



Bringing Arabian Enthusiasts Together Since 1965

Volume 2, Issue 4
“Dog Days of Summer”

The Georgia Arabian Horse Association is proud to sponsor activities in Georgia that are focused around Arabian horses and their owners and breeders.



Dog Days of Summer

It's hot in Georgia this summer. In fact, it feels like the dog days of summer have arrived. Why do we call the hot, sultry days of summer “dog days”?

To find the answer, we only need to look to the summer sky. The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer “diēs caniculārēs” or “dog days.” The name came from the association the hottest days of summer with the “Dog Star” Sirius. Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog). Sirius also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky.

Sirius is so bright that the ancient Romans thought it radiated extra heat toward Earth. During the summer, when Sirius rises and sets with the Sun, they thought Sirius added heat to the Sun's heat to cause hotter summer temperatures.

For the ancient Romans, the dog days of summer occurred from about July 24 to around August 24. Today, Webster defines “dog days” as the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere.

Although the dog days of summer are usually the hottest, they don't have anything to do with either dogs or the star Sirius. Instead, the tilt of the Earth explains why these days tend to be the summer's hottest.

During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes Sun's light to hit the Northern Hemisphere at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days during the summer.

So now you know!

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President's Message

Aren't We All Time Travelers?

I want to slant this message towards the brightest lights in the Georgia Arabian community, our young Arabian owners, exhibitors and enthusiasts. But first, last month I reached a personal milestone in my life that made me think about the time that I have spent being among all of my family, coworkers and Arabian (and other breed disciplines) friends. Although "retirement" is not on my bucket list for a few more years, I reached a birthday of significant reflection. In the past few weeks I have done a lot of "time traveling." Back to the days when Linda and I shuttled Sweetwater Farm riders up and down the highways in hopes of blue ribbons and championship awards. We have many of those times recorded and over the years have enjoyed times replaying those thrills. When we watch those moments the thing that we remember most is excitement and the lasting friendships of those days. The sweat and the groggy early morning barn calls are long lost now. Being with the young riders and their parents and friends really framed points in time for me today, which, I'm sure, will last past any "date" on which I should register as "retirement."

July was AHA Youth Nationals month and the Georgia Arabian Horse Association community and our youth continue to represent! Looking through show results, I continue to see our shining stars rise through the qualifying classes and into SFF classes to the Top Ten, Reserve and Championships. What a rush of pride to see young owners and riders who are committed to find the winning spotlight. I could make a long list of Georgia riders who excelled at Youth Nationals this year. Dressage, Hunter Pleasure, Pleasure Driving, all had great Georgia competitors and winners. I truly appreciate the many miles they travel and the groggy early morning barn calls that they endure to get to what will be a milestone in their lives. And, like in my time travels, most of those "getting to the ring" parts of the memories fade quickly. Just for the record, your "eyes video," the one nobody sees but you, from where you were, on your horse in the ring, will always out rank the ones you plug and play.

One more thought. The great thing is that all of the excitement of the show, the judging results and the victory passes doesn't necessarily end when the gate closes behind you. As you compile your show results in the ring, you give our Arabian community an opportunity to share and enjoy your excitement at our season High Point Awards. I can still travel back to the award presentations where not only the riders from our barn, but also their show friends, shined. Enjoy these moments and memories.

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GAHA YOUTH



Norma Karst
GAHA Youth Director

2016 Youth Scholarship Winners

Each Year Region 12 offers three scholarships: one for \$3000, one for \$2000, and one for \$1000 to three graduating high school seniors to further their educational studies. This year's recipients are listed below:

\$3000 Scholarship Recipient

Catherine Ginn



R12 Youth Secretary
R12 Club - Georgia AHA
Youth Club Advisor/Chair - Carolyn Duncan
High School: Franklin County High School, Georgia
Degree/Major of Interest: Mechanical Engineering + International Studies



\$2000 Scholarship Recipient

Kelvin Williamson
R12 Youth Vice Director
R12 Club - Alabama AHA & Dixie Gulf AHA
Youth Club Advisor/Chair - Ben Smith
High School: Crestview High School, FL
Degree/Major of Interest:

Nursing

\$1000 Scholarship Recipient

Marisa Anne Sanders
R12 Youth Treasurer
R12 Club: NCAHA/WCAHA
Youth Club Advisor/Chair: Jackie Daughton
High School: Foxcroft High School, VA
Degree/Major of Interest: Architecture & Equine Studies



YOUTH MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

Catherine Ginn



We intend to highlight a Youth rider in each edition and share their stories with you.

