

NWDA

Oct 2023

Accent



LEFT Training Level Winners:
Alysa Bjorklund & Eternal Effects,
Hunter Marshall & Vandemerwe,
Annika Greaney-Stanger & Fedden,
Alex Tafelski & Once In A Blu Moon



ABOVE Intro Level Winners:
Alex Tafelski & Francis Palmer Pony,
Camryn Junnila & Poco Cactus Spirit LW



ABOVE Second Level Winner:
Dee Closson & DE Zebaron
LEFT Western Dressage Winner:
Annika Greaney-Stanger
& Clyde Park



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NWDA 2023 FALL CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

See more NWDA show results on pages 12 & 13!

All King Victor Emmanuel's School Horses Can Make Really Beautiful People Fall



The President's Message

NORTH WOODS
dressage association

Dear NWDA Members,

Warm Fall Greetings!

As I reflect on yet another beautiful day, it's hard to believe it's time to close out the NWDA 2023 show season. I would encourage you to leave life's stressors at the door, breath and relax. For me personally, I find that reflective memories give me strength, guidance, and clarity and the courage to move forward.

Now that the 2023 show season has come to a close, the board is busy preparing for the End of the Year Awards Banquet. The NWDA Annual Banquet is scheduled for April 13th

2024 11:30-2:30 at the Blackwoods Event Center in Proctor, MN. The theme this year is: Celebrating the Wild West! Please watch for more information to be coming your way soon.

THE NWDA MISSION

NWDA exists to develop and encourage an interest in dressage, combined training, and all related English style horse activities; to improve communication among interested people; to provide education and recreational activities to its membership; and to encourage other individuals or groups to provide educational and recreational activities to the area.

I want to thank the NWDA Board for their hard work and dedication and for bringing so many great opportunities to our members. The education committee is working on some winter activities and will share soon. If you have ideas that you would like to see, please feel free to reach out. Be Safe—

Kathi



2024 NWDA Show Schedule



SCHOOLING SHOWS

FUN IN THE SUN

June 8-9, 2024

FALL CLASSIC

August 3-4, 2024

RECOGNIZED SHOWS

COOLER BY THE LAKE I & II

June 22-23, 2024

Jodi Ely & Jen Benoit, judges

LAST CHANCE SUMMER DANCE

July 20-21, 2024

Debbie Rodriguez & Anne Cizadlo, judges

In this issue of *The Accent* we reprise the summary of Dr. Leah Martin's presentation on basic Equine First Aid. Stay tuned for another NWDA educational event featuring Dr. Martin on the care of our equine partners.



Equine First Aid

by Leah Nelson

All horse caretakers should be comfortable taking their horse's vitals – respiratory rate, pulse/heart rate and temperature – and know the normal range for horses as well as what is normal for their particular horse. Is your horse normally picky with feed or is it a red flag if they leave some grain behind? Having a GOOD thermometer in all of your first aid kits is important. Try to find one specifically designed for horses so it's long enough to be accurate. Keep in mind that some medications can reduce a fever if your horse has one, so don't give medications until speaking with your vet or determining your horse's accurate temperature first.

LACERATIONS

Lacerations or cuts are a common occurrence and can be mild to life-threatening. Location and depth of cut are of utmost importance. We want to be aware of the anatomy we are dealing with when treating a laceration. Is it a laceration over a soft, fleshy area that will suture and heal easily? Or is it over a joint or tendon when it could be affecting important structures and be difficult to suture? Is it a puncture wound that goes deep? These are at particular risk for infection. Dr. Leah stressed the importance of taking a picture of the injury before wrapping it, so the vet can assess the severity. For heavily bleeding wounds, you want to apply pressure with a clean bandage and wrap to stop the bleeding as soon as possible. Keep adding absorbent layers if needed, without removing original layer. Your goal is to get the injury to clot and stop bleeding, and removing the first layer of bandage can open the wound back up. If the injury requires stitches, the vet needs to treat it within

12-24 hours. Remember to take pictures of the injury and keep a good supply of bandaging material on hand: pillow wraps, polo or track bandages, gauze rolls, vet wrap will all be helpful in treating lacerations.

