

NFF STABLES

# Horse Owner's News

S U M M E R 1 7



## It's About Time!

**It's about time** I did a horse owner's newsletter...my last one was back in April! I try and do them every month, but I already know summer is going to be busy so I just labeled this one "Summer 17" to cover my bases!

My theme for this newsletter is "It's About Time", so here goes...

**It's about time** for the rain to end and the warm weather to get here! We had a quick blast of summer heat several weeks ago, which prompted us to get all the fans hung. Bring on the heat - we're ready!

Looks like the rain is over for a bit, so **it's about time** to get our fields cut! Last year we made hay off our front field board field and front full care field. This year? We're planning on making hay off all the full care fields and the back field board field! Our goal is 2000 bales of homemade, delicious hay. Equipment starts arriving this weekend!

**It's also about time** (ok, a bit past time) to mow the paddocks. Mowing should start this afternoon and continue Saturday and Sunday.

It was **about time** we took care of the grass cutting around the farm, and we are happy with our new guy! Our last year guy flaked out on us; found a new guy this year and he did a terrible job, but our newest guy gets the job!

**It's about time** the new paddock gets some use, and last weekend Sandy moved the blind Fortune and his sidekick Snippy. The jolly balls and blue barrels are to keep Fortune from whacking his head on the sharp corner of the barn. So far = so good!

**It's about time** to get a jump course set in the outdoor arena. Need to paint the jumps, but we have new rails, and now to find where I hid the jump pins!

And **it's about time** for summer! Hope to see you at the barn - a lot!

## News around the Barn

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Beth Roberts on her graduation from high school! Not only does Beth own the beautiful Mimi, she's our dedicated weekday barn worker. We're sure going to miss her when she leaves for Savannah to college this fall!

Congratulations to Robert (Zek's owner) for getting his driver's license (and his own car!) and for finishing up a successful varsity volleyball season.

Congratulations to Stephanie's sister, Lauren (Willie) on her recent marriage!

**Welcome back:** Lovey's owner Katie is back from England for the summer, and we're sure glad to have her back.

**Farewell:** We said good-bye a couple of horses over the past months - Meg moved her horse Schatzie to a barn closer to home, and Sasha's David returned home after his lease. Harmony also took her new horse Skipper to her house - but we still have her Lewie here!

**Gone But Not Forgotten:** we finally said good-bye to the old dog Huckleberry a few weeks ago. He lived 17 great years as a farm dog, and still came to work every day! We knew his grandparents, owned his mom and dad, and still have his son, Hush Puppy.

# Summer Hoof Care Tips

Many of us are thinking about heading to the beach this summer for vacation. One thing on my list of things to do before I leave is to get a pedicure...but summer means special attention to your horse's hooves, too!

Your horse's hooves can adapt well over time to conditions that are consistently dry or consistently damp, but hooves suffer when the environment fluctuates between wet and dry. Unfortunately, this is often the situation during the very months when you want to use him the most: late spring, summer, and early fall. Evening turnout - a summer strategy to avoid biting insects--puts hooves in prolonged contact with dew-soaked grass; they swell and soften with moisture, much as your fingernails soften after hours in water. Back in a dry, hot environment during the day, the hooves dry and contract. With repetition of this cycle, horseshoe nails loosen as their holes through the hoof wall enlarge slightly.

Such summer activities as work, stomping flies, or (if your horse is restless) walking the fence accelerate the loosening; pretty soon you're asking your farrier, "Why can't my horse keep his shoes on?"

There are a couple of things you can do to minimize this pattern: Reduce moisture absorption by applying Tuff Stuff to the lower two-thirds of his hooves before evening turnout. (But pass up conditioners that leave the hoof feeling oily; they can actually soften hoof wall if used frequently, and if applied before your farrier's visit, they make hooves harder for him to work on.) Avoid unnecessary baths. Sponging the sweat off your horse after schooling works just as well, without causing him to stand in a puddle for half an hour or more. Save the full-scale bath for just before the show. Toughen his soles with a daily application of Venice turpentine.

Shorten his summer shoeing schedule. A lost shoe often means hoof damage, which escalates the cycle of summer shoeing problems. Spacing your farrier's regular visits a week or so closer may avoid emergency calls. Pretty much all of the horses who use the NFF blacksmiths will have their visits at 4-5 weeks instead of the usual 6 in the summer.

## Odds and Ends

- Javier was here back in early May and dewormed everyone, boosted their flu/rhino vaccination, and gave them all a strangles vaccination. We should be good to go until August! Luckily, the EHV virus was contained, and there have been no new cases!
- Kittens...we still have 2 left if you, or anyone you know, wants a kitten. Arvin (who works with the blacksmith Edmond) is taking an orange one next week, and pretty sure Katie J is taking a grey one this weekend. That leaves a grey and a black one up for grabs! Lioness has never had a black kitten before - that one is my favorite!
- NFF Merchandise: I haven't placed the order yet, so if you want something, now's your chance! T-shirts, polo shirts, shorts, and of course sweat-shirts and jackets. Order forms are on the bulletin board where we post the lesson sheets in the Main Barn.
- Harmony should have some extra time this summer if your horse hasn't been seen by a dentist in the past year! Let me know if you want to schedule an appointment!

## Calendar

**June 12-17:** NFF Spirit Week! It's not just for lesson students - all you horse owners need to participate!

Monday: Matching Monday

Tuesday: Tie-Dye Tuesday

Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday

Thursday: Team Thursday

Saturday: Silly Saturday

**June 17-24:** Jen is on vacation (no Jen lessons/no training rides)

**June 26:** Summer lesson schedule begins: Monday, Tuesday and Fridays we'll have lessons from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays we have lessons from 4-7 p.m. And of course, all day on Saturdays.

**June 26-30:** 5-Day Camp 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**July 24-29:** Six-Day Camp (note Indoor Arena not available Saturday 7/29 until about 1 p.m.)

**July 29-August 5:** Jen is out of town (no Jen lessons/training rides).

## Vacations....

First, don't worry about a thing when you're on vacation! We'll take great care of your horse. But if you are going to be out of town for more than a few days, please let us know, and make sure we know how to reach you in case of an emergency. And never worry about when any of our staff goes out of town - we make sure there is always someone in charge. We're like the president and vice president - I never leave is Jen is going to be gone; she never leaves if I'm going to be gone.