Today we are featuring Catherine Ginn. Catherine is one of the Region 12 Scholarship winners this year. She got her first horse at the age of 5.

My first horse was named Fadjurzon and I got him for my 5th birthday. He was the perfect horse to steal a 5-year-old heart and he was a purebred Arabian. Arabian horses are my home base. I have grown up knowing and loving them. They have taught me to be calm in tense situations, and much patience. I have found this calm and patience to come in handy in many situations. When I raised and trained my first Half-Arabian, she took lots of time, but she turned out to be an incredible horse. Just last year I showed her as a Junior Horse to a National Championship and two Top Ten National awards. Just after Nationals, I sold her and learned the value of the time I spent and



the patience I gave her. Overall, the Arabian breed will always be one of my favorites because of their loyalty and heart. The connection and special bond I have had with the Arabians and Half-Arabians that have been part of my life is incomparable.

THE ROAD TO YOUTH NATIONALS

By Cynthia Cabbage

I am a professional horse woman. I began my riding career at age 7. I run a successful business teaching children and adult amateurs to ride and enjoy their horses. This is a story about my family's personal journey to Youth Nationals 2016. In 2007 I achieved my greatest accomplishment when my husband and I welcomed our precious baby girl Lucy into the world. While I have taken many children to horse shows ranging



from local saddle club shows up to Youth Nationals, my personal journey truly began in 2007 when little Lucy Cabbage first sat in the saddle at the age of 6 weeks old. It is one thing to watch another person's child that you have worked with for years, compete and succeed in the show ring, but when it is your little girl out there, the intensity triples. 2016 was Lucy's first time to

compete at Youth Nationals. Lucy had begged for years to go but I made the same decision that I would make for any of my students and made her wait until I felt she was truly mentally and physically ready to compete at the national level. Preparation for a competition of this size begins at home. I first have the children ride in large group lessons both on the flat and jumping. Once I feel they are comfortable in that environment, we start to show.



When a child is comfortable showing, I up the challenge for them by

taking them to Regional Championship shows. This prepares them for the process of qualifying for a show and competing in larger classes with higher stakes. Once I feel they are comfortable with this level of showing, we are ready to begin the journey to Youth Nationals. This year I stood ringside watching my little girl out there with all of the other children her age competing for a national award. There was a lot of nail biting, there was a bit of wine consumed and, yes, there were tears of joy. My husband and I stood there, so proud, as we watched Lucy earn the title of Reserve National Champion for the Cross Rail division.

This is a journey that I encourage all of you parents to consider. Owning and riding a horse is huge commitment for both the child and their family but the



connection between a human and a horse is so very special. The child riders of today are our future. We must encourage them and support them in their equine endeavors in order for our sport to survive and thrive. I would so much rather see children out in the barn laughing and learning how to be part of a group than to be sitting alone typing on a device. I hope you will all embrace the love of a horse and may your personal journey be as fulfilling as mine.



with the Arabian that might include: Groundwork, Feeding, Cleaning Stalls, Tacking Up, Trailering, Veterinary Care

**Be sure to contact us if you have questions about which activities are allowable*

Are you participating? Let us know!

GAHA Contact: Susan White
swdeepcreekarabs@aol.com / 770-547-2832

FREQUENT RIDER PROGRAM

Calling all GAHA Members!

The Frequent Rider Program rewards riders for every hour that they spend riding or driving an Arabian or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horse in non-competitive activities.

The Arabian Horse Association is committed to recognizing and rewarding the riders who work with and enjoy Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses - in all types of non-competitive riding and driving.

