



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 20

**PVPHA general meeting**  
*Empty Saddle Club*

June 23

**Patrick Spanton jumping clinic**  
Info: 310-377-3507  
*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

July 19-20

**Gil Merrick dressage clinic**  
Info: 310-378-5823  
*Ernie Howlett Park*

*Events listed here are not necessarily sponsored or endorsed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association. If you would like an event included, send the information to pvpha2010@gmail.com.*

## WHAT TO DO IN AN EQUINE EMERGENCY

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

At the May 16 general meeting at the Empty Saddle Club, four prominent local equine veterinarians showed up to bare their souls and “tell it like it is” when it comes to handling equine emergencies.

Although you might have expected (and perhaps so did they) things to get “heated” in sharing possibly differing philosophies in their practices, it turned out that there was mostly a consensus of the doctors’ viewpoints during the discussion.

Kelly Yates introduced the vets: James Giacomuzzi, DVM; Ruth Sobbeck, DVM, Sylvia Ouellette, DVM, and Larry Kelly, DVM. Yates started by recommending that everyone should have a plan of what to do in case of an emergency.

### What is an emergency?

Beyond the common-sense situations of colic, severe lacerations and lameness, the veterinarians all agreed that whatever the owner feels is an emergency should be treated as such, and a veterinarian should be

*See “EMERGENCY,” Page 6.*



CHRISTINAMARI / FLICKR

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NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 20

## Get ready for Horse Jeopardy

by **CHARLENE O'NEIL**  
PVPHA PRESIDENT

Our four veterinarians—Drs. Jimmy Giacomuzzi, Larry Kelly, Sylvia Ouellette and Ruth Sobbeck—at our last meeting were stars; they could all go on tour! We learned so much about how to handle emergency situations with our equines. Some of the issues were communication with the owner, trailering for extreme medical issues, when to “put down” an animal, who to have as “back-up” for care. If you missed it, you missed a really good one! (For an article, see Page 6.)

Our next meeting will be our second annual Horse Jeopardy contest. There will be prizes and prize money for the winners, so study up! See you at the Empty Saddle Club on June 20 at 7 p.m.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Las Amigas Horse Show canceled**

The annual Las Amigas de las Lomas Horse Show has been canceled due to lack of participation.

Normally held during mid-July, this year's show dates conflicted with the five-day Santa Barbara National Horse Show. Because it is a rated show, the dates for the Las Amigas competition could not be changed.

**Glory Trail temporarily closed**

Glory Trail in Rolling Hills is set to reopen in June, according to the Rolling Hills Community Association.

PVPHA member Carol Sefchek reported that the trail was closed from Crest Road at the south and north ends and that Si's Trail is narrower and closer to the canyon.

**RHE establishes footing subcommittee**

At the April 21 joint Equestrian Committee and Parks and Activities Commission meeting in Rolling Hills Estates after much discussion about the fact that the new

GGT footing in the second arena at Ernie Howlett Park is unsuitable for reining classes, it was decided to form a Footing Subcommittee made up of members of both the aforementioned bodies.

The subcommittee will soon be meeting with local footing experts and reviewing the arena renovation alternatives, acquire arena footing maintenance recommendations, and forwarding their recommendations to the City Council. We will continue to provide updates on this situation in future issues.

**PVPHA board elections**

The following positions are up for election at the August general membership meeting: vice president of fiscal affairs, recording secretary, treasurer, vice president education. Currently, Kelly Yates (vice president fiscal affairs), Erin Ryan (recording secretary), Michelle Sanborn (treasurer) and Betsy Schoettlin (vice president education) 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 chair Melody Colbert at 310-427-4378 or melcolbert@aol.com. Sharon Yarber is also on the nominating committee. U

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# SHARING THE TRAIL

by **JILL MONTGOMERY**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

Many equestrians consider a scenic trail ride to be the ideal riding experience. Hikers, bikers and off-road motorists find the same satisfaction in their activities, and often on the same trails. Trail use has increased in both the number of people and the types of activities so encounters between diverse users have become more frequent. Keeping all trail users' experiences positive and preserving the privilege of use for everyone requires communication, cooperation and courtesy, as well as a measure of common sense.

