

Whinny

MAGAZINE

Whinny
Ryan,
Ridgefield
Arena.



Ridgefield
Arena
in Wildwood
is this issue's
Barn Beautiful
feature. Pages 16, 17

A publication for St. Louis area equestrians and pet lovers.

JUNE 2006 \$4



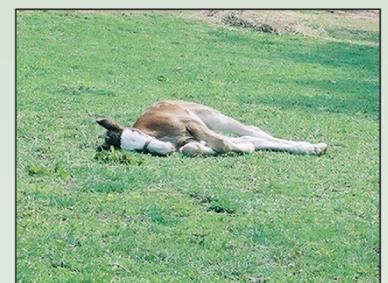
Katie surveys a crowd gathered to watch her 8-day-old foal. The Clydesdale pair were on display for visitors April 7 at Grant's Farm. The filly has yet to be given a name, but following farm tradition, the name will begin with the same letter as that of her mother.



Katie's foal considers taking a nap.



Tries to remember how.



Makes it.

Grant's Farm has no shortage of four-legged youngsters this spring. The animal kingdom remains a local gem. Page 5

Growing shortage of U.S. veterinarians is a "complex problem," officials say. Pages 20-27

Parks officials are building horse trails, but will equestrians help? Pages 6, 7

Coupons inside

TRAILS END STABLE, L.L.C.

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Trails End is a horse farm where horses and riders can enjoy the day in or out of the ring. There are fields and trails through the woods to explore. There are several small natural jumps scattered throughout the farm for schooling, as well as a traditional course of jumps ready for tuning up your show skills. Not only is riding outside the ring enjoyable, but it also has a lot to teach both horse and rider. Sometimes, it can be a nice vacation for the horse just to get some back-to-nature riding. It is the way all the young prospects are started here.

All riding lessons and clinics on the farm are highly supervised and managed with safety as the number one goal. Typically, a lot of horses and riders never get the chance to experience riding outside of an arena and therefore need to build confidence at a guided pace. As this is achieved, the rewards are numerous. I offer school horses for lessons and also provide boarding for your own horse.

Trails End soon will provide a guest cottage for visitors who want to enjoy a quiet horse vacation. In the meantime, camping is welcome and there's a good motel in Salem for the less rugged. For those who want to see a little more of Missouri's great outdoors, there are several horse trail riding parks all within one hour's haul from here. So if riding along the Current River or along the bluffs of the Big Piney River interests you, we can customize your horse vacation.



Trainer Bettina Guignon.



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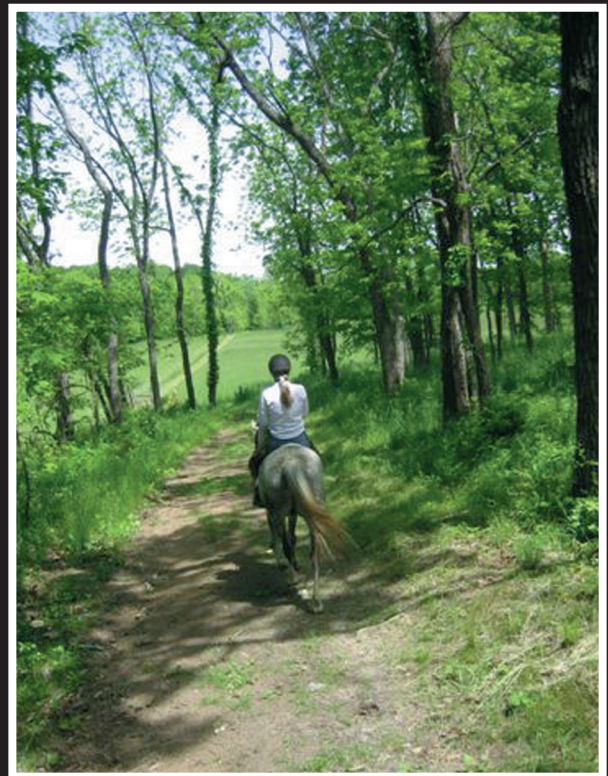


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Also inside



ONLINE DATING: *Equestrian matchmaking site leaves editor with more questions than answers about finding a soul mate.*

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RENTAL HORSES: *Two area stables offer guided trail rides for those seeking to play with horses for a day.*

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Whinny Magazine is published every other month and distributed through local horse and pet businesses.

Mission: To provide Missouri animal lovers with news and stories that inspire and inform.

Whinny

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New Melle, MO 63365
636-398-5067
whinnymagazine@aol.com



In memory of a dog named Whinny | 1997-2005

From the editor

No magazine designed to cover the local animal scene would be complete without at least one visit to Grant's Farm, the 281-acre Busch estate off Gravois Road that serves as a game preserve to 1,000 animals. My last field trip to the local landmark included singing "Ninety-nine Bottles of Beer on the Wall" all the way there, so let's just say it's been a few decades. I remember little of previous visits other than wanting to feed the baby goats all day and having to be dragged away by an adult.

This time, a few other things caught my eye. I was mesmerized by how well all the greenery is kept trimmed and wondered how many people it takes to maintain it. I marveled at all the perfect fencing and considered the maintenance factor there, too. I asked an employee where all the manure went and was told everything taken out of the display pens, paddocks



A goat teases its little friend with a stick at Grant's Farm.

and pastures twice a day was spread in the spacious deer park. I took the tram thinking it was going to take me to the Clydesdales, but in fact the Clydesdales are alongside the parking lot; the tram takes one farther away. Should have read the map. The tram did take me back to my favorite old haunt, and I wandered into the goat pen foolishly loaded down with camera equipment. I immediately was mauled by maybe 30 little friendly critters. I had no desire to feed them this time, though, because they all gave me that well-practiced "look." I would have had to feed every last one of them, and give a full round of ear scratches, too, and I'd have been there 'til midnight.

The tram ride did remind me, as I toured the grounds, what a privilege it is for St. Louis to have this place open to the public. I was surprised when, in the first 15 minutes, a couple of adults had outbursts. One was asked politely to move a car out of a bus zone and made a scene; another was not allowed to take her stroller through the Grant's cabin exhibit and she immediately became ugly. It was all the more noticeable in front of so many children, including their own. Beyond the ungratefulness and rudeness, how hard is it to be in a pleasant mood in this setting?

The Clydesdale barn was my last and new favorite stop. The farm is expecting 12 foals this year and nine were on the ground by May 7. They were spending half-days outside in pastures and used a good portion of that to sleep. Other Clydesdales standing or snoozing in stalls had straw bedding halfway up the sides of the wall, and not just on the edges. On a scale of 1 to 5 in plush, this was a 10.

All in all, it was a morning full of smiles. I think I won't wait another 30-plus years before going back.

— Joanie McKenna



Land at Schwede and Wilson Roads, near New Melle, is the future home of Broemmelsiek Park.

Analysis

If you build horse trails ...

Will anyone show up to help? Parks officials struggle to reach equine groups

By Florence Shinkle

Whinny Magazine

For the first time, the St. Charles County Parks Department will offer trails for horses within its park system.

With the completion of two new parks due to open either this fall or next spring, horseback riders will have 18 miles of multi-use trails to share with hikers and bikers, a move to give access to horseback riders that Kent James, outdoor director for the parks department, describes as “a first for us.”

But with the new riding opportunities, an old problem emerges as well.

Broemmelsiek Park, a 384 acre

parcel of land along Schwede Road was acquired in 2002 from Jack Broemmelsiek, a retired packaging executive. The ground looks raw at present. County crews are moving earth for the construction of five picnic pavilions, two of them large enough for the horse contingent or parties of 100 persons, three designed for groups of 20.

But James and his staff already have flagged eight miles of multi-use trails across what he estimates is “99 percent of the total park area.”

And that good news gets topped by the plans for 10 miles of multi-use trails that will lace the 600-acre Indian Camp Creek off

Dietrich Road, nearer the county’s border with Lincoln County.

The assignment of so much public space to equine recreation signals the parks department’s recognition of county horse owners as an influential group of stakeholders who deserve some return for their recreational tax dollars.

That departmental welcome could turn out to be a great political advantage if the crowding of the trails spawns territorial wars among user groups over who gets to go where. (Hikers are always sneaking around, trying to get horses evicted from various trail systems on the grounds that they

Continued on next page

Analysis

Continued from previous page

contaminate the “wilderness experience.” Figures from one survey conducted by the Aldo Leopold Institute in Missoula show hikers did 73 percent of the complaining about sharing the trails.)

But having access from the outset to Broemmelsiek and Indian Creek Camp means horse people would negotiate from a position of strength if conflicts flare up.

Horse owners have to hope, however, that keeping the good synergy with the parks department isn't dependent on them showing up to build or maintain the trails. When it comes to showing up, the ivory billed woodpecker has a better record than the horse contingent.

Missed opportunity

On April 18, after James had flagged a tentative path for the trails in Broemmelsiek, he sent e-mails to various horse owners who had shown up at earlier meetings and expressed an interest in helping with trail development, telling them he'd scheduled an 8 a.m. trail walk at Broemmelsiek for 10 days later, a Friday.

