



THE ROUNDUP

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Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.

February 2019

A NEW YEAR HAS STARTED

President's Message

We are more than a month into 2019, and I wonder, how many New Year's resolutions have already been forgotten? I stopped making them years ago, the promises to eat better, exercise more, worry less... Sigh, they never seem to become a part of my daily routine.

RVHA may not make resolutions, but we DO care about what members want and strive to incorporate the voices of the majority into our year of decisions. A new survey will be coming soon to learn more about our everchanging membership. We'll be asking questions to learn who you are, why you joined the RVHA, what we do right and what we can do better. The board will then discuss your responses and make choices for 2019 and the coming years. We do hope each of you will take the time to answer the questions so we'll have a wide range of information to work with.

We are in the final stages of planning our spring dinner dance for March 23rd. This year Reigning Grace Ranch has offered to host our event. Rain or shine the event will happen as they now have a covered arena in case of bad weather. We'll have a silent auction for our annual fundraising efforts and a new band for your listening and dancing pleasure. Watch for upcoming details.

Thank you for being a part of this fabulous community organization and for those who haven't renewed their membership for 2019, we hope you'll take care of that little detail right away. Details are on page 21 of this Roundup.

Happy trails,

Terry Stecyk



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HAULING HORSES IN WINTER

Submitted by Jo Christensen
Arizona Equine Rescue Organization

Temperatures inside horse trailers are a concern to most endurance riders I know. We tend to haul very long distances, both in the heat and in the cold. I had to do some winter hauling. Before I left I installed a temperature monitor inside my horse trailer. What I discovered was surprising and fascinating, and changed my mind about what I thought was going on back there. So I decided to share what I learned for anyone who might appreciate the information.

I hauled two horses about 6 hours through the mountains in western Montana to a veterinary facility in another town. I was concerned about temperatures for the horses before I left. Forecast temperatures along some of the route were in the low single digits. My horses have very good winter coats but

I was trying to decide whether to blanket or not. I recently switched to a gooseneck trailer and realized that I had no idea what hauling conditions in the winter were like there.

I bought an inexpensive temperature monitor with a base station, the kind folks hang out on the porch so they can see what outdoor conditions are like without going outside. Before I put it into use in the trailer, I verified its accuracy by comparing its readings to some equipment I know is very accurate.

I hung the sensor in a mesh bag (good air flow) about halfway up the side of the wall in the trailer that encloses the rear tack room. I didn't put it on the roof (heat rises) or near the floor (cold air sinks). My trailer is a 3-horse slantload, and I put it in the stall that did not have a horse in it. It was



not hanging on an exterior wall. My trailer is not insulated and has no living quarters, just a standard small dressing area in the front.

The trailer did have about 3 inches of hard encrusted snow insulating the roof. This snow stayed the entire journey. The side windows could not be opened because they were encrusted with ice. However we opened all 3 roof vents to their maximum extent and turned on the airflow so that it would be maximized.

When we left our house in Bitterroot, the temperature inside and outside the trailer read 20 degrees. BTW I was using my truck temperature monitor to determine the outside temperature, which I had previously verified that it read the same as my newly purchased gear.

We loaded the horses and took off at about 0345 hrs. By the time we got to Missoula 30 minutes later, the temperature in the trailer had risen from 20 degrees to 32 degrees. In contrast, outside temp was still 20 degrees. By the time we had been on the road for an hour, the temperature in the trailer was - are you ready for this? - 44 DEGREES.

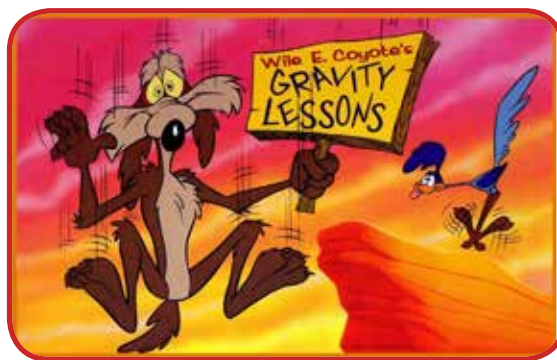
Along our route, outside temperatures dropped as low as 14 degrees. At the same time, temperatures in the trailer NEVER dropped below 39 degrees. For the vast majority of the journey, the trailer was holding at 44 degrees. Temperatures inside the trailer were ALWAYS over 20 degrees warmer than the outside.

We stopped for a half-hour pitstop, and did not unload the horses. However, I opened the back door and let cold wind flow into the trailer. Temperatures in the trailer quickly dropped to the high 20s. But they were back up to the low 40s in about 30 minutes.

We left both horses at the vet in Three Forks and returned with an empty trailer. All the way home, temperatures inside the trailer were identical to temperatures outside.

