



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

JUNE 2026

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Babieca: The legendary Horse of El Cid

When we talk about famous partnerships in medieval history, El Cid and his horse Babieca stand among the greatest. This magnificent white stallion carried Spain's legendary knight Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (El Cid) through countless battles during the 11th century, becoming almost as famous as his master.

What makes Babieca truly special was his remarkable combination of strength, intelligence, and loyalty. According to historical records, this exceptional horse served El Cid for nearly 30 years—living well into his thirties, which was extraordinarily rare for a medieval war horse. From the challenging campaigns of the Reconquista to the famous conquest of Valencia in 1094, Babieca was more than just a mount; he was a trusted companion who helped shape the

course of Spanish history alongside El Cid

El Cid's acquisition of Babieca comes with a fascinating story. According to popular accounts, Rodrigo received the horse as a gift from his godfather, Pedro El Grande, who was the abbot of the monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña. The young Rodrigo (not yet known as El Cid) was given the choice of horses, and to everyone's surprise, he selected what appeared to be an unremarkable colt.

When questioned about his choice, Rodrigo confidently replied that this horse would become exceptional. His godfather apparently remarked that this was a foolish choice ("babieca" in medieval Spanish meant "foolish" or "simple"), and the name stuck. This story highlights El Cid's exceptional eye for horseflesh and foreshadows the special bond they would develop.

While precise records of Babieca's birth don't exist, historians believe

he was likely born around 1060-1065. Most accounts suggest he was an Andalusian horse, a breed known for its strength, intelligence, and striking appearance. These horses were particularly valued for warfare due to their endurance and trainability.

The relationship between El Cid and Babieca grew over decades of campaigns together, with the horse proving that El Cid's initial faith in him was well-founded. What began as a seemingly unlikely choice became one of history's most celebrated human-animal partnerships.

Babieca was described in historical accounts as a pure white stallion with impressive stature and bearing. While exact measurements don't exist, medieval war horses needed to be strong enough to carry armored knights while maintaining speed and agility.

As an Andalusian (or similar Spanish breed), Babieca likely had

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

Pressure Relief Western Cinch with Fleece Pads By Correct Connect

A favorite among saddle fitters, upper-level riders and picky horses!

This cinch has been a game changer for horses that are cinchy!

We designed the Pressure Relief Western Cinch with the horse in mind. Thick, washable faux fleece pads (Included) cover the sternum and buckle areas to relieve pressure points, and it also holds the elastic away from sensitive areas along the rib cage.

Faux fleece pads are included with the cinch and are easily removable.

Recommendations:

- The end of your cinch should line up with where your front leg disappears into their body.



- Your cinch should sit one hand behind your horse's elbow.
- Measure from the middle of your horse's sternum to the line where your horse's leg disappears into their body.

Notes: Please order one size up due to padding

Cinch measurement does include buckles.

"I cannot say enough about this cinch. I've been battling girth galls for years with my Tennessee Walker and this is just completely amazing. For the first time in years, I'm able to ride my horse days in a row without any issues and any soreness. He is so happy every time we ride."

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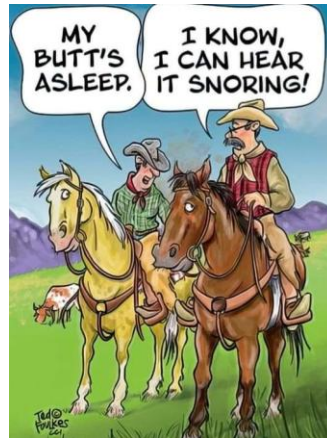
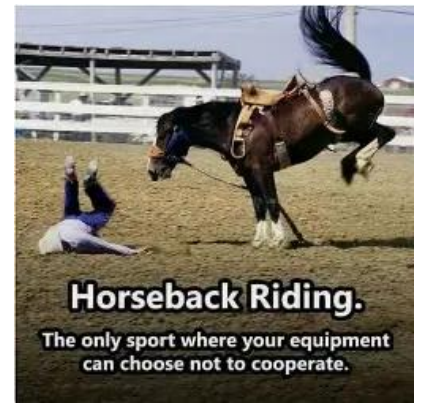
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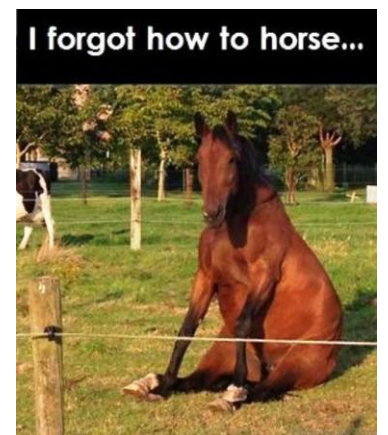
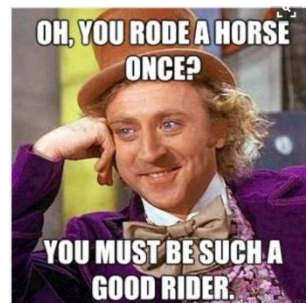
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New Items for June





