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ARABIAN HORSE READING LITERACY PROJECT

Meet 4-legged Friends at Summer Camp

Have fun, meet friends and forge unforgettable memories this summer with the Arabian Horse Literacy Project (AHRLP), providing camps for kids ages 5 to 12, the AHRLP is the place to be for summer adventure.

The goal of the AHRLP is to motivate 'kids' to want to read by providing them with good books and an exhilarating experience with

live horses. Family literacy can help lay the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and writing among children. The schools are doing a good job teaching 'kids' to read. Reading skills are like muscles; they are maintained and strengthen through regular use.

Visiting with and learning about horses creates excitement and adventure as the children explore and enjoy contact with the animals through a series of safe, carefully planned activities. Each stimulating activity centre concludes with the children reading to a horse. The horses provide a friendly and non-judgmental audience for young readers. "We have many funny stories



to remember about the horse's snuzzling, sneezing, and reading, and I hear them over and over and over!" – Heather Ferguson, Teacher, Pinestreet School, Sherwood Park. "I've never been this close to a horse before; Misty was getting right into the book. It seemed like she really enjoyed it." – Amber Crickmore, Robin Hood Association for the Handi-capped.

There are many other reasons to consider the AHRLP this summer. Each camp is limited to 8 children and consists of 2 days, 2 hours per day from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Day 2 features "Bring your grampa" or bring someone special, together they will 'read to the horses' and do the activities. Day 2 also includes a horse ride in a safe controlled indoor arena. The AHRLP will be offering camps beginning July 2-3 and the last camp will run August 13-14 this summer.

For more information you can view the camp brochure online at www.arabianhorsereading.com. You can also

contact Gary Millar at info@arabianhorsereading.com or 780.499.9219 for information. ■

.....

"It is important to teach children to read, but we haven't achieved anything if children know how to read ... but don't!"

Welcome

Dear Reader,

When you work with a group of people you have to be able to count on one another. This year once again the Aurora show committee turned it on.

A special thanks to our show manager Dawn Johnston, this was Dawn's fourth year as show chair and once again she did a fabulous job. In the show office, Marion Enders, Kim Kelemen, and Carol Spriggs kept the paperwork under control.

To our sponsors, we could not operate without your generosity. The sponsorship committee worked diligently to help maintain the integrity of our horse show.

Special thanks to Lorie Fisher who worked on the promotions of this multi-faceted horse show. Many new people toured the barns and were introduced to the Arabian horse.

There were so many volunteers who generously donated their time. A number of people had helped out in the past but there were many who took on new roles. We appreciate your time, energy, and assistance. You are working for the benefit of all.

The weather gods we cannot control but let us be thankful we can laugh, help each other out and carry on doing what we love.

Wishing you a successful and safe summer. ■

Carla Jackson
President



Calendar

REGION 17 CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Tuesday, July 31 to
Saturday, August 4, 2012.
Westerner Park, Red Deer, Alberta.

Pre Show Tuesday, July 31, 2012.
Entries Close Friday, June 29, 2012.

Show Commission Chairman:
Darlene Brouwer
Phone: 403.784.3456
Email: beakerbrouwer@hotmail.com

For prize lists, entry forms and
complete information access [www.
region17.com](http://www.region17.com)

CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Monday, August 13 to
Saturday, August 18, 2012.
Keystone Centre, Brandon, Manitoba.

For information [www.arabianhorses.
org/competitions/nationalevents/cana-
diannationals/2012/](http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/nationalevents/canadiannationals/2012/)

Aurora Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2012
7:00 pm.
Strathcona County Community Center
(beside the Library)
2001 Sherwood Drive.
Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Free parking north of the complex.

Tell us about your event, e-mail [info@
auroraarabian.com](mailto:info@auroraarabian.com) ■



VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

Thank You so Much!

This year's 2012 Aurora Arabian Horse Association was a huge success. View pictures at www.auro-raarabian.com or our Facebook Page. A big thank you to the Aurora Show Committee, what a great team.

Horse enthusiasts of all ages came out to explore the exciting world of Arabian horses at the Aurora Arabian Summer Horse Show. Put on at Amberlea Meadows just outside of Edmonton, the event ran smoothly with over 130 horses and many more exhibitors and spectators. There was Dressage, Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, English, Native Costume and so much more. A



full-day affair for adults and kids, the Aurora Arabian Horse Show is put on every year to showcase the beautiful Arabian horse. With opportunities to tour stables, listen to horse competition experts and get up close with live horses, the event was a great introduction for many into the Arabian horse community. Kids could also participate in many fun, horse-related crafts and activities. At lunch the German Shepherd Club of Edmonton demonstrated the "Schutzhund," a canine sport often used to test a dog's aptitude for challenging tasks such as police work, odour detection and search and rescue.

