

Wildwood Farm
CLIPS & CLOPS
Oak Harbor

September 2026

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

All Heart: The Amazing One-eyed Wonders of the Racetrack

Kate Johnson December 28, 2020

Material World was such a kindly soul that she used to share wisps of her hay with her neighbor. She charmed everyone, including the author Jilly Cooper, who included her generous gesture in her novel 'Jumpers'.

Alongside her remarkable temperament, Material World also stood out as a horse with huge potential. Suzy Smith, then a fledgling trainer in southern England, says of the then (in 2002) unraced 4-year-old, "It was my first season. I was only 25. I had thrown everything into it, and all the money I had on her. I knew she was my best horse, though I didn't know how good she was going to be."

So, it was a terrible blow when, startled by a trespasser on the gallops, she came down, causing a fungal infection in her left eye that vets and Newmarket specialists could not heal. Kept in a dark box, on drips, she was clearly uncomfortable. "I felt desperately sad and sorry for her," Smith remembers.

And finally, the decision was made to remove the eye.

Material World spent a month in a paddock acclimatising with great equanimity to her new world vision, as the staff adjusted by being solicitous and always warning her when they were approaching her, before resuming her training.

It went well, to put it mildly. She won her first race - a National Hunt flat contest at Market Rasen in April 2003 - by ten lengths, stormed to victory in her second at Hereford a month later, romped home over hurdles at Folkestone, was only twice out of the first three in nine more races before winning again at Wincanton, then was runner-up in a big race at Aintree before claiming first place in the Pertemps Handicap Hurdle qualifier at Cheltenham in December 2006. She then finished a half-length second in the final at the Cheltenham Festival itself in 2007.

"She was so tough. I couldn't believe how well she adapted," says Smith. "She'd go through gaps, barge others out of the way. She was always in the thick of it, and only occasionally intimidated when she was broadsided on her blind side."

Her gung-ho spirit and adaptability puts her in good company.

The Canadian dual classic winner

Canada's **Mighty Heart** was named after a kitten that his owner Larry Cordes' girlfriend fed with an eyedropper when it was rejected by its mother. He lost his left eye in an accident at just 2 weeks old.

He recovered, but he took a while to find his feet. His trainer, Josie Carroll, cautioned patience when he finished well out of contention in his early races. He endeared himself to all, not least his groom,

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

Equine Unicorn Horns

Made by **RFARescueCrafts**



These 12" and the 10" unicorn horns are 3D printed and are lightweight - perfect for any magical occasion. Each horn comes with 3 adjustable and removable black or white straps for secure placement and can fit on halters or bridles. Please note that some color variation will occur in multi-color options.

These horns will fit sizes pony, horse, and draft.

Custom colors are available upon request.



Limited Edition Colors
-Mythical Silver is a lavender and blue shimmer on a silver base.
-Starlight - a clear iridescent base mix with silver glitter.
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A portion of all proceeds goes to Risen From the Ashes horse rescue of Centerview, MO.

When you visit the website, you will see pictures of rescue horses wearing their Unicorn horns! Prices range from $20-$25.

Made in Kansas City, MO
To order:
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Our Store is currently open by Appointment.

