

SOUND HORSE CONFERENCE

MARCH 28 & 29, 2014 | BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE



www.SoundHorseConference.com





Front cover photos

Top: Santa Rosa Plateau Riding Club, Elin Motherhead, Trail Boss. Murrieta, California

Bottom Left: Caroline Emery of Black Anvil Equestrian with "An Amazing Grace."

Bottom Center: Dee Hasler at a driving competition.

Bottom Right: Golden champagne THC Stallion Pleasure's Pot o' Gold gaiting bridleless ridden by Sandra van den Hof, Belgium.

Dr. Susan Garlinghouse, DVM, FOSH member with her Tennessee Walking Horse John Henry at Cougar Rock, in the Tevis 2013 competition. This was the only gaited horse to complete Tevis 2013 in all of the grueling heat, placing 29th out of 79 to finish. Photo is by Bill Gore.

Program Summary

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014

Location: FourPoints by Sheraton Nashville Brentwood TN

7:00pm - 8:30pm **Cocktail Reception Meet & Greet**

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014

Location: FourPoints by Sheraton Nashville Brentwood TN

8:30am **Welcome**
Master of Ceremonies: Marty Irby

8:45am - 10:00am **Enjoying a Good Career with Gaited Horses in The Future**
Franne Brandon, Heritage Society breeder
Nya Bates, trainer
Jan Sousa, breeder
Cat Dye, trainer
Gary Lane, clinician

10:00am - 10:15am **PAST Act Update & "Now That's a Walking Horse"**
Keith Dane

10:15am - 10:30am **Break**

10:30am - 11:45am **Spring: A Necessity for the Winning Gait**
John Haffner, DVM
Current Spring Tactics
Tracy Turner, DVM
Jimmy Norris
Neal Valk, DVM
Donna Benefield

11:45am - 12:15pm **What the Pain of Spring Really Feels Like:**
Mike J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH

12:15pm **Luncheon** with invocation by
Pastor Clay Harlin

12:30pm - 1:00pm **"Break Every Chain: Stepping Out to Where We Draw the Line in the Sand":** Pastor Clay Harlin

1:15pm - 2:15pm **The Future of Walking Horse Competitions**

Shows & Rail Classes: Jason Crawhorn
Gaited Dressage: Julie Dillon
Gaited distance/endurance: Cindy King
Versatility: Dee Hasler

2:15pm - 2:30pm **Break**

2:30pm - 3:30pm **USDA Horse Protection Program**

3:30pm - 4:00pm **How My Life Changed Because of Spring:** Carl Bledsoe

4:00pm - 4:15pm **Concluding Remarks & Adjournment**

6:00pm - 8:00pm **Group Dinner**

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2014

**Location: Rising Glory Farm
2616 Franklin Pike, Lewisburg, TN**

10:00am - 2:00pm

Finding the Magic: Starting the Gaiting Process:

Nationally-known gaiting clinician Gary Lane will work with riders on a variety of rescued Tennessee Walking Horses (including some ex-performance show horses) from Horse Haven of Tennessee. You will get to see a glimpse of the natural way to developing each horse's best gait. Horse Haven of Tennessee's Executive Director, Nina Margetson will also be on hand.



A Flair for the Future

A very special exhibition by young trainer Cat Dye and Caroline Emery on their Tennessee Walking Horses, including Cat's "fabulous registered TWH Hunter horse

who is a very impressive jumper," and Caroline and Cat doing do speed games and tandem ring jousting which really shows off the versatility of a finished, natural Tennessee Walking Horse.

Lunch concessions provided.



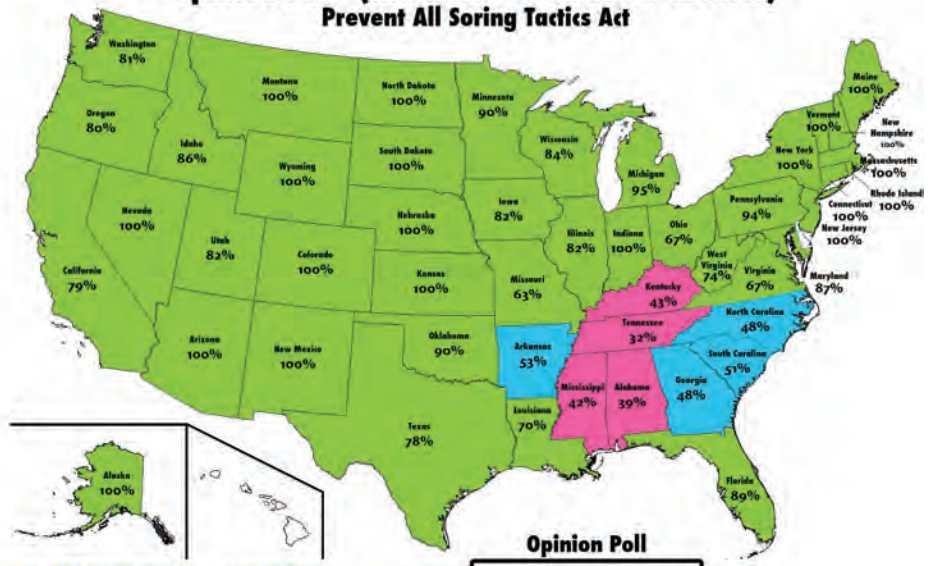
Heritage-certified mare "Echo's Lady Bug Allen," imported from the USA, being ridden bitless by Sandra van den Hof, Belgium.

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Cocktail Reception
Meet & Greet**

Enjoy a chance to mingle with fellow gaited horse enthusiasts, chat with presenters on tomorrow's agenda, and discuss your philosophies and questions about bringing the sound horse to the forefront of the future.

**Opinion Poll (H.R. 1518 - S. 1406 PAST ACT)
Prevent All Soring Tactics Act**



ALL INTERNATIONAL = 100% YES

Opinion Poll

- Yes
- No
- Evenly Divided

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8:30AM – 8:45AM

Welcome: Master of Ceremonies, Marty Irby



Marty Irby (left) with Senator Joe Tydings, Father of the Horse Protection Act

William T. "Marty" Irby, Jr.

In 1955 Dr. L.E. Irby, Marty's grandfather veterinarian, took a Tennessee Walking Horse named "Sunset Sue E" in on trade for a vet bill. Marty began riding Performance Tennessee Walking Horses at the age of three.

In 2003 Marty was hired as the Director of Sales & Marketing for Waterfall Farms. He served for 4 years in the position at Waterfall where he had the opportunity to work with over 2,000 different individual breeders from around the world.

In 2005 Irby was elected to the TWHBEA International Board of Directors from the State of Tennessee for the first time. He worked hard to implement and secure the addition of the Trail Pleasure Division and classes to the National Futurity for the first time in May of 2006. In December of 2006, he was elected Vice-President of Marketing on the Executive Committee. In 2009, Irby was elected to the TWHBEA International Board of Directors a second time, and he was subsequently elected as Vice-President of Marketing.

After finishing his term in 2010 as Marketing VP, and after much deliberation, Irby declined the nomination as Vice-President of Enforcement for 2011, and ran from the floor for President of TWHBEA. He was elected to the position, and became the youngest President in TWHBEA history at age 31. Irby was nominated for a second term as President for 2012 to which he was elected unopposed.

