

Capital City Horse and Pony Club

www.capitalcityhorseandpony.com

12900 North 14th Street, Raymond, Nebraska

Phone: 480-5307

April 2011

Newsletter #5



MINUTES

The Board meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Ding-A-Ling. Those in attendance were Jay Butterfield, Mike Hula, Mikayla Whaley, Travis Husa, Ken Lonowski, Vanessa Butterfield, Ellie Hula, Jonna Sipp, Chris Lonowski, Nancy Hula, Hailey Hula, Deb Welch, Heather Welch, Pam Butterfield, Melissa Ebeling, Fran Smith-Roemer, Marco Rosin, Don Hansen, Rachel Hansen, Jamie Hansen, Shane Ostransky, Lena Ostransky, April Ostransky, Lisa Finnell, Cleon Finnell, and Makena Finnell..

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. April Ostransky presented the Treasurer's Report to let us know the current balance is \$5149. The first half of property taxes in the amount of \$401 are soon due. Mike presented receipts to April for costs on the extended announcer's stand. Fran is donating a printer/fax/copier. Since there is a printer/copier located at the club, Fran's printer will be stored at the home of the Secretary.

Deb Welch reported that she was ready for the first playday. There will be no parking in old Trail area or horses allowed back there.

Don ok'd the 2011 Speed showbill. No report on 4D. Fran will arrange for Cowboy Church.

Old Business: Mike is working on information for restrooms and we need to fix the water leak near the cookshack. Lloyd Jacobek suggested two septic tanks and we need to check on permits and zoning. Several guys will go to the grounds on Tuesday to work on the hydrant. There was also talk about the restroom building and toilets.

The old stove will be moved out of the cookshack.

Marquis letters are priced at 300 for \$82 and are size 8" w 9" panel. Everyone agreed we need to order new letters.

May is when insurance is due and we shall look at property values to decide if we want to make any changes.

Terri McKeogh is interested in holding a Good-Hands clinic. Several members who are currently working with her will get more information and talk to her.

We will check into getting signs to post around the grounds regarding some of our rules. Dogs on Leash was one topic in mind. We need to get another Equine Liability sign as well. Tammi Vogel mentioned she had an extra and Deb said she would talk to her about it.

Melissa said she had a cork board we could put in the office and Randy? Has a dry-erase board we might be able to use.

Melissa spoke to Marty Cruickshank about the 4H raffle for a show bridle and will arrange to have tickets for sale at the playday.

The next meeting will be May 2, 2011 at the CCHPC grounds.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Butterfield, Secretary

CREATING A BARN SOUR HORSE By Jeffrey Rolo (www.alphahorse.com)

Envision this... You set out to enjoy a peaceful trail ride with your horse, but as soon as you gain a little distance from the stable your horse begins to resist. He starts dancing from side to side and neighing loudly, but you're determined to press on. As the battle of wills escalates your horse begins rearing and that's when you decide to pack things in and head back home. Unfortunately, your horse is barn sour!

Or how about this.... You begin a long and soothing ride with your horse and everything is going along great. After thirty minutes have passed you decide it's time to turn around and leisurely head back to the stable. The closer you get to the stable, the more excited your horse becomes. As you reach the final stretch you're doing everything within your power to prevent your horse from galloping back to the barn like a madman. Unfortunately, your horse is barn sour.

Few things are as frustrating as a barn sour horse, yet more often than not we are responsible for creating that condition in the first place. Throughout this article I will use "you" in a generic sense when discussing the causes of a soured horse, but understand that it doesn't mean you created the problem – it could easily have been a past owner or trainer.

There are actually three types of "barn sour" states:

Barn Sour

This classification is reserved for horses that do not wish to head a distance away from the stable. The two most common reasons a horse may become barn sour are:

- Insecurity – The horse is fearful of leaving the barn and you don't have the bond of trust required to appease his fears.
- Stubbornness – Some horses can become barn sour out of pure stubbornness; they simply don't want to leave the property!

If your horse is sour due to insecurity then chances are very high you didn't take the time to establish a bond of trust with your horse before taking him out for a trail ride. Most horses are followers, not leaders, so if you don't take the time to earn his respect then why should he trust in you to keep him safe in the big scary world?

