

Who and What

- The Humane Society of the United States is offering a **\$10,000 reward** for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who violates the **Tennessee's anti-soring legislation**. Soring is the practice of inflicting pain to make horses move with artificially animated gaits. Skin-irritating chemicals, mechanical aids like chains or special shoes, and wounds in the tissues of leg or hoof tissue are all outlawed by the legislation. To report soring, call 866-411-8326.
- Horse owners looking to acquire another equine most often choose **Quarter Horses** (57% of owners) and **Paints/Pintos** (42%), according to a national survey that tracked breeds owned by equine enthusiasts. **Arabians, Thoroughbreds, and Appaloosas** rounded out the five most popular breeds. Almost 20% of owners said they owned a mixed-breed horse.
- According to the **AAEP's current guidelines**, all horses in all areas of the country should be **vaccinated for protection against rabies**. This disease is fatal in virtually all animals that develop it, so prevention is the only safe course of action.
- **Fermentation of roughage (hay and grass) produces heat that keeps horses warm in chilly winter weather**. Horse and Rider suggests that owners increase a horse's hay ration 10% for every 10 degrees the temperature drops below freezing. How many extra "flakes" is this? Weighing representative bales or flakes can give owners a general idea of how much is being fed, but the bottom line is this: if your horse has cleaned up most of his hay and is still cold, you need to offer more hay. If hay contains a large percentage of stems and fibrous plants, this material may not be eaten; **don't assume left-over hay means the horse is full**.
- Anyone who makes frequent **trips with a horse** in tow might be interested in the Nationwide Overnight **Stabling Directory** and Equestrian Vacation Guide. Updated for 2008, the guide lists services such as stables and equine-friendly bed-and-breakfast locations across the country. Copies can be ordered by calling 620-442-8131 or by going to www.overnightstabling.com.
- **A database to connect hay sellers and buyers** is up and running in North Dakota. To post a message about hay for sale, contact the county extension office. To find supplies of hay, grain, and pasture, check www.ag.ndsu.edu/feedlist/. An out-of-state input form is also available on this site.
- **World production of livestock feed** is about 614 metric tons annually. This estimate reflects only registered production, so the total is certainly somewhat higher. **The 3800 commercial feedmills** in the world produce about 80% of all feed used.
- A note from Tack'n'Togs indicates there was a **drop of 4.4% in average consumer spending** in the luxury category during 2007. However, while some luxury areas saw a drop of up to 12% in spending, **experiential luxury spending actually increased** as much as 5%. In other words, those with money to spend are now more willing to put it toward pleasant **experiences such as horse ownership** rather than into more solid goods and services such as boats, vacation homes, and fine dining. Polls show that people participating in the equestrian lifestyle

get an extreme amount of personal satisfaction from interacting with their horses. This finding puts horses and the expenses associated with their upkeep into the category of an experiential luxury.

- The House of Representatives has approved a bill to set in place new rules to prevent accumulation of **combustible dust in industrial workplaces** such as feed mills and grain storage areas. The bill would force OSHA to move quickly in issuing an interim final rule on the subject.

Wins and Wows

- A half-Arabian gelding named **Elmer Bandit** finished in second place at the sixty-mile Spotted Rump Competitive Trail Ride near St. Louis, Missouri, pushing his lifetime trail mileage to well over 20,000 miles. The gelding's most surprising claim to fame is his age: 37 years old, and apparently going strong for his owner and rider, Mary Anna Wood.
- **The Green Monkey** was retired from racing after an injury and will stand at stud in Florida. The horse, now four years old, was sold for a **record price of \$16 million** as an unraced two-year-old. He raced three times and finished third, fourth, and fourth in spite of setting promising speed records in his pre-sale workouts.
- Quarter Horse jockey **G.R. Carter Jr.** has passed the **\$40 million mark** in career earnings. In each of his last five racing years, Carter earned almost \$3.5 million. The jockey stands in second place on the all-time earnings list.
- The Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association has honored **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum** with inclusion in its **Hall of Fame**. The sheikh's breeding operation includes Kildangan Stud in Ireland. Other honorees were **Fran O'Sullivan**, who was recognized for outstanding contributions to the industry, and **P.F. O'Kelly** who received the lifetime achievement award.
- New honorees at the **Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame** are Dr. Charles Graham, Martha Wright, Andy Taylor, Logan Stevens, Carl Nafzger, Tommy Owens, and Sid Steiner.
- Five mares—Callaway's Country Gal, Miss Chit Chat, Oak Hill's Moon Magic, Sweet Sachet, and Treat Treat—have been designated for **Broodmare Hall of Fame** status by the **American Saddlebred Horse Association**. To earn the designation, a mare must have produced at least three offspring, each of whom has been named World's Grand Champion or Reserve Champion at least three times.
- **The Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame** recently inducted Dr. Ed Allred, trainer Dwayne Gilbreath, and rider Kenny Hart. Another inductee was the horse Corona Chick, a former AQHA Broodmare of the Year.
- **Will Farish** has been inducted into the **Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame**. Owner of Lanes End Farm in central Kentucky, Farish is a former chairman of Churchill Downs and the all-time leading owner at Keeneland Race Course.
- **J. Michael Plumb** is the first equestrian to be honored with induction into the **U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame**. Beginning in 1960, Plumb rode on the U. S. eventing team in eight Olympic Games, bringing home six medals. Plumb also earned individual and team medals at several World Championships.