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**Visit Us on Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/535708834364750

#### Website:

https://www.australianheavyhorseassociation.com



#### 2023/2024 AHHA Committee

President — Lisa Buckley (VIC)

Vice President—Tony Cummins (AKA Paddy Aseirinn) (WA)

Treasurer—Ema Buckley (VIC)

Secretary — Terry Pirlo (WA)

**General Committee Members** 

Sharon Gates (VIC)

Katie Hall (VIC)

Natalie Harris (VIC)

Liz McCormick (VIC)

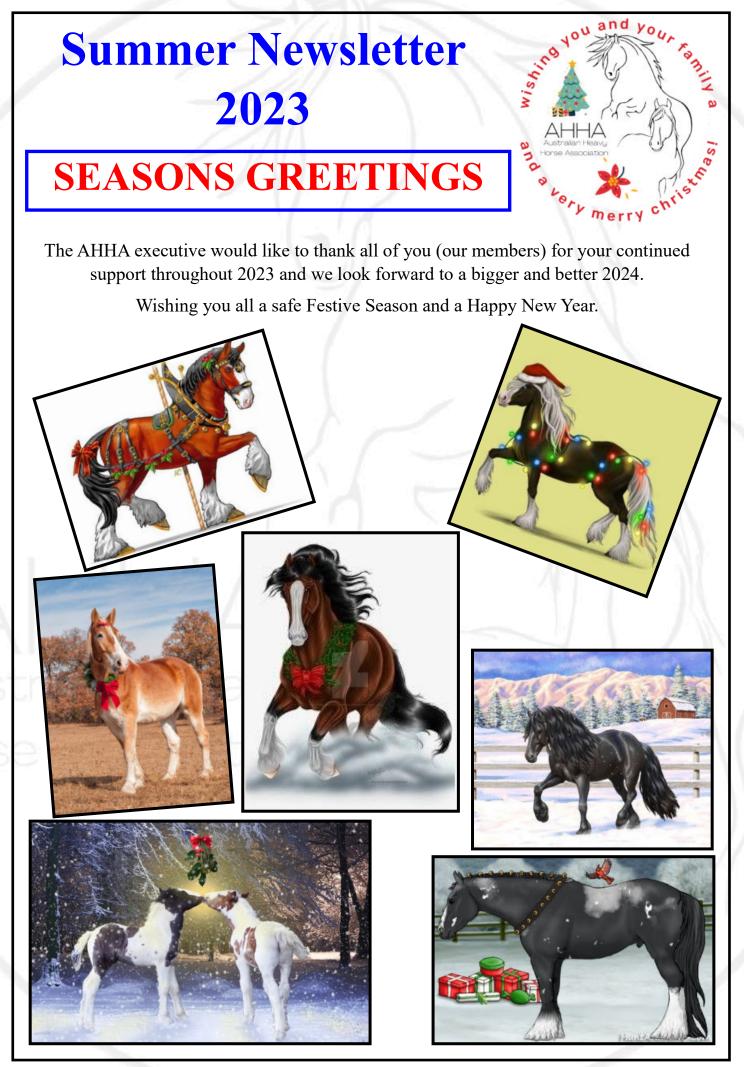
#### **Dear Members:**



The AHHA welcomes all and any feedback or suggestions in regards to our current and future AHHA events. We would also love to receive photos and stories about you and your horses.

Please email our Secretary at:

ahhssecretary@outlook.com



# Summer Newsletter 2023 From the President Lisa Buckley

Welcome to our very first newsletter.

As President, I have to say I'm very proud of our association and how it has grown over the last couple of years. We have a very dedicated team on our committee that work tirelessly behind the scenes for our members.

This year, we added our new National Secretary Terry Pirlo and boy has he hit the ground running. Not only has he brought our administration up to date, but he has completely revamped all our forms, new look certificates and we now have an amazing website to be proud of. All of this is thanks to his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to give a big shout out to my Vice President Tony Cummins, who always goes above

and beyond for this association and its members. Thank you, Tony.

To our members, we have so many exciting new projects coming up, and our committee is always looking for new ideas and opportunities, so if you do have any feedback or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all, stay safe and have fun with your heavy hairy friends.

Lisa Buckley AHHA President





#### Hello AHHA Members,

Welcome to *The Australian Heavy Horse Association's* first newsletter. My name is Terry Pirlo; I am your new Association Secretary on the committee. I was appointed at the end of September, after being the WA state secretary and I would like to thank Lisa Buckley (AHHA President) and Tony Cummins (Vice President & WA Representative) for their faith in me to fulfil this role.

It has been a busy first few months in the role, going through the back log of membership and horse registration applications, but I made it and these were sent our early October (I hope you like the new design). I have also been updating and revamping the AHHA documents (*Membership application form, Horse registration application forms and Stud Prefix applications etc*). I am very excited to represent and support our members and keep you all up to date with news, events, shows, clinics and many more things that are available to all members Australia wide. Keep an eye out on our revamped website, Facebook page and your email inboxes, as updates will be sent via these channels.

A little about myself, I have been around horses all my life growing up on a working farm in Northern NSW (Lismore and Byron Bay) and after many years out of the saddle, I purchased an Arab (*Zafir Snickers*) after moving here to WA and 7 years ago purchased my first Pure Bred Clydesdale *Ruaidri River Zackery*, who I have been showing over the past 5 years and most recently, I saved a little wild and unhandled steel grey brumby from the Morowa region of WA (I called him *Morowa Rafiki*). My love for not only horses, but the Clydesdale and Heavy horse breeds has led me to having held the role of state secretary and treasurer for the *Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society of Australia—WA Branch* for the past 3 years and in October 2022, I was successful in gaining my certification as a *State Judge* for the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society WA.

I also come from a professional Arts industry background, where I have performed not only around Australia, but the World with many artists and in stage productions, both on stage and behind the scenes. Event management is also my forte, having organised and run many events over the past 25 years for local communities, arts performances and horse shows. My aim for the AHHA is to assist them with making our shows the best they can be and involve as many of our members as possible to show (especially after the past 2 years with Covid). It's time to get back out there and show off our beautiful Heavy Horse breeds to the public!

I would also like to **THANK** all of the AHHA members who have submitted photos for the Newsletter and Website. Please keep them coming in. We have a lot of ideas on how to include our members more or any feedback on how we can support you all and make our Association Australia wide grow. Please email me at ahhssecretary@outlook.com.

Terry Pirlo









## Summer Newsletter 2023 Heavy Horse Breed of the Month *The Clydesdale*

The Clydesdale Horse native to the Lanarkshire Region of Scotland is recognised as the 'Breed that Built Our Nation.'

Supreme of all the Heavy Horse breeds that have been introduced to Australia since the late 1800's onwards, this 'Gentle Giant' is known for its action, strength, temperament and versatility.

In the United Kingdom their 3 native breeds of Heavy Horse – the Clydesdale, the Shire and the Suffolk Punch are classified as Rare Breeds. Gone are the years when true horsepower ruled, but due to the efforts of dedicated breeders throughout the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand, the Clydesdale has seen an enormous increase in popularity and importantly, use, in modern day tourism, commercial application and individual domestic tasks in agriculture and pleasure pursuits.

Since 1922, the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society of Australia has maintained the pedigrees of the Clydesdale horse. Dedicated to maintaining the purity of the Clydesdale breed within their Studbook, correct in conformation and free from hereditary unsoundness.

Traditionally bred for multipurpose draught duties, today the Clydesdale is widely used in team harness and single general duties including pleasure riding. Outcrossed to lighter breeds it provides an outstanding foundation for Dressage, Hunters and Sporthorse enthusiasts.

Uniformity of type has long been a characteristic of the Clydesdale and there is no breed of heavy horse so famous for its quality, cleanness of joints, hardness of bone, correct setting of hock and length and slope of pastern, whilst the action of the Clydesdale is unrivalled.

The height of the Clydesdale should range to over 17 hands, with depth of body, a deep chest, large girth, high hocks, silken hair or 'feather' down the back of the cannon. Possessing a moderately sloped shoulder for a collar bed, a comparatively short, wide and muscular forearm; a broad flat knee as viewed from the front. Both cannons front and hind should possess 'flat bone'- wide in appearance viewed from the side. A broad hoof head, wide open heels and strong quarters is essential. 'No foot, no horse!'

The hind quarters are the great source of driving power- wide hips, short thighs, the hock should be broad (sideview) and narrow (front view), slightly turned in at the point, straight hind cannons not 'cow hocked' (rearview).

The Clydesdale at the walk should not short step as the hind foot must cover the front foot imprint with each stride, at the trot the hooves should be clearly seen at every step. A good horse was expected to cover at least four miles an hour under load in their heyday, and it was essential that they were straight and true at the walk.

The typical perception of a Clydesdale horse is one that is' bay in colour with four white socks.' The reality is that these Gentle Giants can be a range of colours from bay, black, brown and roan. The Clydesdale breeder is preoccupied with soundness, temperament and conformation. 'A good horse is never a bad colour.'



