



EVENTS

April 15

ETI Corral 8 horse show

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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

May 12-13

Gil Merrick dressage clinic

pbrownsch@cox.net

Ernie Howlett Park

May 12

Compton Jr. Posse Fundraiser

contact@comptonjrposse.org

Los Angeles Equestrian Center
ballroom

June 3

LSAC horse show

palosverdes.com/lSac/

Ernie Howlett Park

Send events to pvpha2010@gmail.com.

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Study: As climate warmed, early horses shrank

by DANIELLE TORRENT
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Past climate warming resulted in tiny horses, a finding that suggests mammals shrink when temperatures rise, according to a recent study.

In a study appearing in the journal *Science*, researchers led by scientists from the University of Florida and the University of Nebraska found a correlation between temperature and body size in mammals by following the evolution of the earliest horses about 56 million years ago: As temperatures increased, their body size decreased.

"Horses started out small, about the size of a small dog like a miniature schnauzer," says co-author Jonathan Bloch, associate curator of vertebrate

paleontology at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the UF campus.

"What's surprising is that after they first appeared, they then became even smaller and then dramatically increased in size, and that exactly corresponds to the global warming event, followed by cooling.

"It had been known that mammals were small during that time and that it was warm, but we hadn't understood that temperature specifically was driving the evolution of body size."

Sifrhippus, the earliest-known horse, first appeared in the North American fossil record during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum. During this 175,000-year climate event, increased concentrations

See "Study," Page 6.

NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: APRIL 19

MEETING: Learn to draw horses

by CHARLENE O'NEIL
VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

Local artist and horsewoman Sheryl Steckel will teach members the basics of drawing the equine form and the rules for animal art during the general meeting at 7 p.m. April 19 at the Empty Saddle Club. All ages are welcome, so bring the kids as it will be a fun evening.

We promise that some of the participant's creations will be displayed in our *Dispatch!* I will definitely be there as the horses I draw look like Schnauzers! We will provide all the art supplies and brownies.

As a reminder, the Empty Saddle Club requests that meeting attendees leave their dogs at home. U

NEWS BRIEFS

PVPHA board positions up for election

The following positions are open for reelection at the June general membership meeting: vice president of civic affairs, president, vice president of membership and corresponding secretary. Currently, Gil Houle (vice president of civic affairs), Dale Allen (president) and Nancy Wildman (vice president of membership) have agreed to run for reelection.

Those who are interested in running or nominating someone for one of the four positions should contact nominating committee members Doreen Houle at 310-375-5157 or June Olney at 310-326-4531.

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.

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 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'll include it in a future issue. U

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.

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EHV-1 case detected at Peter Weber Equestrian Center

Seven-day quarantine instituted as a precautionary measure.

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**
DISPATCH EDITOR

A case of the non-neuropathogenic strain of equine herpes virus-1 was detected at Peter Weber Equestrian Center during the last week of March.

As a precautionary measure, the horse—a mare named Special Time—was quarantined at the West Coast Equine Hospital in Somis, Calif. Additionally, the Peter Weber Equestrian Center instituted a seven-day quarantine, meaning no horses were allowed in or out of the city stables during that time.

Though the horse displayed mild neurological symptoms, those were caused by a subluxation of the spine—not the virus, Concessionaire Doreen Houle told *Palos Verdes Patch*.

According to the California De-

partment of Food and Agriculture, the mare's infection may come from secondary exposure to a horse at the facility who attended the HITS Desert Horse Show in Thermal, Calif. at the beginning of March.

At least four horses who had attended the HITS Thermal show have tested positive for the non-neuropathogenic strain of EHV-1. The two horses from Monterey County that tested positive are from the same stables, and are quarantined under "enhanced biosecurity protocols."

The horse from San Diego County that tested positive for EHV-1 has since recovered, according to the CDFA. The horse has twice tested negative

for EHV-1 and has been released from quarantine.

EHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, neurological disease, abortion in mares and neonatal foal deaths, according to the CDFA. The disease spreads quickly and has an incubation period of seven to 10 days.

