



HORSE WARRIORS™

SPRING! MUD! FUR! PASTELS!

We can see a light at the end of the tunnel - the tunnel of flying horsehair, 4-wheelers stuck in the mud, winter blankets being washed and packed away, fences emerging again from the snow, and saddles being unwrapped from their bagged mouse proofing. Time to clean tack AND the rest of the ranch!

Lucky for us that we still have **ART** to cheer us up, right? This month we had a wonderful time with Susan Durfee, thanks to the Wyoming Arts Council's Rural Arts grant. She shared the joys and bright colors of pastels with us and it felt like spring had swept in through the windows. Here are some photos from our March Art session!



ORANGES



Check us out on Instagram! Meet our horses and see daily program updates!

STILL LIFES • TEXTURED PAPER • EXPERIMENTS!



**MANY
PERSPECTIVES**



LOSSES & OTHER VETERINARY INFO



STAR, one of our new horses, sadly passed away this month due to a strangulating lipoma. She had 2 bad colics where nothing was moving from her stomach, and it was time to end her suffering. We are so sorry - she was the sweetest horse and we wish colic never existed.

“Strangulating lipoma is a type of colic caused when a fatty tumor gets wrapped around a portion of the small intestine or, very rarely, the small colon. Why elongated fatty tumors occur is not known. However, the tumors take years to develop, so they are more likely to be found in horses over the age of 10.”

Some days we think we should be a vet school! With as many horses as we have there is always SOMETHING going on that needs extra attention. All of our horses have been donated to the program in some form or another - that seems to be common in Equine Assisted Services these days. We love them and work with their challenges, especially as they age - sometimes right out of rideability - but they have given us so much that we continue to find meaningful engagement for them. We thought it would be interesting to share some of our horses' "little issues" with our readers. Hint: this is why our days are often very LONNNNNNNNG!

We'll give you a little insight into some of the things we deal with on a daily basis:

BEAU: Beau gets to have one of these wedge pads on his right hind foot. He came from a competitive reining background which is pretty hard on horses and he ended up with a fibrotic myopathy (kind of like a calcified muscle) in his gaskin (thigh) that caused his right hip to drop, and he was walking crookedly. We had a veterinary chiropractor come up from Utah to work with him and she prescribed a 3 degree wedge pad, which has helped him be even again!



BELLA: She's another horse from a pretty hard training background and she has a fibrotic myopathy in her right haunch that causes her to short stride. It's mechanical, not so painful, and we are very careful with her conditioning. She also has a bump on her knee from an unknown prior injury but it has stayed cosmetic and never caused any lameness.

BUZZ: Buzz is one of our Cushings horses. Cushings is a pituitary gland issue that can cause shaggy fur, weight gain or loss, and make horses prone to laminitis. Laminitis is an inflammation of the blood vessels in the hoof that can potentially rotate the coffin bone, causing excruciating pain and even death. Buzz gets a daily dose of Pergolide to minimize unsoundness.

CANYON, BISCUIT & NUBBIN: These 3 ponies are all prone to obesity and laminitis, so they have to be on restricted feed each day (tiny holed hay bags!!). Canyon also has odd, fast growing feet and requires special farrier services to keep him sound.

DOC: At 32, Doc is our oldest horse. His molars have all expired so he has little chewing surface. He gets special mushy grain each day, along with a supplement of Camelina oil to help him maintain his weight. He also had a bad cut in the fall that resulted in the amputation of a large flap of skin on his hind leg. Because it took away all the hair follicles, it has taken months to heal up and he gets treated for the slowly closing wound every day.

GRAINNE & STACHE: Grainne's arthritis has progressed pretty fast in her hind end so she gets Previcox every day, as does Stache. Sache is also another Cushings horse so he gets the Pergolide along with Previcox for the arthritis in his hind fetlocks.

HAWK: Our 2nd oldest horse, Hawk, has a hard time maintaining his weight in the winter so he gets extra feed and Camelina oil every day.