#### Heavy Horse Breed of the Month *The Clydesdale*

It was the mighty Clydesdale that produced the workhorses for ploughing, haulage and draught duties on our early farms, towns and cities, and it is this heritage that today's generation of Clydesdale breeders and enthusiasts continue to maintain for future generations.

It would be true to say that to produce the best Clydesdale Gelding is the ultimate aim of any breeder, as the gelding in work represents what these magnificent animals were bred for. The thrill of seeing a team of horse, working in unison, combining their immense power to their daily tasks, reminds us of a time gone by when true horsepower was central to our life.

The Clydesdale horse offers people an ability to touch a piece of our heritage, our history. Power, intelligence and temperament in a single package.

The Clydesdale Horse -'the Breed That Built Our Nation.'



### Summer Newsletter 2023 Heavy Horse Breed of the Month *The Clydesdale*

### Pure Breed Clydesdale—The Breed Standards

Uniformity of type has long been a marked characteristic of the Clydesdale, and there is no breed of heavy horse so famous for its quality, cleanness of joints, hardness of bone, cleanness and correct setting of hock and length and slope of pastern, whilst as for action the Clydesdale is unrivalled. The general appearance of the Clydesdale can be assessed whilst the horse is standing in the optimal position of supporting itself equally well on each leg.

The Clydesdale is also observed when in motion, at walk and trot. The preferred characteristics are as follows:

**The height** of the Clydesdale horse should range to over 17 hands. When the horse is fully matured it should be evenly balanced. Viewed from the side, the body should show plenty of depth and from the front or rear should appear broad and thick. The depth of the body, through the chest and length of leg, should be approximately the same. Such proportions allow the Clydesdale's weight to be used to the best advantage.

**Quality** in the horse is manifested especially in the bone, skin and hair. As well, the general conformation should indicate a degree of superiority. The bone of the Clydesdale should be hard and dense, with a strong, compact cellular structure. The hair or "feather" down the back of the cannon is an indication of the quality of the bone, and should be long, fine and straight.

**The head** of the Clydesdale should be in proportion to the body. The face may be straight or slightly Roman nosed. The muzzle should show thin rather than heavy lips, which should come together evenly and with a wide open nostril. The eyes should be rather oval than round, prominent, reasonably large and have thin smooth eyelids. When the iris of the eye is colour less, the eye appears to be white with a "wall eye" as a result. The sight of such an eye is quite as good as that of having a dark coloured iris. There should be plenty of width between the eyes and the forehead should be slightly arched, tapering away above the eyes to the poll. The ears should be pointed, of medium size and thin of texture, having a covering of fine hair.

**The neck** should be of moderate length, muscular yet not too thick, arched and well laid into the shoulder. The head should merely set into the neck at the right angle. A good head, neck and shoulders denote character, giving the animal a good outlook.

**The shoulders** should be moderately sloped and provide a sufficient collar bed. The shoulders should be fairly wide, well muscled, and the top should be carried close to and tapered into the back. The arm of the Clydesdale should be comparatively short, wide and muscular. This places the leg sufficiently under the body to provide the desirable position and action. The knee, viewed from the front, should be broad and flat, tapering to the cannon and, when viewed from the side, should be straight from the shoulder to the fetlock joint. The tendon at the back of the knee should contribute to give depth and strength.

**The cannon** of the fore leg should be long, wide, lean and flat as viewed from the side. The tendons should show prominently. The long hair or "feather" should spring from the back of the tendon and not from the sides of the cannon. It should be soft to touch and straight. The fetlock should be wide, when viewed from the side, and narrow viewed from the front, fine and well directed. The pastern should be fairly long and sloping, so as to relieve concussion in the course of action.



#### Heavy Horse Breed of the Month *The Clydesdale*

**The foot** must be sound and healthy. A good hoof head, with wide open heels and strong quarters, is preferred, otherwise a horse may have a tendency to develop unsoundness. The feet should preferably receive attention from when the animal is a foal until it is fully matured.

**The chest** of the Clydesdale should be deep, wide, low, and of large girth, indicating strong constitution with ample space for vital organs. The back should be short, broad and strongly supported, and slightly inclined upwards towards the croup. The loin should be short, wide and strongly muscled. This portion of the back should be short and as wide as possible, and the ribs long, well sprung and close together.

The flanks should be low and full.

**The hind quarters** are the great source of driving power. The hips should be wide, but in harmony with general body proportions, and well muscled. The croup should be long, as seen from the side, wide as viewed from behind, and with sloping arch from the hips to the setting of the tail. It is important that the tail be attached high.

**The thigh** should be short, but heavily muscled. The hock is one of the most important points of the horse, as it is in this joint that the strain on the muscles, during action, is concentrated. The hock, should be broad, viewed from the side, and narrow, viewed from the front, its point being prominent, and the joint as a whole, when viewed from the side should be well supported by a wide cannon below. The hock should be turned slightly, and close to each other, the cannon straight not 'cow hocked' when viewed from the rear. The hocks should not show fullness or swelling.

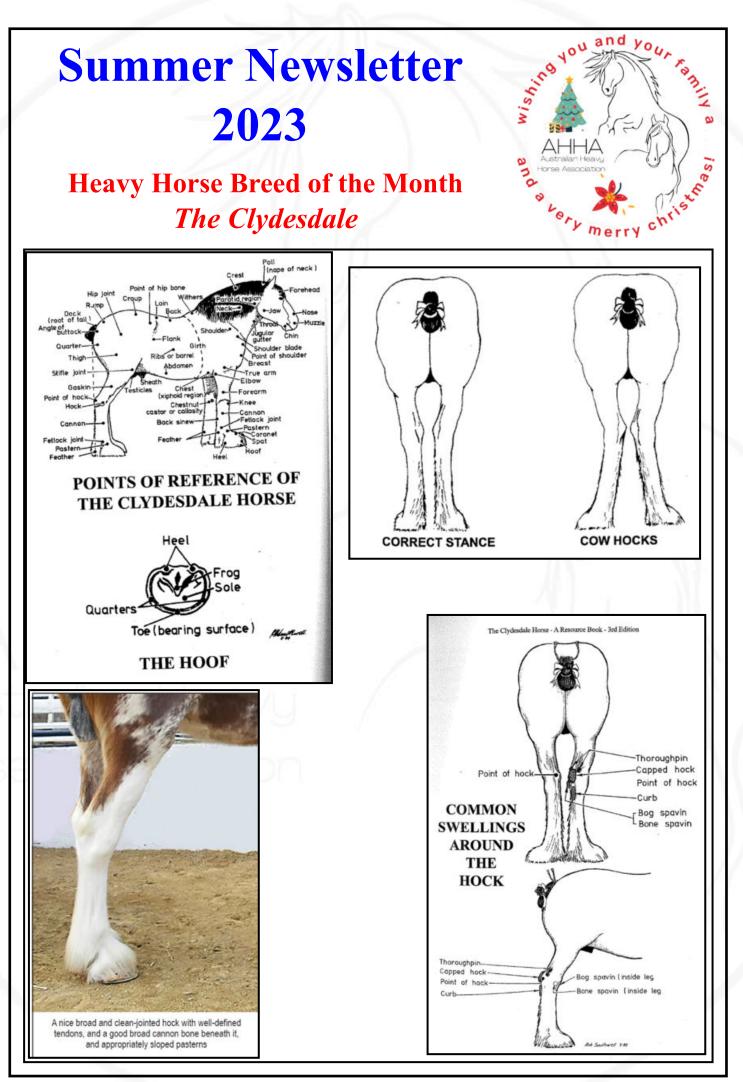
The hind cannons, like the front ones, should be broad when viewed from the side and thin when viewed from the front. They should be perpendicular, in line with the hind quarters. The hind fetlocks, as in the case of the front ones, should be wide, whilst the pasterns are less oblique than those of the fore legs. The hind feet are somewhat smaller than the front ones, not as round, but with good hoof heads and wide open heels.

