

The Saddle Club Gazette

The Letter From the Editor

By Zeus –An Imaginary Horse (Lyla)



Hey everyone! Happy fourth birthday to *The Saddle Club Gazette*! This Valentines issue is all about horse love! Talking about love...I crazy about this mare I've known for a long time. We're really good friends so I don't want to makes things become weird. I don't know if she likes me that way but I know I can't go any longer without telling her I love her. She is so sweet and pretty. What's a stallion to do? Well...this is the Saddle Club Gazette's FOURTH year! Happy Birthday to me and congratulations to everyone who still contributes to the publication. Per usual, I am asking everyone to continue to contribute to the paper and keep the Saddle Club spirit up through the long winter. These gazettes are seasonal now, so if you have any Spring-themed stories, please send them! All contributions can be emailed to Horsedoctor25@iCloud.com or dropped off in the Gazette Drop Box in the lounge at Cricket Hill!

Upcoming Events and News

By Lyla Andrick

Hey everyone, let's look at what's coming up this Spring! March 11th is the second of the new Lunge Lesson Series offered at CH. March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, look out for a horse story at the stable! March 31st is the annual YDF Meeting for those interested in attending this year. April 1st is Easter, April 10-15 is Passover. The last of the three lunge lesson series will be on snday the 8th followed by the annual CH Egg Hunt is on Sunday April 15th at noon. Then...what we've all been waiting for: THE START OF THE SHOW SEASON with CH's annual Spring Show! This is a YDF qualifier! If you want to go to YDF...be there, or be square!

Winner of the Valentine's Competition

By Carly

My favorite horses are Ricky and Baily. I like Baily because he is loving and he is clean. I like Ricky because he has an amazing canter and he is a good horse. I love horse because I love riding horses, there are very good animals and they are very loving.



Rebel: The Story Of A True Heart

By Lyla Andrick

Previously on Rebel:

"You should go to her," Blue said.

"Yeah, don't let her go," Lexington said.

"You guys are right. I have to go back to her!"

Rebel galloped to where he last saw Phea. When she wasn't there, he found her way up on a hill looking over at the race track on the east side of Rebel's barn. Horses from the neighboring stable brought their horses to the track to practice often.

But Phea wasn't alone. Someone else was there. Someone Rebel hated. Someone Rebel thought Phea hated too.

Guess not.

Rebel listened to the conversation.

"Phoenix...come on...all the fillies are attracted to me. All of them but you. Why don't you like me?" Remington asked.

"I just don't," Phea said.

"Aww Phee...you don't really mean that," he said, circling her.

Rebel suddenly realized something.

He's trapping her. Oh my golden horseshoes! He's a stallion, she's in heat...he's going to try to get her...

"Pregnant! Ohh we haven't had any little pony babies in FOREVER. How exciting!" Rebel turned an ear around and heard Rebellious dancing on his haunch.

"Get off of me!" Rebel said, bucking.

"No can do boss!" he said, laughing.

"Common Rebel...he can't do that! Get him! Look! He's seducing her, he's stallion-izing her. Any minute he'll be doing what stallions do and then he'll have possession of her and then she'll be his! You can't let his happen!" shouted Pitta Angelico from his other haunch.

"You're right!" Rebel said. With that, Rebel reared and galloped over to Remington.

Phea was frozen as a rock.

Horse toots. Why do I have to be in heat now? I'm vulnerable, he knows it.

Remington circled around Phea, edging a little closer each revolution.

I'm in season. He's a male horse. I can't act under his dominating power.

Remington locked his brown eyes on Phea. He was a quite a handsome horse and Phea couldn't help herself from admitting it.

Any moment now my brain will go kerfluey and I'll forget about everything. I need to remember Rebel...don't do something stupid Phea. Come on...stay strong.

Phea's mind battled inside of her, fighting nature as it took over her body. She clamped down her tail with all her remaining strength.

Wordlessly, Remington stopped in front of Phea.

Oh no! Here I go—wow Remington is a handsome horse. How come my friends don't like him? He's so nice...Rebel was always so mean to him. Rebel is mean to everyone, even my own brother.

Remington is—

And suddenly, the trance broke.