I don't wanna party like it's 1999....I wanna buy hay and fuel like it's 1999



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



An Agriculture Inspector learned...
You need to stop confusing chaos with connection.

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

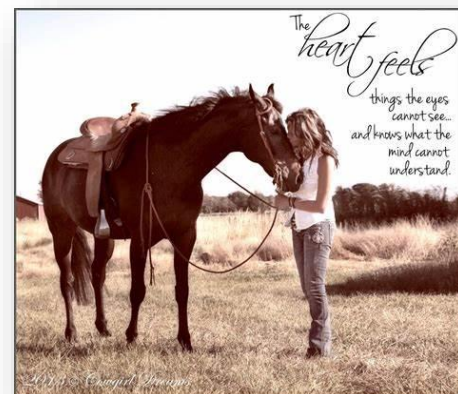
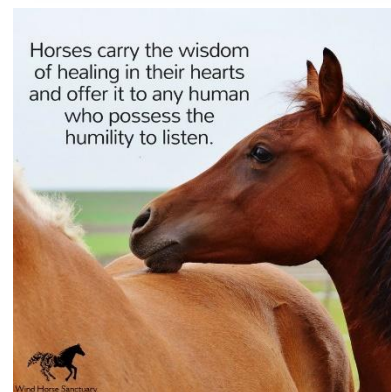
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Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

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May 1, 2026

Summary for 04/01/2026 - 04/30/2026

50 alerts posted reporting on 63 confirmed cases

Ordered by State:

Disease	State	Confirmed
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	Florida	1
Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy	Indiana	1
Equine Herpesvirus- Neurologic	New Jersey	1
	Ontario	1
	Rhode Island	1
	Virginia	1
Equine Herpesvirus- Respiratory	Nebraska	1
	Wisconsin	1
Equine Infectious Anemia	California	19
	Colorado	3
Equine Influenza	Nebraska	1
	Oregon	3
	Wisconsin	3
Equine Rhinitis Viruses	Wisconsin	1
Pigeon Fever	Oregon	1
Strangles	Alberta	1
	Colorado	2
	Connecticut	2
	Florida	3
	Georgia	1
	Michigan	1
	Nebraska	2
	Ontario	1

Equine Disease Communication Center
<http://equinedisesasecc.org>

Strangles	Pennsylvania	1
	Washington	2
	Wisconsin	8

Nutrition Corner

Can My Horse Eat Hay with Preservatives?

Farmers monitor moisture content of forage throughout the harvesting process—when the hay is too wet mold is a concern and those bales could even become a fire hazard, and if the hay is baled too dry, there is significant nutrient loss due to leaf brittleness. Therefore, a happy medium is key.

Farmers might invest in inoculants or preservative sprays to reduce the likelihood of losing a crop because they allow the farmer to bale a hay at slightly higher moisture levels. For example, if the hay is not quite dry enough, but there is rain approaching in the forecast, the farmer might invest in a preservative spray for that field to ensure it can be baled prior to the rainfall. These products are most commonly used in wet and cool climates.