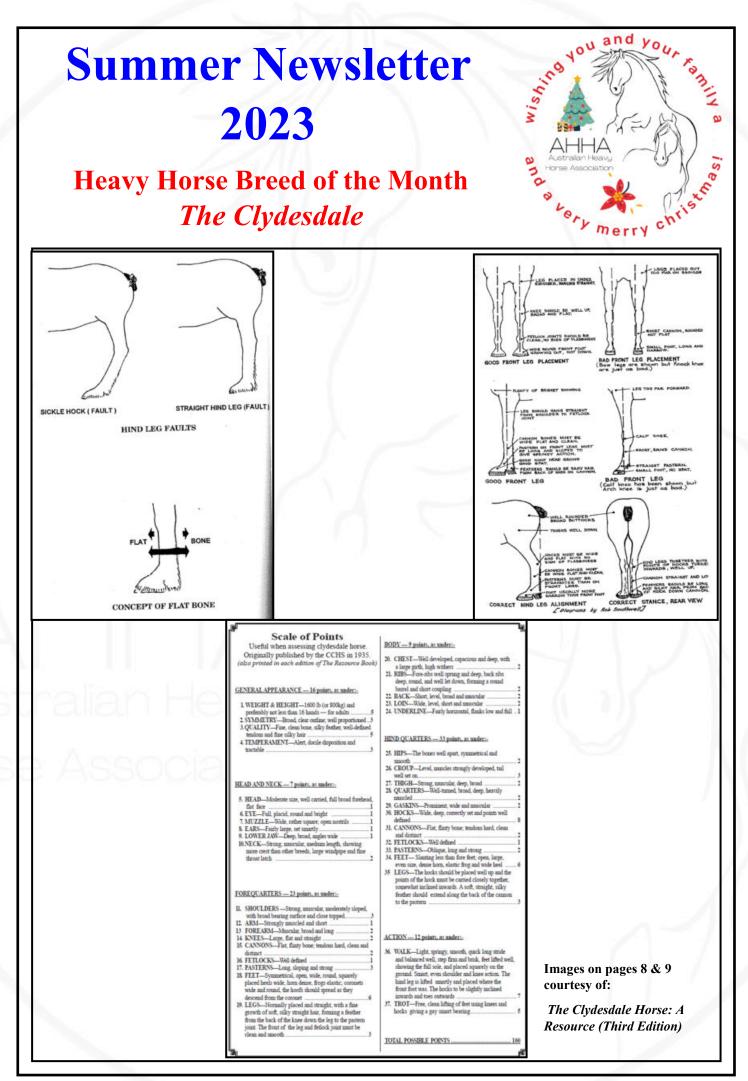
The hind legs, like the front ones, should be set into the body, not on the outside of the quarters, but well under, so that the muscles on the quarters project wider than the muscles on the thighs. The toes of the hind feet should incline slightly outward. There should be a good length from the point of the hock to the ground.

The action of the Clydesdale should be even, the hind and fore action should be in unison. The hind feet should be planted forward as deliberately as the fore ones, which should be evenly carried forward. At the walk, the hind foot should cover the imprint of the front foot as a minimum. Short stepping is a fault in the working horse. The hocks should be turned slightly inward. In trotting, the Clydesdale horse should bend the legs at the knees and hocks and, from the hind view, the inside of the hooves or shoes should be seen at every step.

*Reference: An article printed in August 1928 by the CCHSA in their "Horse News Annual" in relation to a description of the Clydesdale.* 

These Breed Standards were approved by the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society Australia Inc. Federal Council in September 2001.







### Heavy Horse Breed of the Month *The Clydesdale*

### The Part/Cross Breed Clydesdale

The Clydesdale Cross or Part breed Clydesdale is a horse derived from Clydesdale bloodlines and those of another breed or mixed breed (different societies and associations require different levels for recording or registrations). Ideally the progeny will display desirable characteristics and qualities of both the Clydesdale and the other breeds.

With such diversity, a major problem has been faced with trying to produce a breed standard for these particularly striking individuals. The uniformity of type is the biggest hurdle to be overcome and if we categorise the Part breed Clydesdale into *light, medium* and *heavy* depending on the amount of Clydesdale or other heavy breed blood they possess and therefore their appearance when presented. Height of the animal could be anything from 15 hands to 17 hands, but possibly less, if crossed with a native breed pony for instance. It should present as an evenly balanced individual and should show plenty of depth.

**Quality of bone**, skin and hair should be at a high level and feather should be present in some form, the degree of which will be defined by the level of heavy horse present in the individual.

**The head** should be handsome and in proportion to the neck and body. The face may be of any type straight, slightly Roman or dished also depending on the cross.

The neck should also be in proportion to the animal, muscular yet not too thick. The neck shoulders and head should blend together seamlessly giving the animal a fantastic outlook.

The front legs should be correct when viewed from all sides, cannons tending longer, tendons should show prominently and feather should be coming from the back of the tendon and should be soft to touch and straight. The pastern should be a continuation of the hoof and should be fairly long and sloping correctly to relieve concussion during the course of the horses movements. The feet should be sound and healthy.

The chest should be deep, wide low and an adequate girth should be present depending on the height of the animal.

The back should be also well proportioned to the animal and have enough length, width and strength to support ridden or driving pursuits depending on what the individual horse is used for.

The hind quarters should be strong and well muscled and the hind legs should be correct when viewed from all sides.

**Finally the action** of the horse should be even and be in perfect unison at all gaits. The Clydesdale Cross/Part bred Clydesdale should have a swagger at walk, a spring about it at trot a comfortable canter and an absolutely amazing gallop.

Written by Tony Cummins (As Eirinn Clydesdale and Sporthorse Stud)

**NOTE:** To register a Part bred Clydesdale with The AHHA, **one** parent must be at least 50% Clydesdale and no less.

# Summer Newsletter 2023 Perth Royal Show

On Monday September 25, 2023, the *Perth Royal Show* held the Heavy Horse breed and harness section of their program. *The Australian Heavy Horse Association* (AHHA) was proud to sponsor the Harness classes, which were held in the afternoon. On hand at the show was myself (as *National Secretary*) and Mr David Emery (*WA Representative*) in our newly designed AHHA branded men's neck ties to present the winners of each class with their ribbons. Even if I do say so myself, we didn't scrub up too badly, looking quite professional (especially after competing in the Clydesdale breed classes with my gelding *Ruaidri River Zackery, just before the harness classes*). It was an honour to represent the Association during the afternoon. Below are a few pics taken from the show.



# Summer Newsletter 2023 Whittlesea Show 2023



### 4 & 5 November

The Whittlesea Agricultural Society is considered one of the oldest and continuous Agricultural Societies in Victoria. The Society is responsible for the famous 'Whittlesea Show' which has been crowned 'Victoria's Premier Regional Agricultural Show'. The Whittlesea Show is a beloved annual event that has been captivating families for past 161 years!

As Victoria's Premier Regional Agricultural Show, the Whittlesea Show is a true celebration of the state's rich farming heritage and the dedicated volunteers who make it all possible. The Whittlesea Show successfully combines tradition with modern-day life, from discovery and adventure to hands-on experiences and learning while you watch – there really is something for everyone at this show.

Every year the Show seeks to educate, inform and entertain, bringing agriculture, farming, rural issues and way of life to the wider public. The Whittlesea Show is a showcase for food, farmers and a trading place for rural skills and crafts, ranging from vintage to modern showing you changing farming practice through machinery, animals and ways of life.

In 2023, The Australian Heavy Horse Association sponsored the *Heavy Horse Feature* held on Saturday November 4. There was a great turn out for these classes with heavy horse breeds ranging from Gypsy Cobs, Clydesdales and other heavy horse breeds. Unfortunately, we have not received all results from the show. We would like to thank those who attended the show and entered the AHHA sponsored classes.

Results of the classes and some pictures are on the following page.



### Summer Newsletter 2023 Whittlesea Show 2023



#### Results

#### AHHA HEAVY HORSE FEATURE

**Class 116 Led Purebred Gypsy Cob, Senior - Gelding -** *Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb* **RESERVE CHAMPION -** *Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb* 

**SUPREME CHAMPION LED SENIOR PUREBRED GYPSY COB** - *Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb* 

Class 120 Purebred Gypsy Cob, Ridden - Smartest on Parade - Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb Class 121 Purebred Gypsy Cob, Ridden - Male - Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb CHAMPION – Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb

Class 124 Purebred Gypsy Cob, Ridden - Rider over 18 – *Ambleside Brennan and Taylor Lamb* CHAMPION – *Ambleside Brennan* 







**Double T Dream Alliance** (Owned by Taylor Lamb) (Part bred 2 year old Filly)

1x Champion4x First PlacingsIn the National Buckskin Society Classes on the Friday

### **Summer Newsletter** 2023 **ABSS Bendigo Show**



Pictured to the left is: Elites Lucky Boy Supreme Part bred Junior Gypsy Cob **Owned by:** Tash Little

#### **2024 AHHA Financial Annual Memberships** are now due!

AHHA annual memberships run from January 1 to December 31

Annual Membership Fee — \$35 (Adult)

\$50 (Family)

\$25 (Junior, 18yrs and under)

and

Wiship

The AHHA executive would like to take this opportunity to remind members that annual memberships are now due for 2024. Other membership types are available; 2 and 3 years. Please see application form for full details. These can be renewed via our website https://www.australianheavyhorseassociation.com/join

For those who recently paid either 2 or 3 year memberships, there is no need to renew as you are covered. If you are unsure please email me at the secretary address supplied at the end of the newsletter.

So what does your membership entitle you to? Well:

- Register a stud prefix •
- Record eligible foals
- Register eligible adult mares (from breeds under our overarching registry) •
- Register eligible adult stallions (from breeds under our overarching registry) •
- Register eligible geldings (from breeds under our overarching registry) •
- Issue Stallion service certificates •
- Transfer recorded or registered horses •
- Record eligible AHHA Part Bred horses (from breeds under our overarching registry) •
- Attend and can vote at the AHHA Annual General Meeting •

All members will the National AHHA Newsletter, which will be published up to four times a year. The Newsletter will help keep members informed of up coming events/shows, event/show results, various features, member stories and achievements throughout the Association. Members will also have the opportunity to advertise horses for sale, products and services and other things they would like to advertise.

