



Connecticut Horse Council

Newsletter

Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education

Spring 2007

www.cthorsecouncil.org



A message from the President:

I would like to take this opportunity to let our membership know that CHC has been working tirelessly "behind the scenes" for many months and has accomplished so many things that are important to the equestrian community. Although we did not have as many newsletters out as planned, please be assured that you have been represented thoroughly throughout the state.

We have much exciting news to share with our members. On an educational level, we have made presentations all over the state in a variety of ways, including hosting a workshop for town officials on the keeping of horses. Additionally we have been aggressively pursuing meetings with elected officials at the local and state level in order to promote the horse industry. We have also officially become a partner organization with the CT SART (State Animal Response Team). The CTSART will be responsible for planning and responding to needs of animals in the state during times of emergency or disaster. This year we also rolled out our first barn fire prevention and training program, which trains barn owners in proper safety techniques, and exposes firefighters to horses so that they understand how to handle them during an emergency. CHC has attended zoning meetings throughout the state to fight for the rights of equestrians, and we have worked with the DMV to get roadsafe brochures in all DMV offices statewide. We are also closely monitoring the National Animal Identification Program (NAIS) in order to keep our members informed and ensure that our industry is represented in these discussions. Additionally, many of you have been aware of the proposed regulations that were put forth by the DEP. CHC, with the help of equestrians and legislators throughout the state, has succeeded in getting DEP to change their proposed wording, so that horses will be included on trails with other user groups.

I am particularly happy to report that our VHP members have 5,671 hours logged on trails since their inception in 2003. If one were to calculate this in terms of man-hours paid in assisting the DEP, it would total \$43,383.00 that VHP has saved the state!

The next Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) monthly meeting is on April 3, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the NU Cafeteria. All CHC members and friends are invited to attend.

The CHC monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month from October to June, at the Northeast Utilities building, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. Meeting start time is 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. For directions, see the map above.

Meeting dates are as follows:

April 3

May 1

June 5 (Annual Meeting)

(Break until October)

Welcome back to those of you who have renewed your membership! Welcome to our new members! Your support is what keeps the Connecticut Horse Council able to fight for the rights of horse owners in the State of Connecticut with trails issues, zoning, and legislative issues.

A reminder to those of you who have not renewed that renewals are now due and your membership is needed to keep our programs going. Please send in your membership renewal as soon as possible

Thanks to you all,

Carol Birdsey
Membership Secretary

Message continued on Page 2



Also in this newsletter, you will find information about two recent court decisions in Connecticut that directly affect horse owners.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the dedicated board members of CHC who often work late into the night on urgent issues that affect all horse owners. They are responsible for the success of all the events mentioned above, and without their contributions, much would be lost.

Please take the time to read this newsletter and realize CHC is a statewide organization that represents individual horse enthusiasts of all breeds, disciplines, and the entire industry. This is done with all volunteers who take much time out of their busy lives to ensure that the equestrian community is acknowledged and protected. We operate on a low budget and are supported only through memberships and donations from a handful of other organizations, which are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of The Connecticut Horse Council. As a creative suggestion, a CHC membership makes an excellent gift for birthdays or holidays.....

Amy Stegall
President, The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
LEGISLATIVE ALERT #2--March 2007

The Connecticut Legislative session began on January 3, 2007, and runs until June 6, 2007. There are several bills that CHC is currently supporting or monitoring.

CHC SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

SB 284 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF PETS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES: Statement of Purpose: To protect pets in domestic violence cases by authorizing a court to include a prohibition on harming a pet when it issues a restraining or protective order.

Notes: SB 284 is based on legislation that was recently passed in Maine, New York, and Vermont. This will permit judges to include animals of domestic violence victims in temporary restraining and protective orders so the abuser cannot sell, torture, have contact with or kill the animal. (horses/livestock will ultimately be included in this bill-CHC is currently working with senators). *Of note: please ask your legislators to cosponsor this bill.*

Update: Public Hearing—Judiciary Committee 3/5

HB 5522 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS: Statement of Purpose: To establish a municipal animal control officer training program.

Notes: HB 5522 addresses a need for training of Animal Control Officers (ACOs). Currently, there are **no** education or training requirements for ACOs in the state of Connecticut. ACOs have powers to arrest owners and to seize animals, and some carry weapons. They must also deal with rabid or diseased animals, loose animals (livestock, pets), dangerous or aggressive dogs, and investigate allegations of cruelty. This bill would provide them with the tools to deal with serious animal related issues in the course of their duties.

HB 5595 AN ACT PRESERVING CERTAIN HORSE TRAILS IN CONNECTICUT: Statement of Purpose: To preserve certain horse trails in Connecticut.

Notes: 5595 names 26 specific trails within the state of Connecticut to remain open to equestrian access. CHC has a list of those trails on our website.

UPDATE: A public hearing was held on January 26th. CHC members and others testified in support of the bill. We expect this bill to be voted out of the Environment committee and on to the House soon. If you have not done so, please contact your legislators and ask that they **SUPPORT 5595.**

SB 30 AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCT THE 4-H CAMP IN FRANKLIN Statement of Purpose: To repair and reconstruct the infrastructure of the 4-H camp in Franklin.

Notes: CHC believes in the importance of teaching youth, and 4-H's role in encouraging learning.

HB 6579 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LAB. Statement of Purpose: To provide funding to provide for surveillance of public health related diseases in animals.