So here are my take-aways from all this. First of all, it's very easy to monitor temperatures in your trailer and I would highly encourage everyone to do it. I think I spent about 20 bucks on my monitoring stuff, and it was easy to use and very accurate. Secondly, I cannot believe how fast 2 horses can heat up a 3-horse trailer in very cold weather and keep it warm. I never dreamed that horses radiate that much heat. And to think I had been considering blanketing them.

Of course the need to blanket and other things might be different if your horses are body clipped or your trailer is different. And of course this is an enclosed gooseneck, not a stock trailer. But rather than just guess what might be going on back there, and whether it is appropriate for your horse that may be clipped or sick, just go get a temperature monitor and find out!



April Fool's Day!

RIDING HELMETS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Soleil Dolce

People often hear me say things around the barn like “You need to wear a helmet because I care about your brain.” or “Wear a helmet and protect your standard of living.” I really appreciate this article that I found in *Horse Network* pointing out the issues with not wearing a helmet and providing the real statistics. Don’t let peer pressure talk you out of protecting your mind. Yes, helmets don’t protect you from all injuries, but they do save lives.

The following article submitted by Arizona Equine Rescue Organization

FREAK RIDING ACCIDENT? HARDLY

by Anna Blake, Infinity Farm

The horse world has lost some good riders in the last few years. Sadly, it happens all too often. Horses can be unpredictable and people get hurt. Some of it is unavoidable and some of it is totally preventable.

Two of the most recent stories were especially hard: One was a 27-year-old professional barrel racer with wedding plans and the other was a professional trainer who was respected as the most experienced rider in her mounted posse. These two women had much in common: they were both professionals, both very experienced riders, and both died from extensive head injuries as the result of a fall on pavement. And now they are both profoundly mourned by their friends and families, and yes, their horses, too, I suspect.



I always feel it’s in poor taste to mention helmets at a time like this. It feels mean-spirited, no matter how well stated. And it’s too damn late for these committed horse women. The problem is that someone has always just died, so to be polite, helmets would never be mentioned.

These riders had another thing in common. News reports used the term “freak accident” in the headline. Do these reporters live in a shoe-box? There’s nothing freak about a riding accident. Emergency rooms treat about 15,000 equine-related head injuries a year. And that doesn’t count other broken bones. Sometimes when I get particularly irked by a phrase, I’ll look it up to see if I’m just being a stickler. The Urban Dictionary defines ‘freak accident’ as one that’s extremely unlikely and unusual. Their most popular example is: “Fabio was involved in a freak accident. He got hit in the face by a duck while riding a roller coaster.”

Great example. I couldn’t find statistics for duck-related head injuries at all. Why am I so cranky about word choice? Because it’s literally a matter of life and death—not to mention the numbers of brain injury survivors who suffer personality changes, intellectual and memory impairment, or epilepsy.

I have a yearly tradition of writing about the importance of wearing helmets every ride. Sometimes I feel like I’m preaching to the choir; my readers tell me they are committed to helmets. At the same time, I wonder why I never see a western trainer in a helmet. The one western trainer that I did know has now stopped wearing her helmet. Do you know one? Am I just living in a backward locale for western helmet wearers?

I have a western dressage client who gets routinely “teased” for wearing a helmet. Do these same people tease football players? Statistics say riders are in a greater danger than football players; our



teammates literally weigh a ton and the biggest difference: we have farther to fall. Statistics say the altitude makes a huge difference in severity of injury. But if statistical proof mattered to riders, they'd wear helmets and there would be no debate. The increased danger of riding horses without a helmet is as undeniable as gravity. But in many western riding disciplines, a helmet is seen as a sign of weakness. Have we fallen victim to freak lunacy?

The most common excuse I hear has to do with a rider saying that wearing a helmet is a message to their horse that the rider lacks confidence. When has a horse had to check anything so super-

ficial as wardrobe to feel a rider's fear? Don't insult horses; they aren't fooled by your hat. As if wardrobe hides fear, rendering a rider unbreakable.

There's no denying that the hat pays homage to our western tradition. As if history could make a rider unbreakable.

But then even history loses its charm and changes with fashion or a fad. As if wearing a hat like Buck Brannaman makes a rider unbreakable.

I was recently referred to a video where a western trainer explains that he's uncomfortable in a helmet, although he encourages others. As if being comfortable makes him unbreakable. He adds quickly that wearing a helmet was necessary for some English riders because they don't do groundwork or have their horses attention. As if demeaning other riding disciplines makes a rider unbreakable.

Or that it's all about the saddle; that somehow English saddles aren't as safe because they don't have a solid "handle" in front (that frequently injures everything but your head). As if a saddle horn makes a rider unbreakable.

Perhaps the saddest for me, when trainers ride bareback, with no bridle and no helmet, advertising a mystic connection that is particularly dreamy to horse crazy girls. As if hero-worship makes a rider unbreakable.