“It was their chance to tell me what they thought,” he said. “I wanted them to tell me things like whether certain places on the trail were wide enough, whether their animals might like to go down to the water. That sort of thing.”

No one showed, nary a soul — although at a similar walk-around at Indian Camp Creek, there was a creditable turnout of five people.

“I don't know much about horses,” James commented at one point. “I am trying to get in with the horse owning group.”

His remark indicated a common misperception that horse riders are organized like mountain bikers and bird watchers and wildlife

“I don't know much about horses. I am trying to get in with the horse owning group.”

Kent James,
St. Charles County Parks,
who is overseeing the
inclusion of horse trails
in new parks.

photographers into clubs whose club officers serve as deputy sheriffs, whipping the rank and file forward into reluctant work parties. Officers also show up at park board meetings to negotiate. They are citizen go-to guys for parks department staffers. Parks personnel love knowing how to contact citizen go-to guys who can muster troops.

Horse owners, meanwhile, are a loose association of poop shovelers bound by a common passion. We associate not through clubs but through barn communities, and if anyone shows up for a park meeting, it's more a matter of individual heroism than a sign of organized mass activity.

Robertsville Park, a 2,200 acre piece of ground managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, lying south of Union in Franklin County, supposedly has been getting a horse trail for almost a decade now. But the construction of the trail is dependent on the promise of citizen work parties, which proved about as solid as the fog over the Bourbeuse River.

Eight years ago, MoDNR personnel held a meeting in Union about trail building in Robertsville. The word galloped from barn to barn, and everybody you hadn't seen for years showed up for the meeting, signed up name and address for work parties and left full of

righteous energy. Subsequently, we all received notice of the scheduled work days. Two notices, actually. No one showed. Wounded DNR officials retreated back to Jeff City. There's still no horse trail.

Need for citizen input

Increasingly, both the DNR and the St. Louis County Parks Department depend on alliances with citizen groups to field new projects from trail building to gardening.

In 1999, the Missouri Department of Conservation invited potential users to meetings about the development of its premiere wildlife area, Columbia Bottom, the 4,000-acre stretch of ground at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Granted, horse people take a lower priority with the department of conservation than other forest and fauna lovers so there was less benefit to be reaped from attending the development meetings and speaking up for horse trails.

Still, when no one showed up as a representative of our user group, it provided ammunition for an argument that we were indifferent about access, an argument that could be re-applied as other conservation areas' usage policies were reviewed.

Meanwhile, we exhibit a bad case of free floating anxiety that no one loves us.

For the record

Kent James said that while no one showed up for the trail walk in Broemmelsiek, “you're the third person who has called me to say they heard there weren't going to be any horse trails in the new parks. That's absolutely wrong ...”

He paused, then added, “But we will be needing volunteers to build these trails.”

Uh oh. Now what?

James can be reached at 636-949-7535, or by e-mail at kjames@saintcharlescounty.org.

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Enjoying local landscape

The state Department of Natural Resources has put together a Missouri Equestrian Trail Guide for those interested in taking their horses on a vacation or looking for a new place to ride.

The booklet contains information, including a map, on all state and federal equine trails, as well as other trails open to horse use.

Agencies who assisted in providing information included the University of Missouri, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

To get a copy of the booklet mailed to you, call 800-334-6946.

For more information on Missouri trails, go to <http://www.mostateparks.com/equestrian/index.html>.

The names of local equine trails are listed below:

Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial Horse Trail

11 miles,
Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park,
St. Louis County,
636-458-3813

Chubb Trail

4 miles,
Castlewood State Park,
St. Louis County,
636-227-4433

Grotspeter Trail

3 miles,
Castlewood State Park,
St. Louis County,
636-227-4433

Queeny Park,

7.5 miles (multi-use),
St. Louis County
314-391-0900

Greensfelder Park,

connects to Rockwood Range, 32 miles of trails,
St. Louis County
314-615-4386

Rockwoods Range Trails

8.5 miles,
Rockwoods Range,
St. Louis County,
(636) 458-2236

Forest 44 Conservation Area Trails

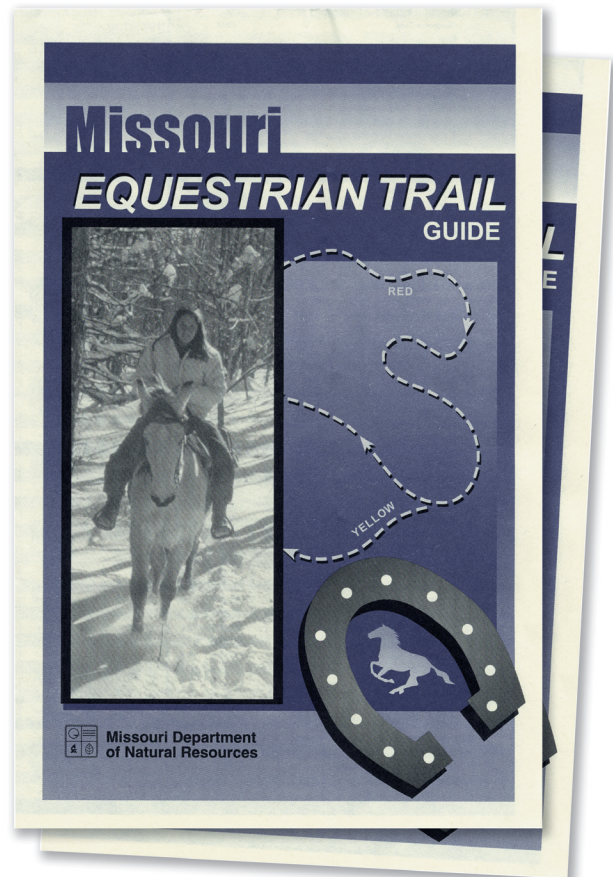
9 miles,
Forest 44 Conservation Area,
St. Louis County,
636-458-2236

Daniel Boone Conservation Area Trails

8 miles,
Daniel Boone Conservation Area,
Warren County
636-456-3368

Little Lost Creek Conservation Area Trails

5 miles,
Little Lost Creek Conservation Area,
Warren County,
636-468-3368



Long Ridge Conservation Area Trails

9.5 miles,
Long Ridge Conservation Area,
Franklin County,
573-468-3335

J. Avery Ruble Memorial Bridle Trail

11 miles,
Meramec Conservation Area,
Franklin County,
573-468-3335

Pine Ridge Trail

11 miles,
St. Joe State Park,
St. Francois County,
573-431-1069

Hickory Ridge Trail

5 miles,
St. Joe State Park,
St. Francois County,
573-431-1069

Pike Run Trail

11 miles,
St. Francois State Park,
St. Francois County,
573-358-2173

Berryman Trail

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Potosi Ranger District
Washington County
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Greensfelder Park Stables.

Guided trails

Enjoying someone else's horse

Equestrians often get asked by others where one can rent horses to take a family trail riding.

In the St. Louis metro area, the list of stables offering this service appears to be down to two: Greensfelder Park in Wildwood and Ace Stables in Bel-Ridge.

While Valley Mount Ranch used to take its lesson riders out on trails, a spokeswoman said the stable no longer has the trails to do it.

Greensfelder Park Stables

4250 Allenton Road,
Wildwood, Mo., 63069 (five minutes from Six Flags).
Phone: 314-852-5102, 636-458-1353.
www.greensfelderstables.com

Guided trail rides April through October.

Cost is \$35 for an hour; reservations required.

Riders must be 7 or older.

Horses are paints and quarter types. Western tack.

No shorts or sandals. Riders should wear closed-toe shoes with a slight heel and flat sole.

The facility also offers hay rides, special events and YMCA summer riding camps for ages 7 to 16.

Birthday parties, with pony rides in the ring, can serve up to 20. Children must be 6 and older.

Trails are 32 miles of hills and valleys.

In addition, it is a full service boarding facility with 47 stalls, paddocks and two outdoor arenas.

Babler Park has stopped offering rental horses. And Greensfelder was out of the business for a few years but has started up again.

Both Greensfelder and Ace are set up in unique areas — the former in a large rural area and the latter just outside St. Louis city. They offer a variety of services to St. Louisans looking to enjoy a day of outdoor equestrian fun without having to purchase the horse.

Ace Stables

9115 Natural Bridge Road,
Bel-Ridge, Mo., 63134 (close to downtown).
(314) 427-6995.

Guided trail rides May through September.

Cost is \$20 for 45 minutes; no reservations required.

Riders must be 10 or older.

Horses are quarter horses, paints, "anything gentle or bomb-proof." Western tack.

The program often caters to Girl Scout troops, especially helping scouts in their efforts to get badges.

Can accommodate 10 to 12 at a time.

Trails are 65 acres of woods and creeks.

The family has been in this location 63 years.

The stable also boards horses, offering two indoor arenas and one outdoor arena, in addition to the trails.