Notes: CHC recognizes the important role the Diagnostic Lab plays in our community.



CHC OPPOSES the following bills:

SB 1080 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPOUNDMENT OF ROAMING LIVESTOCK AND FLIGHTLESS BIRDS.

Statement of Purpose: To enable animal control officers to impound roaming livestock and certain flightless birds, to establish an owner and keeper notification process, to establish fines for noncompliance by such owners and keepers and to enable municipal animal control officers to dispose of such livestock and flightless birds, subject to certain conditions.

Notes: This bill would apply to horses, due to the wording “livestock”. The Commissioner of Agriculture already possesses the authority to deal with animals & livestock. Currently Animal Control Officers (ACOs) have little to no training, see bill # 5522 above. Also, the cost associated with the care & keeping of the animals is not defined.

Update: Public Hearing-Environment Committee 3/9

Additionally, CHC has been MONITORING the following bills:

HB 5464 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL HORSE BOARDING AND TRAINING FACILITIES.

Statement of Purpose: To ensure the safety of equestrians and horses at commercial boarding and training facilities.

Notes: This bill would have given authority to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to regulate commercial horse boarding and training facilities.

UPDATE: CHC met with the Representative who introduced this legislation. **CHC now considers this bill inactive. No further action is necessary at this time.**

HB 1079 AN ACT CONCERNING DOGS THAT ATTACK DOMESTIC ANIMALS OR LIVESTOCK.

Statement of purpose: To allow animal control officers to investigate and issue orders regarding dogs that attack domestic animals and livestock.

Notes: CHC has limited information about this bill at this time. We will continue to monitor its progress.

Update: Public Hearing-Environment Committee 3/9

SB 994 AN ACT REMOVING JURISDICTION OF STATE PARKS AND FORESTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Statement of purpose: To remove jurisdiction of state parks and forests from the Department of Environmental Protection and to create a new agency to manage such parks and forests.

Notes: CHC has limited information about this bill at this time. We will continue to monitor its progress.

Update: Public hearing held 2/9 in the Environment committee.

Contact information for your legislators, as well as more information about these bills may be found at the Connecticut General Assembly website www.cga.ct.gov. You may also visit the CHC website at www.cthorsecouncil.org. If you have specific questions about these or any other bills, or wish to testify at the hearings, please contact CHC president Amy Stegall at legislation@cthorsecouncil.org

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD—UNITED WE RIDE & DRIVE!

NAIS update

The National Animal Identification Program (NAIS) is a system being implemented by USDA/APHIS primarily to track livestock movements and control disease outbreaks. It is broken into three separate issues: premise registration, animal identification, and animal tracking.

In 2003, the American Horse Council (AHC) determined that this issue would invariably have an impact on horses, and in response, they facilitated the creation of the Equine Species Working Group (ESWG). This group consists of approximately 30 member organizations which represent the interests of the horse industry. The ESWG has been officially recognized by USDA, and will be presenting recommendations specific to horses and how they relate to the NAIS. It should be noted that AHC is a member organization of the ESWG, and does not have oversight of the group.

In August of 2006, the ESWG issued their recommendations to the USDA relative to horses and the NAIS. You may view this report at www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com



At the moment, the NAIS has not established final rules and regulations, however, individual states have taken various steps of their own in anticipation of upcoming federal requirements. CHC has approached the state of Connecticut about the NAIS, and we have been informed that they are not taking action until such time they receive more information & direction from USDA/APHIS.

As of December 2006, The USDA/AHPIS issued another set of draft guidelines which supersede all previous drafts. The Draft User Guide is the most current plan for the NAIS and replaces all previously published program documents, including the 2005 Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Program Standards and the 2006 Implementation Strategies.

It is our understanding from conversations with the USDA, that these changes include having the NAIS remain a "**Voluntary**" program.

We have ordered copies of this draft, and will make them available to our members via our website. CHC takes this issue very seriously, and is monitoring USDA information closely. We will continue to keep our members informed of new developments as they occur.

If you have additional questions, please contact CHC President Amy Stegall legislation@cthorsecouncil.org or visit our website www.cthorsecouncil.org

Roadsafe

CHC partners with Department of Motor Vehicles and others to educate Riders & Motorists:

According to Connecticut State Statutes, equestrians have the right of way on most public roadways. The Department of Motor Vehicles created regulations that prohibit motorists from intentionally spooking any horses they encounter, and they must slow or stop, as well as refrain from blowing their horns. Equestrians are also required to obey all traffic laws.

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. Roadsafe brochure was produced in part with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the National Recreational Trails Program. It explains the rights and responsibilities of motorists and equestrians when horses are on the road. CHC is very pleased to announce that our Roadsafe campaign has rapidly expanded. We recently received permission from the Department of Motor Vehicles to make our Roadsafe brochures available in all DMV offices across the state. Additionally, they

have made the Roadsafe brochure available on their website.

Furthermore, we are happy to report that the following agencies, towns, and organizations will be making the brochure available on their respective websites and/or in their office locations throughout the state: the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), the Connecticut Transportation Institute (CTI), the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO), the Town of Stafford, the City of Danbury Highway Department, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Connecticut State Library, and the Mansfield Traffic Authority.

This list continues to grow as we approach more groups, so watch for Roadsafe pamphlets near you. If there is a place that you feel should also provide copies of the Roadsafe brochure, please contact use with their information. Contact CHC Roadsafe Chair Karen Hartwell for more information.

THINK SAFETY!

