

Who and What

- The Unwanted Horse Council has released a **brochure about rehabilitating and caring for neglected horses**. Tips are given for nutrition, vaccination, deworming, hoof care, and general management topics. To download a copy of the publication, go to the Web site at www.unwantedhorsecouncil.org and click on the Resources tab.
- A bacterium seen in human disease has been found to cause **respiratory infections** in horses. *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* was found in seven horses in a Danish study. Disease signs included a chronic cough as well as mucus and pus in the trachea. *S. maltophilia* is resistant to many common antibiotics.
- A serious consequence of **laminitis** is rotation of the coffin bone due to damaged supportive tissues within the hoof. Breakdown of the laminae allows the coffin bone to be pulled out of position by its attachment to the deep digital flexor tendon and associated muscles. Experimental treatment with injections of **Botox** (botulinum toxin type A) eased the pull of the tendon in six laminitic horses, **reducing lameness** and stabilizing the position of the coffin bone as tissues healed. Some horses in the study remained sound for at least two years after treatment.
- Questions about **molds and mycotoxins** in grain can be answered by the equine nutritionists at Kentucky Equine Research (859-873-1988, info@ker.com). Information on mycotoxins and mycotoxicosis is also available on the “mycotoxin hotline” provided by Alltech. Feed mill professionals and others interested in the topic can call 866-322-3484 for answers to questions about molds and their effects on grain.
- According to information published by the Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center at the University of Kentucky, **nitrate poisoning** in horses is fairly uncommon unless a horse has consumed fertilizer, forage or hay grown in an area where fertilizer was spilled, or water contaminated with nitrates. A few cases have been reported after horses ate high-nitrate hay that was baled wet or became wet after baling. In these cases, nitrate was converted to harmful nitrite by microorganisms in the hay. While horses are not as efficient as ruminants in converting ingested nitrates to nitrites, equines are quite sensitive to the effects of nitrite absorption. Nitrites cause **injury to red blood cells, and signs of poisoning range from difficulty breathing to sudden death**.
- **Sarcoids** are skin tumors caused by the bovine papilloma virus. They are among the most common types of skin tumor found in horses, and also among the most difficult to treat effectively. Studies have uncovered a possible **breakthrough** in sarcoid treatment. Research at the University of Glasgow has shown that inhibiting the activity of a particular viral protein within the tumor’s cells can reduce the amount of viral DNA in those cells, leading to slowed growth and eventual death of the cells. This technique of **“gene silencing”** targets E2, a protein that is necessary for viral replication. While the idea is promising, more work is needed before a cure for sarcoids will be available to horse owners.

- According to a presentation made at the 2009 AAEP convention, **radiographic abnormalities are common in young Quarter Horses**, though the significance of this statistic is not known. When researchers at Colorado State University looked at radiographs of more than 450 cutting-bred Quarter Horse yearlings and two-year-olds, they found that almost 90% showed some abnormality, most commonly in the tarsus and stifle joints. Fetlock and carpal radiographs were less likely to show abnormalities. Such changes have been routinely seen in **Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds**; this is believed to be the first such report related to Quarter Horses.
- Participants in high school sports often have a chance to earn a letter for their accomplishments, but equestrians of the same age have not had that opportunity until recently. The USEF has initiated a program of **emblems and pins to recognize high school riders** who are also USEF members. To find out more about this program and its required documentation, go to www.usef.org/documents/Youth/HighSchoolAthlete.pdf, or e-mail Lauren Fahey at lfahey@usef.org.
- According to a note in Thoroughbred Times, early **nominations for the Triple Crown race series** for three-year-old Thoroughbreds totaled 35 fewer in 2010 than in 2009. For this year's races there have been **366 early nominations**. As in many previous years, Todd Pletcher is the trainer with the highest number of nominees (20). Leading owners by number nominated are Thoroughbred Legends Racing Stable with 12, WinStar Farm with 10, and Godolphin Racing, Spendthrift Farm, and Gary and Mary West Stables with eight each.

Wins and Wows

- **The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association** has inducted Robert and Barbara Walter, who were among the state's top breeders for over two decades, to its **Hall of Fame**. Also inducted were California-bred racehorses Flying Continental and Hill Rise.
- Franklin "Goree" Smith Sr. was given the **South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners' and Breeders' Association's Frank Whiteley Award** in recognition of his outstanding service to the association and the South Carolina Thoroughbred industry. Also honored were horses Fancy Up (two-year-old); Cynthia's Angle (three-year-old), and Signal's Choice (older horse of the year).
- Champs Elysees was chosen as **Canada's Horse of the Year and also Champion Turf Male** for 2009. The honor marks the first time in more than ten years that a U.S.-based racehorse has won the Sovereign Award, Canada's highest honor in Thoroughbred racing. Champs Elysees was trained by the late Bobby Frankel.
- The Federation Equestre Internationale presented the inaugural **FEI Awards** to five recipients chosen from more than 1200 nominees. Darlene Milford (Haiti), Alex Hua Tin (China), Wendy Gidlow (South Africa), Michelle Robson (Australia), and Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum (Germany) were honored for their achievements in riding, grooming, and/or equine-related public service.
- Joe Fargis and Larry Langer received the **United States Hunter Jumper Association Lifetime Achievement Award** at the USHJA Annual Meeting. Fargis is known for his many years of riding and training show jumpers, achievements that included an Olympic medal. Langer has decades of experience as a rider, trainer, owner, author, and jumping consultant for the Olympic Games in Atlanta.