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www.irishfoxstables.com

Calendar

June: 1-3: Junior League of Springfield Horse Show, Springfield, Mo., Lenard Davenport, lendavenport@prodigy.net

June 1-4: Bridlespur Hunt Club Horse Show, Bridlespur, Defiance, Tommy McIntyre, 630-842-7650

June 2: SLADS Summer Dressage Festival I, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis.
Contact: Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org, www.SLADS.org

June 3-4: SLADS Summer Dressage Festival II, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis.
Contact: Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org, www.SLADS.org

June 2-4: Saddle & Sirloin Hunter/Jumper Show, Kansas City,
Contact: Dolores Ford, arhj@birch.net

June 3: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

June 3-4: Brad Hall Clinic, Queeny Park, Queeny Park Equestrian Events Inc., Blue Sidebottom, 573-483-9264, www.qpee.org

June 4: Gateway Saddle Club Show,

Lincoln County Fairgrounds,
636-528-4305,
www.gateway saddleclub.com

June 4: Three Dog Bakery's annual Ice Cream Social, on field outside of store in Ladue, 314-726-1674

June 10 Ridgefield Arena Charity Horse Show, Series II, Tracey Gentry Ryan, 636-527-3624

June 17-18: John Williams Clinic, Queeny Park, Queeny Park Equestrian Events, Blue Sidebottom, 573-483-9264, www.qpee.org

June 17-18: Missouri Reining Horse Association, National Equestrian Center (Arena A), Gwyn Haskins, 314-795-5543.

June 17: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

June 17: Mid Rivers Saddle Club Show, Prosperity Farm, Wright City, 636-745-2064

June 18: Purina and Schnucks present the second annual Pooches in the Ballpark event at the new Busch Stadium

June 19: Missouri Ranch Horse Association, Midway, Columbia, Mo., horsejmk@earthlink.net, www.missouriranchhorse.com

June 23: Take Your Dog to Work Day

June 24: Mechlin Farms Summer Schooling Show, hunter/jumper, Connie Mechlin, 636-745-2572

June 24: Gateway Saddle Club Show, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 636-528-4305, www.gateway saddleclub.com

June 29-30: Shades of Summer I, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Claudia Tucker, 417-225-2286, mtuckers2@aol.com

July 1-2: Shades of Summer II, Sedalia, Mo.

July 1: Shades of Summer Dressage Show, Ruth Charpie, 417-225-2286, rcharpie@aol.com

July 5-9: Summer Festival I, Equine Productions H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

July 7-9: Missouri Dressage Classic, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kim Kriekhaus, 573-442-8493, willowpondsfarm@hotmail.com

July 8: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

Continued on next page



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July 8: Mid Rivers Saddle Club Show, Prosperity Farm, Wright City, 636-745-2064

July 11-15: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

July 12-16: Summer Festival II Equine Productions H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

July 15: Missouri Foundation Quarter Horse Shows, Midway Exposition Center. Tammy Persinger, 660-827-6921, www.mfqha.com

July 22: Gateway Saddle Club Show, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 636-528-4305, www.gatewaysaddleclub.com

July 24-30: Pony of the Americas International Show, National Equestrian Center, 317-788-0107, www.poac.org

July 26-29: Boone County Fair, Columbia, Mo., Tracy Mulligan, 573-474-9435, bcf1947@tranquility.net

July 29: Dublin Farms Horse Shows for Horses (hunter/jumper), 636-285-2800, www.dublinfarms.net

Aug. 2-5: ASPC/ASPR Shetland Congress, National Equestrian Center, Lenard Davenport, 417-864-5310

Aug. 5: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

Aug. 9-12: Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

Aug. 12: The Kirkwood Show, National Equestrian Center, Sandy Venneman, 361-293-1728, vennemans@uhv.edu

Aug. 12: Gateway Saddle Club Show, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 636-528-4305, www.gatewaysaddleclub.com

Aug. 12: Dressage Schooling Show, Briar Bank Farm, Marine, Ill., Gay and David Anderson, 618-887-4439, briarbankfarm@juno.com

Aug. 13: Hunter Pace, Queeny Park, Queeny Park Equestrian Events Inc., Marge Harwood, 314-965-1138, www.qpee.org

Aug. 13: Venneman CT, National Equestrian Center, Sandy Venneman, 361-293-1728, vennemans@uhv.edu

Aug. 19-20: Schooling Days, Queeny Park, Queeny Park Equestrian Events Inc., Kim Graber, 636-230-8143, www.qpee.org

Aug. 19: Mechlin Farms Summer Schooling Show, hunter/jumper, Connie Mechlin, 636-745-2572

Aug. 19: Missouri Foundation Quarter Horse Shows, Midway Exposition Center. Tammy Persinger, 660-827-6921, www.mfqha.com

Aug. 19: Mid Rivers Saddle Club Show, Prosperity Farm, Wright City, 636-745-2064

Aug. 19: National Homeless Animals Day

Aug. 26: Gateway Saddle Club Show, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 636-528-4305, www.gatewaysaddleclub.com

Aug. 30-Sept. 2: Central States Shriners, National Equestrian Center

Sept. 1: Wild Canid Survival and Research Center's annual open house

Sept. 2-3: Brad Hall Clinic, Queeny Park, Queeny Park Equestrian Events Inc., Blue Sidebottom, 573-483-9264, www.qpee.org

Sept. 6-10: Equine Productions H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

Sept. 7: Purina's annual "Incredible Dog Challenge" at Purina Farms

Sept. 9: Almost Home Animal Rescue Benefit Show, Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

Sept. 9: Missouri Ranch Horse Association, Midway, Columbia, Mo., horsejmk@earthlink.net, www.missouriranchhorse.com

Sept. 14: Spirit of St. Louis Samoyed Club and Samoyed Rescue's annual "Canine Olympics" at Purina Farms

Sept. 13-17: St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Hunter/Jumper Week, National Equestrian Center, stlnatlcharityhs@aol.com, www.stlhorseshow.com

Sept. 16: Missouri Foundation Quarter Horse Shows, Midway Exposition Center, Tammy Persinger, 660-827-6921, www.mfqha.com

Sept. 16: Mid Rivers Saddle Club Show, Prosperity Farm, Wright City, 636-745-2064

Sept. 22: Three Dog Bakery's annual Howl-O-Ween Parade and Costume Contest, on field outside of store in Ladue, 314-726-1674

Sept. 27-30: St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Saddlebred Week, National Equestrian Center, stlnatlcharityhs@aol.com, www.stlhorseshow.com

Continued on next page

Calendar

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Queeny Park Horse Trials, Queeny Park Equestrian Events Inc., Marge Harwood, 314-965-1138, www.qpee.org

Sept. 30: Lincoln County Fairgrounds Fun Show Series, Troy, Mo., Sally Naumann, (636) 528-6059, justwhoa@nothnbut.net

Oct 1: Animal Protective Association's 16th Annual Canine Carnival: 800 enthusiastic canines and their two-legged companions play games, browse the booths and romp with friends. 314-645-4610.

Oct. 7-8: SLADS Fall Dressage Classic: National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org, www.SLADS.org

Oct. 7: Dublin Farms Horse Shows for Horses (hunter/jumper), 636-285-2800, www.dublinfarms.net

Oct. 7: Mid Rivers Saddle Club Show, Prosperity Farm, Wright City, 636-745-2064

Oct. 12-15: Calvary Episcopal Charity Horse Show, Columbia, Mo., Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

Oct. 15-21: GSDCA Inc., GSDCA Inc. National Specialty Show, National Equestrian Center (Arena A), Debra Hokkanen, 508-852-4473

Oct. 21: Missouri Ranch Horse Association, Midway, Columbia, Mo., horsejmk@earthlink.net, www.missouriranchhorse.com

Oct. 28-29: Irish Fox Hunter Jumper Show, National Equestrian Center (Arena A), John and Beth Korenak, 636-398-6868, 636-398-5538, www.irishfoxstables.com

Oct. 28: NEC Fun & Frolic Open Show, National Equestrian Center, 636-561-8080, www.thenationalequestriancenter.com

Oct. 31-Nov. 5: American Royal Hunter/Jumper — Arabian, Kansas City, Paulette Orth, pauletteo@americanroyal.com

Nov. 8-12: Equine Productions

H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

Nov.12: Operation SPOT's annual "Sweat-4-Pets" run, Tower Grove Park

Nov. 14-18: UPHA / American Royal National Championship, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: pauletteo@americanroyal.com

Nov. 24-26: Gateway Dog Agility Trials, National Equestrian Center (Arena B), Sherry Omnus, 314-570-1054

Dec. 6-10: Equine Productions H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

Dec. 9: National Day of the Horse

Dec. 13-17: Equine Productions H/J Series, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650 www.equineproductions.com

Whinny Magazine is looking for photos of animals keeping cool in the hot summer heat for the August issue. Please e-mail digital photos and caption information to whinnymagazine@aol.com. All material must be received by July 1, 2006.

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*Barn
Beautiful*



The main barn, with its striking architecture, fills the view as one enters the driveway.

Ridgefield Arena

The Wildwood boarding and training stable is nestled on 50 lush acres off Ridge Road. It was established in 1970 by Richard and Karen Gentry, whose horse interests range from hunters and jumpers to reining. Their horses have won more than 50 world championships. Daughter Tracey Gentry Ryan has been the farm's manager for 19 years, training, showing and running a large riding academy.



The grand prix ring, 330 feet by 130 feet, is a visual magnet. The wall at the far end was created with several hundred truck loads of fill, followed by layers of clay, sand and all weather footing, also used for the rest of the arena. The jumps are repainted before each show and just received a fresh coat for a June 10 charity hunter/jumper show.