LAMENESS

Sudden lameness can also be very mild or very serious, depending on the cause. The causes of lameness can include a hoof abscess, skeletal fracture, tendon or ligament injury, muscle strain, bruise or founder among others. Firstly, you want to gauge severity and decide where it is coming from. Is the horse non-weight bearing on a limb? Or are they just a little 'off'? If it's not obvious, it can be a little tricky to decide which limb you're dealing with. As a general rule, when a horse moves, they will add weight to their sound limb. 'Down on

sound' is a good way to remember how a horse travels when lame – when looking at a front leg lameness the classic 'head bob' will tell you which limb is sore: the head goes down when the sound leg lands. This can be seen in reverse in the hind limbs. You may also notice short striding, reluctance to bend a joint or a hip that drops asymmetrically. To further assess lameness, you want to run your hands down the affected limb top to bottom, all the way to the hoof. Look for injury, painful areas, swelling, heat. Feel the other leg for comparison. Pick up foot and check bottom of hoof for foreign objects or signs of injury. You may be able to feel a 'digital pulse' in the blood

R	Respiration: 10 – 24 Breaths Per Minute Factors Affecting: Excitement, Exercise, Size & Age of Horse
P	Pulse or Heart Rate: 28 – 44 Beats Per Minute Factors Affecting: Excitement, Exercise, Size & Age of Horse, Counting error (do not double count!)
T	Rectal Temperature: 99 – 101° F (37.2 – 38.3° C) Factors Affecting: Exercise, Blanketing, Air Temperature, User Error (shake down a mercury thermometer beforehand!)

vessels near the fetlock. A strong digital pulse usually means pain and inflammation in that limb. If you find a nail or foreign object has penetrated the sole of the hoof, resist the temptation to remove it! It's important for the vet to assess the track of the injury. Take a picture! You may be able to support the foot by using vet wrap to fix a block of wood or something similar to the bottom of the hoof so the horse doesn't push the object further in. Founder or laminitis is severe and potentially damaging inflammation in the structures of the hoof.

This will present with hot feet, and an altered, 'feet forward' stance when a horse tries to alleviate pressure while standing. This needs to be addressed urgently by your vet and horses with a history of founder need to be monitored carefully for reoccurrence. They may need special dietary or farrier care. Cellulitis is an infection under the skin, and will cause extreme swelling in a limb, "like a tree trunk." It will be very swollen, hot and often painful to the touch. This needs to be seen quickly by your vet. A hoof abscess can start mild and become extremely painful. These are often fairly easily relieved by using a poultice wrap and the horse will become much more comfortable quickly once the abscess has been released. Severe lameness should be assessed by your vet. Your farrier may get involved in abscess treatment.

COLIC

Colic is a great fear of many horse owners! It can range from mild to life threatening. Colic is a catch-all term for distress of the gastrointestinal system and it's important to identify the cause and severity. This can range from uncomfortable gas bubbles to a torsion or twist of an area of the gastrointestinal tract. Often, horses will display discomfort in their bellies. They will likely go off their feed, act lethargic, sweat, roll repeatedly, bite or kick at their sides, and their heart and respiratory rate may be elevated. Some other illnesses (such as tick-borne illnesses) may present similarly to colic, and it's important if your horse is off their feed that you take their

temperature! Colic doesn't normally come with a fever. Take your horse's vitals, and call your vet immediately if you think your horse might have colic. Do not give any medications until you are advised to do so by your vet.

CHOKER

Unlike in humans, 'Choke' in a horse refers to a condition where the esophagus becomes blocked, usually by food. While the horse can still breathe, they may act distressed, try to cough, stretch their neck out, or struggle to swallow. You may see green, frothy discharge from the nostrils. Remove food if you think your horse may be choking, so you don't make the obstruction worse. There is a risk of them aspirating food into their lungs, so while the episode may pass on its own, you should call your vet if you suspect choke.

Keep a well-stocked first aid kit available, including a good equine thermometer and plenty of bandaging materials. Keep a first aid kit in your trailer and in your barn. Take lots of pictures! They will help your vet assess severity and guide your actions until the vet can arrive. Know the normal range of vital signs (temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate) and know how to take them. It will be the first thing your vet asks you when you call.

EYES

Call your vet if your horse has an eye injury or swelling. Often, swelling alone can be related to a bug bite, or happen if the horse bumped their eye on something. If swelling is severe, if there's draining or discharge, or a visible cut to the eyelid, the problem is likely more serious and a vet should inspect for damage to the eye.

FOALING

In general, if you are responsible for care of a pregnant or foaling mare, you are likely to be in close contact with your vet already. These three rules can help you determine if there's an emergency in foaling: The foal should be standing up on its own within 1 hour. The foal should be nursing on its own in 2 hours. The placenta should pass within 3 hours.