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
EHV-1 Alert #6 March 6th 2007

For Immediate Release:
Quarantines lifted in Connecticut

As most horse owners in Connecticut are now aware, there has been an ongoing outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) in other states in recent months, most notably in Florida and California. On December 24 2006, a horse at Fairfield Equine Associates in Newtown Connecticut also tested positive for the disease.

On January 9 2007, EHV was detected in horses at the University of Connecticut (UConn). As a result, the University quarantined its herd of 80 horses, and instituted biosecurity procedures.

Due to the outbreak on the UConn Campus, a decision was made on January 10, 2007 to cancel the Horse Symposium, scheduled to be held at UConn on March 24 & 25 2007. A Conference on Equine Health and Management on Saturday, March 24, from 10 AM - 4 PM will take place instead.

CHC has been closely monitoring this issue in order to keep our members informed. We are happy to report that the quarantine was subsequently lifted at Fairfield Equine Associates and they reopened for business on January 22, 2007.

We are also pleased to report that as of March 5, 2007 the Quarantine at the University of Connecticut has been lifted. State Veterinarian Dr. Mary Jane Lis released the herd from quarantine after follow up testing indicated all of the exposed horses were



negative and not contagious. Originally, twenty-three horses within the herd had shown clinical signs of equine herpes infection. Of those, five had exhibited neurological signs of the disease.

CHC confirmed with Dr. Lis on 3/6 that currently, no quarantines remain in effect for EHV in Connecticut.

CHC takes all issues regarding horse health very seriously, and we will continue to stay in communication with the Connecticut state veterinarian and the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). As information becomes available, we will make every effort to keep our members informed. Please note that this release should not be construed as veterinary advice. For individual veterinary questions and/or risk assessment, you should speak to your veterinarian. For more information about this release or for current updates, please visit the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. website at www.cthorsecouncil.org or contact CHC Chairman Dr. Stewart Beckett chip@beckettvet.com For information about the UConn conference please visit www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/cehm.htm

Horse Owner's Corner - Timely Tips: Equine Herpes Virus

by Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist
University of Connecticut

Equine herpes virus infections have been highlighted in many news articles since they are very common in horse populations. This results in sporadic outbreaks in equine populations. Therefore, it is good to be familiar with the types of equine herpes viruses, clinical signs associated with the disease, transmission, diagnosis, treatment and especially, ways to protect your horses from infection.

Types of Equine Herpes Viruses

Equine herpes viruses (EHV) are in the family Alphaherpesviridae and are enveloped double stranded DNA viruses. There are 5 alpha herpesviruses that infect horses (EHV-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). For the purposes of this fact sheet, we will focus on EHV-1 and EHV-4, which are the two that result in serious clinical disease in the horse. EHV-1 and EHV-4 used to be considered subtypes of the same virus, but are now recognized as closely related but different viruses. EHV-1 is commonly found in horse populations worldwide and was previously referred to as the equine abortion virus. Although EHV-1 is well known for causing reproductive disease, it is also known to cause respiratory and neurological disease. EHV-4 is also known as equine rhinopneumonitis virus and is most common among foals and yearlings. Although EHV-4 most

commonly causes respiratory disease, it can also cause abortion and neurological disease.

Clinical Signs Associated with Equine Herpes Virus Infection

The incubation period (period of time from exposure to development of first clinical signs) ranges from 2 to 10 days. Respiratory signs for EHV-1 and EHV-4 include fever of 102 -107° F that lasts for 1-7 days, coughing, depression, inappetence (going off feed), and nasal discharge. Abortion usually occurs between months 7 and 11 of gestation, about 2-12 weeks after infection. There is no evidence that the mare's reproductive tract is damaged, and it does not affect her ability to conceive in later pregnancies. Signs of neurologic disease for EHV-1 and EHV-4 include mild incoordination, hindlimb paralysis, recumbency (lying down and being unable to get up), loss of bladder and tail function, and loss of sensation to the skin around the tail and hindlimb areas.

Transmission

Transmission occurs when infected and uninfected horses come in either direct (nose to nose contact) or indirect (through buckets, clothing, blankets that are contaminated) contact with nasal discharges of infected horses. The virus can travel via aerosol (in the air) for short distances. The virus may also be transmitted by contact with aborted fetuses, placental fluids, or placentas from infected horses. Also, following infection, horses may become latent carriers of EHV; the virus may be reactivated after stress or high doses of corticosteroids.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Upon detection of clinical signs suggestive of EHV, the veterinarian may choose to take a nasopharyngeal (nose and throat) swab of the horse, blood sample, or tissue from the aborted fetus for detection of virus in the tissues. Paired blood samples for detection of antibody titers (levels) may also be taken. Treatment involves supportive care and treatment of the symptoms. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are commonly used to reduce fever, pain and inflammation. In uncomplicated cases, complete recovery will occur in a few weeks. Horses with neurological disease have variable recovery rates depending on severity of the clinical signs. The prognosis is poor if the horse is recumbent (unable to stand) for an extended period of time. The horse should be rested until fully recovered and gradually returned to work.

Protection

There are two types of vaccines available for use in the horse for prevention of the disease, but their use remains controversial. Vaccination may reduce the severity and duration of disease, but will not totally



prevent the disease. Your equine veterinarian should be consulted regarding the most appropriate use of vaccination in your particular circumstance. Since latent infection is still a problem, vaccination must go hand-in hand with the use of best management practices.