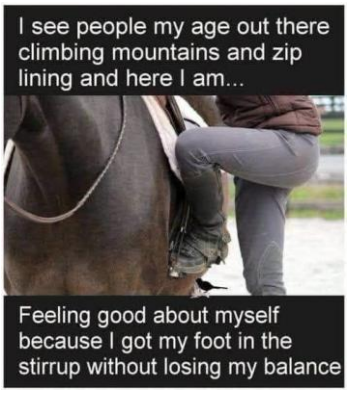
THE URBAN EQUUSTRIAN

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New Items for September



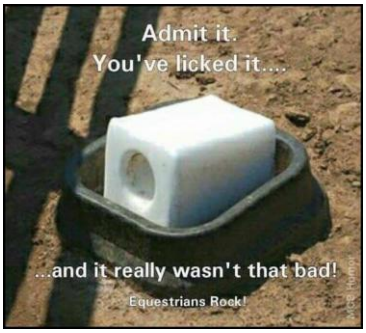




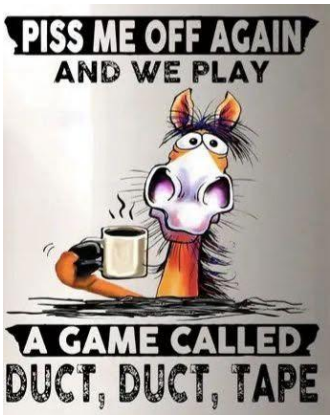
That one cow must be a real asshole



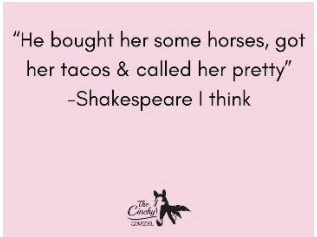




















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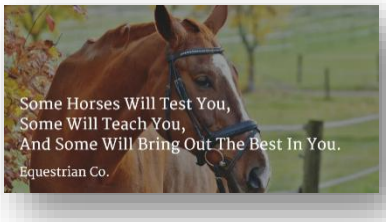
Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

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In the equine industry, biosecurity refers to the precautions we take to limit the spread of disease with working horses. These preventative measures are vital to maintaining the health of all horses regardless of their occupation, whether they be a companion animal, a working horse, or a show animal. Even the smallest precautions can help to keep horses safe from infectious diseases.

The EDCC and the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) have jointly created biosecurity how-to videos to better help owners prepare for pre-during-and-post competition outings for their horses. The videos also provide information for the development and implementation of isolation plans.

- **Biosecurity Prior to Competition, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**
- **Biosecurity During Competition, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**
- **Biosecurity Post Competition, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**
- **Development of an Isolation Plan, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**
- **Implementation of Isolation Plan, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**
- **Cleaning & Disinfecting, co-sponsored by the EDCC and USEF**

Visit https://equinediseasecc.org/biosecurity to watch videos and for more information

Strangles

King County, WA
Alert ID: 5156
August 21, 2026
Outbreak Identifier: 7583
Confirmed Case(s) - No Quarantine

Source: Asst State Veterinarian-WSDA

Number Confirmed: 1;
Number Suspected: 8;
Number Exposed: Unknown;
Facility Type: Private Facility;
Comments: Facility is under self imposed quarantine and under veterinary care.;

Search for County

West Nile Virus

Benton County, WA
Alert ID: 5136
August 14, 2026
Outbreak Identifier: 7564
Confirmed Case(s) - No Quarantine

Source: Asst State Veterinarian-WSDA

Number Confirmed: 1;
Number Exposed: Unknown;
Facility Type: Private Facility;
Comments: Horse was 2 yrs old and unvaccinated;

Search for County

West Nile Virus

Benton County, WA
Alert ID: 5119
August 11, 2026
Outbreak Identifier: 7547
Confirmed Case(s) - No Quarantine

Source: WSDA and attending veterinarian

Number Confirmed: 1;
Facility Type: Private Facility;
Comments: 2 year old non-vaccinated gelding. Severely ataxic at time of blood draw. Horse died prior to receiving lab confirmation of WNV infection.;

Search for County

Strangles

King County, WA
Alert ID: 5078
July 20, 2026
Outbreak Identifier: 7508
Confirmed Case(s) - Voluntary Quarantine

Nutrition Corner

The Dangers of Foxtail in Your Horse's Hay

Foxtail is a summer annual grass, meaning it grows from seed in the spring and dies in the fall. It is fast-growing, hard to control, and resilient in the face of efforts to stop it from going to seed. For this annual plant to come back year after year, it drops hundreds of seeds into the soil. Within each seed head are unpleasant and barbed little members called "awns," which can spell big trouble for your horse (or dog) after drying up in the fall. Foxtail awns are stiff, spiky fibers that can readily get bundled in your round or square bales at harvest if foxtail has gone to seed in the hayfield, which is a very common occurrence.

