

APRIL 2019

KAAPSE BOERPERD
TELERSGENOOTSKAP

Nuusbrief



CAPE BOERPERD
BREEDERS SOCIETY

Newsletter

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**THANK YOU TO OUR
SHOW SPONSORS**

MIDDELBURG 2019

CAT DELTA CRADOCK GDE LEATHER
KARROOROOS FARM STALL SPAR
PIERRE SYKES SHIELD

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.capeboerperd.co.za

FOR

**SHOW RESULTS
DOCUMENTS
FORMS
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and more...**

*******FUTURE SHOWS FOR 2019*******

10TH AUGUST - GRAHAMSTOWN

6 – 7 SEPTEMBER - SOMERSET EAST NATIONAL CHAMPS

27 – 28 SEPTEMBER - UNIONDALE

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT A ONE DAY SHOW, 10TH AUGUST,
WILL BE HELD AT THE GRAHAMSTOWN RIDING CLUB**

TO PREPARE OUR RIDERS/HORSES

FOR OUR NATIONALS*****

HAPPY EASTER



GESEENDE PAASFEES

MEMBERS' NEWS

RAINBOW'S END STABLES

Ons het die jaar behoorlik op 'n "HIGH" afgeskop! Dit was 'n besige paar weke waarin ons drie skoue bygewoon het. Ons is voorwaar trots op ons span Boerperde en ruiters.

TARKASTAD			
Carla VD Walt	Colchester's Ninalina	BP Kinderryperd 0/18 (3g)	1ste
		Plesierperd ruiterkuns (3g)	1ste
		Kampioen Kinderryperd (3g)	2de
Nadine Steyn	Waterkrans Dolla	Ope Kinderryperd 0/12 (3g)	2de
		Kinderruiter 0/14 (3g)	2de
		Kampioen Kinderryperd (3g)	3de
Leola Nel	Indiana's Profeet	BP Kinderryperd 0/18 (5g)	1ste
		Plesierperd ruiterkuns (5g)	1ste
Anika Theron	Waterkrans Dolla	Enkeltuig bo 5 Jaar	1ste
		BP Kampioen enkeltuig	1ste
MIDDELBURG			
Carla VD Walt	Colchester's Ninalina	Plesierperd ruiterkuns (3g)	1ste
		BP Kampioen (3g)	1ste
Nadine Steyn	Waterkrans Dolla	3G Kinderryperd 0/14	2de
		ATKV Klas vir ouetehuis	1ste
		3G Kinderruiter 0/14	1ste
		Kampioen Kinderryperd 3G	2de
Leola Nel	Indiana's Profeet	5G Kinderryperd 0/14	1ste
		5G Plesierperd Ruiterkuns	1ste
Anika Theron	Waterkrans Dolla	BP Kampioen Enkeltuig	1ste
HOFMEYR			
Carla VD Walt	Colchester's Ninalina	3G Ruiterkuns onder 18	1ste
		Kampioen 3G Kinderryperd	2de
Nadine Steyn	Waterkrans Dolla	3G Kinderryperd onder 12	1ste
		3G Kinderruiter onder 14	1ste
		Kampioen 3G Kinderryperd	3de
Leola Nel	Indiana's Profeet	5G Kinderryperd onder 14	2de
		5G Kinderruiter onder 14	1ste
		Kampioen 5G Kinderryperd	3de
Leonné Lotz	Colchester's Ninalina	Plesierperd, ruiter 0/10	1ste
		Plesierperd, ruiterkuns 0/10	1ste

No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle...

Anika Theron



REAGAN MAKWENA STALLE

SOMERSET OOS



Reagan sold Replica Fearnot to a new member, Willem Nel, after acquiring him from Clyde Pringle.

He is busy gaiting Indiana Champ (Sire: Indiana Hiersek. Dam: I'm On Fire). He has also got a very promising young horse of the Rademeyer's (PE) in training, a foal of Colchester's Delgado & Whats On.

