

Alberta Equestrian Federation

The Voice of Equine Alberta

Be sure to attend the Alberta Equestrian Federation Annual General Meeting on March 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer.

The morning session, beginning at 9:00 am, will include some informative and educational speakers. Here is a sampling, in no particular order, of what we have planned for this year!

- * Equine Functional Conformation - Judy Wardrope
 - * Equine Veterinary Practice and the Marketplace - Dr Greg Andrews
 - * Biosecurity - Your Horse, Your Home, Your Stable, Your Health - AEF Biosecurity Committee
 - * News from Alberta Agriculture - Adrienne Herron
 - * News from AFAC - Susan Church
 - * News from AEF - Sonia Meyer
- The AGM will begin at 1:00 pm and will include awards presentations for the AEF Educational Scholarship (Awarded to active AEF members who exemplify the objectives of the AEF), Charlene

Baker Scholarship Award (Awarded to the Western Rider who has achieved the highest average score of the 4 tests in the Western Rider Development Program), and the English Rider Scholarship Award (to the English Rider who has achieved the highest average score of the three tests in the English Rider Development Program).

Election of officers to the AEF Board will also take place at the AGM.

All AEF members are encouraged to attend; you must be a current member. Please check the AEF website for updated information on the AGM www.albertaequestrian.com.

Breeds & Industry

The Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) is a major stakeholder in the agricultural industry of Alberta. There are reportedly approximately nine hundred and fifty thousand horses in Canada with over a third of the national horse population in Alberta.

Alberta produces high level performance horses, national and

international level human and horse competitors and we have a major meat producing equine industry component. Spin off in the marketplace from motor vehicles, building construction, feed and tack is significant to say the least.

In order to support the contribution that the horse makes to our society from heritage to financial, the AEF has volunteer members who sit on Government Committees and Task Forces representing members of the horse community in order to address the needs of AEF members and the horse industry.

AEF and the Alberta Farm Animal Care Organization have created a Task Force known as the Alberta Equine Welfare Management Group. This Group has instituted a comprehensive study with respect to the horse industry in Alberta.

With respect to diseases that are communicable to horses and people and other animals, a biosecurity educational and information program is being instituted by AEF for the equine industry in

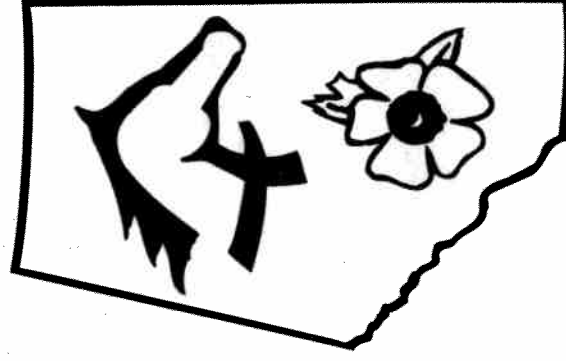
cooperation with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian. As well AEF is a stakeholder on a number of Alberta Government and professional organization committees.

The Breeds & Industry Committee of AEF is also in continuous communication with the Equine Canada Breeds & Industry Division with respect to related national issues.

If you would like more information, or would like to participate on this committee, please contact the AEF.

AEF Membership

2007 AEF memberships expired on December 31, 2007. If you were a member in 2007, you should have received your renewal by mail. If you have not yet received your membership renewal form, please contact us at 1-877-463-6233 ext 1, or email membership@albertaequestrian.com and we will ensure a renewal package gets sent to you. If your mailing address or other contact information has changed, be sure to let us know!



If you are interested in becoming an AEF member, please visit our web site or contact us for more information, a few of the membership benefits the AEF is pleased to offer include:

Automatic \$5,000,000 Personal Liability Insurance that will protect you, the member if you are sued by a third party because a horse that you own or lease causes property damage or bodily injury to a third party. This coverage is in force 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and covers the member anywhere in the world.

Automatic \$30,000, Accident, Death or Dismemberment coverage if you, the member suffer a catastrophic and permanent injury (or death) related to an incident where horses are involved. This coverage is in force 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and covers the member anywhere in the world.

Transportation Insurance - Part of the liability coverage provided through membership addresses the exposure that could arise if you, the member, transport (trailer) a horse that does not belong to you (in a non-commercial situation).

If that non-owned horse were injured as a result of your negligence and if that other person decided to sue you for compensation for their loss, the AEF policy will respond - up to a limit of \$5,000 for any one horse.

Please note - this is not commercial horse transport insurance and is not life insurance for the horse being transported - this is liability insurance to protect you if you are sued by a third party. Some limitations and exclusions apply.