There are both modified live virus and killed virus vaccines available. The modified live virus vaccine contains virus that has been altered to make it unlikely to cause disease but is still able to reproduce in the body cells and stimulate immunity. The killed vaccine contains virus that has been inactivated or killed using either heat or chemicals. The modified live vaccine is administered intranasally and offers quicker protection. There is no scientific basis to indicate that the modified live vaccine will cause disease. The killed vaccine is given intramuscularly. Vaccine usage in light of the recent outbreaks of neurological EHV-1 is currently being re-evaluated. Consult your veterinarian for recommendations.

In order to prevent an outbreak, horses arriving on a farm from other locations should be isolated for 3-4 weeks before being introduced into the resident horse population. Reduce management-related stressors that may increase the possibility of stress-induced reactivation of latent EHV-1 in carrier horses. Keep horses separated by physiological state or group, especially with regards to pregnant mares, who should be kept away from weanlings, yearlings, and performance horses that frequently travel.

In the case of an outbreak, infected horses should be isolated from other horses. The stable should be quarantined for at least three weeks after signs of clinical disease in the last case subside. All stable equipment should be disinfected. People handling the infected horses should be sure to wash their hands after handling each horse, dip their shoes in a disinfecting foot bath, and change clothes before working with healthy horses. Some sources suggest that bedding be removed and burned. Barn stalls, aisles and other surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected as well. Although this virus can last for several weeks in the environment, it is readily killed by most common disinfectants; phenol based disinfectants are commonly used.

Equine herpes virus infection can become a serious problem. Being aware of the types of equine herpes virus, clinical signs associated with the disease, transmission, diagnosis, treatment and especially, ways to protect your horses from infection, will aid you if there is an outbreak in your area. Incorporating measures to protect your horse now may prevent problems in the future.

I hope this series has helped you to consider this disease and its prevention. Good luck with your health management program, and feel free to call or email with any questions you have: (860) 486-4471 or jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Also, check out my web site <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension> for more information on upcoming horse specialist events and information and reprints of this article. What topics would you like to see in the horse owner's corner next month? Send ideas to jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Thanks, and have fun with your horses!

Sources:

1. Merck & Co. Inc. Merck Veterinary Manual. 2006. www.merckvetmanual.com
2. Powell, DG. Equine rhinopneumonitis. Horse Industry Handbook, 1993, 610-1-5.
2. McClogan, Carrie. A case scenario: equine respiratory disease. Department of Pathology, University of Georgia. Available at www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/IVM/ENG/ERD/EHV-4and1.html
3. **Personal communication, Dr. Sanchez, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.**

Recent Court Decisions

To keep the horse community current with changes to Connecticut equine law, the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc., monitors recent court decisions as well as legislation. Two significant court ruling were issued in 2006:

PERMITTED LANGUAGE FOR RELEASES (A/K/A HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS)

Reardon vs. Windswept Farm LLC et al (Connecticut Supreme Court, 280 Conn. 153, October 2006). Ms. Reardon signed up to take riding lessons at Windswept Farm. She was told that she must sign a release form before she could participate in any lessons. At this time, she indicated to the farm that she was an experienced rider. The barn provided her with a horse and trainer, and during the lesson she was severely injured when thrown from the horse. In August 2003, she sued the farm, claiming that they could not remove all of their liability by requiring her to sign a release.

In 2005, the Superior Court ruled in favor of Windswept Farm. However, the ruling was appealed, and later overturned by the CT Supreme Court in October 2006. The change in ruling was based on the "ambiguous" language that appeared in the release. They also found that the release "violated public policy" by indemnifying Windswept Farm and its owners from negligence. They based their decision on a similar case - *Hanks v. Powder Ridge Restaurant Corp.*, 276 Conn. 314, which involved snow tubing liability.



Conclusion: Releases are not valid when they exempt a person or business from "negligence."

Horses as Agriculture

Cheryl & Mark Sackler vs. Woodbridge Inlands Wetlands Agency. (CT Unreported, Opinion No.: 95749, Docket Number CV030480471S. October 2006). Cheryl Sackler cleared trees from part of her property to create additional pasture for grazing. In May 2003, an Inland Wetland Agency (IWA) enforcement officer issued a cease and desist order for her clearing activities (because the area was within 100 feet of wetlands, which is a zone regulated by the IWA). An IWA hearing followed and the agency voted to sustain the order. The Sacklers appealed that decision to the Superior Court, claiming that they were exempt because, under §22a-40(a)(1), grazing and farming are permitted in wetlands.

The court agreed with the Sacklers that their activities are protected under the state's farming laws and that horses are defined as livestock in these statutes.

Conclusion: This ruling affirms that horses are defined as agriculture under state statute and are therefore accorded the same provisions as other types of farming. The Court ruled that the Sackler's preparatory work of clearing land to make it suitable for agriculture falls within the exemption from wetlands regulation.

CHC would like to thank Attorney John Lambert of North Haven Connecticut for providing CHC with a copy of the ruling on the Sackler case. We would also to thank CHC member Attorney Liz Burne for contributing to this information.

* NOTE: This information is NOT to be construed as legal guidance. For further information about these cases or any legal issue you may have, please consult a licensed attorney. The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. does not provide legal advice, and this document is for informational purposes only.

