



# Horse Council Courier

*The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.*

## Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo set for November 19-20; Will feature return of 3-time Olympic Coach Jane Savoie, West Coast trainer/motivator Charles Wilhelm

**David Nobbe to lead ProTrack for stable/farm managers**

Three-time Olympic Coach Jane Savoie, who was rated 11 on a scale of 1 to 10 by packed audiences enthused with her 2010 Expo presentations, will headline this year's Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo & Holiday Market November 19-20 at the Lake County Expo Center, Grayslake, IL.

Joining Savoie will be Charles Wilhelm of Castro Valley, CA. As seen on RFD-TV and his weekly program on NAUHS on DishTV, Wilhelm offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship at his facility, from novice through trainer and top-level competitor. His focus is on performance training, including Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, and Ranch Versatility.

Produced by Horsemen's Council of Illinois as part of its commitment to equine education, and sponsored by Purina Feeds, Expo's more than 50 presentations over two days is being called simply "the best educational opportunity."

Expo features leading trainers, nutritionists, animal scientists, veterinary specialists and researchers in the forefront of equine understanding. Attendees will have four different topics to choose from each hour.

In addition to its extraordinary educational emphasis, Expo offers shopping for "all things equestrian" across the Expo Center's 65,000 square feet of exhibit space.

"When asked for ideas on speakers for Expo, many insisted 'bring Jane back,'" said Joy Meierhans, Expo manger. "Jane's approach to equine education is universal as she imparts wisdom that crosses all breeds and disciplines," Meierhans said.

"She's a great communicator who breaks down her insights into easily actionable concepts," Meierhans emphasizes.

Savoie was the dressage coach for the Canadian 3-Day Event Team at the Atlanta and Athens Olympics. She also coached several top dressage and 3-Day Event riders for the Sydney

Olympics, and while there she helped U.S. rider Susan Blinks win Bronze for the U.S. team.

A member of the U.S. Equestrian Team since 1991, Savoie has represented the United States in competition in Germany, Holland, France, Belgium and Canada. She was the reserve rider for the bronze medal-winning Olympic dressage team in Barcelona.

Savoie has written five books and collaborated on eight additional titles. Her books have been translated into French, German,

Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Polish.

Wilhelm is known for his skills in communicating and motivating people as well as his natural abilities with the horse. He believes that "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault" as his training methods reflect. His



*Three-time Olympic Coach Jane Savoie to headline 2011 Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo*



*Charles Wilhelm*



*"Simply the best educational opportunity" is the way attendees describe sessions at Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo*

relaxed, warm and amusing character has made him a great favorite at clinics and expositions. Clinic participants and observers take home practical and solid knowledge and are able to be successful with their own horses – seeing results right away.

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## President's Corner



*GAO agrees: unintended consequences of poorly conceived policy increases horse suffering*

*While Our Horses Suffer...*

First, let me state very clearly that I am intolerant of animal suffering in whatever form that takes.

I am and will continue to be a strong advocate for the welfare of horses. I will not compromise that stance for personal or professional popularity, current trends, political correctness or under force of intimidation. For me, horses come first. Period. I hope you all feel the same. I suspect that you do, otherwise you would not be members of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

Second, this article is about the unintended consequences of poorly-conceived and executed state and national policies that have resulted in increased horse suffering. I realize that some of you will not agree with my position; however, these facts have now been confirmed by a federally-mandated study, and I feel compelled to voice my advocacy for the horse.

Winston Churchill said: "Sometimes we stumble over the truth, but most people will pick themselves up and continue on as if nothing has happened." Sometimes truth is not pretty; yet an unpretty truth is a truth nonetheless. The truth in this case is brutal but simple: Eliminating horse slaughter as an end-of-life option has caused an increase in neglected, abandoned and suffering horses.

The notion of animal rights goes well beyond animal welfare. It imbues animals with the same rights as humans. That means that animal ownership is akin to slavery, animals should not be used for forced labor (like riding or driving, or working dogs), and eating animal flesh is akin to cannibalism. It was the animal rights extremists who targeted the horse industry with the first in what will be a continuing agenda of prohibitions. In the end, the agenda of the animal rights' extremists won and horse slaughter was effectively eliminated in the U.S. in 2007.

Consequences of eliminating the slaughter option for horses without establishing a viable alternative were clear to experienced horsemen in all disciplines; horsemen who understood the human motivations, the economic drivers and the limitations of their industry. Horsemen who daily put the needs of their horses above their own; caring people who daily do what it takes to do what's right for their horses. Horse owners worth

their salt will vouch for the fact that what's right is not always what is easy, or sometimes what is appealing. The barometer for what is right is read by the welfare of the animal, not the sensibilities of the human.

Almost immediately following the closure of the last U.S. horse slaughter plant, reports of horse neglect, starvation, abandonment and other abuses began to climb. Unfortunately, there is no state-by-state or federally mandated system for documenting horse neglect and abandonment, so although informed horsemen were aware of what was happening, they had no unassailable proof. Finally, however, the suffering of enough horses had become so apparent and so acute, and the outcry from concerned horsemen was substantial enough that it could not be ignored.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was charged with conducting an unbiased study of the repercussions of closures of U.S. horse slaughter operations on the welfare of America's horses. Although the GAO was over a year late in releasing the results of its study, it finally became public last month (<http://www.gao.gov/Products/GAO-11-228>). The GAO's conclusions were not to the liking of the wealthy and powerful animal rights groups; they concluded that American horses have experienced increased suffering as a direct effect of the elimination of the slaughter option.

