



IDAMHC NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Lois Cant, President Lee Clark-Lilley, Vice President Gwynne Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of IDAMHC General Meeting 04-14-13

Meeting was called to order by President Lois Cant at 12:45 during the lunch break at our annual Spring Training Clinic at Birt Arena, Nampa ID.

In attendance were members Lois Cant, Gwynne Shaw, Pam MacFarlane, Susan & Richard Welch, Susan Marler and Cheryl & Madison Holly. Plus, we were joined by new members Darcy Gay, Katie Baker, Judy Worle and Randy Stuart. Guests were Joan Lyons, Andrea Williams, Talitha & Colin Neher and Pat Stocks.

Minutes from our January meeting were posted on our website and published in the last Newsletter. Gwynne Shaw made the motion to accept those Minutes without revision and it was seconded by Susan Marler. Passed.

New members (named above) were welcomed to the club and encouraged to participate in our awards program.

Gwynne Shaw submitted the Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance from 01-09-13: \$3424.57

Credits:

\$ 60.00 Memberships

.25 Interest (3 months)

\$ 60.25 total credits

Debits:

\$ 15.04 to G. Shaw - reimburse postage

25.00 AMHA – club recognition

25.00 AMHR – “

50.00 ID Horse Council – “

60.00 ISHSA – “

47.00 Post Insurance – add coverage for Driving Trek in May

150.00 Birt Arena – rental for today's clinic

20.64 to G. Shaw – reimburse postage/printing (see receipts)

\$392.68

New Balance: \$3092.14

Susan Marler made the motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Pam MacFarlane and passed.

Our insurance policy and problems encountered with the current agent were discussed. Gwynne Shaw made the motion to change insurance agents as of the June 27 renewal date, it was seconded by Susan Marler and passed. The new agent is a Paint horse person active in her registry and club, so is familiar with the “horse world”. She is licensed in Idaho and can either keep our coverage with the same company we've had for several years or put it with one of the other companies she represents, depending on quotes being obtained.

Coming events were discussed:

5-12-13 is the Driving Trek at Eagle Island. Entry form and rules are available on our club website and the Skills (obstacles) to follow driving will be posted there shortly.

6-2-13 is our Summer Celebration show at Birt Arena. We have a carded judge for this event, so show points will apply for those in our club awards program. Entry form is available on our website. Pre-entries are encouraged.

6-1 and 2, 2013 is an ADS sanctioned CDE Driving Trial at the Idaho Center in Nampa. There will be Driving/Cones/Obstacles on Sat. plus Driving/Cones on Sunday. So... ambitious drivers could do that event on Saturday and still make our club show on Sunday!

Our guests at this meeting also encouraged participation in the Driving classes at the Western Idaho Fair at Expo Idaho, August 20 and 21. Pleasure driving classes are on Tuesday and Obstacle classes are on Wednesday. Entry fee is \$5 and the Fair offers ribbons and pay-back.

9-21-13 is our club's ISHSA Open Show at Birt Arena. This is our main fund raiser for the year so we encourage participation and/or members help in putting on the show. Show bill will be posted on our website when it is completed and approved. Anyone willing to help at that event should contact Lois or Gwynne.

Susan Marler made the motion to adjourn at 1:15 and it was seconded by Gwynne Shaw.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwynne Shaw, Secty/Treas.

April 14, 2013 Training Clinic



We had a nice day for our annual April Training Clinic at Birt arena in Nampa. While we had not planned to address showing in halter, we had some new people (now club members) there who expressed an interest in working on that. Just in the nick of time, the Hollys came in, and Madi was kind enough to do a brief segment on showing in halter. She even had a horse with a show clip to demonstrate, as he had been to the ISHSA show the day before. The rest of our horses were in various degrees of shaggy.

There were some jumps set up to practice Hunter, and Susy Marler brought her array of obstacles, which she set out for practicing both In Hand and Driving. She always surprises us with a few new things.

Susy, and others who had experience with training horses on obstacles, helped those who wanted to learn or were having problems in getting their horses to do certain maneuvers.

After the Pot Luck lunch/general club meeting, Rosie Williams of the Whips gave us the benefit of her vast experience in driving, from fitting the harness, to ground driving, and hitching to the cart. We very much appreciate her sharing her time and knowledge with our group.

We had 11 minis and 1 pony participating. While we were just shy of covering the arena expense for this event, everyone said they enjoyed the clinic and felt it was worthwhile as a tune-up for future activities.