A patio adjacent to the barn and looking out over the grand prix ring is the place to be in the summer for barbecues, socializing and just watching horses work.



Whinny Ryan supervises farm operations.



The upper ring has sand footing. Surrounding the arena is a quarter-mile track of all-weather footing for those who want to gallop.

Barn Beautiful



The lounge adjacent to the indoor arena offers a comfortable respite for those days of weather extremes. A snack room with vending machines is just out of view.



The lounge has first floor and loft viewing windows to the indoor arena. This room is especially useful during clinics and has an announcer system so auditors can stay warm but stay involved.



The indoor arena is sand footing with a sprinkler system. The grand prix ring also has sprinklers.



Stalls line parallel aisles in the barn, with the arena in the middle.



The guest house allows employees to live on site.

Ridgefield Arena | Boarding / training facility

1410 Ridge Road, Wildwood, Mo., 63021

Manager: Tracey Gentry Ryan

Web site: www.ridgefieldarena.com

Phone: 636-527-3624

Features:

- 51 stalls with automatic waterers.
- Five acres of turnouts.
- Bridle trails on 20 acres.
- Three arenas, including an indoor and grand prix ring.
- Quarter-mile track.
- Round pen.
- Lounge and lunch room with viewing window to indoor arena.
- Alarmed tack room.
- Large riding academy.
- Charity show series each summer; clinics.



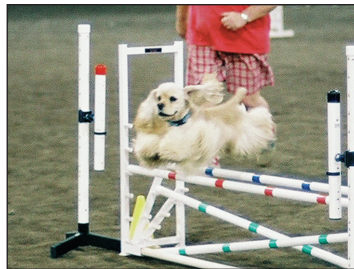
The Pee Wee Walk Trot class lines up at the NEC Fun show April 15.



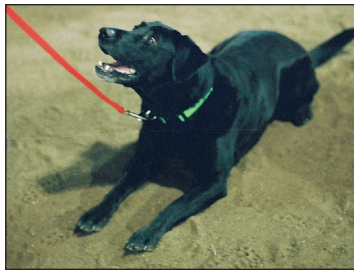
Jessica Higginbotham shows off her form in the same class. The group was a model display of young horsemanship.



Sarah Green is the winner of the walk trot class. Her sister, Melanie Green (left), was riding in a later class.



Billy, a cocker spaniel, is on course April 15 at the Greater St. Louis Dog Agility Trials in Arena B.



Punkin, a black Labrador, watches his owner and waits to compete at the the Greater St. Louis Dog Agility Trials.



PHOTO AND INFO COURTESY CINDY ALLEN

Clinton Anderson has a little fun at the NEC during his clinic on Down Under Horsemanship, held April 22-23. The Australian-born horseman spoke to a full house in the main arena, emphasizing consistency in training and keeping lessons simple and clear. He also encouraged owners to understand: "If you want your horse to change, you have to change, too."



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Vets stretched thin

Industry is trying to address a growing shortage in doctors

By Joanie McKenna
Whinny Magazine Editor

The longest minutes are those spent waiting for a veterinarian to arrive during a horse emergency. In the St. Louis area, four equine clinics said their average response time usually is less than an hour.

Those practices — Mid-Rivers Equine Centre, Gateway Equine and Small Animal Hospital, Fox Creek Veterinary Hospital and Homestead Veterinary Hospital — all agreed that St. Louis currently has a substantial number of vets to take care of local needs.

Not only are there many practices, but the level of medicine is high, according to Dr. Tim Ellis of Mid-Rivers. It has increased the knowledge of clients as a whole, and they are able to do more for their horses during an emergency and otherwise, he said.

Ellis spent time on a recent Saturday describing the difference between the situation in St. Louis and several surrounding areas, where there are no vets in the immediate vicinity, forcing owners to drive great distances, even during emergencies.

The setup is St. Louis is fortunate for all, Ellis said.

One would expect similar conditions in other large cities, but that is not necessarily the case.

In Victor Valley, Calif., a high desert area exploding with growth, there are two vets serving 15,000 horses, and only one of those vets makes farm calls. For one sick horse who appeared to be colicking in 2004, the wait for a vet was 20 hours.

In the end, the horse had a type of cancer and had to put down. Owner Jay Purbaugh told a local



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Faculty and students work with horses at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia. Student interest in veterinary work is high, but schools have to turn away many applicants due to lack of space.

newspaper that the horse could have been spared hours of agony if he had been able to get a diagnosis sooner.

A more typical equine practitioner serves 1,000 horses, according to statistics gathered by Purina Mills. But, Victor Valley is not alone in its extreme disparity.

There is a growing shortage of veterinarians in the United States, one not evenly distributed by geographic area or type, according to Dr. Michael Chaddock, a

veterinarian and the director of communications for the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Not keeping pace

Overall, the number of veterinarians produced by U.S. schools every year is not keeping pace with the growth of the country's human and animal populations.

There were 9.2 million horses in the United States in 2005,

Continued on next page

In Depth

Continued from previous page

along with 73.9 million dogs and 90.5 million cats. By 2025, with an expected human population increase of 15 percent, industry officials estimate there will be a shortage of 15,000 veterinarians.

The deficits are more extreme in the large animal and public health fields, as the few graduates each year flock to the more attractive small animal practices.

Student interest in veterinary work is high, so it's not a matter of boosting recruitment. The 28 accredited U.S. schools have to turn away a majority of applications for lack of space. The schools graduate 2,500 students each year, with only a small number from each school interested in large animal practice and even less choosing public health.

Addressing concerns

The profession is taking a leading role in trying to correct the problem, Chaddock said, including pushing for federal legislation to address some key issues.

Chaddock was speaking by phone from his Washington-based office in April. He said there are 86,000 to 90,000 veterinarians in the United States. To put it in perspective, that's "less than the number of lawyers who belong to the D.C. bar," he said.

A combination of reasons have led to the small animal field growing while others are shrinking, including the obvious perks of regular office hours, easier-to-handle patients and no travel. An even bigger reason is better pay.

Chaddock says the average student debt for a senior graduating from his alma mater of Michigan State is \$95,000. The average starting salary of a student is \$51,000. The national average is

Breakdown of veterinarians by employment

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, based in Chicago, the number of U.S. veterinarians (members and nonmembers; no overlap between categories) through Dec. 31, 2005, breaks down as follows:

Private clinical practice	Total	Percent of total in private practice
Large animal exclusive	2,268	4.2
Large animal predominant	3,047	5.6
Mixed animal	4,515	8.3
Small animal predominant	6,244	11.5
Small animal exclusive	34,022	62.7
Equine	2,646	4.9
Other	608	1.1
None specified	896	1.7
Total private practice	54,246	100.0
Public and corporate employment	Total	Percent of total in public employment
College or university	5,269	42.3
Federal government	1,560	12.5
State or local government	870	7.0
Uniformed services	677	5.4
Industry	2,131	17.1
Other	1,945	15.6
Total public and corporate	12,452	100.0
Employment unknown	12,871	
Total U.S. veterinarians	79,569	

slightly lower for both, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. A lot of graduates, by necessity, are attracted to the higher-paying small animal jobs.

Chaddock noted that fewer students have a background of living in a rural area and may not be interested in that lifestyle, preferring a more urban setting in which to raise their families and serve area pets.

Perhaps also involved is the change of composition of veterinarian students, once dominated by males, but now 73 percent female, according to the AVMA.

The profession has asked for two

major pieces of legislation to alter the landscape.

The National Veterinary Service Act of 2003, already a law, will reduce the amount of debt for graduating students if they are willing to work in underserved areas as determined by the Department of Agriculture and other veterinary officials. Underserved is not necessarily a rural geographic area. It can be a particular field or a city location. No veterinarians have been placed through that system yet, Chaddock says. The regulations governing the program and the funding are not there yet.

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Applying to the University of Missouri

Qualifications

The Admissions Committee says it feels that a successful applicant to the College of Veterinary Medicine should:

- Have experience working with a variety of animal species.
- Be familiar with the veterinary medical profession.
- Be community minded and have demonstrated leadership abilities.
- Be able to react favorably to close group interaction, frequently under stressful situations.
- Have realistically evaluated their plans for financing their education since demands of the professional curriculum usually preclude part-time employment during school sessions.
- Have developed time and stress management skills.
- Be sincerely motivated.

Information

College of Veterinary Medicine
 W-203 Veterinary
 Medicine Building
 Columbia, MO 65211
 Phone: (573) 882-3554
 E-mail: cvmwebmaster@missouri.edu

College course requirements for veterinary school

Composition or courses in communication skills	6
College algebra or more advanced mathematics	3
Inorganic chemistry	8
Organic chemistry (requires laboratory)	5
Biochemistry (requires organic chemistry prerequisite)	3
Physics (comprehensive introductory courses)	5
Biological science	10
Social science and/or humanistic studies	10
Electives	10
Minimum total	60

Application schedule

July 1 to Nov. 1: On-line applications available at: https://cvmsecure.missouri.edu/admission_application/

October: Nonresidents using the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service must submit VMCAS application.

