

### Note from Joy

Hi Everyone,

Hope you all are well and everyone is getting out and enjoying their ponies now that the weather is improving.

As you can see from this months heading, the newsletter is undergoing some changes. I really enjoy doing the Meadow Grove Newsletter and decided I would like to do one for my clients out here as well. However, having given it some thought, I think taking on a second newsletter is definitely a little over ambitious considering I'm in a crunch each month as is, trying to get this one out in a timely manner. Therefore, I have decided to combine the newsletter so I can share it with both Meadow Grove (MG) and Weber Training Stable (WTS) clients. Pretty much everything will remain the same regarding content, I will simply divide and separate the announcements and calendar of events, so that they address their respective barns. Aside from that I will do my best to keep it interesting and hopefully provide information that is both helpful and beneficial.

I would also like to encourage anyone who's interested, to please feel free to participate or contribute to the newsletter through input, feedback, announcements, activities, suggestions or whatever anyone feels they'd like to share. You can do so by sending shared material to:

[meadowgrove@ameritech.net](mailto:meadowgrove@ameritech.net)

Thanks,  
Joy

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## **MEADOW GROVE AND W.T.S. COMBINED NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 2, Issue 11 April 2007**

### Calendar of Events:

<b>Dick Pavel</b> (farrier)	April 17 <sup>th</sup> 2007
<b>Jeff Spitzer</b> (farrier)	April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2007
<b>Al Ames</b> (farrier)	April 27 <sup>th</sup> 2007 June 8 <sup>th</sup> 2007 July 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2007 Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2007 Jan 28 <sup>th</sup> 2008
<b>Dr. Brandt</b> (Vet)	April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2007
<b>Equine Affaire</b> (Ohio Expo Center)	April 12-15 <sup>th</sup> 2007
<b>Buchanan Westerners</b> (show dates)	April 29 <sup>th</sup> 2007 May 5&6 <sup>th</sup> 2007 June 2&3 <sup>rd</sup> 2007 July 7&8 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Aug. 4&5 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Sept. 1&2 <sup>nd</sup> 2007
<b>Buchanan Westerners</b> (clinic dates)	April 21 <sup>st</sup> . 2007 Reining Clinic May 19 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Driving Clinic June 16 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Horsemanship Clinic June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2007 Showmanship Clinic June 24 <sup>th</sup> 2007 Gaming Clinic

*Look at frustration as a positive thing, It is the frustration that drives you to improve.*

*~ John Lyons.*

## **Announcements:**

### **Melissa Ashcraft**

Melissa will be out of town for about 10 weeks. She has gone back on tour with the Lipizzaner stallions to assist in helping them get through an unexpected shortage of riders. During the interim, her assistant instructor / trainer Kristina Vanwaardenburg will be here to continue her lesson and training commitments. For those of you who have just gotten started with Melissa, you can rest assured, she will be back the second week in June and has a lot of cool things planned for the summer.

### **Spring Immunizations**

Dr. Brandt will be coming out on April 11<sup>th</sup> for spring immunizations, Coggains, and any other maintenance procedures anyone needs performed.

Inoculations for leased horses belonging to the barn are provided for, but lessors who intend to show are expected to cover any expenses incurred regarding health certificates or Coggains which are needed to do so.

Boarders, please be advised, you are required to keep inoculations up to date, but you are not required to use Dr. Brandt to provide these services. Please note however, that this will be the only "barn" scheduled immunization appointment, so if you choose not to do so at this time you will be responsible for making your own arrangements and providing the barn with documentation annual inoculations were done. Those of you who do your own shots can just provide a copy of the dated receipt for immunizations purchased.

Anyone interested in having their horses done on April 11<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Brant please contact Tim as soon as possible so he can provide the clinic with a head count to ensure an appropriate block of time is set aside to see everyone interested gets their horse done.

### **Veterinarian and Farrier Calls**

I would just like to remind all boarders that everyone is expected to be present at all farrier and veterinarian calls for their horses. If you are unable to be present personally or make other arrangements for someone to handle your horse during farrier and veterinarian calls, Meadow Grove can provide assistance if given at least 24 hours advance notification. Please understand however this is not a service that is included in the boarding agreements and since Meadow Grove will be paying someone for their time to hold your horse you will be expected to pay a minimal, but reasonable fee for this service.

### **Welcome back Alexis**

Congratulations Alexis Wojak on leasing heart for the next couple of months and welcome back to Meadow Grove!