People around horses that may have been exposed to the virus should wash their hands between handling different horses, and avoid sharing bridles, or water and feed buckets, according to a Facebook post from local veterinarian Dr. Ruth Sobeck. **U**

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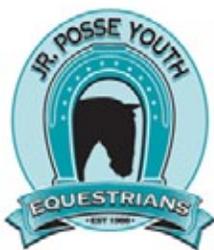
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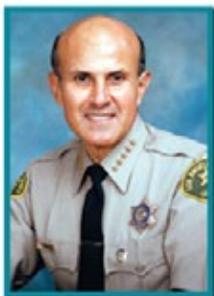
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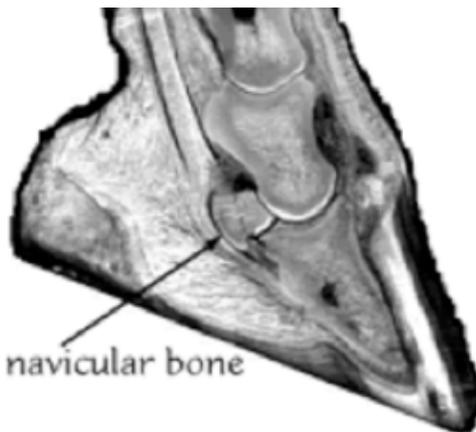
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Navicular disease explained!

by **ERIN RYAN**
PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

Local veterinarian Dr. Jimmy Giacopuzzi taught March general meeting attendees all about navicular. Here is the first in a series of articles that recaps what he said.

In addition to laminitis and colic, navicular disease is one of the most crippling diseases. There have been many studies on that little bone and there can be many issues that can cause pain. This is something that normally continues to get worse over time and is mostly incurable (but there are things that a horse owner



CONTRIBUTED

can do that might slow down the process). If you think your horse recovered, the horse probably never had navicular in the first place.

In the horse, the navicular bone is located directly behind the coffin bone and is held in place by tendons and ligaments.

The navicular bone has two functions. The first is to protect the joint and tendons from pressure and concussion. Here, the navicular bone acts as a pulley on the deep digital flexor tendon, which takes some of the stress off the coffin bone.

The second function is to act as a valve for blood flow to the coffin bone and inside the hoof.

Navicular syndrome causes a gradual and progressive increase in lameness of the front legs. Due to the gradual nature of onset, navicular problems are difficult to detect until the condition is advanced.

While walking, the horse with navicular syndrome tends to place its weight on the toe to avoid placing pressure on the heel area, which contains the inflamed navicular bone and bursa. Since the horse will not place weight on the heel, it takes longer to stop the stride.

While standing, a horse with navicular syndrome tends to shift its weight continuously to relieve pressure and pain within the heel. A horse with navicular syndrome is often lame after work; however, the lameness may disappear with rest.

Due to comparably poor circulation in the feet of many horses with navicular syndrome, the heels and adjacent hooves may become smaller and contract.

For shod horses, there is a tendency for the heels to contract and the toe to get long.

X-rays do not detect early signs of navicular disease as the soft tissues are usually the first problem areas.

If both feet are affected by navicular syndrome, lameness will be less obvious. It will be more easily detected if the horse is turned in a short circle, when he may try to rotate on the foot rather than picking it up to take a step.

Other navicular syndrome signs to watch for include shortening of the stride, a continual shifting of body weight when resting, a stumbling



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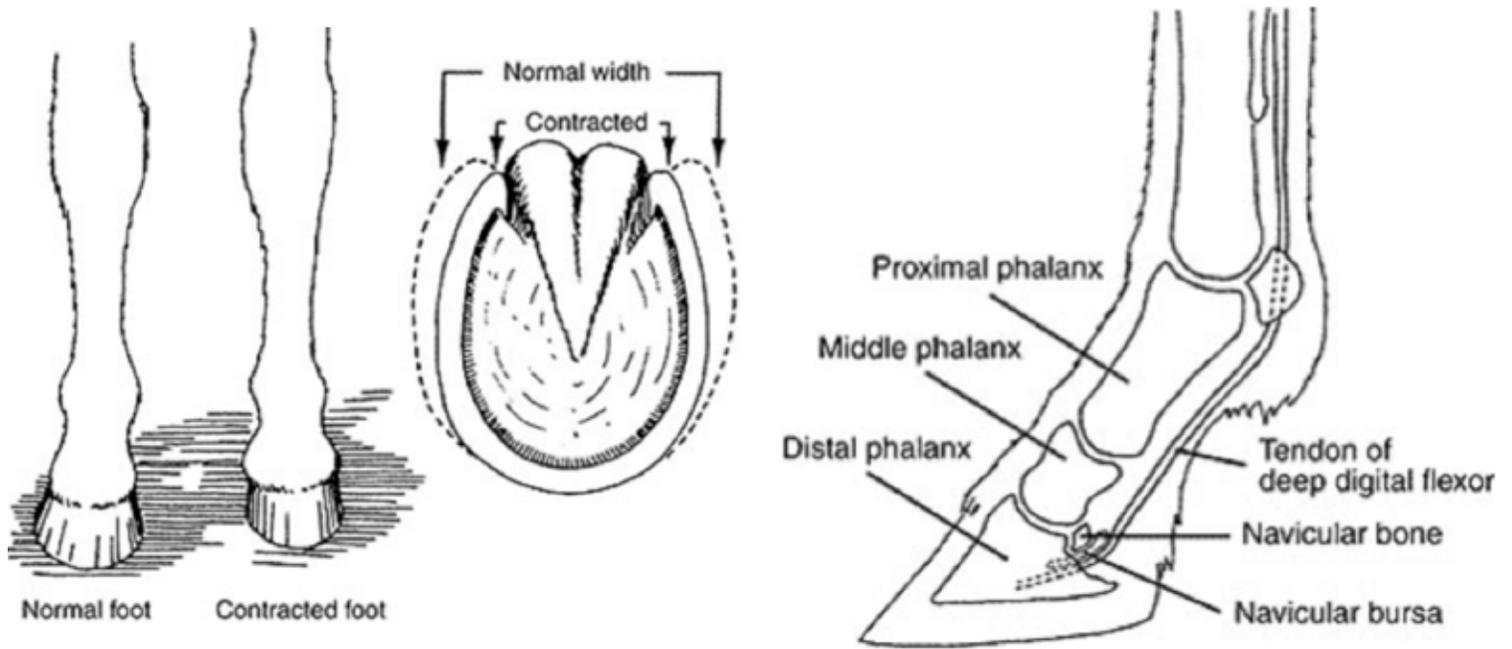


