

# Junior Exhibitor Jumble

## Kentucky

Hello Everyone! It's September, the month after Louisville! Louisville may be over and everyone is back home, but we have not put an end to the 2009 show season just yet. There are many more shows to come. Next month I will have a follow-up on Louisville and the shows coming post-Louisville.

Even though it rained every night, the Shelbyville Horse Show was still exciting and full of action. The week of Shelbyville I received some exciting news myself. On Tuesday I was chosen to catch ride a horse in the Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure division. I had two great rides and the time of my life.

Shelbyville's "Party Night" came faster than anyone could have imagined. Friday night was the exhibitors' party in Floral Hall where everyone got their groove on to the 70's theme. Also going on Friday night was the retirement of a great horse, The Billy Bob. There was a party held in the Horsemen's Tent for his retirement. It was a great party filled with fun, an entertaining band, and food. For a third get-together, Old Stone Inn stayed open for those traveling to Simpsonville for late night food and drinks on the patio. Shelbyville ended Saturday night with a bang. According To Lynn won the stake for the third year in a row with Mary Gaylord McClean. It was a field of 13 with a three horse workout. I would like to thank Melissa and Sherry Baumann for letting me show Dillon's Day and congratulations to all the exhibitors. A special congratulations to the following Kentucky exhibitors; Alex Nelson, Alexa McWilliams, Mitchell Tunstall, Ellie Headlee, Christina Collis, Ashley Biggins, Channing McWilliams, Dakota Reiser, Megan Todd, Abby Lauer, Hallie Tyler, Mollie Kregor, Payton Walker, and Faith Brickzen.

This month I decided to start something new and do a little fun fact section dealing with horses. Also included is a joke of the month, which I am hoping to continue for many articles to come.

## Fun facts about horses...

- There are about 75 million horses in the world.
- Horse's hooves grow approximately 0.25 inches a month.
- The hooves also take nearly a year to grow from the coronet band to the ground.
- Cross-country jumps are marked with a red flag on the right side and a white flag on the left side; the horse has to jump through these two flags or it is considered out of bounds and you are disqualified.

## Strange horse laws...

- In the state of Arizona, it is illegal for cowboys to walk through a hotel lobby wearing their spurs.
- In Omega, New Mexico, every woman must "be found wearing a corset" when riding a horse in public. A physician is required to inspect each female on horseback. The doctor must ascertain whether or not the woman is, in fact, complying with this law!
- In Hartsville, Illinois, you can be arrested for riding an ugly horse.
- In Pattonsburg, Missouri, according to the Revised Ordinances, 1884: "No person shall hallo, shout, bawl, scream, use profound language, dance, sing, whoop, quarrel, or make any unusual noise or sound in such manner as to disturb a horse."

## Joke of the month...

*How do you get a horse to wash its own feet?* – Clean a water trough and fill it with fresh water.

That's all for now! Until next time may your days be filled with great

memories.

Please send any suggestions or ideas to my email address below.

Jackie Schutt  
likearocket06@hotmail.com

## Midwest

Can you believe that summer is over and the show season is almost finished? I hope that everyone had their best season yet and, of course, had fun!

Last month we saw our new world champions. We saw the best of the best horses compete for the titles. Were you one of them? Were you one competing? Maybe you didn't even get the chance to go to Louisville! But that doesn't mean anything...does it?

To be an accomplished and successful rider you don't need a fancy horse. You don't need to show at the largest shows in the country or be on the largest circuit. You don't need to be in the most well known barn in the country. You don't need fancy clothes and expensive tack. You don't even need to be a champion.

I asked a few people what they thought a champion rider was. Here are their responses:

*~ A champion rider is a person who rides to the very best of their ability, with love, respect and kindness for their mount, with a kind and educated hand and voice, and who inspires the horse to willingly perform to his or her best, regardless if the arena is the show ring or the trail.*

*~ A champion to me means more than having CH attached to the name. It is because of a partnership between many, many people and the horse.*

*~ Having the heart and will to win. To WORK for it, and that means everyone: horse, rider/driver, trainer, and those backing you up be it spouse, parents, siblings or friends. It is a team effort.*

*~ They should inspire the audience, they should feel honored to have seen such a performance, thrilled, energized to genuine raucous applause to express their appreciation of an electric performer who gave their all.*