Please refer to the 2008 Insurance Program and FAQs at <http://www.albertaequestrian.com/membership.asp>

Additional Benefits Enhanced Personal Liability Coverage

The non-commercial care, custody and control of up to a maximum of 3 non-owned horses in any environment. Valuable coverage in circumstances such as:

- a) Emergency boarding situations. (Example - the displacement of horses due to a catastrophic event like flood or fire)
- b) The neighborly and not-for-

AEF *continued on page 54*

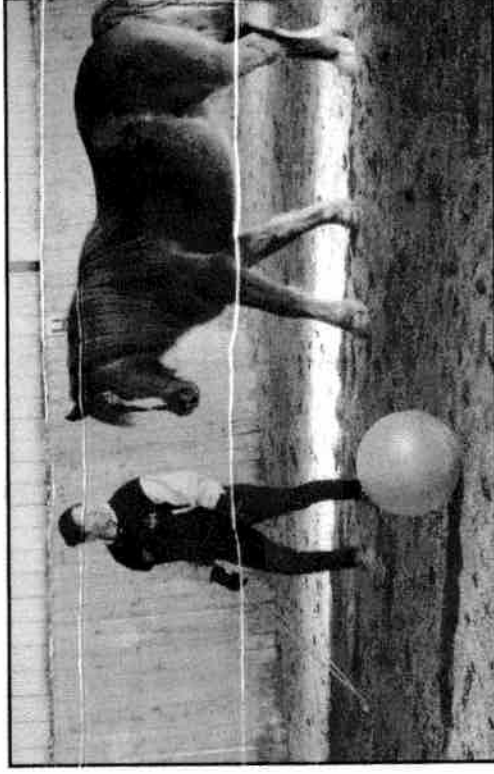


Photo by Wendy Dudley

Horse trainer Dessa Hockley spends about half-an-hour with a new horse to determine its personality. Whether the horse shows an interest in the ball will reveal whether he is curious or afraid.

reining or dressage.

The Rock Star, on the other hand, comes with a big ego, and does best with a variety of disciplines.

Then there's the Prize Fighter (dominant, lazy, curious, aloof), a horse that excels in the show ring, but also wins in battling the rider. Its aloof trait translates into a job-oriented attitude, with little interest in being pampered. These competitive equines shine in polo, barrel racing, roping and jumping.

More interested in a safe and reliable mount, suitable for the novice? Search out a Steady Eddy. Its submissive, lazy, curious and friendly traits, make this horse a joy to be around — the perfect pleasure horse.

Hockley was inspired to write her book after reading Nobel-prize winning author Jane Smiley's book, *A Year at the Races*, in which she devotes a chapter to various horse personalities. "It

they need you to show leadership."

Just as owners need to know what personality types are in their barns, they too should be honest in knowing their own traits. "Sometimes riders and certain horses just aren't a good match." By determining the personality that best suits your style and experience, a rider is more likely to make a wise purchase.

Hockley's book, available through Amazon.com, includes a quiz for readers to determine their horses' personalities, as well as advice on how to train each type, including tips on the use of round pens, clickers and dominant leading exercises.

Written with sensitivity and humour, Hockley salutes each type as being worthy, though she admits some are more difficult than others to train.

For example, the Wild Card is a dominant, energetic and friendly horse. So far, that sounds good. But add its fearful side, and you now have a mixed bag. Sweet and charming one moment, exploding the next, and then suffering a melt-down.

If there's any horse that can take away a rider's confidence, this is it, as it can be tricky to deal with its dominant side when it's coming undone because of fear.

Do you get on its case, or do you go soft to settle its fears? "That's why they're tough. They want to be in control and be the boss, but at the same time they see monsters everywhere," says Hockley.

This kind of horse requires reputation and does well in a single job where it feels safe, such as

Author *from page 49*

lazy trait, making it difficult to motivate.

"We had a horse in here that jumps at Spruce Meadows, but he'd become a handful. We started just taking him out on trail rides, so he could get into the game of no expectations," recalls Hockley. "He loved it, and before long, he was interested in jumping again."

While the dominant horses are usually the most athletic, not everyone wants or needs a power horse in their barn. In fact, many people prefer People Pleasers, the sweet and soft horses that are submissive, energetic, afraid, and friendly.

Yet, they too can become problematic if not matched with the right rider. "Horses that are submissive and afraid need direction. They need to be in that safety box, to feel the contact of your leg and the bit. For them to feel secure,



Photo by Wendy Dudley

Dessa Hockley's new book.