The best part of the FRP is that the type of riding doesn't matter as long as it is non-competitive! Whether you use an Arabian or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horse to trail ride, do ranch work, participate in parades, take riding lessons, train under saddle or just ride or drive for pleasure, you can now be recognized and rewarded for what you love most.

I ride all the time! How do I join?

Riders who would like to compete in the FRP must fill out the Incentive Program Sign-Up Form and pay a one-time \$25 processing fee to join.

Program participants are defined as an individual rider, not a specific horse and rider combination. This means that as a rider, you may ride any number of horses, regardless of whether you own them or not, as long as they are all Arabians or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians registered with the Arabian Horse Association.

NOTE: Participation in any Arabian Horse Association program requires a current membership

Anyone up for a little road trip??

ARABIAN HORSES IN THE CITY - Taking Center Stage at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show

The Arabian Horse Association (AHA), Aljassmiya Farm and the Rolex Central Park Horse Show (RCPHS) are proud to present the 2nd Annual



Arabian U.S. Open on Wednesday evening, September 21, 2016, at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show. The Rolex Central Park Horse Show runs September 21-25, 2016, at Wollman Rink in Central Park.

Arabian horses will take center stage opening night of the show. The athleticism and diversity of the breed will be shown

through a variety of classes. Halter/In-Hand classes will portray these amazing horses as desirable breeding stock. Intelligence and grace will be displayed through elegant western horses, exquisite hunter horses, and mannerly country horses.

Then, travel through time, where Arabian horses roamed the desert and began their journey as ancestors of modern-day light breeds. The Arabian Mounted Native Costume class will take an audience on a journey, showing the magic and romance of the Arabian horse, both of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

"The U.S. Open in Central Park offers the Arabian horse community the opportunity to present our horses to the world, as the breed that deserves recognition with other equine athletes at the Olympic level and those disciplines," says AHA President, Cynthia Richardson. "Either through the excitement of being there in person in Central Park in NYC, the most visited park in the world, or through live-streaming, this is a night that will amaze the public and create memories for our breed and those who love them. Please join us!"

Arabian horses are the oldest pure breed of any light horse. Nomadic people of the Arabian Peninsula, the Bedouin tribes, were the first to own these light, thrifty horses. As a result, Arabians developed a strong desire for human companionship that carries forward today, along with their kind and willing attitudes and athletic stamina. Known for their finely chiseled head, dished face, long-arching neck and high tail carriage, the Arabian horse is not only athletic and kind, but also beautiful.

Mark Bellissimo, CEO of International Equestrian Group, is pleased to welcome the Arabian horse Association to Central Park for their second year and looks forward to the event.

"It is wonderful to welcome the Arabians back to the Rolex Central Park Horse Show and expose the special breed to an international audience in New York City," Bellissimo stated. "We enjoy showcasing numerous diverse disciplines of equestrian sport

through this special event and look forward to another great competition this year."

Watch these amazing horses compete and earn their gold, silver and bronze titles at an event that can't be missed. Tickets are on sale now at cphs.coth.com. Plus, follow the Arabian Horse Association on Facebook and the show on Instagram at [@arabianusopenhorseshow](https://www.instagram.com/arabianusopenhorseshow), hashtag [#ArabianHorsesInTheCity](https://www.instagram.com/ArabianHorsesInTheCity) for the latest updates and live coverage from the show.



YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM



Attention, everyone!

Don't forget to turn in your scores for our year end awards program. You work hard all year long so let us hear from you and recognize you at our year end awards celebration. You must be a GAHA member to be eligible. Send in your [information](#) now to Connie Green at 770-974-8040 or conniegreen@aol.com.



Here are rules:

1. Points are earned from November 1 through October 31.

Nominations may be sent at any time during the year, however, nominations after March 1 will result in only points sent after that nomination date being counted towards year-end awards. **Points MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN November 15th of the award year to be eligible** for Award Banquet to be held January of next year.

