

HAPPY TAILS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5

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Horse Show Dates Finalized!

We are pleased to announce the finalized show dates for the Saddles & Spurs Open Show Series. This will be a series of 5 all breed, open shows. We will have classes ranging from Showmanship and Halter, Hunt Seat, Western, Trail, Gaited, and Speed Events. There will be classes for adults, youth and pee wee classes available. Full class lists and descriptions will be available soon on our website and at the barn. The Saddles & Spurs Open Show Series will also feature Championship classes in the last show of the year, along with end of the year awards of Youth of the Year, Adult of the Year, and Horse Of the Year. These will be based on points accumulated throughout the year. Don't miss out on all the fun and prizes!

Show Dates:

Saturday, May 22

Saturday, June 12

Saturday, July 17

Saturday, September 25

Saturday, October 30

Registration will begin at 8am and classes will begin at 8:30 for all shows.

All shows will be hosted at East Tennessee Riding Club, located at 470 East Tuskegee Drive, Oak Ridge, TN.

Admission is free, so bring the family and stop by to watch the fun! We hope to see you there!

Vendor tables are available for only \$25 a show or \$100 for all 5 shows. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business or sell your product. Limited space is available so book your table fast!

Sponsorships are still available! We are accepting cash donations or product donations to go towards awards, prizes and trophies. Sponsors will be advertised in our show programs and in our newsletter, as well as announced during the show. We need you! Show your support now!

Interested in volunteering to help at the shows and earn free lessons? More information inside!

New: Trail Clinic in May What is Trail Class?

On May 10th we will be hosting a trail clinic for our students. This clinic will be designed to introduce to students a trail class and will be conducted similar to one.

So what is a trail class? Trail Classes are one of the most popular classes at many horse shows. They are done in an arena and have many obstacles for horse and rider to go through, over and complete to show a confi-

dent and willing trail partnership.

Typical obstacles that you may encounter in a trail class are a gate that you must open and close, a bridge you must walk over, going over logs/poles on the ground, a mailbox that you must open/close and put the flag up, and a box you must enter and back smoothly out of. Some more challenging courses include having to

sidepass your horse, drag something behind you, step up on top of a ledge with all four of your horses feet, and even a small jump!

Trail classes can be fun for both horse and rider and are a great way to mix it up and add a new challenge. Whether just for fun or for competition, come check it out!

UPCOMING SHOW CLINICS:

- April 12: Intro to Pattern Work 5:30-6:30
- April 26: Advanced Flat W/T/C or W/J/L 5:30-6:30
- May 10: Trail 5:30-6:30

UPCOMING SHOW DATES:

- May 22
- June 12
- July 17
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Horse Ownership Series

Article 3: Preparing for Shows

With show season fast approaching, we decided to skip ahead in our Horse Ownership Series and do an article on Preparing for Shows. Whether still undecided whether showing is for you, this is your first year showing, or you are a seasoned veteran, these helpful hints will help get you through this stressful and hectic time.

Shows are stressful as it is, getting ready doesn't have to be. Follow these steps to getting ready and spend the time you save concentrating on bringing home that blue ribbon!

1. **Plan Ahead:** Have a calendar marked with upcoming show dates, and what you need to do each day to get ready.
2. **Make a List:** Have a list of what you need in your trailer, crossing it off once it goes in. Your list should include all tack, grooming supplies, first aid supplies for your horse, feed, show clothes, and snacks for the day.
3. **Pick Your Classes In Advance:** Review all the classes and pick the best fit for you and your horse. For the first show of the year, only pick a few classes to enter, and try to

“A few days before the show, do a dress rehearsal in show attire and show tack.”

give yourself plenty of time between classes. This will give you and your horse time to recover between classes and regain focus.

4. **Do a Dress Rehearsal:** A few days before the show, do a dress rehearsal in show attire and show tack. Have someone come watch. Make sure everything is neat and clean. Note anything that needs

cleaned, repaired or mended and have it done prior to show day.

5. **Clean Tack:** A day or two prior to the show, clean all tack and get it covered to go. Be sure to bring extra sponges, saddle soap and silver cleaner with you.



6. **Bathe Your Horse:** Only do this the day before your show to limit the time they can get dirty again! Be sure to cover them with a blanket to keep dirt and dust off. Placing several braids in the tail, then placing it in a tail wrap or wrapping it in vet wrap not only keeps it clean, but when you take it out on show day

you'll have a full, wavy, beautiful tail!

7. **If you polish your hooves the day before the show,** be sure to bring extra with you to touch it up later. It is best applied away from dirt, in a driveway, or on a concrete pad, or even a gravel area.
8. **Practice Loading:** This is especially important for horses that don't travel often. I highly recommend leaving the trailer parked in your horses pasture for a few days, then practice loading them, feeding them while in the trailer. The last thing you want to do the morning of the show is spend several hours trying to convince your horse to load into the trailer!
9. **Relax:** Being organized gives you less to stress about! So stay organized, relax, breathe, and have a great start to your show season!