Manufacturers offer two main types of preservatives: bacterial inoculants and organic acids. Bacterial inoculants are typically characterized by the addition of lactic-acid-forming bacteria such as *Lactobacillus*, *Streptococcus*, and *Bacillus*. These organisms compete with mold-forming organisms in order to maintain forage quality. These products allow farmers to bale the hay at 3 to 5 percent

higher moisture.

The other common preservative farmers spray on hay is organic acids (e.g., propionic acid). These products produce an acidic environment that is not supportive of mold growth. Again, this allows the hay to be baled slightly wetter so the grower can reduce the amount of time that it is in the field drying with a risk of it being rained on.

Regarding horse health, researchers have shown that horses preferentially eat nontreated hay when given the choice. However, it is safe for them to consume treated hay. In one study looking at feeding hay treated with commercial preservatives to yearlings, scientists found there was no difference in feed consumption or weight gain between the treated and untreated hay groups. When we investigate hay treated with propionic acid, keep in mind that the product is buffered; despite it having a very low pH on its own, it is buffered to be closer to neutral (pH of 7) and will not cause harm to the horse when consumed. Additionally, the horse naturally produces propionic acid in the hindgut when hay is fermented.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior to other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading-edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top-level riders and trainers

In Loving Memory of Zendaya and Dusty



In April we lost two of our loyal friends at Pacific NW Riding Academy. Our hearts are sad, but we know their spirits and energy are keeping watch over our farm.

Dusty was a 26-year-old Tennessee Walker Gelding that came to our farm in 2020 as a first horse for a man who had terminal cancer. Dusty stayed on after his owner passed and became one of our best trail horses. He had a loving friend in Betsy Buchman, and earned so many people's trust as he carried them in the arena

Or trails, careful with the beginners and solid for the more experienced. We will miss you and your silly mustache, Dusty!



Zendaya was a 16-year-old Andalusian mare that came to our farm in September of 2025. Her owner was relocating trusted this beautiful girl to our care and our program. Zen was as beautiful as they come, with a willing heart and innate kindness. She was wise and curious and was a favorite of her students.

She had a loving friend in Liz Cardwell who really gave her confidence and of course, affection. We will miss your lovely soul, Zendaya.

Gemini – A Split Rein Traveler (May 21 – June 21)



II
Gemini
May 21 - Jun 20

Strengths: Gentle, Affectionate, Versatile

Weaknesses: Indecisive, Nervous, Inconsistent

Around the Stable: She loves a good bath, and an immediate roll in the mud afterwards.

The Gemini horse is characterized by duality. Their actions one day are often completely different from the next, and their personality always has two sides. This makes the Gemini horse an unpredictable equine that will keep you on your toes!

Horses born under this sign need constant stimulation to keep them from getting bored. They are very playful and enjoy playing fun games with you. They are also curious by nature and like versatility in their routine.

The Gemini horse is a social butterfly that may want to spend more time with the herd when you're waiting for them to come in. They hate being alone and are quick to make friends with horses as well as other animals.

Gemini horses also have a good sense of humor and crave the opportunities to express it.



We celebrate these Birthdays in June!

Darcy Hill June 3rd, Heather Carder June 4th,

Molly Van Kampen June 5th, Amber Barth June 7th, Juan Pablo June 13th,

Al June 2nd, Sam June 3rd, Jac June 4th, Madeira June 23rd, Lamora June 26th

MOST FABULOUS WEDDINGS ON HORSEBACK!



Celovška 25, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Hot Horse Burger

A popular Slovenian fast-food joint doesn't specialize in beef.



Around the world, horse meat is a hotly contested, polarizing food. It's illegal to slaughter horses for meat in the United States, but horse-based dishes are beloved in countries such as China and Kazakhstan. Some Japanese connoisseurs consider horse sashimi haute cuisine, while Slovenians have made it the star of a small fast-food chain.

At Hot Horse Burger in Ljubljana, owner Jure Ažman has been selling patties sans beef since 1995. Ažman conceived of the idea after marrying the daughter of a horse butcher, then began sourcing from the family business for his supply. In the beginning, Ljubljanans were skeptical. Horse meat, though perfectly legal, wasn't widely consumed in the 1990s. But after the restaurant extended its hours to cater to the city's late-night crowd, the concept found its niche. One taster commented that, though he thoroughly enjoyed their burger, he didn't find the signature, thin patty to be any better or worse than beef. He also described the meat itself as well-seasoned and chewy, "though not in a bad way." Rounding out the patty are optional toppings such as cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mayo, and *ajvar*, a zesty red pepper-based condiment.