#### **INSURANCE**

All current financial members of the AHHA are covered for public liability insurance when they are competing at any AHHA event or activity.



### **AHHA WA Summer Show**

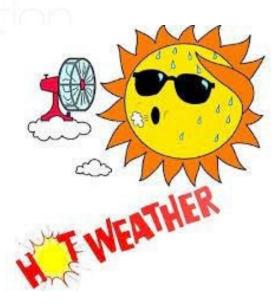


Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather (heat) that was scheduled for *Sunday November 26*, the AHHAWA Executive had decided to postpone the show until 2024.

As a result, we will combine this show with our *State Show on either March 10, 2024* at Wallangarra Horse and Pony Clun, Wungong WA and combine the 2 show's prizes and make our State Show 2024 a **BUMPER** one!

We apologise to all those who entered, however, in regards to animal and human welfare, expecting people to show on a 38+ degree day is not something we encourage or condone and it would have been irresponsible of us to run the show for all involved.

We thank you for your understanding and see you all on March 10, 2024!



## Summer Newsletter 2023 Feather Care for Heavy Breed Horses

Hi Everyone, here is a collection of grooming, feather care, and general feathered breed care. Believe it or not....it really isn't as hard as some make it out to be. (Oh ok, maybe just a little time consuming)

#### **Cleaning/Grooming Products that work:**

- For stained and really dirty feather personally, I love *Galloping Goop Degreaser*. Great for getting the stains and dirt out of those feathers. I have been using it for 7 years on my Clydesdale. Followed by the *Galloping Goop Shampoo* and *Conditioner* after for that smooth silky feel. It is great on spots and yellowing areas. It deeply cleanses the skin, coat, mane, tail and feather. Galloping Goop cleans while maintaining the balance of pH and natural oils in the coat. All the products in the Galloping Goop range are enriched with Aloe Vera and vitamin E to nourish the coat and skin. They do not dry out the skin, are silicone and chemical free, nontoxic and biodegradable with balanced PH for your horses.
  - Galloping Goop Equine Cream Degreaser is specially formulated to deep cleanse your horses coat and skin. A liquid degreaser is also available.
  - Applied to a <u>DRY</u> coat its gentle yet effective cleansing ability easily melts through built up grease and grime in the coat and skin, removing soils and even unblocking pores, while Aloe Vera, Vit E, and Lanolin, sooth and rejuvenate the skin and coat
  - Clever low foaming action eliminates unnecessary excess rinsing that can strip natural oils.
  - Always apply to a dry coat, allow to sit for 10-15 minutes, comb through thoroughly and then rinse off with <u>WARM</u> water. It is:
    - Non-Drying
    - PH tested
    - Silicone and Chemical Free
    - Non-Toxic
    - Biodegradable
    - Does not strip the coats natural oils
- 2. There are also many other shampoos etc out there that can be used to keep feathers clean and white. These include *Kohnke's Own Kleen-Sheen, Dr Show Conditioning Shampoo* (both have built in colour iridescent purple highlighter enhances coat shine and white sock), *Equine Soap Co - Coconut and Sulfur Shampoo*, plus there are many more out there.
- 3. Whitening Shampoos and Detangling Conditioners (to use after most of the 'gunk' is off the feather): there are so many out there and I think I've tried them all. A) Equinade Showsilk Glo White Shampoo & Conditioner. It is purple shampoo, so caution.....it will turn your horse purple if you leave it on too long. B) Galloping Goop Hi-Ho Silver Toning Shampoo and Conditioner it is packed with optical brighteners, and light reflecting pigments which neutralize the appearance of yellow, brassy tones. However, it is also very effective for adding shine to black coats. C) Stella Equine Showhite Whitening toning bar for horses. D) Just Magick Coconut Shampoo and Conditioner coconut is a natural ingredient that offers numerous benefits when used in shampoo for horses and dogs. Coconut oil is a rich source of fatty acids that nourish and hydrate the skin, preventing dryness and flakiness, while also promoting healthy, shiny coats.

## Summer Newsletter 2023 Feather Care for Heavy Breed Horses

- 4. **De-tanglers:** A) *Galloping Goop 5 in 1 Leave in Spray* It detangles manes and tails while adding moisture, shine and protection from the elements. B) *NRG No Nots* water-based grooming solution is free from harmful chemicals, simple and easy to use, and doesn't leave an oily finish on the coat or on you. C) Dr Show Detangler will not only release stubborn knots, but once your mane and tail are knot free and you have thoroughly worked the product through the hair you will notice enhanced colour and shine and the hair will have that full bodied appearance.
- 5. Grooming tips: A) Always use a detangler when brushing out a mane or tail. B) Use a good mane brush like the round Oster brush. You can brush the tail when it's wet only if you've used a good conditioner/detangler. C) Hose attachment.....I know, getting picky, but you have a very white horse and a regular hose attachment is not going to get the dirt out down to the skin. Use a Fan spray: you can put it right on their body and push the dirt out. Best tool I've ever used!
  D) Pony Jet (or the likes) Up to 2 times increased water pressure. Mud, poop, sweat you name it it'll vanish! Easy to use, connect to hose, add shampoo, turn the toggle to soap/water mode and enjoy, E) Galloping Goop Rinse Free Wipes—Sometimes you need some spot clean-up help to keep your horse looking its best. Galloping Goop Shampoo Wipes are a simple solution to minor messy issues, like all Galloping Goop products, these wipes are biodegradable non-toxic and enriched with natural Aloe Vera and Vitamin E to nourish hair and skin.

6. Ensure that you dry your feather well after washing. A) Towel—towel dry the feather after washing to get excess water out of the feather. B) Hair/Blow Dryer – if your horse doesn't mind noise this is a quick way to get those feathers dry and stain free after washing, C) Wood Flour - another great way to quickly dry the feather in heavy horses is to use wood flour on the legs. Wood flour is like a coarse saw dust and quickly absorbs the water in the feather, then drops out. Apply wood flour generously to the legs, fluffing up at the back of the leg and smoothing it downwards at the front. Leave it in for a few minutes so it can absorb the water and the gently comb out.

#### **Problems:**

- 1. **Dry Feather**: A summer issue. If the hair gets too dry, it will break over the hoof. Really not desirable. Easy to handle. There are many suggested oils to use such as *Paraffin*, *Pig Oil* (paraffin/ sulphur mix) and *Coconut Oil/spray*. I have used coconut oil quite successfully and would highly recommend it. Best to apply in the evening so that it will not burn in the heat of the summer day. Oiling feathers is the best method for protecting the hair, keeping it clean and ensuring it is in good condition. Wash your horse, allow the feather to dry completely and the apply the oil generously. Reapply the oil every two to four days. If you like your horse to really shine, once every week or ten days, bring your horse in so that you can wash out the oil and dirt from the feather, allow it to dry and reapply the oil.
- 2. Itching, Scratches, Hot Spots etc: the scourge of any feathered breed. A few ways to handle this. A) *Wash with Just Magick Shampoo for horses* is a natural and chemical-free shampoo that is specifically designed for horses and dogs. It contains a unique blend of essential oils such as tea tree oil, lemon eucalyptus, lavender, cedarwood oil, and citronella. Tea tree oil is known for its antifungal and antibacterial properties that can help prevent and treat skin infections that commonly affect horses. B) Just Magick Oil for Horses is a natural, chemical-free oil designed to relieve skin irritations in horses. Made from all-natural ingredients, this oil is safe and gentle on your horse's skin. It effectively soothes and moisturizes irritated areas, promoting healthy skin and a shiny coat. Whether your horse suffers from dry, itchy, or inflamed skin, Just Magick Oil can provide fast, effective relief without any harmful chemicals. Best used in the evening.





### **Breeding Season**

#### The Expectant Mare and Foaling

#### (adapted from Canberra Equine Hospital article of the same name)

#### **BASICS**

Mares tend to prefer foaling at night in privacy and seem to have some control over the timing of their foaling. Being able to observe from afar or discretely is the best way to make her at ease. Have your vet's number nearby in case a problem arises or if you have concerns or questions.

#### **ENVIRONMENT: A SAFE PLACE TO FOAL**

Mares should be foaled where they can be discretely observed and where help can be easily given if problems arise.

**<u>Paddock</u>**: A good foaling pasture ideally needs to be clean and free from obstacles. A grass paddock or large yard is ideal for your mare to foal in, horses have been giving birth on the open ranges for many years, and this is still an acceptable choice. There should be no dams as newborn foals have been reported to have drowned.

The fencing of this paddock or yard should have a mesh, like chicken wire, around it as young, uncoordinated foals easily 'slip' through plain wire or post and rail fencing. Ideally the foaling paddock will have been spelled for a minimum of several weeks to reduce worm contamination and to allow a good clean grass cover.

**Stabling:** If stabling your mare for foaling down, the stable needs to be large with good quality deep straw. Shavings are not good for foaling as they stick to birth fluids and get into the foals nose and other unwanted places. It is best to remove manure and soiled bedding promptly and disinfect between birthing.

