

MAKING SACRIFICES

We gained custody of two malnourished mares that were victims of a neglect case three years ago. We call them "our girls." And a few months after we got them, we realized our horse family was going to be growing ... now we also have "our boys." Have our lives changed? Absolutely!

Money is a lot tighter than it was "pre-horse," and our spacious, well-manicured front lawn is now a much-needed horse pasture. But it doesn't compare with the joy of hearing our horses nicker when they see us coming, or the velvety soft spot on the side of their muzzle that gets a daily kiss from me. They trust us, they count on us, and we will do our best to take care of them for all of their lives.

Anita Brotherton
Alma, Mo.

BEWARE OF BURIED TRASH

In regards to the letter on lightning strikes on horses, a trainer friend of mine warned me many years ago to beware of

the common practice of burying trash in cleared areas. He himself lost two horses at different times on the same spot and firmly believed it was where they had buried trash many years earlier. I also know that many old sheds and chicken houses were eliminated in the same way.

Ricky Harriman
via e-mail

SORING IN MANY BREEDS

I just watched TheHorse.com video Horse Protection Act (AAEP 2009 TheHorse.com/video.aspx?VID=335) and it referred mostly to the walking and racking horses. Does Dr. Cezar not know any other breeds and that soring is nationwide in many, many breeds?

Quarter Horses have had alcohol injected into the tail nerve to prevent "switching" as they work. And the Saddlebred industry has some the most exaggerated gaits and mechanicals in the world. Has she seen the surgical tubing strung between a Saddlebred's front hooves get caught, tangled

up, or wrapped around back legs?

The implication that only gaited breeds are sored is insulting, neglectful, and proves many people have "tunnel vision," while horses of other breeds also suffer with no hope of rescue or respite.

I've watched horses too obviously sored come strutting through the ring in agony, wild eyed and sweating, and then walk away with a blue ribbon! I've seen Quarter Horses cutting cows with paralyzed tails. I've seen promoted "calm" Saddlebreds have their drugs wear off in the ring.

Someone needs to kick that "Horse Protection Act" into high gear and stop making laps on the "little track." Take it on the road. Horses are other places than in "Gaited Country," and they need help, too.

Phyllis Lewis
Greensburg, Ky.

Letters should be e-mailed to Letters@TheHorse.com, or mailed to The Horse, PO Box 919003, Lexington, KY 40591-9003. Letters may be edited for space limitations and must include the author's name and contact information.

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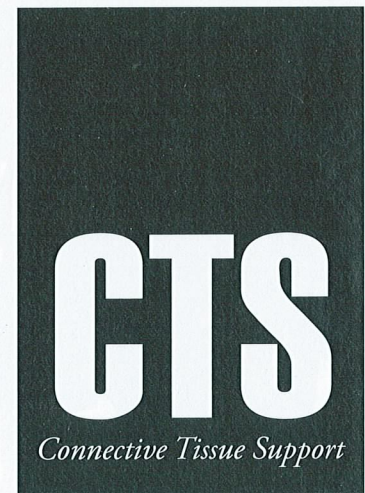
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