

NOV / DEC 2009

The OBR Voice



Outback Riders of Wisconsin – Oconto County

First Things, First!

The Outback Riders would like to **WELCOME** our New Members: Margie & Patrick Newmeyer family!

IN THE NEWS! On December 12th a few of our OBR Members and friends participated in the Suamico Parade of Lights. This was not an OBR Sponsored Event just a

group of horse people out for some fun ~ and fun was had by all! Six horses, six riders, one goat, two horse apple retrievers and three walkers enjoyed a wonderful evening. Battery operated Christmas lights and Sparkling Capes lit the night!

Santa awarded the group Grand Marshall-First Place!



Christmas Greetings!

Hope everyone is enjoying the snow!

To Blanket or Not To Blanket?

A well-fed horse can manage at temperatures down to 40 below zero Fahrenheit if there's no wind and he's not wet. Wind ruffles the hair and destroys its insulating quality. The direction in which the hair grows, along with the oil glands that waterproof the hair, help to keep a horse dry in rain and snow. The hair coat can form ice on the outer surface without the skin becoming chilled. Long winter hair traps a layer of warm body heat between the skin and the cold air.

When it's cold, tiny muscles in the skin make the hair stand up fluffy, increasing the insulating effect, and blood vessels near the skin constrict, conserving body heat by keeping the blood closer to the warm interior of the

body, not allowing heat to escape from blood vessels near the skin surface.

A normal winter hair coat is much more insulating than most horse blankets. Adding a heavy blanket can make a horse colder because it flattens out his hair and destroys the insulating effect.

Blanketing may be necessary, however, for a clipped horse, a horse recovering from injury or for one moved north during winter without a chance to grow an efficient, heavy coat.

Horses have a normal body temperature of about 100 degrees Fahrenheit. They maintain this temperature in cold weather with the help of several mechanisms which include shivering, changes

in hormone levels, increased body metabolism, increased digestion of fiber, growing longer and thicker hair which can stand up on the skin to make a layer of insulating air pockets, increased feed consumption, and increased activity.

Did you know: adding more fiber or more protein to the diet can help a horse keep warm because the process of digesting these nutrients produces heat

Cold horses on a frosty morning often run and buck to warm up. Although this maybe beautiful and entertaining, a quick vitals check is a good idea. This will also give you the chance to check for snow build up on their hooves.



Krissi & Jac



Sophia & Scout
Sara & Paco



Now that's the way
to bring home your
Christmas Tree!

November 17th Meeting Minutes

NEW Business:

21 members were in attendance.

Goal: To set a 2010 Yearly Calendar of Events!

As Jackie, President was unable to attend – Patty Wisneski, Vice President stepped in to lead the meeting.

The Club discussed:

- * OBR relationships with Oconto County

- * OBR Teams, adding team guidelines and boundaries to the Bylaws.

- * The Membership Fee for 2010, asking for member's commitment to work an agreed number of hours, to find an incentive.

OBR Prize – There will be two at the January Meeting!

OBR CLUB MEETING!

Tuesday, JANUARY 19th
Chase Town Hall at 7pm

Treasurer Report

presented by Cindy Couillard

Balance as of 10/20/09
\$3335.50



Carol Reinhard provided a written request for a donation to be made by the Outback Riders to the Town of Chase Stone Barn Fund. "People everywhere in the state love this barn!"

The motion for 100 to be donated was granted by a majority vote.

NOTE: Address Change

Outback Riders of WI
PO Box 287
Suamico, WI 54173

The President and Treasurer are responsible for the keys



Winterizing Tips for Your Vehicle

#1 Ice-Proof your windows with Vinegar! Fill a spray bottle with 3:1 Vinegar to water. Spritz on your car windows at night and in the morning, they'll be clear of ice. The Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water, preventing water from freezing. If you forget to spray the windows at night, just spray the mixture on your icy windows and watch it melt! Be careful not to spray your paint!

#2 Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol. If your windshield

wipers are squeaking or are leaving streaks, wipe them with a cloth saturated in rubbing alcohol. It cuts the buildup of grease and grime, the main culprit that prevent wipers from working properly. Be careful not to spill on your paint!

#3 Fog-proof your interior windshield with shaving cream! Shaving cream creates a protective film on the glass that prevents fogging. Spray and wipe clean. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

#4 Keep your headlights clear with car wax! The wintry mix of slush, snow and road salt can really do a number on your headlights. If the "stuff" sticks, it can dangerously reduce your visibility. Wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights. One application will last for weeks! Feel free to wax the rest of your vehicle. Your paint will appreciate the gesture!

IN PURSUIT OF PROGRESS

OBR Team Sign-up Sheets were a success!

Message from Cindy:

Thank you all for your willingness to get involved and make a difference!

Feel free to recruit additional members that weren't able to attend the November meeting. Please contact your teammates in the near future to schedule a team meeting and select a team captain. January 19th will be our next club meeting. We'll all be looking forward to the team reports!

Here are the OBR 2010 Team Members

DONATIONS TEAM

No members currently.
Anyone willing?