Reagan Makwena

LA ROCHELLE STABLES

MIDDELBURG EC



Currently, we have 18 children at the riding school, of which 17 took part at the local Middelburg show. We had 3 children riding in the 6yrs and under walk/trot class. I am so very proud of them and the horses.....

Four children rode in the 8yrs and under; 5 in the 10yrs and under; and 1 in the 14 yrs. and under. In the fancy dress class, we had 5 children in the 3yrs and under; 7 in the 5yrs and under; 6 in the 10yrs and under; and 2 in the 10yrs and over. Elmaro never skips a fancy dress class.

I and my daughter, Elmaro, are currently not doing any shows as Smalleys Bobbie was sold to JF Burger, and Inka Fire Chaser is a bit lame at the moment. We, and the parents, decided not to show at any other shows at the moment as we do not have any registered show horses.

Love and laughter

Rochelle Stander

COLCHESTER'S JABULANI

He's been the best thing that I could dream of. The wait was definitely worth it, and I really hope that we can compete in our first show by the end of the year.

He has the sweetest personality and surprises me every time that I see him. He makes the cutest faces with one ear forward, and one backwards.



I love him with all of my heart and wish to give him the best home forever. Super excited for our journey forward.

Abigail Kitshoff

INDIANA HANDSOME

Anobell had Handsome for 6 years, but had to sell him because she is studying B Com Acc at NMMU. It was one of the saddest days in her life when Handsome was sold.

"Lord if we stumble, my horse and I, please pick him up first for he has carried me through heaven and hell"



Annobel Van Rooyen

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Willem Nel - Somerset East & Nadine Steyn - Middelburg



EZELLE MARAIS

Ek was nog altyd lief vir perde. My ma vertel graag die storie dat ek as baba by die huis verdwyn het en dan kry hulle my by die stalle waar ek hande agter die rug met die perde gesels. My pa en my oupa was ook groot perde liefhebbers met my pa wat 'n vorige president van die genootskap was.

The stables, and camps with horses, is to this day my "Happy Place".

Ek het begin skou op ouderdom 4. Daardie dae was daar nie leid rein of stap/ draf nie – ons het sommer met volle drie gang klasse begin. Ek het 2 ponies gehad – 1 om te ry en 1 om in te span. My pa en Frank du Plessis was my afrigters. Vanaf ouderdom 6 jaar, het ek Boerperde geskou en gery. Blacky, Moslem, Rembrandt, Peppie. Ons ry skou, uithouritte en gymkana. Na skool, werk en leer ek by Pierre Jacobs bietjie meer. Daarna weer op my eie.

I worked in East London as a groom/ trainer/rider for Dennis Lotter to pay for my own horse's stable and keep. Terug op die plaas, skou en geniet ek weer die Indiana perde. Ek ontmoet vir Johan en ons trou, waarna ons Boerperde en Saalperde saam skou.



Daar is 'n paar wonderlike perde wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie..... Sensational Fair lady, Starika, Namaqua, Sixpence, Two and Six en soveel meer. Eintlik is, en was, elke perd wat ek ooit gery en geskou het SPESIAAL. Toe my seuns ook begin perdery, was dit eers lekker om as gesin deel te neem. Vandag nog geniet ek die ondersteuning van my gesin.

SIXPENCE

Ek kan nie eers meer onthou van wanneer af ek by die telersgenootskap en SABAU betrokke is nie. Dit is, en was, nog altyd 'n eer om die genootskap en sy lede te dien.

'n Groot eer het my te beurt geval, toe ek in 2000 die spanbestuurder was wat Amerika toe is om teen die Morgans deel te neem. Ook al die kere wat ek hier spanbestuurder was.



Children are very close to my heart, and I wish we could have more young riders in the showing.

Dit is vir my 'n groot vreugde om perde wat ek geteel, of verkoop het, te sien goed doen by hul nuwe eienaars.