When this loss and destruction from Traumatic Brain Injury finally turns a corner in our equine world, I think it will be with the help of professionals. Helmets are crashing rodeo tradition these days. Imagine the difference that it would make—the lives it would impact and even save—if just one well-known western trainer would break rank and wear a helmet every time. As if actions speak louder than words.

Imagine that the legacy Courtney King-Dye gave dressage riders gets repeated in all riding disciplines. That in memory of a professional rider who didn't get to her wedding, that white helmets become the habit for other barrel racers. That for a posse mourning its star rider, helmets become a constant part of their proud uniform, in parades and everyday, and that we all respect that uniform even a bit more than before.

We talk a lot about positive leadership in horse training, but it should go past our horses. Whether we like it or not, trainers are role models. It would be a blessing to see the influence of positive safety leadership start with professionals. In some places, it would even qualify as freak common sense.

As for the power of tradition, pick one that goes beyond fashion, stands the test of time, and transcends actual legend status. Pick the romantic tradition of riding off into the sunset—protected and whole. And living to see your children do the same.

Link for AERO azequinerescue.org

Link for article <https://horsenetwork.com/.../05/freak-riding-accident-hardly/>

Some interesting statistics

- Equestrians are 20x more likely to sustain an injury than a motorcycle rider, per hour.
- 60 number of deaths/year due to head injury (compared with 8 for Football).
- 1 in 5 equestrian injuries are head injuries.
- 60% of riding fatalities occur from head injuries.
- 15,000 number of ER admissions for equine-related head injuries in 2009.
- 2 feet is the number of feet at which head injury can occur.



Another option is to make your own HellHat, if you just refuse the look of a traditional helmet. There are several websites with directions doing a simple internet search. Here I one link. Stay safe, friends! <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1281459648537254&type=1>



FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK AND TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all the RVHA volunteers and community friends who came out for our December 8th Foothills Food Bank and USMC Reserves Toys for Tots Collection. Don and Terry Stecyk delivered 379 pounds of food to the food bank and it took 2 runs with a very packed vehicle to deliver the hundreds of toys donated. Thank you for your generosity and helping make the season brighter for those less fortunate. And a special thank you to Trilogly on the Verde River for our snack bars and water, as well as the amazing toy collection from your community!!!



ROADSIDE CLEANUP AND END OF YEAR WINNERS

Many thanks to all our volunteers who came out in 2018 for our quarterly roadside cleanups. The time you give to help keep our community beautiful is noticed and appreciated by many of our residents. I especially want to thank Sabrina Nelson and Randy and Lisa Goettsche for organizing each cleanup, setting up, filing the paperwork necessary, making sure we have supplies, bringing coffee, water and snacks... all the work they do behind the



scenes to make our cleanups a success.

Congratulations to the winners of our end of year draw for Jalapeño Inferno gift cards: Beth Taylor, Rita Olsen, Mary Pruiksma, Sandra Batie, Dave Goodale, and Jeri Weeks. Please come pick them up at our next roadside cleanup or we'll mail them to you.

Our next Roadside Cleanup will be Saturday, April 13nd at 8:00 AM. We'll meet on the north side of 141st Street area. Everything is provided for you, including safety vests, gloves, litter gitters and bags. Please come give about an hour of your time to help keep our Rio Verde Foothills beautiful.

Parents, this event counts as community service hours if required by their school.

SUPPORTING FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

A STUDY OF THE BUSINESS OF AGRICULTURE

by Lori Bridwell

The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of the organization's history and heritage that will never change. But FFA is not just for students who want to be production farmers; FFA also welcomes members who aspire to careers as teachers, doctors, scientists, business owners and more. For this reason, the name of the organization was updated in 1988 after a vote of national convention delegates to reflect the growing diversity and new opportunities in the industry of agriculture.



The program is split into three core areas: Career Development Events (CDE), Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) an Classroom. CDE teaches students opportunities to pursue a career in agriculture. This high school class offers many opportunities for the students to learn, such as public speaking, and how to plan and engage as a team along with many other life skills that are often lost in today's society. Every chapter holds an election and has appointed officers. Each meeting is conducted professionally, following parliamentary procedure with Robert's Rules.

SAE requires kids to work on a supervised project outside the classroom incorporating Ag-based theory. This might include something as basic as growing a garden to raising an animal and could also be something as large as owning and operating an agricultural based business. All projects are required to have everything logged, such as time, money, tools etc. Classroom work is as it sounds. A teacher spends time teaching students every aspect of agriculture and how it affects our lives. Ag kids walk through a grocery store, look at the produce and understand what it took for that tomato to start as a seed, how it was grown, harvested and arrived at the store. They can also observe processed chicken, learning how it was raised, fed, butchered and packaged.