As a horse owner, your only protection against these awns is to **inspect your horse's hay carefully.**

When horses eat hay contaminated with foxtail, the awns can lodge in the mouth and gums, working their way through the tissue, causing lesions, infections, and pain.

How do you know if your horse has eaten foxtail?
Signs include being off feed, mouth ulcerations, excessive salivation, and a foul odor. While mild cases usually resolve with time after you remove the offending hay, severe cases require a call to your veterinarian to sedate the horse and pluck, dig, or scrape the awns out from under the gums, the lips, and around the mouth.

Mitigating Foxtail

You have three choices:

1. Renovate your pastures.
2. In pastures you are not able to renovate, let foxtail grow up and begin producing seed heads, then mow it.
3. Apply an Herbicide.

If you find foxtail in your hay supply, contact your provider and ask for a foxtail-controlled or -free replacement. worth paying.

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

From the 2005 Wildwood Farm Archives
SILVANA



In the early winter of 2005, we purchased a grey Thoroughbred mare named Silvana Wentworth. It almost didn't happen.

Prior to her purchase, as was customary, we requested a trial before deciding if she would be a good fit for our students.

When Silvana arrived, she was great on the ground and in the arenas, but once in her stall was nervous and pacey, lacking what we felt was confidence, which was not a good sign for us. She would constantly whinny and would not eat, and our doubts were growing about her being the type of horse we could use. School horses need to be able to be stalled for the instructors and students to have access to them for lessons. This behavior continued for over 5 days, and we finally decided she would not work out and we called her owner to let her know that we would be returning her.

A few days before Silvana was leaving, I received a call from a man who knew the Blacks and wanted to check in with the new owners – the Blacks are the ones who had built Wildwood Farm. As we were talking, he asked if we ever changed the stall numbers to include the number 13. He joked about how Barbara Black was always suspicious of the number 13 and avoided it when building this ranch. It told him we did not change anything as we thought it was kind of cute.

Then he asked something that changed everything. He asked if we ever kept a horse in stall 15. I said we did. He said that Barbara told him that stall was haunted and they did not use it. Stall 15 was the one Silvana was in.

The next day we moved Silvana to a different stall and – believe it or not – she was an angel. And, when she continued to be an angel we decided to buy her.

Now, in the years since we have had other horses in that stall and most are fine – but every once in a while, we have one that is anxious. When we see that we move them and it is always better. Thanks to Silvana.

Virgo – Dressage Dynamo (August 23 – September 22)



♍
Virgo
Aug 23 - Sep 22

Strengths: Kind, Stable, Perceptive
Weaknesses: Shy, Worrier, Uptight
Around the Stable: This horse appreciates a tidy stable and a thorough groom!

Grounded and in touch with their senses, the Virgo horse may need a push to relax and enjoy themselves. Their hard-working nature is a treasure and makes them perfect for classical riding competitions. Give your Virgo horse plenty of mental stimulation and you will not be disappointed with their performance!

A love for the center stage will have the Virgo horse preening and showing off to the judges. Set them up for success and enjoy the fruits of your hard labor together with every blue ribbon they bring you.

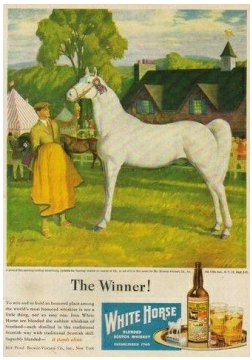
Virgo horses can be very adaptable to the world around them so long as you allow them the time and space to analyze new things. Sudden changes or high expectations will stress them out and result in a negative attitude. Make sure your Virgo horse is mentally and physically prepared for what you ask them to do.



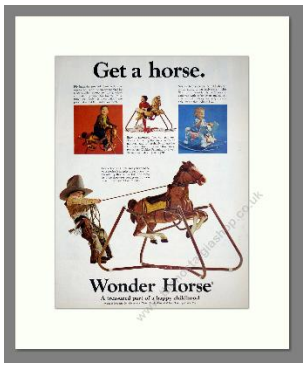
We celebrate these Birthdays in September!

