Take a

FAST LOOK

with the JQURNAI



Q&A

What is the least stressful way to wean foals? A small-scale pilot study compared three different procedures.

- Group A (6 foals): all foals in the group were weaned at the same time
- Group B (5 foals): all foals were weaned at the same time, but were left with two mares with which they were familiar, but not related.
- Group C (6 foals): these foals were weaned by removing two mares from the group on each of three consecutive days.

During the weaning process, the researchers monitored the foals' behavior and movement. They also measured the concentration of cortisol in the foals' saliva, recorded their heart rate and variability, and their weight.

The results confirmed that weaning was associated with stress. All groups showed an increase in salivary cortisol on the day of weaning. In Group C, the cortisol concentration remained elevated for two days.

Abrupt weaning with no further contact with adult animals seemed to be the most stressful. Foals in Group A lost weight for two days. They seemed more unsettled – spending more time moving about on the day of weaning. They also showed the most-pronounced increase in heart rate.

Foals that were weaned in the presence of two familiar but unrelated mares, (Group B) seemed least affected by the weaning procedure. Of the three groups, they showed the least motion and vocalization after weaning.

The researchers conclude: "Based on cortisol release and behavior, weaning is associated with stress but this was least pronounced in foals weaned in the presence of two familiar but unrelated adult female horses."

- Equine Science Update E-News



Twenty years ago, Terry Howell of Asheville, North Carolina, was in an accident that left her paraplegic. This year, she participated in freestyle reining at the All American Quarter Horse Congress with Meadowlark Lime, a 1987 bay gelding (Rugged Lark-Majestic Rogina by Majestic Dell), bred, of course, by Carol Harris of Ocala, Florida. As you can see from the picture, she is belted into the saddle and has two whips, one in each hand, which she uses in place of her legs.

Getting Closer

Test events have been set for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normany.

The reining test event will be October 20, 2013, in Caen, France, at the Parc des Expositions, according to the Federation Equestre Internationale.

"The organizing committee and the FEI are working in close cooperation to stage the best possible test events and to deliver Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 of the highest quality," FEI Secretary General Ingmar De Vos said. "Test events in six FEI disciplines will be organized and ... all technical aspects will be examined to ensure the competitions in all the disciplines meet the same level of excellence."

Morocco has withdrawn its bid for the 2018 WEG, de Vos said.

"We have two strong bids from Canada and Austria for 2018, and we are hopeful that the Moroccans can regroup and put in a bid for 2022."

The host city will be selected by the FEI Bureau in the spring of 2013.



Craig Schmersal shows Mister Montana Nic at the 2011 National Reining Breeders Classic in Katy, Texas, in a CRI2*.

Ranch Pleasure

Ranch pleasure will be offered in AQHA youth, amateur and open divisions.

One year ago the American Quarter Horse Association unveiled a fresh new class – ranch pleasure – that was effective for the 2012 show season. In its inaugural year, ranch pleasure was only offered as an open-division class, yet AQHA members responded enthusiastically in the first year. As a result of that success, the AQHA Executive Committee approved the addition of youth and amateur divisions to ranch pleasure competition, beginning January 1, 2013.

In 2012, 476 shows offered ranch pleasure and entries totaled 4,259. Those 4,259 entries were shown by 708 exhibitors – 247 open competitors, 395 amateur and 66 youth.

Effective January 1, 2013, AQHA show managers will have the opportunity to offer open, youth and amateur ranch pleasure classes. "For the first year, ranch pleasure was solely approved for the open division so that AQHA could gauge the response of exhibitors," said Tom Persechino, AQHA executive director of competition and breed integrity. "The time came to analyze the class, and the entries, plus requests from competitors, solidified that ranch pleasure needed to be offered in the youth and amateur divisions."

Out of the 230 ranch pleasure qualifiers to the 2012 AQHA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City, 66 horses and their riders will square off on November 6 in the class' preliminary round.

"The ideal ranch pleasure horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse," Persechino said. "The performance horse industry is very much looking forward to seeing those traits in action November 8 in the ranch pleasure finals, and the title of being the very first AQHA ranch pleasure world champion is definitely a coveted one."

In ranch pleasure competition, the horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under the rider's control. To learn more about ranch pleasure guidelines, refer to Rule 465(C) in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

To find a show that offers ranch pleasure, refer to the AQHA Calendar of Events in every issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* and look for shows offering class code 430. An abbreviated version of the calendar can be viewed at *www.aqhamembers. org*, but this version does not feature class codes.

Racehorse Trainers Suspended

In October, AQHA suspended 11 racehorse trainers, who were recently suspended by the Louisiana Racing Commission and the Zia Park Board of Stewards (New Mexico) as a result of horses testing positive for Class I drugs. You can read more in Disciplinary Action on Page 298 or at www.agharacing.com.

The 11 trainers have certain appeal rights governed by the racing jurisdictions who issued the disciplinary actions.

AQHA will continue to monitor the cases and has taken its action pending the final outcome of the cases.