- 2.** \$20 per horse/rider combination per category.
- 3.** Any points earned by a horse may be transferred to a new owner (new owner must be a GAHA member for points to continue to count towards year-end awards).
- 4.** In case of a tie, the horse or rider with fewer shows will win.
- 5.** If there are less than 5 entries in the division, the division may be combined.
- 6.** Hunters receive points for the actual class competed in, not for show champion/reserve, except at Regional/National level.
- 7.** Equitation points only count towards the Equitation Division, but will also count towards Overall.



Congratulations GAHA on your 50th Anniversary!

Cherokee Feed & Seed congratulates the Georgia Arabian Horse Association on its 50th anniversary and for its achievements to promote the best interest of Arabian horses in Georgia. We appreciate your support and look forward to your future successes.

CHEROKEE FEED & SEED

We invite you to visit one of our three area stores for the finest quality equine feed, supplements and high quality horse hay:

Cherokee Feed & Seed
2370 Hightower Road
Ball Ground, GA 30107
770-887-0440

We have two other convenient locations to purchase your feed and hay:

Cherokee Feed & Seed
869 Grove Street
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-532-6291

North Fulton Feed & Seed
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Alpharetta, GA 30004
770-475-5572

Or visit us on the Web:
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Legends
Nutrena
Purina
Seminole
Seminole Wellness
Southern States
Triple Crown

Horse Quality Hay

Orchard Grass
Western Timothy
Coastal Bermuda
Western Orchard Grass
Orchard/Fescue Mix
Kentucky Fescue
Kentucky Timothy
Ohio Timothy (80+ lbs.)
Canadian Timothy
Nevada Timothy (130 lbs.)
Colorado Timothy
Colorado Alfalfa
Western Alfalfa
Timothy/Alfalfa Mix
Orchard/Alfalfa Mix

CREATE A FUNNY STORY!

Using the descriptive words listed below, come up with one word for each number 1-21 below. After you have finished coming up with your words insert them into the story below. Try it over and over again with your friends! You will laugh and laugh each time, we promise!

Remember:

A Noun is a person, place, or thing. Ex: Jack, Mississippi, horse
A Verb is an action word: Ex. jump, skip, run

An Adjective describes something: Ex: tall, short, skinny

1. Noun
2. Place
3. Noun
4. Adjective
5. Noun
6. Verb

7. Noun
8. Adjective
9. Noun
10. Noun
11. Adjective
12. Noun
13. Noun
14. Noun
15. Verb
16. Verb
17. Noun
18. Adjective
19. Number
20. Noun
21. Number

The Horse who met a 1!

Once upon a time there was a horse. The horse's name was Frank. One day Frank decided to go to 2. There, he bought a 3, and a 4 pile of 5. On the way back he decided to go 6. Right after he passed Mr Smith's 7 he heard a 8 sound. The Sound Sounded sort of like a call, "Frank, Frank." Frank turned around and saw a 9. The colors of the 10 were brown, black, and 11. The 12 seemed to know Frank, but didn't know the 13. This scared Frank so he asked the 14 how he knew him, and who he was. The answer the cow gave him 15 and 16 him. "I am an old 17 of your 18, old granddad. He is 19 years old now. My name is Bobby." "Hello Bobby," Frank responded.

So it turned out that they became great 20, and never stayed away from each other for a day in their long, 21 lives.

*Share your story with us on the
[GAHA-Georgia Arabian Horse Association Facebook Group!](#)*



Current AHA Membership with a Competition Card is required for participation in all AHA Events; horses enrolled in AHA programs MUST be registered, or eligible for registration with the Arabian Horse Association or the Canadian Registries. Refer to the current Handbook for membership requirements and for specific rules, regulations and deadlines, or call the AHA office. Please print clearly in Blue or Black ink.

