

# HAPPY TAILS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

MARCH 2010

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## Find Us In Two Locations!

We have expanded our services to offer lessons, training and coaching in two locations. Now you can find us in Clinton and in Farragut. This will help us better serve our West Knoxville clients.

Opening March 1st, Heather and Mary will be the English and Western Trainers and Riding Instructors at a new facility in Farragut called A&A Farms. Located at 12444 Evans Road, Knoxville, TN, A&A Farms offers full care boarding,

pasture boarding, lessons and training. General Manager is Kim Howard, who also trains and teaches barrels and speed events. She can be reached at 865-438-7678 to schedule, boarding, lessons, or training. Join us in this exciting new endeavor!

Students at both locations are eligible to join our Silver Stirrups Show Team and compete with us each year. Remember you can still sign up to compete this year! Don't miss your opportu-

nity! Our finalized 2010 show schedule will be announced in next month's newsletter along with more information about volunteering to work shows and how to earn free lessons.

## Join Us For Spring Fling - Spring Break Horse Camp

Spring Break is fast approaching. Where will your kids be? How about with us? With the different counties and school districts having different spring break schedules, we will be offering several camps.

March 29th, Monday and March 30th, Tuesday  
8am-Noon English Camp

March 31st, Wednesday and April 1st, Thursday  
8am-Noon Western Camp

April 6th, Tuesday and April 7th, Wednesday  
8am-Noon English Camp

April 8th, Thursday and April 9th, Friday  
8am-Noon Western Camp

Each camp will be featuring: feeding/nutrition, grooming, Showmanship, riding, and special Demonstrations performed by Heather and Mary.

Students can attend two days of camp or all four days. See Heather or Mary for pricing information.

Sign up sheets will be available at the barn. Registration ends March 18th. Don't miss out on the fun!

## UPCOMING SHOW CLINICS:

- *March 8: Intro to Hunter Hack/Over Fences*  
5:30-6:30
- *March 22: Mommy & Me Daddy & Me Lead Line*  
5:30-6:30
- *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

## Horse Ownership Series

### Article 2: Purchasing Your First Horse

Whether you have decided to begin shopping for your first horse, or just started lessons, this article will help you prepare for this next big step!

Before you begin the hunt for the perfect first mount, there are a few things you must consider. What discipline are you currently riding?

Are you interested in more than one or may try multiple kinds over time? Are you planning on attending horse shows, or just want to ride for pleasure? What are your future riding goals? Answering all of these questions will help you decide what kind of horse you should be looking for.

Once you are ready to begin looking, follow these guidelines for a successful first purchase:

1. NEVER buy a horse without looking at it in person!!! If you can, see the horse more than once (different days and different times of day) and make sure the horse behaves consistently.
2. Try to do everything that you would do at home yourself. Lead the horse, lunge it, tie it, groom it, pick its hooves, and ride it. See how it reacts to all of these things prior to purchasing it.
3. Take your trainer with you! Involving your trainer during horse

*“Involving your trainer during horse shopping is an invaluable tool when purchasing your first horse.”*

shopping is an invaluable tool when purchasing your first horse. They are experienced and knowledgeable. They can ride the horse for you, and observe you riding the horse.

4. Don't buy a bargain horse. The saying you get what you pay for is true in the horse world too. Often times a horse may be priced low due to an injury, medical issue, or behavior problem. Often times these can be temporarily hidden with drugs and medication that wear off when you get them home.
5. Look for a babysitter. No matter your skill level, aspirations, and goals, you should always get a babysitter for your first horse! Nothing scares new owners faster than a badly behaved, temperamental first horse. As you are still learning to ride, you don't want a horse who is still learning to be ridden! There is no worse combination or a faster way to a disaster than a green horse paired with a green rider. Your first horse should be mild mannered, experienced, confident, and laid back. A babysitter horse is calm in all situations

and takes care of its rider!

6. Purchase an older horse. Your first horse should be at least 8 years old and up to late teens or early twenties. These horses are mature, experienced and grounded.
7. Always do a vet out! If a seller won't let you, walk away from the deal! Any good owner would allow this. A vet out is when you have a veterinarian come and look the horse over prior to purchase. This can catch a pre-existing condition that can be costly down the road! Think of it as having a mechanic look at the used car before you purchase it.
8. Ignore flashy. People tend to fall in love with the pretty horse, even though it may not be the best fit for them.



*Be sure to have a veterinarian check out any potential horses prior to purchase!*

## Ask The Trainer: How Long Do Horses Live?

The average lifespan of a horse is between 25 and 30 years, though there are several breeds that get well into their 40's. A horse's health, exercise, and welfare all play a role in how long a horse will live.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest horse ever lived to 62 years old. His name was Old Billy. He was born in England in 1760 and worked as a barge horse.

Horses can start being ridden between 2 and 3 years old. Many performance and show horses don't hit peak performance

until their teens! Many horses can continue working well into their 20's and 30's.

Our lesson horses all range in age from, Bell who is our youngest at 3 years old and Shadow who just turned 4 to our Seniors Mr. B and General who are our Seniors in their mid to late 20's.



*Mr. B, still looking good at 26! Photo by Keith Mooney Photography.*

## Meet Our Horses: This Month, Meet Billy!



*Photo by Keith Mooney Photography*

Billy is a Pony of America, or POA. He may be small, but this boy has a big heart! A student favorite, he quickly grows on everybody. Billy can be stubborn but loves to do his job and loves to be around the students.

Billy came to Heather as a rescue from middle Tennessee. After being told he was very mean and a bully with other horses and they didn't know what to do with him, Heather decided to take a look at him. Heather knew she wanted a pony for the lesson program and decided to take him on as a project. The rescue group was so excited that he was going to his forever

home, they waived all adoption fees. He quickly showed us another side and has proved to be one of the most used lesson horses that we have. His best buddy is Junie B who are pasture mates, play mates, and friends for life.

Billy's barn name is Hot Chocolate. He excels at all disciplines both English and Western and makes a cute jumper! He is a great beginner to intermediate horse, and who can resist a pony?

## Keith Mooney Photography

Interested in having a portrait done with your favorite lesson horse? How about that shot of you winning your first blue ribbon? Look no further!

We offer a wide variety of affordable photography services including school pictures for homeschoolers, family portraits, pictures with your favorite horse, parties and more. We can print professional quality color portraits on site or your pictures will be burned onto a CD

for you to take and print anywhere at your convenience. Our competitive prices combined with more than 20 years of experience makes your smiles brighter and photos that you will cherish for a lifetime. We also cover sporting events from motocross to rodeos and everything in between. Below are some samples of my work, and if you want to see some more please visit my website – keithmooneyphoto.com.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 865-307-5772 or email me at keith@keithmooneyphoto.com.



**RODEO**



**MOTOCROSS**



**SHOW TIME!**

Mary Sivley and Heather Mooney  
Riding Lessons • Coaching • Training

Located at the Sport Horse Center Arena  
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### Monthly Horse Quote

*“There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse.”*

Robert Smith Surtees (1803-1864)

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.tnhorsetrainer.com](http://www.tnhorsetrainer.com)



## Show Your Knowledge and Win a Prize!

Each month we have a new challenge for you to solve! Each student who brings 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!

### March's Challenge: Horse Colors

Match the correct picture to the correct color.



### ANSWER KEY

Bay  
Paint  
Palomino

Chestnut  
Appaloosa  
Strawberry Roan

Grey  
Buckskin  
White