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### Western Chapter President's Message

Our veterinarian just left. We had her here to look at one of our horses for a founder issue (among other things). While here we had a discussion about the availability of vets and she told me an interesting statistic, only 2% of graduating vets go into large animal practice. One of the (if not the most important) cause is financial. Vet school is expensive, and most students wind up with significant student loan debt. Couple this with the fact that small animal practice pays significantly more (sometimes double or more) than large animal, small animal vets work inside with predictable hours (no freezing barns with a 2 AM colic), and don't have to drive miles before seeing the next patient, as opposed to having a vet tech do all the preliminaries, it's understandable why this percentage is so low.

Additionally, clients for large animal vets also include cows, sheep, llamas etc. so it's not only equines that are served by these folks. So, as older vets begin to retire, the supply of replacements is shrinking rapidly. Should horse owners be worried?? **absolutely.**

I don't have an answer to this fast-approaching problem but there are a few things to consider. First, develop a good relationship with your vet. Don't call only if there is an absolute emergency. Do all the preventative work that's needed such as shots, deworming teeth etc. Second, pay your bill in a timely fashion. Based on personal experience I can guarantee that if there are two emergency calls, one that is a "good" client and one who is a "deadbeat" the "good" client will get good service and the deadbeat may not get service at all.

Third, be aware of other vets in the area, so if yours retires or decides to go into a more lucrative small animal practice you will have already identified some solutions. And lastly, be aware that the potential exists that in an emergency there may not be a local vet available and, if extreme, you may need to transport your horse to an equine facility such as Cornell or Equine Veterinary Hospital in Burton, Ohio. In this event you also will need transportation, so be sure your truck and trailer are available and in good running condition (it's about a three hour trip either way). And if you don't have your own rig, make sure you've already identified a couple of people who would be willing to haul for you.

**On another matter**, the Western Chapter, under our bylaws, will need to have our annual general membership meeting for 2022. We are currently working on how this can be accomplished (whether in person or via Zoom or another internet method) and will keep you posted via e-mail and the website.

Finally, I would like to share some comments from a regional vice president of another club I belong to. He said: "Being a leader in a volunteer organization can be a profoundly eye-opening experience. No one "works" for you. You are not the boss. You cannot fire anyone. And you must learn how to motivate people for a common goal. The world is emerging from a pandemic; people want to re-engage with one another. Demand for events is increasing and so will be the need for volunteer leaders."

I would like to encourage all of our members to step up and be one of those leaders. Some of our members have already stepped up to help and we could certainly use more.

President: Peter Tarnawskyj - [Tarnawskyj.peter@yahoo.com](mailto:Tarnawskyj.peter@yahoo.com)

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### Newsletter Editor

I would like to thank Ann Czapl, for taking the newsletter over for the last year or more, however I am now going to be doing it again starting with the first issue of 2023. Barb Cunningham

## **Western Chapter Events Being Planned for 2023**

**In the planning stages, please make recommendations**

### **NEW PAVILION AT KNOX EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

The East Aurora Driving Society, (EADS) hosted the East Aurora Carriage Drive and Competitions at Knox Park from 1979- 2018 but due to changes in the economy, we have spent this last year selling or giving away the equipment used to host driving activities. The beautiful gazebo was donated to The Friends of Knox Park for photo opportunities at their events.

The EADS board of directors voted to use the remaining funds to build a pavilion at the Chur Equestrian Center at Knox Park. We submitted a request for a permit in November of 2019. Due to the Covid pandemic there was a delay in getting our plans approved and obtaining a building permit from the NYS Parks department. Finding a builder was also a challenge. We want to thank the community and our equestrian friends for their unwavering support throughout the years. The 20'x30' pavilion will be built at the equestrian area of the park the week of October 24th. We hope that the public will enjoy using this facility for all kinds of activities & family gatherings, with or without a horse.

You will need to provide your own tables and chairs.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank everyone that donated, exhibited, and or volunteered to help us sponsor the many activities we held at the park. Many of you have been generously supporting the equestrian area by purchasing TOPS GIFT CARDS over the past several decades. I want to Thank You very much for your support. It has helped allow the Chur Family Equestrian Center to be immaculately maintained. A special thank you to Mr. David Gunner, Supervisor for the Town of Aurora Highway Dept., who sends his crew over to mow, weed eat and fertilize, etc. on a regular basis. I hope the various equine groups will continue to use the area. For those of you that don't know, the Neil and Barbara Chur Family donated the funds to build the equestrian area, draining the wet lands, putting in drain tile, the pond and erecting the split railed fenced rings, for us to enjoy. It's a beautiful park and we need to use it or lose access to it. I hope some of you will host a horse show or trail ride, or just go for a ride and enjoy the camaraderie of friends.