Nov. 1: Completed resident applications due and nonresident supplemental applications due.

Feb. 1: Reference letters, MCAT or GRE scores, and transcripts due. Personal interviews begin for resident applicants.

April 15: Selection results announced.

July 1: Grades for all required due.

Tuition

The following schedule lists fees and estimated expenses of an unmarried veterinary student living off campus for the year 2005-2006. The total covers curriculum fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation.

	In-State	Out-of-state
First year:	\$30,405	\$44,095
Second year	\$33,886	\$47,576
Third year	\$34,680	\$48,470
Fourth year	\$33,948	\$47,674

Requirement for observation

■ Veterinary school applicants are required to spend a minimum of 40 hours observing one or more veterinarians engaged in their normal clinical work environment.

■ Observation must be as a third person, not as a client.

■ More competitive applicants have at least 300 hours observing veterinarians in various aspects of practice, such as small animals, farm animals, horses, and other species.

2004-05 applicant statistics for University of Missouri

	Qualified residents	Qualified non-residents
Total	84	42
Men	20	5
Women	64	23
Overall GPA	3.38	3.50

Total Applicants: 195

2005 Entering Profile

Total: 72 Men: 17 Women: 55

Average Age: 22

Average ACT: 24

Average cumulative GPA: 3.51

Average Physical Science GPA: 3.25

Average Biological Science GPA: 3.41

Average of last three semesters GPA: 3.55

Raised in farm environment: 11

Raised in small town environment: 12

Raised in urban environment: 29

Raised in city environment: 20

Considerations for degrees Usually, 50 percent of the accepted students have completed degrees. No preference is shown for applicants with undergraduate or graduate degrees. Grades achieved in science courses are the primary academic determinant on the selection process.

Veterinary license is required to practice

Requirements to become a U.S. veterinarian, according to the Department of Labor:

All states and the District of Columbia require that veterinarians be licensed before they can practice.

Licensing is controlled by the states and is not strictly uniform, although all states require the successful completion of a D.V.M. degree, or equivalent

education, and a passing grade on a national board examination.

Applicants for licensure satisfy the examination requirement by passing the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE), an eight-hour computer-based examination consisting of 360 multiple-choice questions covering all aspects of veterinary medicine. Administered by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME), the test includes visual materials designed to test diagnostic skills.

The majority of states also

require candidates to pass a state jurisprudence examination covering state laws and regulations.

Some states do additional testing on clinical competency, as well.

There are few reciprocal agreements between states, making it difficult for a veterinarian to practice in a different state without first taking that state's examination.

Nearly all states have continuing education requirements for licensed veterinarians.

Source: University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine

Two-part evaluation for admissions

To assess qualified applicants, the school uses a 200-point formula that is broken into two parts, according to Randy Mertens, college publications coordinator. Academic record and non-academic characteristics are each rated on a 100-point scale.

Academic

For the academic component, the possible points an applicant can receive are:

■ **10 points:** Cumulative undergraduate GPA.

■ **25 points:** Physical science GPA.

■ **15 points:** Biological science GPA.

■ **25 points:** Last three semesters' GPA.

■ **15 points:** Given to students who carried 13 to 18 credit

hours of classwork versus students who carried 12 hours or less.

■ **10 points:** Based on score on the Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT). A minimal score of 20 percent is required to qualify.

Non-academic

The non-academic evaluation is made by a four-member faculty committee chosen from the College's three departments: veterinary medicine and surgery, pathobiology, and veterinary biomedical sciences.

Each member of this team judges applicants according to 10 characteristics known to indicate success in a veterinary medical career. Information such as birthdates, ethnic origins or religious affiliations information is not included.

Each assigns an applicant up to 10 points per characteristics for a possible score of 100. The

scores from each judge then are averaged.

The characteristics:

1. Motivation and concepts of veterinary medicine.
2. Companion animal contact and experience.
3. Equine contact and experience.
4. Food animal contact and experience.
5. Other animal contact and experience.
6. Ability to communicate by written and verbal means.
7. Participation in extra-curricular activities.
8. Tendency for leadership or showing initiative.
9. Work experience in college.
10. Diversity of the individual.

Total scores recently have ranged from 25 to 175.2. The average score is between 50 and 55 points.

In Depth

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The other measure is a bill currently before Congress titled the Veterinary Workforce Extension Act, which would provide money to help build infrastructure in existing schools and expand the number of students.

It would mark the first time the federal government has provided general funding to increase the number of vets in 30 years.

The bill has 45 representatives and 20 senators on board. A main goal is to increase veterinarians in public health areas. The funding would be awarded in grants to schools based on merit.

History of profession

Veterinary medicine in the United States has come a long way in a short time, much like the country. Prior to the 19th century, horses were treated by self-appointed "animal doctors," according to the AVMA. Formally trained human physicians began to practice on animals after 1800, and the first U.S. veterinary colleges were established in 1852 and 1854 in Philadelphia and New York, respectively. The AVMA says, at that point, veterinary medicine evolved from "cures" of "bleeding and burning" to treatments based on scientific methodology. The AVMA itself was established in 1863 to act as a collective voice for its membership and for the profession.

Today, that voice is focusing on numbers and need.

Currently, there are nine incoming vet students per each million population. That ratio is expected to drop below 7 by 2050 if expansion is not made.

A growing awareness of a nationwide problem grew out of several events, including 9-11. The 2001 terrorist acts led officials to consider what would happen if the country were attacked with a foreign animal disease, and veterinary officials would need to be on the front lines.

Also, the emergence of diseases such as SARS and avian influenza — common to both man and animal — showed the need for more veterinarians in the public health sector.

Continued on next page

In Depth

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Lastly, a collective cry has gone up from veterinarians in underserved areas who say they can't get any help in trying to meet the demands of their communities, and the animals are suffering.

That's the case in Victor Valley, Calif., where Dr. Ron Lenhert's Apple Valley Equine Hospital is so busy, he's had to stop making farm calls. He can squeeze in more patients — two per hour — by letting them come to him, according to a spokeswoman in his office in April.

He's asked his phone service to hold calls between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. so he can get at least a little sleep. Emergencies during that time are sent to a 24-hour hospital 90 minutes away. Lenhert and the sole mobile vet serving the area are at the end of their careers and could retire now. But, Lenhert has tried and failed to hire another vet and has given up. The area north of San Bernardino in Southern California is booming with development, and the situation is only going to get worse, the spokeswoman said.

The AVMA recently surveyed members of the Class of 2005 from 26 schools, with an 80 percent response rate. Graduates chose to do the following:

Males:

- 27 percent entered an advanced study program.
- 26.5 entered a small animal exclusive practice.
- 13.7 entered a mixed animal practice.

Female:

- 37.2 percent entered a small animal exclusive practice
- 31.3 entered an advanced study program.
- 11.3 entered a small animal predominant practice.

Continued on next page

28 accredited U.S. schools

- Auburn University
334-844-4546
www.vetmed.auburn.edu
- University of California (Davis)
530-752-1360
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu
- Colorado State University
970-491-7051
www.cvmbs.colostate.edu
- Cornell University
607-253-3000
www.vet.cornell.edu
- University of Florida
352-392-4700, ext. 5000
www.vetmed.ufl.edu
- University of Georgia (Athens)
706-542-3461
www.vet.uga.edu
- University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)
217-333-2760
www.cvm.uiuc.edu
- Iowa State University
515-294-1250
www.vetmed.iastate.edu
- Kansas State University
785-532-5660
www.vet.ksu.edu
- Louisiana State University
225-578-9900
www.vetmed.lsu.edu
- Michigan State University
517-355-6509
www.cvm.msu.edu
- The University of Minnesota (St. Paul)??
612-624-6244
www.cvm.umn.edu
- Mississippi State University
662-325-3432
www.cvm.msstate.edu
- University of Missouri (Columbia)
573-882-3877
www.cvm.missouri.edu
- North Carolina State University
919-513-6210
www.cvm.ncsu.edu
- The Ohio State University
614-292-1171
www.vet.ohio-state.edu
- Oklahoma State University
405-744-6651
www.cvm.okstate.edu
- Oregon State University
541-737-2098
www.vet.oregonstate.edu
- University of Pennsylvania
215-898-8841
www.vet.upenn.edu
- Purdue University
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www.vet.purdue.edu
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979-845-5051
www.cvm.tamu.edu
- Tufts University
508-839-5302
vet.tufts.edu
- Tuskegee University
334-727-8174
www.tuskegee.edu/global/category.asp?c=41703
- Virginia Tech and University of Maryland
540-231-7666
www.vetmed.vt.edu
- Washington State University
509-335-9515
www.vetmed.wsu.edu
- Western Univ. of Health Sciences
909-469-5628
www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/

In Depth

Continued from previous page

While one would expect universities to weigh a student's interest when evaluating applications, the University of Missouri states it does not select students by the type of work they say they wish to do, since those interests frequently change during their four years of studies.

Firsthand experience

Three local veterinarians — all graduates of the University of Missouri — offer their perspective on equine and large animal practice.

Dr. Scott King surprised many in 1997 when he left private practice to join Purina Mills as a researcher. His clients wondered if the emergencies had taken too much of a toll after serving for 10 years as an equine and small animal vet in St. Louis.