Ask The Trainer: What Does “In Season” Mean?

More and more around the barn you may hear someone say, “She must be in season”. Many students are now asking what “in season” means.

The term refers to mares, or female horses, and their breeding cycles. Around two years old, mares can become fertile and have the ability to breed and have babies. They will begin going in and out of season. This simply means the mare is fertile and becomes sexually receptive.

Mare usually come into season every 3 to 4 weeks between April to August, but

there are many variations. Many things play a role in a mares cycle, including weather changes, stress, nutrition, and whether there is a stallion near where the mare is kept.

A season can last as little as a few days, to, well, onward really. This is variable from mare to mare and the conditions they are in.

While a mare is in season, there are lots of hormones running through them, they can be uncomfortable and achy. Many mares can become stubborn, misbehave, and hard to handle while in season.

Luckily, the mares we have, seem to do just fine while in season. All of our mares are riding mares, and not used for breeding, so they tend to deal better with it. Although Pilgrim and C.J. do get pretty excited. They think the girls look and smell very pretty during this time and may be a little distracted!

So pay special attention, and if you hear a mare is in season, bring her an extra treat to help her feel better, and give them a little extra love! They'll really appreciate it!

Meet Our Horses: This Month, Meet CJ!



Photo by Keith Mooney Photography

Who is that giant white horse you always see? That's CJ, aka Chocolate Jasper. He is a 12 year old Sport Horse of Color. Born and raised in California, he is the grandson of Chocolate Confetti, a Sport Horse of Color who excelled in Dressage and Jumping. Heather bought CJ as a project horse to train and re-sell. She began work on him right away and within 6 months entered him in the Century Riders Horse Show in dressage and scored a 71 in the first test and 68 in the second, beating everyone else in both classes! While Heather was teaching CJ his new fancy moves, he fell in love with her and

told her selling him was NOT an option.

After success in dressage, they decided to try jumping. After showing CJ how to jump by running around jumping crossrails herself, she found he was loving it! For a year it was all they worked on together and soon show season was upon them again. Showing in both flat classes and jumping, CJ was a Superstar!!! He never refused a jump, took down a rail, and always took special care of Heather!

Now CJ enjoys taking students over fences, through dressage routines, and even around barrels. His favorite things are getting treats and hangin' with his best friend, Pilgrim!

Calling All Volunteers! Earn Free Lessons!

You heard right! Volunteering at our Saddles & Spurs Open Show Series will earn you or your child free lessons!. For every show you volunteer for, you will earn a free hour lesson or two half hour lessons. In order to volunteer you need to be at least 16. Younger volunteers will be approved on a case by case basis by Mary and Heather. Several are needed!

Volunteers will assist in the following areas:

Registration/Check In: This is an important position in every show. They are in charge of getting horses and riders checked in, paperwork completed, taking entry fees, issuing numbers, and staying organized.

Gate Keeper: The gate keeper is in charge of opening and closing the gate for classes, helping organize riders and horses entering the classes so it goes smoothly, and handing out ribbons, trophies, and awards at the end of the class. These volunteers will also assist



in setting up and taking down jumps, obstacles and courses.

Judges Booth: Our volunteers in the judges booth will be announcing riders and horses entered in each class, along with recording and announcing the winners of each class.

Runners/Floaters: Runners and Floaters do just that! They are in charge of going from position to position filling in when someone needs a break or gets really busy. They are invaluable, as they

work every area, along with answering questions and pointing people in the right directions throughout the show when they are not working a specific area. They are also responsible for reporting any problems or issues they see so they can be resolved. Finally, they also assist the gate keeper in setting up and taking down jumps, cones, obstacles, and courses.

If you are interested in volunteering, talk with Heather or Mary about signing up. This is a great way to learn about horse shows, help out, and earn free lessons! Don't miss out!

Mary Sivley and Heather Mooney
Riding Lessons • Coaching • Training

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heather@tnhorsetrainer.com

Monthly Horse Quote

*“In riding a horse, we
borrow freedom.”*

Helen Thomson (b. 1943)

Visit us on the Web!
www.tnhorsetrainer.com



Show Your Knowledge and Win a Prize!

Each month we have a new challenge for you to solve! Each student to bring in that month's challenge completed correctly will win a prize from our prize bag! Be the first to show us how smart you are! Good Luck!

April's Challenge: Horse Terminology

Match each horse word with its correct definition.

Definitions

1. Procedure of filing down a horse's teeth.

2. Mother of a horse.

3. Father of a horse.

4. Baby horse not yet weaned.

5. Bacterial infection of the frog.

6. Female horse over the age of 3

7. Inflammation of the inside lining of the hoof.

8. Castrated male horse.

9. Uncastrated Male horse under the age of four.

10. General Term describing abdominal pain in a horse.

Terms

- A. Thrush
- B. Gelding
- C. Colic
- D. Colt
- E. Dam
- F. Laminitis
- G. Foal
- H. Mare
- I. Sire
- J. Floating