Connecticut 4-H Horse Communications Contest

Results

By Brittany Cushman and Dr. Jenifer Nadeau,
University of Connecticut Equine Extension Specialist

On Saturday, January 20, 2007, the Connecticut 4-H Horse Program held its public speaking, individual, and team demonstration contests. There were a total of 33 participants in the contest, facing America's number one fear: speaking in public! Elida DeLuca and Jami Wallace were the chairs for the contest. The judges were Josephine Barker, Michelle Brozowsky, Halide Caine, Tammy Curtis, Karen Hartwell, Molly Hiddle, Laura Marek, Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Ellen Paine,

Kathy Sutton and Margaret Wilhelms. The timekeepers were Jessica Baron, Nicole Borrelli, Brittany Cushman, Trish Leonard, Carolyn McEvitt, Amanda Novicelli, Maureen Rooney, and Kaitlin Wilson. Allie Leonard and Jen Krist helped out with the contest. Emily Alger, Extension Educator was the mistress of ceremonies.

The winner of the novice public speaking contest was Emily Forsyth with her presentation on "How to Groom a Horse."

In the junior team demonstration contest, 1st place went to Heather Armstrong and Emelie Vanasse for their presentation on "Equine Massage Therapy." Shelby Elwell and Gabrielle Grella received 2nd place for their presentation, "Having Fun and Saving Money," while 3rd place went to Daniel Fields and Jesse Soileau for their speech entitled, "Should I Call the Vet?"

In the Junior Public Speaking Contest, Mikaila Adams placed first with her presentation on "The Akhal-Teke Horse." 2nd place went to Kelea Flynn for "Sound the Alarm," 3rd place went to Hannah Kalichman for "Horses in American History," 4th place went to Megan Weiler for "How to Handle Spooking," 5th place went to Panagiota Togridis for "How to Brush a Horse," and 6th place went to Lauren Marshall for "Horse 911." The other participants in this contest were Martina Sprague, Caroline Sullivan, Amber Nogiec, Katey Allie, Julie Saucier, Burnie Thompson, Codi Deakin, and Dale Thompson.

The winners of the senior team demonstration contest were Sarah McEachern and Meagan Scott for their presentation, "Equine Trauma." In the senior individual demonstration contest, Emma Sutton received 1st place for her presentation, "Safety—Don't Cut Corners." 2nd place went to Leah Gawlak for "Horses and Therapeutic Riding," 3rd place went to Hillary Wiles-Lafayette for "Trotting Through Time," 4th place went to Kelsey Humble for "Gypsy Gold," 5th place went to Brooke Foti for "Maintaining Healthy Nutrition for your Horse," 6th place went to Morgan Fields for "Trailering: Taking the Time to Save Time," 7th place went to Violet Stewart for "Do's and Don'ts about Clipping," and 8th place went to Jackie Borysewicz for "Show Secrets for Success."

The senior public speaking contest was won by Rachel Scott for her presentation entitled, "Fox Hunting." 2nd place went to Justine Levesque for "Equine Pain Management."

At the end of a day full of excellent demonstrations and speeches, everyone went home a winner having learned new and interesting knowledge and having mastered America's biggest fear, public speaking. Congratulations, Connecticut 4-Hers, on another job well done!



Trails

The CHC Trails and Volunteer Horse Patrol held their annual meeting on February 18th. The meeting was well attended. We had over 41 people with 16 new applicants.

Welcome Aboard:

Anne Albee, Jack Connors, Oliva Duksa, Pamela Deptula, Edna Liberty, Laurianne Goulet, Lindy White, Jane Rush, Shirley & Steve Vecchitto, Lisa & Kenny Padro, Carol Marenholz, Kimberly Miller-Nardwarski, Ken Forcier, and Marcia Sigman.

2007 CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Hours totaled 2,537 with 317 hours of trail maintenance. There were 1,001 patrols in 23 areas around the state. Since the VHP Patrol started in 2003, total Patrol Hours are 5,671 with 795 hours of trail Maintenance, saving CT taxpayers \$ 43,383.00

*Thank you to the 45 Volunteer Horse Patrol Members who participated in 2006
You Do Make a Difference!*

Most Patrols - Over 50	
Gina McManus	123
Phyllis Alexander	97
2nd Company Horse Guard	92
Jim Griffin	63
Barbara White	59
Michael Marcus	63
Meg Sautter	57
Hilery Slattery	52
SGT Karen deFriesse	50
Most Hours - Over 100	
Meg Sautter	226
2nd Company Horse Guard	216
Gina McManus	191
Cathie M - Harris	173.5
Phyllis Alexander	171.5
Jim Griffin	163.5
Lynda Perry	148.5
Barbara White	118.5
Hilery Slattery	115.5
Bunny Joseph	112
2nd Company Horse Guard	
Patrols	92
Patrol Hours	216
Maintenance	57

Most Maintenance Hours	
Gina McManus	56
Meg Sautter	37
Most Areas Patrolled	
Meg Sautter	9
Bunny Joseph	8
Ginger Tullai	8

The CHC-VHP Program is now in the following State Forests & Parks: Airline State Park Greenway, Babcock WMA, Bluff Point, Cockaponset SF, Devil's Hopyard SP, Hammonasset SP, Larkin State Bridle Trail, Machimoodus SP, Mansfield Hollow SP, Goodwin SF, Natchaug SF, Nehantic SF, Pachaug S.F., Paugusset S.F. Roraback WMA, and Shenipsit SF. The patrol has also expanded to the Clinton Land Conservation Trust, the City of Danbury's Tarrywile Park, Fairfield Hills Open Space in Newtown, Racebrook Tract Park in Orange, and Eisenhower Park in Milford. The VHP also participated in the Great Park Pursuit Program - "No Child Left Inside" at Goodwin SF, Gillette Castle, and Osbordale SP.