FOR SALE

INDIANA DOWWA DOLLA: Dun 9yr old Mare. 15hh. Sire: Waterkrans Stoffel
Dam: Starika. In Harness & 3 gaited. Lots of action and breeds well. Price: R13 500
Contact: Ezelle 082 552 2309



DOWWE DOLLA



GEORGIE PORGIE

SPREEUKLOOF GEORGIE PORGIE: Gelding. 9Yrs old. 3 Gaited. Suitable for all ages from over 10 years old. Carries himself. Namaqua seun. Aksie om to spaar. Price: R20 000

Contact Tania 072709 4224

BALLOO: Chestnut 5yr old Gelding. Sire: The Bold Dam: Indiana Liewe Lulu
In Harness & 5 Gaited. He's bold. He's good. Price: R15 000
Contact Quinton 083 979 7148



BALLOO



FOXY BEY

FOXY BEY: Chestnut 4yr old Mare: 15hh. Sire: Bey Event Dam: Mare out of Samurai.
3 Gaited. Placed at Tarka & Hofmeyer 2018. Good temperament. Needs competent rider.
Contact Clyde Pringle 083 280 6152

COLCHESTER STUD: Young, untrained horses for sale. Give me a call for more information.

Contact Colette 083 327 7451

COLCHESTER'S DEL CASTRO - Sire: Colchester's Delgado. 15.3hh Bay Gelding. Has shown 3 gaited. Currently doing dressage. Contact Colette 083 327 7451

WANTED

AASVOEL SHOW CART IN GOOD CONDITION – PREPARED TO DO MINOR WORK IF REQUIRED.
JACQUES POTGIETER ON 083 383 4220

CONTACT

GESOEK: TWEEDE HANDSE RYPAKKE. SIZE 34. Leonie Nortier 0717610564

STUD NEWS

INDIANA STUD

Near Cookhouse, Eastern Cape

Indiana stoet is baie tevrede met ons jong merries, Indiana Spring Queen, laaste vul van Samorai, asook Dowwe Dolla. Alby ry goed. Dowwe Dolla is te koop. Merries is gedek en ons wag vir die vullens. Ons het 3 baie belowende jong hingsies wat nou 18 maande oud is. Coco en Ntombazane het bietjie gerus maar sal weer September in die skoubaan wees.

EZELLE MARAIS

COLCHESTER STUD

COLCHESTER, near Port Elizabeth

We are very excited with the prospects of four of our mares who are in foal to Replica Kings Memory. This year, we decided to aim our breeding program at introducing this new blood into our lines on a slightly larger scale.

Jabulani was sold to Abigail Kittshoff of Patensie, a promising young rider who will ultimately show and jump him. El Camino was sold to a very talented youngster, Sam Seaton Smith, who has accomplished great things with him in a very short space of time.

Del Castro is furthering his training as a dressage horse, and is extremely happy in this new discipline. He is also a lovely horse to hack and ride on the beach. He is an attractive gelding, standing at just under 16hh, and is for sale to the right buyer. All our trained horses have been sold, but we always have young untrained horses available for sale.

COLETTE BOTHA

PRINCIPAL STUD

PORT ELIZABETH

CHOOSING THE RIGHT STALLION FOR YOUR MARE

Whether breeding as a registered breeder, or breeding your own homebred horse, one should always be mindful of a few very important factors to ensure success in what you breed.

Breed societies will have their own set of breed standards. These standards are specifically outlined to improve the breed and to enhance the breed for its specific sporting use. These breed standards are particularly important and should be adhered to as best as possible.

It is fundamentally important to breed from inspected and approved horses. If your mare has not been inspected, be sure to have this mare inspected by the society's inspectors. This should ideally be done before you breed. This will give you an indication of what your mare's strengths are and where she is lacking, be it in confirmation, temperament or performance.

An inspected mare should achieve a minimum of 70% to be accepted and passed by the society. Stallions would require a minimum of 75%. Once this has been achieved you will have a very good idea of what you are looking for in a Stallion to improve your mare.