Celebrating Spring with a Trail Drive at Eagle Island 04-29-13

Lee Clark-Lilley, Susan & Dick Welch , and Gwynne Shaw



Eagle Island Driving Trek May 12, 2013

As a result of sick horses and human injuries – plus the fact that the Sunday of Mother’s Day was one of the very few openings available at the park – we ended up with only 9 drivers. What we lacked in numbers was made up for in enthusiasm, and we had a full array of breeds to include horses, ponies, and minis. It was starting to get a little warm by afternoon, but weather was gorgeous (who knew it would be 91 degrees on Mother’s Day?)

John Munson handled timing of entries on the trails, and most were very close to “perfect” times, whether they elected to do the shorter “Tenderfoot” course or the longer “Adventurer” course. There were 8 obstacles to be completed within 60 seconds, with bridges being on the trail course and the rest set up in the area of the Trailhead parking lot. Susan Marler contributed a new one: and “L” with plastic walls so the horse is heading into a solid wall before making the turn. That caused several animals to balk! The park had also been doing irrigation, and there were some unexpected water obstacles along the trails.

Susan Marler took 1st place in the “Very Small Equine” category, with Lee Clark Lilley in 2nd, and Lois Cant in 3rd based on a combination of trail times (and deviations from “perfect” for the course chosen) and performance on obstacles. Just for bragging rights, the minis did way better than the bigger equine on the obstacles!

Flynn's Saddle Shop provided 3 grooming products as awards for 1st place in the different size categories, and ribbons were available for those who stuck around long enough for us to compute results. Mary Munson had approached Flynn's for donations, and Lois Cant turned in the form and picked them up.

We finished with a nice luncheon. Drinks and food items were provided by our club as well as by John and Mary Munson, who brought a great taco salad in one of the biggest bowls I've ever seen. Although she did not participate in the event, Rosie Williams (who helped at our Clinic last month) and her friend came out to cheer us on and join us for lunch.

The MacFarlanes came just to help. Pete helped Susy set up the "L" obstacle, Pam judged the bridge obstacle on the trail course, and both she and Pete took pictures.

We made some new friends with larger equine, who may do future trail drives or other events with us. Talitha Neher, who brought her pony to our April clinic, participated in this Trek and is also planning to attend our June 2 show.

Tony and Terri Jones of Boise, who brought a big gal in the "Horse" size category, made a \$20 donation to support this activity, so we broke even on this event and everyone felt that it was a success.

Additional pictures are available on our club website as a slideshow. <http://www.idahominiaturehorseclub.com/trek-may-12-2013>



Proof that Mini Owners can still play with the Big Boys!



Lee Clark-Lilley



Susan Welch

2013 Awards Program Nominations

For horses that will be new to the program, you can submit nominations at any time. Points will count from the date they are received by Gwynne Shaw (or the postmark date).

If there are any questions, call Gwynne at 585-3748 or email at email@gwynne-gary.com

Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to share your miniature horse adventures with your fellow club members - whether it is in the show ring, a parade, or community event - please write up a short article with any available photos and get them to Gwynne and Gary. They will be accepted either in hard copy or via e-mail.

Advertising on Website

Items for sale (horses or other) can be added to the club website, including a photo. Items valued at \$200 or more cost \$5 (payable to IDAMHC) and those under \$200 are free. Contact Gwynne or Gary.

REMINDER: June 2 Summer Celebration Show at Birt Arena in Nampa

Discounted entry fees for members. Entry form on website:

<http://www.idahominiaturehorseclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/SummerShow2013.pdf>

Events

June 2, 2013 IDAMHC Summer Celebration Show, Birt Arena, Nampa*
Sept. 21, 2013 IDAMHC ISHSA Show, Birt Arena, Nampa
Oct. 19, 2013 IDAMHC Hallowed Hauntings Playday, Birt Arena, Nampa

*See our website www.idahomniaturehorseclub.com for more details.

Any events you think members might be interested in attending? Contact Gwynne or Gary and we'll post the info here and on the website.

Equine Colic

The word "colic" strikes fear in every equine owner's heart! You think you're doing the very best you can to make sure your horse friends are happy and healthy, only to find one of them in obvious distress. Is it your fault? Was there something you should have/could have done to prevent this? The answer is almost always "no". Horses are predisposed to colic because of their gastrointestinal anatomy and the way their gut works, so even the best kept and most well managed horse can get colic. A horse's intestine is long and can become tangled easily. The digestive process involves the production of gas through fermentation, and gas can fill loops in the intestine which if then tangled causes a blockage. Unlike humans, the horse can't vomit to rid itself of unsuitable material.