During Irby's two terms as President some of his most successful accomplishments include the hiring of former TWHNC CEO, Ron Thomas as TWHBEA Executive Director, and implementation of online registrations, online stallion reports, horse name reservations, and the owner (half transfer) identification program. During his first term, the association grew from 9,500 Members to 10,500 members in less than 6 months. This represented a 9% increase and made TWHBEA the only breed registry in the United States with an increase in membership in 2011. This growth was above all other breeds, and all organizational members of The American Horse Council.

Following his two terms as President of TWHBEA, Irby served as Immediate Past President on the Executive Committee from December 2012-July 2013. He, along with President Tracy Boyd, led the charge for the association's endorsement of The Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST), an amendment to the Horse Protection Act of 1970. Irby became a lifetime member of FOSH.

Irby later testified before Congress about the rampant soring within the padded performance walking horse sector. He currently serves as a Congressional Aide in Washington, D.C. to Congressman Ed Whitfield, the lead sponsor of the PAST Act.

Abbreviations & Definitions Used in these Discussions

- USDA** United States Department of Agriculture
- VMO** Veterinary Medical Officer (inspector from USDA)
- HIO** Horse Industry Organization (a gaited horse organization certified by USDA to perform inspections)
- DQP** Designated Qualified Person (inspector from HIO)
- HPA** Horse Protection Act (1970 Federal law that prohibits soring)
- APHIS:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a division of the USDA
- PAST:** Prevent All Soring Tactics Act before Congress, 2013 & 2014

HIO's Certified with the USDA (past and present)

- DQPS:** DQP Services
- FOSH:** Friends of Sound Horses
- HOA:** Heart of America Walking Horse Association
- HPC:** Horse Protection Commission
- KWHA:** Kentucky Walking Horse Association
- IWHA:** International Walking Horse Association
- MFT:** Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association Inc.
- NHSC:** National Horse Show Commission
- NWHA:** National Walking Horse Association
- OHA:** Oklahoma Horse Association
- PRIDE:** Professional Regulation & Inspection for Dedicated Equestrians
- RHBA:** Racking Horse Breeders' Association
- SHOW:** Sound Horse Honest Judging Objective Inspections Winning Fairly
- SSHBEA:** Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association
- UMH:** United Mountain Horses, Inc.
- WIWHA:** Western International Walking Horse Association
- WHOA:** Walking Horse Owners' Association

8:45AM – 10:00AM

Enjoying a Good Career with Gaited Horses in the Future

These panelists are steeped in various careers where they see a bright future for the Tennessee Walking Horse and other gaited breeds. From all parts of the country, you will hear more about Heritage-certified breeders, trainers who have a vibrant business helping develop gait for their customers, riding instructors, clinicians specializing in gaited horses, and breeders with decades of satisfied customers.



Franne Brandon

Franne Brandon is a native Tennessean who grew up in the same town where the first World Champion Mare, Lillie White, was trained. In spite of attending weekend walking horse shows several times a month, she never saw any flat-shod horses doing the nodding, over-striding gait that her dad described seeing in the thirties. She began a quest to find some natural walking horses, eventually meeting a guy whose stallion could do three distinct gaits. They got married and began a family quest to produce walking horse foals with that natural walking ability that were also well built, smart, and sweet natured. In 2003, she was involved in the formation of the Tennessee Walking Horse Heritage Society dedicated to the preservation and promotion of bloodlines that were in danger of being lost to the breed. Professionally, Franne was an undergraduate English major at MTSU and then received a master's in library science from George Peabody College. Now retired from teaching, she writes a column for *Walking Horse News* in Canada called "From Foundations to the Future" and is also the copy editor of the electronic newsletter *Heritage Highlights*.

Nya Bates discovered Tennessee Walkers in 1974 while stationed in Alabama as an Army nurse. Returning to California she began exhibiting her flat shod stallion and transforming unsuccessful performance show horses into valued trail and rail mounts.

Nya's stallion Go Boy's Windwalker had an incredible natural gait and disposition, which helped promote the breed in show rings, horse expos and clinics. His offspring excel in a variety of disciplines in the U.S. and Europe.

People praise Nya's contribution to the TWH and other gaited breeds because she shows owners how gait can be obtained through training and patience instead of gimmicks and discomfort. Her quick, experienced eye allows her to determine the most comfortable gait for the horse's conformation, no matter the breed. She's in perfect alignment with the FOSH principles honoring what a horse can do naturally as opposed to forcing it into an uncomfortable frame to satisfy pre-determined expectations.

Nya and her husband, Rocky, live in Idaho and breed Heritage and Heritage Outcross TWHs, Angus cattle and raise alfalfa. She trains field trial, trail, therapy, hunting, and pleasure horses from their farm and travels the country offering riding and training clinics. In 2010, Nya was named both FOSH Breeder and Trainer of the Year.



Nya Bates



Jan Sousa and Buddy

Jan Sousa

Pal was my first horse, when I was eight. He insisted on jogging home, and I hated that prance after 12 hours bareback. So when I rode my first Tennessee Walking Horse in 1984, I told my husband, "I am ready to buy a horse." Not having any TWH trainers around, I figured out that if I let them relax and get their nose out a little, they would just walk and shake! Collection came much later. We raised a full brother to our daughter's champion trail pleasure mare with Merry Go Boy, Rodger's Perfection and Midnight Sun breeding, and began raising our own babies in the mid nineties. In the beginning we used the horses we did not sell for work around the ranch and packing the family of six into the wilderness. We participated in versatility and rail classes when there were five shows in a summer within a three hour drive. Then we turned to cowboy mounted shooting and team penning. Seven years ago we started inviting clients and friends back for a Tennessee Walking Horse rendezvous, where as many as 60 people and their horses, many of which we bred, come and camp, share stories and ride for four days. This will be our seventh year. We love to see how our foals have matured. These naturally-gaited, good-minded, versatile horses are easy to sell!



Cat Dye

Cat Dye

"I am a 25-year-old trainer specializing in teaching children. I take unwanted Tennessee Walking Horses and give them jobs teaching at our Riva Lake facility in Winchester TN." Cat Dye's family has been involved with the Tennessee Walking Horse since the earliest days of the show at Wartrace. Her great-grandfather raised and trained halter weanlings and her grandfather, Charles Dye, used to show them on the line. She remembers, "One of my first gifts was his white handled show crop. The Celebration was always the biggest part of our year. We were there every single night but Sunday and we still have our box, although it is not as full as I once remember it." Cat started riding lessons at age five at Riva Lake Riding Stables in Winchester, Tennessee. After several years of lessons, her parents bought her the greatest gift: a solid black, 16h Walking Horse mare with a back end that just wouldn't quit. Cat remembers, "I took her in the ring hundreds of times in both light and heavy shod classes, and for a time she was even padded."

As I started to seek new things, I began studying Dressage and eventually I went to Virginia Intermont College, where I rode on the "A" Circuit jumping with my Holsteiner mare and showing my TWH (who was now in her 20's) in Eventing and Cross Country. I rode and worked for Shannon Bishop and Andrea Leonard Barr of Riverside Farm. I worked through college as a live-in farm hand at the Pemberton where I focused on Natural Horsemanship, which garnered me a strong appreciation for hard work."

"It's a shame that we have to have a bill to stop this terrible practice but it's obvious after years trying to police it internally nothing has changed. The practice of soring is alive and well despite the so called compliance at inspections. Any padded horse or heavy shod horse that goes into the show ring is sored. Bottom line.