Temperament is so important when it comes to choosing a Stallion. This is sometimes a little difficult, as Stallions are usually quite dominant and difficult to handle at the best of times during breeding season. They all should have a superior presence, with a "look at me" attitude. A good way to judge a Stallion's temperament is to see the Stallion being worked. Here you will gauge his obedience, aptitude for his work, ability to work, stamina, movement and his way of going. These temperament characteristics are all characteristics that pass onto his offspring.

Pedigree is fundamentally important. The Stallion's pedigree should be complimentary to your mares pedigree. If you are not certain, speak to the breed society or to a few other breeders who have experience with this pedigree. There might be something that you are not aware of within the pedigree that can be detrimental to what you want to breed, or the converse, something that will cement the reason why you want to use that pedigree.

Conformation is the next most important factor. You want to make sure you are using a Stallion that will enhance your mare. Perhaps she is lacking in length of neck, or needs a shorter back or perhaps is lacking behind. The Stallion you are looking at, should improve on what your mare is lacking. One also wants to maintain the straightness of leg and also make sure that he has a good quality of hoof. One often overlooks the foot in haste to breed. But this is equally important. The quality of the hoof is imperative for the longevity of the horse. After all, *no hoof no horse.....*

Movement is the next important aspect. This, for a show horse, is very important. It all comes down to the ride-ability of the horse and the ability to produce the movement. Some Stallions naturally have good action and others have produced action. As long as the temperament is there, a horse's action can be produced if it is lacking in natural action.

Progeny are the key to making sure you are on the right track. If you are using a young Stallion, this is often not possible. Although, if you are using a seasoned Stallion who has been in the sport a good few years, you will most likely have the opportunity to see his progeny in sport or at the farm. Here you can gauge their temperament, conformation and general appearance.

Breeding is not, as I am sure you have heard before, an exact science and certainly nowhere near it! Breeding is exciting and one must always remain level headed during this very exciting and daunting time. Most breeders are more than happy to part with their knowledge in assisting one another in the common thread of horsemanship and the breeding of a better horse.

JACQUES POTGIETER

REPLICA STUD

FORT BEAUFORT, Eastern Cape

Somerset East show seems very far away now and we thankfully had Tarkastad the other day. It was a very happy show with good facilities and stabling. A massive thank you to Gert & Louise Lotter for organising such a well run and happy show. What made the show happy for me, was Ezelle allowed me to beat her in the 3 gaited class but I had to surrender to her in the Championships.

At the Somerset show, I decided to sell Replica's Fearnot to Reagan Makwena as he was too much horse for me. It was a good decision as Reagan sold him to Willem Nel, and they are going to be a formidable 5 gaited combination. So the horse that I loved, but was too much for this 72 year old, has found a new master. Willem, welcome to the Cape Boerperd. May your association be a long and happy one.

Selling Fearnot enabled me to have Replica's Legend trained by Reagan. In hind sight I should have held him back as he grew so fast, about 16 hands at 3 years, and was not very strong. I have sold him to Liezel da Camara from Cradock. Her daughter, Megan, showed him in Hofmeyer. I am so pleased to have been able to help a keen young rider.

I now have Replica's Oudemeester (King's younger brother) with Reagan. He was sold to Hubert Shawe in Utrecht as a two year old and was immediately used as a breeding stallion. Running in the Natal mountains he really developed physically. A lot of horse trading between Hubert and I. Francois van der Merwe sold me two stallions and Daryl Fetting a colt, which enabled me to swop Hubert three horses for Oudemeester.

Oudemeester is a very potent stallion as he was bred to half a quarter horse, half a SA Boerperd and also Cape Boerperd mares. All the foals have his stamp and look alike. I had a good offer for him from a lady in Natal but Sheryl said I must keep him because of his temperament and my age. He is a real gentleman of a horse,

The only foal I bred from Fearnot and Jennifer (Kings dam), I gave to Colette as she had injured her right back pastern and will never show. She is a real beauty and I hope she breeds well for Colette.