## Keys to Communication

Attitude matters. All trail users have more shared interests than they have differences, so focus on commonalities to emphasize the positive. Courtesy dictates that you know the rules of the trail you're riding on. Kiosks at trailheads often have posted rules that specify permitted uses, but for more in-depth information, consult the appropriate public land manager before you head out.

Outreach can yield big rewards. Away from the trail, make time to discuss shared use issues with organized trail-user clubs or associations. Learn about each user group's preferences and priorities. Focus on exchanging information that makes encounters on the trail between the groups safer and friendlier.

Don't expect the people you encounter on the trail to take responsibility for your safe passage. Consider desensitizing your horse to potential trail hazards, such as engine noise or cyclists. Consider including a cyclist, a hiker with a tall pack, and an off-road motorist in your trail training sessions.

## Shared Trail Design

Most conflicts arise at or near trailheads, especially on high-use trails. Be aware of potential hazards where users are in close proximity when starting out on the trail.

Be wise in gauging whether a trail is appropriate for your level of horsemanship or your horse's training or condition—or for any equestrian use at all. Remember that your trail ride is supposed to be fun. Set yourself up for success.



IAN BISCO / PALOS VERDES PATCH

**A hiker, mountain biker and equestrian share the trail.**

## Cooperation on the Trail

Here are some guidelines to staying safe on shared trails:

1. Talk to other trail users as you meet them and let them know how to pass you safely. Ask them to speak in a normal voice to reassure your horse.
2. Ask other trail users to avoid sudden movements that might startle your horse.
3. If possible, ask off-road motorists to turn off their engines while you and your horse pass.
4. If a dog chases your horse, turn your horse to face it to interrupt its chase instinct.
5. Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic; keep right and pass on the left.
6. Maintain a safe distance from other riders and trail users.

## Be Courteous

Pick up your trash, leave gates as you find them, and respect private property. Remember that others are as motivated as you are to enjoy being out on the trails.

For more information on equestrians sharing multi-use trails, contact the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

*JILL MONTGOMERY is the CEO of JRAM Enterprises Inc. Equine Business Consulting, as well as a Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) riding instructor. The CHA promotes excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the entire horse industry. Contact them at [www.cha-ahse.org](http://www.cha-ahse.org). U*

*This article originally appeared in the June 2013 issue of Horse Illustrated. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.*

# BEHIND THE GATES: The not-so-secret trails of Rolling Hills

by **NANCY WILDMAN**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

On a recent trail ride through Rolling Hills, I came across a friend of mine who also happens to be a Rolling Hills resident. She was concerned that there seem to be fewer people riding on the trails in Rolling Hills and asked that I remind our membership to get their trail badges and start using them.

Because trails in Rolling Hills are private—as opposed to public trails like most of the trails in the other three Peninsula cities and unincorporated Westfield—badges are required and must be shown at the guard shacks at the entry points to Rolling Hills trails.

The trail badge is free and very easy to get, so stop procrastinating and get one! Simply print and fill in the trail waiver on Page 10 and either take it or mail it with a passport-sized photo of yourself to the Rolling Hills Community Association building at 1 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA 90274.

You can either pick the completed badge up at the office or have it mailed to you by submitting a self-addressed stamped envelope with your application.

The community association usually process the badges very quickly.



NANCY WILDMAN

**The entrance to one of many trails in Rolling Hills. All trail users in Rolling Hills who are not residents must apply for trail badges through the Rolling Hills Community Association. To apply for a badge, fill out the waiver on Page 10 and return it to the RHCA building.**

## 'Behind the gates'

If you've never ridden "behind the gates" you are in for a treat! The trails are beautiful with a wide variety of terrain, vegetation, birds, picnic areas, and views. In case you're worried about getting lost, the PVPHA publishes a comprehensive trail guide which is available at the Gener-