"The vast majority of our members love and enjoy spending time with their horses. They want the drug issue cleaned up, and AQHA is dedicated to using the resources we have available to make sure this happens. The statements made over the last several months by tracks such as Los Alamitos, Ruidoso Downs, Remington Park and actions taken by racing jurisdictions such as California, New Mexico and Louisiana show that progress is being made. We applaud them and others for their efforts in addressing these issues, and encourage all racing jurisdictions to reciprocate and recognize rulings from other jurisdictions," said Don Treadway Jr., AQHA executive vice president.

What Color Is He?



This little cutie was posted by AQHA fan Janie Hinojosa of Big Creek, Mississippi. An AQHA equine color specialist determined that he is a red dun. Do you have an unusually colored horse? Not sure what color your foal is? Post your photo on AQHA's Facebook wall from 2 to 4 p.m. CST on Fridays, and an AQHA equine color specialist will help you out.

Another Win

In October, 17-year-old Nick Black and his 14-year-old gelding, Whos Lucky Whodini, had a championship title to defend and they needed a gun or two to do the job.

That's because they were defending their youth division title from the 2011 Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association World Championships at the 2012 finals. And the Boise, Idaho, teen got the job done.

Whos Lucky Whodini is a 1998 gelding by Sons Who and out of Lucky Reprint by Lucky T Devil. He was bred by Lynsi Hoyt of Eagle, Idaho.

"He's a pretty bay," Nick said. "He's been with me forever. I've had him since he was 4. He's 14 now. Besides my shooting horse, he's also my team-roping horse and all-around horse that I use for fun."

Nick said the AQHA trophy he won has special significance still.

"It's one of those trophies to hang in my room and have my grandpa see and have pride in me," he said. "I'm going to go home, keep practicing and come back next year and try to win again."

In other CMSA news, the association has named longtime Western-sports professional Andrea Lamoreaux as its executive director. A 20-year veteran of the sports and entertainment world, she will oversee the migration of the CMSA's headquarters from Tennessee to Colorado Springs, Colorado, as it restructures to better manage the rapid growth of the past few years.



Tammy Billingsley and Gary Vickers captured the men's and women's AQHA trophies October 20 at the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association World Championships. For more on their wins, go to www.agha.com/cmsaworld2012.

Gunnin' for Polo, Anyone?



This November, some of the most talented women in the sport of polo converged in Houston to compete for the nation's only National Level USPA title in women's polo - the USPA U.S. Open Women's Polo Championship. This event also marked the historic starting point of the American Polo Horse Association's efforts to formally recognize the use of American Quarter Horses in polo. APHA will be presenting two Special Recognition awards to registered American Quarter Horses competing in the upper flights. To learn more about AQHA alliances, visit www.aqha.com/ alliances. 2011 US Open Women's Championship Team-Goose Creek (left to right): Kristy Outhier, Sunny Hale, Dawn Jones, Maureen Brennan.

A Late Spark

Sometimes sires achieve greatness after they're dead, as we see with Jacs Electric Spark (Shining Spark-Miss Hello Hollywood by Hollywood Jac 86), whose offspring earnings crossed the \$1 million mark this fall, nearly four months after his death.

At the Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity in October Ardmore, Oklahoma, Electric Jac, Shock Star Groupie, Smart Sparklin Chic and Electric Sparks collectively won \$10,100 to push Jacs Electric

Spark's unofficial offspring earnings over \$1 million.

Owned by reining trainer Troy Heikes, Jacs Electric Spark was shown by Heikes during the sire's show career to earn a total of \$86,000 NRHA

'Sally (Brown), Buck (Hazledine), Andrea and I have dreamed of this day since he was a baby," Troy said. "To experience the journey and now the accomplishment of this special horse is a dream come true."

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AQHA Professional Horseman Steve Meadows of Nokesville, Virginia, was recently honored with the Southern Belle Breeders' "Living the Mission" award, presented at the 2012 All American Quarter Horse Congress. The annual award is given to one who exhibits a positive role model and a respect for the horse while giving back to the horse community professionally and personally. An AQHA judge, Steve is president of the Virginia Quarter Horse Association and serves on the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Council.

\$4 million

One year after hitting the \$3 million mark, Wimpys Little Step slides into another accomplishment by becoming a National Reining Horse Association \$4 million sire.

The 13-year-old palomino is the youngest stallion to reach this milestone by a margin of six years with a total of \$4,028,000 earned by his progeny.

Wimpys Little Step was foaled in 1999. He's by Nu Chex To Cash and out of Leolita Step by Forty Seven. He was bred by Hilldale Farm of Brashear, Texas, and is owned by Xtra Quarter Horses of Purcell, Oklahoma.

He was inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2011.

Learn More From Buck

Eager for more knowledge? AQHA is offering the chance to win some for free through the "7 Clinics With Buck Brannaman" giveaway.

We've got two of these DVD sets, which were created from footage from the award-winning documentary "Buck," and we'll be giving them away on our Facebook page, www.facebook .com/aqha1. "Like"AQHA on Facebook and get ready to enter the sweepstakes, which runs December 3-21.

The sweepstakes is open to U.S. residents 18 and older.

