



EVENTS

March 15

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

March 17

General Store used tack sale

310-704-7226

Rolling Hills General Store

April 15

ETI Corral 8 horse show

eticorral8.com

Ernie Howlett Park

April 19

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

April 28

Annamay Memorial Gymkhana

annamay.memorial@yahoo.com

Empty Saddle Club

May 6

Horse Happenings on the Hill

310-704-7226

Ernie Howlett Park

May 11-12

Tom Curtin horsemanship clinic

310-345-3274

Ernie Howlett Park

June 3

LSAC horse show

palosverdes.com/lvac

Ernie Howlett Park

Send events to pvpha2010@gmail.com.

ALSO INSIDE

News briefs	2
PVDN proposal	3
Healing horses in Mexico	4
A lesson in Mexico	5
Horse funnies	8
Classified	8
Annamay gymkhana info	10
Horse Happenings info	11

Study: Zebra stripes keep flies away

by VICTORIA GILL
STAFF WRITER / BBC NATURE

Why zebras evolved their characteristic black-and-white stripes has been the subject of decades of debate among scientists.

Now researchers from Hungary and Sweden claim to have solved the mystery.

The stripes, they say, came about to keep away blood-sucking flies.

They report in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* that this pattern of narrow stripes makes zebras "unattractive" to the flies.

The key to this effect is in how the striped patterns reflect light.

"We started off studying horses



HORTON GROUP / SXC.HU

Scientists in Hungary and Sweden say zebra stripes repel flies.

with black, brown or white coats," explained Susanne Akesson from Lund University, a member of the international research team that carried out the study.

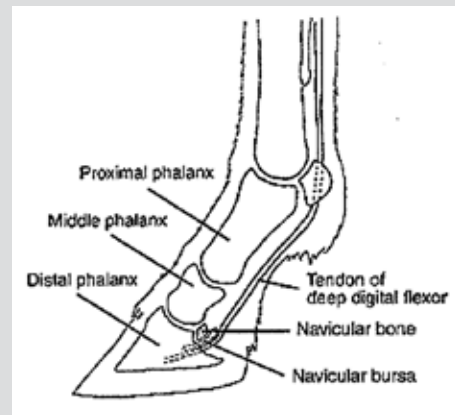
"We found that in the black and
See "Zebras," Page 6.

Navicular disease explained!

by CHARLENE O'NEIL
VICE PRESIDENT OF
EDUCATION

Navicular disease begins with inflammation of the bursa (a sack-like body between moving structures) between the navicular bone and the tendon of the deep digital flexor. Why do we have degeneration of the bone? What are the options for correction? Science is still evaluated new methods of care. Dr. Jimmy Giacopuzzi will discuss these and any new treatment options available.

See you Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Empty Saddle Club. U



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Until I looked at this illustration of the horse's foot, I had no idea the navicular bone was so tiny!

NEWS BRIEFS

'Horse Funnies' winner announced

Haley Harrington's submission of a horse licking her face and a caption of "Nom nom nom" won this year's Horse Funnies contest. Cyndy Harrington took the photo.

The Harringtons will receive a large trail map as a prize.

To submit a Horse Funnies entry, email a photo and caption to pvpha2010@gmail.com.

General Store to host used tack sale

Those hunting for used tack will be in luck St. Patrick's Day weekend. The Rolling Hills General Store will host a used tack sale on March 17 in addition to a sale on items in the store.

Those who wish to sell their tack should call Kelly Yates at 310-704-7226 to reserve booth space for \$10. Participants must bring their own chairs.

The sale will last from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Gymkhana in honor of Annamay planned

Friends and family of Annamay Naef, who died last year in a car crash, are planning a gymkhana in her honor. The gymkhana will be held April 28 at the Empty Saddle Club and feature the cloverleaf barrel, hurry scurry, pole bending and Big T events. Proceeds will benefit the Peppertree Foundation and Ride to Fly. For more information, see the flier on Page 10.

Save the date for 2nd annual Horse Happenings

The second annual Horse Happenings on the Hill is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, from 9:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Ernie Howlett Park in Rolling Hills Estates.

This PVPHA-sponsored event is an opportunity for all the people involved in the Peninsula horse community to come together and demonstrate what they have to offer for any level of horse enthusiast. The goal is to expose the South Bay community and beyond to the many different ways to get involved with horses.

This is a venue where each equestrian professional can showcase his or her expertise. It's not a competitive thing—it's a cooperative thing. It is an event to reveal



CYNDY HARRINGTON

The 2011 Horse Funnies winner: 'Nom nom nom.' Submitted by Haley Harrington.

what people on the Hill have to offer and increase business for everyone.