LEIA: Gray horses are prone to melanomas. Both Leia and Grainne have melanomas under their tails, but Leia's are much more prominent. Because Leia's tail melanomas are growing so rapidly she is starting on a new medication, Meloxicam. This month Leia developed a tumor in her right eye as well. Though it looked pretty small, when it was removed it was about the size of a grape! She also has one fused hock with the other one filling in, so we are carefully monitoring her comfort. So far she has been absolutely sound, just a gymnastic workout for our farrier who has to shoe her from underneath.

RAVEN: An unknown injury that happened before he came left a scar on his haunch. He is tight in his SI joint and rests his hind feet more than usual, so he gets bodywork to loosen up. His tightness may have originated from geld scars, internal adhesions from being gelded - we don't know. But he gets lots of stretching and massage.



TOPAZ & FREYA: Topaz (L) had severe laminitis when we got her donated, likely due to grass founder indicated by her “walrus neck,” and she has required lots of patient and careful farrier care. She is improving! But she will always be a dry-lot horse - no green pastures for her, sadly. The same is true for Freya (R) - she, too, had grass foundered before she came and she has had bouts of laminitis that are managed with corrective trimming and feed management.



WOODY: He came with an old (pretty horrific) scar that looked like a bad wire cut. Periodically it opens up - there is no hair left on the scar and it chelates in with hoof material, like a coronary band. It is bizarre to say the least. The rough snow abrades it in the winter and we treat it till it heals back up. It’s an ongoing issue but he stays sound, ugly as it looks sometimes. We’ve used every treatment known to the vet industry and they all work (and don’t work!) about the same. Picture on the right is a current “closing up process” with sulfur powder.



PRO-ACTION: Saddle fit is key to preventing a lot of injuries. Think about carrying a pack that doesn’t fit, then adding a lot of weight to it! Now go up and down hills, lope along, cross rivers, all with the pack weight shifting as you go. You would want something REALLY comfortable! Raven is young and here for the rest of his life. He will be Priscilla’s “go-to” horse for many years so he is getting a custom made saddle to help his comfort and soundness. We work hard to get a good fit for every horse with the saddles we have because we know what a big difference it makes. By summer Raven will have a lovely saddle that is lightweight and built for his particular back. Here’s a fun video of him “trying on clothes (tree forms)!”



CLICK on Video to play link

WE LOVE •• VOLUNTEERS •• WE LOVE

VOLUNTEER Tack CLEANING Party APRIL 24th

Please help us! Clean, functional tack is part of our ongoing commitment to safety. We clean our equipment not only to make it look better, but to carefully examine all the parts to make sure they are in good working condition.

We'd love to have you join us for good company, delicious lunch, and the satisfaction of turning our winterized saddles and bridles into gleaming examples of our horse and rider care.

We'll provide all the soap and sponges - you provide the elbow grease!

The horses would love a visit, too (they sometimes like to supervise, especially Biscuit) so we hope you can join us for the day.

RSVP so we know how much lunch to prepare!

307-690-6124

horsewarriors@wyomng.com

SADDLE SOAP

& SOUP

TACK CLEANING PARTY AND SUPER SOUP LUNCH!!!

