



# Collections

## Suncoast Dressage and Combined Training Association June 2017 Newsletter

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Our next meeting will be at the Red Barn. Please contact Joan Potter if you need directions.

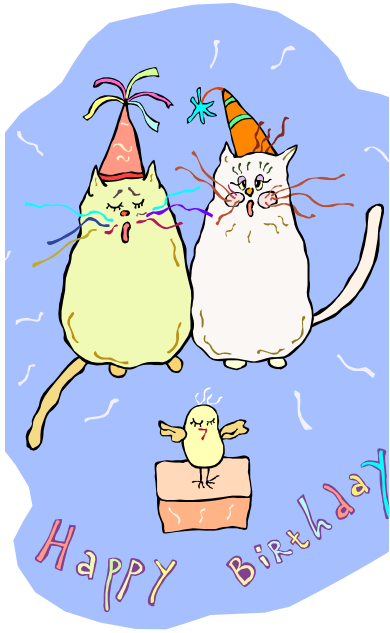
Joan's daughter Tori will be our guest speaker.

Her topic will be leather, and how to take care of it properly. Tori owns her own leather repair business.

Please plan to attend July 11@ 7:00

Also we will have an update on how the June recognized show faired at the fairgrounds. No pun intended!!!!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!

July Birthdays Happy Birthday!!!!

Sally Cahill Jessica Combs

Susan Hartman

Bryn Cahill

Jane Whitehurst

Jamie Sawyer

Heather Miller

There are no minutes because we had no June meeting. Not because I forgot to write them down. ;)

Minutes

Secretary

Jane Whitehurst

Hope everyone is staying as cool as possible this summer. We have a lot of exciting things happening in the club.

Our next meeting guest speaker will be Tori. With all the rain it is the perfect time to learn about proper leather care. No one likes moldy leather.

Our rated show August 19 and 20 will be a chance for people to earn their qualifying scores for regionals if they have not already done so. We will be recruiting people and getting organized for the show in our August meeting. This meeting will be held at Royal Blue Stables

Our September meeting will be back at the Red Barn. Richard Grist will be our guest speaker. We will plan on backing his mobile unit under the cover. Richard had spoken to the club years ago. Prepare to take notes. You will be educated.

See everyone Tuesday

Joan



President  
Joan Potter

I've had my Oldenburg mare Farah for 5 years now.

Sensitive, reactive, smart. An alpha mare who would rather flee the scene than deal with drama but if pushed would fight you to the death. We've had some success in the show ring. Some tests where she felt relaxed and confident. Overall though, shows have been a struggle. Up to a couple of months ago, even riding in her own ring at home was difficult.

What was the problem? Training? Maybe, I didn't discount it. I don't profess to be the end all in dressage and will blame myself the same as the next dressage rider who practices self-deprecation. But any below-par training would not account for why she leaned on the wash-rack or couldn't halt square in the front. It didn't explain why a horse who had been so forward with almost too much push from the hind-end did not want to push anymore at all. She would canter a bit then break and if I kept encouraging her she would stop and rear. She couldn't do a shoulder-in to the right, or half pass either direction without contorting her body.

I had every leg on my mare sonogram and X-rayed. Multiple farriers and a vet who is also a farrier looked at her feet. After all, one foot is slightly clubbed; but that wasn't the problem. I had a vet miss-diagnose her with EPM through acupuncture points and that took me down a long road of Chinese herbs and re-injecting her with her own blood. There was no improvement so I resorted to giving her ReBalance, a medicine to kill the protozoa. A trip to UF large animal clinic revealed through spinal fluid she did not have EPM. These doctors then suspected compression of the spine in her neck. She was clearly uncomfortable and didn't back well when flexed at the poll. They wanted to do a myelogram procedure but told me it could be inconclusive and if she does have it .... well... there is nothing that can be done. I opted against the expensive procedure, but we did later inject her neck because she showed the most minute trace of arthritis. There was some improvement after the injection. Another vet/chiropractor told me her atlas was so far out of place that there must have been a major trauma for this to have occurred. "Only another trauma", she said, "will realign the atlas." She trusted only one person to do this major adjustment to her poll and he would be back in the states in a couple of months. I figured I would wait and give it a try.

I would try just about anything. Just in the last 18 months, probably 10 doctors looked at Farah, not counting chiropractors, massage, and other holistic therapists. Most everyone agreed on her symptoms. She carried her neck to the left, fell on her right shoulder and would lean into my left leg and not move off of it. I kept riding her through it all. Some days were ok, not horrible, and I would feel the slightest bit of hope. When she couldn't take it anymore she would communicate by threatening bodily harm, until I heeded her warning. Once I got off she would be her sweet self again and it just broke my heart because it happened over and over.

I thought about breeding her, and thought of the advice a breeder gave me one time. "If you want another horse just like your mare then breed her, otherwise don't." Farah has great bloodlines on both sides. She is beautiful with nice conformation, athletic, sweet and smart. The rideability though was not good.

There was one other common denominator between the many doctors that examined Farah and that was her teeth. They all felt like her incisors were sheared to one side, not bad most thought, but definitely could use some work. None of them looked further back to see the molars. Of course, I've been having my horse's teeth done regularly. Always by equine dentist and then by a vet who "loved to do teeth." This vet also claimed to be very good at dentistry and he didn't like how the last guy was doing her teeth, so I switched over.

I decided to try Richard Grist from Advanced Equine Dentistry. He pulled up to my farm in a really cool mobile unit. As Farah walked up the ramp I thought here we go again - one more procedure done to my horse, one more set of eyes looking at my horse. He will probably tell me her incisors are a bit sheared and she has some sharp points on the molars. WRONG!!!