#### **GESTATION**

The average gestation of mares is 340 days. It is very important to know when your mare is due so that you can be ready for the foaling to occur. Mares, like people, can go into labour earlier than this. Foals that are born more than 10 days earlier than they are due are more vulnerable to disease and infection. They also may lack the development to stand and nurse properly as a normal foal would without assistance.

The mare also may have not produced any or enough colostrum ("first milk") by this stage and therefore it is imperative that you seek veterinary advice or assistance, particularly if the mare has been observed to run any milk from her udder prior to foaling. The same also applies to foals that are delivered after their due date.

#### THE COUNTDOWN

Mares provide clues that they will soon give birth, this rings true for many cases, *but* please remain flexible and expect surprises. (They may go early or late)

- 4-6 weeks prior to foaling the mare should be up to date with vaccinations and worm control.
- 2-4 weeks prior to foaling the mares udder begins filling with milk. When your mare is due to foal, her udder will become engorged and very tight. Constant checking of the udder daily is necessary for the last month of gestation. This is best done by the same person as it will give a good indication of any changes and therefore of how far away the mare is to foaling.
- If your mare has a caslick it should be removed 2-4 weeks before her due date, or when she starts exhibiting any of these signs.

# Summer Newsletter 2023 Breeding Season

- A few days prior to foaling the mares muscles of the vulva and croup relax. The tail head may become more prominent over this time.
- There can be some abdominal swelling/oedema along the midline in the weeks prior to foaling.
- 4-6 days prior to foaling the teats become engorged
- 1-4 days prior to foaling the mare produces a wax like secretion on her teats, 'waxing up'. At this stage she should be check more regularly as she is close to foaling. This occurs commonly, however there are some mares that will not wax up at all.
- The first stage of labour is where the mare becomes anxious and restless, pacing, sweating, kicking at belly, some of these resemble colic and it is still possible for your mare to be experiencing colic. If this behaviour is prolonged for more than an hour or two without progress towards foaling, contact your veterinarian.

#### **SUPERVISION OF MARES**

It is advised to supervise the mare closely during foaling, whilst maintaining enough distance to avoid disturbing the natural foaling process. Ideally mares require checks at least every ½ hour from when she starts displaying early signs of foaling. Do not be afraid to approach the mare more closely if you have any concerns as to her well-being during foaling - she is unlikely to be disturbed by this and it is vital that the foaling is progressing without problems.

You should be prepared, have a first aid kit containing scissors, disinfectant, string, dilute iodine and towels on hand. It is also a good idea to have a torch. Some people even have defrosted colostrum ready for the foal in case.

It is highly suggest you have your vet's number with you when you check your mare. Do not be afraid to call if you have any concerns day or night – a false alarm is far better than delaying a call for assistance.

#### **MONITORING YOUR MARES BEHAVIOUR**

The mares behaviour will often dramatically change prior to foaling. Your usually sweet mare may become aggressive towards other horses or even people. The mare should be in a clean grassy area, alone and with a mate nearby.

- They will remain solitary in a herd situation
- The mare will rest for longer periods lying down
- If you notice the mare becoming restless monitor closely

#### What to look out for:

- Pacing aimlessly back and forth
- Profuse sweating even if it is not warm weather
- Milk running out from the udder and wax on teats
- Increased respiration
- Returning to the same spot, sometimes lying down
- Looking at the abdomen
- Tail swishing or tail held up
- Intensive grazing

These are all normal indications of a mare getting ready to foal. But as mentioned before, please be prepared for <u>ANYTHING!</u>



### **Breeding Season**

#### Caring for your New Born Foal and Mare

Mares will often drip milk or even a constant stream from their udder close to foaling. If the mare is running milk for more than 24 hours and she is not ready to foal call your veterinarian for advice immediately.

It is highly recommended that all foals have a IgG test done by a veterinarian before 24 hours of age. This is an inexpensive, non-invasive procedure that is essential to your foal's wellbeing.

Colostrum is a thick creamy yellow colour milk compared to the white appearance of normal milk and is very important to the newborn foal. A newborn foal is entirely dependent on maternal antibodies absorbed following ingestion of colostrum from the mare in the first few hours of life. This provides the best immune protection for any newborn foal. If the colostrum leaks from the udder prior to the foal being born the foal may not receive sufficient colostrum to provide maternal antibodies.

Failure of the passive transfer of maternal antibodies puts the foal at significant risk of infectious diseases. Monitoring the success of passive transfer by measuring levels of IgG (Immuno gamma globulin) in the blood of neonatal foals is critical if early intervention and treatment is required. A result of <4mg/dL is classed as failure of passive transfer and ideally and IV plasma transfusion should be administered. A result of 4–8mg/dL is considered partial failure and plasma may be recommended. An ideal result is >8mg/dL. Foals' stomachs can no longer absorb any immunoglobulins after 24hrs old and minimal after 6hrs, this is why the process is critical. If you foal does not receive adequate immunoglobulins, then it is more prone to infection at a young age as it doesn't start developing its own immunity until 30 days of age.

**Once the foal is born - Do not** disturb the mare or attempt to move the foal from back of mare. The foal will continue to receive blood from the mare via umbilicus for several minutes after birth until cord has ruptured.





### **Breeding Season**

#### Normal Parameters of a newborn foal:

- 1. Foal needs to be sitting up and shaking its head within 30 seconds to 1 minute.
- 2. Suck reflex needs to be present by 20 minutes
- 3. The foal needs to be attempting to stand by 20 minutes
- 4. The foal should be standing and walking by 90 minutes. A normal foal's temperature is  $37.3^{\circ}C 38.6^{\circ}C$ .
- 5. The foal needs to be suckling from the mare before 150 minutes
- 6. The mare should pass her placenta by 4 hours so that the mare is not at risk of infection. Keep the placenta in a bucket, if possible, for a veterinary examination the next day. This can be done at the clinic if you have any concerns of retained placenta. Never try and pull the placenta yourself as this can lead to pieces breaking off and being retained within the uterus leading to infection.
- 7. The foal needs to pass their first meconium (first black faeces) within 4 hours of birth. You may need to look around in the paddock if there is no evidence on the foal. More meconium should be passed over the next 12–24 hours.
- 8. The foal should urinate within 4–5 hours
- 9. Dilute iodine needs to be applied onto the foal's umbilicus (navel) shortly after birth. Repeat application is ideal daily for the following few days to reduce risk of infection.
- 10. By 24 hours of age we recommend an assessment of the mare and foal by a vet. It's recommended that all newborn foals receive a routine neonatal examination by a vet within the first 24 hours. Early disease detection in both the newborn foal and postpartum mare can be lifesaving.

The vet will conduct an IgG test on the foal; check the mare's placenta as well as a thorough examination of the foal health in case of any potential problems.

At any stage if you are concerned about your mare or foal, **PLEASE** call your vet!