These kids become a team and family as they learn and compete together. Each chapter has many opportunities to compete in state, regional, and even national level. They are required to wear official dress at competitions which consists of a white collared, long sleeve button up shirt, black slacks or a black pin skirt, black shoes, an FFA neck tie or scarf, as well as the official Blue FFA Jacket.

The jacket is a great accomplishment because it gives the student a sense of unity and achievement. The jacket also serves as recognition where they display the pins they earned at competitions. It is something they don't take lightly and treasure for years to come. We know that the symbolic blue

corduroy jacket is far more than Official Dress, but an icon of an American tradition, instilling pride and responsibility in those who wear it. But not everyone can wear the jacket. Not because they don't deserve to, but because they can't afford to. Several chapters have a scholarship program where jackets are purchased and donated for the students to earn through a pre-determined point system. Points are achieved by volunteering and attending FFA events.

Chapters may also have jackets donated along with a requirement for students to earn them. Students submit an essay explaining what an FFA jacket means to them, and the sponsors determine which student's essay should win. The students would then be awarded the jacket at an event/banquet, where the scholarship sponsor is recognized.

Our RVHA Board has decided to donate jackets to the Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center High School. This local chapter has several students who attend and live in the Rio Verde area. We will be receiving the essays through in the coming months. Upon review, we will then meet the students to award them their jacket scholarship.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

by Terry Stecyk

Another Successful Tour of Christmas Lights What fun it was to see the amazing light displays of northeast Phoenix and Scottsdale with RVHA members and guests who joined us for our second tour of Christmas lights. This year we used the Real London Bus Company, a holiday decorated double decker bus out of Scottsdale. We toured several neighborhoods while tunes of the Christmas season played through the speakers. At two of the larger displays



we were able to get out to stretch our legs while enjoying some hot cocoa and yummy cookies. Beth Taylor, an RVHA member, surprised us with homemade chicken soup she brought for guests to enjoy. Thank you, Beth. It was delicious!

The decorators must start in the summer to put so many lights on their home, trees, saguaros. I don't even want to think about their APS bill! I loved the synchronized animation to music, streets filled with house after house of lights, Christmas inflatables, projections of snowflakes and twinkling lights. And how happy the proud families were as they waved at cars, our bus, folks walking through the neighborhoods soaking up the good cheer on a cool winter evening.





Thank you to the Real London Bus Company for a pickup and drop-off in the parking area by Walgreens at Alma School. It was so nice to not have to drive into town for a change. And thanks to Jenny Powers for providing boxes of Chompie's cookies that our guests devoured.

We had a complete sell out of tickets this year so don't delay signing up when you see the next offering for December 2019! They do sell out faster than Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!



NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

“Here I come to save the day!” That theme from Mighty Mouse rings through my head as I write a huge thank you to the amazing men and women who come out after our summer monsoon storms to grade our unmaintained county roads. These heroes volunteer their time and equipment to make life easier for us travelers without a thought of pay or a thank you.

Owning an older tractor, I can say that new tires, tractor parts, and even the consumption of fuel gets expensive, and yet these wonderful folks are happy with a smile, a wave, or a toot from your horn as you pass them by. Many would probably be grateful for a bit of fuel money, some might appreciate a yummy baked item or a dozen fresh eggs, but more often it’s just your sincere thanks that warm their heart.

Due to budget cuts and an increasing amount of development in outlying rural areas such as ours, sometime in the late 70s to early 80s Maricopa stopped their courtesy grading and maintaining of our *private* county dirt roads. I have had a few interesting talks with various McDOT departments and basically, just because there is an easement for a public right of way doesn’t mean county takes ownership of a road. Basically it is up to us, as residents, to keep them drivable. Without the attention of a tractor, a washed out road can quickly become a goat trail and impossible to maneuver unless you have a truck or 4x4 vehicle.



RVHA would like to collect the names of these fabulous heroes to send a small token of appreciation for all they do for our community. If you know one, or are one, please send their name and the areas they typically maintain to me at terry@rvha.us This information will be kept confidential and will not be shared!

If you travel on our dirt roads, then many of you will agree, often a hero drives a tractor sporting a ball cap or a cowboy hat. Thank you for your time and energy to make our commutes smoother, easier on our vehicles and safer to travel.



Rio Verde Foothills

“Wow! Can’t think of a more beautiful place to live.”

Lisa Goettsche



The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is a non-profit conservation organization that relies on more than 650 volunteer stewards to help protect and champion 30,580 acres and 215 miles of trails within the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Four of their trailheads are located within, or very close to, our Rio Verde Foothills area; Granite Mountain, Fraesfield, Tom's Thumb and Brown's Ranch. Each of these trailheads offer a unique set of trails to explore within this pristine desert.