EPISTAXIS

Nose bleeds can occur in horses just as in humans. If they are mild and occasional, it is usually not a problem. If they are severe or recurrent, especially from the same nostril, you'll want to have your vet take a look. 🚑

Rey and I took a trip on the ferry to Kris Carey's beautiful Hippophile Farm for a clinic with Cyril Pittion-Rossillon in the tradition of French Classical Dressage. On page 6, accompanying this very brief review of a wonderful clinic experience, is an in-depth interview granted to me by Cyril. Enjoy!

French Classical Dressage at Hippophile Farm

by Brigid Pajunen

When I signed up for the clinic with Cyril Pittion-Rossillon at Hippophile Farm I think I really just wanted an excuse to be on an island in Lake Superior in August with my horse. And on the first day of the clinic I don't think Rey was feeling all that well. Her movement was tense, her energy hesitant, and she had manured five times during a bath I gave her. So in the evening after the first day, I hand-walked her to the beach for a therapeutic swim in the great lake.

The water was shallow and Rey wanted to go out to a depth where she could really splash and cool herself. Within minutes a gaggle of adolescent vacationers were on the distant shore wide-eyed, jaws hanging open.

I motioned to our spectators to come join us, and I have never seen anybody jump into Lake Superior so enthusiastically! Seeing their awe as Rey splashed in enjoyment and they swam around her—well, there really aren't words to express the feeling of big-hearted joy I had in that magic moment.

After that first day and our rejuvenating swim, my eyes opened to the opportunity Kris Carey, owner of Hippophile Farm, had orchestrated. The facility is so beautiful. The participants varied from those with many years of experience and education to adult riders with no equestrian experience. Becoming acquainted with each one of them was a joy. But what really

inspired me was the instruction I received from Cyril Pittion-Rossillon.

Having grown up with the American Quarter Horse, I was familiar with his wife, Lynn Palm. But I had only recently been studying the works of Phillippe Karl in the French Tradition. And I was ignorant of Cyril's professional attainments and years of teaching.

He observed my ride on day one and gave me invaluable information about the qualities and goals of the warm up. He was emphatic about simplifying the aids and helped us flow into the shoulder-in.

He delivered a wonderful lecture

introducing the French tradition in which lightness and self-carriage result in the feeling that the rider disappears. These qualities come out of a foundation in straightness (tracking up), balance (in all directions) and connection (which the horse *gives to you*) practiced with the understanding that rapport with the horse comes first.

We learned exercises for our own suppling. Afterwards my stirrups (which I had thought were a touch too long) suddenly were too short! And though these exercises focused on *my* body, Rey's movement improved.

Throughout the clinic, Cyril Pittion-Rossillon reinforced the adage: *when we work on ourselves, our horses improve.*

I cannot wait to study with him again.





Cyril Pittion-Rossillon: *A Conversation about the French Tradition*

CYRIL You were asking one of your questions —asking, how did I learn basically to ride in France? Well, France is a really unique country in the equine industry, because it's extremely regulated. Our country is so aware of abuses that have been done with animals. Since 2022 by law any non-professional owning a horse must present a certificate of equine knowledge. The French Equestrian Federation offers a short course (equine diseases, equine psychology, horse nutrition) that results in an equine owner certificate. And if you want to compete at official shows, you have to have very specific certifications. And there are nine levels, Brigid!

It goes from Gallop One to Gallop Nine. You have to pass Gallop Seven if you want to be able to compete at any official competition, whether it's eventing, jumping or dressage, because those are the three main disciplines.

At my time it was called the Silver Spur. And for an amateur, being able to hold that Silver Spur certification was a huge deal. You learn to ride with a full bridle. You learn to do a dressage test. You learn to do a jumping course. And then you have oral and hands-on exams. It's a huge deal.

There are 8600 Equestrian Centers in France. So it's very rare, very rare that no matter where you live in France, you don't have an Equestrian Center close to you. That's how I started.

I went on vacation to my aunt and uncle's. I had three cousins. The two girls were riding and I went with them one day and I loved it. It was in 1970, I was eleven years old. And when I got home, I told my dad I want to ride. I went to ride at my neighborhood Equestrian Center and started taking lessons once a week.

In Equestrian Centers, you have certified professionals of different levels. You cannot teach riding—or even open a boarding facility—without being certified. In France, you are

guaranteed to get professional instruction. That's how everybody starts.

Myself, I was lucky enough that I had a father that had the financial means to take me to the next step. He was my sponsor for many years. My discipline of choice at the time was jumpers. If it was not for him, I would not be sitting talking to you.