I, Liz O'Donnell, and Linda Tarnawskyj will continue selling the TOPS GIFT CARDS to support the maintenance and improvements of the equestrian fields at Knox. For Liz: text 716-380-5724 or email: eod892@gmail.com or Linda 716-655-1796 or email: ltpfarm@yahoo.com to lend your support. TOPs Markets generously donates 5% of the dollar amount of cards sold. Thank you to those who support this worthy cause.

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### **Update: Input needed from Equestrians for New Master Plan for Erie County Forest on Genesee Rd. in East Concord**

The Erie County Bureau of Forestry was established in 1927 in response to the acquisition of several thousand acres of forest and non-forest lands. Much of this area was abandoned farmland and is located in various areas of the County; mostly in Concord and Holland. The purpose of the Bureau is to manage and protect these properties for multiple use activities including: forest management, recreation, water quality, wildlife habitat, wood products and maple syrup production. Forests are one of the only renewable resources we have. They provide many benefits including: soil stabilization, improved air quality, homes for several species of reptiles, birds and mammals and providing raw materials for lumber. A series of trails are specially designed for equestrian use and snowmobiling (<http://www.wnysnowtrails.com/>). The twenty year Master Plan for the Erie County Forest was completed in 2003. That means it is due to begin being updated in the near future. If you want the horse trails expanded, where do you want them to be? If you want a mounting block in the meadow or any other amenities for horses, we need to know what you

want or need. When I have an idea who is interested in getting involved with this project, I will reach out to the foresters with a list of names and contact info. I'm hoping to hear from some interested horse people who know their way around this forest. I have been lost there more than once. Please email me at cs4trails@gmail.com or call me at 716-694-3488. Happy trails and happy holidays.

Submitted by Carol Schmelz

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### **We May Not be 20 Anymore but Still Riding with a Little help from our Friends**

To all my horse friends especially those I ride with. Remember as we age we all do so differently. Some of the folks you may still be riding with may need a little extra help as they age due to acquired handicaps. At 70 sometimes I need help lifting my saddle onto my horse, as neither of my shoulders have good range of motion, also need a mounting block to get on and off- (getting off sometimes I need a friend to spot for me to be sure my foot is going to hit the right place as I step down). Other folks may be short of breath and need help tacking up. Some may have hip problems making it hard to throw their leg over the cantle. I am sure some of you can add to this list, but want you all to know how much the little extra things you do to help your old friends keep riding is so important to us. Thanks to all my riding buddies who understand.

Submitted by Barb Cunningham

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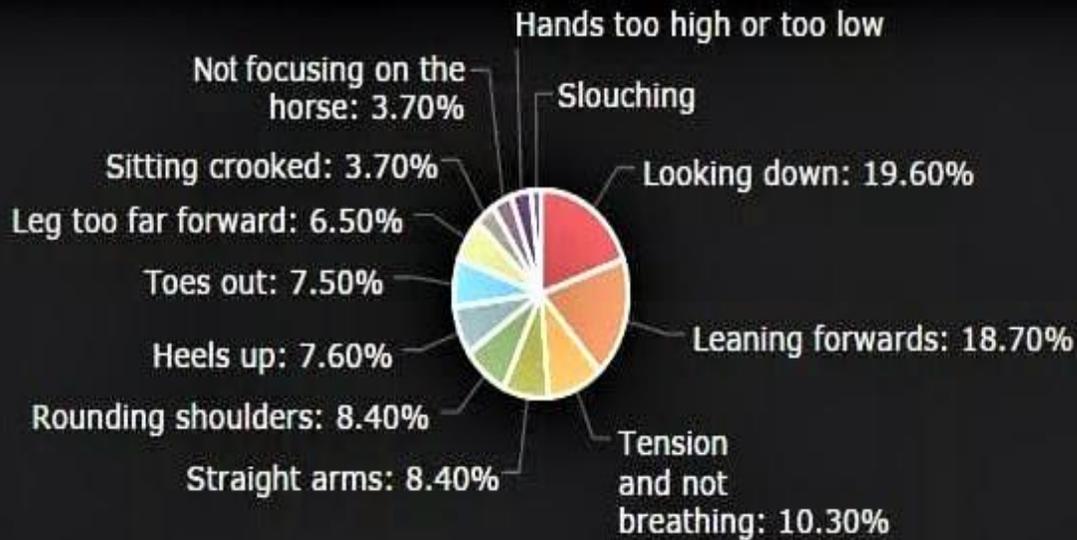
### **Which way should the clips in a quick-clip front closure face?**