We will be adding Mohawk SF and Naugatuck SF. A full report can be sent to those that did not attend the meeting or wish to view them. Contact Diane at the address below.

NOTICE: MANDATORY CLASSES for CHC-VHP Members

The American Red Cross Adult CPR has been updated. This update involves some changes and we all need to be certified in these changes.

Attendance is mandatory at one of the two classes. Both classes will be held in Glastonbury at Dr. Chip Beckett's facility.

For more information or to RSVP - contact Meg Sautter mmsautter@cox.net

Saturday, March 3rd - VHP CPR/First Aid Re-certification Class

The class will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00.

Location: Glastonbury at Dr. Chip Beckett's facility.

Sunday, March 4th - VHP CPR FULL Certification Class

The class will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.00.

Location: Glastonbury at Dr. Chip Beckett's facility.

*Note—CTSART members are also welcome to attend this training.



2007 Goals

• **DEP State Trail Use Project -**

Continue to work on the in getting equestrian trail accessed and approved for multiple use. For more information on how you can help, contact Diane.

• **National Trails Day Events - Saturday June 2nd, 2007**

All CHC members and organizations are encouraged to organize or participate in events to educate and promote this National Holiday in its 15th year of celebration of trails. Please let CHC know what you have planned, so that we can advertise your event.

• **VHP Campout and Fun Weekend & Photo Shoot - Saturday & Sunday May 26 – 27** This is **Memorial Day Weekend** at Pachaug State Forest. We will use this time to have fun and to have a photo shoot of the VHP members in their full uniforms for publicity and future informational pamphlets.

• **Recreational Trails Grant Application - Natchaug's Silvermine Horse Camp.** Proposal for the revamping of this area. For more information on how you can help, contact Diane.

• **Camp Columbia, Morris, CT** - Explore the possibility of establishing a Horse Campground.

We now have brand new CHC-VHP Quarterly Logs in an excel format. These were originally created by Mary Geer in a PDF format. (Great job Mary). Cheryl Mastele was kind enough to put them in an excel format so that you can fill them on line and send them to your coordinators via e-mail. Thank you Cheryl. All other forms will be considered obsolete at this time, so please use the new ones that will be sent to you. You can save it to your files and then add your patrols to it and e-mail it off to your coordinators.

CHC-VHP members will be sent a contact list of the all the members and Coordinators for each Area.

Agenda Items discussed:

HB 5595 AN ACT PRESERVING CERTAIN HORSE TRAILS IN CONNECTICUT:

Statement of Purpose: To preserve certain horse trails in Connecticut.

House Bill 5595 names 26 specific trails within the state of Connecticut and requires that they must remain open to equestrian access. The intent of this bill is to preserve the specific named trails by directing by state statute that they remain open to equestrian access. A list of those trails can be found on the CHC website www.cthorsecouncil.org **Please ask both your representatives and senators to support and co-sponsor this bill.**

To date, the following legislators have signed on to co-sponsor this bill.

Sen. Edith G. Prague, 19th Dist. Rep. Mike Alberts, 50th Dist. Rep. Arthur J. O'Neill, 69th Dist. Rep. Denise W. Merrill, 54th Dist. Rep. Thomas J. Kehoe, 31st Dist.

If your legislators do not appear here, please zip them an email. If you need talking points, please contact Diane.

Please also take time to write to Representative Debra Lee Hovey and thank her for her efforts for both introducing this bill and providing support to The Connecticut Horse Council with the DEP issue.

DebraLee.Hovey@housegop.ct.gov

DEP Regulations hearing - As you all are aware we had a great turnout for the hearing. The CHC board members will be meeting to discuss further action and talks with DEP. We will keep everyone informed.

Other Legislative bills were presented and you can view our legislative update on the CHC website: www.cthorsecouncil.org

HAPPY TRAILS Diane Ciano Spirit76@snet.net
203-757-1904

An open letter to the Equestrian community:

As many of you know, The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. has been voicing opposition to a proposed regulation change being put forth by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Specifically, we objected to section 24-1-1-l which reads: [Section 23-4-1](l) Trails and roads. [Horse or bicycle riding on foot trails is prohibited.]

(1) Trails are open unless posted closed to hiking, mountain biking or other types of trail-related activities. Horseback riding is prohibited on trails unless posted as permitted. Use of any trail, road or path posted as closed by the Department of Environmental Protection is prohibited.

CHC had meetings and telephone conversations with the DEP prior to the regulations being published to the public, in an attempt to change the wording they were proposing. We were initially advised by DEP that they did not feel the proposed regulation would be a hardship to trail riders, as they had little intention of actually enforcing this regulation once it took effect. However, CHC's position was that regardless of intent to not enforce, the wording would exist in regulations, and therefore it could be enforced at any time in the future.



Ultimately, we were unsuccessful in our efforts to modify the proposed regulations as they went through the development process. We then took what we felt was a necessary next step, which was to advise our membership of the proposed changes, and encourage them to send their own comments, as is permitted under state law.

