



Nicker News

Newsletter of the Australian Quarter Pony Association

NEWSLETTER Volume 22

Feb-Mar 2010

QUARTER PONY CLASSES AT UPCOMING SHOWS

Grenfell Ag Show	Grenfell Showgrounds	Sept 2010
Neville Show	Neville NSW	Nov 2010

SPECIALS

April - June 2010

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL
12+ Months for the price of 12
New Members Only

REGISTRATION SPECIAL
Adult Registration \$25
Excludes Stallions

PERFORMED QP SPECIAL
Free Quarter Pony Registration
Proven and documented performance

Note: OTHER CONDITIONS MAY APPLY - Please see the voucher/s for more information. All documentation including photos, must be received before 30 June 2010 for discount to apply. Please print voucher/s from website www.australianquarterponyassociation.com and send with your application to receive a discount

APOLOGIES

AQPA apologizes for the lateness of this newsletter due to personal reasons. We plan to be back on track and get the next issue out at the beginning of May. If you have anything you would like to add to this newsletter, please contact Leanne Prime 03 5460 4755 or newsletter@australianquarterponyassociation.com

MEETINGS

The Executive Committee Meeting has changed to the LAST WEDNESDAY of the month.

Any Items to be discussed must be with a committee member or secretary at least a week before the scheduled meeting date.

Next meetings are: 31st March, 28th April & 26th May.

QUARTER PONY CLASSES

AQPA is keen to get more classes out there for those that wish to show their QUARTER PONIES so we need your help as members to let us know WHERE to hold these classes so we can promote them through our newsletter and website and get members to attend. So far there are a few areas in NSW & southern Queensland that have members keen to show. If you show at a local club/association & feel they may be interested in holding Quarter Pony classes please contact **Leanne Prime**.

If we have contact information, we can send a "SHOW PACK" & request classes in your area. It is one of the best ways of promoting this fabulous little breed by getting Quarter Ponies out there showing in their own classes.

NEWSLETTER

All ads are FREE. Feel free to send any News items or Articles to Leanne Prime for inclusion in the Newsletter!!!

All items for the newsletter should be forwarded to newsletter@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Upcoming deadlines are:

Apr/May - 9th April

Jun/Jul - 11th Jun

Aug/Sep - 31st Jul (This is our **Stallion Addition**)

AGM

AQPA is looking at holding the AGM earlier this year so it doesn't clash with breeding season.

If you have any suggestions for possible dates or locations please forward to a committee member.

Online Shows

Warrumbungle Sub Branch APSB
4th ALL BREEDS ONLINE FOAL SHOW.

Entries are now OPEN
&
Close 12mn – 31 July 2010

Visit our web Site:-

www.allbreedsonlinefoalshow.com

This is a great way to show case
Quarter Ponies.

NEWSLETTER

All ads are FREE. Feel free to send any News items or Articles to Leanne Prime
newsletter@australianquarterponyassociation.com

QP Chat Group

Feel like chatting to others about Quarter Ponies?
Subscribe to ausquarterponies Yahoo Chat Group
ausquarterponies-subscribe@yahoo.com

QP Riding Group

If you live in Central Victoria and would love to catch up with fellow QP people for a ride once a month or so, please contact Donna Waller
secretary@australianquarterponyassociation.com

STALLION OWNERS

AQPA is looking for expressions of interest from STALLION OWNERS as to whether it is viable to put in a full page colour advert in the stallion issues of Horse Deals & other Horse publications. To register your interest please contact Leanne Prime.

FOR SALE

Stud Quality Palouse Yearling colt Mature approx 13.3hh which makes him an ideal sire to get the riding size ponies. He is registered with the Australian Palouse Pony Association also eligible to be registered as a Quarter pony. He is a dream to handle has been shown with success and is very pretty and correct any buyer will not be disappointed he is one of the best I have seen in years and thats not being bias and is the only reason he is still a colt.
\$2000