Quite the contrary, King says he made the transition because he was looking for new challenges and the opening came along at the right time. But he really enjoyed the job he had.

While King doesn't work directly on horses every day, his focus remains to improve their lives. His job is new product development and marketing.

He was talking by phone from a New Jersey airport in April while on a trip to meet with veterinarians in the area about what kinds of new products would serve their needs. He said he makes those trips once a month and loves the interaction with vets and horse owners around the country.

He said he probably puts in just

as many hours as during private practice, but he sets his own hours, thanks to computers and the ability to work from home if he wants.

Of his handful of classmates who chose the equine field, King named two still in practice and one who is a professor at Tufts University.

King said he still has opportunities to practice medicine. There are 70 horses at Purina Mills' research center, and there's no shortage of things needing to be done.

Given a chance to start his career over again, would he still choose to be an equine practitioner?

"I wouldn't have changed

anything," he said. "I loved private practice."

Dr. Marilyn Finke, a large and small animal vet, has been bucking trends her entire career.

Finke said that, when she began practicing, she met with resistance from old farmers who didn't want a woman vet.

The St. Charles native worked in a few other locations before returning to St. Louis for family reasons. When she joined Dr. Ken Kopp's practice in the mid-80s, she

was the only female equine vet in the area.

Now she runs the hospital — Gateway Equine and Small Animal Hospital — on her own, keeping pace with sheer stamina.

"I work like a dog and don't take many vacations," she said during a small phone break in what sounded like another crazy week in April.

Finke credits her excellent office staff for keeping things humming.

Like the vets in Victor Valley, she's tried more than once to add an associate. She has hired new veterinarians, invested time and money in moving and training them, only to have them not want

to do the equine emergencies and eventually gravitate to small animal practice and leave. In the end, she's just managed to get by on her own.

Finke says that on the rare occasion that she needs to leave the city, she has great colleagues in the area who cover for her.

Finke thinks the St. Louis area has more than enough vets, given that only a small number used to cover pretty exclusive areas and now all the practices overlap, with the veterinarians driving much farther distances.

She also thinks she is getting fewer overnight emergencies — the type that make people cringe when thinking of large animal work — although she did wind up with simultaneous horse colics in Warrenton and Chesterfield on Easter, which required some juggling. That's less typical, she said.

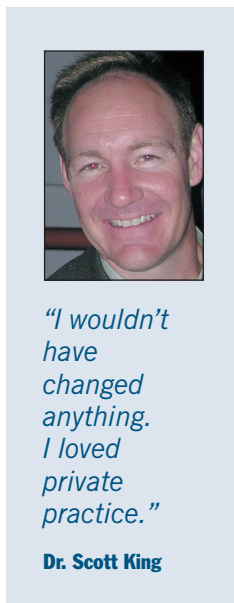
Dr. Tanya Esther, a recent graduate from Mizzou, enters the workforce in a much more evolved society than Finke.

Esther joined Homestead Veterinary Hospital at the end of May. She said five or six classmates are pursuing equine medicine and about the same number plan to go into large or mixed animal practice. Her new job is all of those things, requiring her to be a mobile vet treating horses on rounds, but also a small animal vet on those same rounds or in the hospital.

A native of rural Rushville, Ill., Esther said she has wanted to be a vet since childhood. Being from a farm family, her main interest has always been large animal.

When asked what the experience of veterinary school is like these days, she said: "Vet school is difficult, and time management is essential to survive, but it is also a lot of fun. Some aspects are more challenging than others, but you

Continued on next page



In Depth

Continued from previous page

are always learning and experiencing something new, so that keeps it interesting.”

The AVMA says the 2004-2005

enrollment at U.S. colleges was 9,995 students, with 7,332 female (73.4 percent) and 2,663 male (26.6 percent).

Much as the veterinary community would like to roll out the red carpet and just add students to classrooms to fix the

foreseeable shortage, it's not that easy, Chaddock said.

“If we were talking about English, you could just add a few desks,” he said. “Veterinary medicine is one of the most costly educations there is. It's a huge issue and a complex issue.”

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Lynn Weatherman (1938-2006)

By Florence Shinkle
Whinny Magazine

Lynn Weatherman, a St. Louis writer and editor who earned a national reputation as an equine journalist, died April 14 at his current home in Nova, Ohio.

Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1938, Mr. Weatherman held a degree in animal science from Iowa State University, but discovered his talent for writing when, in 1960, he answered an ad for a writer in St. Louis-based *Saddle & Bridle* magazine, the venerable publication of the saddlebred horse show world founded in 1928. Mr. Weatherman proved to have a talent for capturing the color and athletic endeavor of horse show competition at a time when the sport was ignored by the mainstream sports writers.

"He was really good at writing history pieces about the great horses and trainers from the past," said William Thompson, owner and publisher of "*Saddle & Bridle*" from 1965 to 1990. "His writing reminded people of the sport's heritage, what the game was really about. He could be gruff to deal with, but he was just devoted to horses."

In 1970, Mr. Weatherman left "*Saddle & Bridle*" to work in community journalism at the St. Louis suburban newspaper *Community Press*, but horses occupied every one of his off hours.

He managed Greensfelder Stables, the equestrian facility in Greensfelder Park. Subsequently, he founded his own stables, Weatherman Stables.



Lynn Weatherman, shown in a photo that hangs in the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show's Hall of Fame in the mezzanine at the National Equestrian Center.

He returned to *Saddle & Bridle* in the early 1970s, becoming editor in 1979 and continuing in that position until 1985.

Move to Louisville

In 1985, Mr. Weatherman was asked by Judy Werner, then president of the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the membership association for the saddlebred breed, to be the editor of association's *American Saddlebred* magazine, published in Louisville, Ky.

The post gave him the freedom to pursue his passion for historical documentation of the show horse world, and he interviewed nearly every top horseman about their roles and memories. With his knowledge of equine pedigrees

and bloodlines he compiled an unequalled resource library for future journalists.

"I hate to think what he didn't write down that we've lost," commented Judy Werner.

When Mr. Weatherman relocated to Louisville to work for the American Saddlebred Horse Association, he took his animals with him. Renamed Warm Hearth Farm, the family stables produced such winners as CH Hayden Fox, The Revenooer, Lucky Piece, El Toro Fox, three-gaited pony The Artful Dodger and Five-Gaited Golden Palomino World Champion Gold Exchange, whom his daughter, Wendy Lewis, trained and showed to his title.

Mr. Weatherman was also a great devotee of harness racing and was a regular spectator at The Red Mile during Grand Circuit meets. He had many contacts within the Standardbred sport and knew the pedigrees and connections of many of the top performers of the past 50 years. He recalled with great passion seeing many of the Hambletonians contested at the Du Quoin State Fair.

In 1999, Mr. Weatherman received the United Professional Horsemen's Association's Sallie B. Wheeler Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2001, he was inducted into the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Hall of Fame.

He retired in 2001 to Mifflin, Ohio. He is survived by his daughter, Wendy, of Nova, Ohio.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Animal Health Foundation, 3615 Bassett Road, Pacific, MO 63069.

"His writing reminded people of the sport's heritage, what the game was really about. — William Thompson

GLOBE

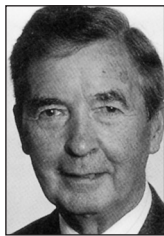


TROTting

Author Dick Francis is working on a new mystery novel

Best-selling author Dick Francis is back to work writing a new horse racing mystery, his 39th novel, after a six-year absence from the business.

G.P. Putnam's Sons will release the book this fall.



Francis

At age 85, and without the help of his wife, Francis is working on a book titled "Under Orders," a term that refers to a racing field being under the orders of the chief starter at the racetrack. The book features the fourth appearance by lead character Syd Halley, a former steeplechase jockey who lost his hand to a riding accident and turned private investigator.

Francis, now a resident of the Cayman Islands, stopped writing after the death of his wife, Mary, a former reader for a British publisher and researcher for Francis' books. Prior to writing, Francis was a world-famous British steeplechase jockey.

Manure issues are concern for Wellington after circuit

A South Florida Sun-Sentinel story on April 28 reported some interesting statistics on this year's cleanup after the Winter Festival in Wellington, Fla.

The newspaper said the village is scrambling to dispose of 300 tons of manure and bedding waste

produced daily during the show season by the 7,000 horses who attended. Officials are facing a six-month deadline when all those horses are expected to return again. Wellington Village law requires barns to store manure in concrete bins and bring in a hauler to take it away.

Problems arose in early April after Palm Beach County shut down a waste dump site in Loxahatchee — a facility used by all five of the village's registered manure haulers. The site had a manure pile 30 feet tall on five acres and was declared illegal for lack of proper permits.

Other sites and nurseries willing to take manure are dwindling, haulers say, and some haulers are getting out of the business because it's becoming more trouble than it's worth. As officials search for a solution, all agree that the cost of hauling away manure will go up.

Dog left home alone starts fire while reaching for pizza

It's a good bet what will happen when a dog and leftover frozen pizza are left home alone. Unfortunately for Chip Haines of Naperville, Ill., he left his pizza on the stove.