There is no way that a padded horse or heavy shod horse can perform the big lick or an exaggerated gait without the use of chemicals and chains or pressure shoeing. As a previous owner I know the truth and those in the industry continue to deny it exists, I say to them, 'How can you sleep at night knowing that is going on to their horse, its abuse plain and simple.'

– Kim Walker

previous big-lick horse owner, Wartrace, TN

Cat studied Equine Sciences and Art and after obtaining her Bachelor's degree, she returned to Riva Lake and began a riding and training business with about ten rescues, half of which were Tennessee Walking Horses. Cat has a passion for teaching children, and soon outgrew their old facility and purchased a much larger barn.

Cat tells us, "We now act as a rescue and re-homing facility where unwanted horses can earn a living teaching children. Black Anvil Equestrian is partially community-run and over half the labor for the 19 horses is done by children. We still focus on showing, but all the children learn both English and Saddle-seat styles because of our variety. I focus on Franklin County's 4-H program. I grew up riding saddle seat and then got into Hunter/Jumpers and acted as a competitor and trainer's assistant on the "A" circuit. We use our walking horses for a variety of purposes including jumping and cross country. I love a deep shakin' flat walker. A horse and rider I trained were featured at the University of Tennessee's 2013 homecoming game. Of our 19 horses, 12 are Tennessee Walking Horses.

I believe that the Tennessee Walking Horse breed has a future not as a gaudy, tortured monstrosity of human-kind but as the powerful sport horse that they were originally designed to be."

Gary Lane has worked with many gaited horses over the years, and is dedicated to enhancing the knowledge of the novice and professional gaited horse riders, developing a free going horse, and obtaining a smooth easy gait.



Gary Lane

He has spent many years teaching leadership skills to young military officers, which has given him a unique insight into the relationship between horse and rider. As a military commander in Desert Storm, and a Kentucky State Police Detective, he understands that leadership has an important role in training any horse.

His ability to break the training down into simple steps is an asset to his teaching style. This creates a positive learning experience for the horse and rider. Gary's definition of horse training is "the art of influencing and directing your horse to obtain his willing obedience in the accomplishment of a task."

Since the release of his best-selling gaited horse book, *Training the Gaited Horse, From the Trail to the Rail*, and his 3 training DVDs, he has helped thousands of people find the magic in their gaited horse.

10:00AM – 10:15AM

PAST Act Update & “Now That’s a Walking Horse”

Hear the latest update on the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act’s progress through Congress, what it will mean in changes for trainers and exhibitors, and the legislation’s expected timeline. Also learn about the positive rewards, both grants and recognition, designed to encourage opportunities for the use, care, and training of Tennessee walking horses apart from the traditional show ring.

Keith Dane

As Vice President of Equine Protection for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Keith Dane oversees the domestic horse welfare programs for the nation’s largest animal protection organization. Those efforts include a nationwide campaign to end the slaughter of America’s horses in the U.S. and abroad, a horse owner education program, addressing cases of equine cruelty and neglect, securing the welfare of horses used in sport, work and racing and the rehoming of America’s at-risk and homeless horses.

Prior to joining HSUS, Dane served as executive director of Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH), an organization established to eliminate cruelties in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. He served as FOSH’s liaison to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its certified inspection program under the Horse Protection Act.

Dane has been working to protect horses for more than 25 years. He is a horseman who has owned, showed, bred and trained horses for most of his life, a licensed judge with many gaited breed organizations, and co-founded of one of the first show circuits for the sound gaited horse community, created as an alternative to the “Big Lick” shows that can involve cruelty in training.



Keith Dane

10:15AM – 10:30AM

Break

10:30AM – 10:45AM

Soring: A Necessity for the Winning Gait

This equine veterinarian, with a lifetime of experience with show Tennessee Walking Horses, will explain his life journey that brought him to this public declaration: “The fact is the big lick can only be accomplished by soring. When one soring technique becomes detectable, another one is developed. The big lick is a learned response to pain and if horses have not been sored, they do not learn it.”

John C. Haffner D.V.M. ABVP(Eq)

Campbell Haffner, who had a life-long love of horses, was born and raised in Franklin, Tennessee. He always kept and rode horses while he was growing up. He served in WWII in the Pacific theatre as a staff sergeant. After returning to Franklin, in the late 1940’s he bred Tennessee Walking horses and showed yearling colts. When he got married, he decided he could not afford horses and children, so he quit breeding walking horses. But he always showed his love for horses to his children by providing spotted ponies for them to ride. He was very dismayed at the direction the walking horse industry took in the 1950’s with the emphasis on



John Haffner with Hey Dare

the big lick. He frequently expressed his disgust for the practice of soring and preferred to watch the natural gaited horses and yearlings. He was quick to point out how unnatural and cruel built up pads, chains, tail sets, and all the artificialities imposed on the horses were. He was a man of principal, but he never forced his point of view on his children. He led by the example of a simple and honorable life. Dr. Johnny Haffner is the son of Campbell Haffner.

From his roots in Franklin, Tennessee, Johnny Haffner went on to receive his DVM from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Haffner’s esteemed career has been highlighted with prestigious university faculty positions teaching equine courses, over 20 published articles, and over 88 presentations worldwide on equine topics. His career in veterinary medicine has taken him to Mongolia, Kenya, Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Johnny Haffner current serves on the faculty of the Middle Tennessee State University.



Larry Weelon’s court file records, 2013.

10:45AM – 11:45AM

Current Soring Tactics

This panel of experts, with a combination of 150+ years' experience with Tennessee Walking show horses, will openly discuss the current abuses and methods used to achieve the winning "big lick" and flat-shod performance gaits. A combination of presentations with open-format questions and answers will allow these panelists to fully explore the topic.



Tracy Turner

Tracy A. Turner, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, Dipl. ACVSMR

Tracy Turner began his professional career as a farrier in 1972 and used those skills to help finance his education. He received his DVM degree from Colorado State University in 1978, after which he was able to pursue his interest in equine medicine and surgery. He was an intern at the University of Georgia. He completed a surgical residency and Master's degree at Purdue University. He served on the faculty of the University of Illinois, University of Florida and the University of Minnesota. He left the University to join Anoka Equine Clinic in 2004 where his responsibilities include Sports Medicine, Lameness, and Surgery. He is board certified in Veterinary Surgery (Dipl. ACVS), Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (Dipl. ACVSMR) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Thermology. Turner's primary area of research interests has focused on equine lameness with particular interest in equine podiatry and thermography. He has spoken nationally and internationally on lameness

topics. He has written over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts, over 250 non-peer reviewed papers, and 30 book chapters. Turner consults for the USDA Horse Protection, Federation Equestrienne Internationale (FEI) and United States Equestrienne Federation.



Jimmy Norris

Jimmy Norris came from humble beginnings in the small town of Morehead, Kentucky; showing his first horse at the age of nine. With a love for the horses, he went on to become an award-winning and highly skilled horse trainer doing business in several states before heading out west to California in 1989. With over 30 years of experience, mostly in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, what distinguishes him from others is his uncanny ability to guide horses of all divisions to the winner's circle and his desire to promote all divisions of the Tennessee Walking Horse. He is also known for seeing the potential in one that may have otherwise been overlooked. While training in California, Jimmy has achieved 44 World Championships and 47 Reserve World Championships at the most prestigious competitive horse show of the year, The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. He has a special interest in ensuring the Walking Horse industry not only survives, but regains some of its former prestige by leveling the playing field. Based in San Martin, California, Jimmy is determined to bring together the industry and continue to be an advocate for the horse. He may be contacted at 408-607-5798.

