved in emergency incidents.

Describe _____

[] I am unable to participate at this time but would like to be included in future alerts or mailings.

Although not yet mandated by Connecticut statute, the CT State Animal Response Team regions recognize the needs of large animals. CHC remains committed to assisting the five Region Team Leaders in their efforts to include horses in their disaster response plans.

[] Please give me the contact name of my CTSART Region Team Leader so I can contact him/her.

I attest that I am at least 18 years of age and that the information I provide The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is true and accurate. I understand that I may, in any particular situation, prudently decline to offer my good faith services. I further understand that The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. acts only as a conduit for providing this information to individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of emergency response, and CHC is not liable for any injury or misadventure resulting in my volunteer efforts.

Signature

2009-2011 Officers and Board Members

The Connecticut Horse Council Officers and Board of Directors are elected volunteers who are dedicated to helping the equine industry grow.

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president@cthorsecouncil.org

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Lost in the Familiar

Cathy Sautter

It was gray the day you left me
Endless hours spilled the rain
Thunder cracked a defining roar
That day will haunt me ever more.

Lightening twisted silhouettes
Shadows cast from harsh realities
People hunched down low and hooded
Their faces stone, their eyes averted

Every single dreary day
Again and over again
My tear stained heart still breaks afresh
The gunshot sound still strikes my flesh

And yet I'm always drawn here
To the middle of your favorite field
Rain polished grasses atop your grave
Reflect my face, trying to be brave.

But it's here I feel your presence
Your playful spirit entangles mine
We dance and fly together
All things real become a blur

Peace pours down from heaven's buckets
Awash with stillness, I stand and wait
Barefoot and rooted, bits of memories collecting
Short breaths, eyes closed, two hearts connecting.



Notes from the Editor

Phew, was that a wicked winter or what? It took forever to get my horse out of the field just to walk around the block! I am very happy not to see snow anymore...and, it's finally warming up! Whooo hoooo! I think the horses are even happy. I noticed a LOT of folks out for a first ride in March.

As one of the Supervisors of the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol, I'd just like to offer a hearty thank you to all who showed for our annual meeting March 27th. We had a great turn out and fabulous food. With over 100 members, we just can't seem to find the perfect day/time for our meeting. So thanks to those of you who RSVP'd and came out to meet the other volunteers. We had a great meeting. Don't forget our scheduled Blessing and other activities planned (see page 8). If you're interested in becoming a CHC VHP member, check out the website www.cthorsecouncil.org, and then contact Diane Ciano at spirit76@snet.net.

Please remember us when you're changing your email! I'd hate for you to miss any information. Lots of legislation coming our way...stay tuned; and be informed. All of the legislative issues are listed on the website.

Speaking of website, our very own Web Wizard, *Daisy Gmitter* is working wonders. Our latest version is **almost** ready to go live. Wait till you see it! AND, you'll be able to use PayPal to pay your dues! Daisy, you're the BEST!!

I'll also offer again if anyone wants onto 'Meg's List'. All things horsey, sale, trade, wants and freebies. Send me an email (with 'Meg's List' as the subject), and I'll add you to my confidential list.

Now that we're all crazed to get out there, please remember to 'Share the Trail' and be safe. A big part of that involves cleaning up before you leave...that includes manure and hay. It sure is noticeable when you don't. It makes us all look bad.

Remember to start now collecting photos for the 2012 CHC Calendar. Remember, too, that the photos **MUST** be high quality (see page 4 for details). Get your very own month of fame! Plus a free membership.

Oh! Don't forget our **meetings are the FIRST Tuesday of each month**. NO meetings June, July, August and September.

Some great news for a change.

The good news is the 1st Co. Governor's Horse Guard is being certified as the State's first Mounted Search and Rescue Unit! Connecticut Canine Search and Rescue, CCSAR, is certifying the troops and their mounts. For most of the Troopers, the classroom portion is done and the evaluations are the last step in this months long process. CCSAR's president Peter Vernesoni and Liz Burne, along with CHC president Amy Stegall and Meg Sautter put 18 1GHG members through their paces including loading horses, ground mounting, backward maneuvering, bicycles, dogs, people, balloons, tarps and flags. It'll take two Saturdays to get everyone through the course. History in the making!

Congratulations, 1GHG!

I'm sure you've all heard about the possible elimination of the 2nd Co. Governor's Horse Guard. This would be a tragedy. Should you feel inclined, contact Governor Malloy and express your politely worded displeasure with the idea. You can check out their website www.TheHorseGuard.org.

Ok, I guess that's it. Just some thoughts I wanted to express. Enjoy the Spring and as Diane always says, 'Happy Trails'!

Meg