The French Federation of Equitation is huge! As of 2023, we have 700,000 members—the third federation in size after soccer and tennis, and the number one sport for women in France. (The USEF has 200,000 members, by comparison.) The sport of riding being a sport considered as high risk, the government in the mid to late 60's wanted all of their professionals to be certified. So at least the first goal was to make sure instructors would teach you how to ride in a safe way.

It's amazing that I'm actually sitting now and talking to you about riding—because I remember 90% of the time crying after my lessons because I would be yelled at and screamed at. The lack of training and certification of the riding instructors at the time (regardless of who they were) was the basis for a lot of wrong doing and high risk accidents and fatalities.

Our federation realized that they were losing hordes of people and decided to take some really strong measures. We ended up with the creation of curriculums and certification programs to professionalize the corps of instructors. This resulted in the incredible school that was called the French National Riding School, now what is called the Institute for the Horse and Equitation, And that's where I graduated from.

I don't think there's any other school like this in the world. It's very unique. It's all government funded. There are 350 horses, 1000 acres. There are seven indoor arenas. There are countless

Cyril Pittion-Rossillon, from page 6

jumping and cross country courses. You have 35 of the top instructors— members of the famed *Cadre Noir*; each an expert in their own right. Their primary mission, besides doing exhibitions like the Spanish Riding School— their primary mission is to educate the higher level of your teachers, your equine teachers in France. And that is offered to you at no cost. There's no tuition.

And so when you come out of the school like I did, at least you have been given a great knowledge and extremely effective tools to be successful as a trainer, instructor, and competitor. You have been given an extraordinary foundation to be successful, because you've been taught what's right and what's wrong. You've been taught the training of horses, equitation, competing, and also teaching and coaching. You'd be amazed at what we had to go through.

You have a first professional level that gives you the basics. But when you graduate from the school, you hold the highest equestrian diploma in France, so it goes far beyond the basics. Then you let the years and you let the experience make you better.

It's not like in the U.S. People have made millions teaching principles that are absolutely not correct. You will never see a Western pleasure class in France and this horrible way of moving, you will never see that. That is because people in France know that this is not correct. You can't subject a horse to this type of riding.

And I'm only talking about France because that's the country I know the best and because I know what our government and what our federation did to avoid that situation. And the goal is the horse. Number one is the horse. The equine governing bodies in France at all levels do everything in their power through laws, awareness programs, and certification courses, to control the abuse and mishandling of horses. So by giving knowledge, you avoid abuse, at least as an average. As a whole, our

professionals and our amateurs are probably some of the most equine-educated people in the world.

BRIGID When did you come to the US?

CYRIL In 1989.

BRIGID And horses brought you here?

CYRIL Oh, absolutely. One of the challenges that in France at the time—and again, I'm talking about the jumper discipline—we had mostly warm bloods and thoroughbreds. And those horses can be very delicate and very difficult for amateurs, and especially very spooky. It happens that one of my father's best friends was probably the very first one to import Quarter Horses in Europe.

So through my father's find, I discovered the Quarter Horses and especially the Appendix Quarter Horse, which is the mix between the Quarter Horse and the Thoroughbred in particular. And I realized how much more docile, less spooky, more forgiving horses they

were. And with my friend we said that would be a fantastic horse for amateurs.

So I said, I'm going to go to the US. I'm going to learn about this breed, and then we're going to import them. And my friend's father had a lot of contacts in the US. He found Carol Harris, the owner of Rugged Lark. She was

willing to welcome me. So I showed up with a suitcase in each hand in December 1999 with my heart racing, knocking on the door. And the next day, I was sitting on a two year old quarter horse in a round pen with a Western saddle. So talk about a culture shock!

And so it happens that Lynn Palm was the trainer of Carol Harris. Lynn showed up a month later, and the rest is history. The only reason I didn't go back to France is because of Lynn. She asked if I would like to come to her farm in Michigan and keep learning about Appendix Quarter Horses. This ultimately led to us becoming business partners.

BRIGID So you did business together?

CYRIL Yes. There was no better expert at the time about Appendix Quarter Horses than Lynn



Cyril Pittion-Rossillon, page 8

Cyril Pittion-Rossillon, from page 7

Palm. So I said, yeah, that would be great. I lived in Michigan for ten years.

BRIGID Oh, yes. So you endured the winters?

CYRIL Oh, yeah, believe me. Yes, believe me.

BRIGID You are based in Florida now, and you have students there?

CYRIL In 1998, Lynn and I and some partners from Switzerland bought a farm in Ocala that we sold a year and a half ago. So we had 35 stalls and a pretty big place.