Hot Horse has grown considerably in the last two decades, and the company now operates three locations. Ažman also hired his own butchers, though apparently his in-laws have no hard feelings about the loss of business.

Where to Try It

- **Hot Horse Tivoli** Celovška 25, Ljubljana, Slovenia

One of three locations in the city that serves fast food-style horse burgers and colt strips.

The Iomud Horse



The Iomud is an ancient light horse breed from the Turkmenistan region of Central Asia, regarded as one of the world's oldest and most distinctive equine breeds. Developed by the Iomud tribe of Turkmen nomads, it shares common ancestry with the renowned Akhal-Teke and exhibits many of the same extraordinary qualities of endurance, heat tolerance, and elegance that define Turkmen horses as a group.

In build, the Iomud is a compact yet refined horse, standing between 14 and 15 hands. The head is clean-cut and occasionally Roman-nosed, set on a medium-length neck. The withers are medium-high, the back is solid with a gentle curve, and the croup slopes regularly. The chest is relatively shallow, the legs clean and fine, and the mane and tail notably sparse — a characteristic that distinguishes the breed at a glance. The skin is delicate, and the coat often carries the metallic sheen typical of Central Asian Turkmen breeds.

Stallions stand approximately 152 cm (15 hands), while mares average around 149 cm (14.5 hands). Despite its moderate frame, the Iomud is disproportionately powerful for its size, capable of covering extraordinary distances under challenging desert conditions and carrying considerable weight over rough terrain.

The Iomud's history stretches back to antiquity. Developed by the Iomud tribe in the Tashauz oasis of what is now southern Turkmenistan, the breed shares deep common roots with the Akhal-Teke, both descending from the ancient Turkmen horse that roamed the steppes and deserts of Central Asia for thousands of years. Unlike the Akhal-Teke, which was historically kept by individual owners in carefully controlled conditions, the Iomud was maintained in herds across desert and semi-desert terrain, producing a hardier, more self-sufficient horse adapted to foraging under extreme conditions.

The 20th century brought significant challenges. Collectivisation and political upheaval across Soviet Central Asia disrupted traditional breeding practices, and the population of purebred Iomuds declined sharply. By the mid-20th century, the breed was considered endangered. In response, Soviet stud farms were established in Turkmenia in 1983 with the explicit goal of conservation, aiming to increase the breeding mare population from a critical low of approximately 140 individuals to a sustainable nucleus of 240–250 mares. These conservation efforts preserved the breed's genetic integrity and allowed it to survive.

The Iomud is generally bred purebred to preserve its distinct characteristics and genetic integrity. Crosses to other breeds, while historically practiced (notably with Arabian stallions in the 14th century), are now carefully controlled within conservation contexts. The breed's gene pool remains limited, making rigorous record-keeping and selective breeding critical to its long-term survival.

Cont'd from page 1

the characteristic arched neck, broad chest, and powerful hindquarters that made these horses ideal for battle. These horses typically stood between 15 and 16 hands high (about 5 to 5.3 feet at the shoulder) and weighed approximately 1,000 to 1,200 pounds.

What set Babieca apart was not just his appearance but his remarkable combination of traits. Historical accounts suggest he possessed exceptional speed, as demonstrated in races El Cid held after the conquest of Valencia. He also showed the courage and steadiness needed for battle, never faltering amid the chaos of combat.

Perhaps most importantly, Babieca displayed intelligence and responsiveness that allowed El Cid to focus on fighting rather than controlling his mount. This partnership gave El Cid a significant advantage in battle, as horse and rider moved almost as one during combat.

Babieca played a crucial role in El Cid's most significant military victories. The horse's speed, strength, and reliability gave El Cid a decisive advantage on the battlefield.