Many of their guided hikes offer not only exercise but fabulous educational talks about plant and wildlife, early geological happenings, and the history of the area. The Conservancy also offers beginning mountain biking sessions, family education days your kids will love, a lecture series at the Arabian Library and it's all free to you. Just visit their website to find something you are sure to enjoy. <https://www.mcdowellsonoran.org/>

Do you already frequent the Preserve hiking, biking or riding? Are you interested in becoming a steward? From trail building to patrolling the trails on foot, bike or horseback, guiding educational and wellness hikes, mountain bike rides, formal and informal education events and research, stewards help ensure future generations will be able to enjoy this ecological treasure the same way that we do today. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a steward, please visit <https://www.mcdowellsonoran.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/>. Or you can email terry@rvha.us and we'll point you in the right direction.



Three of your RVHA officers, Terry, Jenny and Carmela, are among a handful of equestrian stewards helping to educate and promote the equine presence in the Preserve. We truly hope you'll come on board and help give a voice for equestrians.

2018 END OF YEAR CHARITY GIVING

In keeping with the longstanding RVHA tradition of giving back to 501 c 3 charities who help support our area, the following charities were selected to receive funds collected from our 2018 Silent Auction proceeds, as well as our 2018 business card advertisement fees. Member feedback from our 2017 Member Survey questions indicated these are the charities you preferred RVHA continue to support. We divided the money based on the number of votes each organization received.

Arizona Equine Rescue Organization, Inc - \$350

<https://www.azequinerescue.org>

*Foothill's Food Bank and Resource Center - \$250

<https://www.foothillsfoodbank.com>

Four Peaks Animal Rescue - \$300

www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org

McDowell Sonoran Conservancy - \$250

<https://www.mcdowellsonoran.org>

*Reigning Grace Ranch Organization - \$350

<http://azrgr.org/>

Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Center - \$350

www.southwestwildlife.org

Verde Cares, Inc - \$250

<http://www.verdecares.org/>

* Indicates this organization also qualifies as an AZ Tax Credit

2018 SUMMER SURVIVAL CELEBRATION

by Carmela Lizzo

As the saying goes, Better late than never! Our Summer Survival event was originally scheduled at the Lorill Equestrian Center for September, then moved to Reigning Grace Ranch in October, and then due to rain, moved to Miller Ranch Fox Trotters in November. While the celebration was a little late in getting started, it ended up being one of the largest events we've had in years!

Over 135 people signed up for this free-to-members event at Miller Ranch which specializes in breeding, training and sales of these beautiful Fox Trotters. The facility



came complete with a covered arena that had been specially groomed for our event, a chuckwagon and a grandstand with bar area. We added a catered dinner from Famous Dave's, country western band American Traditions, as well as a huge dance floor for the two steppers. We certainly appreciate the wide variety of appetizers and desserts attendees brought to share and sample.



Old friends and new came out to enjoy the evening and have a look at Miller Ranch. The ranch offers a beautiful barn, round pens, office and lounge area, plus an obstacle training course that is used to create an environment to desensitize horses from 'all things scary'. Several neighbors have been partnered with these amazing horses and we often see them on the trails in the Preserve. This attractive facility turned out to be the perfect location for our event. The Millers were incredibly gracious to open their facility for the RVHA, and we are ever so grateful to Monika, Lothar, Melanie and their team for all their help and efforts in making the evening such a success.

Thank you to Kim and Lee Edwards, Don and Terry Stecyk and my wonderful husband, Joe Stock, for all the time spent setting up this event. Thanks to Susan Ricker and my guests, Lynne McGinley and Ginger Seeley, for helping serve dinner on the buffet line, and to Terry for the fun table décor. Thanks to Jayne Vatcher and Scott at Cre8tive Events who gave us a nice discount on our rental of their tables, chairs, tablecloths, and the dance floor. Thanks to

JR Reed for helping with the setup and cleanup of the event! And thank you to Jean and Ferrell Anderson for helping with cleanup at the end of the evening. All your time and efforts are truly appreciated!

The Prosser family donated funds for the band in honor of Julie Lind Prosser, who passed away earlier this year. Our heartfelt thank you for this precious memory of one of our favorite members.

Stay tuned for our spring event in March, which will be held at Reigning Grace Ranch in their newly covered arena. If you know of other ranch owners that would like to host the RVHA for one of our events, please have them contact carmelalizzo@gmail.com.





ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL

The Arizona Horse Council (AzHC) held its first ever Share the Trails Conference last November at the Pointe Tapatio Resort in Phoenix. The conference committee had been very busy for over a year putting this together. We had 67 attendees from all parts of the United States, and 33 guest presenters. Dr. Temple Grandin, from Colorado, was the keynote speaker. I must say, we enjoyed Dr. Grandin being at the conference, and her presentation. Everyone raved about the conference, and asked when we will be doing it, again. Well, personally, I do not know. It was a lot of work for the council to put on this conference.