**SATURDAY
APRIL 24TH**

**DIAMONDFLY RANCH
THAYNE, WY**

**COME HELP US GET OUR
SADDLES AND BRIDLES
CLEANED AND CONDITIONED
FOR OUR BUSY
SUMMER SEASON!**

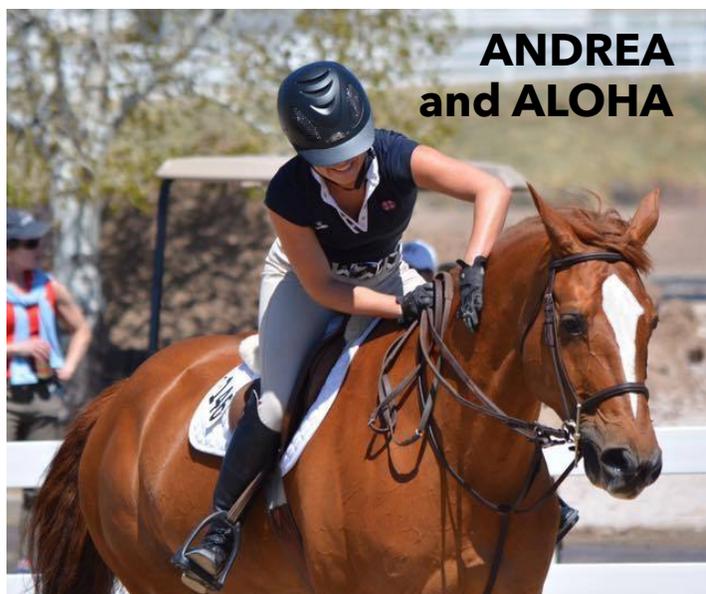
**10:00 AM
TILL WE'RE
DONE!!**

307-690-6124
HORSEWARRIORS@WYOMING.COM

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TEACHING AND LEARNING happens every time we are together.

It might seem like time in the hay shed and the barn wouldn't be "class" time, but we see a lot of passing of information here. From giving experienced tips on loading hay sleds, to teaching peers the finer points of hay rope bundling, students cheerfully pass on their information so everyone can keep the program running smoothly. Even the horses offer tips and appreciation on grooming and spring hair removal!



**ANDREA
and ALOHA**

Speaking of teaching, we want to congratulate our fabulous Board Secretary, **ANDREA OVERLY** for being voted **Best Teacher** in the **Best of Jackson Hole Competition!**

ANDREA is a wonderful teacher, and a great advocate for the teens in our community. AND she is a fabulous rider and lover of horses (and Corgis!!)



**ANDREA
and DARREN**

SUMMER COURSES UPDATE



HORSES of the GODDESS™



ONE space left in our **HORSES of the GODDESS™**

Professionals' Training. Please email us if you would like to be steeped in horses, equine behavior, creative curriculum development, beautiful scenery, great food, excellent instruction and lovely camaraderie for a week! May 30-June 6, 2021.

horsewarriors@wyoming.com

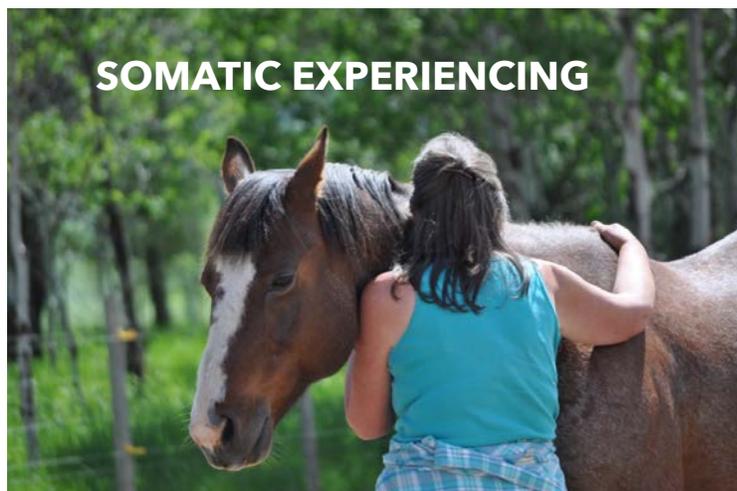
WOMEN & HORSES



WOMEN & HORSES still has some openings - it's in the fall, a nice quiet time, and it's for any "little girl" (21 and over!) who has ever loved horses - open to riders of ALL levels, whether it's your first time on a horse, or if you've done that all your life. We kick back and have a great 3 days together celebrating all the many gifts of the horses. September 10-12, 2021.

SOMATIC EXPERIENCING is where it all happens - right inside YOU. This is some of the most powerfully transformative work in the Equine Assisted Services field. It is appropriate for lay persons as well as therapists, and is greatly enhanced by the presence and input of the horse. Highly recommended! This class runs from May 28-29, 2021.

SOMATIC EXPERIENCING



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