So we organized a lot of clinics, even some horse shows. Until 2005, we'd spent six months in Michigan, six months in Florida. In 2005, we decided to do our entire business in Florida. But now, I travel. I will go to the students. Right now we'll just have a little barn to maybe have one or two horses just for fun. But the era of having horses in training for people and then training horses and competing and doing schools at home is done, right?

BRIGID I really enjoyed the clinic that I had with you and this idea of the horses volunteering the movement, did that come from your education?

CYRIL Absolutely. You have to understand that the French tradition first has nothing to do with competing. The philosophy of the French tradition is through developing the truest and most harmonious partnership with your horse, making riding an art form. It takes time. It takes people with a certain physical skills, but mostly mental skills. And this is what I really love about this tradition, is that, yes, the horse is always first.

Yes, your primary goal is to always respect the horse. No matter what, you have to respect the horse. Yes, *you* have to work really hard to improve your horse, not the other way around. And there are certain riding principles that you cannot compromise. But it's also, and the old word that we use in French, is the word *ecuyer*—somebody who's riding horses or riding a horse, and also having certain values in life. Also, it's not just about the horses. It's about honesty. It's about integrity. It's about respect and it goes a little bit



beyond the horse. An *ecuyer* in France is somebody pretty special. It's fairly prestigious. There is a very long and prestigious equine and riding history in France.

I was really raised in this idea of having a tremendous respect for our elders, for what we call the riding masters—and to do everything in our capability to make the rapport that we establish with our horses the most favorable possible. As an example, in the French tradition, hands are something essential. You do not respect a rider who does not have good hands. And good hands means *soft*. That's basically what it means, soft at all times.

That gives you an idea where the primary purpose of the French tradition of riding is making your horse happy and brilliant, as brilliant as you possibly can.

So when you look at it, it's like looking at a beautiful painting or listening to a beautiful piece of music. You say, oh, this is beautiful, that's art.

Now, of course, all those principles and everything translate to competition. When you see a partnership and think *how beautiful, I wish I could have his hands, I wish my horse could look as relaxed and as light as possible*. That is a staple of the French tradition—lightness. That is lightness in the rider's aids, meaning that you see very little. The less you see, the better. But also lightness in the horse's movement, which

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Accent

The *NWDA Accent* editors are:

CLAUDIA SCHOENDORF
BRIGID PAJUNEN

Your horse stories, clinic reports and announcements help us improve communication amongst our members and the larger community of Northland horse lovers. We welcome your submissions to nwdagmo@gmail.com.

Cyril Pittion-Rossillon, from page 8

basically refers to an uphill balance and a collection that is not forced, where basically the horse will move at all three gaits and in particular at the canter with a beautiful movement up front. And the beautiful movement is basically extension, amplitude and elevation, whatever the horse naturally has, but done in a non-restrained way, where the horse basically says hey, I love you, I'm going to give you my best.

In trivial terms, that's basically what it means. I trust you. We have a good rapport, you and I, therefore I'm going to give you my best. That is really what this is all about. It's just about being very light. The first drive is again, trying to establish a partnership as harmonious as you possibly can. And to do that, you have to respect a specific progression and specific principles. Without them, you cannot achieve that type of partnership. And that's probably one the thing I'm the most proud of, of my heritage and my background, is that you basically have to work very hard and be very committed and be disciplined and be patient to get the most out of your horses, which is probably the main hurdle I encountered in the U.S.

The majority of people are not patient. They want it yesterday, they want instant gratification.

BRIGID Some of your students at the clinic I attended were practicing Western dressage. Can you talk a little bit about that, what you see as the differences?

CYRIL The reason I was willing to help people involved with Western dressage is only the people who are doing the Western Dressage Association of America. First, because this association is sanctioned by the USEF, and also because they follow very closely the classical training rulebook of USDF. So therefore, for me, there was not so much difference. But when people started and came to me and said, can you help us with our Western horses? I said, yes, as long as what

you're going to hear is going to be close to what you have to follow in the rulebook. And that's the case for WDAA. As every association, it evolves every year and they try to make their test evolve, which is really good. That's where you're going to see probably more and more Western maneuvers like the pivot, like the side pass and that sort of thing.

And it has been a wonderful influence, I think, in the Western world. As in other disciplines we see a lot of incorrect riding and mishandling of the horses. I'm not interested when the goal becomes the blue ribbons, the ego, the status, and everything else. I'm out of the game. I don't want to have anything else to do with it.