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Gus & Sherry Thompson
Marsha Tindall



Charlotte and Miracle

"Love to ride, it's fun."

From our youngest rider to some of our top trainers, they all had something special to say about their Arabian horse.

Video

AURORA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION 2012 SUMMER SHOW: The Arabian horse is a breed of horse with a reputation for intelligence, spirit, and stamina. With a distinctive head shape and high tail carriage, the Arabian is one of the most easily recognizable horse breeds in the world.

The Arabian developed in a desert climate and was prized by the nomadic Bedouin people, often being brought inside the family tent for shelter and protection. This close relationship with humans has created a horse breed that is good-natured, quick to learn, and willing to please.

We had a chance to capture some video and share stories from our incredible group of horse enthusiasts at the Aurora Summer Horse Show. Hear what they had to say about their Arabian horse.

Click the link below to view the video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiDdfGTX5a8&feature=youtu.be>. ■

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TO YOU ALL

Our Amazing Volunteers

Volunteers don't just do the work ... they make it work. ~ Carol Pettit. We are happy to say that the community knows our Arabian Horses a little bit better. Thank you again to everyone involved for the tremendous support to make this show possible.

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- Quinn Fisher



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- Dana Leadbeater

STABLING

- Michelle Hansen

THANK YOU AS WELL GOES OUT TO OUR SHOW COMMITTEE.

THERE JUST ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR SHOW CHAIRMAN DAWN JOHNSTON, WITHOUT HER LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION THIS SHOW EXPERIENCE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. ■

Attitude

SUCCESSFUL SHOWING IS ALL IN THE ATTITUDE

The most important thing is your attitude. Showing should be fun, for you and your horse. If it's drudgery for either partner, you have a problem. Winning should be a goal, not a need or an obsession. It's only a horse show. The prize is just a ribbon—a little piece of silk that's not even useful. Showing is not real life. It's a game. Enjoy it. It's a pleasure to excel, a pleasure to measure yourself and your horse against others. Anytime it isn't, take a break from it.

HOW TO STRIKE A BALANCE

Find a good teacher or coach—someone who explains things so you understand; someone who keeps raising your expectations, while making you feel good about what you've already accomplished; someone who puts your health and safety, and your horse's, above ribbons or trophies; and someone you like spending time with.

Practice—but only practice what you learn from a good teacher. Don't get good at riding badly by practicing the wrong thing. It's important to have a knowledgeable outside eye to tell you what you're doing right, and what you need to improve.

Find a suitable horse. Your beloved backyard companion may be a good show horse, or he may not. If your abilities surpass his, you may need to think about selling him or passing him on to a younger sibling, and then buying a horse that's up to the challenge.

Or you may lease a horse or show a horse for somebody else or ride several different horses from your lesson barn.

Riding one horse all the time can build a deep partnership. Riding a lot of different horses can build an ability to ride almost anything well. Which you prefer depends on your goal. ■

A GREAT READ!

How's your Hearing Working for You?

How is your hearing working for you? Have you learned how to use the sounds of your riding to improve your performance? Or have you largely ignored this remarkably useful sense?

As a test, if you stand in a riding ring blindfolded, can you tell what diagonal a rider is on just by the sound of her horse's hoof beats? Can you tell whether or not the horse is counter-cantering? Can you tell how collected or extended it is at various gaits?

This was the subject of an adult-rider clinic I ran recently. And what came out of it surprised even me.

Turning a Riding Ring Into a Sound Studio

My whole purpose with this clinic was to help my riders understand just how valuable the sounds of their riding can be in helping them improve their performance. So I essentially turned my riding ring into a sound studio.

The first thing I did when everyone stepped into the ring was hand them blindfolds. These were the kind of blindfolds people wear to sleep better at night, so there was no chance that any of them could see a thing once they put them on.

Then, as they stood in the center of the ring blindfolded, I had an assistant ride a horse around the ring with little cat-collar bells on its feet. These bells were small enough that they didn't affect the horse's gaits in any way. Yet they did make it easier to tell when each foot hit the ground and how hard.

Once I got my students comfortable

with listening to the horse's hoof beats and sensing its rhythm as it circled the ring, I started to make things a little more complicated. First, I had my assistant trot on the correct diagonal and got everyone comfortable with that. Then I silently called for her to switch to the wrong diagonal and, by show of hands, asked if anyone had noticed a change.

