

The kindest treatment of the horse is gained through knowledge.

Constant improvements happening...



Our sand ring looks a little different now thanks to Scott Johnson (*Paulmar Construction*). Over the last 30 years the grass has been encroaching on the riding area. In fact, over the last three decades not only has the grass moved in, but the ring itself has eroded by about two feet! (Not quite the Grand Canyon yet but give it time...) So, with all the right machines (and the skill to use them) Scott was able to restore our outdoor ring and get it closer to its original dimensions ... many thanks!!



Just a reminder there are no evening lessons in July.

(Ask about our availability for private/semiprivate lessons.)

There are still some spaces available in our four day Partnership Project specialty camp (August 4-7). Don't miss out on this great opportunity. More information available at:

harrogatehills.com/augustspecialtycamps/

MAY TRIVIA QUESTION:

What is the most important thing to which the horse should always have access?

The answer will be in next month's issue of The Mane Bit.

CALENDAR of EVENTS



HARROGATE HUNTER HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 7

Sunday, October 4

OFF PROPERTY HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 24 **NEW**

(at Stonewood Equestrian)

Sunday, September 20

(at Bellewood Equestrian)

All students are welcome to come out and cheer on the Harrogate Team.

PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT WITH JEN SHORT PHOTOGRAPHY

Friday, June 12

TINY TROTTERS ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, June 27

SUMMER CAMP BEGINS

Tuesday, June 30

Some spaces available in sessions 1, 2 & 5 as well as August 4-7

QUICK START RIDING PROGRAM

Tuesdays & Thursdays in July.

Check our website for more information.

THE GREAT SURPRISE!

On Sunday April 26, after months in the making, we managed to pull off a great surprise for Meredith and Ethan.

As you can imagine, the challenge of keeping this kind of a secret from Meredith for almost six months was daunting and so an elaborate ruse was devised. Sarah Mark told Mer that the farm was going to have a surprise Birthday party (a week late) for me and so she had to be around on the 26 of April. It seemed like a pretty good scam until we realized that a surprise party for me would not necessarily guarantee Ethan's attendance.

We decided we had to tell him.



But by now Meredith was all in on the ruse about my surprise party and so the web of lies grew more complicated. It got harder and harder to keep the story straight and, on many occasions, we almost gave it all away. (I believe there is a lesson about life in this story!)

On the day of the party, there was a lot of decorating to be done. Sarah and her cousins Lily and Emma, along with Karen and Janet were standing by, waiting to beautifully transform the arena and surrounding area.

The unenviable job of getting Meredith off the property fell to Ethan. Dragging a tired Meredith out of bed early on her day off to go have breakfast was not an easy task but he bravely stepped up. However, on the way back to the farm on Sunday morning, to



Ethan's dismay, they had to drive right past the very restaurant where the party for me was supposed to be taking place.



(An unforeseen flaw in the plan!) To his credit he kept driving despite Mer's hysterical



requests to be dropped off at the restaurant so that she wouldn't be late for the surprise for me..(I told you it got complicated!)

Ultimately, the ruse was completely successful until they turned onto McCowan and she saw all the cars parked at the farm. However, her confusion was genuine and in hindsight we probably should have given her at least a few words worth

of explanation as to why everyone was there. But given her shock and tears, she might not have heard us. Luckily, it didn't take her too long to figure out.

It was a wonderful day, and I know both of them appreciated that everyone took the time to wish them well for their wedding in August. Thank you to everyone who made it such a great success!

Harrogate Hills Hunter show May 3rd



Because it's been such a late spring (there was SNOW the day before the show!), our students and horses barely had a chance to ride outside in preparation for the first show of the season.

It's always great to see our students improve year to year and it was especially true this year. They rose to the challenge of restoring their horses' confidence as they competed in our newly enlarged ring. A great day where once again, our students made us proud. Looking forward to Sunday, June 7 for our next show!



Emma J. with Stretch



Emma R. with Stoney



Karina with Hannah



Cinthia with Lottie



Jenna with Spirit



Competitors lining up for the judge



Vivienne with Mrs. V



Meredith with Jake

Check out our *new* Specialty Camp



The **Partnership Project** is a four-day experience spent developing a true connection with your horse and then getting to put that partnership to the test in an off-property adventure.

Space is limited to 6.

harrogatehills.com/augustspecialtycamps/

Please note: all other specialty camps are full.

Happy Birthday!



...to Silvia and thanks for celebrating your birthday at Harrogate Hills (with Mrs. V!)



For more information about how to celebrate a birthday at Harrogate, check out our website.

harrogatehills.com/birthday-parties/

The answer to April's Trivia Question is:

Q: A horse presents with intense, painful muscle stiffness (often in the jaw and neck), seizures, trouble swallowing, fever, sweating, and a rapid heart rate. While probably not too late for a horse in this condition, what might have caused it and what could have prevented it?

A: A neurotoxin (*clostridium tetani*) has gained access to the horse's system most likely through a wound, very often a puncture wound. Horses are very susceptible to Lockjaw, but it is entirely preventable with regular (yearly) Tetanus vaccinations.

This month's winner of a \$25 gift card from Greenhawk is **Charlotte C.**

TRIVIA GUIDELINES:

- Place your answer in the box found in the lounge and include your name and contact information.
- There will be a random draw from the correctly submitted answers and one person will win a prize.
- The winner will be announced in the following month's Newsletter.

All correct guesses have a chance to win, so don't miss the opportunity to be our next Trivia winner!



Stay tuned to our monthly newsletter for unique and exciting adventures with horses, as we present new learning opportunities in our monthly newsletter that take you beyond your regular weekly lessons.



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