Contact: Kerry 0406314893
Location: Marulan
Email: winrocpaints@bigpond.com

BREAKING IN & RE-TRAINING OF PONIES & HORSES IS AVAILABLE FROM

YOAKAM LODGE QUARTER HORSES & PONIES

CHRIS & LISA FINNIS

1388 SINGER RD, LOCKINGTON VIC 3563
M) PO BOX 170, LOCKINGTON VIC 3563
PH) 03 5486-2526 C) 0409 006 434
L) 0411 010 380

Stallions At Stud

Radical Blue Magic - Q 57367, QPS 386 Black, glossy, beautiful stallion. Magic has a super quiet mind with an amazing "willing to please" attitude.
He will be available in 2010 season in Kojonup, WA. Fee: \$750 www.kareelahill.com.au
0898341048

Science of horse training: Implications for rider safety and animal welfare

PhD Candidate: Lesley Hawson

(AQPA MEMBER)

Supervisors Dr. Paul Mc Greevy and Dr. Andrew McLean

Report for period March 2009 – February 2010

Introduction

This multidisciplinary collaborative project addresses the urgent need for a scientific approach to training the ridden horse to enhance the welfare of horse and rider safety. There are thought to be up to 1.5 million horses in Australia and the horse industry is estimated to contribute over \$6.2 billion a year to the Australian economy (AIHC 2000). Horse riding at its most humane relies on subtle interactions between horse and humans (McGreevy, 2002). Humans have a profound influence on the behaviour and welfare of horses, in-hand and under-saddle through riding with stimuli from their hands on the reins and their legs on the sides of the horse and, more discreetly, with the use of their seat, weight position and movement (McGreevy 2004). Contradictory training and inexperienced riding makes for a confused and dangerous horse. Previous studies indicate that behavioural problems account for up to 66% of euthanasia in young horses (Odberg and Bouissou, 1999).

Horses, like all animals, learn most effectively when training methods are appropriate to their cognitive ability and ethology and based on a valid interpretation of learning theory (McGreevy and McLean, 2007). Operant conditioning is a fundamental of learning theory that involves presenting or omitting some reward or punishment when an animal makes an appropriate response. Effective riding involves the correct application of negative reinforcement (removal of pressure when the animal behaviours appropriately) and the subsequent transfer of stimulus control to various classically conditioned cues (such as those coming from the seat). Inappropriate training practices can have a negative impact on the horse's welfare and lead to conflict behaviours that jeopardise the safety of riders and handlers.

Equitation has, to date, relied upon subjective assessments of the dynamics between horse and their riders. This is growing evidence that there is a gap in the knowledge of professional equestrian coaches and that equitation is lagging behind other human-animal interfaces. A recent study indicates that Australian equestrian coaches are inconsistent into the way in which they define and report the use of training interventions (Warren-Smith and McGreevy, 2008).

Equitation science is the measurement and interpretations of interactions between horse and their riders. This project will use equitation science to reappraise the ways in which riding horses are trained.

This project aims to:

Identify measure and codify the nature of the learning process in the horse and in particular the shift from operant conditioning to classical conditioning through a longitudinal study of horses in foundation training.

Identify measure and codify the normal range of stimuli used in equitation by measuring a range of rider and horse combinations.

Identify measure and codify the practices of elite equestrian athletes by measuring these athletes interactions with their mounts.

Develop a set of recommendations for the application of learning theory in equitation that can be disseminated by national and international peak bodies to their members, coaches and judges, and the broadest possible audience via the unique education platforms available through the Partner Organisations.

Develop and validate an innovative package of training tools for coaches that combine advances in sport measurement technology with learning theory for the careful objective evaluation of training methods that will ultimately improve welfare of horses and enjoyment of riders.

Explore the physiological consequence of current industry standard pressures as applied horses' mouths.

Achievements of the past twelve months.

Paper: "Variability of scores in the 2008 Olympic dressage competition and implications for horse training and welfare." Accepted for publication in the Journal of Veterinary Behaviour.

Paper : "The roles of equine ethology and applied learning theory in horse-related human injuries." Submitted to the Journal of Veterinary Behaviour.

Data collection for research into: "Is safety valued in children's ponies in Australia?" ongoing.

Methodology for principle research into learning theory in horses agreed (see below).

Both human and animal ethics proposals approved by relevant University of Sydney Ethics Committees.

Saddle pressure detection pad system sourced, purchased and operational.

Rider leg pressure detection system sourced and purchased – some design issues currently being worked through.

Rein tensiometer and accelerometers sourced.

Saddlery requirements agreed with Bates Saddlery who are supply fully mounted saddles for the project.