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Above left: Poor circulation associated with navicular disease can cause the affected foot to become smaller.

Right: Navicular disease can also begin with inflammation of the bursa between the navicular bone and the tendon of the deep digital flexor.

gait, slight unevenness on turns, reluctance to go forward or lengthen the stride properly, pointing (standing at rest with one leg extended and the weight resting on the toe), general irritability, and indicating heel pain when the foot is pressure-tested.

Repeated compression of the navicular bone in the area under the DDF tendon and the back of the small pastern bone can cause cartilage degeneration, with the cartilage flattening and gradually becoming less springy and shock absorbing. The cartilage may also begin to erode. Cartilage degeneration is common in navicular horses, usually along the flexor surface. This finding, and the associated biochemical changes, have led some researchers to conclude that there are elements in navicular dis-

ease common to osteoarthritis, and to suggest similar therapeutic regimes.

Constant compression can also increase the bone density directly under the cartilage surfaces, especially on the flexor side. This actually tends to make the bone more brittle, and thus more likely to break.

Navicular disease can also begin with inflammation of the bursa between the navicular bone and the tendon of the deep digital flexor.

Some experts believe that the degenerative process begins with excess tension placed on the ligaments that support the navicular bone. Excess tension causes strain and inflammation. Inflammation from strain of the ligament can decrease blood flow to and from the navicular bone, as the major blood vessels supply-

ing the bone run up and down this area. If the ligament continues to be strained, it can thicken and permanently reduce blood flow to the navicular bone. Because veins are more easily compressed than arteries, blood flow to the bone would be less obstructed than blood flow from the bone, which causes a build-up of pressure within the navicular bone. The navicular bone, in response to both the increased pressure and overall decreased blood supply, absorbs mineral from its center.

Excess tension can also cause exostoses where the ligaments attach to the navicular bone, giving the bone a "canoe" shape. If tension is extreme, the ligaments may actually tear.

Horses that are at high risk for developing navicular problems are usually confined and have strong physical demands placed on them. When hoof is off the ground, blood flows back into hoof. If the horse stands around 23 hours a day there is little blood flow for most of that time. A horse that gets moderate exercise six times a week will do better than one who gets out only twice a week.

In the May *Dispatch* issue, we'll examine what kinds of horses are more likely to develop navicular syndrome. U



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STUDY: Scientists find correlation between equine size, climate

Continued from Page 1.

of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and oceans caused average global temperatures to rise 10 to 20 degrees.

By analyzing the size and isotopes of fossils collected in Wyoming's Bighorn Basin, researchers traced the evolution of *Sifrhippus* from an estimated 12-pound animal that shrank during a 130,000-year period about 30 percent to 8.5 pounds—the size of a small house cat—then increased to about 15 pounds during the next 45,000 years.

“This is the highest-resolution terrestrial record of its kind from anywhere in the world and it shows how climate changed in Wyoming at that time,” says lead author Ross Secord, who began geochemical analysis of the horse teeth and other mammals as a postdoctoral researcher with Bloch before joining the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2008.