Colette used King for services this year and has four mares in foal to him. Jennifer produced a colt foal by Legend and he was magnificent. Unfortunately, he died this afternoon.

Looking forward to the Bathurst show.

CLYDE PRINGLE

SHOW NEWS/ SKOU NUUS

HOFMEYER SHOW

Ezelle Marais

Hofmeyr het 'n heerlike skou aangebied met veral Kippie Louw en Anike Louw wat bedank moet word vir hul werk. Die kinder klasse is baie goed ondersteun deur Anika Theron en haar Ruiters van Rainbows End stalle. Anika en haar span kinders het hul goed van hul taak gekwyd en goeie plasings in die kinder klasse behaal – ook die ope klasse. Bie geluk aan hulle. Smallies's Bobby het weereens vir ons gewys Kaapse Boerperd se temperament is ongelooflik deur in die gestremde klas eers Vrydag met 'n karretjie te skou en Saterdag gery is. Sy baas is nou JF Burger van Hofmeyr.

Dankie aan ons beoordelaar, Hugo Visser. Hy was baie beindruk deur die gehalte perde wat ten toon gestel is. Dankie Hofmeyr ons maak weer volgende jaar so.

Kamp Siertuig: Indiana Hiersek – Ezelle Marais

Kamp 3 gang – Indiana Hiersek – Ezelle Marais

Indiana Spring Queen – Willem Nel

Kamp 5 gang – Indiana Pampoen - Stephen Ferreira

Indiana Rosy – Ezelle Marais

Fearnot - Willem Nel

TARKASTAD SHOW

Jetta Du Preez

It has been a while, since the show grounds at TarkaStad have heard the beating of horse hooves and experienced the gathering of horses from all over the Eastern Cape Province, but on 22 and 23 February 2019 that all changed. And it was as if Mother Nature dressed up for this occasion.....everything was covered in green grass, beautiful trees and the rain that the town was blessed with before our arrival, had ensured that TarkaStad was definitely dressed for the occasion.

The hard work of Gert and Louise Lotter, together with their show team, ensured that everything turned like a well-oiled machine. Entries and numbers were prepared and ready for collection on our arrival. The stables were all neatly prepared and I think some of the horses preferred the oat hay, which was used as bedding, compared to their normal diet! And Mother Nature did not leave it at dressing the grounds in luscious green grass but also provided two days of magnificent weather.

The Tarka show was selected as one of the qualifying shows for the National Cape Boerperd Championships, which will be hosted in Somerset East, in early September 2019. The turn out and support by the Cape Boerperd exhibitors did not disappoint. The qualifying classes on Friday were well supported by competitors, who were getting their foot in the door for the championship classes on Saturday. Although it was a hot day, the support and camaraderie amongst the Boerperd exhibitors and supporters is a cornerstone that we can definitely build on.

Saturday morning, one of the first classes on the program was the disabled rider event. There was only one entry, and of course it was a Cape Boerperd, Smallies Bobby. It was so inspirational to witness how a horse can bring happiness to a human being.....With JF Burger in the saddle, waving his cowboy pistol around, and Lizette Jordaan supporting and encouraging him. It made one truly appreciate the fact that, if you love horses, there will be no limits to your ability.... The short video clip on our Facebook page is truly worthwhile watching and one can only then appreciate the value and happiness that a horse can bring to a person's life. We salute you Bobby!!

With the championships starting off just after midday, and the cool air of the early morning long gone, all the Cape Boerperd competitors were getting their steeds ready for the big afternoon.... And big it was....

A special word of thanks must go to Johan Marias, who at number 99, had to jump in to drive the truck to Tarkastad. Due to unforeseen circumstances the designated driver could no longer assist and Johan

brought our horses to the show. Without that truck load of horses, the show would have suffered quite a knock. But that is how the Cape Boerperd exhibitors and supporters jump in and assist one another.