Experimental Design

The main thrust of the research involves four experiments. These are set out below in Table 1 and 2. It is hoped that recruitment of participants (both horses and riders) will commence in March 2010. Recruitment of riders and horse will be coordinated through the Australian Equine Behavior Centre. Anyone interested in participating in this study is asked to apply via www.aebc.com.au.

Acknowledgements

The project has triggered a unique collaboration by nine stakeholders: **Federation Equestre Internationale** (FEI), horse sports governing body globally), the **EFA**, the Biomechanics Unit at the **Australian Institute of Sport** (AIS), the **Australian Equine Behaviour Centre** (AEBEC), the **Horse Council of South Australia**, **Bates Australia**, (one of the

world's leading saddlers), *Hoofbeats* and *The Horse Magazine* (THM) (Australia's foremost equestrian magazines) and our major funding body, **Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation**.

All the researchers involved in this important project gratefully acknowledge the support from all the stake holders.

REFERENCES

McGreevy, P.D., McLean, A.N., 2007. Roles of learning theory and ethology in equitation. *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour: Clinical Applications and Research* 2, 108-118.

Odberg, F.O., Bouissou, M.F., 1999. The development of equestrianism from the baroque period to the present day and its consequences for the welfare of horses. *Equine Vet J Suppl*, 26-30.

Warren-Smith, A.K., McGreevy, P.D., 2008. Equestrian coaches' understanding and application of learning theory in horse training. *Anthrozoos* 21, 153-162.

TABLE 1: EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN OF EQUITATION SCIENCE PROJECT

EXPERIMENT 1 - Determining the norm.
Hypothesis 1 The lesser trained horses will require a stronger stimulus from the rider to elicit the required operant response.
Hypothesis 2 The leg and rein stimuli will be greater in the lesser trained horses than the more advanced horses.
Hypothesis 3 The leg and rein stimuli will show smaller pressure in the more trained horses to obtain the desired response.
Hypothesis 4 The horses at higher training levels will respond to classically conditioned responses such as seat pressure and require less leg and rein pressure.
Ten advanced horses
Ten intermediate horses
Data from Experiment 3, week 6, ten naïve horses at end of Foundation training
Two/three advanced riders
EXPERIMENT 2 - Rider variability
Hypothesis 1. If the rider is more skilled then the signals delivered to the trained horse there will be less leg and/or rein pressure to elicit the correct response from the horse.
Hypothesis 2. If the rider is less skilled the signals to the horse will show more variation in pressure and loci of application. The horse's response to these inconsistent stimuli will be less accurate.
Ten advanced horses
Ten riders from each level: naïve, intermediate, advanced

EXPERIMENT 3 - The learning process

Hypothesis 1
As the horses become more trained the leg and/or rein pressure from the riders required to stimulate the correct response from the horse will be reduced.

Hypothesis 2
If the horse moves from operant conditioning to classical conditioning (as proposed by horse trainers) the seat stimuli will elicit accurate responses.

Ten naïve horses tested once per week over six week initial training period

Two/three advanced riders

EXPERIMENT 4 - Describing the elite: measuring for performance

Hypothesis 1
If current horse training dogma is correct then the riders and horse combinations working at the elite level will demonstrate a then the signal and response system based on classical conditioning i.e. seat stimuli more dominant than leg and rein stimuli.

Ten Advanced horses

Ten advanced rider/horse combinations

TABLE 2: DEFINITIONS OF RIDER AND HORSE SKILL LEVELS

DEFINITIONS	RIDER	HORSE
Naive	Can walk, trot, canter, stop and back independently in enclosed area.	Just handled through to completion of foundation training i.e. walk, trot, canter, stop and back independently in enclosed area.
Intermediate	Competing or working at the equivalent of EFA Novice level	Competing or working at the equivalent of Equestrian Federation of Australia Novice level
Advanced	Competing or working at or above equivalent of FEI Prix St Georges	Competing or working at or above equivalent of FEI Prix St Georges level.



Kill For A Smoak

'PJ' IS A LOVELY QUIET STALLION WHO IS A PLEASURE TO DO ANYTHING WITH.

HE HAS OUTSTANDING BREEDING BEING BY CROP OUT QH STALLION 'DOCS SMOKIN OAK' AND FROM THE EXCELLENTLY PERFORMED PAINT MARE 'DRESSED TO KILL'.