A public hearing was scheduled on February 5th in Hartford. This hearing was very well attended by the equine community, and CHC was thrilled with the turnout. Furthermore, those who spoke did a superb job in raising important points about this regulation. Additionally, horse owners not only in Connecticut, but surrounding states as well, sent emails and letters expressing their objections to this wording. The response was overwhelming, and I do not think that the DEP or CHC expected this large of a reaction from horse owners. It made the public very aware of the strength of the equine community.

After the hearing, the DEP indicated that they indeed heard the voices of equestrians, and they will work with CHC to rework the proposed language. The regulation review process requires that certain procedures be followed, so the changes will not be immediate, but rather need to go through the rest of the process first.

That being said, CHC has agreed to meet with the DEP to review and discuss the issues that were raised at the public hearing. We firmly believe that we can work out any problems and forge a relationship with DEP going forward, so that the concerns of equestrians are addressed.

CHC will be having a special meeting of the board to review specific next steps, and create a plan of action prior to our meeting with DEP. We will continue to need the support of trail riders going forward, because there are projects which will likely be undertaken due to these recent events.

At this time, I would like to express my personal appreciation and gratitude to state Representatives Debra Lee Hovey, Bill Aman, and Diana Urban, as well as Senator Tony Guglielmo, all of whom submitted testimony to DEP in support of CHC's position. Additionally, Representative Hovey and her aide Jake, made numerous calls and did enormous amounts of work on this issue. I would encourage horse owners to let these legislators know that we appreciated their help.

I would also like to send a very special thanks to those who joined us in our opposition. There were a number of organizations and individuals who stepped up and

made a special effort to advocate for the rights of equestrians. These included the Oxford and Southbury Horse & Livestock Associations (OHLA & SHLA), the Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA), The Connecticut Quarter Horse Association (CQHA), Reddington Rock Riding Club (RRRC), Jan Collins, Alesia Defrederico and Nichole Sautter.

Out of state and national organizations joined us as well. It should be noted that support came from The American Horse Council (AHC), The Virginia and West Virginia Horse Councils, Granby Massachusetts Horse Council, The Backcountry Horsemen of California/San Diego Unit and the Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA).

It should also be noted that Diane Ciano, the CHC trails chair, did a huge amount of work. She has also been involved with trails issues throughout the state for over 15 years. She works tirelessly to ensure horses remain on trails, and she should be congratulated for all her efforts.

For those who submitted testimony via letters and emails, attended the hearing, or shared this information with friends, we greatly appreciate all your help and support. Your comments made the difference, and you should be pleased.

And finally, I would like to thank the CHC board of directors. This was a difficult event for us, and it was sometimes overwhelming. There were many players, and we had to make decisions about a very public issue. As an organization made up of all volunteers, we did the best we could with the situation that was presented to us.

Again, we appreciate the involvement of equestrians throughout the country who stepped up and got involved. There were many more individuals and groups who were not named here simply because the list is too long, we also hope you will accept our gratitude and know that we were aware of your efforts.

We are looking forward to meeting with the DEP to create a plan of action. We will continue to keep horse owners updated as we move ahead.

Thank you to equestrians everywhere who made their voices count.

Sincerely,
Amy Stegall
President, The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.



Members of the Board needed **The Connecticut Horse Council Wants YOU!**

Are you interested in getting involved? Want to make a *real* difference?

The Connecticut Horse Council Inc. is currently seeking two people to serve on the board of directors.

CHC is a not for profit, volunteer organization dedicated to serving the equine industry in Connecticut. Some of the recent issues which we have been involved with include pro-equestrian legislation, working with the DEP to obtain access to trails for equestrians, aiding residents in stopping anti-horse zoning regulations, equine safety issues and more. CHC has an active Volunteer Horse Patrol, is currently rolling out our barn fire prevention and training program, and has officially become a partner organization for the State Animal Response Team (CTSART) which will deal with disaster planning for animals in Connecticut.

We are seeking individuals who are willing and excited about getting involved, and having an impact on the horse industry.

Our meetings take place at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, October through June, at the Northeast Utilities Building in Newington Connecticut.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Amy Stegall stegall@snet.net or you may attend the next CHC meeting.

www.cthorsecouncil.org

Zoning

CT Horse Council Monitors Zoning Regulation Regarding the keeping of horses in Connecticut.

The CT Horse Council has taken an active role in the monitoring of the Zoning Regulations in the towns across Connecticut. Throughout 2006, CHC members approached the Board of Directors while in disputes with their hometowns regarding the keeping of horses. As development spreads across the miles, it has become a constant tug-o-war to keep the fields green and continue the time-honored tradition of farming and the keeping of livestock, including horses. Our board continues to consult with and monitor towns throughout Connecticut.

In an attempt to educate town officials about horses and agriculture, CHC has begun to set up seminars and workshops. In October, 2006, The CT Horse Council sponsored a workshop titled, "Keeping Horses in Residential Areas", presented by Mr. Jim Gibbons of UCONN's Extension Service, an expert on zoning and wetlands. Officials from all 169 towns

were invited. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the education and those unable to attend, have requested additional workshops. Those additional dates are being scheduled in the near future.

Towns Recently in Review/Dispute Of Zoning Regulations:

Southbury

The Town of Southbury entertained a change in current zoning regulations regarding the keeping of horses when a neighbor filed a request for such a change. The change requested would have increased the limitations for keeping of livestock in residential areas. The Board of Zoning hosted a public meeting where approximately 600 residents showed and many voiced their opposition to the additional limiting of farming and keeping livestock in the town. The requested change to the zoning regulations was dismissed. However there is a suit currently underway.