It was a spectacular show, enjoyed by all and next year it can only get better and bigger! So, if you missed the Tarka show this year, make a note on your calendar for next year February to attend!!

A huge thank you to our judges Glenda Koen, Jaco Jonker en Bertus Pretorius; and also to Gert and Louise Lotter for a truly well organised show.

SHOW RESULTS

- Single Harness Championship** - 1st Waterkrans Dolla - Anika Theron
- Fine Harness Championship** - 1st Indiana Hiersek – Ezelle Marais
2nd Kings’ Memory – Clyde Pringle
- 3 Gaited Championship** - 1st Indiana Hiersek – Ezelle Marais
2nd Kings’ Memory – Clyde Pringle
3rd Indiana Spring Queen – Reagan Makwena
4th Statesman – Lize Frost
5th Indiana Professor – Jetta du Preez
- 5 Gaited Championship** - 1st Indiana Roxy – Ezelle Marais
2nd Lady’s Prophet – Syce Botha
3rd Fearnot – Willem Nel
4th Adios Bey – Clyde Pringle

MIDDELBURG SHOW



Many thanks to Kobus Gerber for coming from Riversdal to judge the horse classes at the show, and his steward, Jan Kritzinger from Uniondale. Thanks also go to Andre van der Walt for his hard work at the collecting arena, to ensure that riders were on time for their classes. Thank you also to Andries Mellet, Luane Stapelberg and Leney van der Walt, who were on the show committee to organise the horse division; as well as Rene Joubert who was in charge of finances.

- SHOW RESULTS:**
- 5 Gaited 5yrs & over - Indiana’s Profeet – Anika Theron
 - 3Gaited 5yrs & over - Colchester’s Ninalina - Anika Theron
- Inka Firechaser – Leona Nel
 - Grand Champion Fine Harness - Fortune Jack - Xander Roos
 - Grand Champion 3 Gaited - Colchester’s Ninalina - Anika Theron
- Inka Firechaser - Leona Nel
 - Grand Champion 5 Gaited - Indiana’s Profeet - Anika Theron

******BATHURST SHOW WILL FEATURE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE – AUGUST 2019******

Please send me any newsworthy articles, photos etc

ljturner@telkomsa.net

The purpose of Physiotherapy is to restore, maintain, improve and promote optimal function of the equine body.

Show horses, like the Cape Boerperd, often develop physical problems caused by training, stable environments and only keeping them in stables with no camps etc. These problems often include sore/stiff necks, epaxial back pain (top line), and uneven or disunited hindquarter movement.

Fitness is a very important aspect. Unfit horses or those that are in pain are more likely to develop behaviour problems when asked to perform above its fitness level, or pressured into work while in pain.



Some people
talk to animals.
Not many
listen
though.
That's the problem.
— K.A. MILES, *Mount the Peak*
— NAGSHEEN

The showing discipline involves a lot of repetitive, compression type movement exercises, which can result in repetitive strain injuries. A Veterinary Physiotherapist assesses a horse's gaits and movement looking for asymmetry, irregularities, discomfort, incorrect muscling and uneven movement. They feel through the entire body for muscle stiffness, tendon sensitivity and pain/tender points. They also assess and feel joint range of motion and quality of movement and then use mobilisations, soft tissue releasing techniques, stretching techniques, massage therapy and electrotherapy modalities to improve range of motion and decrease pain. The goal is to achieve balance and symmetry.

A therapist's treatment can only work properly if the owners follow the correct rehabilitation and exercise programs, like the use of Trotting poles and allowing the horse to be outside in camps.

Trotting poles are a very important exercise for the show horse. This enables the horse to relax his back and neck muscles by keeping his neck down, and thus stretching and building muscles to maintain and excel in the training regime. The Trotting Poles will also improve range of motion through all the limbs, increasing mobility and stability.