Jesus September 4th, Liz Cardwell September 18th,
Karen Mullhern September 24th.

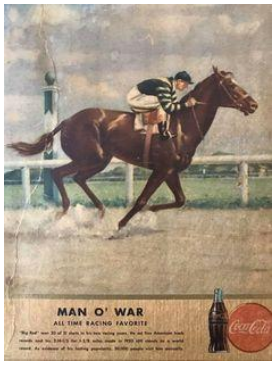
MOST FABULOUS VINTAGE HORSE ADVERTISEMENTS!

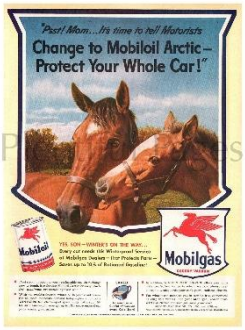




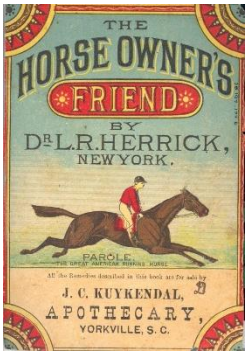








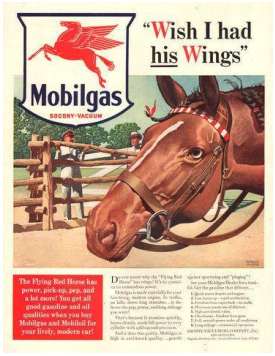


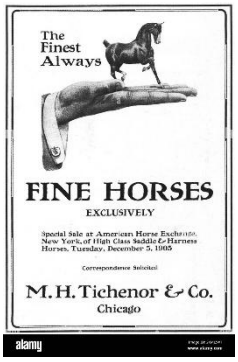


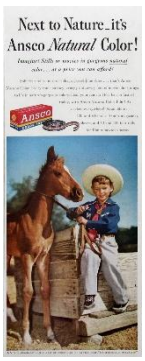












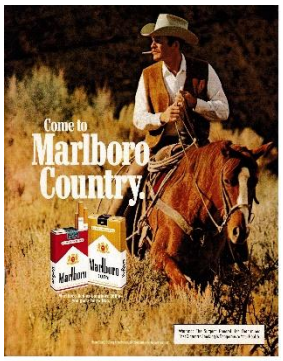


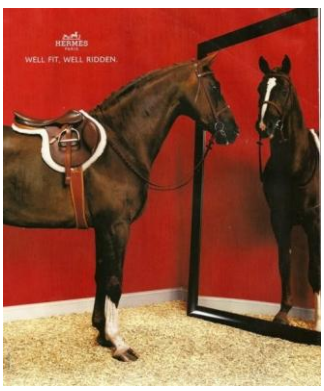












Oxford, England

Port Meadow

Legend says this public grazing area hasn't been plowed for thousands of years.





Port Meadow is a large common land area in the middle of Oxford, which has allegedly never been plowed at least since the prehistoric period. It has been used for free pasture since the Saxon times, according to the records in the Domesday Book.

The meadow is used for horses and cattle even to this day. You could easily find ungulates grazing here, along with a plethora of wildfowl such as geese, plovers, shelducks, and teals.

According to legend, the land was gifted to the Freemen of the city by Alfred the Great as a reward for taking part in the defense of the kingdom against Dane invaders. However, this theory is considered unlikely.

There are quite a few well-preserved archaeological and historical sites across the meadow, including the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds, Iron Age dwellings, foundations of English Civil War-era fortifications, and stone bridges built for horse racing in the 17th and 18th centuries, fortifications from the English Civil War era, and stone bridges built for horse racing in the 17th and 18th centuries.