### **Kristina Vanwaardenburg**

Team Meadow Grove would like to welcome Kristina Vanwaardenburg. Kristina is Melissa's assistant instructor/trainer and will be covering Melissa's lesson and training commitments in her temporary absence. Please take a moment and read Kristina's letter of introduction to get to know a little more about her.



### **Letter from Kristina**

Hi, My name is Kristina Vanwaardenburg and I live in LaPorte, IN. I am a 10 year 4-H member in LaPorte County and I have been involved in LaPorte's Judging Team in the past. I've been a member of their Team Tournament Team for at least 5 years and I have been a Junior Leader at our 4-H Horse Camp for 6 years.

I also have participated in our Horseless Horse program which allows children, who are not fortunate enough to have their own horse, to show one of my horses in a class at the fair. They must learn all the work accompanied with owning a horse and we have to teach each of them to ride.

I have gone down to State Fair the past three years, two years for Equitation Over Fences and last year for Western Pleasure.

I have ridden and shown many breeds of horses from Arabians and Thoroughbreds to Quarter Horses and POAs.

I have shown in many disciplines such as Hunt Seat, Western Pleasure, Equitation, Horsemanship, limited contesting, jumping, Dressage, Showmanship and Halter. Last year, my horse Jake and I, took grand champion in versatility at the fair. I make it a goal to show as many weekends as I possibly can in the summertime.

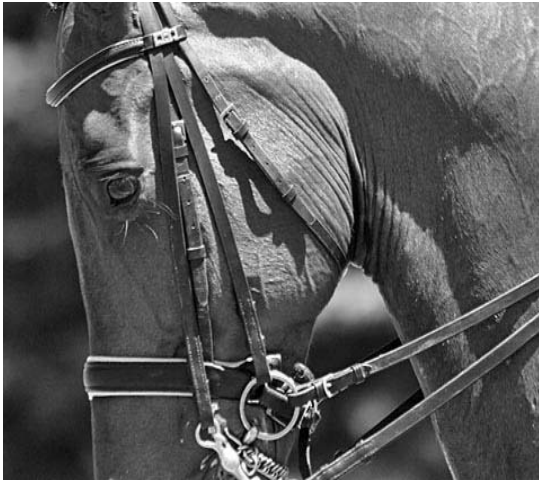
I have also shown AQHA and I have points in Western Pleasure. I competed in a bridleless class at the last Quarter Horse show I went to and placed 3rd overall.

I make it a goal to make sure that whether I am showing, or just riding around the barn, it's always fun and, most importantly, safe. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting off to a great start!

If anyone has any questions please feel free to call my cell phone 219.363.4577

Thanks!

*Mecate – reins of braided horse-hair used, with a bosal instead of a bit, in western tack.*



## Spotlighted Discipline: Dressage

Dressage (a French term meaning "training") is a path and destination of competitive horse training, with competitions held at all levels from amateur to the Olympics. Its fundamental purpose is to develop, through standardized progressive training methods, a horse's natural athletic ability and willingness to perform, thereby maximizing its potential as a riding horse. At the peak of a dressage horse's gymnastic development, it can smoothly respond to a skilled rider's minimal aids by performing the requested movement while remaining relaxed and appearing effortless. For this reason, dressage is occasionally referred to as "Horse Ballet." Although the discipline has its roots in classical Greek horsemanship, mainly through the influence of Xenophon, dressage was first recognized as an important equestrian pursuit during the Renaissance in Western Europe. The great European riding masters of that period developed a sequential training system that has changed little since then and classical dressage is still considered the basis of trained modern dressage.

Early European aristocrats displayed their horses' training in equestrian pageants, but in modern dressage competition, successful training at the various levels is demonstrated through the performance of "tests," or prescribed series of movements within a standard arena. Judges evaluate each movement on the basis of an objective standard appropriate to the level of the test and assign each movement a score from zero to ten - zero being "not executed" and

10 being "excellent." A score of 9 (or "very good") is considered a particularly high mark, while a competitor achieving all 6s (or 60% overall) should

### Dressage horses

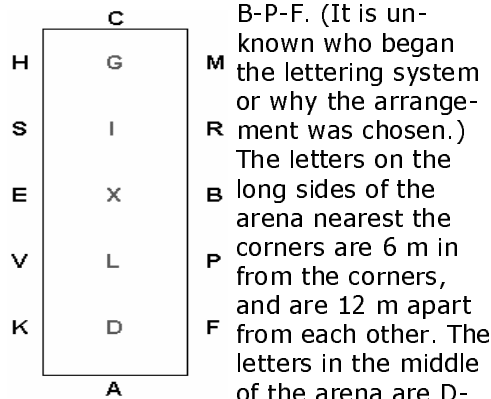
Any riding horse can benefit from use of Dressage principles and training techniques. However, horse breeds most often seen at the Olympics and other international FEI competitions are in the Warm blood horse breeds category. In the non-competitive performances of Classical dressage that involve the "Airs above the ground," the "Baroque" breeds of horses, most notably the Lipizzaner, are most often seen. However, Dressage is an egalitarian sport in which all breeds are given an opportunity to successfully compete. Therefore, many other breeds are seen at various levels of competition.