To improve the overall physical well-being of your horse, a well-balanced diet is essential to support and build muscle through correct exercise. For the body and muscles to develop, a horse needs sufficient nutritional resources. To achieve this, we highly recommend Royal Feeds.



PHILIP AT WORK

For more information contact Philip Tibshraeny- 0828477267 or visit Mountainview Stables website for articles on how to do trotting poles, feeding and nutrition and other interesting articles. www.mountainviewstables.co.za

INTERESTING FACTS

WHY HORSES ARE ALWAYS MOUNTED FROM THE LEFT

Back in ancient times, when horses were used as war mounts, soldiers carried their swords on the left side so they could reach it with their right hand. They therefore had to mount from the left so that the sword didn't get in the way as they swung their leg over.....and to avoid sitting on their sword.

HORSES HAVE THE LARGEST EYES OF ANY LAND MAMMAL

HOOVES ARE MADE FROM THE SAME PROTEIN THAT MAKES UP HUMAN HAIR AND FINGERNAILS

YOU CAN TELL IF A HORSE IS COLD BY FEELING BEHIND THEIR EARS. IF THAT AREA IS COLD, THE HORSE IS COLD

HORSES CAN SEE BETTER AT NIGHT THAN A HUMAN, BUT TAKES LONGER TO ADJUST FROM LIGHT TO DARK AND VICE VERSA

Extracts from various sources

DIFFERENT GAITS OF A HORSE

A. There are 5 natural gaits of horses, which are the walk, trot, canter/lope, gallop and back.

WALK – A four-beat gait, which means that each of the horse's four feet hit the ground independently. It is the horse's slowest gait.

TROT – A two-beat diagonal gait, with the horse's legs moving in two diagonal pairs. For example, the right-front and left-hind are off the ground together, followed by the left-front and right-hind. Two feet are always off the ground. These two beats create the posting/rising rhythm for the rising trot. Rising on the correct diagonal is when you are sitting down when your horse's outside front leg is on the ground. At the same time, you are sitting when the inside hind is pushing on the ground which is when that leg can best support your weight.

CANTER – A three-beat gait where one pair of feet strike the ground at the same time in the following foot-fall sequence when the horse is on the left lead: right hind leg, left hind leg/right foreleg at the same time, and left foreleg. The three beats are followed by a moment of suspension, when all four legs are off the ground. A horse is on the correct lead when both the inside front and hind legs reach further forward than the outside legs. If a horse is leading with one front leg, but the opposite hind leg, it produces an awkward rolling movement called a cross-canter or disunited canter.

GALLOP – This appears to be a fast canter, but is in fact a different gait with the same foot-fall, but containing four beats.

BACK - When a horse backs naturally, it performs a two-beat diagonal gait with a similar hoof pattern to that of the trot, only backwards.

B. Slow gait, pace and rack are considered to be artificial gaits although they are very natural to specific breeds of horses.

SLOW GAIT – A slow, smooth collected four-beat gait, in which the two legs on the same side leave the ground at the same time with the hind foot striking the ground slightly before the front foot.

RACK – A fast lateral four-beat gait where each foot meets the ground at equal, separate intervals. The Rack, or single-foot gait, is a medium speed gait in which only one of the horse's hooves touches the ground at a time. The Rack is an attractive, showy gait, which provides an extremely comfortable ride. The main difference between the Slow Gait and the Rack is the slight hesitation between the second and third beats of the Slow Gait.

PACE – A lateral two-beat gait with the two legs on the same side of the horse moving forward together, striking the ground at the same time. There is a brief moment of suspension where all four feet are off the ground before the next lateral pair touch the ground. Unlike the trot, where the two legs diagonally opposite each other move forward together. A fast pace is difficult to sit, because the rider is moved rapidly from one side to the other, compared to the rack which is a smooth motion to sit.

