HOOFBEATS

Monthly Newsletter from the **Jester Park Equestrian Center**

August 2015 • Issue VII

www.polkcountyiowa.gov/equestriancenter

DOTTIE

LESSON HORSE OF THE MONTH

Dottie holds a place in our hearts at the first "PCC-owned" pony that we purchased on our own at JPEC. Dottie is sweet and kind. Dottie is a multitasking, 10 year old POA mare. Dottie stands at 13 hh, and loves to work in our programs- especially our Tiny Tots lessons. She's always up for almost anything. Her jobs at JPEC include intermediate able-bodied and tiny tot lessons, driving, pony rides, birthday parties and special events. She is smart, willing, and works hard at whatever job she is given. Say hi to Dottie next time you visit JPEC!

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		Summer Camp - "Horse'n Around"				1 JPEC Barn Show
2	3	4 Summer Camp - "Horses in the Natural World"	5	6	7	8 JPEC Open Show
9 TTR Event	10 Summer Camp - "Let's Go To The Fair"	11	12	13	14	15 ACTHA Trail Event
16 TTR Event	17	18	19	20	21	22 Trail Camp Out
23 VT 30	24 / 31	25	26	27 "Ladies Night Out"	28	29 TTR Event

- **Special JPEC Sponsored Events**
  - TtR: Time to Ride Event
  - Overnight Trail Ride Series
  - JPEC Barn and Open Show
  - ACTHA Trail Challenge
- **VT = Volunteer Training**

Find a detailed calendar of events of all the happenings at JPEC on our facebook page!

HORSEY TERMS

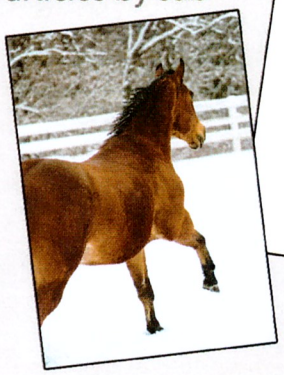
"Conformation":

(con·for·ma·tion)

If you hear someone talk about the "conformation" of a horse, they're talking about how the horse is built. It is important for a horse to have good conformation because it can make them have smooth, comfortable gaits to ride. Poor conformation can lead to a horse be sore and uncomfortable as they get older. Ask you instructor some ways to tell which horses have good conformation and how to tell when looking at a horse!

Share Your Talents!

We love when our students get involved! We would love for our students to be a part of our Hoofbeats articles by submitting drawings, poems, pictures, or anything else that they love about JPEC. These pictures could be featured throughout the year so keep your eyes peeled for your artwork in our Hoofbeats articles! Please submit artwork to **Molly.Mellinger@polkcountyiowa.gov** or you can hand it in during lessons!



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America's First Sport, Rodeo

Here at JPEC you can experience horses' in a variety of ways: trail rides, pony rides, and wagon rides are just a few. However, did you know that before we began using horses for pleasure, they were used in America for work? Tractor's and plows have now replaced the horse in farming, but using horse's for work in the ranching industry is still very much alive. From large ranches in New Mexico all the way up to Montana and other states throughout the US, horse's are still used to gather cattle, rope calves that have wandered from the herd, hold cattle for branding and administering vaccinations and a variety of other ways.

However, after a long day of hard work, these cowboy's and horses love to have a little fun. That's where the modern day sport of rodeo comes in. All seven events in rodeo today have originated from common, every-day activities that happen on a ranch. For example, in tie-down roping event, the cowboy atop his horse will run after a calf, rope it, and then tie three of the calves legs together. On the ranch, after the calf is tied, they would then brand it and vaccinate it. Once the work is done, the calf is untied and set free to go on its way. In another example, the event of saddle-bronc riding, which is also known as the classic event in rodeo, a cowboy climbs on the back of a wild horse which is standing in a chute with a saddle on its back, waiting to go head to head with this cowboy. The goal is for the cowboy to gain enough control of the horse to allow him to stay on board for eight seconds. The same idea is used on all young horses, they have to be trained to wear a saddle, and allow a rider to be on their back.

Rodeoing isn't just for the cowboy though, cowgirls can compete in any even the boys do. However, you'll see many of the girls partaking in the fast paced speed events with their horses. One event you may have heard of that is very popular is Barrel Racing. The horse's athleticism and mental condition and the rider's horsemanship skills are tested as they maneuver through a clover leaf pattern at top speed. The course consists of barrels placed in a triangle in the middle of an arena. The rider races into the arena with the timer starting when the team crosses the start line, and ends after completing the clover leaf pattern and racing to cross the finish line. The team that puts up the best time with tight turns, explosiveness, communication and no overturned barrels wins.

The sport of rodeo is very much alive in all 50 states, as well as in other countries throughout the world. In Iowa, there are 12 professional rodeo's and over 100 amateur rodeo's at different times through the year. If you've never experienced the exhilarating action of the toughest sport on dirt, go check it out and get a glimpse of how horse's can be used in so many ways!

OUR JESTER PARK EQUESTIAN CENTER PHILOSOPHY

We believe in creating well educated horse people from the ground up, focusing on not only riding, but many aspects of horse care and handling. Our students are encouraged to ask questions, set goals, and actively participate in their equine education.

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