### The Arena

There are two sizes of arenas: small and standard. Each has letters assigned to positions around the arena for dressage tests to specify where movements are to be performed.

The small arena is 20 m by 40 m, and is used for the lower levels of dressage and three-day eventing dressage. Since the combination of Canadian Equestrian Federation and United States Dressage Federation tests in 2003, the small size arena is no longer utilized in rated shows in North America.

The standard arena is 20 m by 60 m, and is used for tests in both dressage and eventing. The standard dressage arena letters are A-K-V-E-S-H-C-M-R-B-P-F. (It is unknown who began the lettering system or why the arrangement was chosen.) The letters on the long sides of the arena nearest the corners are 6 m in from the corners, and are 12 m apart from each other. The letters in the middle of the arena are D-L-X-I-G, with X marking the center.



At the start of the test, the horse enters at A. There is always a judge sitting at C (although for upper-level competition, there are up to five judges at different places around the arena).

The dressage arena also has a centerline (from A to C, going through X in the middle), as well as two quarterlines (halfway between the centerline and long sides of each arena).

### Competition

Dressage competitions may begin in local communities with *Introductory level* classes where riders need only walk and trot. Horses and riders advance through a graduated series of levels, with tests of increasing difficulty at each level, until the most accomplished horse and rider teams compete at the Grand Prix levels and international competition, such as the Olympic games.

Apart from competition, there is a tradition of classical dressage, in which the tradition of dressage is pursued as an art form. The traditions of the Old Masters who originated Dressage are kept alive by the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria and the Cadre Noir in Saumur, France. This type of schooling is also a part of the Portuguese and Spanish bullfighting exhibitions.

### Olympic Level

The dressage tests performed at the Olympic Games, which were accepted as sport in 1912, are those of the highest level-Grand Prix. This level of test demands the most skill and concentration from both horse and rider.

Gaits and movements performed at this level include collected and extended walk, trot, and canter; trot and canter half pass (a movement where the horse travels on a diagonal line keeping its body almost parallel with the arena wall while making both forward and sideways steps in each stride); passage (a slow-motion trot); piaffe (an approach to "trot in place"); one and two tempi changes (where the horse changes from one lead to the other in the canter); and pirouettes (a 360-degree circle that is almost in place).

Tests ridden at the Olympic Games are scored by a panel of five international judges. Each movement in each test receives a numeric score and the resulting final score is then converted into a percentage, which is carried out to three decimal points. The higher the percentage, the higher the score.

Olympic team medals are won by the teams with the highest, second highest, and third highest total percentage from their best three rides in the Grand Prix test.

## Dressage (cont.)



Once the team medals are determined, horses and riders compete for individual medals. The team competition serves as the first individual qualifier, in that the top 25 horse/rider combinations from the Grand Prix test move on to the next round. The second individual qualifier is the Grand Prix Special test, which consists of Grand Prix movements arranged in a different pattern. For those 25 riders, the scores from the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Special are then combined and the resulting top 15 horse/rider combinations move on to the individual medal competition—the crowd-pleasing Grand Prix Freestyle.

For their freestyles, riders and horses perform specially choreographed patterns to music. At this level, the freestyle tests may contain all the Grand Prix movements, as well as double canter pirouettes, pirouettes in piaffe, and half-pass in passage. For the freestyle, judges award technical marks for the various movements, as well as artistic marks. In the case of a tie, the ride with the higher artistic marks wins.



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dressage>



## Spotlighted Breed: Rocky Mountain Horse

Tradition has it that around the turn of the century a young horse appeared in eastern Kentucky that gave rise to a line of horses that have been prized and treasured in this part of the country ever since. The basic characteristics are a medium-sized horse of gentle temperament with an easy ambling four-beat gait. This gait made it the horse of choice on the farms and the rugged foothills of the Appalachians. It was a horse for all seasons. It could pull the plows in the small fields, work cattle, be ridden



bareback by four children to the fishing hole, or to town comfortably on Saturday. They even performed well hitched to the buggy Sunday morning to go to

church. Fancy barns and stalls were not necessary. Because of its cold-blooded nature, it tolerated the winters in Kentucky with a minimum of shelter. Naturally, out crossing with local horses did occur but the basic characteristics of a strong genetic line have continued.