While not widely known, it is also an important site in the history of literature. On July 4, 1862, a mathematician named Charles Lutwidge Dodgson took the three daughters of Henry Liddell, dean of Christ Church, on a now-famous boat trip from Folly Bridge to the village of Godstow, passing along Port Meadow. At one point, requested by the second daughter, Alice, Dodgson improvised and told a fantasy story “with nonsense in it,” the strange adventures of a curious little girl named Alice. This story was published three years later under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, titled *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, and became one of the most beloved classics in the world.

Know Before You Go

When visiting, be aware of horses and cattle and keep your dogs under control. Please do not approach or harass the animals. Be careful about your footing, especially in winter, when the meadow sometimes becomes flooded.

The Hucul Horse





Hucul is a very typical type of mountain horse breed. It is an indigenous breed of Carpathians. Native country of this breed is the Huculsko region of Eastern Carpathians in what is now Romania. Roots of Hucul breed come from original Carpathian type of Tarpan. Kertag horses, as well as later Arabian, have contributed to the breeding of the Hucul.

First reference to the Hucul horse can be found in 1603. Originally bred in modest and harsh conditions of Bukovina Carpathians, Hucul has all features of a wild horse. In 1856 Hucul Stud Luina (Romania) was built close to the Radovecky Stud. During the period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which encompassed the native region of the Hucul, they began to be systematic selected for use as cavalry mounts. Since that time herd books have been kept. The oldest lines of Hucul horses trace back to this period.

Further development of breeding was stopped by World War I. In 1915 the Hucul herd was moved from Lucina to Waldof (Austria). After the War was over, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy disintegrated and breeding of Hucul was moved to Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Slovak breeding of the Hucul at the National Stud Topolcianky began in 1922, with a breeding program directly connected to Stud Lucina. In early 2000 the nucleus herd consists of six stallions and 23 mares.

Region of Hucul horse breeding is historically contained in the region known as the Carpathian Curve comprised of Romania, Poland and Slovak Republic. Today's breeding is widened to Czech Republic, Hungary and Ukraine. These breeding programs are being based on stallions of the following strains: Hroby, Goral, Gurgul, Oušor, Prislop, Pietrosu and Polan.

Hucul horse is of very neat character, equable and calm temperament, correct type, smaller, of sturdy conformation, easy to feed, with tough hooves. Hucul horses are often used as draft horses in forests, riding horses on mountainous routes and as pack animals. Height averages 13.2-14.1 hands. Color: mostly bay with a dark strip on the back, can be also dun, black, chestnut, dapple.

The Hucul today is an independent and unique breed. Since 1979, Hucul belongs to a protected gene fund of original and primitive animal breeds of FAO. For this purpose, Hucul International Federation (H.I.F) was formed in 1994. The goal of the H.I.F. is to provide uniform methodology and breeding goals through the Hucul's breeding area.

At present there are only 500 brood mares in the world, this low number calls for serious action toward the preservation of the Hucul.

Cont'd from page 1

Siobhan Brown, who told reporters that, as she is epileptic, "I totally get, you know, not being all there, so we just kind of bonded from that and it's been really nice ... He just needs some love. He's one of those horses that needs time."

The reward for biding his time? He has been Canada's outstanding horse this year, following victory in the Queen's Plate at Woodbine in Toronto, the first leg of the country's Triple Crown (in the second fastest time since 1957) by winning the second leg, the Prince of Wales Stakes at nearby Fort Erie.

Mighty Heart was unplaced in the third leg, the Breeders' Stakes back at Woodbine, but he remains a ferocious competitor. Carroll has said that, while he's happy to saunter when he's alone on the gallops, when he shares the space with another - they.shall.not.pass

The horse who was third in the Belmont Stakes

Patch - an inelegant name for such a spectacular creature - was well into training as a 2-year-old in the U.S. when a mysterious ailment resulted in him also losing an eye.