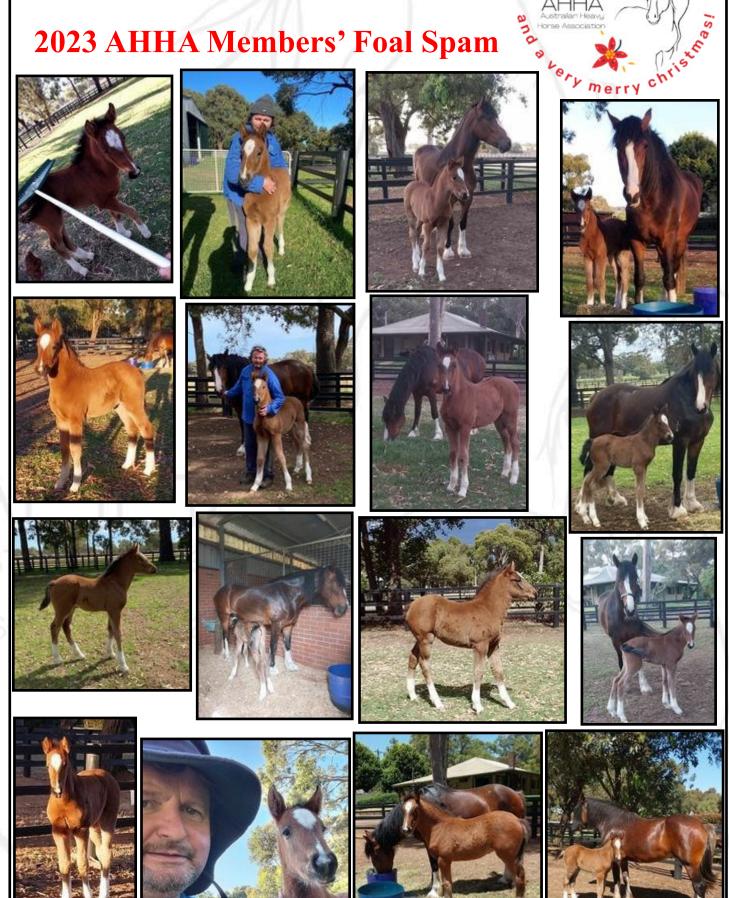








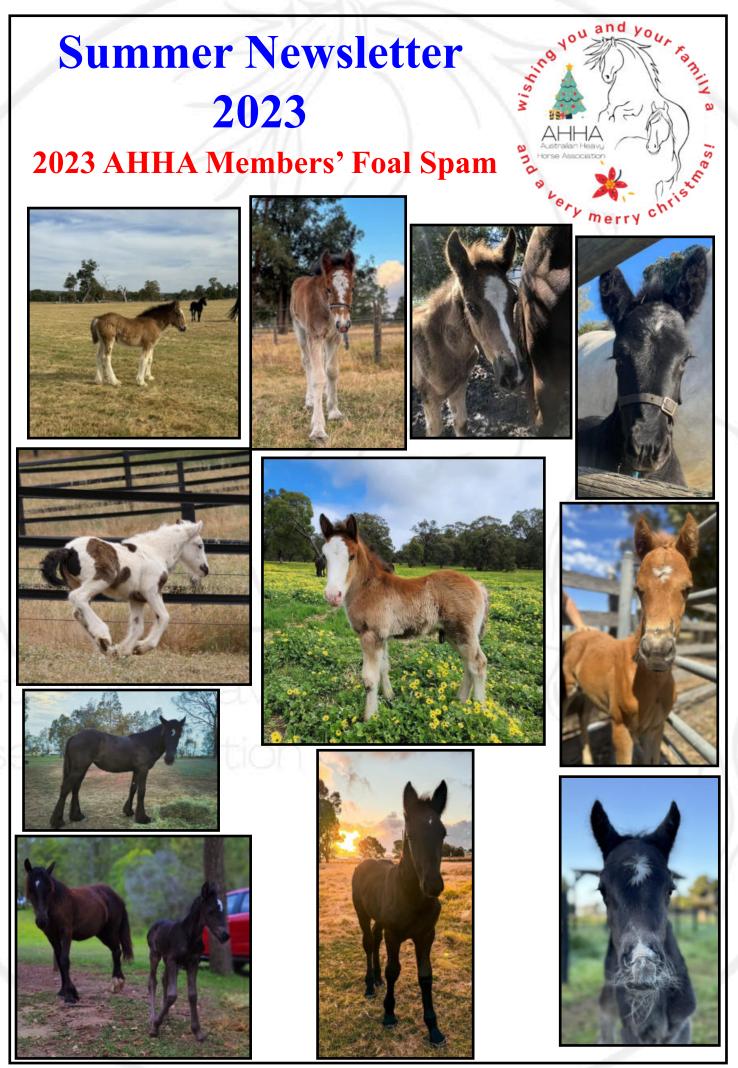
### **2023 AHHA Members' Foal Spam**



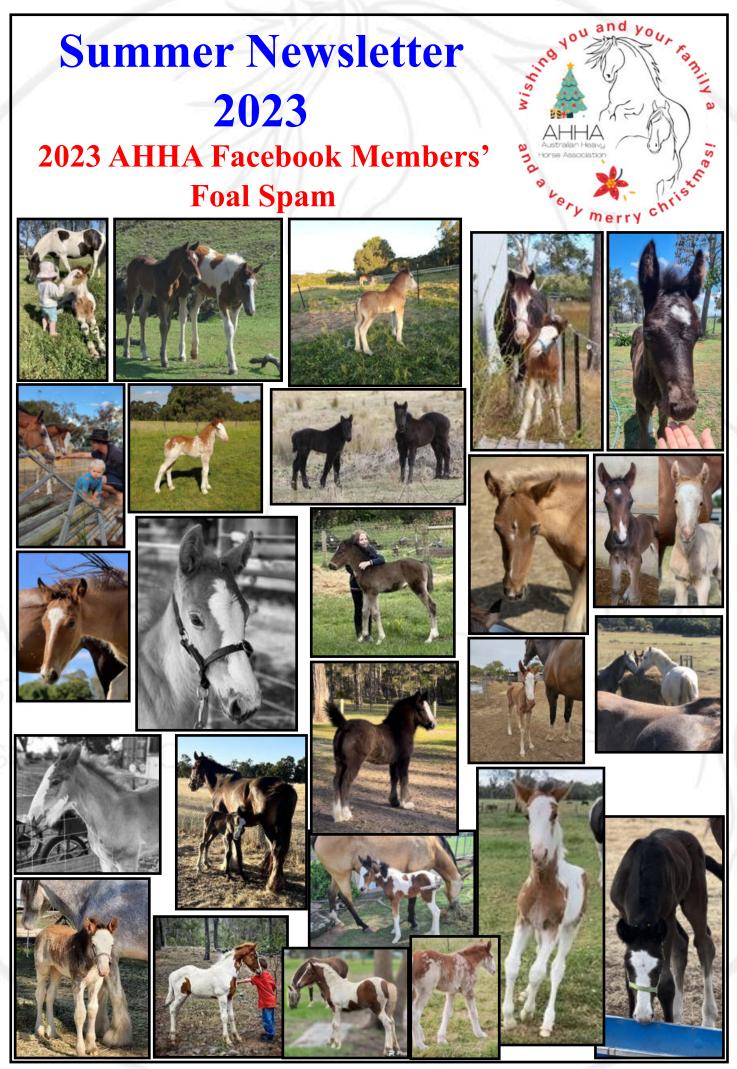
**Produced by: Terry Pirlo** 

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A huge congratulations goes to Mr Tony Cummins (aka Paddy Aseirinn).

His amazing mare *Elemer Unbelievable* reached her performance awards target, obtaining 1000 points.

Well done to all involved in producing and showcasing this absolutely stunning mare. Both our President (Lisa Buckley) and myself have personally had the pleasure of watching her out in the show ring here in Western Australia and have been absolutely blown away with her beauty and versatility. She's an absolute champion and recently a first time mother to a beautiful Filly *As Eirinn Nostra Domina*.

From all of the AHHA Committee, we wish you and your team a huge congratulations.





A huge congratulations goes to Brittany Elliot and her boy *Elite Prophecy of Durin* (Thorin) for reaching his performance target, obtaining *500 points*.

Well done on for getting out there in both the virtual and live world of showing. You efforts have definitely paid off with some amazing results.

From all of the AHHA Committee, we wish you a huge congratulations.





# **AHHA Member Story**



Brittany Collis and Elite Prophecy of Durin (Thorin)

On the 31st of May in 2020, I picked up a tiny little Part bred Gypsy Cob. He was my introduction to the heavy horse world and little did I know the partnership, that was in store for us.

We began our showing journey in 2021, where he took home two Champions, one Reserve Champion, five First places and several other placings. This was my first time showing a baby, and my first time ever winning a Champion or Reserve Champion sash.

During the pandemic, we weren't able to get to any shows for a while, however, I was luckily able to stay home during those times. During my time at home, I spent a lot of time with *Thorin* and we developed such a strong bond. He would follow me everywhere in the paddock without a lead, if he was laying down, quite often I could join him for an afternoon nap laying against him. At this time my daughter was only a month younger than he was, he was very inquisitive of the tiny human I kept wheeling around in the pram. He was also so gentle and cautious with her.

On the 27th and 28th of November 2021, we attended the *ABSS Spring Carnival* and *Youngstock Show* (Combined, due to Covid) and across the two days we came home with an incredible number of sashes. We won our first Supreme Champion rug and sash, three Champion Ribbons, two Reserve Champions and countless other placings.

*Thorin* won his second Supreme with the Australian Heavy Horse Association in their *online show* that was hosted during the pandemic, as well as multiple Champion placings across both the Gypsy Cob Part bred and Friesian Part bred classes.

In 2022, Thorin sustained an injury that we were worried would leave him permanently unsound. However, after months of treatment, box rest and veterinary advice he made a full recovery.

His return to showing after this injury was at the *Stars in the Valley 2022* Show, where he came home with Supreme Part bred Gypsy Cob. Despite winning all of these Supremes, we were yet to win a flower garland. This was something I always dreamed of winning and being able to display on my wall.

At the *AGHS Spectacular show* in 2023, *Thorin* and I finally won our flowers. He was awarded high point youngstock and it was certainly a very emotional moment, there were many tears shed.

Over the year, he has been lightly started under saddle. Countless hours of long reining have been spent through all different kinds of environments both at home and shows through versatility/obstacle courses.

He attended several shows with my (at the time) 3year old daughter on board, where they won numerous ribbons together.

At the *ABSS Foal and Youngstock Show* in June, *Thorin* and I won our latest Supreme and this was his last show as a youngstock. He certainly managed to go out with a bang.

More recently he has been doing more work under saddle, and recently achieved champion Part bred Gypsy Cob and Runner Up in Smartest on Parade at the ABSS Spring Carnival in 2023.

The bond I share with this horse, and the memories we have created together is something very difficult to put into words. When you see us together, you can just see how much I love him and he loves me. He also shares this bond with my daughter, she handles him by herself, both leading and riding now. They are both 4 years old and being only a month apart from each other, they have grown up together with me.