*~ I read a great story from Villa Stables blog that Sharron wrote. It was about Jessica Moctezuma, and how she put her horse's needs before her own in an equitation class. Her decision to do so cost her the title, which was most likely hers before that moment. Here is a quote from Sharron's Blog: "After a grueling class of more than 45 minutes of length consisting of rail work, periods of retirement and individual testing, her young, new equitation partner tested her the most at the very end. During her individual work, "Elvis" lost his concentration a bit. Perhaps saw the out gate as they were headed in the direction, I am not sure. Jessie read it and stopped in between elements before pushing him to the next one. She stopped under the biggest pressure of her life, breathed, and put her hand on his neck for a couple of moments, gathered her reins and went flawlessly into the next move. That, bloggers, is HORSEMANSHIP. The horse first. Without the horse as priority # 1, the ride is nothing."*

You don't need to have a champion horse. You don't need to be an official champion rider. All you need is the heart, the dedication, and the will to win. If you have that, you are a champion. You are an accomplished and successful rider.

I hope that you have a great start to the school year and a great end

# Junior Exhibitor *Jumble*

to the show season!

Haley Cymbalak  
asb.punkin@yahoo.com

## Missouri

Hey, everyone! Summer has come to an end and by now Louisville has come and gone, school has started and the St. Louis Charity is right around the corner! Everyone knows the pre-show excitement, such as, practicing really hard so you will do well, making plans to hang out with horse show or barn friends, picking out which classes you want to watch, and of course packing! Everyone at one point has or will forget something and you will realize it once you are at the show. Some things are easy to replace, such as, bobby pins, hair nets, hair spray, etc., and you can purchase most of them right there on the show grounds! Others are not so easy such as shirts, vests, ties, and things like that. I remember one time when I was in 10 & Under, my mom was packing my show clothes and she forgot my tux shirt and vest, but thank goodness someone had an extra for me to use and ever since then I've packed my own stuff. So I don't forget anything, I made a check list like this one:

- |                                      |                                       |   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Suit    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tux          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair ties      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tux Shirt    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair net       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vests       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tux Vest     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bows           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ties        | <input type="checkbox"/> Bow Tie      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobby Pins     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boots/spurs | <input type="checkbox"/> Top Hat      | <input type="checkbox"/> Number magnets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves      | <input type="checkbox"/> White Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Tie Bar        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Derby       | <input type="checkbox"/> Boots        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Spray     |

If you are bad about remembering things when you pack for horse shows you could copy mine or make your own checklist, maybe being more specific like putting the colors of your shirts and vests if you have more than one.

To close this month's article I received an email from a barn mate, Kristin Laufer, it has an essay about what horses teach us in life and how they make us better people.

### To Have a Horse in Your Life

*(Author Unknown)*

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful. Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice. Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you — you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves. If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to

escape from the barn when you least expect it. Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people, which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive." In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences — if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership — and partnership is what it's all about. If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn. And, while some people think the horse "does all the work"; you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven. You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures. If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders. When you step back, it's not just about horses — it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, and a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow. We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give. To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess

# Junior Exhibitor *Jumble*

such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle. Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return. Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion. In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses—or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

Lauren Brannon  
zeromostel85@aol.com

## Northeast

Hey Everyone! Recently the Children's Benefit horse show was held at the New Jersey Dream Park. Although I wasn't able to watch many of the classes I'd still like to say congratulations to all of the junior exhibitors who participated. Once again this year the Mid-Atlantic Summer Saddle Seat Event – 17 & Under was held. Alexis Pearson was

the champion in this class. The reserve ribbon went to Michaela Gillespie. Both ladies, as well as all the other exhibitors in the class, had awesome rides. The show ran fairly well except for an unfortunate storm that rolled through Friday evening and took most of us by surprise. However, soon after the storm let up everyone was able to look forward to the exhibitors' party which had a western theme this year. Both a silent auction and a live auction were held during the party as well as the opportunity to try roping a mechanical calf for entertainment. Bob Kleinfelter also provided some good country music for the party. Once again congratulations to all the exhibitors who attended the show and good luck throughout the rest of the year!

Well that's all for this month until next time...

*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."*

– Cowboy Prayer

Stacey Hann  
151 Cove Road  
Duncannon, PA 17020  
equine\_gal@embarqmail.com

Katie Grant  
331 Hawthorne Drive  
Denver, PA 17517  
equitation.rocks@yahoo.com

Smooth ride, when we wear those 'Power Pantyhose' !