People don't realize that the world I come from, it's a privilege to ride horses. That's a very important word for me. You have to deserve that privilege. That means you have to improve yourself. You have to get better. You've got to change yourself. I would not be the person I am today without the horses. I say that to people all the time. The horses, I think, have made me a better person. I'm absolutely convinced of that. And that's what our tradition teaches us, is to deserve this incredible privilege, to spend time and establish a rapport with those wonderful animals.

I think privilege is not even a strong enough word.
BRIGID Are there old texts that you would recommend.

CYRIL The book from General Alexis-Francois L'Hotte, one of the founders of the French equestrian doctrine — *Equestrian Questions* is its title. You can find it in the US translated into English. *Academic Equitation* by General DeCarpentry is another one that's wonderful. The books that Jane Savoie wrote are remarkable. Jane was wonderful, absolutely wonderful. The wonderful book from that German vet, Gerd Heuschmann called *Collection or Contortion* is absolutely wonderful.

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US Equestrian Introduces Microchip Rule for Equine Health and Safety

by US Equestrian Communications Department

Sep 5, 2023, 10:11 AM EST

Lexington, Ky. – The US Equestrian Federation strives to consistently ensure the safety and welfare of both our human and equine athletes. One fundamental aspect of equine safety is microchipping. Microchips in horses allow for immediate onsite verification of horses for the purpose of safeguarding the health of each horse. This is vital, especially during times of disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

To this end, the US Equestrian Board of Directors approved a new microchipping rule during the 2023 Mid-Year Board meeting. Beginning December 1, 2025, under GR 1101.1, all horses competing in USEF-licensed or -endorsed competitions must be microchipped with a 15-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip.

“I am thrilled to see widespread use of microchipping technology put in place,” said Judy Sloan, amateur dressage competitor and USEF Secretary Treasurer. “Knowing that we can quickly and accurately identify, track and protect our horses is a positive step for horse welfare and gives me real peace of mind as a horse owner.”

The implantation process of a microchip takes only a few seconds to complete. The microchip is inserted into the nuchal ligament of the horse’s neck, and the chip will last the duration of the horse’s life.

“In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, microchip readers may be utilized by state and federal animal health officials or veterinary staff to scan microchips of horses on the competition grounds for the purpose of identification of exposed horses to be isolated and quarantined,” states Dr. Flynn. “Microchips will allow our competitions to become an even safer and healthier place for equine athletes.”

“I strongly recommend horse owners consider the use of a biothermal microchip,” said Dr. Katie Flynn, USEF’s Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian. “This microchip not only identifies your horse, but when scanned, a temperature is recorded. These biothermal chips can be utilized by horse owners for daily monitoring of their horse’s health at home and on the road. As a rise in temperature is often times the first sign of an infectious disease, this allows a horse owner to take prompt action to isolate and care for this horse before it is shedding a virus or bacteria in the stable and infecting other horses.

Recognizing the potential costs associated with requiring microchips for horses entering licensed competitions, US Equestrian is seeking potential partnerships with microchip companies, software companies and veterinarians to provide our members access to discounted microchipping services. USEF is also exploring options for microchip implantation events to occur at future USEF-licensed competitions as well as collaborating with equine veterinarians on strategies for microchipping USEF horses at designated locations across the country.

“I urge everyone, especially those connected to a registered breed who see no purpose to microchip a horse because their horse’s pedigree was verified by DNA, to educate themselves on the value of an equine microchip,” states USEF Board of Directors Vice President Judy Werner. “From providing the easiest, fastest and most accurate way to improving traceability in disease outbreak scenarios, which allows for the rapid management of investigations to minimize spread of contagious disease, to the ability (with the biothermal chip) to take one horse or twenty horses temperature several times a day quickly and safely with no distress to the horse, the microchip is a tool who’s value is many times its price.”

US Equestrian has developed a [microchip information webpage](#) which contains outreach and educational resources. We encourage everyone to review Microchip 101, Microchip Mythbusters, and the Microchip Rule FAQ. Additionally, USEF will be hosting a Microchipping 101 Webinar this September, with more information to come via email shortly.

Cyril Pittion-Rossillon, from page 9

BRIGID Is there anything else that you would like to share with me that I can pass on to others?

CYRIL Yes. Competing is a wonderful thing. I think everybody should compete at least a little bit because it's a great way to get out of your comfort zone and it's a great way to improve your riding skills and improve your rapport with your horse. You're going to learn. But if you do compete, the ultimate goal is not the blue ribbon. It's the quality of your performance with your horse, and it's the quality of the rapport that you had with your horse while performing, to be even more precise.