When he raced out of his house March 7 for his real estate job, he didn't do his usual sweep of danger zones. But, Skylar, his 2½-year-old golden retriever-standard poodle mix, did. As the "counter surfing" dog reached for the pizza, he turned the burner knob on, which ignited the cardboard tray, which set fire to a cutting board

and kitchen wall.

The fire destroyed the kitchen of the three-bedroom ranch house, according to several news sources who reported the incident in late April. An off-duty police officer living in the area smelled the smoke and called the fire department. Once officials broke into the house, they found Skylar, normally white colored, black with soot and unconscious. He had to be resuscitated with an oxygen mask for dogs, standard equipment for the Naperville firefighters.

Far from being angry, except maybe at himself, Haines said he considers himself lucky for still having most of his house and his dog.

British pets are overindulged, according to new survey

A new British poll reveals that animals overseas are expanding similar to their American counterparts.

The survey, conducted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, went to 143 veterinary practices in England and Wales. About 80 percent said they were seeing a steep rise in overweight and obese pets, with more than three quarters having set up special clinics, or fat farms, to help their four-legged clients reduce.

The RSPCA highlighted one case in 2005 in which a Lincolnshire man fed his dog such a fat-laden diet, including a full English breakfast, the dog was unable to move and had to be put down. The man has been banned from

Continued on next page

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keeping animals for life.

RSPCA vet David Grant said in a news release: "People who let their pets starve are labeled cruel and callous, but what people don't realize is that overfeeding your pet can cause just as much suffering as starving it. A fat dog may look cute and cuddly but in reality you are killing it with kindness."

Para-equestrian events are added to 2010 WEG schedule

Para-equestrian events in dressage and driving have been added to the schedule of the 2010 World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park, marking the first time para-equestrian events have been held in conjunction with an international competition rather than afterward, several news sources reported April 28.

About 125 athletes with disabilities from 35 countries will compete in Lexington, using the same facilities as all the athletes.

Kentucky's governor said the state reviewed the additional cost (\$900,000) and thought it was well worth the investment to show support for all athletes.

Famed jockey to lead new horse racing academy

Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron will serve as director of a new horse racing academy, the first of its kind in the United States, at the Kentucky Horse Park.

The North American Riding Academy — a joint venture between the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and McCarron — will allow jockeys and others interested in the horse racing industry to pursue many career paths, McCarron said.

The first courses in jockey train-



REED PALMER/CHURCHILL DOWNS

Jockey Chris McCarron will serve as director of the North American Riding Academy in Kentucky.

ing are scheduled to begin this fall. Other degree programs planned for the future include those for exercise riders, grooms, breeding farm staff, barn foremen, assistant trainers, trainers, track maintenance workers, racing officials, racing commissioners and racetrack management.

McCarron, who retired from racing in 2002, rode in 18 Kentucky Derby races and won in 1987 on Alysheba and in 1994 on Go for Gin.

The recent state budget signed by Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher included \$300,000 to KCTCS in 2006-07 for the operation of the academy.

Dog owner warns of dangers of shredding machines

A dog owner in Socastee, S.C., is trying to spread the word that paper shredders can be dangerous for pets after her 1-year-old boxer lost most of his tongue when he tried to lick the intriguing machine.

Sandy Clarke's boxer, named Cross, was entangled in her shredder for more than 10 minutes until he finally was freed by the shredder being put into reverse.

Clarke is pushing for warning labels and safety improvements

to prevent a similar incident from happening to others. She has taken her story to the national media.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was aware of five incidents involving dogs getting their tongues stuck in shredders, with some of those animals having to be euthanized, according to The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News on April 2.

Cross was treated for tongue lacerations, but he still should be able to use his tongue for eating, drinking and licking. He does tremble when he hears the sound of the shredder, his owner said.

Wild cat joins game of toss, sends man to hospital

A man playing toss with his dog at his home in Leavenworth, Wash., was joined by another animal who wanted to get in on the action — a young cougar, according to The Associated Press.

The animal appeared more excited to play than hungry but nonetheless bit the man on the leg. Alex Schmidt was treated for a puncture wound in his calf. He gave his wire-haired fox terrier, Ellie, credit for driving away the cougar. Searchers were unable to find the wild cat later.

Coyotes roaming park attack two dogs on walk with couple

A pack of possibly 12 coyotes attacked a couple's dog in a city park in Calgary in Alberta, Canada, as the owners walked their two pets in an off-leash area on a Sunday afternoon in April, according to the Calgary Sun.

Peter, a German shepherd cross, fought off the coyotes and escaped unscathed, but a basset hound cross, Amy, was overwhelmed by the pack and suffered bite marks to her stomach and leg. The owners, Samantha and Jon Whiten, screamed and managed to scare off the wild animals.

Now, they are calling for the

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coyotes to be removed from the park, saying they don't want this to happen to someone else. A conservation officer said little can be done to reduce the numbers, ruling out traps as ineffective and shooting and poison as too dangerous for others; the officer suggested those confronted by coyotes use pepper spray or make loud noises. The Whitens said they will not be going back.

Horse bolts during event at school, injuring nine

A horse attending a school function in Sacramento spooked and ran into a crowd of 100 people on April 6, injuring six children and three adults, according to the San Jose Mercury News. Children shouting and waving metallic gold streamers caused the horse to bolt at Bradshaw Christian School. The injuries were minor to moderate.

The horse, brought to the event by a parent to be petted by children, was in a makeshift coral when it escaped.

Dog taken in after car crash will remain with new family

A dog who wandered into a Colorado farm in late March after surviving a car crash will get to call that farm home, according to the Coloradoan in Fort Collins.

The Nitchen family of Fort Collins found Sappho sitting in a shed on their farm nursing some cuts. His dog tags said he belonged to Laura Vigesaas of Fargo, N.D.

After several attempts to reach Vigesaas were unsuccessful, they called police and learned the woman had died after a two-vehicle accident a few miles from their home. A student at North Dakota University, Vigesaas had

been driving to New Mexico, where she did volunteer work on an Indian reservation. She drove rather than going by plane so she could be accompanied by Sappho, 4, a dog she found as a puppy.

The Nitchens offered to return the dog to the woman's family but the Vigesaas decided the dog already had found a good home.

Officer gives new wheels to dog in need of cart

A plea for help in Westchester, N.Y., to get a disabled dog a cart brought calls from more than 70 people, including a police officer whose mother runs an animal rescue group. He was the first to respond to a story about an elderly woman who could not afford to get the cart herself, according to The Journal News in Westchester on May 5.

Nick Tartaglione read about Patty Sanderson, a home health aide, and Chopper, her 15-year-old German shepherd-beagle mix and felt the need to help. Tartaglione paid \$395 to Eddie's Wheels for Carts, which makes two-wheeled carts that strap onto the backs of disabled dogs and other animals.

Chopper lost the use of his hind legs to nerve damage and arthritis two years ago. Sanderson has been holding the dog's tail to walk him and sharing her arthritis medications with him. She said she would use extra contributions to buy Chopper his own medications and to hire dog walkers.

More states ban staged fights between dogs, wild hogs

Alabama has joined Louisiana and Mississippi in banning staged fights between dogs and wild hogs — a fad growing in popularity along the Gulf Coast.

The events, often called "hog-dog rodeos," involve putting a trained attack dog in an enclosed ring with a wild hog that often has its tusks sawed off. The dog tries to

grab the hog by its ear or another body part in the fastest time, and spectators bet on which dog will win. An official of the Humane Society of the United States was quoted in USA Today as saying the pig never wins.

Louisiana enacted a ban in 2004. Mississippi passed one in March; it takes effect July 1. Bills are also pending in the legislatures in South Carolina and Tennessee.

Alabama's legislation makes a first offense a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail. A second offense would be a felony, punishable by one to 10 years in prison.

Proponents claim the events are being incorrectly portrayed and are more like field trials for dogs.

Patent is granted for method of medicating animals

A company in Oyster Bay, N.Y., has been granted a patent for a new way to give animals medicine, several new sources reported.

Apothecus Pharmaceutical Corporation uses a dissolvable film that is inserted into the animal's mouth. The film becomes tacky and sticks to the inside of the mouth, making it virtually impossible to spit out. The medication's active ingredients in film form, created through the manufacturing process, are then absorbed quickly through the cheek membrane without having to pass through the animal's digestive system.

Girl may have been target of abduction, officials say

A 14-year-old girl who was walking her horse at a California stable was grabbed from behind by a man who police believe was trying to abduct her, but the girl got away, several news services reported in early May.

The incident happened at about 9 p.m. on a Monday night at San Dimas Equestrian Center.

The girl screamed and kicked,

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Molly, 636-675-0984.

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Deadlines for next issue

The deadline for story submissions and advertising for the August issue of Whinny Magazine is July 1.

If you need assistance putting together an ad, we are more than willing to help.

Please have your wording planned. We encourage photos, logos and suggestions for color. Send by mail or e-mail.

Contact the magazine at 636-398-5067 or whinnymagazine@aol.com



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and when her assailant let go, she ran. The girl was uninjured. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office continued to look for the man, who was described as between 5-10 inches and 6 feet tall.

