

## Who and What

- What is a “skunk-tailed” horse? The coat pattern known as rabicano is characterized by a patch of white at the root of the tail. Other markings vary but usually include some amount of roaning (base coat interspersed with white hairs) on the flanks and under the elbows. Some rabicano horses show vertical white strips on the barrel. A similar pattern, sabino, has roan patches but doesn’t include the white tail base.
  
- During 2006 and 2007, nine major U.S. racetracks replaced their dirt tracks with synthetic surfaces. While lower leg injuries and bone fractures have decreased on the artificial track surfaces, a trend has been seen toward a somewhat higher number of soft tissue injuries and problems with hips, shoulders, and necks.
  
- Veterinarian Jennifer Coates has written a book entitled **Dictionary of Veterinary Terms** that would be a helpful addition to many horse owners’ bookshelves. The majority of the book consists of **definitions of many terms, diseases, and conditions** of horses, dogs, cats, and other animals. Also included are a listing of **common veterinary drugs with their uses and side effects; a list of abbreviations and acronyms; a table of weights and measures with conversion formulas, and a chart of normal physiologic and reproductive parameters.** This helpful volume is available from Alpine Publications, 38262 Linman Road, Crawford, Colorado 81415, phone 800-777-7257. Price is \$22.95.
  
- **Need something translated**, but your high-school Spanish class didn’t include vocabulary for the latest agrobiotechnology? For English/Spanish or Spanish/English technical translation, e-mail [agtranslation@alternativa1.com](mailto:agtranslation@alternativa1.com). *KER has no connection to this service and makes no claims, positive or negative, as to its accuracy or quality.*
  
- **Indian mustard**, an oilseed crop, is one of the newest sources for **biodiesel**. The crop will be tried in Australia where, along with canola, tallow, and palm oil, it will be processed at a plant in Pingelly. When fully operational, the plant will have the capacity to produce up to three million liters of biodiesel a year.
  
- Researchers in Queensland have identified specific **bacteria in the stomach lining of kangaroos** that are responsible for the methane-free intestinal gas excreted by the animals. Methane emissions from cattle are blamed for contributing to the greenhouse effect that has been linked to global warming. Kangaroo stomachs produce acetate, a chemical that enhances digestion. Further research may lead to a method for introducing acetate-producing bacteria into the diets of sheep and cattle.
  
- **The Rolex Company** has signed as a third major sponsor of the **World Equestrian Games to be held in Kentucky in 2010**. Alltech donated \$10 million as the title sponsor, and Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital is contributing both cash and veterinary services. Of the estimated \$56 million cost of putting on the games, organizers hope to find about \$20 million in sponsorships.

- Up to **10,000 volunteers** will be needed to help with all sorts of tasks before and during the World Equestrian Games. To volunteer or to get more information, call 859-255-2010 or go to [www.feigames2010.org](http://www.feigames2010.org).
- **The American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA)** has begun an **awards program for United States Pony Club (USPC)** members who ride Saddlebred or Saddlebred-cross horses in Pony Club activities. Riders can earn points by riding in regional and national rallies as well as by achieving ratings for increasing their skills. The points can also be counted toward ASHA award programs if applicable. For more information about the awards program, call USPC office at 859-254-7669 or ASHA at 859-259-2742, extension 343.
- Over 1,200 **human** cases of **West Nile virus** were reported in **Canada** in 2007, while the **U.S.** reported 906 human cases. **Equine** infection with WNV increased slightly in Canada and decreased slightly in the U.S. from the previous year.
- **Housing developments with an equine flair** are the new wave in themed communities. About 250 of the horse-friendly residential areas have opened or are under construction across the country. Built on the general plan of golf communities that have been popular for years, equine communities usually offer **residences, stables, riding rings, and trails**. Some developments have secured the endorsement of leading horsemen like John Lyons and David O'Connor.

## Wins and Wows

- **The Frederick L. Van Lennep Memorial Achievement Award** from the Breeders Crown Committee of the Hambletonian Society has been given to the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. This group works to develop and promote research, educational programs, and policies that ensure the integrity of racing, the interests of the betting public, and the health and safety of horses and drivers. Members of the group represent the Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, and Standardbred racing industries.
- The U.S. Harness Writers Association has bestowed its **President's Award** on Meg Jewett Leavitt. The award recognizes Leavitt for her work to provide care for unwanted horses, including her assistance in founding the Kentucky Equine Center.
- Noah Cohen was awarded the **Schering-Plough Animal Health Applied Equine Research Award** at the 10th World Equine Veterinary Association Congress in Moscow. Cohen, a professor of large animal clinical sciences at Texas A & M University, has done extensive research on equine neonatology and perinatology, and most recently has focused on studies of foal pneumonia.
- **A Standardbred mare** named Whiz Bang earned first place in Training Level, Open Division in the All-Breed Award category at the United States Dressage Federation annual awards ceremony. Whiz Bang, whose race record included three in-the-money finishes in fifteen starts, is the first Standardbred to win the award.
- John Cooper has been inducted into the **Idaho Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame** in recognition of a training career that spanned five decades. Cooper ranks third on the all-time wins list at Los Alamitos Race Course as well as third on the all-time stakes win list.
- Thoroughbred jockey Russell Baze collected his **10,000th race victory** earlier this spring to become North America's winningest rider. Baze, who will be 50 years old in the fall, says he has no plans to retire.



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