Those who would like us to believe that the appalling rise in horse starvation, neglect, abandonment and abuse is due solely to the economic downturn, or to our lack of responsible breeding and management of our horses, or to the purported greed of horsemen, were plainly called wrong by the GAO. Those who maintained that horse sanctuaries and mandatory euthanasia restrictions could solve the problem of unwanted horses were proven wrong. These alternatives have proven to be woefully inadequate, and a true working solution to the problem of unwanted horses cannot be achieved through these methods alone.

Since the GAO's study concluded that closing the horse slaughter facilities in the U.S. has directly contributed to the increased suffering of American horses, it follows that a logical remedy (and one of the GAO's recommended solutions) is to

*continued on page 11*

# Executive Director's Report



## *What is the Illinois Horse Community Exactly?*

In as diverse a group of people as I meet when wandering around barns and speaking to groups at meetings and events statewide it's pretty hard to pin any one moniker or defining image on the makeup of the Illinois horse community. But it's pretty clear to see, and I think everyone will agree that we all have one common thread that runs throughout... the horse!

Dictionary.com defines a community as; **com-mu-ni-ty**

[kuh-myoo-ni-tee] –*noun, plural* -ties.

1. a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.
2. a locality inhabited by such a group.
3. a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists (usually preceded by *the*): *the business community; the community of scholars.*

So it must be the horse itself that's our common bond! It's the horse that we all have in common and that creates our community.

It really doesn't matter whether you consider your horse as your companion, your best friend, a pasture ornament, an investment, a hay burner, a pet or livestock, whether you ride English, Western, drive or plow, whether you are 9 or 90, it's your love and respect for the four-legged we call

the horse that brings you into this community.

It's important for us to note that we all made a personal choice to have horses in our lives. Nobody forced us to become part of this community—it was our choice, our own free-will decision. Some may question the soundness of that decision, but nonetheless it was our choice. It also needs to remain our choice when the time comes for us to get out of horses or to sell a horse that no longer meets our expectations without undue governmental oversight or the threat of imprisonment.

**Each and every one of us in this horse community needs to help educate and provide information about responsible horse ownership to our friends, neighbors and elected officials.** We need to participate in the discussions about horses and horse welfare and to monitor all equine related activities to assure an outcome where we can continue to choose to include horses in our lives. We need to let everyone who will listen know that we... horse owners... really care the most and quit letting the non-horse owners who live in condos or townhouses in the cities make our decisions for us.

We also need to bring new members into the community for it to thrive and even survive. As I get around the state, I see more and more gray haired and not so many new and vibrant faces in the crowd. To that end, HCI will be at the Illinois State Fair, August 12 – 21, featuring Back Country Horsemen's Association (BCHA) Master Instructor Bob Wagner for several demos on horse packing and backcountry camping daily in Conservation World. Why

Conservation World? It's an excellent venue full of outdoorsy folks and a great chance to demystify horses, even if just a little, to a whole new audience. We found many of the folks who come to Conservation World have never seen a real live horse before! They'll probably never make it by the horse barns, so we figure we'll bring the horses to them! Informational displays, demos and the opportunity to talk with a mostly non-horse crowd about horses is, as they say, "priceless". Our hope is that they may choose to include horses in their lives at some point to.

HCI will also be working the crowds and making presentations on "building a better future for horses and horse people" at Horse Days in Belvedere on August 19 - 21, and at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur August 30 – September 1.

We'd sure welcome your participation during these events in the demos, the presentations and by volunteering a few hours, or a few days, to help meet new people and answer questions about horses. Please contact me at the HCI office and schedule some time to volunteer today!


Keep in mind that HCI also has a host of knowledgeable people available to discuss all the legal, environmental and governmental aspects of our equestrian lifestyle at your club's meetings and functions.

Be sure to join HCI on Facebook and sign up for our e-newsletter to keep up to date with all the news, comments and events happening throughout the Illinois horse community.

*Frank Bowman*


## **College/Professional Scholarships Deadline is November 1 for \$1,000**

Can you use \$1,000 to further your professional career in the equine industry or to attend college, pursuing a career in the horse industry?

Horseman's Council of Illinois offers two such annual scholarships, (1) for veterinary students and (2) for students entertaining a career in the equine industry. Deadline to apply is November 1. Application forms are available by writing to HCI or on its website: [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org). HCI may be contacted at 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone (217) 529-6503. Fax (217) 529-9120. 

## **Equine Rescue Technique Training expanding to fire departments, State Police**

HCI Director Peter Viet is working with the Illinois Fire Institute to develop a plan for presentation of an integrated Emergency Rescue Techniques curriculum for use by its district and area managers. It's a joint effort that also may involve the U. of I.'s Veterinary School, County Farm Bureaus and the Illinois State Police.

The idea, Viet says, is to get training sessions into centralized locations so future trainers and horses will be local. Any organization interested in receiving the training may contact Horsemen's Council of Illinois at [hci.horsemenscouncil.org](http://hci.horsemenscouncil.org). 



## New EyeD for Horses

by: Heather Thomas

*(The eyeD system as described in this article is being considered for United Horsemen's Do-Not-Slaughter Registry.)*

As technology advances, horse owners have new methods for permanent individual identification of horses. Breed registries, health professionals, equine facilities, and regulatory administrators (tracking movement of horses across state or national borders) rely on dependable means of permanent ID. Now there are ways to have more secure yet simple methods—with advantages over traditional methods such as freeze brands, tattoos, or microchips.

A new system becoming available to professionals and horse owners is iris scan technology, called eyeD. At present, the iris scan is one of the most accurate, reliable, safe and effective of all existing ID methods for horses. The iris is easily seen and photographed.