With any gait, the following points should be considered:

STRAIGHTNESS OF THE FOOTFALL PATTERN – The horse's hooves should move in a straight line without deviation in the flight of the hoof, which is considered wasted energy and effort. All gaits are performed on two tracks where the hind foot lands on the same track of the same side front foot.

LENGTH OF STRIDE – Ideally, at the trot, the hindfoot should step into the front hoof's print. Those that are extremely engaged from behind may actually step over the front hoof's print

SNAP AND FLEXION – This refers to how easily a horse can lift its feet off of the ground from the knees and hocks. This is exaggerated in some breeds, and should exhibit a fluid easy movement in the knees and hocks.

AHS-African Horse Sickness - the equine challenge

More ways of protecting your horse from horse sickness and other viral diseases. (by Laura Seegers)

We are all familiar with the standard advice on keeping your horse safe from African Horse Sickness: Vaccinate annually, stable your horse from late afternoon to well after sunrise, apply insect repellents daily. However, these precautions have sometimes failed to prevent a horse coming down with horse sickness, with serious results. For those horse owners who do all these but want to do more, and for those who do not have stables and whose horses run extensively and are not handled daily, I want to offer more options in the interest of keeping our horses alive and healthy.

Help nature's predators control the vector insects.

Viral diseases go hand in hand with good rains and lots of midges and mosquitoes. You can help restore natural checks and balances, by encouraging frogs in natural puddles, fish in dams and rivers and troughs, and bats around the yard. People love to spray insects with poison, but this not only knocks the target species but their natural predators as well, with the result that the unwanted ones return in greater numbers than before. Take long term view throughout the year and build bat boxes near your horses. There are designs on the internet and if you build a secure home then bats will move in on their own. One bat can eat 2000 insects in a night. Mosquito fish in troughs will eat mosquito larva which can carry West Nile Virus. Banded tilapia are a small indigenous fish that are also suitable for reservoirs and dams. Frogs are very good at insect control, but very sensitive to pesticides. Look after your predators. By reducing the bloodsucking insect burden you will help your horses immensely. Nature never works by eradicating anything entirely, but by balancing populations.

Unburden your horse internally.

Intestinal worms are another population that explodes when good rains fall. Worms are implicated in lowering immunity to sickness. Whether this is purely as a result of draining nutrients from the horse or something more complex, I don't know.

Bantam hens help control manure piles.

Fresh manure provides a breeding ground for flies, worm larva, bots and midges. A flock of hens or guinea fowl, with access to the yard and fields the horses run in, can work wonders by reducing problem insects. They scratch open manure piles straight away. They will break the botfly cycle by eating bot larva before they can mature into flies. The fowls open up the dung to the drying effect of the sun and this will make it less attractive to the type of midge that hatches in manure. They also peck up ticks from the grass before they climb onto the horses.

Make sure your horse has all the minerals.

Mineral nutrition deficiencies can exist even when horses look good. Mammals need just about every mineral we find in seawater. They can survive without a lot of the trace elements, but they will not experience every benefit they could. If you can, give your horse a cup of seawater every day. It will love it on feed or in drinking water. In large scale operations it can be added to concrete reservoirs that fill drinking troughs. Himalayan rock salt has the second most minerals. The pink salt licks can be bought at tack shops or more cheaply from the wholesalers. General mineral blocks have far fewer minerals, and in my private opinion way too much manganese and iron, but they may be better than nothing at all if your district is very deficient in trace elements. Immune function specifically needs Vit A, Vit E, zinc, copper and selenium. Pay particular attention to supplementing selenium. Selenium deficiency has been shown to be linked to an increased vulnerability to viral diseases and also the virulence of the outbreak. The selenium status of your horse might make the difference between it getting horse sickness or not. It might make the difference between a mild case or a fatal one. Most of South Africa's soils are deficient in selenium and our animals are probably chronically deficient. If you have pastures they can be fertilised with selenium salts.

Any one of these precautions alone is not enough to prevent horse sickness or other insect borne diseases. But together they have a powerful synergistic effect that will contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of your horse.

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