Lassie is still top British TV star; Scooby makes the list

In Britain, Lassie is still top dog, according to a new poll on TV animals, The Evening Standard reported in April.

The Collie has been named Britain's favorite small-screen pet almost 70 years after first appearing in Yorkshire-born author Eric Knight's story, "Lassie, Come Home."

Several local British four-legged celebrities filled out the bulk of the list, but Garfield the cat and Scooby Doo

took 7th and 9th place, respectively.

Man who stole dog walker's bags gets fitting rewards

A British man has been handed a second helping of justice after trying to rob a woman walking her dog last July, according to several news reports.

David Carlisle, 32, was convicted in early May of attempted robbery and sentenced to four years in jail after jumping out of a car, wielding a knife and ordering Marion Budd, 52, to hand over her bags in Bristol.

Budd was walking her dog, and the thief soon discovered that the bags were used to clean up after the dog. Carlisle fled the scene, leaving behind the bags, but later was tracked down through his DNA.

His four-year sentence will run concurrently with another seven-year term for multiple burglaries.

Previous issues available for sale

There are a limited number of previous issues of Whinny Magazine available for sale on a first-come basis. The cost is \$4 an issue to cover postage and printing. The content of those issues includes:

September 2005: A look back at Olympic bronze medalist Windfall's year; a guide for planning a horse's final arrangements.

December 2005: Features on four long-standing feed and tack stores; an in-depth story on St. Louis' contributions to laminitis research internationally and what is known about the disease.

February 2005: Features on the Bridlespur Hunt Club and Therapeutic Horsemanship; a story on the state of the hay industry.

April 2005: Florence Shinkle's in-depth piece on horse auctions and how the middle market appears to be shrinking.

Contact the magazine for back issues at 636-398-5067 or whinnymagazine@aol.com

Directory of Equine Businesses and Services

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Hunter/jumper training, instruction:

■ Baskin Farm

18124 Baskin Farm Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63038
636-458-5053
www.baskinfarm.net

■ Irish Fox Stables

10302 Highway DD
Wentzville, MO 63385
636-398-6868
www.irishfoxstables.com
irishfoxstables@centurytel.net

■ J.M. Pierce Stables

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636-394-4733

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636-527-3624
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drew_training@yahoo.com

■ Hamilton Stables LLC

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Wentzville, MO 63385
636-398-8121
Hamiltonstables@aol.com,
www.Hamiltonstables.net

Feed stores

■ Blair Feed and Grain Inc.

3600 Mill St.
New Melle, MO 63365
636-828-5314

■ Greene's Country Store and Feed

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Lake St. Louis, MO 63367
636-561-6637

Tack stores

■ The Tack Trunk

133 Chesterfield Towne Ctr
Chesterfield, MO 63005
636-812-0146

Veterinary services

■ Fox Creek Veterinary Hospital

18962 Highway 100
Wildwood, MO 63069
636-458-6569
smrdoc@hotmail.com

■ Homestead Veterinary Hospital

3615 Bassett Rd.
Pacific, MO 63069
636-451-4655
homesteadvet@gmail.com

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■ R.C. Barns Building Inc.

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*Soul-mate
search*

The waiting game

Matchmaking site leaves one user connection-challenged

Joanie McKenna
Whinny Magazine Editor

The TV news coverage of people who join matchmaking web sites is one success story after the next, with members finding their soul mates almost instantly and living happily ever after. When is the last time anyone did a piece on a person who found no one?

This is one of those pieces.

Keep in mind that this review is one person's experience and may not be indicative of general success rates.

Pretending to be undercover for the magazine but really just curious, I signed up for a three-month membership with EquestrianSingles.com, based in Texas but with members from all

over the United States and several foreign countries.

It's no secret that the ratio of men to women in the horse world, especially in English disciplines, is about one to a billion. I had assumed that the site would be mostly women looking for men. But I had received e-mails in the past from fellow female dressage riders saying this was a good place to meet people, and I had wanted to see what all the fuss was about with matchmaking sites in general.

If I were to summarize the guy I intended to try to find, he would be a lot like the man in the Beneful commercial who swims with his dog in the last segment. Can't really say why that's appealing, but it makes me laugh every time.

So, the search was on for a serious animal lover who was used to the long hours and hard work of a horse lifestyle.

Anyone can search the EquestrianSingles.com database of members, but one cannot send an e-mail to a member without being a member oneself.

At last check, there were more than 200 male and 200 female members from Missouri signed up; the site cuts off the full list at 200, so there's no way of telling how many more there are or what 200 one is seeing. Normally, one would do a more specific search. A handful of the men and perhaps a few more of the women in those 200 are from the St. Louis area.

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Soul-mate search

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The men all seem to be of the western bent — most are wearing cowboy hats and have rugged online names. The women appear to be from all walks of horse life. While it may seem divisive to make note of that, it does figure into how each horseman spends his or her time. I come from an English background and am used to schooling horses in a ring. I logged a lot of trail riding miles as a youth, but I'm not inspired to do it now. Most of the male profiles I read mentioned trail riding.

As I stared at the form asking me to check by my preferences and characteristics, I was disappointed in the questions. They were mostly about appearance and personal habits; far too few addressed animal concerns. Nonetheless, I filled it out and posted it. I didn't put up a photo immediately. The only photo from the last 20 years (without a hard hat) was my driver's license photo. Wouldn't want to put that out there.

Two gentlemen contacted me over the next couple of weeks. I learned quickly that there's a whole time dynamic that goes along with this, similar to answering any e-mail but with double the pressure. I guess it's no different than answering phone calls in the dating world. If you answer too quickly, are you being too eager? If you wait more than a day, are you being rude? What if the person stops replying to your e-mails? Do you try again or let it go? In the end, that's exactly what happened to me — I bored the two gentlemen by talking about my animals incessantly, or just by being boring, to the point that they dropped me. I let it go.

I also learned that you have to have a method for keeping people straight. Old messages fall out of the system fairly quickly. If you're messaging two people at once and they don't sign their name at the end of each message, it becomes easy to forget an e-mailer's name and one certainly doesn't want to have to ask twice or call someone the wrong name. From an integrity standpoint, messaging two people at the same time also feels wrong. Not sure the etiquette book has been written on that one.

The searches that I conducted for men, checking all the items on the form that would fit me exactly, always came back with the same answer: No matches.

I quickly learned that there's a whole time dynamic that goes along with this.

I never made it into the chat room. Well, that's a lie. I went in there once, and the chat room announced my arrival at the top of the screen, upon which I high-tailed it out of there at Kentucky Derby speed. I just wanted to spy. I still have no idea what the conversation is like in the chat room.

I did eventually remember someone had taken my photo in the fall of 2004. I had been meeting some old friends for brunch on a Saturday morning — a very rare occurrence — with the restaurant located at a mall. I parked Whinny in the garage because the sun was out and the temperature in the mid-70s, went upstairs into the north end of mall and was told by a store clerk that the restaurant was a stand-alone building at the south end of the mall. I was late so I ran the length of the mall to get there, then found an empty parking lot. I jogged the parking lot back to the north end and finally found the restaurant. The humid weather had done nothing for my Irish-Italian hair. And then a friend took my photo.

That's what I posted on the site, along with a second photo of me

on a horse at a show. No one contacted me after that, and I took the photos back down after two weeks. The lesson there is: No photo is better than a bad photo, or even a photo that resembles how you often look. Get a good photo.

The cost of the site was \$29.95 for two months plus a third month free. When that time elapsed, the site gave me another month free. Four months for \$30 might be worth it if one enjoyed it.

For me, the site felt too much like dating. Too much time. Too much work. What was real? What was fake? No guarantees.

Getting to the heart of it

The form certainly wasn't the questionnaire I would have designed. It asked height, eye color, attractiveness, religion, whether one smokes or drinks, whether one has or wants children, etc. All standard questions, no doubt.

But my questionnaire would have asked: Does this person put his animals before himself, feeding and taking care of them even if he's dead on his feet? Does he enjoy horses 24 hours a day, or is he one of those guys who will inevitably say, "All you ever want to do is spend time with the horses?" Does he dream about having a big indoor arena as opposed to a fancy house? A nice trailer, rather than an expensive car? And most importantly: Is he the person his dog thinks he is?

Would I try it again? Probably not, although I recently was given the names of several other sites for animal lovers:

- datemypet.com
- lovemelovemypets.com
- animalpeople.com
- leashesandlovers.com
- petloversconnection.com
- animalattraction.com

Interesting site names. Maybe it would be worth a second humbling.

What I really need is a Build-A-Horseman Workshop.



CONGRATULATIONS
FROM
Baskin Farm

to all our riders in our Academy Horse Show
and Boarder's Bash Horse Show in May



Riders in the Baskin Farm Academy Horse Show.

Thanks to all for making the weekend so much fun.

A special thank you to young riders **Kimmy Ryan** and **Liz Brodsky**, who organized the Boarder's Bash and raised nearly \$1,000 for the horses at Long Meadow Rescue Ranch, a division of the Humane Society of Missouri.



A parent gets high marks for style.



A student leaves room to spare.

In addition to classes for horses, people were given the opportunity to compete over fences, and many of the parents participated.