**Portuguese Bend Riding Club**

**Upcoming Clinics and Events**  
**Hunter/Jumper**

Rob Gage: June 8 & 9      Patrick Spanton: June 23

**Dressage**

Louise Koch: June 5, 12, 19 and July 10, 17, 18, 24, 31  
Dennis Callin Show Clinic: June 10, 11

**Summer Camps**

Weekly June 10 - August 26 English and Western Contact Callie Bell: 310-375-9322

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Contact Laura for more information and gate code: 310-377-3507  
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al Store, Lomita Feed, PVPHA meetings and through our website. Even without the trail guide, the trails are fairly easy to navigate—and it's even easier to find someone who knows the trails who's willing to show you around.

It's certainly my favorite place to ride! The trails are open from dawn to dusk almost every day of the year except during or after heavy rainfall.

Dogs are allowed on the trails, but bicycles are not. Hikers are also welcome and need to get the same trail badge for entrance.

The riding arenas at Hesse's Gap and the Hix ring are restricted to use by residents of Rolling Hills and their guests. Any violation of the trail rules will result in the revocation of the trail badge.

Right now is a great time to ride in Rolling Hills. The vegetation is lush and green; the trails are well groomed; and its easy to feel like you're a million miles away from your hectic life when you're there.

Happy Trails! U

### Thomas A. Hackathorn DVM

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# EMERGENCY: Local vets share secrets

*Continued from Page 1.* contacted if there is any doubt. All agreed that when you do contact a veterinarian, you should:

1. Say your telephone number slowly and clearly at the beginning of your call (assume you will reach an answering service), and then again at the end of your call, say your phone number slowly and clearly.

2. Make sure someone stays by the telephone and is available to respond when the doctor returns the call. Why is this important? The doctor will likely not come if he or she does not speak with someone first!

Be aware that if you have programmed your telephone not to accept blocked numbers, that most of the veterinarians' personal cellphone numbers are typically blocked, and you could miss that all-important call (especially if it is after regular business hours, as is typical of many emergencies) So, you may need to re-program your phone if you want to get that call back!

Also, if you "go through the list" of doctors and wait to see which one calls you back first, do the courteous thing: call back the others to let them know that you no longer require their services. It is not unusual for them to have spent time trying to reach you and getting a busy signal while you were calling other veterinarians, or you were out at the barn waiting for the veterinarian who responded to arrive! Show consideration and let them know you if don't need them any longer!

Equine veterinarians are sympathetic to our horses' emergencies, but this is also how they make a living and feed their families. Therefore, if you want emergency service, you need to be ready to pay your bill at the time service is rendered. Sobek pointed

out that when you have an emergency, you expect the doctor to come right away; therefore, why would you expect to take 30, 60, or 90 days to pay? You should have your cash or checkbook at the ready when the vet comes to treat your horse. Of course, if it is your "regular vet" and your account is in good standing, then likely you will be billed as usual. In addition to keeping your account current, you might also consider staying on good terms with every veterinarian you may call on—you don't want to burn any bridges when it comes to future emergencies!

Kelly recommended that owners be very frank about how much money they are able/willing to spend when considering treatment. Sometimes emotions cause people to make poor decisions, so it is best to think about this before you are facing an emergency. Tell the doctor if your horse is insured and how much money you are willing and able to spend to try to save it. This information will help your vet present treatment options.

This was one of the few areas where the panel differed in their views—some indicated they may decline to take a case where an owner indicated he or she was unable to pay for what the doctor determined would be adequate care, while others indicated they may simply ask an owner to sign a "waiver" and provide the limited care the owner might authorize.

Ouelette's practice is to thoroughly document the conversation in her notes. The doctors acknowledged that owners have the right to decline services, but they really encourage people to be frank with them and to be honest about the ability to pay.

**When should I take my horse to the hospital? Should I go even if**

## **I'm not doing colic surgery?**

The doctors concurred that for a horse that does not respond to treatment in the field, getting the animal to the hospital as early as possible offers the best chance of a positive outcome. Also, going to the hospital gets you a second opinion and may offer more intensive care that may change the outcome of a colic case, for instance. Therefore, having a trailer or access to a trailer or trailering service, and having a horse that will load are critical to the health of your horse, Kelly said. This is why it is important to have a plan, and to practice loading your horse onto a trailer before an emergency arises.