Are you a new member to AHA? YES NO If No, AHA Membership # _____

Applicant Name _____
 Address _____
 City State _____ Zip/Postal _____ E-Mail _____
 Home # _____ Work # _____ Fax # _____
 Social Security or Taxpayer I.D. # _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

AHA Membership Type (select one)

Adult One Year-\$40 Adult Three Year-\$105 Youth-\$20 life - \$1,000 **Business - \$60 \$ _____

***AHA Membership Enhancements / Add-Ons** (available to new and existing AHA Members)

Club Affiliation: Club name GEORGIA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION Adult \$10.00/YR \$25/3 YRS..... \$ _____
 Youth \$5.00/YR \$15/3 YRS

Competition Card (Club Affiliate): Adult One Year \$35 Adult Three Year \$105 Youth \$25..... \$ _____

***Modern Arabian Horse Magazine Subscription** (Not included in base membership)

Discounted One Year Membership rate - \$10 Discounted Three Year Membership rate - \$30..... \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL \$ _____

*Competition Cards will be issued to Individual Members ONLY (one name on the membership) and Excess Liability Insurance is included with each Competition Card. Club Dues collected by AHA will be for Individuals ONLY. Life Memberships include Competition Cards & Magazine.

**The Business membership will have competition privileges for no other purpose than Recorded Ownership.

AHA Member Award Programs info.comp@ArabianHorses.org

Amateur Achievement Awards: All participants in this program must be Amateurs and hold an AHA Membership with competition privileges (Competition Card). **Must be enrolled prior to competing in order to be eligible for Annual High Point Awards.**

_____ Initial Recording Fee \$50 \$ _____

_____ Annual Renewal Fee..... \$50 \$ _____

_____ *Retroactive Points - Please write year(s) _____, \$100 per year \$ _____

***Participants enrolled/renewed between October 1 and December 31 must pay the retroactive fee. Retro points are not available prior to 2002.**

AHA Dressage Rider: All participants in this program must hold an AHA Membership with competition privileges (Competition Card).

Level(s): Training First Second Third Fourth \$45 per level \$ _____

Frequent Rider Program: Online based program to log hours spent riding www.arabianhorses.org/activities/incentiveprograms/frp.asp

_____ One Time Processing Fee – *New participants only* \$25 \$ _____

PROGRAM & MEMBERSHIP TOTAL \$ _____

In making this application, applicant declares that applicant will be/is a current AHA member, and is subject to and agrees to be bound by all provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Arabian Horse Association as they now exist or may periodically be amended, knowledge of which applicant now has or will immediately acquire.

Signature _____ Date _____

COMING TO ATLANTA!

The War Horse & Military Heritage Foundation will be relocating to the Atlanta region in the coming months.



War Horse is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that reaches out to major cultural events, schools, & parades in the US and in Europe, presenting famous cavalry regiments, via equestrian performances, with skill-at-arms and musical rides with all the pomp and circumstance of bygone eras. War Horse has appeared four times in the Tournament of Roses and has served as consultants for film and television, as well as performing at numerous, major cultural events, including Scottish, French, German, Dickens and Victorian festivals.

War Horse also recently collaborated with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Edinburgh, Scotland, presenting the Royal Scots Greys for the Waterloo Bicentenary and on British Armed Forces Day, marching down the Royal Mile, presented to the Duke of Kent.

“We use our horses as four-footed ambassadors, educating the role of horses in military history,” said director Fritz Bronner. “We are very excited to be branching out to the East Coast in the Atlanta region.”

Co-director Margie Beeson added, “There is a rich appreciation of history on the East Coast and horses are the great cultural touchstone for so many. We are greatly looking forward to working with the community, schools, civic leaders and other nonprofits in sharing the story of the War Horse.”

War Horse regularly trains precision riding for horse and rider for a commemorative presentation with all

volunteers. They also offer sidesaddle, and historical presentations with pas de deux, and academic lectures.

War Horse anticipates being relocated to the Atlanta region in early 2017.



DID YOU KNOW?

President Teddy Roosevelt contacted Homer Davenport, who was sent to Syria in search of Arabian horses. He returned with a group of stallions and mares to be bred for the United States Army. Today the United States is the largest breeder of Arabian Horses, somewhere around 588,399 Arabian Horses are registered in the United States. In Syria, only 1,032 are registered.