AzHC has been working with the legislature and the Arizona Department of Agriculture on a new animal welfare bill. The Department of AG, AzHC, Cattle Growers, and AZ Farm Bureau previously came out in opposition to the bill because it did include livestock. An animal welfare bill needs to be passed in order for people to be held accountable for abuse of their pets. Livestock are NOT considered pets. We believe, along with these other groups, that abuse of livestock should be handled by the AZ Department of AG. I might add here that this is an ongoing item, and nothing has been decided, as yet.

AzHC dues for the year 2019 will be due soon. Consider renewing now, or joining us. We offer a \$1,000,000 liability policy for a small yearly fee, along with your membership fee. Visit our website at arizonahorsecouncil.org.

Happy trails,
Jean

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE

CONSERVATION CENTER

Rehabilitation, Education, Medicine, Sanctuary

PMB 115, 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Wildlife education: 480-471-3621, www.southwestwildlife.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: education@southwestwildlife.org

Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING 2019 EVENTS AT SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

Hearts and Howls at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, Saturday, February 9, 2019, 5 pm



From the mountain lions to the coyotes and Mexican gray wolves, you will fall in love with wildlife as you enjoy a unique and memorable experience with your Valentine. Come to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center to experience a tour of our wildlife sanctuary where we will share the true love stories of our resident animals. \$100 per couple, all couple configurations welcome. Light refreshments and gourmet desserts will be served. Each couple will also receive an upscale gift from Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center! The event will take place on Saturday, February 9th at 5 pm, at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale, 85262. Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

Edible Plants Workshop, Sunday, March 10, 2019, 11 am – 3 pm

Presented by the Desert Awareness Committee, this hands-on workshop will feature the ethnobotany practiced by early people for food and wellness in the desert ecosystem. As part of the experience, you will harvest several plants and prepare delectable edibles we will enjoy for lunch. The workshop also includes a tour of the native plants and native Arizona wildlife that reside at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. You will learn the many ways in which desert plant life and wildlife interact with each other to survive. The workshop takes place at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale, 85262. \$75 includes lunch and all materials. Bring a notebook for jotting down recipes and a container to take samples back home—if there are any left! Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>



Full Moon Tours of Southwest Wildlife, February 19, 2019, 5 pm, again on March 20th at 5 pm, and again on April 19th at 6 pm

Join us at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center for a unique guided tour of our conservation center by the blissfully bright full moon to see what our native wildlife is up to in the mysterious hours of night. If you're lucky, you might even hear a serenade from the Mexican gray wolves or watch the climbing acrobatics of coati. The event takes place at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale, 85262. \$30/adult, \$20 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

Walk with Wildlife Tours at Southwest Wildlife, Tuesdays through Saturdays

Whether you're an Arizona resident or visiting from out of town, our Walk with Wildlife tour of our nature center is a unique opportunity to learn about our magnificent native wildlife. Guided tours allow you to get an up-close view of some of our permanent sanctuary animals as we share their compelling stories. Tours take place at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale, 85262. \$25/adult, \$15 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>



About Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center has been saving our wildlife, one life at a time since 1994. SWCC rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced, and orphaned. Once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. Sanctuary is provided to animals that cannot be released back to the wild. Educational and humane scientific research opportunities are offered in the field of conservation medicine. Wildlife education includes advice on living with wildlife and the importance of native wildlife to healthy ecosystems. SWCC receives no state or federal funding. You can help wildlife by coming on a tour or making a donation.

Contact and register info:

To register for a tour or any special event, please visit www.southwestwildlife.org or call 480-471-3621.



DOGTORT, THE PET VET



by Melissa Thompson, DVM

Spring is right around the corner, and nothing says spring in the desert like seeing all the cactus bloom, listening to the birds sing, watching the little lizards scurry, the toads catch flies and, oh yeah, finding the first Western Diamondback of the season. Like many other people out here, I have had my dogs snake trained, but accidents still happen. Unfortunately, a baby rattler made its way into my yard and my old dog received a bite to the face, just missing his eye.



Now we all know that rattlesnake bites are dangerous, but do you really know what they do? The most common rattlesnake to our area is the Western Diamondback. The snake bites its prey and injects venom. This venom contains proteases that start breaking down the muscle tissue. It also causes hemolysis, or break down of the blood cells, and keeps blood from clotting. These together help the snake digest its prey from the inside out. While this is a very handy adaptation for the snake, it is a horrible thing to have happen to the victim.