The established characteristics for the Rocky Mountain Horse are:

1. The horse must be of medium height from 14.2 to 16 hands, a wide chest sloping 45 degrees on the shoulder with bold eyes and well shaped ears.
2. The horse must have a natural ambling four-beat gait (single foot or rack) with no evidence of pacing. When the horse moves you can count four distinct hoof beats which produce a cadence of equal rhythm, just like a walk: left hind, left fore, right hind, right fore. Each individual horse has

its own speed and natural way of going, traveling 7-20 miles per hour. This is a naturally occurring gait present from birth that does not require any training aids or action devices (i.e. chains, soring or built up shoes.)

3. It must be of good temperament and easy to manage.

4. All Rocky Mountain Horses have a solid body color. Facial markings are acceptable so long as they are not excessive. There may not be any white above the knee or hock.



The breed is best known for gentleness. It is an easy keeper and a wonderful riding horse with a strong heart and endurance.

Today the Rocky Mountain Horse is being used as a pleasure horse, for trail, and competitive or endurance riding. As show horses, the breed is rapidly gaining in popularity because of its beauty and unique way of moving in the ring. The calm temperament of his horse makes it ideally suited for working around cattle and for 4-H projects. These horses have a lot of natural endurance, they are sure-footed on rough ground and, because of their gait, they require a minimum of effort by both horse and rider so that together they can cover a greater distance with less tiring



Source: <http://www.imh.org/imh/bw/rocky.html>

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## Q & A With Elmer:

"Ask Elmer"

**Q:** Dear Elmer, What is the average life expectancy for a horse?

**A.** The expected life span of a horse or pony is approximately twenty to thirty years. Although according to the Guinness Book of Records Old Billy believed to a Cleveland Bay cross eastern horse foaled in 1760 and lived to the incredible age of 62.

**Q.** Dear Elmer, How do you measure a horse?

**A.** Both horses and ponies are measured from the ground to the withers and are measured in "hands". One hand is equal to 4 inches. When measuring them it is best to ensure they are stood squarely on solid ground, this will give the most accurate measurement

## Equine First Aide;

### Cause, Treatment and Preventative Measures

#### Taking your horses vital signs

**Temperature** (Normal temperature: 99 – 101.5 F)

- Use a glass ring – top thermometer or digital thermometer
- Apply KY jelly, petroleum jelly or other lubricant (spit works!) to the tip of the thermometer
- Stand beside the horse's hind leg, facing backward
- Gently lift the tail and insert the thermometer about 1 inch into the rectum
- Leave thermometer in place approximately 2 minutes.
- A string and clothespin or alligator clip attached to the horse's tail from the thermometer will prevent the thermometer loss or breakable if it is prematurely expelled. Thermometers are not lost internally.

**Heart Rate/ Pulse Quality** (Normal: 32 – 48 beats per minute)

- Using a stethoscope, find the heart by listening on the side of the chest behind the left elbow.
- Count the beats in 15 seconds. Multiply by 4.
- If you have no stethoscope, you may be able to feel the heart or the left side of the chest.
- A Pulse is best felt under the jaw, just in front of the round part of the cheek.

**Respiratory Rate** (Normal: 12-20 breaths per minute)

- Watch nostril or flank movement to count breaths.

#### Mucous Membrane Color

- Mucous membranes should be a salmon pink color.
- Check the color of the gums, conjunctive (tissue around eye) or genitalia.
- Capillary refill time (CRT) is determined by pressing on the gums enough to blanch the color, then releasing and counting how long it takes for normal color to return (normal: 1-2 seconds).

#### Where are they Now ????

### "Diablo"



Diablo was a black & white pinto mare ridden by Duncan Renaldo when he played the Cisco Kid, a Mexican "Robin Hood of the Old West" on the western adventure THE CISCO KID/SYN/1950-56. In the original O. Henry story *The Caballero's Way* (1907), (the inspiration for a series) Cisco's horse was an unnamed speckled roan. In the movies (starring Cesar Romero, Gilbert Roland, Warren Daxter, and Duncan Renaldo) and the TV series, the horse was called Diablo. When Diablo retired, she was stabled at the Santa Barbara home of Duncan Renaldo. Cisco's sidekick, Pancho (Leo Carrillo) rode a horse named Loco.