Colic is defined as "abdominal pain" but is a clinical sign rather than a diagnosis. It can include all forms of gastrointestinal conditions causing pain, as well as other causes not involving the gastrointestinal tract. Among [domesticated](#) horses, colic is the leading cause of premature death. The incidence of colic in the general horse population has been estimated between 10 and 11 percent on an annual basis. It is important that any person who owns or works with horses be able to recognize the signs.

- Pawing and/or scraping
- Abnormal postures: stretching or sitting on haunches
- Frequent attempts to urinate
- Flank watching: turning of the head to watch the stomach and/or hind quarters
- Biting/nipping/kicking the stomach
- Pacing/restlessness
- Repeated lying down and rising
- Rolling or thrashing while down
- Groaning, teeth grinding, lifting their lip
- Excess salivation
- Loss of appetite
- Change in manure: decreased fecal output or diarrhea
- Increased pulse rate: Elevated rates are a good indicator of pain level. 34-40 beats per minute while resting is normal.
- Any degree of abdominal distension
- Nonspecific signs that tell you the horse is distressed. These include depression, poor appetite, sweating, increased pulse rate, breathing more rapidly.
- Changes in mouth and gum color. Dry, abnormally pale, or abnormally red or dark,

Always call the vet if you think your horse has colic. With the information you provide, your vet can decide if the horse needs to be seen right away, and decide on a course of action. You may find some "miracle cures" available with brand names like Equine Gutflush or Stops Colic, but 1) they are pricey

(\$75-\$85) and 2) only address gas or sand colic - so if there is another cause, the delay in getting veterinary advice could cost your horse his life!

The simplest type of colic is spasmodic or "gas" colic. When this happens, a segment of intestine isn't moving normally. Gas starts to build up and the horse gets uncomfortable. With mild spasmodic colics, walking, or even longeing, the horse is often one of the first things to try(but don't push the horse to exhaustion and stop for rest frequently.) Light exercise may be all it takes to get the gut moving well again. However, this is a judgment call for your vet to make. Never give any pain-relieving drugs without the vet's knowledge and instructions to do so. These can mask symptoms enough that your vet will not get a true impression of what's going on with the horse.

If your vet feels it's necessary to see the horse right away, he'll do a general physical exam, including careful monitoring of the chest and abdomen with the stethoscope. After this, if the horse is very agitated or distressed, he will likely give your horse pain-relieving drugs. Your vet will decide whether the horse can be treated at your place or whether a referral to a hospital is in order. Some cases require more sophisticated tests or more intensive medical therapy than can be provided at home, even if surgery isn't warranted.

Impactions (caused by sand or dirt accumulation), rarely require surgery, but clearing them may take anywhere from a day to even a week. Pain medications like Banamine will help relieve the horse's discomfort, and may be needed more than once a day. To clear the impaction, your vet will administer mineral oil or stool softeners, fluids, and electrolytes via stomach tube. Fluids may also be given intravenously to help rehydrate the horse.

A horse with a displaced or twisted section of bowel whose blood supply is compromised, or one with abdominal abscesses, will need surgery to correct the problem. Colic surgery is usually an expensive procedure as it is major abdominal surgery, often with intensive aftercare. Based on tests performed in a lab, there are fairly accurate formulas to predict survival chances – but this is not something your vet can tell you while the horse is at home in your barn.

So...In a Perfect World, what can you do to prevent colic as much as possible?

Fresh Water should be available at all times, Dry hay contains 20% or less moisture vs. 75% or more in fresh grass. Be sure water sources do not freeze in winter. Summer heat and exercise increase the horse's need for water. However, provide only small amounts of warm water after heavy exercise or when horse is overheated. Make sure your horse has access to salt and that he's actually taking it in.

Routine: Keep a regular exercise and feeding schedule. Horses kept in confinement or fed with irregular times/amounts are far more prone to colic.

Feed: Feeding should be divided into 2-3 meals a day. Minimize grain and energy-rich supplements, as these contain sugars and starches that horses have a limited ability to digest. Don't make any sudden diet changes, including using hay from different sources or cuttings, as the sugar, starch, and protein levels can vary drastically. Limit grazing of fresh grass in spring/early summer when high sugar content can cause gas build-up.

Worming: Have a regular worming program.

Psyllium: Use this product, as directed, regularly to clear sand from the digestive tract. Don't put hay or other feed on the ground where sand/dirt may be ingested, and avoid grazing on pasture with large areas of bare ground.

Stress: Minimize stress factors as much as possible – transportation, shows, herd changes, etc., as stress can produce stomach ulcers in horses and antacids are less effective in horses than in humans.

May your horses stay happy and healthy so you need never refer to this article!

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