Last year, more than 500 spectators and 40 exhibitors attended. Those who wish to set up a booth should contact Kelly Yates at jerseyj2@cox.net or 310-704-7226 for more information. Informational booth space costs \$20, while space for those who wish to sell horse-related products costs \$45. Demonstration slots are still available. Exhibitors under 18 are free. The event is free to spectators.

To check out pictures from last year, go to Horse Happenings on the Hill on Facebook.

Help the Dispatch

Do you have a horse care tip? Did you take home a ribbon at your last show? Got a great recipe for horse treats? Want to express an opinion on an equestrian issue? Have a clinic to put on the calendar? Send it to pvpha2010@gmail.com, and I include it in a future issue.

News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit a news brief, email the text to pvpha2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U



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City hears equestrian concerns over Palos Verdes Drive North proposals

by **MELODY COLBERT**
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

The city of Rolling Hills Estates recently held a public hearing and several public meetings to review and approve plans to create a bike lane for 1.3 miles of Palos Verdes Drive North between Ponderosa Lane, which borders Palos Verdes Estates, and Crenshaw Boulevard.

The city was able to obtain state money to pay for this project to improve safety for cyclists, and also to pay for the repaving of Palos Verdes Drive North at a savings of about \$500,000 to the city. Part of the plan involves redesign of the street to include raised center medians and added lanes of traffic at Hawthorne and Silver Spur intersections.

A major sore point for residents is the fact that quite a few mature pepper trees along the drive must be removed in order to accommodate the new bike lane. Many of these trees were identified as diseased by an arborist hired by Rolling Hills Estates to survey the trees.

What does this have to do with equestrians? The removal of the pepper trees will impact several equestrian properties and horse owners on the south side of Palos Verdes Drive North west of Hawthorne Boulevard, whose only access to trails and rings in Rolling Hills Estates is via crossing the very busy intersection of Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Rolling Hills Estates will also be adding traffic lanes at this intersection where equestrians must cross.

This intersection has become more hazardous in the last few years due to

an increased volume of traffic generated by the Terranea project in Rancho Palos Verdes and other developments. Future development projects also portend an increase in traffic volumes, and as part of this project, the city plans to add more traffic lanes to the already-hazardous crossing at Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard as well as at Palos Verdes Drive North and Silver Spur Road.

At the Feb. 28 Rolling Hills Estates City Council meeting, the public had an opportunity to comment on the various aspects of the project. The resident “tree people” had hired their own arborist who corroborated the City’s report about diseased trees slated for removal—but the arborist also said the disease was due to improper pruning.

The City agreed to hire a third-party for review and to hire a consulting arborist to ensure proper planting, care and pruning of trees in future. Also, city staff explained that they have planted *more* trees than they plan to remove to allow for loss of some new trees that fail to thrive.

Likewise, the City Council agreed to improve an area for mid-block equestrian crossing for the Rollingwood and Marloma homeowners associations and acknowledged that the changes to the Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard intersection were going to make it less hospitable to equestrian crossing.

Also importantly, the city agreed not to add any unnecessary lanes to

Silver Spur Road—at least until such time as it becomes necessary, should there be an increase in traffic.

The City Council also agreed to set some objective standards to measure the success of the project down the line, such as counting bicycles and accident rates, and to come up with some more standards.

A lot of truths came out at the meeting, not the least of which was spoken by councilman Steve Zuckerman who reminded attendees that the intersection changes of this project are largely due to increased development on the Hill—from Terranea to the new condos the City approved a few years ago.

The lesson learned is that *any* development above Palos Verdes Drive North has the potential to affect equestrians, and it behooves all of us to be vigilant and get informed about any new projects that are proposed in order to assess their potential impact upon equestrians.

Little by little, each impact upon just one small neighborhood, but especially one that is relatively dense with horses, serves to erode the equestrian lifestyle and therefore requires the participation of every equestrian.

We cannot afford to take the attitude that, “Oh well, that’s not *my* neighborhood—let *those* people fight for themselves.” U

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Healing horses, burros in Mexico

Dr. Larry Kelly details why veterinary care is desperately needed in the United States' southern neighbor

by **ERIN RYAN**
PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

Local veterinarian Dr. Larry Kelly ventures to Mexico occasionally as part of an international group of animal professionals to provide medical care to horses and burros in the country. The following article contains some of his observations, which he shared during the February general meeting for the PVPHA.

Preceded by India and Egypt, Mexico has the third largest burro population in the world.

Mexico also has only 1 percent of its people employed as vets, since there is no money to pay them.

Mexico is a country where culture and folklore direct the lives of its

peoples. Animals are used as beasts of burden in a harsh environment. There are lots and lots of animals everywhere. People exist side by side with these animals in the same harsh environment.