Neal Valk, D.V.M. DACVS is a 1989 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. During his nearly 25 years as a practicing equine veterinarian he has been employed in four private equine practices and two university hospitals. From 1994 to 1997 he performed a residency in large animal surgery at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. While employed as an equine surgeon at the University of Florida



Neal Valk

College of Veterinary Medicine from 1997 to 1998, he was awarded diplomate status by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. A self employed equine veterinarian and surgeon in East Tennessee since 1998, Dr. Valk has worked in gaited horse country and has been witness to the industry and its practices. He knows first-hand the nature of the performance horse business and the impact on his equine patients. Dr. Valk has a special interest in equine podiatry and currently resides in Greeneville, Tennessee with his wife, son, and daughter.

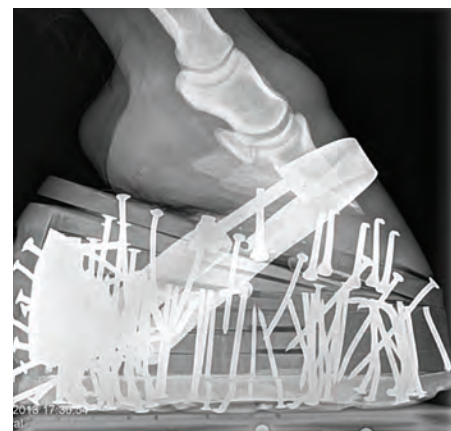


Donna Benefield was the owner of an Emmy-award-winning film studio in California, and she apprenticed under Hollywood horse trainer Glenn Randall. She also has experience as an exhibitor at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration with horses that she owned and trained. Since 1987, Donna has been involved in the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act as a speaker, consultant, licensed DQP and expert witness. She co-founded the Horse Protection Commission, an HIO certified by the USDA. She has been the Vice President of Inspectors for the International Walking Horse Association HIO since 2010. In 2010, Donna was hired by the HIO SHOW, Inc., to work as a liaison expert between SHOW and USDA regarding the horse inspections conducted by USDA's VMOs and SHOW DQPs for the entire duration of the 2010 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. Donna has attended more than 150 meetings at USDA headquarters and on Capitol Hill concerning regulations and enforcement of the Horse Protection Act. She most recently submitted expert witness testimony in 2013 to Congress.

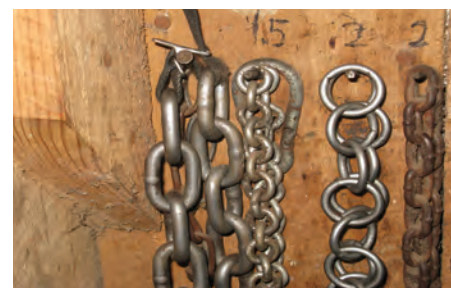
Current Soring Tactics, Practices



USDA Image, 2013 Show



USDA Image, June 2013 Show



"I went to the Tunica horse show last weekend with my two very sound horses ... I came back with horrible images in my mind. I had never seen stewarding before and every single time that I took my horses up to DQP, before rounding the corner, I saw stewarding at its finest. A man was whipping his horse every time the groom made him flinch, they were combing scurf off horses legs and doing pre-DQP checks and would hold the whip right next to the horse's face. It was horrible. A couple of the horses could hardly walk back to their stalls after their classes and the crowd just cheers the loudest on the sorest horse that is crawling around on its back end like a freak and giving high 5's on its front end. It's so disgusting and unnatural. People I took with me, for the first time to a horse show, said they won't go back and that this was animal cruelty at its worst. ... it is not just the trainers, it's the people, the crowds, the owners and exhibitors, they are the ones cheering for the horse that "does the most" no matter how sick and sad it looks. I wanted to cry for these poor horses there, it was the worst I have seen, the flat shod horses were terribly sore as well and the built-ups were just ridiculous."

– Tunica show observer from Texas



USDA Image, 2013



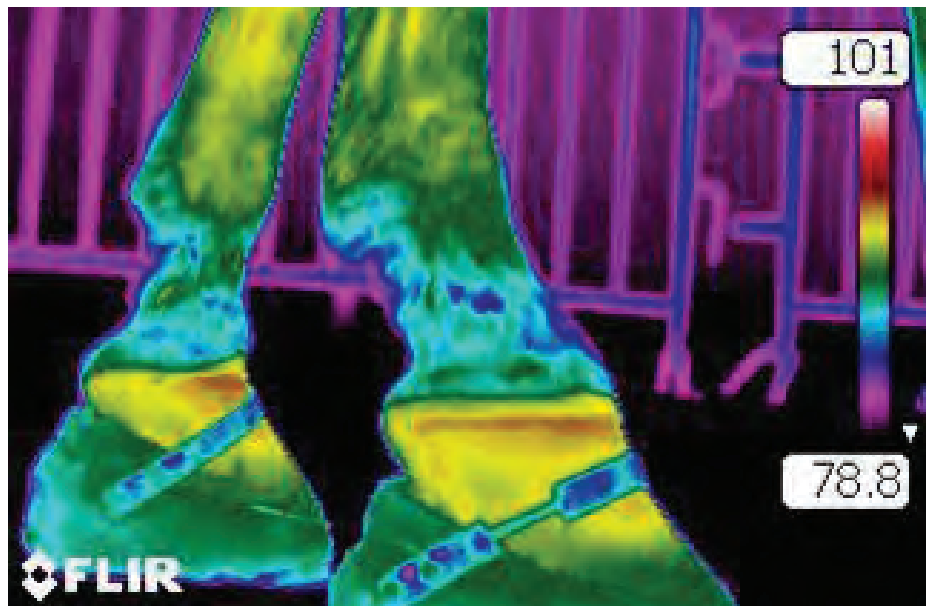
and Testimonials



Spotted Saddlehorse at 2013 Show

"Soring was rampant – chemical soring and the odor was heavy throughout the show grounds. Some horses had raw skin on their back legs. No hair at all and skin was very sensitive looking like just a touch would cause it to ooze. This show was affiliated with the HIO SHOW. They were swabbing. Sometimes the swabber had a rubber glove on and other times did not. Some horses were sent back to barn with no tickets. SHOW DQPs were smoking cigarettes in the inspection area. The stench of mustard oil always gives me a headache....tonight it gave me a migraine."

– Comments from an observer who took video footage at the 2013 Ashville show on Saturday night



Thermographics image at 2013 Show



Mississippi Charity Show 2013

11:45AM – 12:15PM

What the Pain of Soring Really Feels Like

Hear this veterinarian describe soring from the horse's point of view.

Michael J. Blackwell, D.V.M., M.P.H.



Michael Blackwell

Dr. Michael Blackwell is President of the Humane Society University, an affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. The university is the world's first institution solely devoted to human-animal studies, providing graduate programs and professional development to students on topics such as humane leadership, animal policy and advocacy, treatment of animal abuse, and humane education. He is dedicated to training tomorrow's leaders who will improve our global community.

Blackwell has had a distinguished career in public service. He was educated at Tuskegee University,

earning both a bachelor of science degree and a doctorate of veterinary medicine. He earned his master of public health degree from Loma Linda University. During 20 years with the FDA, Blackwell served in both its human and veterinary medicine branches, including as deputy director of the Center for Veterinary Medicine.