During the Valencia campaign (1092-1094), Babieca carried El Cid through numerous battles against the Almoravids. This campaign culminated in El Cid's greatest achievement – the conquest of Valencia, which he would rule until his death in 1099. Contemporary accounts describe how Babieca's speed allowed El Cid to move quickly across the battlefield, surprising enemies and boosting the morale of his own troops.

One of the most famous stories involves El Cid's victory over King Bucar of Morocco. According to the epic poem "Cantar de Mio Cid," El Cid mounted Babieca and pursued the retreating king, catching and defeating him in single combat. While likely embellished, this story emphasizes the exceptional speed and endurance that made Babieca legendary.

Babieca wasn't just valuable in battle – he also served ceremonial purposes. After capturing Valencia, El Cid reportedly rode Babieca through the city in a victory parade. These public appearances reinforced El Cid's image as a powerful leader, with his magnificent white stallion becoming a recognizable symbol of his authority.

The bond between horse and rider was so strong that historical accounts suggest El Cid rarely rode any other horse during his campaigns, trusting Babieca with his life countless times over their decades together.

Babieca's legacy extends far beyond his battlefield accomplishments. He features prominently in the epic poem "Cantar de Mio Cid," Spain's national epic written around 1200 AD. In this work, Babieca isn't just a horse but a character who contributes to El Cid's heroic image.

In medieval Spanish literature, Babieca became the archetype of the perfect war horse – loyal, brave, and exceptional. The poem specifically mentions Babieca by name numerous times, which was unusual for an animal companion and speaks to his significance.

This cultural impact continued through centuries of Spanish art. Paintings and sculptures often depict El Cid mounted on his distinctive white charger, creating an inseparable image of the hero and his horse. These artistic representations helped cement Babieca in the Spanish cultural consciousness.

Interestingly, Babieca also became a symbol of the special relationship between humans and horses. During a time when horses were primarily valued for their utility, the emotional bond between El Cid and Babieca represented something deeper – a partnership based on mutual trust and respect.

Even today, the name "Babieca" is immediately recognizable in Spanish culture, representing loyalty, excellence, and the powerful connection between a warrior and his mount.

Babieca's remarkable longevity stands out in historical accounts. While most war horses of the medieval period lived only 10-15 years, Babieca served El Cid for nearly 30 years and likely lived to be over 30 years old – an extraordinary

age for any horse, especially one that endured the rigors of battle.

After El Cid's death in 1099, Babieca outlived his master, though not by many years. According to tradition, the horse died around 1100-1102. During this short time after El Cid's passing, Babieca was reportedly cared for by El Cid's widow, Doña Jimena, who recognized the horse's importance.

The burial of Babieca reflects the high regard in which he was held. While most animals received little ceremony in medieval times, tradition holds that Babieca was buried with honor outside the monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña near Burgos – the same monastery where El Cid himself was initially buried. Some accounts suggest two elm trees were planted to mark the horse's grave.

Though the exact location of Babieca's burial site has been lost to time, the very fact that his burial was recorded at all demonstrates his exceptional status. Few horses in medieval Europe received such recognition, highlighting Babieca's unique place in Spanish history.

Today, Babieca's memory lives on through various tributes across Spain and in popular culture. In Burgos, where El Cid was born, you'll find statues and artistic depictions that include the famous white stallion alongside his master. The monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña also maintains the tradition of Babieca's burial site.

The horse appears in numerous modern retellings of El Cid's story. In the 1961 Hollywood film "El Cid" starring Charlton Heston, Babieca is portrayed as a magnificent white charger, further cementing this image in popular imagination. More recently, Babieca has appeared in historical novels, children's books, and video games that explore medieval Spanish history.

Spanish equestrian traditions also honor Babieca's legacy. The Andalusian horse breed, which Babieca likely belonged to, remains prized in Spain and around the world for many of the same qualities that made Babieca exceptional: strength, grace, intelligence, and loyalty.

For horse enthusiasts and historians alike, Babieca represents the ideal partnership between human and horse – a relationship built on mutual trust that helped shape history. His story reminds us of the important role horses played in medieval warfare and culture, serving not just as transportation but as trusted companions in dangerous times.