The opening of the quick-clip should always face in towards the horse to help prevent the opening from getting caught on anything in his stall or his turnout.

# Top 12 Most Common BAD RIDING HABITS

Powered by [www.honesthorseriding.com](http://www.honesthorseriding.com)



Looking down	19.6	Leaning forwards	18.7
Tension and not breathing	10.3	Straight arms	8.4
Rounding shoulders	8.4	Heels up	7.6
Toes out	7.5	Leg too far forward	6.5
Sitting crooked	3.7	Not focusing on the horse	3.7
Hands too high or too low	3.7	Slouching	1.9

(c) Honest Horse Riding

## Up Coming Event

- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022 AT 12 PM – 4 PM MKQH Annual Tack Swap, Crafts, Basket Raffle & Chowder Sale.** Located at MK Quarter Horse Ranch 4430 Chestnut Rd. Wilson, NY 14172

- Oct 28th – Oct 30<sup>th</sup> **Bridle Path Manor Trick Or Trot Horse Show**

**Location:** Showplex For a schedule and more information, visit their Facebook page.



**Websites That Provide Information On Their Respective Breed Or Special Interest:**

[www.quarterhorsesnews.com](http://www.quarterhorsesnews.com)

[www.shire-horse.org.uk](http://www.shire-horse.org.uk)

[www.appaloosa.com](http://www.appaloosa.com)

[www.ialha.org](http://www.ialha.org) andalusian-lusitano

[www.equinenow.com](http://www.equinenow.com)

[www.uslipizzan.org](http://www.uslipizzan.org)

[www.morganhorse.com](http://www.morganhorse.com)

[www.icelandics.org](http://www.icelandics.org)

[www.thoroughbreddailynews.com](http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com)

[www.percheronhorse.org](http://www.percheronhorse.org)

