

## Who and What

- The Jockey Club Information Systems offers **free five-generation pedigrees** for Thoroughbreds on its site at [www.equineline.com](http://www.equineline.com). Pedigrees for Thoroughbreds as well as many horses of **other breeds** can be found at [www.allbreedpedigrees.com](http://www.allbreedpedigrees.com).
- **The American Paint Horse Association** has stated that **tail extensions and weights** are permitted at its sanctioned events. Tail extensions are used to make the horse's tail look longer and fuller, possibly giving the idea that a particular horse is healthy and has had regular care and grooming. Horses that are nervous or uncomfortable sometimes swish their tails, and weights are used to discourage tail-swishing in the show ring.
- **Double conception in horses** is not unusual, although birth of live, healthy twin foals does not happen with any regularity. One or both embryos are commonly absorbed by the mare early in pregnancy. If a **twin pregnancy** is confirmed by a veterinarian, terminating one fetus is usually done to ensure the health of both the mare and the surviving foal. When twins are carried to term, there may be problems for the mare during the birthing process, and the foals are often **small, weak, or deformed**. The frequency of neurologic deficit from impaired oxygen supply is also higher among twin foals. According to one estimate, Thoroughbred mares may double-ovulate up to 30% of the time, while Quarter Horse mares double-ovulate only about 5 to 10% of the time.
- A recent study conducted in Australia has shown that **pregnant veterinarians** exposed to anesthetic gases, radiation, or pesticides may **double their risk** of having a miscarriage. The study was conducted over a span of forty years and looked at 940 pregnancies among veterinarians.
- A study of worker stress showed that **employees in sales positions showed higher levels of psychological distress** than those in many other jobs. The study evaluated stress in more than 60,500 workers in a range of industries and determined that 14% of personnel had a moderate to high level of psychological distress, with one-third of that number showing a strong likelihood of mental disorder.
- According to Veterinary Practice News, **employment turnover** among associate **veterinarians** was around 20 percent last year, somewhat higher than the 12 to 15 percent average turnover in **all United States industries**.
- Horse & Rider Magazine published a helpful tip for those of us who sometimes **turn the water on to fill a trough**, walk away to take care of another chore, and suddenly remember the water much later after the whole paddock is flooded. The solution: get a bright-colored "scrunchie" like those used to tie long hair into a pony tail. Put the scrunchie around the water faucet. Whenever you turn the tap on and plan to leave it on for a while, put the scrunchie around your wrist as a **reminder to turn it off** at the appropriate time.

## Wins and Wows

- **The American Quarter Horse Association** has announced its **Hall of Fame** inductees for 2009. Those to be honored include competitor, trainer, and judge **Clarence Darnell**; breeder and AQHA director **Charles Graham**; racehorse owner and breeder **R.D. Hubbard**; jockey **Jerry Nicodemus**; and administrator **Steve Stevens**. Three horses were also honored: Miss Meyers, who set four track records; race and rodeo legend **Make It Do**; and top stallion and halter horse **Scotch Bar Time**.
- For their efforts to enhance racetrack safety, **Dr. Wayne McIlwraith** and **Dr. Mick Peterson** have been chosen to receive the second annual **Elastikon Equine Research Award**.
- **Dr. Christianne Magee** has been given the **Storm Cat Career Development Award** for her research on the role of kisspeptin, a type of peptide, in equine estrus and fertility. Magee is a graduate student at Colorado State University.
- For his work in advancing the use of gene expression profiling and other methods to improve human and animal nutrition, **Dr. Ronan Power** was awarded the **2008 Scientific Medal of Excellence**. Power is the director of research at Alltech's North American Biosciences Center.
- For an unprecedented twelfth year, **Russell Baze** claimed the **Isaac Murphy award**, given to the North American jockey who compiles the highest winning percentage. Baze rode 1,211 races last year and won 399, a record of 32.9%.
- New member of the **Racing Hall of Fame** include jockey **Edgar Prado**, one of only 16 North American riders to achieve 6000 wins; **Carl Nafzger**, who trained many champion Thoroughbreds including two Kentucky Derby winners; and Breeder's Cup winning horses **Manila** and **Inside Information**. **Milo Valenzuela**, who rode five-time Horse of the Year winner Kelso, and **Ancient Title**, a twenty-time stakes winner with earnings of over a million dollars, were also inducted.
- **The National Turf Writers Associations** has selected jockey **Chris McCarron**, recently deceased track announcer **Luke Kruytbosch**, and writer **Maryjean Wall** to be honored with awards for their services to the racing industry.
- At Prairie Meadows Racetrack this fall, **Cindy Noll Murphy** was inducted into the track's **Hall of Fame**. She is second on the track's all-time win list and stands in third place for the national's female rider by number of victories.
- **Sadler's Wells**, a pensioned stallion who stood at Coolmore Stud in Ireland, recently achieved a significant milestone when his daughter Fantasia won her second race, the Toteswinger Prestige Stakes. The win made Sadler's Wells the second stallion in history to **sire 300 stakes winners**. The deceased stallion Danehill, another Coolmore horse, sired 349 stakes winners.
- **Dr. Laurie M. Lawrence** of the University of Kentucky received the **2008 Equine Science Award** at the Equine Science Society's recent annual meeting. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the areas of extension, research, teaching or agribusiness in the equine industry.