From 1994 to 1998, Blackwell served as the chief veterinarian of the United States Public Health Service. He went on to become chief of staff of the Office of the Surgeon General.

Blackwell left federal service to become the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. He led the college for eight years, during which he aggressively promoted the role of veterinary medicine in public health, and also served as vice chair of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production.

Among Blackwell's numerous awards, most notable are the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest personal honor award of the USPHS, and the Meritorious Service Medal, the second highest personal honor award. In addition, Blackwell twice received the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal.

12:15PM

Luncheon

12:30PM – 1:00PM

LUNCHEON SPEAKER Break Every Chain: Stepping Out to Where We Draw the Line in the Sand

Pastor Clay Harlin tells his journey from his lifelong involvement with Walking Horses, to the "ugly point in his life 13 years ago when he decided walk away from it lock, stock and barrel regardless of the consequences." He will tell about coming through this time, which he says is now "a place of bad memory for me," to his present world view, including how God says animals should be treated.

Clay Harlin, Teaching Pastor

Clay Harlin grew up in Nashville, attended Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, and has been a resident of Franklin since graduating from David Lipscomb University in 1977. It was May of 1973, early in his college education, that he heard and understood the amazing love of God. He fell in love with Jesus, and the Word of God, so much so that the following year he changed his major to Bible with an emphasis on preaching. Clay did not go into the full-time ministry until 2006, but as an ordained minister he has been actively teaching from the scriptures since 1977.

Professionally, Clay began his career in the management and sales of real estate. He was also active in the horse industry since childhood, and managed Harlinsdale Farm before becoming the Sales Manager of Tennessee Uniform and Towel Service. His last position, before the sale of the business in 2006, was the President and CEO of Mid South Uniform Service in Tullahoma, Tennessee. He has served on

Dominion Bank's Young Executive Council; as a director of the Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee; as a Director and Executive Committee member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association, with two year as the Senior Vice President; as a director of the Walking Horse Regulatory Committee; and as a Trustee of Battle Ground Academy. Clay feels that his "professional education" has



Soring Tactics and Tools

A and inset: Sole of hoof is pared out while a hardening object known as blue putty, is applied to cause pressure.

B: Pressure shoeing

C: Common soring chemical.

D: Sole pain devices.

Photos by USDA, 2013.

"Pressure Shoeing"
USDA file footage

strengthened his understanding of the Bible, and his firsthand knowledge of how the Lord works through the lives of men and women in the marketplace.

Spiritually Clay has taught Adult Bible classes and served as an Elder at various churches including the Fourth Avenue Church of Christ, Belmont Christian Assembly, Forrest Homes Church, Calvary Christian Fellowship, and New Hope Community Church. His mission travels have taken him to Romania, Ukraine, Honduras, India and Haiti.

God opened a door for him in 2005 to come on staff at the New Hope Community Church, where he currently serves as an Elder and Adult Bible teacher. He felt that it was a “dream come true” to be able to serve in the area of his passion.

Clay and his wife Faye make their home in Franklin, TN. Their oldest daughter Anna (Harlin) DuPerrieu and her son Jack also live in Franklin. Their son Captain C. Talbot Harlin Jr., USMC, and his wife Ashley, live in Temecula, California. Meredith, their youngest daughter, and her husband Captain Joel Lomasney, USMC, live in Jacksonville, North Carolina with their three boys.

Ps.9:10 “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”



Clay Harlin



TWH stallion Mable's Capriano ridden by Sandra van den Hof

SOUND HORSE CONFERENCE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States Department of Equine Protection celebrates the human/equine bond, works to educate and inspire horsemen to become better partners with and stewards of their animals, and takes on some of the most serious threats to equine welfare. Those efforts include nationwide campaigns to end the slaughter of America's horses in the United States and abroad, the forced removal and inhumane handling and treatment of our wild horses and burros, and the soring of Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds.



The HSUS advocates for the enactment of more effective anti-soring laws (including the federal Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act) and more stringent enforcement of them, and educates the public about the abuses of soring. We recognize and reward horsemen who practice humane methods to develop and promote this athletic, versatile breed, through our Now, That's a Walking Horse! award and recognition program.

1:15PM – 2:15PM

The Future of Walking Horse Competitions

And the future is bright for competitive endeavors, according to these panelists. They will describe shows and rail classes that are growing in size and popularity, the rapidly-growing specialty of gaited dressage, and how gaited horses are now a significant winning force in distance and endurance riding. You will also hear more about Tennessee Walking Horses' natural skills and abilities in versatility competitions.



Jason Crawhorn

Jason Crawhorn is a three term president of the National Walking Horse Association and had been involved in the walking horse industry for over 20 years. He and his wife Tiffany own J&T Stables, a 53 acre horse farm in Franklin, KY. Jason trains and starts horses of all breeds but specializes in sound flat-shod gaited horses. Jason is a successful trainer with the National Walking Horse Association and believes the future of the walking horse competition lies not only with the rail horse but also with dressage and versatility events. He has trained many National Grand Championships and Reserve Championships. In 2010 he and Cocoa's Red Zone were chosen to represent NWA and the Tennessee Walking Horse as one of only 10 equestrian demo teams at the World Equestrian Games held in Lexington, KY in 2010. This crowd-pleasing team has also demonstrated at the Equine Affaire in Columbus Ohio and the Mane Event in Bowling Green, KY.

Julie Dillon, Gaited Instructor and Clinician

Julie Dillon lives in New Hampshire with her husband Matt and five gaited horses. Julie is a member of FOSH, enrolled with the IJA Judge's Program, is a Certified Horsemanship Association Instructor and an apprentice with Clinician and Horse Trainer Gary Lane.

She is passionate about teaching and travels frequently as student and instructor, teaching lessons and continuing her education. Trail riding is the reason most folks saddle up but keeping a smooth way of going isn't always easy. Maintaining four beat natural gait using Dressage Principles on the trail or for the arena is the basis of her Gaited Clinics.

In 2007, Julie and "Stash's Hidden Ace" (TWH) began riding competitively in Open Dressage Schooling Shows and won the first of many Dressage Championships. Julie and her students have ridden Gaited Horses in Open Dressage Schooling Shows earning Championship and Reserve honors each year since then.

Julie trains with Master Dressage Instructor Katherine Dow. The 2014 season will begin her first year of Second Level open competition with "Prince Jester's Request", her MFT gelding. Julie is dedicated to promoting the study, training and competition of Dressage for all Gaited Horses and their riders across the country.



Julie Dillon



Cindy King

Cindy King has been distance riding, including both competitive trail and endurance rides, since 1971. She has ridden in ECTRC, UMECTRA, NATRC and AERC sanctioned rides from Wisconsin to Virginia to Alabama, in a variety of terrains and temperatures. Cindy has judged 4H trail rides, put on distance riding and saddle fitting clinics, had articles published about distance riding and selected, trained and conditioned horses for trail competitions. These included three off-the-track race horses and three gaited horses out of show barns. Since the early 90's, Cindy has ridden gaited horses for distance riding. The breeds she has ridden are: Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, Racking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, a gaited Curly, Fox Trotters and Tennessee Walking Horses.

Dee Hasler has been teaching riders and training Walking and Spotted Saddle horses for 20 years in Farmer City, Illinois. Though her true equine partner is Leilani's Pride, "Angel," she has taken many horses to national honors in many different associations. Professionally, Dee is a United States Coast Guard Veteran.