David Knupp, Global Animal Management (owned by Merck Animal Health), says a specialized camera is used for taking photos of the iris. "The camera is held about 14 inches away from the eye. We take pictures of both eyes. The horse doesn't have to remain perfectly still because we're taking a video. We move the camera around and the software lets you know when you are the proper distance away from the eye," he says.

"After the software gets enough video, it tells you it's complete, and you halt the recording process. The software goes back through the video, and selects one image best suited for iris mapping. It grabs that image, which we call an eyePrint, and uses

it for the permanent picture," says Knupp.

"We do this for both eyes when we initially enroll a horse in the system. That information is transferred to into your computer when you plug the camera into it. A piece of client software, called eyeSync, must be installed on your computer. It pulls the information off the camera—the picture of the eye and information about the horse—and sends it via internet to the eyeD processor. It stores the iris images and assigns a unique 15 alphanumeric number. That number, the eyeD ID, is associated with that horse's eye, as the horse's identification number," he explains.

The camera will also take field photos. "It allows you to take up to 4 still pictures of the horse, to be attached to the horse's file," says Knupp.

The company sells cameras to veterinarians and other equine professionals, breed associations, event coordinators, trainers, breeding facilities, etc. who do the iris scanning for their clients. "Once we've enrolled the horse and have its eyeD ID, the identification number can be attached to other pieces of information such as health certificates, health records, Coggins tests, interstate movement certificates or any other information that needs to be associated with that horse," says Knupp.

"This is a non-invasive way to identify a horse." It causes no pain or potential harm, and the horse doesn't need to be restrained for this procedure.



Horse eyeD Technology

"The information may be used by a breed association, or by a veterinarian. Here, we'd only store what we need for the identification process," he says.

Development of this technique has taken more than a decade. "One of the first technologies was a retinal scan. The iris scan has some differences and advantages. It works better because the iris is at the front of the eye versus the retina at the back of the eye. We don't need to get as close, to do the iris scan, and we don't need the horse to be as still, and it doesn't take as long to get the scan," he explains.

Another advantage is that the iris is very rich in unique features. "There is a lot of definition, and many things we can map, to statistically know the difference between irises, versus the retina." No two irises are alike. Even clones have different irises because of various environmental factors beyond just DNA.

One thing horse owners ask about is cost. "We haven't published prices yet, but when we come to market this fall, cost of this technology will be no more expensive than a microchip. We will officially launch this technology at the AAEP meeting in San Antonio, in November," says Knupp. 🐾

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The Equine Chronicle Online,  
www.equinechronicle.com*

### Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo, continued from page 1

HCI Director David Nobbe, Ph.D., will moderate the ProTrack for stable and farm managers, with sessions from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sunday only. Until it closed, Nobbe was general manager for Horizon Farm, the largest commercial breeding farm (Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds) in Illinois, with 40 employees involved with stallions, mares, foaling, breaking, training and sales prep. At the farm he also supervised the USDA-approved quarantine facility for International Racehorse Transport for export of horses overseas.

ProTrack's scheduled presentations will cover subjects such as legal, environmental, safety and marketing in addition to employer/employee and customer issues.

**Expo also encourages managers to submit subjects of interest.** They may go to [www.HorsemensCouncil.org/Expo](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org/Expo) and complete the "Send us your ideas" section, or contact Expo Manager Joy Meierhans at [JM@TheMeierhans.com](mailto:JM@TheMeierhans.com) or (630) 557-2575.

Expo tickets will be available online or at the door: Daily \$8, Weekend \$14. Parking is free at the Lake County Expo Center,

located in the countryside south of Gray-slake (north of Chicago and south of Milwaukee). The premier exposition facility is west of I-94 at the intersection of Peterson & Midlothian Roads, just west of Libertyville.

As additional speakers and programming are finalized, information will be placed on the Expo web site [www.HorsemensCouncil.org/Expo](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org/Expo).

For exhibitor information, contact Joy Meierhans, Expo Manager at (630) 557-2575 or [JM@TheMeierhans.com](mailto:JM@TheMeierhans.com). 🐾

## Meet Your HCI Directors - Yvonne Ocrant and Kevin Kline

### Yvonne C. Ocrant, JD Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP

Yvonne Ocrant is a transaction and litigation attorney licensed in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. She obtained her law degree in 1999 from DePaul University College of Law, where she was Law Review Executive Editor, and received her Bachelor's degree graduating cum laude in 1995 from Northern Illinois University. Yvonne practices equine law, and commercial litigation in areas including employment, title insurance and general commercial litigation, at Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, a Chicago-based law firm with 25 nationwide offices including Florida, New York, and California. She is also a certified mediator having completed 40 hours of professional mediation training with Pepperdine University's nationally recognized mediation training program. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and Wisconsin Bar Association. She currently serves as Chair of the Equine Law Subcommittee of the Animal Law Section of the American Bar Association.

As an equine attorney, Yvonne assists individual horse owners, trainers, breeders, riding, boarding, and training facilities, veterinarians, and other equine industry clients litigate and resolve claims for personal injury, property damage, breach of contract, fraud, misrepresentation, and a variety of other legal issues. She also drafts contracts for horse purchases, sales, leases, and commission arrangements, and creates equine liability releases for boarding and training facilities, trainers, transporters, and other individuals and entities sponsoring or participating in equine activities. She has also enforced equine lien rights for individuals and equine boarding facilities in various Illinois, Wisconsin and Florida jurisdictions. She provides equine law consultations to major equine insurance providers and conducts structured mediations on behalf of insurance companies,

individuals, corporations, associations, partnerships, and other equine industry entities in need of expedited and cost efficient dispute resolutions. Most recently, Yvonne has created horse ownership syndications for horses training for the Olympics and other international level competitions. Yvonne annually attends and presents at the National Equine Law Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, the leading seminar for equine professionals.