This is truly the horse of a lifetime; I am so blessed that he found me. *Brittany Elliott (Collis)* 

## Summer Newsletter 2023 AHHA Member Story

Brittany Collis and Elite Prophecy of Durin (Thorin)









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### **AHHA Member Story**



Katherine Kane and White Sage Cleanses All (Sage)

A few years back, I was lucky to get my hands on a lovely thoroughbred boy. I called him *Atticus*. A plain bay to look at, no bling, tall and lanky, he seems to be just another thoroughbred on Gumtree.

But, BOY did I love him. We started cantering again after I had a big scare and accident a few years back. We would ride through the park and take the nervous horses with us. Together we built up our relationship. He was a bit of a super star with the Gai Waterhouse track riders as his race name was *Zermer* and he used to escort the big racehorses.

Then the nose bleeding started, One nostril, then two, then even just standing in his box. Had scans and scopes done, but they found nothing. Then an x-ray showed the orange sized tumour snaking its was up his head and heading for the brain. Eight months was all I got.

As soon as we knew this was not going to go away, I knew if I didn't have a horse waiting, I was going to end up in a very bad depression cycle. My horse was my only happiness.

In the same month of getting *Atticus*, I met a newly gelded stallion by the name of *Linlea Dusty Joe*. A big, beautiful buckskin with the softest eyes and kissable nose. His human, Fiona, let me steal him for some photos and I kept thinking of how I would love a filly by him. Fiona gave me the contact of his previous owner, a lady by the name of Sam who had bred with him before he was gelded.

Sam let me know that there were no fillies available, however, there was a max white yearling colt if I wanted to have a look. So, I took a 5-hour train trip up to meet her and then they drove us the next 4 odd hours to the middle of nowhere. There he was, white as the stars and with blue eyes like crystal. I reached out my hand and he sniffed a few times before... lick, lick, lick. We walked away from the group to talk, he and I. We have been walking together ever since.

He is SO special to me, because:

- He has protected me, choosing to stay on the side of my blind eye before we realised that I was impaired on that side
- He stays with me when I come off
- He pushes me when he thinks I'm holding myself back and he has gotten me jumping again
- He has been helping me by giving me back my wings
- He is a better judge of people than I ever will be
- He has been there as my marriage dissolved
- He has worn so many tears and he has heard so much laughter
- He helped me the day we buried Atticus
- He made me laugh, playing with the hose as I gave him his first bath that afternoon.

I named him Sage.

## Summer Newsletter 2023 AHHA Member Story

Katherine Kane and White Sage Cleanses All (Sage)





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# Summer Newsletter 2023 AHHA Member Story



Jennifer Jacobs & Iron River

Hi, just introducing me and my mare .

Most of the time we are the ones who chose the horses we buy, not very often is it the other way around. I wasn't even looking, and I didn't know I had a big 'Tansy' shaped hole that needed to be filled. Visiting my dear friends to learn more about shire horses, I got to know their herd of many horses, and I enjoyed many visits. However, this one day in particular and this very moment, that I was lucky enough to have caught on camera, was the moment I knew *Tansy* had chosen me!

It's hard to tell in words what it felt like to have a horse chose you, but it was amazing! A few months later I was her very proud owner 🛞 💮. YES, she has her 'stubborn mare' moments sometimes, YES, she is nothing short of the sweetest and most loving horse to me! Even showing off her protective side on occasions to make sure I am safe.

This is a story I'd love to share about her.

I had a stallion come in once to breed with her for one cycle (she didn't take though). She was right in season, then the minute I opened the gate and walked in she chased him away and came right next to me and walked with me through the whole paddock. While I checked the water, she stuck to me and kept herself between me and the stallion, she wouldn't let him come closer than about 10 meters from me, then the second I walked out that gate, she ran straight back to him to do the deed. I was about 3 months pregnant, and she went against her middle of heat urges/instincts because she decided that protecting me was more important.

She has been my best friend for almost 5 years now.







## Summer Newsletter 2023 Products, Services and Advertisements

Do you have or know of any products and services that could be of interest to other members?

These can include, but are not limited to:

- Grooming Supplies
  - Saddlery
  - Farriers
  - Harness Makers
  - Photographers
- Transport Companies
- Tack makers/suppliers

This page is also for any member who may have something for sale

If so, we would love their details to include as regular features of the newsletter and also on our website.

Please email me at ahhssecretary@outlook.com

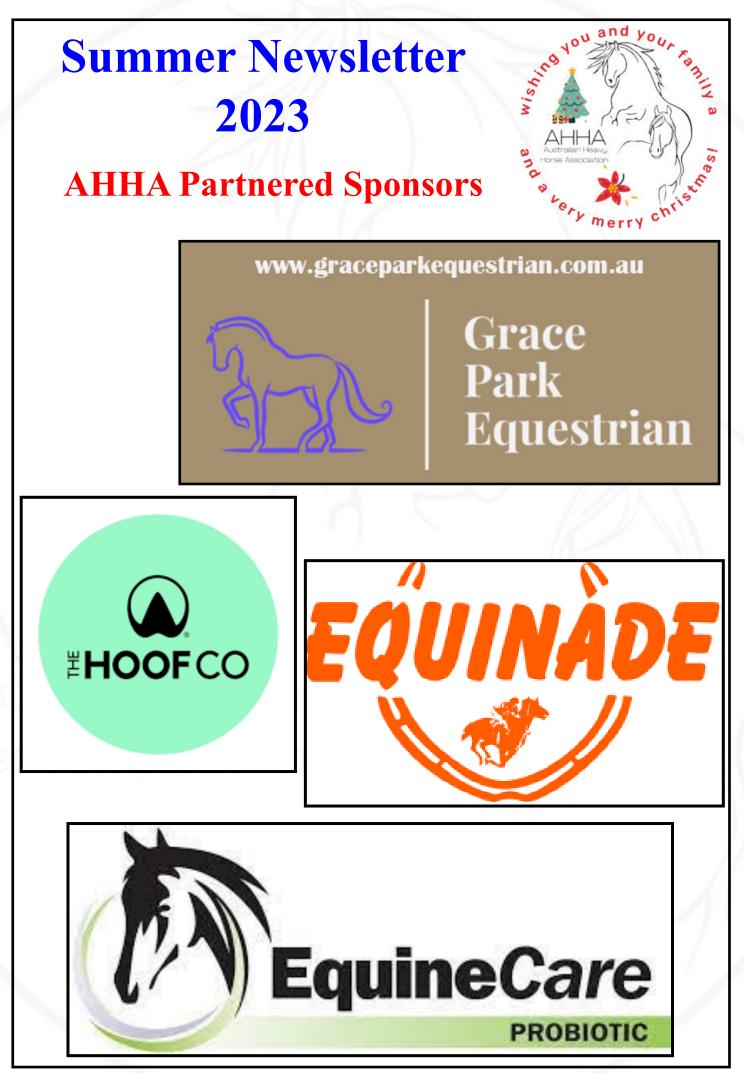


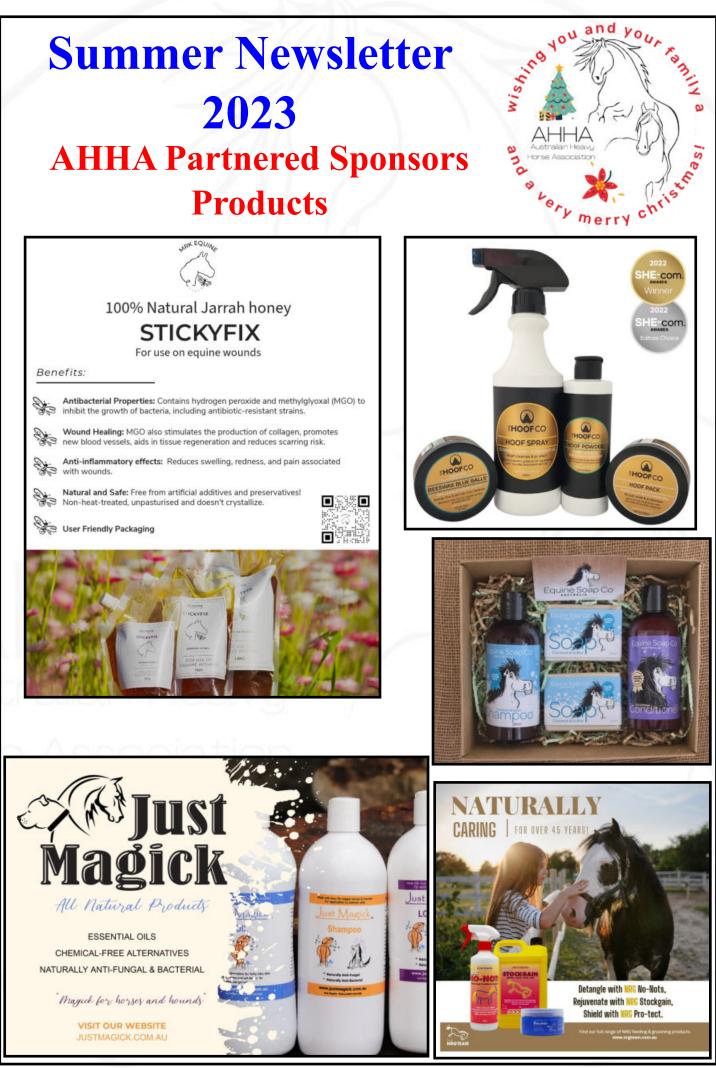
### **AHHA Partnered Sponsors**

The AHHA are proud to announce that we have partnered with some *WONDERFUL* and *AMAZING* Equine related companies around Australia to bring you a variety of products to help our members with taking care of their horses. Both in our Newsletter and on our Website, we will showcase these sponsors with their details and members are asked to provide reviews and before and after photos of these products being used.