While some snake bites are treated conservatively, i.e. without anti-venom, each case is different. So much depends on whether or not the snake actually injected any venom. Some of the adult snakes will “dry bite”, or not release any venom when they bite as they are merely trying to protect themselves and send a “warning” rather than go in for a kill. The result of these bites will not be as serious as those with venom injected. It also depends on how the victim reacts to the venom. Just like people with insect bites or bee stings, one person may have a severe reaction, while another may not really be as affected. The difference may also be the type of snake that the dog got bitten by. We are now seeing an increase of the Mojave Green rattlesnake. It is similar to the Diamondback, but quite a bit more potent, and also has a neurotoxin in its venom. Unfortunately there is no way to know which bites are which or how the victim may respond. Given the potential damage, it is important to have your pet evaluated ASAP if they get bitten by a snake. My poor boy Sebastian needed to get anti-venin and we had a costly emergency hospital bill. Sebastian’s blood wasn’t clotting correctly and he was a risk of bleeding to death as a result of his bite. He also lost his hearing from the ordeal. We assume there was severe damage to the nerves due to the significant swelling he had. Sebastian was lucky though; my coworker’s dog got bitten by rattlesnake and died within an hour.

Some people wonder about the rattlesnake vaccine. In short, the vaccine stimulates the body to make antibodies against the venom should your dog get bit. This in turn allows the body to fight off the venom faster and may reduce the amount of anti-venin that might be given. Although the hard scientific data is minimal, many veterinarians in areas where they see 300+ bites a year, feel that the pets that get bit that have had the vaccine fare much better than those without stating the swelling and other side effects from the bite are reduced as compared to their unvaccinated counterparts. But this information is anecdotal and has not been supported by any official studies. It is still necessary for your pet to see a vet if they are bitten even if they have been vaccinated. The vaccine does not

protect against Coral snake, Mojave rattlesnakes and a few others that are in this area. It also does not protect your pet from infections that can be caused from the snake bite.

The downside to the vaccine is that it needs to be given frequently. For the best protection, your pet should be vaccinated BEFORE the start of snake season. The vaccination series includes two vaccines given 30 days apart. This will provide protection for about six months. If your pet is in an area that has snakes around for longer periods (e.g. AZ, CA, TX NM), the company recommends getting a booster vaccination every six months. Otherwise, vaccinate once a year after the initial two vaccines. For more information about the vaccine visit the vaccine company's website at www.redrockbiologics.com. If you are interested in getting your pet vaccinated contact your local veterinarian to discuss the pros and cons for your personal pet.



RANCHO MILAGRO

“WE BRING TRAUMA SURVIVORS BACK INTO THE ARENA OF LIFE”

by Vanessa Kohnen

President and Founder, Rancho Milagro

Rancho Milagro is a non-profit, faith-based ministry formulated to bring the miracle of equine coaching to trauma survivors. Located in Rio Verde, Arizona. We provide many opportunities for individuals to achieve freedom from the daily triggers brought on by trauma that often weigh heavily on a person's soul.

At Rancho Milagro the horses are more than a tool, they are a part of the team. During sessions they do a lot of the work. Oftentimes it is hard for our survivors to connect with people. A lot of time the horses are the first connection survivors have. Our horses bridge the gap to help clients build healthy connections with our staff. Without these miraculous horses our work would be impossible. We are able to reach the untouchable because of them.

On Christmas Eve 2018, the unthinkable happened. Our ranch had an unexpected loss. Mic who was the “heart” of our ranch passed away.

Mic was a severely abused horse before he came to us. You couldn't go into his stall without him going in the corner and shaking. He was a performance horse that was used and abused. His talent was never enough for his trainer. He had a horrible life until he came to us.

When we started our non-profit he showed up in unexpected ways. This timid and skittish horse knew the ones who needed him most. He met the veterans who couldn't connect or the child that never spoke. Even after being mistreated by humans, when the abused girl would walk in his stall, he would stand there patiently. Mic was able to connect with the survivors of trauma because of his own journey.

Christmas Eve impacted Rancho Milagro in a way words cannot describe. Mic was out on a ride with one of our girls who was trafficked; actually our first client and Mic's first real save. The two of them had a bond like no other. Mic loved her and let her do almost anything to him. He gave her hope and

allowed her to dream again. She rode him with a halter, hands free at a lope a few days prior. Mic carried her through some of the most horrific trauma anyone has seen. Even after recently having a clean bill of health, Christmas Eve was his final ride. While on Cow Poke Trail, Mic stepped off the trail laid down and took his last breath. No trauma. Just a peaceful couple of minutes and he passed.

This loss has greatly impacted our community and the survivors we work with. People all over the nation were impacted by his passing. Our community would like to honor Mic by naming the spot he passed "Mickey's Point". Our survivors have experienced severe trauma and this will be a way to bring more healing into their lives.