Yvonne provides pro bono legal ser-

Federation (USDF), and United States Eventing Association (USEA) sanctioned events.

Yvonne currently campaigns her 8-year-old Thoroughbred, 'Sall About Me ("SAM"), which she got off the track as a 4-year-old. "He couldn't turn, he couldn't stop, he didn't have gaits...but he sure could run," Yvonne says in describing her challenge. She immediately took the horse to Wellington, FL, hot bed of winter-time dressage in America. "We found his walk, trot and canter, a willing spirit, and an unexpected partnership that continues to grow each day."

Back home (she lives in Wheaton and boards in Hampshire) Sam and Yvonne continue their six-days-a-week riding program, including three lessons a week and competitions once or twice a month during the season. The pair will compete at the Otter Creek Horse Trials in August, seeking qualification for the American Eventing Championships at the Preliminary Level.

While Yvonne concentrates on three-day eventing (dressage, cross-country and stadium jumping), she and Sam frequent jumping and dressage shows to sharpen their skills in these disciplines.

When Yvonne joined the HCI Board four years ago, it was to add value to an existing board with wide-ranging expertise. "In addition to my knowledge of law, I also wanted to contribute to HCI's professional education programs...focusing on risk assessment and risk management in the industry, such as:

how to better protect yourself and your assets from risks in equine activities and how to document equine related transactions to minimize misunderstanding and disputes. "In my practice, I find that many disputes arise out of a lack of preparations due to a lack of knowledge."

Yes, her work puts her under a lot of  
*continued on page 7*



Yvonne Ocrant aboard 'Sall About Me. This was only her second competition at Preliminary Division, and she finished 2nd place, losing only to a professional rider. Photo taken at Wayne DuPage Horse Trials, July 10, 2011, showing Yvonne negotiating a 6.5' drop into the water at the large water complex on course.

vices for the Hooved Animal Humane Society (HAHS) in Woodstock, Illinois and Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society (HARPS) in Barrington Hills, Illinois. She is a member of the Illinois Dressage and Combined Training Association (IDCTA) and currently trains for dressage and eventing in Illinois and Florida and competes in United States Dressage



stress...and her horse is her relief. "No matter what is going on in my life, though, if my horse is OK, everything else works out. Riding is more than a hobby. I dedicate my time, money, blood, sweat and tears to my horse and in return he gives me his all, in good times and bad – that is what makes this an amazing partnership."

"My horses are not pets and they're not merely a tool for my sport. They really become my partner in my passion for riding," she said. "What do you expect from your partner in life? You expect somebody you can lean on, somebody you can trust, somebody you can confide in, somebody who's going to be there without judgment. I have that relationship with my horses."

For Yvonne, her passion and her practice go hand-in-hand. "I don't think I would be as well-rounded and grounded and successful at this practice as I am if I didn't also ride," she said. "For any industry, knowledge is power. In what industry can I be more powerful and effective than in an industry I'm most passionate about?"

In 2001 Yvonne began to carve out her niche in equine law, which now makes up about 40 percent of her overall law practice.

Much of the business conducted in the equine industry is done "on a handshake."

"What I know as a horse person myself is that this industry historically does not use contracts. You go into any other industry and you meet somebody who just bought real estate, the first thing they do if there's a dispute is they sit down and say, 'Let's look at the real estate contract,'" Yvonne said. "Well, why do people buy horses—which can get hurt or hurt others, which can die, which can get stolen, which are worth a lot of money — why do they do all this on a handshake?"

"I realized there were steps that could be taken to reduce risk in the industry and encourage equine activities with less liability exposure." This is the value added knowl-

edge and service Yvonne brings to her clients and HCI.

**Kevin H. Kline, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Animal Sciences**  
**University of Illinois**

*Kevin Kline, a founding director of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, is a Professor of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He serves as the State Extension Specialist, Equine, and also has appointments in resident instruction and research. He teaches the undergraduate Horse Management and Equine Science courses at U. of I to*



Kevin H. Kline, Ph.D.

*approximately 60 students each semester and advises more than 20 undergraduates. Kline also advises two graduate students and his recent research has focused on the digestibility of dietary fats, use of fermentation co-product feeds, growth performance of young horses consuming diets of differ-*

*ent physical forms, and acid-base status of race horses as a function of diet, exercise and illegal compounds. Kline serves as a consultant for several state racing commissions and race tracks, regarding blood gas testing and integrity of horse racing.*

Kline sees his role and that of Horsemen's Council of Illinois as keeping the equine industry well grounded. "There are quite a lot of extreme views of what horses are. I'm old fashion. Horses should continue to have status as livestock animals. We need not be extreme, we just need to put forth the vision that horses are unique and remain livestock animals and should continue to be treated as such.

"My lament is that people who don't own horses seem to be controlling the industry. We need to keep the horse owners in control... keep a steady hand on the rudder," Kline affirms.

While Kline grew up "in town" in Clinton, IL, "it was only a two-block walk to the first beef farm "outside town," he says.

"I was first smitten by the horse bug when I was a kid and my grandfather, a diversified farmer near Waverly, IL always had ponies for us kids to mess with as we spent lots of time there in the summers," Kline says.

"By the time I was a young teen, Granddad was semi-retired and had gotten into Standard-breds, breeding and racing them. I began going to fairs with him, grooming, working and helping with training.

"It wasn't long before Granddad had a filly win 14 races as a two-year-old...it got me hooked," Kline confessed. "I thought all you had to do was go to a fair and win...I mean, it seemed like Granddad did it all the time early on. However, I soon learned that was more the exception than the rule."