To Be Continued

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ART • Historia • Equitum

By Taryn Zarrillo

Art • History • Horses! With Professor T.M. Zarrillo, Department of Art History and Archeology, Columbia University

Welcome to the corner of the *Gazette* dedicated to the Art and History of the Horse!

Here you will find fascinating tidbits about our equine friends and the important roles they have played throughout human history as artistic inspiration, social companions and one of the most critical and powerful tools we have had. Enjoy!

The Training Text of Master Horseman Kikkuli

Did you know that the *very first* training manual written about horses is over 3,000 years old?

It was inscribed in 1345 BCE—during a period historians call the Bronze Age—on a clay tablet for the royal court of the Hittite Empire. To give you an idea of exactly how old that is, it would be just about the same time that the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun was born! The author of the manual was a man named Kikkuli, who was from an area near the Hittite Empire called Mitanni – the location of modern day Syria.

Kikkuli was well known for his ability to train incredible chariot horses with great endurance and speed. Suppililiuma, the king of the Hittites, wanted to build up his armies to include more chariots so that he could rival the military strength of the Egyptian and Babylonian Empires that bordered his lands. He needed strong horses who could canter for long periods of time, pulling a chariot with men and equipment onboard, and who could brave the harsh conditions that battles would bring.

Kikkuli's training program lists many ideas that we are familiar with today: he used the method of "interval training" to increase cardiovascular endurance and build strength on a daily basis, he fed a diet rich in nutrients: clover, barley, multigrain, oats, and good hay, and while he asked much of the horses in training, they were also pampered with lots of warm baths, swim sessions, blankets and massage. In many ways, it sounds very familiar to the methods and care here at Cricket Hill Farm! The text detailed a seven-month training regime. Rest days were scheduled, but workouts sometimes numbered as many as three a day. In addition to this, the training units were performed at different parts of the day, covering a time frame that ranged from early morning to midnight. Two horses worked as a team to pull the chariot; this was another aspect that was addressed so that their pairing was evenly matched to work together effectively.

The use of horse drawn chariots was a key military component for all Bronze Age civilizations, not just the Hittites. Babylonians, Egyptians, Assyrians, Scythians and the Ancient Greek cultures all incorporated their use, each one individualizing and improving upon chariot design and durability. Kikkuli's training method is the earliest example we know of however, and subsequent methods of improving equestrian fitness—including our modern approach today—owes him a nod of thanks.



(LEFT) Tablets 1&2, The Kikkuli Texts, 1345 BCE, Collection of the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin; (RIGHT) Stone panel from the Northwest corner of the Palace of Ashurbanipal (northern Iraq) 883-859 BCE, Collection of the British Museum

Vet Wrap on Life

By Lyla Andrick

My fellow equestrians, before I divulge into the particulars of Vet Wrap, let me preface with a small story. As a child I had a peculiar fancy for sticking things together. I had every kind of duct tape and would tape all sorts of things together regardless of whether they belonged permanently attached. Go into your kitchen or garage and look through your drawers...I'll bet you have duct tape too. I have recently changed my views on duct tape upon the discovery of vet wrap. It's fun, stretchy, does not cause permanent damage...very useful. The first roll I bought was at the Equine Affaire, I brought it home and wrapped all my stuffed horses in bright blue. It was perfect practice for my future career as a vet.

I have now controlled my excessive use of vet wrap and am happy to explain the miraculous (and much fewer) ways to use vet wrap properly. Since wrapping around a horse's belly would likely use up the whole roll and vet wrap can only stick to itself, we are limited to only using it on legs and hooves and such. The former two I will be talking about in this column.

Vet wrapping legs is very similar to using a polo wrap. It comes on a roll like toilet paper and sticks to itself. If a horse has received an injury to his leg, for example a cut along the cannon bone area, begin by taking an absorbent material such as cotton or gauze (if unavailable, maxi-pads and diapers also suffice) and wad/wrap it up around the site of injury. Holding the cotton in place, start unrolling the vet wrap. Begin to wind it around the horse's leg with the end of the wrap facing towards the front of the horse. Start by rolling the wrap around the back of the horse's leg with a slight tension. When you begin to pull around the front of the leg increase the tension. Continue this pattern for as many rounds necessary (does not have to be as long as the polo wrap). Some people ask why we wrap a horse on one direction. Find your pony and examine its leg from the side. You'll notice the front of the leg is bone while the back of the leg is squishy and flexible, that is a tendon. When we pull the vet wrap around the front we only increase tension around their bone whereas if you pulled around the back it would pull on their tendon, possibly causing them pain or damage if you pull too hard.