We have partnered with these companies to help you all, as we know that there are many different products out there on the market and hopefully this will assist you with what is available for our heavy horses. These companies have kindly donated either products for prizes for our shows or vouchers so that winners can go onto their website and choose their own product.

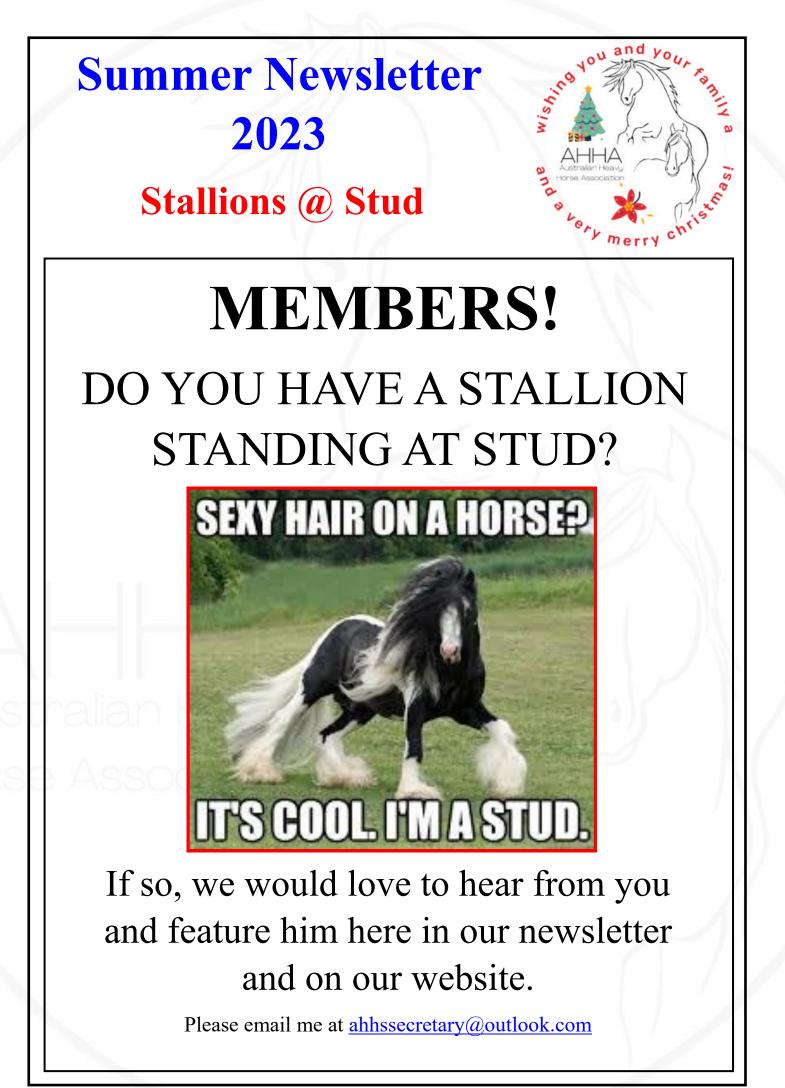


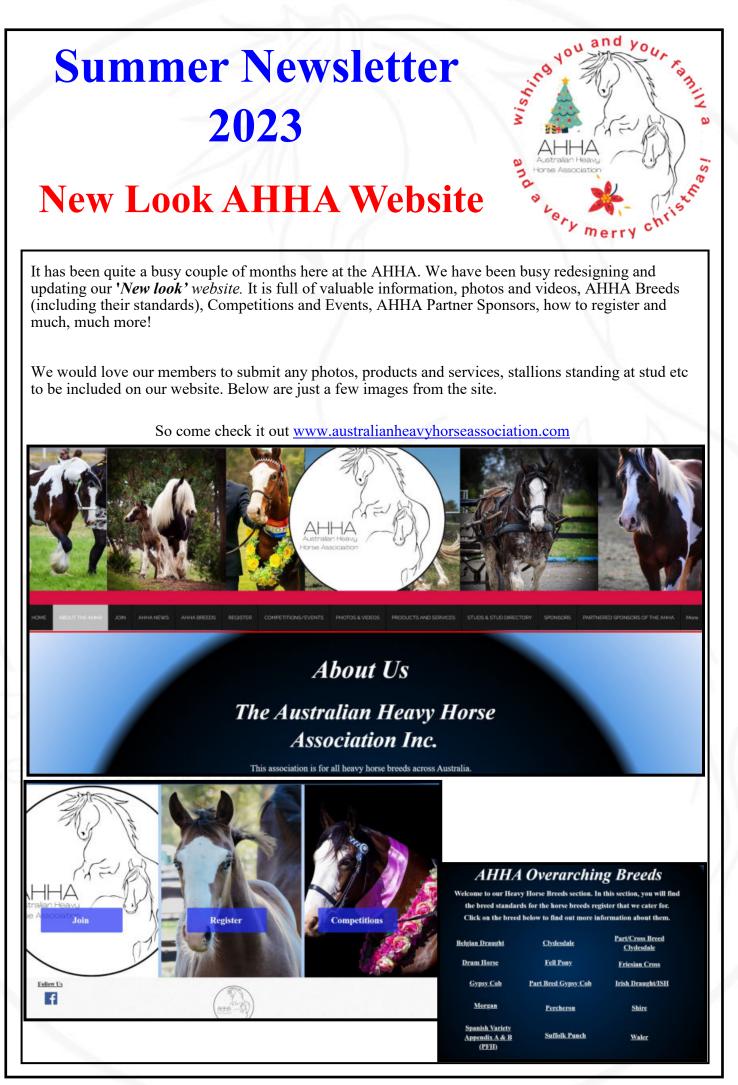






**Produced by: Terry Pirlo** 







## **AHHA Committee Contacts**

All national enquiries should be directed to:

The AHHA Secretary:

Mr Terry Pirlo 5 Gimlet Link Carramar WA 6031 **Phone:** 0402 288 371 **Email:** ahhssecretary@outlook.com

President: Vice President: Treasurer:

Tony Cummins

Lisa Buckley

Ema Buckley

Email: <u>AHHApresident@outlook.com</u>

Email: <u>AHHAtreasurer@outlook.com</u>

Merry Christmas!



### AHHA Performance Awards Rules & Regulations

#### **AHHA Performance Award rules and regulations**

The goal of the AHHA Performance Award, is to encourage and recognise Heavy Horses and their owner/riders.

Once a horse accrues **500 POINTS**, you must send your Performance Awards into the AHHA Secretary for them to be verified. Your horse will then be awarded a beautiful headstall with the horse's name engraved on it.

Once a horse accrues **1000 POINTS** it will be awarded with a cotton rug featuring their name and the AHHA Performance Award logo.

- 1. Performance Award points are attributed to each registered horse
- 2. Only current AHHA registered horses can enter for our performance award system
- 3. There is no time limit on the accumulation of Performance Award points
- 4. members are responsible for the completion of all Performance records
- 5. Performance Award files will be maintained by the Performance Award Manager and published regularly on our website.

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Activity	Day Points	Points per placing (any class)								
	1	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>			
Showing	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Dressage	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Show Jumping	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Cross country	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Combined Training	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Trail Ride.	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Adult riding	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Barrel Racing	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Obstacle Sports	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Long Reining	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Camp drafting	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Harness	10 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Training days	20 points	6	5	4	3	2	1			
AHHA events	30 points plu	30 points plus double placing points								
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### AHHA Performance Awards Rules & Regulations

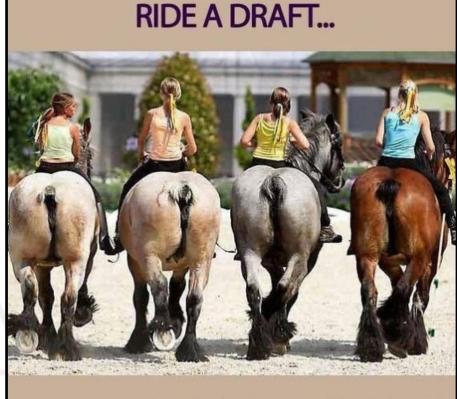
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## Summer Newsletter 2023 Horsin' Around Funny Moments









#### ...IT WILL MAKE YOUR BUTT LOOK SMALLER



I am sure many of our horses think this when it is show time! hahaha