Dee's equine honors include: TWHBEA Versatility Supreme Champion, NWA Versatility Champion, FOSH Show National Champion & Regional Versatility Champion, TWHBEA World Versatility Show Professional High Point Champion and 4-time Reserve Champion, WHOA International Champion and Certificate of Merit honoree, NATRC Region 6 award honoree, SSHBEA Diamond Supreme and many time high point honoree. Dee says, "I have had the honor to work with numerous outstanding horses in my career, but one thing I am especially proud of is that Leilani's Pride has carried over 500 different riders through the years while helping me introduce the gentle loving heart of the TWH & SSH. And she is still going.

Versatility is my passion, but I truly believe in a family horse first. I have used the challenges of versatility to bring my horses and clients' horses to become partners. This incredible breed began as an all around "using" horse. And I believe that teaching these smart and loving equines the skills needed for versatility keep them healthy and happy."



Dee Hasler

2:15PM – 2:30PM

Break

2:30PM – 3:30PM

USDA Horse Protection Program



3:30PM – 4:00PM

How My Life Changed Because of Soring

This second-generation Tennessee Walking Horse trainer will share the challenging cross-roads that he came to in his life, the decisions that he made, and the outcomes with which he is now living.

Carl Bledsoe

Excerpts from Carl's Letter to Congressman Ed Whitfield:

My name is Carl Bledsoe. I'm writing this letter to you regarding the soring problem within the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. I was a second generation Tennessee Walking Horse trainer ... licensed through the Walking Horse Trainers Association, license #88035. I have not renewed my license in the last year and a half. ... I grew up in the industry, being the son of a trainer as well, and I feel that I can share a perspective from the inside.

... it became abundantly clear to me that the training methods used on our breed for show purposes was completely wrong. Growing up in the industry, it



Carl Bledsoe

was common place to use these methods to prepare these horses for competition and/or sale. I've seen and have used every sort of caustic agent that can be used to enhance and to achieve the "big lick" gait. It excited me to see one sit down on his hocks and step up against the chains and "reach" and now I realize that the horse was put in a great deal of pain, physically and emotionally, and it was simply struggling to move. It sickens me now to realize the difference. There is no way physically possible for these horses to perform this desired "big lick" without the following:

*Chemicals - Mustard oil, Croton oil, lamp oil, Kerosene, diesel fuel, Amoco white gas, hand cleaner, Dawn dish detergent, Iodine, Ether, baby oil, Scarlet oil, Castor oil, Glycerin, W- D 40 (my personal favorite) or a combination of these chemicals

*Pressure shoeing (upon request, I can explain in detail).

I've been at a cross roads with whether or not I should share my story for the last three years.... It's amazing at the number of friendships lost when you decide to take a stand for what's right. I choose the horse in this situation. ...

4:00PM – 4:15PM

Concluding Remarks & Adjournment

6:00PM – 8:00PM

Group Dinner

Please join all the Sound Horse Conference audience and participants for a complementary dinner, as a chance to debrief, discuss and ask questions about the day's proceedings. Let's break bread together, and share our love of horses, which has brought us all together today.

10:00AM –2:00PM

LOCATION: RISING GLORY FARM
2616 FRANKLIN PIKE
LEWISBURG, TN

Finding the Magic: Starting the Gaiting Process

Nationally-known gaiting clinician Gary Lane (see his bio on page 5 as a panelist on Saturday) will work with riders on a variety of rescued Tennessee Walking Horses (including some ex-performance show horses) from Horse Haven of Tennessee. You will get to see a glimpse of the natural way of developing each horse's best gait. Each of these horses are looking for their "forever" home, and adoption can be discussed with the attending principals of Horse Haven of Tennessee, including Executive Director, Nina Margetson.



Horse Haven of Tennessee

Horse Haven of Tennessee is the state's oldest and largest Equine Humane Organization. Their mission is "to advocate for, rescue, protect, and defend our God-given equine from abuse and neglect in Tennessee." Horse Haven will be providing the rescued Tennessee Walking horses, in all stages of their development and recovery, for our Sunday clinic demo. All of these horses, which are shown below and on the opposite page, are available for adoption to carefully selected homes. There are some impressive Tennessee Walking Horse bloodlines that you will see!

Nina Margetson is Founder and Executive Director of Horse Haven of Tennessee, which is Tennessee's Premier Equine Welfare Organization. Nina is a Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator, having received her certification through the National Cruelty



Investigators School at the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute. She is one of the members of the Animal Abuse Task Force (AATF) in Knoxville. Nina received

her Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue certification through Eastern Kentucky University and is an active team member of the Disaster Animal Rescue Team, (DART) in Knoxville, and serves as the team leader for the Equine DART team in Region 2. While Nina was an active member of the Tennessee Horse Council, she created the State of Tennessee Equine Rescue Network (STERN) and currently serves as team captain. She recently started the STEP-UP (State of Tennessee Equine People Urge Protection) initiative which is people finding solutions to problems and issues that face the equine in Tennessee. To date HHT and their equine staff of 75 dedicated volunteers have cared for over 700 horses that come in from neglect cases across the state, with the majority of those being Tennessee Walking horses. Nina states, "We have been witness to the damaging effects both mentally and physically of horses that didn't make it "Big" in this industry."



BEVERLY

Beverly is a 17 year old Tennessee Walking Horse. She came to Horse Haven of Tennessee as part of a neglect case. She was extremely emaciated and was nursing her two week old filly. Beverly is very smart, kind and eager to please.

Linda Ripley is working with Beverly. Linda has been a volunteer with Horse Haven of Tennessee for over 3 years. She has 6 horses of her own, 5 of which she adopted from Horse Haven of Tennessee.



DARCY

Darcy is an 8 year old Tennessee Walking Horse. She came to Horse Haven of Tennessee as part of a neglect case. Darcy was a body score of one and extremely dehydrated when she arrived. She was also due to foal at any moment. Darcy gave birth to a healthy colt only three days after arriving. Darcy is sweet, kind and likes being around people.

Heidi Adams is working with Darcy. Heidi has been a volunteer with Horse Haven of Tennessee for 8 months. Heidi has a Tennessee Walking Horse mare of her own that she enjoys trail riding.



CECILIA

Cecilia is a 10 year old Tennessee Walking Horse mare. She came to Horse Haven of Tennessee as part of a neglect case. Cecilia has trail experience and will make someone a great companion.

Gerry Meisner is working with Cecilia. Gerry has been a volunteer with Horse Haven of Tennessee for 2 1/2 years. Gerry and his wife have purchased a farm and plan to adopt 2 horses in the coming year.



EVE

Eve is a 6 year old Tennessee Walking Horse mare. She came to Horse Haven of Tennessee as part of a neglect case in which her pasture had already starved to death. Eve is very kind and is learning quickly that people are not all bad.

Patty Hart is working with Eve. Patty has been a volunteer with Horse Haven of Tennessee for over 2 years. Patty adopted a Missouri Foxtrotter named Zuri from Horse Haven last year. She enjoys taking her on long trail rides.



GEORGE CLINTON

George Clinton is a 10 year old Tennessee Walking Horse gelding. George came to Horse Haven of Tennessee as part of a neglect case. George is a big, beautiful, funny guy.