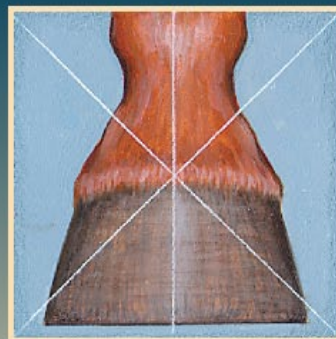
Equines are a vital part of everyone's life. This is a country where horsepower is employed everywhere. Children of all ages are involved with these animals, and with nonexistent facilities for the disabled, the elderly and handicapped are completely dependent on their animals.

Poverty affects not only the people, but the animals as well. The animals are overburdened, but those not able to afford a family burro carrying wood on their own backs. The people themselves work as beasts of burden

in the absence of burros or horses.

The reality is that almost everyone must work for their food, animals and people alike. The question people face is, "What am I going to eat today?" People work all day just to get enough to eat. For the casual passerby, this may not seem like a problem for herd animals—there is a ready supply of tall and abundant coastal grass.

So why are the animals still skinny? Much of the coastal grass is just not good, comprising mostly of cellulose and void of the many other nutrients needed to keep the average equine in good health. In the absence of quality grass, other food sources must be found. It is not uncommon to witness burros in the dumps eating



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cardboard just to stay alive.

Because there is no money and very few local vets, an international group of vets and other professionals donates its time to go down to Mexico to perform veterinary services.

Mexico is divided up into four geographic areas: tropical, sub-tropical, humid temperate and semi-arid, allowing the participants to face an interesting variety of conditions. These volunteers set up eight different stations for welfare, handling and recording, dentistry, wounds, harnessing and muscular-skeletal, among others. Any available space is utilized, including vacant garages, breeding farms, soccer fields and schoolhouses—wherever there is room.

One case study involved a thin horse that regardless of how much he ate, kept spitting out chewed grass. This is called quidding (pre-dental case). It was discovered he had an ulcer and a fractured tooth. After the dental work, no quidding!

Keep in mind that Social Security

does not exist in this country, and most families depend on their burros for their existence, so there can be many burros in any given town. On the second day, 400 working burros showed up, of which 100 received dental work. Some of these animals were not too keen on getting any kind of dental care and gave the vets a hard time. Even with a disagreeable animal, it is imperative that the equines are treated kindly. Kids are taught to handle animals harshly, so the medical professional should set an example of compassion.

A sore mouth may not be caused by an improper bit or harsh handling. It is important not to be judgmental on how the owner is taking care of the animal and to keep an open mind when dealing with a patient. Isolating problems and discovering the cause allows the team to find a solution.

A host of problems were discovered including incisors abnormalities, retained milk teeth and fractured teeth. It was discovered that hand tools took

longer plus the mouth got beaten up a bit more. Power tools proved faster with less stress on the mouth. A generator was used to supply power.

Tongues can be lacerated by eating very dry grass, even cactus—anything is consumed to survive. A bad bit can slice a tongue in half. For those bits that were too sharp or somehow wrong, there was a station that modified tack right on the spot. The veterinary team also had a saddle and harness station so that improvements could be made to those as well.

The PVPHA wants to thank Dr. Kelly for this insightful presentation of the wonderful efforts he and the other veterinarians gave to our equine neighbors to the south.

To read more about Dr. Larry Kelly's experiences in Mexico, see "Rich Man/Poor Man" in the July 2011 Dispatch issue. U

A LESSON IN MEXICO

I went to Mexico
With Dr Kelly
Well not really
Just in spirit and admiration

7 days and 7 nights
Treating beasts of burden
Of the poor
Really poor

Cardboard for food
Teeth long
Misplaced, gums sore
And infected

400 horses and burros
Waiting patiently for his care
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—Charlene O'Neil



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ZEBRAS: Striped boards attracted less flies in study

Continued from Page 1.

brown horses, we get horizontally polarized light.” This effect made the dark-colored horses very attractive to flies.

It means that the light that bounces off the horse’s dark coat—and travels in waves to the eyes of a hungry fly—moves along a horizontal plane, like a snake slithering along with its body flat to the floor.

Akesson and her colleagues found that horseflies, or tabanids, were very attracted by these “flat” waves of light.

“From a white coat, you get unpolarized light [reflected],” she explained. Unpolarized light waves travel along any and every plane, and are much less attractive to flies. As a result, white-coated horses are much less troubled by horseflies than their dark-colored relatives.

Having discovered the flies’ preference for dark coats, the team then became interested in zebras. They wanted to know what kind of light would bounce off the striped body of a zebra, and how this would affect the biting flies that are a horse’s most irritating enemy.

“We created an experimental set-up where we painted the different patterns onto boards,” Akesson told BBC Nature.

She and her colleagues placed a blackboard, a whiteboard, and several boards with stripes of varying widths into one of the fields of a horse farm in rural Hungary.

“We put insect glue on the boards and counted the number of flies that each one attracted,” she explained.