At first, everyone had some difficulty picking up that something had changed. But after explaining the exercise and repeating it several times, everyone gradually got better at recognizing the wrong diagonal just through what they heard. I then went through this whole process again to help them learn how to distinguish between a canter and a counter-canter in each direction of the ring.

Then we moved on to learning how to "hear" the degree of a horse's collection and extension at each gait before finally wrapping up with learning how to hear when the horse was trotting through a series of low cavalettis.

Why Learning to Hear Your Riding Better is So Important

It was actually remarkable to see how much each rider improved her ability to hear how a horse was moving, just by paying

more attention to the sounds of hoof beats. I could see the transformation before my own eyes (and ears).

This is important, too, because our ears have a lot to offer us as riders.

.....
"The bottom line is that your hearing is a very valuable asset and deserves to be put to good use. That's why I consistently create and use exercises that help my riders do just that."
—Origin of Article is unknown.



“PROUD TO BE PROUD” Aurora member wins Pride of Strathcona Award —Lorraine Prowse.

Congrats

A total of 18 people or groups received a Strathcona Pride Award at the annual event, which was held at Festival Place on Monday, June 11.

Congratulations to Aurora member Lorraine Prowse for winning a Pride of Strathcona award. Strathcona County awarded several awards to local residents for various accomplishments.

Lorraine won an award for the Sports and Recreation – Athletic Achievement category. This award went to those who finished competitions in first, second or third place at a National or International competition that took place within 13 months of the nomination deadline.

Lorraine earned 16 regional awards and 11 national awards in the preceding year, she was also the highest-placing Canadian on the international High Point Adult Amateur Rider list. ■

I sometimes feel like it's the lost sense for a rider. That's because we naturally want to use vision first and foremost, but ultimately have to learn how to use tactile (feeling) and kinesthetic (body motion) cues primarily.

The thing is, our hearing is usually our second most dominant sense, second only to our sense of sight. And for 30% of people, it's the most dominant sense of all. It's also an amazingly useful sense for detecting the rhythm of a horse, which should come as no surprise given the role music plays in our lives.

So it only makes sense to learn how to use it better, especially as you go through all the training needed to get your tactile and kinesthetic senses up to speed (this takes time, because we're just not used to using them very much to sense what's going on around us).

As is usually the case, the learning process starts by paying a lot of attention to what you're hearing in targeted lessons like this clinic. Then



you practice them to the point that you don't have to even think about them anymore. You just get to a point where, once properly trained, your subconscious mind takes over and uses what you're hearing to help you do a better job of riding.

The Bottom Line

The bottom line is that your hearing is a very valuable asset and deserves to be put to good use. That's why I consistently create and use exercises that help my riders do just that.

Sometimes these exercises focus on the natural sounds of their riding, such as hoof beats, the sounds of their horses' bodies and so on. Or I'll have a rider focus on the sound of her seat in the saddle so that she has a very clear signal as to how she's using it. Other times, I'll artificially create a sound to help a rider get a better sense of how she's riding.

For example, I sometimes put a bell in a rider's hair to make it easier for her to detect when she's riding with a quiet body and when she's not. And I quite often use a metronome to improve a rider's sense of rhythm or to show her how out of rhythm her horse is.

I try to help all my riders make their hearing work for them, because it can reveal many things they would otherwise miss entirely. ■

Forever Home

My name is Molly #1103

Molly is a mature chestnut colour mare. She is of the Quarter Horse type. Her height is approximately 14.3 hands high. She arrived at Rescue 100 with foal at side and she was pregnant with another. Her foal (#1104) has since been weaned and she has just recently had a filly.

Molly is a sweet natured mare. Though a little shy at first, She is approachable and does enjoy a good neck scratching and oats. More work will continue with her to see what she already knows, and teach her new things.

As we spend time with Molly it is becoming apparent that she knows more than she was letting on. She halts and leads well and also stands for her feet to be picked up. ■

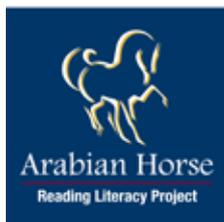


Molly and Filly

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Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project/Equus Alive

Gary Millar - gary@millarcom.com
Ph: 780.499.9219
www.arabianhorsereading.com
www.equusalive.com



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Foundation

Rescue 100 Horses was established in February 2008 after Susan Fyfe of Keno Kills Stables received a call from the Alberta SPCA asking if she could take in 159 horses that were in distress and needing immediate care.