Kline himself now has a mare and foal...looking to buy a yearling this fall with anticipation the Governor will sign the racing bill (SB 744, the gambling bill with provisions to provide percentages to horse racing tracks), "so we'll have decent purses again," Kline admits.

Back at work, Kline manages four Standardbred stallions standing at the University Farm as a commercial operation to support teaching and research. Among the stallions is Duneside Perch, the most popular Standardbred in the state the past two years, based on number of breedings.

The commercial breeding operation also offers students hands-on experience in a commercial enterprise.

Coming to the U. of I. and becoming Extension Specialist was serendipitous, Kline says. "My uncle was a physicist at the U of I. and my mom was a college biology teacher. I came to U. of I. because

of my uncle's prestige and my mom's dedication.

"Enrolled in Biology at the U. of I., I learned about the animal science department, and that they had horses, too! Hooked again, I transferred to AnSci and met my advisor, Dr. Waco Albert, who later convinced me to do a Masters with him. Just as I was finishing the masters, Dr. Albert died of a heart attack. Long story short, the person in the Extension Specialist position moved into Dr. Albert's slot, I was hired to replace her, and the full-time pay made it possible for me to work on my Ph.D." 🐾



## Join Us Today!

### Individual Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
How many horses do you own? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_\_ boarding stable

**Individual Membership Dues** (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$42/yr**

**Family Membership Dues** (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$72/yr**

### Organization Membership Application

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Website \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Illinois Members in Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Check appropriate category  
\_\_\_\_ Business/Professional \_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_ Charity

**Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.**

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois  
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217.529.6503  
[www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org)

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Your Future In Horses Requires You To Speak Up*

By Frank Bowman, HCI Executive Director

This time of year when we're all out mowing, fixing fence, putting up next 1c Winter's hay and burning up the high-way chasing the next win on the show circuit it's pretty easy to cast aside most of the news that comes out of the Illinois Statehouse or Congress in Washington, D.C. That kind of news can often seem far away or really far removed from our day-to-day lives. But animal issues have become a real darling of both the state and federal legislative shows during the past few sessions. Corporate animal issue fundraisers such as HSUS, AWI, PETA and many others, are busy working the halls of Congress in suits everyday while we take care of the horses in the heat of a mid-western summer. The decisions your elected officials are being asked to make on your behalf by these extremely disingenuous groups will have a direct impact on you and your work with horses, even though you may not see it right now. Politics simply matters less to people when they are busy, their lives are comfortable or while we're just out enjoying our horses. As such, many people, including horse owners, take an apathetic view of politics and pretend it doesn't affect them.

OK, so what if you really don't care about the issues and politics playing out on the national stage right now and how they might affect your horses? Well, that answer's pretty simple. If you don't care, or at least pay a little closer attention, you'll certainly have no right to complain when your taxes go up, your enjoyment of your horses becomes more restricted, your veterinary services or farrier disappear and your rights to sell your horse are gone or you're threatened with imprisonment should you sell a horse to the wrong individual. Not caring about politics is how bad governments (or bad elected officials) manage to get re-elected and stay in power despite the fact that they are doing things and making decisions that nobody really wants. By not caring you'll have no say in how the issues important to you and your horses are handled.

All of us need to pay at least a little attention to politics year-round and not just at election time. How well are your elected officials addressing the issues

that are important to you? Regardless of whether you voted for them or not! Knowing what those political rascals are up to in the middle of a term and visiting with them, or their staff, at events in your area throughout the year will inform them on your issues and help you make the best choice when time comes to vote next time around.

Take the time for a little due diligence and at least try to understand the politics of the issues involved in horse ownership today. Be aware of politics playing out all around us and use that knowledge to make all of our lives, and those of our horses, better!

**A really good way to get started and to become more active is to check out the legislative section of the HCI website at <http://www.horsemencouncil.org/HCI/>** Take a look at the lists of current issues we've compiled there, both state and congressional, and what happens if you don't care about each one. There's also a way to send an email your elected officials with the easy to use "My Elected Officials" tool. It's easy-to-use and it's free!

At HCI we care and we're working for you, but we need your help, too! A quick call or email to your elected officials will go a long way. Further than you might think! Remember, most of officials don't have any direct involvement with horses and as such have absolutely no idea what it takes to care for horses, run an equine operation or the challenges you face every day!

Take action today!

### **Active Federal Legislation**

**S. 886 - Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011;** Introduced by Tom Udall (D-NM) - Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

According to the American Horse Council, its expressed purpose is "to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horseracing." The legislation would add a new section to the IHA to ban performance-enhancing drugs, require testing of horses, and enact minimum penalties for violations. HCI is monitoring this legislation.

**S. 1281 - Horse Transportation Safety Act;** Introduced by Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

As when a similar bill **HB 678 (96th)** failed in the Illinois General Assembly a few years ago, this targeted prohibition on double decked trailers addresses only one very limited method of equine transport. This tactic is used as a fundraising mechanism and rallying call for the animals rights groups and falls woefully short of addressing humane standards for all equine transport. Nothing in this bill prohibits someone from hauling a draft horse in a sheep trailer, while it may be quite possible to haul miniature horses, ponies or even average saddle horses quite comfortably in one or more levels. While we recognize this prohibition does not directly affect our membership, HCI recommended at that time, and is still willing to work towards, using this as an opportunity to develop standards (i.e. required height above the withers, entry configurations, non-slip flooring, etc.) that would apply to all methods of equine transport rather than supporting this targeted prohibition.