Some horses are more courageous than others by nature, but ultimately it's the rider's responsibility to establish himself as a dependable leader for the horse before trying to push him beyond his comfort zone.

Just as with people, some horses are going to be more naturally bull-headed than others. But that being said, if a horse is barn sour due to stubbornness rather than fear it's probably because you or a previous owner/trainer allowed poor behavior in the past. Horses will often test their limits, and if they succeed in refusing to leave the property once then chances are high they will provide a battle every single time you try to leave the property. Before you know it you have a barn sour horse on your hands!

Eventually some horses can become so barn sour that even the best horse trainer may decide it's just not worth the battle and write off the horse.

Gate Sour

A gate sour horse will exhibit the same general behavior as a barn sour horse anytime you ask him to enter an arena. The common reasons a horse may become gate sour are:

- Boredom – Every single time you enter the riding ring you perform the same routine time after time after time. Your horse is now tired of it and will do anything to avoid another boring session.
- Discomfort – You work the horse so hard in the arena he leaves exhausted and sore. He sure as heck isn't going to look forward to such brutal sessions.
- Stubbornness – The horse may simply be stubborn or lazy, and since he has determined you are not his superior he will begin a battle of wills with you to get out of working.

The first two causes above are self-explanatory and thus the preventative action required on our part to keep a horse from becoming gate sour should be equally evident.

Dealing with a stubborn horse is the trickiest of the three causes, but technically you shouldn't be allowing him to dictate the terms of your relationship to you. Before proceeding further you must establish yourself as the head honcho, because if you allow him to defy you more than once you run the risk of creating a permanently gate sour horse.

Herd Bound

A horse becomes herd bound when he is extremely insecure about leaving an equine friend behind. Rather than view the other horse as a buddy, your horse views him as a vital security blanket he cannot do without. You will know the difference between a barn sour horse and a herd bound horse by the addition of some frantic and high-pitched neighing. If your horse neighs dramatically to his partner he is clearly herd bound.

The majority of herd-bound horses are created during their earliest months of life when a human failed to instill a trust of humans into the foal. A foal should always experience human interaction at those early stages so that it's as natural for him to be in the presence of us as it is other horses.

There are two periods where a foal is particularly susceptible to developing a dependence on other horses: the imprinting period and the weaning period.

If you imprint a foal improperly such that you traumatize him instead of reassure him during your efforts to make him accept you as his leader, he will have an inherent distrust of humans. This distrust will put him at risk of becoming herd bound in the future.

The weaning period is the most stressful time in a horse's life, so it's especially important that you handle it properly. When the foal is pulled away from his mother it's essential that you fill the gap rather than another horse. I personally prefer to keep a foal isolated from direct contact with other horses during that period. He can interact over a fence, but hands-on interaction should be reserved for me. If you become his leader during this stressful time, chances are close to zero that your horse will become herd bound.

If you do put your foal into direct contact with other horses during the weaning period, try to make sure he isn't matched with just one horse for an extended period of time. Companionship is fine but an unhealthy dependence on another horse will put him at high risk in the future.

As you can see, the horse owner is more often than not the root cause of a horse becoming barn sour, so being alert to the triggers will help you avoid encouraging this vice in your horse. If your horse is already barn sour then prevention is a bit too late, so I would recommend you read "Working With a Barn Sour Horse" to find advice on removing this vice.

2011 Officers and Board of Directors

- President-Jay Butterfield
- Vice President-Mike Hula
- Secretary-Pam Butterfield
- Treasurer-April Ostransky
- Playday Chair-Deb Welch
- Speed Series Chair-Don Hansen
- Roping Events Chair-Clay Heerman
- Jackpot Barrels Chair-Carla Finkner
 - 2011 Board-Melissa Bartels
 - 2011 Board-Jonna Sipp
 - 2012 Board-Donna Snover
 - 2012 Board-Nancy Hula
 - 2013 Board-Chris Lonowski
 - 2013 Board-Lisa Finnell
 - Youth Board-Heather Welch
- Youth Board-Vanessa Butterfield
- Youth Board- Nicole Finkner



Ride for the fun of it.....