Richard reshaped the angle of the incisors then looked at her molars and had me run my fingers down each side. They felt like a roller coaster. How could anyone have miss this? He also pointed out a broken molar that was hardly above the gum line with a hole so deep he could stick his probe way down. On the other side, there was another broken tooth but it would be okay. He thought they probably broke when she picked up something hard to chew. The condition of her teeth was giving her extreme TMJ pain. Farah must have had a hard time being ridden when her jaw could neither move laterally or longitudinally. As I was hearing this I smiled and felt some life come back in me. Someone had a diagnosis for my horse. There was visible evidence, without a shadow of a doubt, that her mouth was a mess but it could be fixed.

After getting her teeth back in alignment we made an appointment to extract the badly broken molar. This tooth was not the cause of her TMJ problems or the restriction in her jaw, Richard said she would be fine to ride the next day. So, I did.

Instantly, my horse was pushing from behind. I had to keep applying the hand brake, so much power. Happy, swinging and fully engaged. No more TMJ pain no reason for her not to go. This was the horse, I had not felt for years. Yes, years!!!

After about a month of continuous progress my mare started being uncooperative again. The difference though was I could pinpoint just where the resistance was. A little behind the saddle on the right side. She went into heat soon after. She was very reactive maybe because it was the first spring heat. The timing was not good. That weekend I was going to a show at Grand Oaks just to school and hang out with friends.

The schooling experience sucked. She never settled in her stall and was a wreck in the warm up ring. I moved her to a quieter ring but she was not doing any better. I had to get off of her and do whip cues to stop her from being so stuck. At one point, she reared up and struck out at me. The next day was not much better and the third day she was a little less volatile.

I came home deflated again and decided to breed her to a friend's stallion. He was deceased but she had frozen semen that we knew was viable since he had a foal on the ground. He had been a lovely stallion with a high degree of rideability. I had a local vet come and check her follicles and they were huge. He told me that they were very painful and he didn't know how I was able to ride her. I rushed her up to UF thinking those follicles were ready to ovulate. The doctors also commented on how painful the follicles were. She spent two days up there before she ovulated. The hospital vets were very optimistic that she would be pregnant.

When I took her home, she was a different horse. It was like some great rider was sneaking rides on her in the middle of the night. She was so easy to ride and did all the movements with ease. Horse life was once again good.

Presently, my horse is not pregnant, and I am ok with that. Because now I know that Farah does not have any mysterious disease or condition. She is not some strange anomaly that we just can't fix. She is fixed. In training, we are working on conditioning and self-carriage. We are both more confident and happy and we are venturing out of the ring. Every day Farah takes on a new scary challenge. She is getting so brave. One day, I ran out of horses to use in lessons, so I used her. She was so awesome with her student. I am very close to resuming my training with her with lessons and taking her to different places. Farah needs to learn how to adapt quickly and calmly and I need to get my head out of our past disappointments and trust that she will let me ride her anywhere.

As far as breeding? I may try again next year. She would be a heck of a momma. And now that I think of it... I **would** like another horse.... just like my mare.

Jane Whitehurst

Looking for some nearby schooling shows Check out the following

LAJUF

Stride

Sumter Equestrian

Many of these are having schooling shows once a month until summer

## SDCTA CLASSIFIEDS

### Instruction

Joan Potter, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, instructing beginner to advanced, Pinellas County and Odessa/Lutz area. 813-855-3780.

Leslie O'Sullivan, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist and USDF "L" judging graduate is offering lessons, beginner to advanced at Admiralty Farm in Odessa, Fl, or will travel to you. 813-920-9041 or 727-510-2338.

Elizabeth Campbell, USDF Bronze Silver and Gold Medalist offers lessons for beginners to advanced riders. Lunge lessons to improve their independent seat. School horse at Royal Blue Stables, Odessa. (813)-613-5775

Jane Whitehurst, USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist at Nosara Farms, Odessa. I can come to you or you may trailer in for lessons/training and use full length mirrors. Experienced with all types of training issues. Love to help people achieve a better seat either for dressage or everyday riding. Call 727-254-3554 Website Nosarafarms.com

FOR SALE

### BOARDING/TRAINING

Full board and dressage training at Royal Blue Stables with 12 stalls on 6 acres. 3 stalls open up to their own pastures. Separate small pasture available with 12x24 stall for horse with limited turnout. Owner/trainer on premises. Individual turnout and special care provided. Lighted 60x20m sand/clay boarded arena, with full length mirrors on the short side. \$700month. (813)-613-5775

Nosara Farms full-boarding or full boarding and training. Perfect place to keep your horse in the summer. We are very dry even after a hard rain and our barn always has a cool breeze. Horses go out individually or in a group in fields of grass. Feed 3X a day, owner lives on premises, and horse's schedule is the same 7 days a week. Check us out at Nosarafarms.com Our dressage arena has full length mirrors on the short side, lights for night riding, and music for your listening pleasure. Footing is 250 sand which drains quickly and gives great support and cushion for the horses. \$675 month Jane Whitehurst 727-254-3554

Admiralty Farm, Odessa, Fl. Regulation sand ring, eight acres of lush fertilized grass turnout. Must see. 813-920-9041 or 727-510-2338.

**Refer to the USDF  
Region 3 Calendar  
For all of the rated  
Shows. Please  
send me dates on  
upcoming clinics  
and schooling  
shows and we can  
put this in our cal-  
endar.**