### **S. 1176 - American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011;**

Introduced by Mary Landrieu (D-LA) Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

As before, there are still no fundable alternatives presented in this bill which will lead to yet more suffering, abandonment and neglect. Ultimately, fewer horses will mean fewer jobs, fewer horse shows, fewer new trucks and horse trailers, fewer training dollars, fewer veterinary services, less need for feed and the destruction of our prized American horseback culture.

HCI opposes this bill. Getting involved with horses was our choice. It is, and needs to remain, our choice when time comes to dispose of a horse that no longer meets our expectations to 1) sell without recourse, or threat of imprisonment 2) provide a comfortable retirement for the horse at our expense for the remainder of its natural life or 3) euthanize the horse. **As responsible horse owners it needs to remain our choice – not public policy.**

**H.R. 1259 - Permanent Repeal of Estate Tax;** Introduced by Kevin Brady

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## Managing Heat Stress in Horses

by Kevin H. Kline, PhD,  
Professor of Animal Sciences

As summer approaches, and the weather heats up, so does the competitive season for horse shows, racing and other equine event. This is the time of the year that severe heat-related stress occurs in equine athletes. Symptoms such as reduced skin elasticity and capillary refill time, anhidrosis (failure of the sweat glands), colic due to decreased water content of digesta, and hyperthermia may all be due to heat-induced disruption of the horse's normal water and electrolyte balance. Many horse owners don't realize that only about 25% of the energy used in the performance horse's working muscles is converted to actual muscle movement. The remaining 75% loss of efficiency is represented by waste heat that becomes very difficult for the horse to dissipate in hot and humid weather.

Unfortunately, the problems described above are often made worse by poor management due to some common misconceptions among horse owners and trainers. Several of the following myths have been found in equine publications of years past; never let a hot horse drink more than one or two swallows of water at a time, never give ice-cold water to a hot horse - either inside or out, never let a hot horse cool out without a blanket or sheet, and never let a hot horse cool out in a drafty area.

Each of the above disproven practices severely restricts the overheated horse's ability to dissipate heat the way nature intended. The immediate need for performance horses to rid themselves of highly detrimental waste heat is accomplished through four main routes. These include evaporation, convection, conduction, and radiation.

By far, the most important mechanism for heat dissipation in horses is evaporation. Conversion of the water in sweat (or other sources of water placed on the horse's hot skin) into gas consumes heat and cools the horse's skin. During and after exercise, the horse's skin is laden with dilated capillaries carrying overheated blood from the body core. The blood in these capillaries is cooled to help maintain a reasonable body temperature that will allow the horse's nervous and muscular systems to function normally. Even a normally hydrated horse with no inhibition of evaporative cooling that is exercising in a hot and humid environment may achieve


a rectal temperature in excess of 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Not allowing a horse to drink water that can be used for sweating, or blocking the evaporation of water from the skin using a blanket, are very bad ideas during hot and humid conditions. These practices can result in a horse's body temperature spiking into a dangerous range of up to 107 or 108 degrees Fahrenheit (heat stroke). Although allowing a hot horse to consume unrestricted amounts of water may lead to problems such as colic due to hyper-distension of the stomach, it should be realized that a typical horse's stomach can hold between 2 and 4 gallons of fluid without being overly distended. So, even though a horse's stomach is small compared to other animals of its size, one or two sips of water at a time is overly restrictive when the hot horse is rapidly losing water and trying to keep itself cool.

Statement #2 above has been the source of some controversy over the years because of the belief among certain horse trainers that ice cold water placed on a hot horse's body will "shock" the horse's thermoregulatory system into shutting down blood flow to the skin. This belief has been found to be completely false. Extensive research conducted during 1995 at the University of Illinois and University of Guelph and at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta proved conclusively that horses working under hot and humid conditions were better able to maintain core body temperature within an acceptable range or even reduce it during rest periods after intense phases when ice water baths were used. Liberal application of icy cold water to overheated horses helps to dissipate heat not only by providing more water to evaporate from the skin, but also by direct conduction of the horse's body heat into the water which runs off the horse, carrying away excess heat in the process. According to University of Illinois researcher Dr. Jonathan Foreman, "In our treadmill simulations of C Halt (a rest period during a phase of the equestrian competitions at the Olympic Games), cold water baths were used with significant decreases in core temperatures and heart rates. No adverse clinical effects were apparent during the remainder of Phase C trotting or after exercise. Horses actually trotted more freely after ice-bathing stops."

Standardbred trainers are probably the worst at helping their horses to thermoregulate between multiple heats on hot

and humid days. The Standardbred training traditions of blanketing, limiting water intake and refusing to apply cold water to horses may severely limit the horse's ability to return its body temperature to near normal before a second heat is contested.

Another practice that makes little sense physiologically is preventing access to moving air during hot and humid conditions. During the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, 85 misting fans were placed at shaded recovery areas throughout various phases of the equestrian courses to allow these elite athletes to stabilize and lower their body temperatures. Regular dry fans work to both increase evaporation, and also dissipate heat by the cooling process known as convection. Misting fans take advantage of the additional cooling property of blowing water onto the horse that is in the process of changing from liquid to gas. The shaded areas guard against additional heat load through solar radiation. Although radiation of heat from the horse's body into the atmosphere is a potential mode of heat dissipation, it most often works in the opposite direction during sunny days, with horses (especially dark bay, brown and black colors) gaining radiant heat from the environment.

