

NFF STABLES

# Horse Owner's News

OCTOBER



## Anticipation....

Those of you who are as old as I am remember the ketchup commercial. Is that song now stuck in your head?! Those of you who are younger than me are probably scratching your heads and wondering where I am going with this...

Right now at NFF, it's all about the anticipation...when will the new indoor arena be finished? We're sooo close, yet still have a few more weeks before it is operational! Frame is done, sides are on, roof is done, those cool roof vents are in place, the kickwall is built, the observation deck is done. But there's a few more finishing touches they need to complete: adding and leveling the base, adding and leveling the footing, hanging the doors, all the electric work, and then the sprinkler work. They are telling me two more weeks; I am telling everyone the indoor will be in use by

the time we set the clocks back!

I know we've been anticipating this new indoor arena since last January, and I really think the wait will be worth it! Thank you to everyone for their patience. I think we need to have a celebration party, don't you? The builder has asked us to put together a party and invite all our boarders...I'll keep you posted on the date!

Some other things we're anticipating: cooler weather, day time turnout (not yet!), pretty fall foliage and trail riding, and the end of fly and gnat season!

And just in case you're wondering what the person in the above picture is doing with ketchup and a horse's tail, well, go to page 2 to find out. And Google the song "Anticipation" by Carly Simon in the meantime!

## News around the Barn

**Welcome:** It's been since the end of July since I last did a newsletter, and we have a couple of new horses to welcome to our happy family: welcome Lady Isabelle (Izzy), owned by Krista Beal. Izzy is the pretty dark bay pony in field board. Also welcome to Skye, owned by Samantha Heller. Samantha and her sister, Sasha, both take lessons here, and are part of the junior fox-hunting program.

**Summer Recap:** It sure was a fun one: both camps were great - especially our fabulous Six-Day Camp with the Olympic theme. Our end of summer trip to the Warrenton Horse Show was a blast. Congratulations to Robert, Beth, Aleta, Katie and Liz on their ribbons.

**New Mommies:** Lioness (the cat) has done it again: three little kittens - this time in the round bales by the Upper Barn. Who wants a kitten? (and yes, I know, I need to get her fixed). We are also anxiously awaiting for one of our boarders to become a mommy: Kate (Bacardi's owner) is due any day now!

**Farwell:** We said good-bye to Sydney Therriault's Diego as he left for his new home as a therapy horse. Sydney is currently volunteering in Africa! We also shed a few tears as we said good-bye to Katie Jeffress (Lovey's owner) as she headed off to college in England!

# Tips and Tricks

Ok, you made it to page 2 to find out about ketchup and horse's tails. There's a lot of tricks horse people use, so I'll share some of them with you:

**Washing a tail with ketchup:** I have never tried this. Actually, I've never heard of this, but I had an idea for my cover story of this newsletter with the "Anticipation" theme and I was just going to Google a picture of ketchup. Instead, I googled "ketchup and horses" and all these articles popped up! Apparently, if you wash a light-colored tail with horse shampoo, rinse it out, then generously apply an entire bottle of ketchup to the tail and let it soak in for 30 minutes then thoroughly rinse, you'll have a white tail. Some people swear by it; others thought it was gross. Anyone want to try it? You can use Doc's tail if you wish!

Other bathing products (which I've actually tried!):

**Orvus Shampoo:** If you have really dirty white markings this is the shampoo you want to use. It's basically industrial strength and gets the dirt that is really deep down out. It is in a concentrated gel form and you need only to apply a small amount. Let it sit for a few minutes to do its job and then wash thoroughly. This will remove deep-down stains and leave legs perfectly white.

**Whisk:** Whisk, yes the laundry detergent, is a great whitening "shampoo." Just mix a capful in a large bucket of water and apply to a wet horse. Make sure to rinse well and not use too often as this may be drying to skin. It has optical brighteners built in that reflect light, making the horse look brighter.

And what about those burrs that all the horses have in their manes and tails?

**Pledge:** Believe it or not, this lemony wood cleaner works as a cheap and great tail detangler and adds brilliant shine all while repelling dirt. I like using it because it is not a silicone based product which tends to end up attracting dirt. Just spray it on the tail as needed to comb through tangles and when finished spray an extra coat to prevent the attraction of dust—voila, you have a tail that stays clean and tangle-free! Back in my day (the day when the song "Anticipation" was playing on the radio), we didn't have Show Sheen and always used Pledge...just not where the saddle goes (learned that one the hard way!)

**Baby Oil:** using baby oil also helps to get the burrs out. And another tip - wear surgical gloves so you don't get pricked by the burrs! And while you have the baby oil out, mix some in a bottle with Listerine: it works for that nasty tail itch that causes your horse to start rubbing out his precious tail. It also works for rain rot. The alcohol content seems to kill whatever is causing the itch as well as soothe the itching and stops rubbing.

**Vinegar:** After rinsing the shampoo off of your horse rinse them again with a solution of half white vinegar and half water. This will not only help repel flies but also helps to repel dirt and gives a great shine.

## Calendar

**Tuesday Talks:** We started these last spring, took a break over the summer, and the first Tuesday of September was the day after we got back from a week at Warrenton and we were too tired to do one. But now that our weekday lesson schedule is completely booked (yay, us!), I'm not sure how to figure a Tuesday Talk in once a month. One idea I had was to do a Facebook Live video. Would anyone watch it if I reminded you? Let me know your thoughts. One topic I want to cover is how to properly clean your tack.

**ISHS:** We held our first Inter-school Show here last Sunday. We finished up a bit after 4 p.m. We have another one October 23, then November 6, then December 11. So just one a month. I forgot to send out a reminder, but I will for the next one. And thank you to Jenny and Rhea for allowing us to use Bailey and Gallagher! Board credit to anyone who will let us use their horse for the day...any other takers?

**Barn Night:** Mark your calendars for October 27...Washington International Horse Show Barn Night! I'll send out more information closer to the show, but those who've gone with us before know we take it very seriously: matching t-shirts, posters and pom poms for cheering - and we have a blast! Last year NFF won for most spirited group, and we received a clinic with renowned rider Brianne Goutal. I'm in the planning stages of putting together our video for the video contest, and I'll send out an email when I start to film to ask for everyone's help!