If you are unsuccessful in reaching a veterinarian to come out in an emergency, you can always take your horse to an equine hospital. In general they operate like human hospitals, with 24-hour staffing. Of course, you should call the hospital first to make sure they know you are coming and can appropriately prepare for your arrival—they may have to call in a surgeon if your horse needs emergency surgery.

For emergencies during regular business hours, the cost of a hospital visit is comparable to that of a veterinarian coming to your location.

We learned that many years ago, Kelly pursued building an equine hospital on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and evaluated Ernie Howlett Park and the Empty Saddle Club as possible sites. Unfortunately, there was not enough support for the idea within the community, and he had to abandon that dream.

## **Prescription medications**

Kelly also brought up the question of administration of prescription medications by owners. Each veteri-

narian may have his or her own preference as to whether or not an owner may administer a prescription medication, but all agreed that you must speak with your vet before you take any such actions, even if it is a medication that was prescribed to your horse for a previous condition.

Kelly reminded attendees that it is a violation of federal laws to share medication—when a medication is prescribed to your horse, your horse's name is on that bottle. You may risk legal liability if you take it upon yourself to allow others to give that medication to their animals. He cited a situation where one of his clients was sued as a result of sharing a prescription medication and administering it to a neighbor's horse.

Any injury or condition involving a horse's eye should be treated as an emergency and under no circumstances should you use any medication to treat an eye without specific veterinary approval for that occurrence. Using the wrong medication could easily result in blindness so the condition must be diagnosed or assessed prior to any treatment.

### What do you do when a horse has cast itself?

It takes two or three people, Giacopuzzi said. You can try pulling the horse around by the tail to free his legs. He said a horse needs to use his head, neck and shoulders in order to raise himself, and that one should avoid getting near the legs as a horse may begin thrashing to try to free himself. Often, the horse will sustain some injuries as he thrashes, but he may get free this way. Another method is to lasso the feet together and flip the horse over—again, you will need help to attempt this.

### Remedies

Someone pointed out that there is a “colic remedy” being touted online

and in advertising. Sobeck responded that if a product is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, then veterinarians are likely not to be aware of it.

When asked about the herbal remedy “Devil's Claw” for arthritis, Giacopuzzi responded that it is an effective substance, but he cautioned that owners need to be aware some “natural” substances may be prohibited by horse shows.

### Nail in a foot is a true emergency

Leave the nail in place if at all possible. If you are concerned about the nail being driven further into the foot, then use blocks of wood and duct tape to prevent the horse from putting the foot down onto the nail. If the nail is removed, the soft tissues

will close up around the path where the nail was, and the doctor won't know which part of the foot to treat and infection could set in, resulting in the loss of your horse!

If your horse is out on the trail, it would probably be better to stay there and hopefully get a vet to come out and treat the horse there than to try to walk it back home.

### Euthanasia

Kelly broached the topic of euthanasia: While all of the doctors agreed that they do not believe in keeping a horse that is suffering alive, it was clear that they understand that this is a very personal decision for owners. Kelly suggested that everyone should have a committee of three people

*Continued on the next page.*

Kind of think: "Jeopardy" meets "Family Feud"

It's Time for  
**Horse Jeopardy**

With your game show Host  
**Alex 'Jim Moore' Grebek**

Special Event  
at the  
Empty Saddle Club

**Thursday, June 20 at 7 pm**

Bring your 3 person TEAM  
to compete for  
**Money and Prizes**

Questions  
will be  
**"All Things HORSE"**

All Ages Welcome

**Root Beer Floats for the losers!**

Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemens Association

*Continued from the previous page.* who can act as trusted advisors when an owner is faced with a decision of whether to try to keep a horse alive and give him/her a chance or to help the animal make a peaceful exit.

