

Flying Lead Changes

the CENTAURS 4-H CLUB newsletter

www centaurs4hclub.org "RIDE WITH PRIDE" COUNTRY CARE CODE: Centaurs



"There comes a point in every rider's life when he wonders if it's all worth it. Then, one look at the horse, and he realizes – it is." – Kelley Stewart

May 2011

Our next Club meeting: Thursday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds Horse Ring.

Don't forget to bring:

- ✓ *Your assigned snack item.*
- ✓ *Your horse, if you have one.*

This Month's Highlights:

- *Showmanship Clinic*
- *Schooley Mill Horse Show*
- *Horsemanship Standards Levels 1-4 Testing*
- *Quality Assurance Completion*

THE MANE EVENT

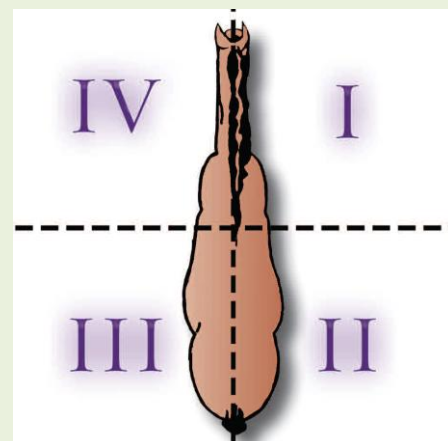


Our May Club Meeting: Showmanship Clinic

Our next Club meeting will be held on Thursday May 19th at 6:30 at the Horse Rings located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. At this Club meeting, Becky Peregoy and Ashton Eash will be presenting a Showmanship Clinic.



Showmanship is an event found at many horse shows. The class is also sometimes called "Fitting and Showmanship" or "Showmanship In-Hand". It involves a person on the ground leading a horse, wearing a halter or bridle, through a series of maneuvers called a pattern. The horse itself is not judged on its conformation. Rather, the exhibitor is judged on how well he or she exhibits the animal to its best advantage, with additional scoring for the grooming and presentation of both horse and handler.



You can bring your horse and/or your mini to this event. If you do not have a horse or mini, you can audit the class. Hopefully, we will have enough horses so that everyone will be able to get a turn.

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Centaurs 4-H Club Leaders: Marcie Barnard 410-461-3985 Barb Dashiell 301-262-4549
Sue Hart 301-776-8134 Beckie Peregoy 410-635-3281

The Maryland Cooperative Extension is open to all citizens regardless of race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin

For safety reasons, all Club members (whether riding or not) must wear hard toed shoes at this event – flip flops, tennis shoes, and sandals are not allowed.

In addition, all members must bring a signed Release Form which will be e-mailed to Club members in the near future.

The following families are responsible for bringing snack items at the May Club meeting:

Sweet snack: **Thomas Family**
Salty snack: **Martin Family**
Drinks (including paper napkins and cups): **Iager Family**

We are looking forward to this clinic and hope that everyone attends.

Schooley Mill Horse Show – The May Schooley Mill Horse Show is set for Sunday May 15th with a rain date on Sunday May 29th. We hope that many of the Centaurs are able to attend. The Schooley Mill Horse Show Series website is:
http://centaurs4hclub.org/Schooley_Mill/Schooley_Mill.html

All important horse show information can be found at this site.

The Show Committee is asking the Centaurs to help in setting up the jumps for each show. The Schooley Mill Horse Show Series pays for all of the trophies that are given out at the Howard County Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show, which many of the Centaurs participate. By helping to set up the jumps, the Centaurs can play a vital role in raising

monies needed for the 4-H Horse and Pony Show.

We need dads or moms or come out and help set up the jumps on the Saturday prior to the show. Please help this effort – the more people that help the faster it will get done. E-mail Marcie so she can put your name down. The Jump Team usually meets for about one hour the day before. Special thanks to Dennis Barnard and Mike Hollidge for helping at the April show.

Horsemanship Standards Testing Date Set – It's that time of year again; the Centaurs 4-H Club members will begin to get ready for the 4-H Horsemanship Standards testing for Levels 1 – 3. We are hoping that all of the Centaurs will participate in this worthwhile program.

We went over details about the Horsemanship Standards program at the April Club meeting. While it is realized that not every 4-H member would want to master all levels, the first two levels of the Knowledge and Riding Standards are important for 4-H members to learn the basics of horse safety, care, and riding. **The passing of Levels 1 and 2 (Knowledge and Riding) are required for participation in the Howard County Fair Horse and Pony Show. Level 3 (Knowledge and Riding) must be passed in order to ride in the Maryland State Fair Horse Show.**

In order to prepare for the Knowledge level testing, the Centaurs 4-H Club has created a website to help you prepare for the Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 written test. We are asking that interested Centaur 4-Hers go to www.centaurs4hclub.org to obtain study materials.

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Testing dates for the Levels 1 through 4 Knowledge Tests will be held on **Tuesday May 24th** at 7:00 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. More information will follow. Riding tests will be set up after the written tests at the riders/testers convenience.

We strongly encourage all Centaur Club members to participate in this program so that they can become better horseman. If you do not own a horse, and are interested in completing the Riding portion, contact one of your Club leaders and we will see what we can work out.

As always, if you have any questions concerning any aspect of the Horsemanship Levels, feel free to ask your 4-H Leaders (Marcie Barnard, Sue Hart, Becky Peregoy, Barb Dashiell, Marya Pecukonis).