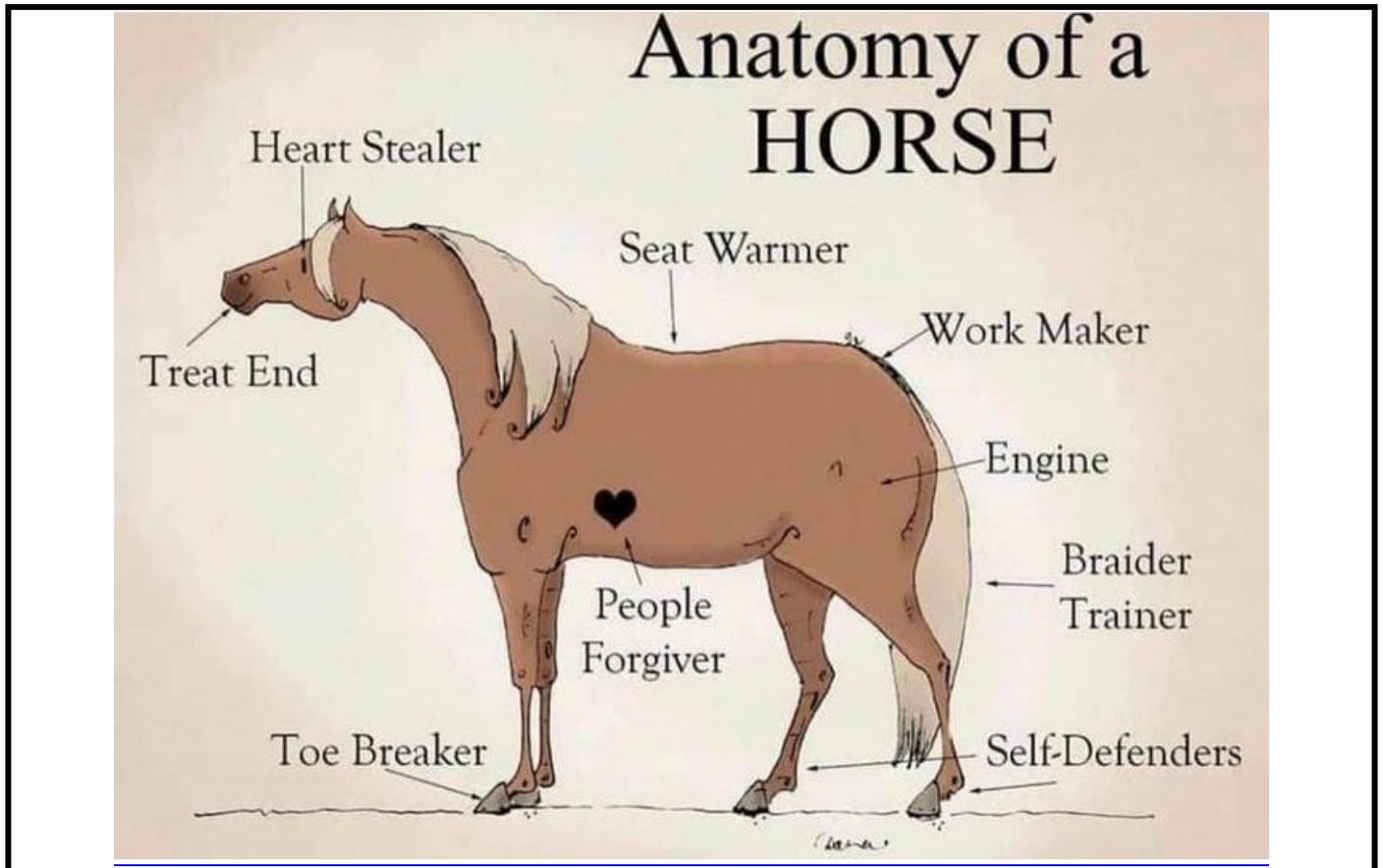
[www.pfha.org](http://www.pfha.org) paso

[www.rmhorse.com](http://www.rmhorse.com) rocky mountain horse

[www.americanfriesianassociation.com](http://www.americanfriesianassociation.com)

[www.americanwarmblood.com](http://www.americanwarmblood.com)

You may have thought you knew the parts of the horse but below is what is REAL!



## EQUINE TERMINOLOGY

- **ACTION:** The way a horse moves
- **AIDS:** Signals given to the horse with hands, voice, legs and weight
- **Balk:** when a horse refuses to move or do what the rider wants
- **CANTER:** The three-beat gait that is faster than trot but slower than gallop
- **CANTLE:** Back part of the saddle seat.
- **CONCUSSION:** continuous banging of the horse's feet on hard ground
- **CONDITION:** a horse's overall health and fitness
- **DORSAL STRIPE:** A black stripe down the back of the horse
- **DUN:** A yellowish coat color with a dorsal stripe down back
- **EQUUS CABALLUS:** The scientific name for the horse
- **EVENTING:** A competition involving three disciplines of dressage, cross-country, and show jumping.
- **FEATHER:** The tuft of hair on the horse's fetlock
- **FENDER:** The area above the stirrup on Western saddles
- **FROG** The V-shaped part of the horse's foot which acts as a shock absorber
- **GAITS:** The different ways that horses travel. The main gaits are walk, trot, canter, gallop.
- **GAITED HORSE:** A horse that is either born or trained to do gaits other than the four regular ones
- **GASKIN:** The muscle above the hock in the horse's hind leg
- **GYMKHANA:** An event or show that consists of games on horseback.
- **HAND:** A unit of 10 cm (4 in) used to measure the height of a horse. Horse height is measured at highest point of withers.
- **HAY NET:** A loosely woven rope bag made to hold hay.
- **LEADING REIN:** Inside rein
- **LOUNGE:** Exercising a horse on the end of a lounge line
- **NEAR SIDE:** The left-hand side of a horse
- **OFFSIDE:** The right-hand side of a horse.
- **PAINT:** A breed of horse that usually has pinto coloration. Some solids do occur.
- **PINTO:** A coat pattern with large blotches of white and black or another color over body. Any breed may be a pinto.
- **POLL:** The highest point of the horse, located in between ears.
- **TRANSITION:** A change in gait.
- **VICE:** Any bad habit a horse may have
- **XENOPHON:** A Greek man known as 'The Father of Classical Equitation' (430-ca 335 B.C.). He wrote the first fully preserved manual on the care of the riding horse- "The Art of Horsemanship".
- **ZEBRA MARKS:** stripes on the legs, withers, neck or rump of some primitive breeds; may occur on gruels.