The striped board that was the closest match to the actual pattern of a zebra’s coat attracted by far the fewest flies, “even less than the white boards that were reflecting unpolarized light,” Akesson said.

“That was a surprise because, in a striped pattern, you still have these dark areas that are reflecting horizontally polarized light.

“But the narrower (and more zebra-like) the stripes, the less attractive they were to the flies.”

To test horseflies’ reaction to a more realistic 3-D target, the team put four life-size “sticky horse models” into the field - one brown, one black, one white and one black-and-white striped, like a zebra.

The researchers collected the trapped flies every two days, and found that the zebra-striped horse model attracted the fewest.

Professor Matthew Cobb, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Manchester pointed out that the

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experiment was “rigorous and fascinating” but did not exclude the other hypotheses about the origin of zebras’ stripes.

“Above all, for this explanation to be true, the authors would have to show that tabanid fly bites are a major selection pressure on zebras, but not on horses and donkeys found elsewhere in the world... none of which are stripy,” he told BBC Nature.

“[They] recognize this in their study, and my hunch is that there is not a single explanation and that many factors are involved in the zebra’s stripes.”

This article originally appeared online at www.bbc.co.uk/nature/16944753. U



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HORSE FUNNIES

The barn fish is an elusive creature.*Photo and caption by Nicole Mooradian.*

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Any additional printing costs must be paid by the advertiser.

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Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.



Annamay Naef Memorial Gymkhana

Saturday April 28, 2012

All are Welcome Food Prizes Venders and More

Empty Saddle Club

39 Empty Saddle Rd, Rolling Hills Estates

Start Time 9:00am

Entries \$50.00, early registration postmarked by 4/21 \$45.00

Lead-liners \$25.00, early registration \$20.00

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**Attention all Equestrian Professionals and Horse Fans.
Save the Date: Second Annual Horse Happenings on the Hill is Coming Up**

Sunday, May 6 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Ernie Howlett Park 25851 Hawthorne Blvd. in Rolling Hills Estates



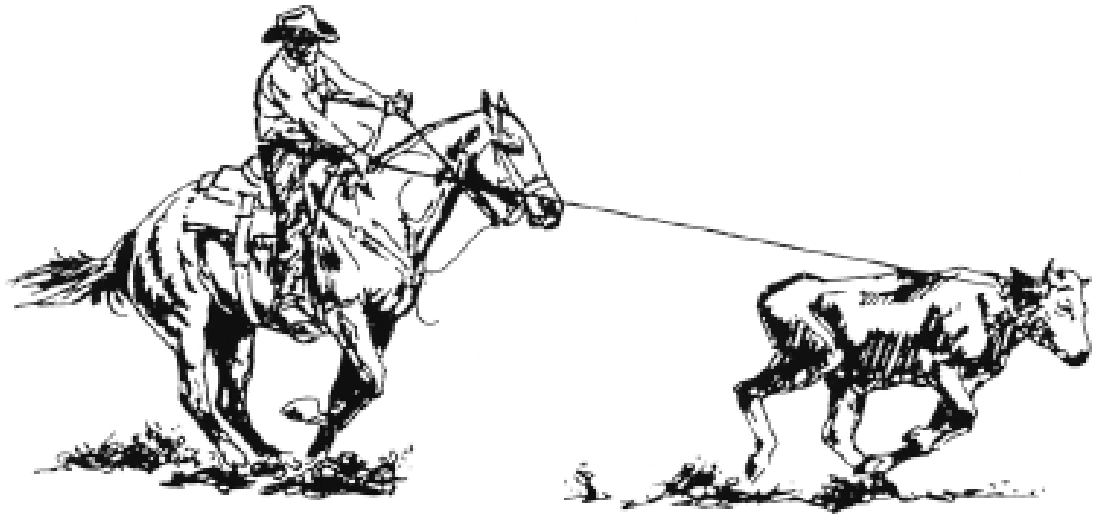
Photo by Katharine Blossom Lowrie / Patch.com

Participate...Demonstrate...Articulate

This event is an opportunity for all the people involved in the Peninsula horse community to come together and demonstrate what they have to offer for any level of horse enthusiast. The goal is to expose the South Bay community and beyond to the many different ways to get involved with horses. This is a venue where each equestrian professional can showcase his or her expertise. It's not a competitive thing, it's a cooperative thing. It is an event to reveal what we have here on the hill and increase business for everyone. Last year, **we had over 500 spectators** and over 40 exhibitors. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating as an equestrian professional OR interested in attending, please pass on this information. Booth space is \$20 for the day, demonstration slots are still available. Exhibitors under 18 are free and the event is free to spectators. Please contact Kelly Yates jerseyj2@cox.net or 310.704.7226 with questions or to reserve booth space. Check out pictures from last year—go to Horse Happenings on the Hill on Facebook.

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