"Mic was my first...he saved my life... when I first came to the ranch I was dealing with trauma and PTSD. I didn't want to be here and I wasn't excited about life. When I set eyes on Mic I knew he understood the pain I was feeling. Mic gave me something to look forward to each week. I have never felt so free than I did loping up the hill hands free. Mic overcame his abuse and taught me how to be brave and face my fear." -Julie

Would you partner with Rancho Milagro Foundation in getting "Mickey's Point" recognized by writing an email to vanessa@ranchomilagroaz.com stating your support of this heartfelt endeavor. You will be helping others heal one heart at a time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vanessa Kohnen, President and Founder
480 529 2633
vanessa@ranchomilagroaz.com





IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.

It's a New Year and it's time to renew your RVHA membership.

It's still a bargain at an annual rate of \$25 for a single person and \$35 for a household membership.

Anyone not renewed by January 31st will be removed from our mailing list. You wouldn't want to miss out on all our eblasts full of community information! Members receive discounts and apply only to paid members for events and training classes sponsored by RVHA.

RVHA members presenting their membership card also receive discounts from:

Karsten's ACE Hardware at 28220 N Tatum Blvd and 36889 N Tom Darlington Dr in Cave Creek

They offer FREE delivery for a purchase of \$350 or more.

and

Scottsdale Livestock at 22255 N Scottsdale Rd and 28170 N Alma School Pkwy, #105 in Scottsdale.

They offer RVHA members 10% off **SHELF ITEMS ONLY**. **Not on hay or forage.**

They also offer FREE delivery for an order of \$250 or more, \$15 if under \$250.

You can handle this on our website at: <http://rvha-az.com/membership.htm>

OR

http://rvha-az.com/RVHA_renewal_app.htm

If you want to print one out, a form is attached to this email.

OR for those of you who prefer to send a check, you can use the attached printable form.

Mail your check to RVHA, 28150 N. Alma School, #103-112, Scottsdale AZ 85262

(or simply drop it off at the UPS store)

Don't delay, do it today!

OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 10th – 3:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE
ENJOY – WINE - FOOD - RAFFLES
GET TO KNOW OUR
FURRY RABBITS

Furrytail Life Rabbit Rescue and Sanctuary

16417 E Duane Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85262 (3.57 MI)

Rio Verde, Arizona 85262 Furrytail.life@gmail.com 480-457-9825

Furrytail Life Rabbit Rescue and Sanctuary is one of Arizona's largest rabbit rescue sanctuary sheltering over 150 rabbits in-house and supporting over 200, including those living with our foster families.

We are a 501 C3 non-profit, all volunteer-run organization that provides rescue, care and enrichment for homeless rabbits. We also raise funds for food, medical treatments, supplies, and more.

OUR GOAL

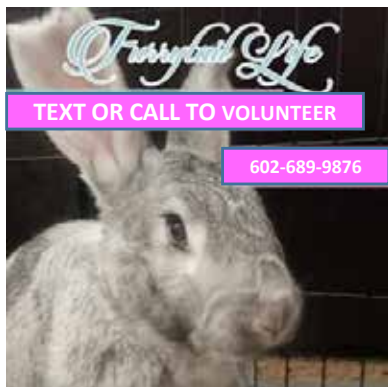
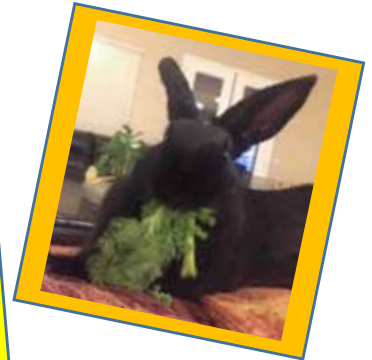
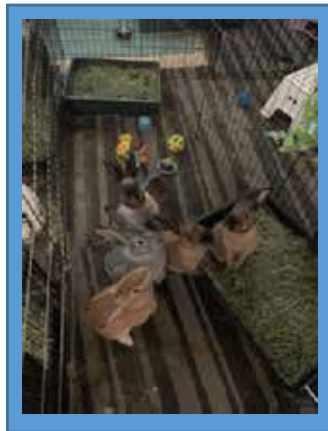
- To place rabbits in loving forever homes
- Educate the public about proper rabbit care

Rabbits are the **THIRD MOST POPULAR HOUSEPET** and they need our help. When those cute baby Easter Bunnies grow up and, inevitably, have babies of their own, people find no other option than to release them into the wild. They don't realize they've just issued a death sentence.

We need volunteers to help daily:

- Bunny Cuddling ... *Good for the soul !*
- Clean produce
- Clean and vacuum pens
- Clean water dishes
- Fundraising
- Marketing/ Networking
- Laundry washing / folding
- Bunny grooming
- Bunny Fosters/Adopters

...and of course bunny cuddling ... *It's great therapy!*



With your help, we won't have to turn bunnies away. We'll be able to provide shelter, food and medical attention to the more than 160 rabbits in our care, and we'll be able to expand our efforts to prevent further overpopulation of domestic rabbits.