GAHA Membership Supports Region 12



www.georgia-arabians.com

HOW TO ADVERTISE in the GAHA Electronic Newsletter

GAHA will respond to ALL inquiries about advertising. If you send an email and don't get a reply within 2-3 days, please pick up the phone as it means either we didn't receive your message or you didn't get our reply.

Questions? Contact Kathy Hedgepath
404-314-0440 or klhedgepath1668@yahoo.com

Deadlines: The 15th of the month for the prior month's publication (i.e. January 15th is the deadline for the Feb/Mar issue).

Payment: When submitting your ad please send payment. Payment is accepted by check (payable to GAHA).

2015 DISPLAY ADS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

Size	1X Price	Annual Price (6 issues)
Half Page	\$8	\$30
Quarter Page	\$4	\$20
Business Card	\$2	\$10

HIGH POINTS AWARD PROGRAM

- Points are earned from November 1 through October 31
- Nominee must be a GAHA member
- Points MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN November 15th of the award year

Now is the time to send in your GAHA high point nomination form to be included in the 2016 high point program. You can print a nomination form from the GAHA website at www.georgia-arabian.com Click on Yearly awards and High Point.

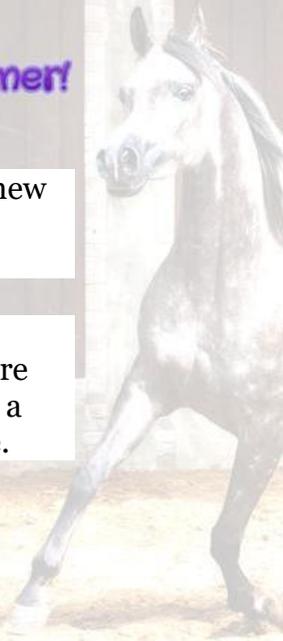
Every GAHA member can participate in the high point program.

Any questions regarding the High Point Awards should be directed to Connie Green at 770-974-8040 or conniegreen@aol.com

Ask the Trainer!

Welcome to our new segment: Ask the Trainer!

Designed to help those of us who are not working with a trainer every ride.



Our first series of questions focus on the western horse. We've asked Dale Brown to answer your questions.

Topic: **TO BIT OR NOT TO BIT: Choosing the right equipment for your western horse**

In this article, we will pose questions to our Western Horse expert, Dale Brown, about selecting the right bridle, bit and/or hackamore for your horse. Each horse is different and like their two-legged human friend, each has different confirmation. Making your horse comfortable in his equipment will add to his willingness to work for you.

Q: **At what point in a young horses training do you like to introduce a bridle and what do you like to start with?**

A: I like to start all of my horses in a halter. We teach the horse to be soft and responsive to basic nose, chin, and poll pressure to start. Every horse that arrives goes through this basic process to assess where to get started. I first ask the horse the question, How do you respond to me applying pressure to your poll? I stand in front of him and softly pull forward. If he walks forward and gives to the pressure, I move to the next step. If he pulls back and braces into the pressure, I continue to work with pressure and release until he does come away from

the pressure that is being applied. I then ask the question, Will you back away from nose pressure? If not, I work on applying pressure until he takes one step back and then release. I will repeat this over and over until he is willing to softly step back away from the pressure being applied. I will work in a halter for several days or longer, if need be. I look for the slightest effort and reward it. Your horse will get better and better if you are observant and notice him trying to please you and you release the pressure at that moment. Your horse will always tell you when you have done enough as he will tell you when you need to be more helpful and push a little harder. Listen to him. He knows what he is talking about.

Tying to a saddle or surcingle or anything else needs to be done with a tremendous amount of caution. Do not do this to your horse if you are not familiar with how much is enough and how much is too much. You and your horse could be potentially in danger. Find a professional to get some instruction and educate yourself. Softness and feel are the hardest things to learn and this is a task that requires both of those things. With all of that said, I move onward. After we accomplish softness in the halter on the ground, I will begin to loosely tie their halter to one side of the saddle. I only tie to one side at a time. This allows a horse the opportunity to pull and release without much problem. I spend a few minutes with them tied to a side and then tie them to the other side. I never leave them unattended during this process.