In the battle against heat stress in performance horses, trainers should take advantage of all available modes of heat dissipation during hot and humid conditions. Making certain that horses are adequately hydrated before exercising in hot and humid conditions and providing as much water as possible between bouts of exercise is an important strategy for maintaining the critical sweating mechanism. Realistically, only a portion of the fluid losses incurred during long term exercise in hot and humid conditions can be replaced immediately. However, providing plenty of electrolyte-rich, high quality hay and fortified grain along with free-choice trace mineralized salt and water in the days after intense exercise should fully replace both the fluid and electrolyte losses. Additionally, taking advantage of conductive heat loss through cold water baths, convective heat loss through fans and natural air movements and avoiding radiant heat gain through the use of shade are effective methods to minimize the chances of excessive heat stress in performance horses during hot and humid conditions. 

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## New Legislation Clarifies Stable Keepers Lien

By HCI Director Yvonne C. Ocrant, JD

*A lot has changed in the horse business since 1874, from the way we use horses for transportation and work in our daily lives to the way we stable and keep them. Rather than mainly overnight stabling on a trip to town, we now typically have long-term boarding agreements and care for our horses away from our own homes and properties. Horsemen's Council of Illinois, as part of its mission to defend and assist horsemen, worked with the state legislature to make much needed updates to Illinois' original 1874 lien law covering the disposition of horses that have been abandoned at boarding stables and other horse facilities or whose owners have simply quit paying their bills. The legislature sees these changes as a way to protect facility owners from the increasing incidence of "abandonment in place" that the horse industry is experiencing nationwide due to an increase in the number of unwanted horses, the lingering economic downturn, the lack of a viable sales market and to help our state's horsemen stay in business.*

The Stable Keepers Lien Section of the Innkeepers Lien Act, 770 ILCS 40/49, ("the Statute") defines the rights and responsibilities of individuals and entities seeking to enforce their rights for unpaid boarding or other related services against the owner of the boarded horse. The Statute, as it was written, was confusing and therefore difficult to enforce by the lien holder and difficult to defend against by the horse owner. Horsemen's Council of Illinois proposed revised statute provisions clarifying defined terms and adding sections so that the law may be more useful to lien holders in enforcing their rights and easier for horse owners to understand their rights in challenging any such lien enforcement.

The article identifies a number of material provisions included in the proposed legislation that HCI believes individuals and facilities should read and understand when it comes to enforcing liens against boarded horses. The proposed revised Statute has passed the vote of the House and Senate, and was submitted for review to the Governor for his approval.

**Definitions:** Several terms are defined in the definitions section such as boarding and training as well as what constitutes personal property. You will see in later sections below why these definitions are important. The definition of "boarding and training services" was broadened to include services requested by the owner under a written boarding agreement, a written request from the owner (could include text or e-mail request), administering supplements or medications, trailering the horse, and providing assistance to the veterinarian, breeder, or farrier servicing the horse. The term "personal property left on the premises" will include any carriage, harness, tack, equipment, supplements, medications, or other personal property stored by the owner at the facility.

**Lien Amount:** The Statute provides that the facility shall have a lien upon the horse and the personal property left on the premises for the amount owed for stabling the horse and storing this personal property, as well as the proper charges due for the boarding and training services, as well as all fees and expenses, including legal fees, incurred by the facility to enforce the lien.

**Possession:** The original Statute explained that this is a possessory lien, meaning, the facility has a lien on the horse as long as it remains in the facility's possession. This is still the case, however, now the Statute further states that in the event local authorities are contacted by either the facility seeking to maintain possession or the owner trying to take possession, the officer may restrict the removal of the horse from the facility if the officer is shown a written boarding agreement signed by the horse owner acknowledging the facility's lien for any amounts owed for the fees and expenses defined above. If the horse owner demonstrates the lien has been satisfied, the officer may allow the owner's removal of the horse.


**Enforcement:** The Statute was confusing on how the possessory lien is enforced by public sale, and the Statute did not provide for any private sale to satisfy the lien. The proposed revisions provide that the lien enforcement must be by public sale of the horse and the stored property, *unless*

the boarding agreement provides clear authorization that the horse and property may be sold through a private sale or ownership transfer directly to the facility to satisfy the lien. The Statute requires a written demand for payment and notice of public sale to the owner before the horse may be sold by public or private sale.

**Residual Funds:** In the event the horse is sold, whether by private or public sale, any funds received in excess of the lien amount, including attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the lien enforcement process, shall be paid to the original owner. If the original owner cannot be found, the surplus funds shall be paid to the facility's chosen equine rescue, rehabilitation, or retirement facility or organization.

**Certificate of Purchase:** At the time the horse is sold through public auction, the sheriff or other person conducting the sale, shall provide a public sale certificate of purchase of the horse to the highest bidder. There original owner shall thereafter have no claim of right, title, or interest in the horse. At the time the horse is sold through a private sale, the facility shall provide the buyer with the private sale certificate certifying that the requirements of the Statute were met and that the buyer is the legal title owner of the horse. Similar to the public auction, the original owner shall thereafter have no claim of right, title or interest in the horse.

**Facility Taking Ownership:** In the event the lien is enforced through the facility obtaining ownership of the horse and the personal property stored, the facility shall make a demand for payment to the owner with an appraisal of the value of the horse and the property showing that the horse and property will be kept in satisfaction of the full value of the lien.

Reading and understanding these newly drafted provisions of the Statute emphasize the need for carefully drafted written boarding agreements and horse lease agreements, and document the need for regular and proper communications between the horse owner and the facility to ensure the lien is timely and properly enforced. 

abandon this flawed policy and once again allow horse processing in the U.S. We need to fight for this common-sense solution.

We must undo this mess for the sake of the horses we love. Horsemen need to speak louder than the animal rights extremists and the well-intentioned but misinformed pet lovers who they have duped into believing that outlawing horse slaughter actually *prevents* suffering. I know from personal experience that standing up to the extremists, those multi-million dollar animal rights corporations, and the politicians and celebrities that they have cultivated is not easy. But now we have ammunition. We can prove that informed horsemen were right, and we can fight to decrease the suffering of America's horses. We need to talk openly and honestly to anyone who will listen, and widely disseminate the facts to those who would prefer to ignore the truth.