Hats off to Western Chapter Board member **Larry Thurber** for being one of the judges at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Oct. 8-15, 2022



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### Do You Know?

- Horses will show affection by gently blowing air on each other through their nostrils. ... When a horse blows on your face, it is a sign they see you as a trusty companion. Horses will breathe in your face if they see you as part of their family. It is one of the top ways horses show affection to the ones they love.
- Horses can't breathe through their mouth- Horses are “obligate nose breathers” meaning that they can only breathe through their nose
- Horses can sleep standing up -Horses have what's called a “stay-apparatus” which is a system of tendons and ligaments that allows the horse to lock their legs in position so they can relax without falling over
- Horses have lightning fast reflexes -Should a situation arise when they need to fight, they can go from standing still to delivering a powerful kick in just 0.3 seconds, whereas human reaction time is 1.6 second
- Horses have 10 different muscles in their ears -This allows them to rotate nearly 180 degrees and move independently of one another. Humans only have three muscles in their ears.

- Horses have a nearly 360 degree field of vision -This is due to the positioning of their eyes on the sides of their head. However, they have two blind spots – one directly behind them, and the other just in-front and below their nose
  - Horses do not have teeth in the middle of their mouth
  - Horses are highly intelligent animals -They can be taught many different tasks through positive reinforcement
  - The earliest ancestor of the horse is estimated to have lived 55 million years ago -This ancestor was only the size of a Labrador retriever. Horses were domesticated around 6000 years ago
  - Horses have a fixed pelvis, so they cannot do the splits- They do have some lateral movement though, allowing them to scratch their ears with their hind feet.
  - Horses are very social animals -Since horses are prey species, they find safety in a herd and form strong social relationships with each other. They use their senses to recognize familiar horses and spend time with those they have formed friendships with. In the wild, one horse will stand guard to keep watch while the other horses in the herd take time to eat, rest and sleep.
  - Horses have no gag reflex. They can't throw up. In fact, they can't even burp... their system is strictly a one way path
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### **To Blanket or Not to Blanket**

With winter approaching the to blanket or not to blanket discussions are again being discussed. Blankets tend to compress a coat's layers, which compromises their insulating properties. Horses that do not live in extremely cold environments – meaning routinely colder than 10°F – will do well without a blanket, provided they are either stalled during the coldest temperatures or have access to a protective shelter. If you decide you want to blanket your horse here are some tips to keep in mind.

- Only apply blankets to clean, dry horses.
  - Use the appropriate blanket for the appropriate use. A turnout blanket is for use during turnout and is designed to be waterproof. Horses that live in the elements wearing blankets should wear waterproof and breathable blankets. A blanket that is not waterproof will quickly become saturated, making your horse cold – the opposite of the desired effect with blanket use.
  - If you have decided to blanket, use the blanket weight that is most appropriate for your horse's needs and the weather conditions. If it's 40 degrees, your horse probably only needs a lightweight blanket. If it's 10 degrees below zero, he might prefer a heavyweight blanket.
  - Sweating in a blanket on a hot day can be just as problematic as wearing a non-waterproof blanket in wet weather.
  - Remove your horse's blanket and groom on a regular basis.
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### **Nutrition in Winter Months**

In winter months horses should be given at least 1.5 to 3% of their body weight in some form of forage; it could be in the form of long stem hay, chopped hays, forage based cubes, or combinations thereof. They should also have access to salt at all times and unlimited ice free water.

## Are you ready for 2023 Riding?

It may be too cold to enjoy riding but there are things you can do so you will be ready in the spring.

- Winter is a good time to clean your tack and equipment and do any needed repairs.
- Have you renewed your memberships to the riding clubs, breed clubs, and horse council
- You can plan to go to one of the Equine Affairs, <https://equineaffaire.com/events/ohio/> (November 10<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2022- Massachusetts Equine Affaire) or (April 13<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 Ohio Expo Center Columbus Ohio)
- Take a look at the NYSHC Website and look at NYSHC Equestrian Trails Guide (<https://nyshc.org/trails.php>) You may find a new place you want to ride.
- Take a day trip with your friends to the local tack store.