HE HAS EXCELLENT CONFIRMATION AND STANDS AT 14.1HH. HE HAS 3 WHITE STOCKINGS AND ONE SOCK, WHITE FACE AND A LARGE BELLY SPLASH. HE HAS A QH BUILD WITH A LOVELY AMOUNT OF BONE.

KILL FOR A SMOAK WILL BE STANDING FOR THE 10/11 SEASON AT

CANDLEA PARK

PH 03 5439 7203

Salt Springs Jack Daniels

AQPA/AQHA/ASHS/UPWBDA

Buckskin stallion
By Jessies Koolibah
Out of Cattle Camp/Anns Hollywood mare

Breeds excellent temperament
With loads of agility and cow.

Stud Fee \$700 or \$750 AI

Standing his last season in Australia
At Palabuckchestnut stud
With Julie 0741686223

Owned by Donna Boddie (NZ)

SYLVIA SPRINGS STUD

00116478783121

www.sylvaspringsstud.com
www.freewebs.com/saltspringsjackdaniels

"SMART LITTLE POCOLENA"

Perlino Quarter Horse Stallion 14.1hh
Breed for colour and temperament. Guaranteed palomino or buckskin foals from non grey mares
Introductory service fee
AQPA/AQHA/PHAA/AAA mares \$500.00
All others \$250.00.

"MONTEGO SNOW TWIST JNR"

Few Spot Leopard 14.1HH Solid Quarter Horse type.
Breed for 100% colour and temperament.
Registered Appaloosa and Spotted Pony Society
Will breed gorgeous coloured Quarter Ponies.
Introductory service fee \$300.00 to all mares.

Both standing to a limited number of mares. LFG.
Deductible non refundable booking fee \$100.00.

"NEWSTEAD PARK"

Contact: Jannette Watton
jannette.horses@bigpond.com
0410 973 449

DOUBLE K ULTIMATE GRAND

DARK DAPPLED BUCKSKIN TOBIANO
14.2hh PHAA / QPHA / AQPA

"DANNY" is an absolute pleasure to have, he is very well mannered and a real gentleman to be around. His disposition, wonderful nature and good looks combined with his foundation breeding, make him an excellent sire.

Everyone that meets him just falls in love with him. He has tons of muscle, good bone, and strong hindquarters with a huge hip and pretty head.

"DANNY" moves with a beautiful smooth stride, this stallion is gorgeous animal and a pleasure to watch in motion.

"DANNY" is by ULTIMATE ROC
from DOUBLE K SHEEZA BABY GRAND.

~Service Fee: \$550~
Non Refundable/Deductible Booking Fee:\$150
Vet and Agistment By Arrangement.
Excellent Mare Care

Contact Daiquiri Stud Ph: 07 54638350
Website: <http://daiquiristud0.tripod.com>

PLEASE NOTE:

NEW ADDRESS FOR AQPA

IS

PO BOX 450

CASINO NSW 2470

**(MAIL TO PREVIOUS ADDRESS WILL BE
FORWARDED)**

**WE NEED YOU TO HELP RUN
THE AUSTRALIAN QUARTER
PONY ASSOCIATION
SO PLEASE CONSIDER
PUTTING YOUR HAND UP
FOR A POSITION. WE WOULD
LOVE TO SEE SOME NEW
BLOOD AND NEW IDEAS
COME ON BOARD!**

AQPA SHOP

We have NEW items now available
to promote our fantastic little breed.

****NOW AVAILABLE****

NEW LOGO - Limited Stock

T Shirts \$15

Caps \$10

Stickers \$0.50

To order please email

treasurer@australianquarterponyassociation.com



**AUSTRALIAN QUARTER PONY ASSOCIATION
INC**

ABN: 99 243 732 466

PO BOX 450 CASINO NSW 2470

www.aqpa.com.au

President

Leanne Prime – 03 5460 4755
president@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Vice President

Sharyn Dowdy – 02 6682 8522
vicepresident@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Treasurer

treasurer@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Secretary

Donna Waller – 03 5439 7131
secretary@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Registrar

Membership & Registration Enquiries
Sharyn Dowdy - 02 6682 8522
registrar@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Promotions

promotions@australianquarterponyassociation.com

Newsletter

Leanne Prime – 03 5460 4755
newsletter@australianquarterponyassociation.com