As part of the presentation, Nancy Wildman created and distributed an excellent resource page of local emergency services that can be posted at your barn, and also a pocket-size mini-resource page for the trail.

These items can be downloaded at [pvpha.org/education.htm](http://pvpha.org/education.htm). A copy of the resource page can also be found on Page 11. U

### Who performs follow-up care?

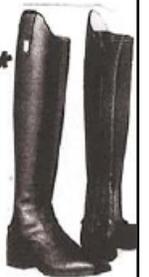
Yates expressed uncertainty about who she should ask to perform follow-up care on her horse when she uses someone other than her regular vet to treat her horse in an emergency. The consensus was that the owner may choose whomever he or she wants to perform follow-up care, but if it is not the same vet who treated the emergency, then it is important for the two doctors to communicate for the purpose of continuity of care and proper treatment.

The PVPHA gratefully acknowledges the contributions these professionals make to our equines' quality of life, and to our own quality of life—they make it possible for us to enjoy our horses and know that we are giving them the best care possible!

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To join the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association, clip and mail this form to

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how much you would like to donate; checks should be made payable to PVPHA:

Household membership \$ 35.00

Tax-deductible contribution  
to Trail Protection Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### INTERESTED IN WRITING OR PHOTOGRAPHY?

The *Dispatch* is always looking for volunteer writers and photographers to help fill its next issue. Contact the editor at [pvpha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpha2010@gmail.com) for more information.

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Full Page (approx. 8" x 10")	\$150
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Quarter Page (4" x 5")	\$35
Business Card (2 1/2" x 4")	\$20
Per Line	\$2

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PO Box 4153  
PVP, CA 90274

Any additional printing costs must be paid by the advertiser.

**DEADLINE for the receipt of ads is the 20th of the month.**

### NEED AN AD DESIGNED?

*Dispatch* editor Nicole Mooradian can help. Email her at [nicole@nicolemooradian.com](mailto:nicole@nicolemooradian.com) for rates.

## PVPHA Board of Directors

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*Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*

*Rolling Hills Community Association*  
*of Rancho Palos Verdes*

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**FULL RELEASE  
ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVERS**

Certain designated multiple use trails ("trails") in the City of Rolling Hills over private property are maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association ("RHCA").

I understand that the conditions of the trails, by reason of their rolling, often steep terrain, varying surface and generally remote locations may change as to degree of difficulty and condition at any time, depending on the weather, burrowing animals, erosion, vegetation, and usage. I have obtained an Identification Badge from RHCA, which I agree to display on my person or riding equipment at all times when using the trails.

I understand and acknowledge the use of trails involves risks. I voluntarily release, discharge, waive, and relinquish any and all claims or causes of action for personal injury, property damage, wrongful death, or any other nature and kind against RHCA and the Property owners of the private property over which the Trails are located ("Property Owners") which may occur as a result of the use by me, my family, any invitee or guest (herein collectively referred to as "Covered Persons") of the Trails. I further hereby agree to indemnify the RHCA and the Property Owners from any claims by Covered Persons.

I understand and acknowledge the following trail guidelines:

- Trails are to be used during daylight hours only and close at sunset. Requests for twilight or night time access to the bridle trails may be granted by special permission of the Board of Directors only.
- Use only established trails indicated on the RHCA trail map. Trail maps are available at the RHCA office at 1 Portuguese Bend Road.
- Use of the riding rings at Hesse's Gap and the Hix Ring are restricted to Rolling Hills residents and their guests only. Unauthorized use of riding rings could result in revocation of the trail permit.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- No littering.
- No bicycles or motor vehicles are permitted on bridle trails.
- Riders and pedestrians entering at Crest Road West, Eastfield Gate or Main Gate must check in with gate personnel and give their name and show trail badge upon entry.

It is my intention by reason of signing this instrument to exempt and relieve RHCA and Property Owners from liability for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death occurring as a result of my use and that of my Covered Persons of the Trails, including, but not limited to, the negligence of RHCA or Property Owners.