That is something that I see a lot of people lack. So you have a lot of the riders, the moment that they don't get a ribbon, don't get a blue ribbon, it's a failure. No, it's nothing to do with that. Competing is the way to measure how well you're doing with your horse and what you need to improve. That's where dressage is wonderful, because when you have an experience and a good judge and make comments on what you need to improve, then you go home and make progress—wonderful. No other discipline does that.

And then the other thing is, I think I told you that I'm writing a book that comes out next spring. I need to come up with a conclusion. And I think in the conclusion, probably the most important thing I want people to remember is it's for us to improve, not for the horse to improve. It's for us to work on ourselves to improve our horses.

As a general idea, every time I looked at somebody, I looked at the person first, not the horse. Because more often than not, the challenge that we experience does not come from the horse.

That is something I find people not really being clear about most of the time. Okay, my horse does this, so I need to do this on my horse. I need to fix my horse.

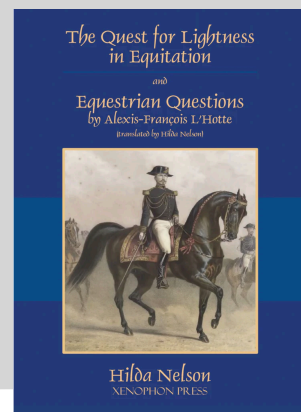
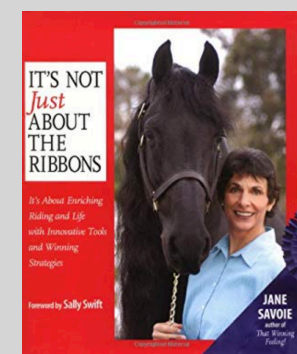
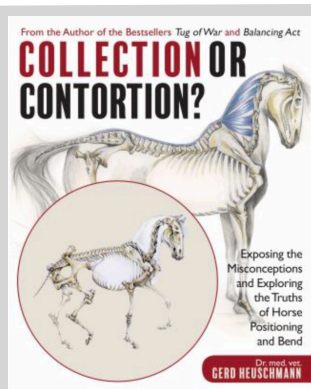
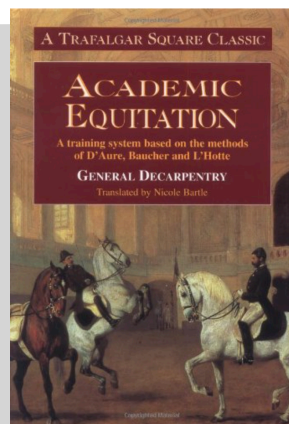
No. I hate that expression, *fixing your horse*. Work on yourself mentally and physically. Then if you're happy with yourself, figure out after that what your horse might need to learn to do or improve. But never start with your

horse. Never start with your horse. Most often than not, 99% of the time the horse is not responsible, you are.

When I open my stall door, I want my horse to turn around with his ears forward, come to me and say I'm happy to see you. That's ultimately what I want. If you want the horses to do what you want them to do and help you reach your selfish goals, then you better make sure that you do it the right way, right? Because my horse will never give me his heart if I don't treat him properly, right? And for me the epitome of the art of riding is as the horse is doing

something at a specific moment, 100% of his heart and soul is there. They're giving it to you. And that's where it becomes artful, that's where it becomes brilliant. The horse, without any reserve, mentally and physically at this very moment, is telling you, I'm giving you my entire being to what your selfish goal is. Because you did a good job with me, because you were nice with me, because you were patient, because you were kind.

Be nice to your horses. That's going to be my conclusion. That will be the last phrase of my book. Be nice to your horses. Yes.



ABOVE Books recommended by Cyril Pittion-Rossillon. Look for his own book to be published Spring 2024 and add it to your collection!

NWDA Show Results

To see all the placings, go to www.horsheshowoffice.com, scroll down to Last Chance Summer Dance I, then results. You can choose how you want the results—by class, by rider or by horse. Because these are High Point winners from multiple classes, a person can win High Point more than once, for example they ride 1st 1 and 1st 3, and get the highest score.