Quality Assurance - All Centaurs 4-H Club members who are planning to show their horse at either the Howard County Fair or the Maryland State Fair must complete the animal husbandry and quality assurance training. The online Quality Assurance program is now available through July 31st. Use the link provided below. You must complete the online training prior to exhibiting your project animals in Maryland County 4-H and State 4-H shows. Please read the following information very carefully:

www.maryland4h.org/AHQA

There is no password for Howard County. On the opening page scroll down to the bottom and click on begin. When you start that process, you will come to a page where is asks you to register giving your name, county and birth date. Once you

click register it will give you a pass code. **WRITE THIS CODE DOWN**, you will need it each time you log in. If you forget your password or lose it, you will have to register again and start all over.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Marcie Barnard or the 4-H Office.

Handling Nasty Wire Cuts Is A Matter Of Time And Persistence

By Christine Hamilton for *The American Quarter Horse Journal*



This horse's nasty wire cuts healed within eight months.

The most economical **fencing** option for many **horse owners** is a wire fence. It's especially true out West, where **pastures** might be measured in square miles, not acres.

Dr. Stacy Tarr has a private large animal practice in Cody, Wyoming, and he has seen a lot of wire cuts.

Even the wisest horse can get caught in a fence, and it's not unusual for an old, buried strand of wire to suddenly crop up in your pasture. If you're faced with a **wire cut**, here are Dr. Tarr's words of wisdom.

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Types of Cuts

“Barbed wire is typically a ‘sawing’-type wound where they go down the wire, back and forth, or they get their leg tangled and are fighting it,” Dr. Tarr explains. “The sawing action jerks tissue out, and the edges are jagged.”

The tissue loss and jagged edges can make suturing difficult or even impossible.

“Smooth wire can cut, too,” Dr. Tarr adds. “It doesn’t usually pull out as much tissue as barbed wire, and the edge is cleaner.”

Dr. Tarr points out one advantage the wire fence has: “Barbed wire or smooth wire will break, eventually. High-tension wire or cable doesn’t break, and a horse will saw his leg in half trying to get out of it. It can be really horrible.”

First Aid

“Use common sense. Clean it and put a **bandage** on it,” Dr. Tarr says. “I don’t care if you just hose it and get the dirt off. Then wrap it to keep it **clean**.”

Dr. Tarr points out a number of items that will work in a pinch to temporarily cover a wound until the veterinarian sees it: washcloths, diapers or even sanitary napkins. Then wrap it with an elasticized bandage like Vetrap or cotton wraps.

“Don’t put anything on the wound right away, like Furacin or Neosporin or Cut Heal,” he adds. “If I’m going to suture a cut, I don’t want anything on it. If it’s gooped up, then I’ll have to debride a lot more before I can do that.”

It’s important to get the horse to a **veterinarian** as soon as possible; the faster the veterinarian can treat and/or suture the wound, the better for long-term healing.

Roll It!

Poor fencing can be dangerous. Keep your horse safe with these tips from Dr. Kenton Morgan.

“I can’t suture a wound that’s 24 hours old in most cases, unless it’s a head wound,” Dr. Tarr says. “There’s such a great vascular supply to the head that you can clean them up, debride them and suture them even when they’re a day or two old, and they heal.”

“Leg wounds won’t do that,” he continues. “If it’s a day or two old and packed full of manure and dirt, it has to heal open. I can’t suture it; it’ll just fall apart.”

If possible, Dr. Tarr would rather deal with wounds in the clinic, rather than out on a farm.

“It’s a clean floor,” he explains. “There’s no dust and dirt flying up, and the wind isn’t blowing hair into the wound.”

“I’ve had very few wounds where I’m worried about blood loss,” Dr. Tarr says. “A horse can lose a tremendous amount of blood, and they do amazingly well. But people panic.”

The important thing is to get the horse to the veterinarian so the vessel can be ligated and the bleeding stopped.

Long-Term Care

“The biggest problem with any cut below the knee or below the hock is granulation tissue, or what we call ‘proud flesh’ ” Dr. Tarr says.

“In a body wound, like a chest wound, I want the wound to granulate,” he continues. “I use products to actually promote it.

“Granulation tissue covers the wound and becomes a barrier for infection. Where there’s a lot of redundant skin, like in the upper body, the granulation tissue starts to contract, and it will pull the edges together. And they heal amazingly well.”

“Leg wounds don’t do that; they overproduce granulation tissue,” Dr. Tarr says. “As granulation tissue builds, it rises above the level of the epithelium (or skin). You have to understand that the epithelium won’t migrate up over a hill. It has to have a flat surface to migrate across.

“We do a lot of trimming and grafting in the distal extremity wounds because of that.”

“By far the most important thing I do for most wounds is to bandage them,” Dr. Tarr says. “I tell people to bandage for three weeks past when you think it needs a bandage.

“That usually keeps the granulation tissue in check, lets the epithelium migrate and protects the wound.”

“The best way to prevent scarring is to suture the wound,” Dr. Tarr adds. “The next way is to keep it bandaged.”

“If you can’t suture a wound, and you can’t bandage it, it’s wound care. Keep it clean, don’t let bugs get in it, and don’t let them chew on it. Clean it and stay after it.”

Mark Your Calendars!

May 15th – Schooley Mill Horse Show
May 15th – MWA Horse Show
May 19 – Centaurs 4-H Club Meeting
May 22nd – MWA Horse Show
June 5th - MWA Horse Show
June 12th - Schooley Mill Horse Show
June 18th – 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Contest
June 26 – 4-H Camp
July 7th – 4-H Horse Jamboree
July 16th – Schooley Mill Horse Show
June 17th - MWA Horse Show