Over 304 horses have received a second chance at life because of the Rescue 100 Horses Foundation, and 285 placed. It takes dedicated volunteers and generous donations to care for each horse and prepare them for placement in "loving" forever homes.

Abuse and neglect of horses in Alberta continues to increase and becomes more severe in the winter months. Winter provides extreme challenges in terms of food, shelter and water. Each horse requires the basic necessities to live a healthy, happy life and the Rescue 100 Horses Foundation provides the care and love to give the horses the life they deserve. ■

RESCUE 100 CHARITY HORSE SHOW



Their first ever Rescue 100 Charity Horse Show, was a huge success. 56 horses attended the show competing in halter, english, western, jumping and costume classes. They also had great class prizes, giveaways and other great attractions! The demonstration by the trick riders was very entertaining, a must see. A big thanks to Brenda Engler for providing the high point embroidered jacket. Hope to see everyone out next year!

Click the link below to view the video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKAT_pqGE9g&feature=plcp.

The Foundation currently have several horses available for placement into their 'forever' homes. They encourage potential owners to apply. They will always have a need for 'forever homes'. For more information their website is www.rescue100.ca



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STALL SPONSOR ■

Editor Message

Yes, lots is happening at Aurora! We are very excited to continue to bringing our members this vital line of communication.

The newsletter will be published in November, January, March, May, July, and September and will continue to be sent to you by e-mail blasts. It will also be posted on the Aurora Arabian Horse Association website.

The newsletter covers many new topics such as:

- Each issue will have a new column, *The Arabian Horse in History*, where the generally ignored role of specific horses in history will be presented.
- Each issue will also have a *Spotlight* section where we present information on a specific Arabian horse owner, trainer, barn, program, or event in Strathcona County and the surrounding area. What a great opportunity to get to know our fellow horsemen and horse lovers.
- "For the Fun of It" puzzles, games for the young and the older ... just play.
- Check out our articles, stories and classifieds.
- Monthly Aurora meeting minutes are now posted on the website.
- The team is more than willing to work with other horse associations regardless of breed type or discipline to assist them in getting their message out.
- 2012 AAHA "Show Sponsors".

Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

info@auroraarabian.com ■

How Many do you See?



Well, let's see, it's called hidden horses, so, the only thing that you can see are horses – and a lot of them.

Counting was never so hard! As the name suggests, you have to count the horses that are in the illusion below. ■



ANSWER TO EQUINE STALL OF FAME: H, F, L, G, B, M, A, C, E, K, D, I, J, ..

Slimmed-Down Sayings

All three of the following strings of letters are horse expressions with all of the vowels, spaces, and punctuation removed. Can you figure out what they are supposed to say? ■

① nvrkfgfthrsnthmth

② ycnldhrstwttrbtycntmkhmdrnk

③ frmthhrssmth

ANSWER: 1. Never look a gift horse in the mouth. 2. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. 3. From the horse's mouth.

Horseshoe Lore

Everyone knows a horseshoe is a good luck symbol. But why?

First, there's the iron, which is said to repel witches, fairies, and even the Devil himself. Where did that idea come from? Perhaps it reflects the vast superiority of iron tools and weapons over Bronze Age weapons. Iron ended many old ways of doing things. It's strong magic.

Perhaps it's the shape that creates the power. The crescent is a symbol of the moon and of the bull, a sacred animal from very early times. In ancient symbology, the horse is a sun animal, the bull a moon animal, and the struggle between them is played out in bullfights. A horse wearing on its feet the symbol of its foe is powerful.

Whatever the origin of the belief, horse shoes are nailed to thresholds to bring good luck and to keep away evil. Traditionally a horseshoe is nailed on with seven nails—a lucky number.

Which way up? Opinions differ. Most legends say the open end should be up, in keeping with the horn/moon symbolism. Others believe the horseshoe should point down, to pin down the luck or pin down the Devil. Blacksmiths hand shoes pointing down so that the luck runs into the forge.