Many thousands of American horses have suffered since the slaughter option was eliminated in the U.S. Thousands of

other American horses, actually luckier than their brethren that remained in the U.S. to starve, made the long trip to Canada or Mexico for processing. Now, the animal rights groups want to compound the problem they have created by eliminating this option as well, still without providing a workable solution for our horses. They are sponsoring federal legislation – currently in the form of SB 1176 – which will make it a criminal offense to sell or even give away a horse that will be transported outside the U.S. to meet its end through humane processing.

I ask you, where is the logic in furthering a failed policy in order to address the very problem that it created?

Mr. and Ms. Average American have the power to dictate political policy, and they are being assailed by a boatload of misinformation from freakishly well-funded and politically powerful forces. Average Americans – and most animal rights extremists for that matter – may love the notion of horses, but they don't know the reality of

caring for horses, and that's our problem. We need to make them understand that what they don't know about horses is hurting our horses.

Here are links to information and ways to help you help us in helping horses:

<http://www.csgmidwest.org/MLC/documentsResolutiononSustainabilityofHorseIndustryMLCJuly2011.pdf>

[http://www.naiashelterproject.org/state\\_shelters.cfm?state=IL](http://www.naiashelterproject.org/state_shelters.cfm?state=IL)

[http://www.aiep.org/Current\\_Issues.htm](http://www.aiep.org/Current_Issues.htm)

<http://www.united-horsemen.org/>

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

<http://www.amillionhorses.com/>

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/horses/horses.htm>

<http://www.united-horsemen.org/summit-of-the-horse/>

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

*Sheryl King*

*Your Future In Horses Requires You To Speak Up, continued from page 8*

**(R-TX)** - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2011 - legislation that would permanently repeal estate taxes. As the value of farms and many horse properties are above the pending threshold, HCI supports this bill.

**H.R. 1733 - Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011; Introduced by Ed Whitfield (D-KY)** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

A companion bill to S. 886 (Monitoring)

**H.R. 1996 - Government Litigation Savings Act; Introduced by Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law

Places limitations on awards and fees collectable for adversarial civil actions and limits the total number of such civil

actions to no more than 3 per year by any organization. These lucrative actions have been used by environmental groups and animal rights organizations to fund operations and prevent government agencies from doing their job for years. HCI supports this legislation.

**State Legislative Roundup**

**SB 744 – Gaming Expansion** (On Senate Calendar for Concurrence; 5/30/11)

Creates new casinos, adds slots at horse tracks, adds gaming at the State Fairgrounds

**SB 1907 – Slow Moving Vehicle Signage** – (Sent to the Governor; 6/27/11)

Increases the fine for improperly displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem from \$25 to \$75 for a first offense. Includes animal drawn vehicles.

**SB 1914 – No Trespassing Tree Marking** – (Sent to Governor; 6/29/11)

Provides for notice that entry to private property is forbidden may be posted by the owner or lessee of the property by

placing identifying purple marks on trees or posts around the area as posted.

**HB 1683 – 4H Premium Funds** – (Sent to the Governor 6/10/11)

Provides that awards and premiums are subject to modification or cancellation in any year for which the General Assembly fails to make an appropriation to fund the premiums.

**HB 3012 – Stablemen's Lien** – Sent to Governor (6/29/11)

Provides needed updates to the original 1897 statute concerning liens against boarded horses. HCI supports this bill.

Current information on pending legislation, both state and federal, can always be found at the Legislative Section of the HCI website. There's also a great way to send an email to your elected officials with the easy to use "My Elected Officials" tool. It's simple, convenient and it's free! 🐾





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## *Protecting Your Horse's Life...For a Lifetime: National Do Not Slaughter Registry*

The United Organizations of the Horse and United Horsemen promote positive solutions and a range of options for all horse owners, regardless of their economic situation, how many horses they own, or what they do with their horses. People who own horses should have the right to choose how they end that ownership. For some people, processing may be an acceptable choice. Others may find it unacceptable; not only for horses they currently own, but also for horses they sold or otherwise lost track of in the past. This is the motivation behind the National Do Not Slaughter Program.

UOH has established a database that goes several steps further than the existing identify-and-locate registries. In order to accomplish this UOH has partnered with cutting edge technology and equine identification, recovery, and data management companies.

The National Do-Not-Slaughter Registry will actually pull a horse out of the process-

ing system and hold it for a minimum of 72 hours. The person linked to the registered animal is assured that any stolen animal is recovered, and if a former owner, has the option to save the horse by buying it back for the cost incurred in the slaughter process up to that point.

### **The National Do-Not-Slaughter Registry provides the following services:**

- Permanent and positive identification of the horse
- Enrollment in the National Do-Not-Slaughter Registry Database
- Web site with support information, product information, options to change or update contact information, and renew registrations on horses
- An alert system for lost or stolen animals, which sends a message to our established network of sale barns,

processing facilities, border inspectors and others with description and information about the missing horse

- Registration and enrollment clinics in various locations around the U.S., coordinated by our UOH/UH members and member organizations. Potentially, other services could be offered at these clinics for a reduced cost, such as vet exams, vaccines, euthanasia and castration, etc.
- Recruitment and education of processing facility personnel, border inspectors, horse auction companies and others to participate in the Registry by scanning every horse they come in contact with, using scanning equipment provided by the Registry.
- <http://www.united-horsemen.org/unified-equine-programsnational-do-not-slaughter-registry/> 