Trainer Todd Pletcher knew - or thought he knew - that horses adapt better if they lose an eye very young as "it's all they know", and that, if it happens later, they need more time to come to terms with it. So, he sent Patch to his trainer father, JJ Pletcher. Patch had other ideas and made it clear he didn't appreciate the kid-glove treatment, so after a few weeks, JJ called Todd to tell him that all the horse needed was to get back to training.

Todd told reporters, "The remarkable thing about him is we really haven't had to do anything special."

Patch resumed his career as a 3-year-old in 2017, opening up with a second and then a first in Maiden Special Weight races at Gulfstream, then finishing runner-up in the G2 Louisiana Derby before running in two Triple Crown races - the Kentucky Derby (he finished 14th) and the Belmont Stakes (he was third). He has since retired.

Virtually blind in BOTH eyes - but he won 26 times.

Italian Federico De Paola would recognise Mighty Heart's competitive streak as the owner, breeder and jockey of **Laghat**. The horse contracted a fungal infection, mycosis, as a yearling and treatment, including box rest with blacked-out windows for three months, had no effect. Laghat was rendered entirely blind in one eye and 95 percent blind in the other, giving his eyes a milky appearance.

De Paola was so devoted to him, the trust between the two so intimate, he once said that they spoke their own language.

Though he originally took Laghat racing for nothing more than exercise, the horse took to it immediately with a winning debut at San Rossore Racetrack in Pisa. He clocked up 26 wins, 30 places and well over €100,000 in prize money in a career that lasted from 2006 to 2015.

De Paola told reporters, "He has a sixth sense which tells him where to put his legs."
Laghat never once collided with others, even in large fields of 16, and "when we get close to the finishing life, he is the one who gives me the signal, and goes faster".

He also knew when he'd crossed the line first. When he won, he'd be happy and playful in his box. When he lost, he'd nip and kick his long-suffering stable companion.

He has now retired and, with a Fjord horse for company, he roams his pasture and greets his near-daily fans.

As Josie Carroll told reporters of Mighty Heart, "There's something in racing we call heart, and horses with heart are what you're looking for, more so sometimes than horses with talent."

Here are some other note-worthy vision equine super stars:

Briarlands Blackberry

Eventer Izzy Taylor contested Blenheim, Burghley, Bramham and Barbury with **Briarlands Blackberry**, who lost an eye two years before she took the reins.

“Sat on top, you wouldn’t know he only had one eye,” she says. “The only time I suspected it affected him was at Bramham when, unusually for him, he had a run-out at a coffin with a slanting rail on his blind side.”

Santana

The dressage stallion by Sandro Hit lost his left eye after scratching it in his stable in 2009. Treatment couldn’t save it, so the eye was removed.

However, it didn’t stop him competing at the top level. He took part in the 2012 London Olympics with Minna Telde of Sweden. The team finished fifth.

Adventure De Kannan

Adventure De Kannan, the famous “one-eyed wonder horse” won the 2014 Hickstead Derby having finished runner-up the previous year.

The “one-eyed wonder horse” graced the cover of *Horse & Hound* after Hickstead, as well as being featured in mainstream media after winning by just 0.02sec in the jump off — ahead of the 2013 winners Phillip Miller and Caritiar Z.

The gelding had his right eye removed in 2013 due to a long-term infection. And it clearly had no adverse effect. “He’s got an enormous heart,” says Trevor. “He does everything I ask him to whether he can or not, and if he can’t he’ll try anyway.”

H&M Tornesch

Showjumping stallion **H&M Tornesch** had battled an issue in his right eye for years before he injured it further in 2013 and it was removed. He competed at CSI5* level for many years with Swedish rider Malin Baryard-Johnsson. She said it was all down to trust.

He originally had about 30% vision in the eye, but in 2013 he damaged it while breeding and it couldn’t be saved.

The Dutch Warmblood wasn’t set back, though — competing at CSI5* level until his retirement from top class competition in January 2016.

An Cathaoir

One-eyed former racehorse **An Cathaoir** and Victoria Bertorelli landed the 2025 Tattersalls Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) amateur ridden championship at Hickstead.

“He’s my one-eyed legend,” said Victoria.