I have carefully read this document and I am fully aware of the consequences of this signing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

In case of emergency

Please Contact:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Provide 2" Photo

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature

(If badge holder is under 18)



# Equine Emergency Information



Palos  
Verdes  
Peninsula  
Horsemen's  
Association

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Information to Gather Before You Call the Vet

- **Primary Complaint**-What, where, when (how long)
- **Current Vital Signs**
- **Medications Given**-What, how much and what time
- **Other**- Concurrent illnesses - Pregnant or foal at side

## Normal Vital Signs

- **Heart Rate:** 32-40 beats per minute  
-Listen to the heart or feel the pulse and count the beats for 15 seconds. Multiply that number by 4.
- **Respiratory Rate:** 8 -20 breaths per minute  
-Observe the horse in a relaxed environment and count the movements of the chest or nostrils.
- **Rectal Temperature:**  
-Any digital thermometer will work; Be Careful!  
-Adult: 99.0 – 101.5°F  
-Foal: 100.0 – 102.0°F

## Equine Hospitals

**Chino Valley Animal Hospital** (55 miles east)  
2945 English Place, Chino Hills, CA 91709  
(909) 628-5545

**West Coast Equine** (75 miles north)  
4310 Sand Canyon Road, Somis, CA 93066  
(805) 386-7151

**San Luis Rey Equine Hospital** (93 miles south)  
4211 Holly Lane, Bonsall, CA 92003  
(760) 726-4566

**Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center** (142 miles north)  
2501 Santa Barbara Avenue, Los Olivos, CA 93441  
(805) 688-6510

**Humphrey, Giacopuzzi & Associates**  
**Equine Hospital** (70 miles north)  
4774 Donlon Road, Somis, CA 93066  
(805) 386-4291

## Local Veterinarians

James Giacopuzzi.....(310) 798-6721

Thomas Hackathorn.....(310) 265-3999

Larry Kelly.....(310) 530-3833

Sylvia Ouellette.....(626) 256-4788

Ruth Sobek.....(310) 530-8194

## Horse Hauling

Linda Fitton.....(310) 503-7187

Chris Margrave.....(310) 569-3985

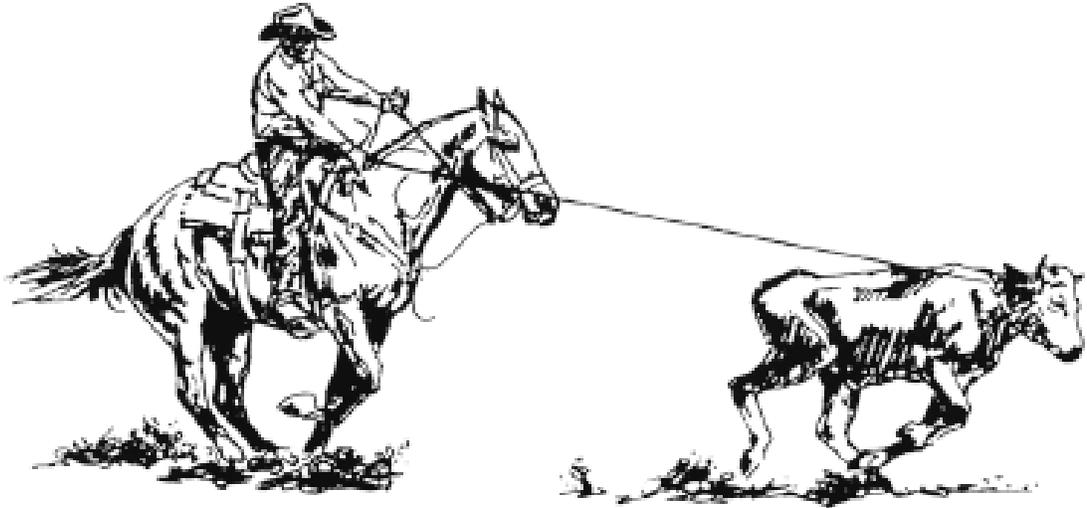
Porter Horse Transport.....(310) 569-0449

Christy Arbuckle.....(310) 345-3009

Tracy Savich.....(310) 919-8683

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