From this point, I will simply allow my horses to wear a bit over the halter for a week or two. I do not put any reins on the bit at this stage. I like to use a thick rubber full cheek snaffle. This is a mild bit that allows the horse the chance to explore what is hanging in his mouth. I do all of the same exercises with my rope attached to the halter as the horse wears the bit. I will do that until the horse seems to be bored. Some horses figure it out and get bored in a week while others may require a few months. Only go as fast as your horse wants to go. At this stage (most all stages with a horse), you must be on his timeline and not your own.

Once he is comfortable with doing his halter work while wearing the bit, I will attach the reins to the snaffle. I start the exact same process as I did with the halter. I work from the ground for several days. Then I begin to very loosely tie them to one side at a time for very short intervals. The more time you spend teaching your horse to be soft to anything on his head, the better he will be for the rest of his life. It will make everything better--everything from leading to baths to lunging to riding any and all disciplines.

Q: Assuming our young horse has now been backed and is ready to begin his working career, how do you determine which bit best suits that particular horse?

A: I allow my horses to tell me which bit(s) they need. They might have one that is a favorite or it may require dozens. There is no set bit for any horse or any specific time during their training. I do my very best to stay in a smooth snaffle of some type for the first several months. There again, find a way to gain softness in the halter and he should be soft in a rubber snaffle. If a horse can feel a fly on its tail, I feel sure it can feel a human putting pressure on a halter or mild snaffle. Some horses require more bit while others are naturally soft. Listen to your horse and figure out if he is soft or heavy headed. Don't hesitate to look for help if you do not know the answer.

Q: Hackamores – Do you try this equipment on all of your young horses? We all know that while no bit is in place with a hackamore, it can be the most severe “bridle” of all. Can you discuss proper fit for a horse?

A: There are many different types of hackamores on the market. I try to use a basic halter to get started so moving into a hackamore for my horses is not much of a challenge. This can be especially challenging on a horse that has never learned how to soften to nose, chin, or poll pressure though. Mechanical hackamores are normally made of some form of metal with a shank. There are also bosals. These get lumped into the hackamore category but are not really a hackamore. A bosal is made of a leather core with braided rawhide on the outside that touches the horse's nose and chin. With good hands and a good understanding of "feel" these are great tools. If you have dead hands (hands that pull too long after the horse has released from the pressure) these are not for you. You must release at your horse's first attempt to give to the pressure you are applying. If you miss that give too many times, your horse will automatically assume that you want him to pull on you or lean into the pressure because you did not release when he released.

I personally like a shorter bosal with a thinner rawhide braid. Shorter is less leverage and thinner is less aggressive. I also always try to have my bosal fit so I can freely put my index finger between any part of my horses head and the bosal. It is not a cavesson

and should not be pulled tight. If it is slightly loose, you can release and it will stop applying pressure. If

“Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible.”
~Frank Gaines

it is too tight, the horse will not know when you pick up on it because it will never change position on the horse's nose/chin.

Q: So now our horse is working nicely and has a basic understanding of what his job is. What is your next step for biting?

A: At this stage I continue to work and work and work to be sure that every time I touch my horse he feels me and yields to whatever pressure I have applied. Until I can get several laps around my arena with him honoring my softest move, I feel I need to keep working until he can make that happen. This does not mean more bit or harder bosal. It normally means slow down and work on your sense of feel. When he tries to do the right thing, reward him. If you reward (release the pressure) at the right time, he will look for that more often.

Q: Our horse is now ready for the show ring and the fancy gear comes out. Can you share your advice on how to make this step up as easy for our horse as possible?