Angie Taulbee is working with George. Angie has been a volunteer at Horse Haven of Tennessee for over 2 years. Angie has 2 horses of her own, one of which she adopted from Horse Haven. She is also a Horse Haven Foster.



Cat Dye jumping with her TWH Dixie.

12:00 NOON SPECIAL EXHIBITION

A Flair for the Future

This very special exhibition features young trainer Cat Dye (see her bio on page 5 as a panelist on Saturday) and youth rider Caroline Emery on their Tennessee Walking Horses, including Cat's "fabulous registered TWH Hunter horse who is a very impressive jumper." Caroline and Cat will do speed games and tandem ring jousting, which really shows off the versatility of a finished, natural Tennessee Walking Horse.

Caroline Emery started riding lessons when she was nine years old and has been in love with it ever since. She and her horse An Amazing Grace, "Gracie," have been a team for five years. The pair has competed for several years and holds three 4-H State High Point titles. Most notably, Caroline and Gracie were honored to be the ambassadorial team at the University of Tennessee homecoming game in November 2013. In addition to lessons on Gracie, Caroline also takes hunter/jumper lessons from Cat Dye at Black Anvil Equestrian. When she's not at the barn, Caroline can usually be found participating in FFA chapter activities, studying for her many AP and honors courses, or spending time with family and friends. Caroline lives in Winchester, Tennessee with her mom, Paula, and younger brother, Cale. She is a senior honors student and FFA chapter president at Franklin County High School with plans to attend either Texas A&M University or The University of Tennessee to study veterinary medicine and genetics.



Caroline Emery featured at the 2013 University of Tennessee Homecoming Game.

© Joy Kimbrough/The Daily Times Source: www.billyjoy.com

First a little history: when you pulled shoes back in the mid 90s, back before the machines, it wasn't uncommon to find a half of a halter ring sitting behind the white line and in front of the frog of a horse that had been trimmed with a shaved down, flat sole. I've personally found all sorts of things on big lick horses between the top of the nail pad and the bottom of the hoof, things like strings of quarters glued together, heel springs with bouncy balls melted on to the area of the frog, nail pads that were ground down at the edges but domed at the center and hammer shims of metal including steel. Flat shod horses weren't immune to the problem, either. Tall beads of weld around the inside toe area of the surface of the foot caused painful sole pressure and there were other tricks as well.

When the fluoroscope came into use there was change, but it wasn't a decrease in pressure shoeing as you might expect, but an increase in new ways to beat the machine and then the machines themselves went into disuse. I find myself in agreement with a letter by former industry veterinarian Dr. John C. Haffner who wrote, "The fact is the big lick can only be accomplished by soring. When one soring technique becomes detectable, another one is developed. The big lick is a learned response to pain and if horses have not been sores, they do not learn it."

Today's pressure shoeing has developed in sophistication and is very hard to distinguish from improper trimming or improper use of what should be therapeutic hoof packings. Farriers involved in these practices make a real effort to hide their true intentions in case anyone gets a chance to look too closely at their handiwork and ask embarrassing questions. A complicit farrier can leave the foot of the performance horse at about 4 inches long and then pare the sole down until it is quite soft and gives easily to thumb pressure in the toe area. (Think of it as bending back your thumbnail) Then that same farrier knowingly will fill the hoof with an impression material such as EDSS firm and allow it to remain domed in the desired area. After allowing the "cushion" to set up and harden he then applies the nail pad to the hoof. The horse is now pressure shod. Trying to put a big lick look on a flat shod horse has meant the development of pressure shoeing methods that are even harder to detect. As an example, thin steel plates can be cut to fit across the top of the shoe, just long enough to sit inside the hoof wall below the sole so that they can be easily removed before show time. The plate is drilled and tapped in the center and a bolt, between $\frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length is inserted and cut to length. After welding a nut to the bolt so that it can easily be tightened with a wrench the bolt is then placed back into the horse's hoof. Bolts are left in place for a few hours up to a few days. In the worst cases nerves in the hoof begin to die off as a result of mechanical laminitis caused by pressure from the bolts. The pain is horrendous, the action prize winning.

I have seen horses left standing in crossties overnight, days before a show to keep them from lying down and escaping the pressure in their feet.

Eric Gray

Letters

November 25, 2013
The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
Dear Mr. Whitfield,

I have been asked to relate my experiences with the Tennessee Walking Horse industry to you. This is my opinion which was developed over many years of experience from several vantage points from within the industry. I have experience in the business as a farm worker, a horse show spectator, a local horsemen's association member, an exhibitor and seller of colts, a broodmare owner, an owner of horses in training, and as an equine veterinarian. I graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 1982, I am certified in equine practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, I am a member of the AVMA and AAEP and I currently serve as Vice-president of the Middle Tennessee Academy of Equine Practitioners. I would like to stipulate that this letter is written with no endorsement from any person or group other than myself.

My first experience with Walking Horses was at 15 years of age when I began working at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin, Tennessee. This has been one of the preeminent Walking Horse Farms essentially from the beginning of the breed registry. In addition to the routine farm work I got to help in the breeding shed and breaking yearlings. During the first few years, my involvement with show horses was limited to showing yearlings and attending the shows as a spectator. I became a fan of the big lick show horses. During my time at Harlinsdale, I met many trainers and owners of walking horses. I also became enthralled with the veterinary care of horses primarily by watching equine veterinarian Dr. DeWitt Owen Jr. pregnancy check mares and provide veterinary care to the horses on the farm.

After working at Harlinsdale for a few years, I worked for Dr. Owen in his equine practice in Franklin. At the time, Dr. Owen was one of the most highly regarded equine veterinarians in the walking horse and thoroughbred industries. He served as president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners while I was working for him. He took care of many world champion walking horses, and during my time in his employment, I was in many of the breeding and training barns in middle Tennessee. On occasion, we would travel to Kentucky to work.

After graduation from veterinary school, I worked for Dr. Owen a year and then started my own practice in Spring Hill, Tennessee. I was very involved in the walking horse industry. I owned broodmares and raised and showed colts. I did work for many of the top trainers and was at the Celebration almost every night. I saw what went on at the shows on the weekend and what happened in the barns during the week. I was one of them, so there was no need to hide anything from me. I saw the soring. I saw the treatments to remove calluses. I saw the efforts to get het horses "fixed" just right to get them past inspection and into the show ring. I saw the pain. I did not only see these things, I helped do them. Gradually I became aware of the inherent wrongness of the training required to achieve the big lick. I say gradually became aware, but that is not accurate. I think I always knew it was wrong, but because of many factors, I lied to myself. Factors such as; horse shows are fun, the big lick is exciting, I was making a lot of money working with the horses, I liked the people, it couldn't be all that bad because so many people that loved their horses were doing it kept me willingly blinded to the harm that was being done in the name of showing horses.

This came to a head in the early 1990's at the Columbia, Tennessee horse show. I was asked to examine a horse that had been turned down by the USDA. After I examined the horse and could find no problem with it, I repeated the exam with a videographer recording my examination. To make a long story short, about two years later the case was settled in favor of the defendant in Federal Court in Nashville. Part of the judge's decision stated that he had relied on my testimony to acquit the accused. I was unsettled by the ordeal because I thought someone would ask if soring was a common practice. It is. But the prosecution never asked. So although I told the truth about that horse, that night, a lie was promulgated. That lie is that Walking Horses are not routinely sored, and that only a handful of unscrupulous trainers resort to soring to get an unfair advantage.