Wrapping a hoof can be much more difficult because a horse must stand still, a hoof is an uneven surface, and wrapping it for the first time can be tricky. Most times a hoof only needs to be wrapped when a horse has an abscess like an imbedded nail that needs puss to be drained. It is a nice thing to know how to do it just in case. A good way to practice is by wrapping a large soup can. Tape a wad of toilet paper to the bottom of the can. This would be the same thing as cotton padding you would put over the sole of the hoof. Get your vet wrap and start by wrapping around the bottom of the can as if it was the bottom of the hoof. At one point after about two or three rotations, start to turn the vet wrap across the hoof (as if you were drawing in a diameter). When the wrap reaches the other side, wind it around the hoof again until you reach the place where you started the last cross over. Cross over again and continue this in a star-like pattern until you have full hoof coverage.



TSCG Top Ten

By Misty (Lyla)

Hey there guys! So...do you remember last year when I wrote about all those crazy stallion pick-up lines? Well it seems this Valentine's Day poor Misty is in the arena alone...there are no really decent stallions around. I've been complaining all the while to poor Zeus...he's been such a good friend to me, especially when I rant. Some how I guess I always go to Zeus when I'm on the forehand...I wonder what this means? Could Zeus be—the one? No...never. Besides, he mentioned being in love with some pretty, smart mare. But I always feel so great around him! Even my few dapples tingle when talk. Perhaps I'll show him I like him more than a friend...but how? A GIFT!

1. A chocolate sampler maybe?
2. A hand made card?
3. Maybe horse cookies in the shape of hearts
4. Perhaps a gift card to the Haystack café
5. Or an picture album of all our favorite moments with some of the funny things we've said
6. I could make him a cake. He likes cake.
7. He loves music...maybe love song records...
8. I COULD SING AT HIM. No...no. Bad idea.
9. I could write a poem and slip it in his stall...
10. Or we could simple go to the Haystack as "friends" and I could confess my feelings.

Who knew this could be so hard! I can't believe that my heart truly belonged to Zeus all along! He's so sweet and nice, how could I not have seen this sooner! I have to go to him! Wish me luck! (*To see if Misty and Zeus got together, check for a note at the stable!*)

Madison's New Home

By Lulu Levy

Dear friends,

It is I, Sir Madison the Stallion. Long time no see. Have no fear, I am alive and happy. Let me tell you about my new home. First of all I live in a paddock with a pony (12.2hh) named Elliot. He is tri-colored! Since it is December, and I am of royal status, I have a stall for the night. It is alright except that I have to babysit this hot headed thoroughbred named Booyah. Seriously he is so nervous that his previous babysitter, Rascal, had to go to shows with him! Oh and I also have my own limo trailer. The downside is that every other week that take me to this farm where my human rides me under the instruction of this person who thinks that we have 'potential' ucch. Do you know what that means? Work! How horrid! On the bright side, I have a girlfriend named Cinderella who I get to ride with every weekend. We do this thing called drill team and our riders ride us without saddles and bridle! Just halters and lead roles! But don't worry, I am still me and I drag her all around that arena and when we switch riders, I make sure that the other children hate me. The only problem is that the more I try to be mean to them, the more they want to ride me. Seriously I am being fought over. I did manage to get Paris to fall off me so yay. But do not fear, the other girls fall off at least 3 times a practice. Also they took this embarrassing picture of us with the human's socks on our ears and they were barefoot like me. But seriously, poor prim (paris' mare) her ears must of been singed off from the smell.

TSCG Photo Gallery



Photo for *Madison's New Home*



Lulu: a new thoroughbred mare!



Lyla's cartooning presentation at WEP