A: The closer the horse show gets the more I work on myself being helpful to my horse. Sure, by this point he should be able to soften to your pressure at the blink of an eye but you have to maintain that softness. If you get concerned about the show and start adding extra pressure to your horse, be ready to up your sense of feel as well. Shows can help make the training process turn great, if you allow it. Added pressure can be a good thing in small doses. Apply and release at a higher intensity level until you get the soft response you are looking for. Paint a very clear picture in your mind of what you are asking

your horse to do. If you can see the end result, you will ask in a way that your horse can accomplish the task. If you cannot see that end result, do not ask your horse to do that task. Make a phone call; take a lesson; watch a video - something to help you visualize what you are after. Stay consistent, stay calm and always, always, always remember to reward your horse for the slightest amount of effort he puts forth. One of my favorite quotes that relates to this stage is, "Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible!" Keep that picture in your mind's eye and you will get the results in time.



Dale Brown comes from a long line of successful horsemen. As a fourth generation horseman, he has been raised in the equine culture and has been training and showing Arabians for over twenty five years. Dale and his students have garnered over fifty prestigious National honors in the Open, Amateur and Youth divisions at the U.S., Canadian, and Youth Nationals; as well as countless Regional & Class A Championships. Dale Brown Performance Horses; with a strong emphasis on the Western & Hunter Pleasure Divisions, has also developed its program to successfully train horses and instruct riders & handlers in Reining, Sidesaddle, English Pleasure, Horsemanship, Equitation, Halter and Showmanship.



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Koweta Deacon

AM Gypsy Village x Divine-Promise

15 years, Grey, 15 hands
CA and SCIDS tested clear
2016 stud fee: \$1,500



*Deacon's pedigree includes some of the greats close up. His dam is a daughter of National Champion *Marsianin and her dam was out of a *Silver Drift daughter, full brother to *Serafix. His sire, AM Gypsy Village, is by the Australian import *Bremervale Destiny, found in the majority of champion pedigrees across that nation. And Gypsy's dam carries the best of Al-Marah breeding being by Al-Marah Sea Captain. Both sides of Deacon's pedigree carry lines to the Crabbet moving horse, Rissalix, found also in many of the Russian pedigrees. That counts for Deacon's athletic ability to sire great forward movement. His head is exquisite, coming from both sides of his pedigree.*



AL-MARAH FIGHT FAIR

AM Double Dream x AM Fairly Fresh

12 yrs, Grey, 14 hands~CA & SCIDS clear
2016 stud fee: \$1,500

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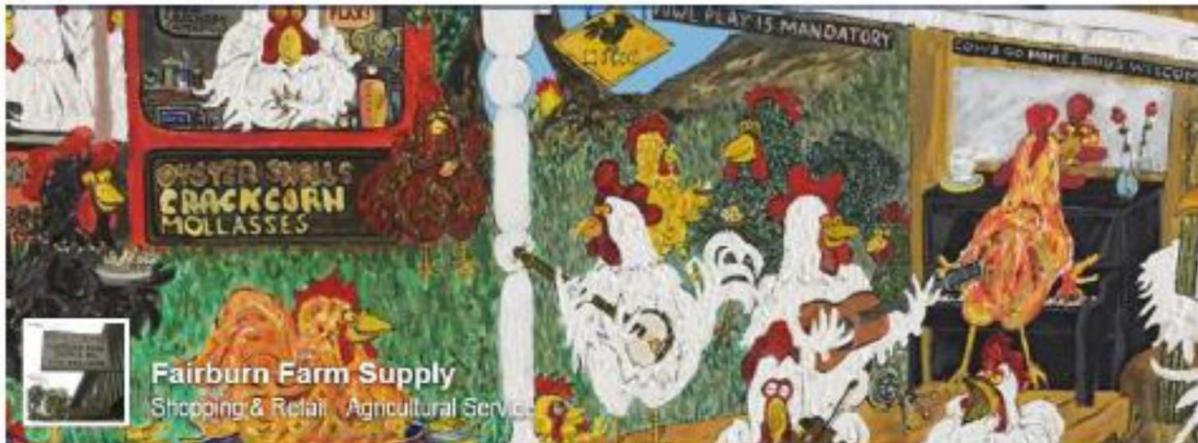
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~Toni Robinson



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