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### The Western Chapter Wants to Hear from You

Seems like since Covid we have not done very much; well, I think it is time to start back with some of the normal things. We are planning in January to start having Board meetings in person again. I will send out the announcements of where and when on Amy Hewson so she can post it for all to see. If you are not on her e-mail list you can contact at Amy Hewson at [sweetapplefarm@gmail.com](mailto:sweetapplefarm@gmail.com) by e-mail and request you be added. (Amy sends out so much great information for us equestrians.)



Amy Thanks for all the information you pass on to so many.

Along with the WC getting meetings going again we would love to have some new board members who want to take an active role in planning events in our area. Over the last couple of years, we have had Jeff Wilson do some Western Dressage clinics, but what else are you folks interested in doing?

- More trail rides and picnics
- Clinics on “basic riding and horse care”
- Obstacle events/clinics
- Ranch horse Clinics
- English Riding (perhaps something on Jumping)

Please contact me- 716-735-3529 or cell 716-225-1014, text or e-mail [Barbcunningham11@gmail.com](mailto:Barbcunningham11@gmail.com).

### Western Chapter Business Membership's Free Listing

Organization	Service	Contact	Phone
Allegany Mountain Saddlery/ Nash Hill Equestrian	Custom Made Saddles/ Boarding/lessons/training	Staci Saulter	(716) 257-9543
American Heritage Morgan Farm	Breeding/sales of Morgans	Donna Fox	(585) 735-5322
Amy Hanssen Training Center Inc	Boarding/Lessons	Amy Hanssen	(716) 735-7988
Begin Again Horse Rescue, Inc	Equine Rescue	Harriet Rubins	(585)322-2427
Big House Stables	Lessons/boarding/centered riding	Susan Kelley	(585)-507-3397
Clyde's Feed & Animal Center	Feed Store-horses and pets	Jim Millspaugh	716.648.2171
Equine Essence	Therapy And Training	Nancy Proulx	(716)481-9812
Farm Family Insurance, a division of American National Insurance	Insurance	Jenny Lunderg	(585) 802-5222
Genesee Valley Equine Clinic	Equine Veterinary Practice	Amy Leibeck	(585)889-1170
Green Mountain Nutritional Services, Inc	Supplements	Jim Miller	(716)523-0018
Ike Fencing	Fencing	Kim Dauria	(704).258.1193
J&K Agriculture Inc	Fencing	Joellen Stender	(716)-337-3548
Jeff Wilson Cowboy Dressage	Training/Clinics/Lessons	Jeff Wilson	(607)-435-8076
JTB Equine Care Solutions	Riding Instruction & Training will come to you.	Jennifer Berard	(716) 512-2602
Kinship With Horses, LLC	Training/lessons/clinics	Gail Pearles	(716) 982-5180
Laurelin Farm	Lessons & Trains with harmony for horse & human	Caroline North	(716)532-9434
Lollypop Farm, Humane Society of Greater Rochester	Provides Shelter and Rehoming for animals	Lauren Guerrera	(585)223-1330 x193
Lorick Stables	Breeding, Training, Sales and Showing of Friesian Horses	Gareth Selwood	(716)745-3611
Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center	Therapeutic Riding	Maggie Keller	(716)-655-1335
MK Quarter Horses	Lessons, Training, Boarding, Breeding, Foaling, Rodeo	Melissa Koser	(570) 204-5281
Massage & More Equine Therapy, LLC	Equine Massage	Terry Crisafulli	(716).474.6786
Orchard Park Equestrians	Lessons, Boarding	Istvan Hernek	(716)-667-7669
Royalton Equine Veterinary Services PC	Equine Veterinary Practice	Jeanne Best	(716)629-8384

Sand Meadow Farm	Breeding and selling Icelandic Horses	Andrea & Steve Barber	(585) 624-4468
Sedona Rose Ranch	Boarding	Brenda Martin	(716)374-4943
Springville Veterinary Services	Equine Veterinary Practice	Joseph Tashjian	(716)592-0070
Sunshine Horses, Inc.	Adoption and Rescue	Mary Minkoff	(315)-456-9380
Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun	Trail Rides, Lessons, Training/ Host Events	Bryttany Ward	(585)-786-3504

**Do You Know Who These Members Are?**



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Lancaster, NY 14086