“When Jon and I started plotting oxygen data from the mass spectrometer, we could immediately see that the shifts in size of horses and temperature were mirror images of each other.”

Bloch says the project began about seven years ago when former UF student and study co-author Stephen Chester, now an anthropology doctoral candidate at Yale

University, measured horse teeth that seemed to be too large for their age and became smaller through the geologic section.

The findings raise important questions about how animals might respond to future rapid climate change.

“We’re seeing about a third of the mammals getting smaller and some of them getting a lot smaller, by as much as half of their original body size,” Secord says. “Because warming happened much slower during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, mammals had more time to adjust their body size. So, it’s not clear that we’re going to see the same thing happening in the near future, but we might.”

Philip Gingerich, who first recorded the phenomenon of decreasing body size during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum in 1989, says the study documentation clearly demonstrates the relationship between temperature and body size. He agrees this may occur as a result of current warming patterns.

“I joke about this all the time—we’re going to be walking around 3 feet tall if we keep going the way we’re going,” says Gingerich, a researcher at the University of Michigan and director of its Museum of Paleontology.

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In this video still, a researcher compares the teeth of a small prehistoric horse with its modern counterpart.

“Maybe that’s not all bad and if that’s the worst it gets, it will be fine. You can either adapt, or you go extinct, or you can move, and there’s not a lot of place to move anymore, so I think it’s a matter of adaptation and becoming smaller.”

Researchers also analyzed correlations with aridity and carbon dioxide levels but found temperature to be the most likely driving factor in body size. Although little is known about how animals arrived in North America at that time, the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum is a significant event in geologic time in terms of mammalian history, Bloch says.

“The PETM is really important because it marks the beginning for the first appearance of several major groups of mammals, including crown-group primates (ancestors of modern primates) and the first even- and odd-toed modern ungulates (mammals with hooves),” Bloch says. “This sets the scene for the entire diversity of animals we see on the planet today.”

Study co-authors contributed from Brooklyn College, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, University of Colorado, and Northwestern University. U

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

Should the City Council of Rancho Palos Verdes approve the Staff recommended development at 10 Chaparral Lane (CASE NO. ZON2010-00025)? The PVPHA Trail Protection Fund will never have enough money to actually have appropriate trails built across these proposed easements.

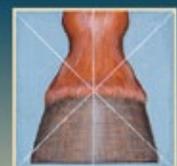
Now is the time for the equestrian community to step up and protect at least the Bronco Trail connection. Follow the dots on the RPV Plan. For how long will you deprive yourselves and the next generation of Spoke No. 2 of the Peninsula Wheel Trails Network? U

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Aerial photograph with markers denoting the Bronco Trail and other Rancho Palos Verdes trails.



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- Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*



*Annamay Naef
Memorial Gymkhana*

Saturday April 28, 2012

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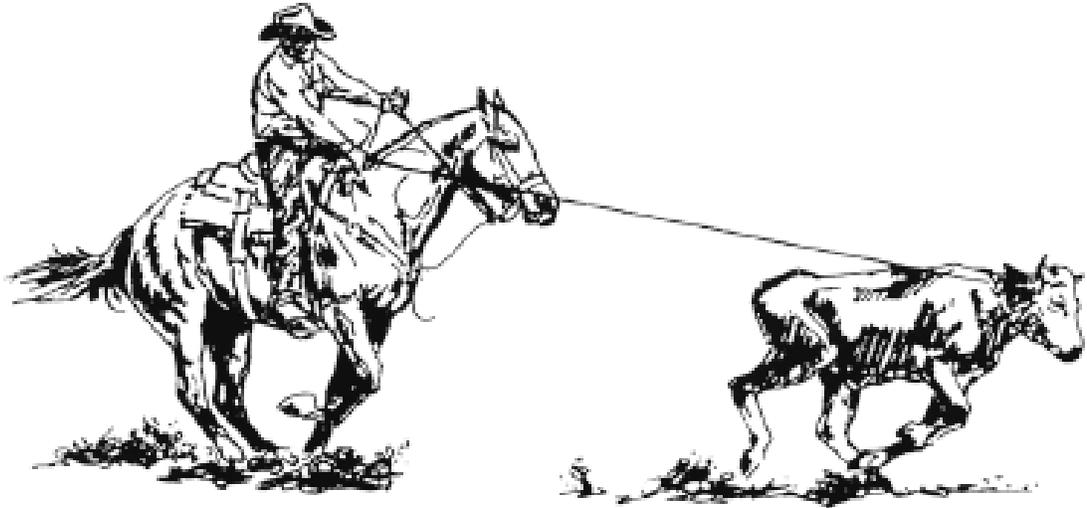
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