## Horse Jokes

A Preacher wanted to raise money for his church and, being told there were fortunes in race horses, he decided to purchase one and enter it in the races. However, at the local auction, the going price for horses was so steep he ended up buying a donkey instead. He figured that since he had it, he might as well go ahead and enter it in the races, and to his surprise the donkey came in third. The next day the racing sheets carried the headlines, "Preacher's Ass shows" The Preacher was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the races again and this time he won! The papers said, "Preacher's Ass out in Front" The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the Preacher not to enter the donkey in another race. The newspaper printed this headline, "Bishop Scratches Preacher's Ass" This was just too much for the Bishop and he ordered the Preacher to get rid of the animal. The Preacher decided to give it to a Nun in a nearby convent. The headlines the next day read, "Nun has the Best Ass in Town" The Bishop fainted. He informed the Nun that she would have to dispose of the donkey and she finally found a farmer who was willing to buy it for \$10.00. The paper states, "Nun Peddles Ass for Ten Bucks" They buried the Bishop the next day.

What's the difference between praying in church and at the track?

At the track you really mean it!

# Horse Terms Quiz

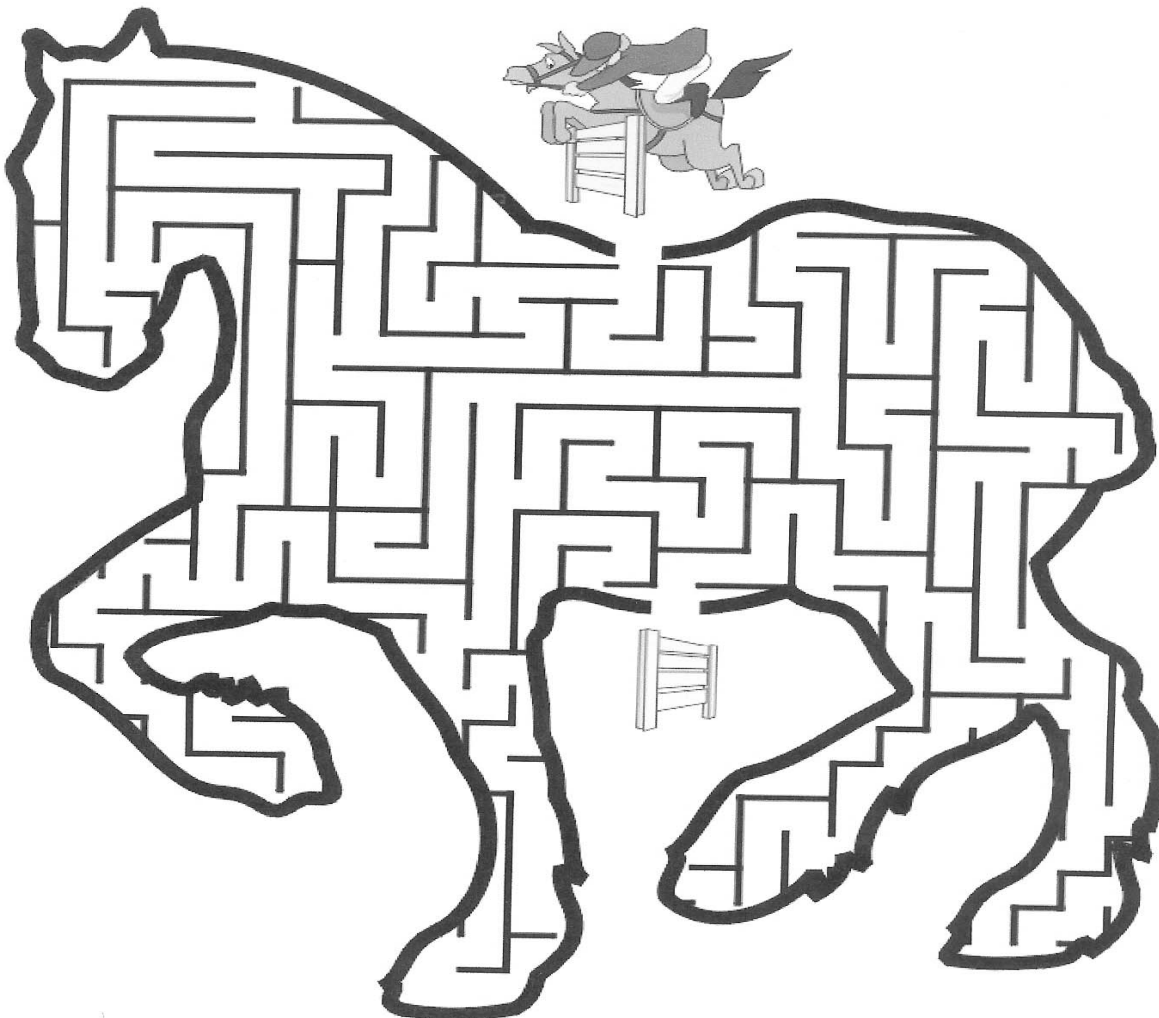
## "Horse Talk"

1. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of shy?
  - A) A horse that is shorter than its sire or dam.
  - B) To run out sideways away from an object that is scaring a horse.
  - C) A horse that is introverted and bashful.
  - D) A horse that dislikes being ridden or driven.
  
2. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of float?
  - A) Another word for filing a horse's teeth if they are too long or have sharp edges.
  - B) A type of horse drawn vehicle.
  - C) Filing a horse's hooves if they are too long.
  - D) A soft saddle that is very comfortable for horse and rider.
  
3. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of hack?
  - A) A horse with very short choppy strides.
  - B) A slow leisurely ride
  - C) A horse used for pleasure riding.
  - D) Both B and C
  
4. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of cinch?
  - A) A horse that's easy to train.
  - B) A type of beetle that can invade horse pastures.
  - C) A band of webbing, string or leather that holds a Western saddle on.
  - D) The straps on the sides of a bridle.
  
5. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of grade?
  - A) The relative slope of a horse's pastern and hoof.
  - B) The slope of a horse's back.
  - C) A horse of mixed breeding and/or unknown parentage.
  - D) Leveling a pasture with a tractor and scraper.
  
6. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of green?
  - A) The color of a horse similar to roan.
  - B) A newly trained horse or pony with little experience being ridden or driven.
  - C) The proper color of straw.
  - D) Pasture land that is unsafe due to holes.
  
7. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of spook?
  - A) A horse that frequently shakes its head.
  - B) The white pad used under saddles to keep the saddle clean and provide cushioning for the horse
  - C) A white horse with blue eyes.
  - D) When a horse jumps sideways in reaction to something that alarms it.
  
8. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of tack?
  - A) The equipment used in riding horses such as saddle and bridle.
  - B) The nails used to hold horse shoes on.
  - C) A change in direction either left or right while riding in an arena.
  - D) The consistency of the footing in an arena or outdoor riding ring.
  
9. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of aids?
  - A) Products such as shampoo and hoof polish that help make your horse look clean.
  - B) Your hands, voice, and body, or equipment like whips and spurs used to cue a horse so they will do as you are asking.
  - C) Help from friends or family when looking after your horse.
  - D) Soluble vitamins that are put in a horse's drinking water.
  
10. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of buck?
  - A) When a horse drops its head and throws up its hindquarters and legs.
  - B) The cost of a bale of hay.
  - C) A type of leather used to make halters and bridles.
  - D) Another word for chaps, worn to protect the legs while riding.

### Horse Terms Quiz (cont)

11. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of drive?  
A) The process of thinning a horse's mane or tail for braiding.  
B) The cleats on the bottom of a horse's shoes applied for better grip on ice.  
C) The energy a horse has.  
D) What the handler does while a sitting in a vehicle pulled by a horse or pony.
12. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of quiet?  
A) A horse that rarely makes a noise.  
B) The bedding in a horse's stall that absorbs noise.  
C) A horse that is mannerly, easy going and rarely spooks or shies.  
D) A horse that barely lifts its hooves from the ground while walking or trotting.
13. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of crib?  
A) A habit where a horse grabs a solid object with its teeth while gulping air.  
B) The container a horse is fed out of.  
C) A horse's home.  
D) A wide jump with brush in the middle.
14. Q: When talking about horses what is the meaning of hand?  
A) The front hooves of a horse.  
B) The bottom of a horse's hoof.  
C) A four inch measurement used to calculate the height of a horse or pony.  
D) A measurement used to calculate the distance a horse can jump.

**Help the jockey and horse find their way through the horse shaped maze to find the next fence to jump.**



Quiz Answers

- 1)B
- 2)A
- 3)D
- 4)C
- 5)C
- 6)B
- 7)D
- 8)A
- 9)B
- 10)A
- 11)D
- 12)C
- 13)A
- 14)C