The trial occurred in February, and it was a great victory for the industry. They had been exonerated, and the USDA was put in their place. The trainers became very bold that spring. I saw more open blatant soring in the months

following the trial than I had ever seen in my life. I vividly recall a person in a training barn that walked by me carrying a can of their mix of mustard oil and kerosene, and the smell was strong enough to cause me to recoil. After that season, my blinders were removed and I could no longer be a part of helping to promote and benefit from a practice that I knew was wrong. I sold my practice, and I have stayed involved in veterinary medicine in different ways since. I have been removed from the daily routine of training for quite some time now, but I have remained in contact enough to know that nothing has changed the essence of the practice. It cannot change any more than a leopard can change its spots.

Shortly after I left practice, I was contacted by an individual involved with the industry. He asked me if I would be interested in being in charge of the DQP program. I asked him if they were interested in stopping soring or only wanted to get the government off their backs. I told him I would be interested in talking with them if they wanted to stop soring, but I had no interest if it was an attempt to merely get the government off their backs. He had other people call me to talk about it. Without exception, when I told them that I was only interested if they wanted to stop the practice of soring, not a single one of them wanted to continue the discussion. The fourth and final person to call me about it became angry and hung up the phone.

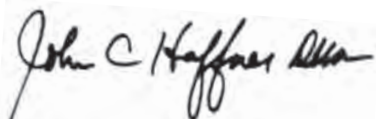
The fact is the big lick can only be accomplished by soring. When one soring technique becomes detectable, another one is developed. The big lick is a learned response to pain and if horses have not been sored, they do not learn it. It takes skill to be able to teach a horse the big lick and then determine the proper amount of soring and the proper timing to have a horse ready on a Friday or Saturday night. The horses must have the memory of the pain, but they must also be able to pass inspection.

It takes a combination of the built up pads for the weight and the chain to strike against the pastern that has been sored to produce the big lick. Other methods have been developed, but the traditional method is oil of mustard placed on the pastern and a chain put around the pastern to strike against it. The hair must be protected and this is generally done by applying grease on the pastern with a stocking over it. Calluses develop as a result of the chain rubbing against the skin. Later, the calluses are removed with a paste made by mixing salicylic acid with alcohol and applying it over the calluses and putting a leg bandage over it for a few days. This practice is also very painful to the horse. I have seen many horses lying in pain in their stalls on Monday morning from an acid treatment on Saturday.

I want to stress that the people involved in the walking horse business are no better or worse than people in any other walk of life. We all suffer effects of a depraved nature. The people who have these horses love them and take care of them many times to the extreme in expense and "good" care. They spend small and large fortunes on their horses. They provide the best of care, and they are truly remorseful when the horse is injured or dies. They spend money they know they will never recoup when the horse gets sick or needs surgery. They just don't see anything wrong with the way the big lick is achieved, or they don't think their trainer really sores their horse. I think they are blind to what they are doing and until they have a personal epiphany of what lies at the bottom of the big lick, they will be unable to see it. That is what happened to me, and it appears that it happens to others in the business from time to time.

Finally, I thank you for your bill to try to end soring. But you need to know, as long as a horse is doing the big lick, there will be soring. It will not be the few "bad actors" doing it. It is inherent to the gait and unavoidable in training. Unfortunately even without the big lick, there will still be soring. Flat shod horses develop a higher stepping gait if they have been sored. However, the techniques are different and it seems to be much less acceptable to the people within the industry. It is also more likely to be successfully policed. As long as there are people, there will be people trying to beat the system. The difference is that the flat shod horse has a natural gait which is not of necessity dependent on soring. There can be flat shod shows without soring. I think this is where the future lies for the walking horse industry, and the sooner that the big lick dies, the sooner the business can get on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,



John C. Haffner DVM ABVP(Eq)



**USDA
2013**

Isopropyl Palmitate and
Benzocaine and Octyl m



USDA HORSE PROTECTION PROGRAM 2013 FOREIGN SUBSTANCE RESULTS

Methyl Salicylate and Sulfanamide
Methyl Salicylate and Benzocaine
Benzoic acid and Cholesterol
DMSO, Benzocaine, Lidocaine
Chloroxylenol and C



USDA HORSE PROTECTION PROGRAM 2013 FOREIGN SUBSTANCE RESULTS

Mississippi Charity Horse Show, Jackson, MS
March 28, 2013 - March 30, 2013
20 Sampled, 11 Positive

O-aminoazotoluene, methyl salicylate, sulfur, and alpha tocopherol acetate
Isopropyl Palmitate, Octyl methoxycinnamate, alpha tocopherol acetate
Octyl methoxycinnamate
O-aminoazotoluene
O-aminoazotoluene and sulfur
Isopropyl Palmitate, Isopropyl myristate, o-aminoazotoluene, and alpha tocopherol acetate
Alpha tocopherol acetate and multiple hydrocarbons
Benzocaine and alpha tocopherol acetate
Kerosene
Triethyl borate
O-aminoazotoluene

9th Annual South Alabama Charity Walking & Racking Horse Show, Andalusia, AL
April 4, 2013- April 5, 2013
10 Sampled, 7 Positive

Benzocaine, Isopropyl Myristate, Isopropyl Palmitate, o-aminoazotoluene, 1,4-bis[(1-methylethyl) amino]-9,10-Anthracenedione, and Vitamin E Acetate
Benzocaine and Various glycols
Methyl salicylate, Benzocaine, o-aminoazotoluene, 1,4-bis[(1-methylethyl) amino]-9,10-Anthracenedione, and Cholesterol
O-aminoazotoluene and 1,4-bis[(1-methylethyl) amino]-9,10-Anthracenedione
DMSO and o-aminoazotoluene
Isopropyl Palmitate
Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, Decamethylcyclopentylsiloxane, and Octyl methoxycinnamate

West Coast Trainers Show, Pomona, CA
April 20, 2013- April 21, 2013
23 Sampled, 21 Positive

Cholesterol
Multiple Organic Acid Esters
Choles-bisterol
DMSO, camphor, and benzocaine
O-aminoazotoluene, 1,4-bis[(1-methylethyl) amino]-9, 10-Anthracenedione, and Cholesterol
Cholesterol
DMSO, Camphor, Benzocaine, Lidocaine
Benzocaine, Lidocaine, o-aminoazotoluene, Chloroxylenol, 1,4-bis[(1-methylethyl) amino]-9, 10-Anthracenedione, Cholesterol and Multiple terpenoid related and other hydrocarbon compounds
Benzocaine, Cholesterol, and multiple glycols

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WALKING HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION



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ASPCA

DAVID PRUETT



Credits and Thanks

Please make a point to thank and support not only our sponsors and presenters, but also our hard-working volunteer committee members, who made the 2014 Sound Horse Conference a reality:

Lori Northrup, Teresa Bippin, Nya Bates, David Pruett, Marty Irby, Donna Benefield, Clant Seay, and Lisa Harris.

Gratitude to Mary Ann Kennedy, Grammy-nominated hit songwriter and musician, for providing her horse loving music CDs as gifts for the Conference audience, and to Tom Spalding of Spalding Fly Predators, for providing his 2014 Calendar, with special illustrations by the famous horse veterinarian, Dr. Robert Miller.

Note the April, 2014 artwork, featuring a scenario very appropriate for this Conference.

www.SoundHorseConference.com