LAST CHANCE SUMMER DANCE I HIGH POINT WINNERS

July 22, 2023

Open Division Training level & up

Champion Jessica Olmsted 69.76%

Reserve Kjrsten Lee 66.742%

JR/YR Division Training level & up

Champion Bennett Stillwell 63.600%

Reserve Holly Stillwell 63.500%

AA Division Training Level & up

Champion Jenny Barthen 70.577%

Reserve Julia Pohlmann 69.444 %

Intro Level, by day

Champion Alexandra Tafelski 70.000%

Reserve Champion Camryn Junnila 69.063%

Freestyle Level, by Weekend

Champion Samantha Martinson

Reserve Julia Pohlman

LAST CHANCE SUMMER DANCE II WEEKEND HIGH POINT WINNERS

July 23, 2023

Open Division Training Level & up

Champion Jenevieve Hofsommer 71.111%

Reserve Jenevieve Hofsommer 70.200%

JR/YR Division, Training Level & up

Champion Holly Stillwell 63.600%

3 way Reserve Champion tie

Carolyn DeJong 60.000%

Holly Stillwell 60.000%

Bennett Stillwell 60.000%

AA Division, Training Level & up

Champion Lisa Iverson 72.931%

Reserve Julia Pohlman 72.500%

INTRO level, by day, but not division

Champion Alexandra Tafelski 76.563%

Reserve Samantha Martinson 74.375%

**Overall Weekend Highpoint,
(combined all weekend scores,
excluding freestyle)**

Champion Laurie Vesel

Reserve Jessica Olmstead



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

SIGN UP through signup genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054aa4a723a6fa7-nwda#/>

OR text, email or call Kjerstin at 630-340-1634 email:

kjerstin.anderson@gmail.com

NWDA Show Results



FALL CLASSIC SCHOOLING SHOW

August 5-6, 2023

AUGUST 5, 2023

Dressage High Point Intro

Champion
Liv Caine & Skippers Tuff Thistle
Reserve
Alex Tafelski & Francis Palmer Pony

JR/YR

Champion
Abigail Just & M&M
Reserve
Grace Ryan & General

AA

Champion
Taelor Malmstrom & Southern Parkway
Reserve
Alex Tafelski & Once In a Blu Moon

Open

Champion
Debbie LaFleur & Whitney
Reserve
Chandler Tollers & Whitney

Jumping Walk/Trot

Champion
Elenore Johnson & Joy
Reserve
Emma Engbrecht & Winter Hill Snow Day

18"

Champion
Angel LeVoir & One Last Asset
Reserve
Nadine Luoma & Southern Parkway

2'

Champion
Rebecca Bischoff & Fancy Pants
Reserve
Elise Westbrook & Tanzy

2'3"

Champion
Megan Matson & Chino
Reserve
Maggie Bellehumeur & Ruddi Tuddi

2'6"-2'9"

Champion
Taelor Malmstrom & Cameo's Delight
Reserve
Ivy Henderson & Aisha

AUGUST 6, 2023

Dressage High Point Intro

Champion
Amy Schlieve & Willow Be Good
Champion
Alex Tafelski & Francis Palmer Pony

JR/YR

Champion
Abigail Just & M&M
Reserve
Ruby Leeper & Whiskey

AA

Champion
Beth Kucza & Donicka
Reserve
Linda Smedberg & Waiting Patiently

Open

Champion
Debbie LaFleur & Whitney
Reserve
Annika Greaney-Stanger & Fedden

Jumping Walk/Trot

Champion
Ch: Jessica Amundson & Encores
Illumination
Reserve
Emma Engbrecht & Winter Hill Snow Day

18"

Champion
Angel LeVoir & One Last Asset
Reserve
Nadine Luoma & Southern Parkway

2'

Champion
Rebecca Bischoff & Fancy Pants
Reserve
Elise Westbrook & Tanzy

2'3"

Champion
Jenna Mead & Elusive Z
Reserve
Megan Matson & Chino

2'6"-2'9"

Champion
Taelor Malmstrom & Cameo's Delight
Reserve
Ivy Henderson & Aisha

Weekend H/J Highpoint

Champion
Angel LeVoir & One Last Asset
Reserve
Nadine Luoma & Southern Parkway

Weekend Western Dressage Highpoint

Champion
Annika Greaney-Stanger & Clyde Park

Intro level Championships

Champion
Alex Tafelski and Francis Palmer Pony
Reserve
Camryn Junnila & Poco Cactus Spirit LW

Training Level Championship

Champion
Alex Tafelski & Once In A Blu Moon
Reserve
Alysa Bjorklund & Eternall Effects
3rd: Hunter Marshall & Vandemerwe
4th: Annika Greaney-Stanger & Fedden

2nd Level & Above

Champion
Dee Closson & DE Zebaron
Western Dressage Championship
Champion
Annika Greaney-Stanger & Clyde Park





NWDA
2820 Jean Duluth Road
Duluth, MN 55804