Lord Nelson had a horseshoe nailed to the mast of his ship during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. He won the battle, but died of his wounds. Good luck or bad? ■

CAN YOU MATCH IT UP

Equine Stall of Fame

Can you fill in the correct letter to match up the famous horses and ponies on the left with their human, television character, or celestial companions? ■

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Silver _____ | <u>A</u> Wild Bill Hickock |
| Brown Beauty _____ | <u>B</u> John Wayne |
| Mr. Ed _____ | <u>C</u> Gumby |
| The Pie _____ | <u>D</u> Zorro |
| Duke _____ | <u>E</u> Annie Oakley |
| Trigger _____ | <u>F</u> Paul Revere |
| Buckshot _____ | <u>G</u> Velvet Brown |
| Poky _____ | <u>H</u> The Lone Ranger |
| Target _____ | <u>I</u> Dale Evans |
| Pegasus _____ | <u>J</u> Tonto |
| Phantom _____ | <u>K</u> Perseus |
| Buttermilk _____ | <u>L</u> Wilbur Post |
| Scout _____ | <u>M</u> Roy Rogers |

Telling Teeth

"You can tell how old a horse is by seeing how worn down its teeth are," explained the veterinarian to his new assistant, as he peered into the mouth of a gelding named Dex.

"So, how old is Dex?" asked the assistant.

"Well," responded the veterinarian, "I'd say that in 2 years, Dex will be twice as old as he was 5 years ago!"

Based on what the veterinarian said, can you figure out how old Dex is now? ■

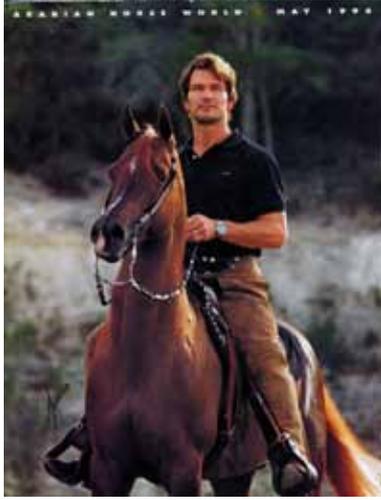
ANSWER: Twelve years old.

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more games and activities, check out the aurora website "For the Fun of it" section at www.auroraarabian.com/forthefunofit.html ■

BY VON ROBERT WOODWARD

His Heart Belonged to Arabian Horses

This man really was well-known around the world! Whenever he appeared Patrick Swayze was surrounded by fans, who wanted to experience their "dream man" close up. Patrick Swayze, Superstar! His profession: actor, dancer and singer. His passion: straight Egyptian horses!



At his ranch in California he and his wife Lisa kept several mares and foals.

His first straight Egyptian horse was the mare Aleenah (Ruminaja Majed x Talgana). Others followed. Why has Patrick Swayze chosen Egyptian Arabians in particular? "I grew up with horses. My father was a cowboy in Texas. We lived in Houston. At the age of eight, I visited the Gleannloch Farm and from then on I was lost! I dreamed of nothing but Arabians, and when I imagined Arabians, they were Egyptians!"

So it comes as no surprise that nearly

all of his horses trace back to the Gleannloch breeding programme. At the final "Legacy Sale" in 1992 he and Lisa acquired two lovely mares - the leggy Bint Atteyah (Al Metrabbi x Atteyah Riyala) - a granddaughter of the famous Bint

Mona - and the small and charming Kahleela (Faleh x Kharamana), a half-sister to the great show-winners Shah Nishan and Ibn Morafic. They have been bred to Tammen, the love of Patrick's lifetime. The chestnut Tammen (Abenhetep x Talgana) personifies

Patrick's childhood-dream of an Arabian horse. But he is more than just a horse, he is a friend. "He has such a terrific personality," says Patrick. "He is a very powerful and dynamic stallion - and yet so gentle and calm when

kids are around." For Patrick he is the epitome of sheer elegance and beauty.

And the judges agreed - Tammen has had a successful and varied show career.

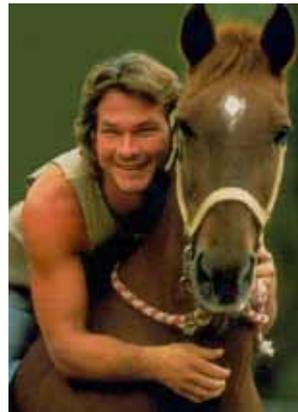
Today many breeders send him their best mares. Without doubt, Patrick's

"But he is more than just a horse, he is a friend. He has such a terrific personality, says Patrick."

fame seems to be one reason for Tammen's popularity. Bint Bint Subhaya (Tammen x Bint Subhaya by Ruminaja Majed) ranks as one of his best daughters. She is both a show-winner and a pleasure mount for Lisa.

What fascinates Patrick so about the Egyptians? "Their beauty," he says. "I like the form of the head, the proud trot,

the harmonious physique. Everything fits together and is in accord. There is a natural balance in everything. I am a dancer, and I can tell when a body is made with function in mind. A healthy Arabian is built for function! And that fascinates me." ■



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