FUN TEAM

Debbie Rogier
Patty Wisneski

Yearly calendar goals
are requested

PRADE TEAM

Bonnie King
Gail Stranz
Krissi Stranz

Theme, pooper-scoopers,
participation and
professionalism were
discussed at the meeting

RAFFLE TEAM

Cindy Arendt
Debbie Rogier
Judy Verkuilen

All in Favor Vote for
a 2010 Raffle

XMAS PARTY TEAM

Gwen Kanies
Cindy Couillard

JANUARY 16th OBR Winter Round-Up

Starts at 6:00 pm
Location: Wouter's Front
on HWY B in Saumico

RSVP to Cindy by Jan 8th
920-662-2667

SHOW TEAM

Cindy Arendt
Traci Balza
Ali Dretzka
Janelle Hulce
Bonnie King
Gail Stranz
Krissi Stranz

The 2-Day Show has
been advertised in the
Oconto County Magazine

WELCOME TEAM

Amanda Bornfleth
Cindy Couillard
Gwen Kanies
Patty Wisneski

Each 2010 Member
will receive a complete
member packet

TRAIL TEAM

Cindy Arendt
Alan & Janet Bird
Cindy Couillard
Scott Glover
Donne & Cathy Hansen
Janelle Hulce
Gwen Kanies
Kathy McNeill
Carol Reinhard
Debbie Rogier
Glenn & Patty Wisneski

Yeehaw! Look at the
Support for our
Trail System!

Thank You Carol! for volunteering to be the OBR Official Trail Log Keeper!

The club discussed to
following items pertaining to
the Trail Team:

Grant Ideas are NEEDED
by MARCH 1st!

New Information Kiosk, with
Camping Permits and
payment tube

Additional Breaker Run
for the new parking lot
to prevent an on-going
mud hole.

Make the Campsites larger
and more visible

Update the existing trail map

Place maps on steel
markers with GPS
coordinates, maybe on
podiums

*Long Term Goal: New
Bathroom Facility*



*Skijoring, or ski driving,
is a winter sport that
originates in Scandinavia,
where it has been
practiced for centuries
using reindeer.*

*In the mid 1950's,
skijoring found its way
to North American
where ranchers
attached a tow rope
to the saddle horn of a
horse that was ridden at
high speeds down a
long, straight track.*

*In addition to being a
unique way of winter
travel, it is also a
competitive sport in the
Midwestern States.*

*Skijoring is sometimes
classified as an extreme
sport because of the high
rate of speed and potential
danger involve.*

*Horses used for skijoring
tend to be extremely
agile and quick.*

*The American Quarter
Horse is favored
for the sport.*

Outback Riders

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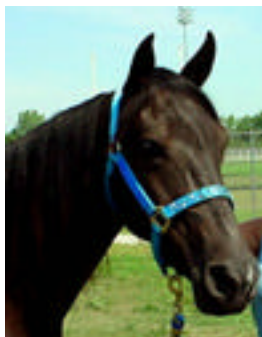
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.outbackriderswi.org

Guess who my mom is?



Is IT, or Isn't IT COLIC?

Every decision you make~ from the first moment you notice something wrong to postoperative care~ can impact your horse's colic recovery... The changes were subtle, but nevertheless concerning. "He" was always attentive, playful almost, wrapping his neck around you and giving you a kind of hug, straining his neck to reach you, but that evening he ignored me and just stared, looking distracted and vaguely uncomfortable. He wasn't swaying, pawing, or looking at his stomach, but when I listened to his belly, I heard nothing. I trailered him to a veterinary hospital an hour away. I could be overreacting, but my hunch was right: The veterinarian said, "it is Colic and immediate surgery, is necessary!"

That's the trouble with colic: You just can't always tell what you're dealing with.

Sometimes it's pretty obvious something is painfully wrong and your veterinarian should be called. Other times mild clinical signs might accurately reflect a mild colic that easily and quickly responds to minimal management without a vet even seeing the horse. Then there are those times when mild clinical signs do not indicate the severity of a problem that could result death if treatment is delayed.

Do you know what to do--and just as importantly, what not to do--if your horse displays vague, mild, or serious signs of what might be colic? How do you handle the situation? Actions to take/avoid with your horse's recovery plan? How to minimize the risk for colic in the first place?

DO's and DON'Ts of COLIC

1. **DO check your horse's vital signs.** Check your horse's heart rate and rectal temperature. Also check his hooves for heat and his rump muscles for tightness: These may reflect laminitis and tying-up, respectively, which can mimic colic/abdominal pain.
2. **DO look for the presence of feces in the stall or pen,** Absent or reduced amounts of manure could indicate a problem.
3. **DO call your veterinarian immediately,** regardless of the severity or vagueness of the signs. Waiting too long could allow minor problems to become severe and severe problems to become untreatable.
4. **DON'T use a wait-and-see approach** before talking with your veterinarian. If a horse is painful because of excess fluid in his stomach, the horse could rupture his stomach; once this occurs, there is no treatment that will save him.
5. **DO closely monitor your horse** for as long as it takes. Many people have the misconception that they can go and do errands and come back in a couple of hours to see how the horse is doing... your horse's clinical signs and condition can worsen very quickly. You've got to check your horse every 15 to 20 minutes.

While You Wait

6. **DO walk your horse,** if it's safe and recommended by your veterinarian, to stimulate gut motility and to prevent injury from rolling. More than 50% of mild colics will clear up with walking.
7. **DON'T exercise aggressively,** as vigorous exercise slows gut motility and can lead to exhaustion when the horse needs to retain fluid and energy.
8. **DON'T permit access to feed** (hay, grass, or grain), as food could exacerbate the problem.
9. **DO withhold access** to water until the veterinarian can examine the horse and pass a stomach tube. If the stomach is distended, allowing the horse to drink could result in a ruptured stomach.
10. **DON'T medicate without your veterinarian's approval,** as pain medications can mask clinical signs, making it more difficult to get a timely, accurate diagnosis.
11. **DO keep your horse contained in a safe area,** such as a small pasture or large box stall, where he can't get cast or knock into things.
12. **DO start thinking about preparing for trailering at the onset of clinical signs,** who can you call to borrow a trailer or to help you with transport? Are the trailer tires inflated, etc...

Heading to the Hospital and Risk Reduction Do's & Don't Coming Soon!