Monroe

The Town of Monroe was considering an update to their current zoning regulations, including the regulations regarding the keeping of horses. The Monroe Board of Zoning hired a private consultant, a self-proclaimed expert on zoning regulations throughout Connecticut. However, the "expert" was not privy to advice on the keeping of horses. After a public meeting, rescheduled once due to a larger than expected showing of residents, the Zoning Board listened to approximately 300 residents, many of whom were horse and livestock owners, voice their opposition to changes to the current zoning regulations, especially additional limitations to farming.

Lebanon

The Town of Lebanon was attempting to update their current zoning regulations regarding the keeping of horses. The Lebanon Board of Zoning held a public meeting in May, 2006 to announce the status of their considerations. The Board of Zoning allowed any interested parties the opportunity to voice their opinions and/or concerns regarding the proposed changing of the regulations. Approximately, 100 residents and interested parties appeared and/or spoke, the majority of whom were in opposition to any changes, especially any more limitations to farming and the keeping of livestock.

Oxford

The Town of Oxford spent most of the year researching a private resident's variance to remove several smaller, older sheds and replace with one larger, newer barn. After numerous zoning meetings, the Zoning Officials voted on a landmark decision: in summation, the barn may be built but the land records must clearly state it is for agriculture use only!



CHC has also received many complaints from members in other towns who have been denied agricultural tax exemptions, or ordered to cease activities due to the towns not deeming horses as agriculture. We have been monitoring these issues closely.

If you know of similar instances in your own communities please contact the CHC with details.

Liability signs now available:

In response to the many requests for equine liability signs, CHC now has them available. They are 11 x 14 aluminum signs with predrilled holes. They are suitable for indoor or outdoor use. They may be purchased for 25.00 each.

We also have mugs and totes with the CHC logo for sale. Mugs are 5.00 and totes are 10.00 Show your support for CHC and let everyone know you are a proud member!

Please contact CHC for purchase information. These items will also be available at the CHC booth at Equine Affaire and other equine activities.

Upcoming Events

March 2007

23 - CDCTA Silent Auction, The Gallery Restaurant, 141 New London Tpke., Glastonbury 6:30 - 9 pm. Contact Cheryl Matthewson at cmatthew@easthaddamschools.org or Ruth Beardsley at ruthbeardsley@adelphia.net

24 - New England Conference on Equine Health and Management, Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, UConn, Storrs Campus, 9AM-4 PM
<http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/cehm.htm>. The schedule is available online at www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/schedule07tent.pdf
No pre-registration is necessary. There is a \$5 donation to support equine extension and research programs at UConn. Contact Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu or (860) 486-4471 for more information.

31 - CDCTA Ride-Critique-Ride Clinic with Ann Guptill, Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam. New 2007 dressage tests and 2006 eventing tests. Contact Jennifer Ford at jdford@optonline.net

April 2007

3 - CHC Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM [Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin](#)

7 - Giant Indoor Equestrian Tag Sale - 8:30 - 1:00 at 7/8ths Farm 70 Route 80, Killingworth, CT info: 860 669-2359 hazageym@yahoo.com

12 - CHC Awards Ceremony. 7pm Northeast Utilities (NEU) building, Newington CT

21 - Horse Sale at UConn 10 AM Preview 1 PM Sale

21 - Saturday - Eastern CT Draft Horse Association Plow Match At UConn's Spring Manor Farm, NEW LOCATION: Route 32 in Mansfield, CT (1/2 mile North of Intersection

of Routes 32 and 44, or 1.8 mile South of Route 195), 10:00AM start time. Teamsters compete for ribbons and trophies. Food available. Spectators welcome. For more information: Al Cyr (860) 429-8434.

27 - 4-H State Horse Bowl Contest, Registration 6:15 PM, Spectators Welcome, UConn Storrs Campus, Rm 100 Young Building

28 - 4-H State Hippology Contest, Registration 8:15 AM, UConn Storrs Campus, Rm 100 Young Building

29 - CDCTA schooling dressage show and combined test at Wishing Rock Farm, W. Suffield. Contact Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie at emccosh@snet.net

29 - 4-H State Horse Judging Contest, Registration 8:15 AM, UConn Storrs Campus, Horsebarn Hill Arena

May 2007

1 - CHC Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM [Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin](#)

20 - 22nd Annual Horse Show, High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center, Old Lyme, CT, Spectators welcome, For more information: hhinfo@highhopestr.org.

June 2007

2 - Riding Camp Horsemanship Safety Clinic, 10-3, UConn, Horsebarn Hill Arena. Contact jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu or call (860) 486-4471 for more information.

5 - CHC Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM [Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin](#)

August 2007

11-12 - Wild Horse and Burro Adoption, UConn, Horsebarn Hill Arena, <http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov/adoption.htm> for more information, or call Milwaukee Field Office, Bureau of Land Management at 800 293-1781.

"People and Animals in Crisis"

Tuesday, March 20th 6-8 p.m.
Grand Courtroom
Quinnipiac University School of Law
275 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Hamden

Topics:

Connecticut's Emergency preparedness plan for companion and large animals

Proposed legislation aimed at empowering domestic violence victims to leave their abusers by extending protection to the victim's companion animal

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Arnold Goldman, Executive Director of the Connecticut State Animal Response Team

State Representative Diana Urban (D-North Stonington)

Amy Stegall, President and Legislative Liaison of the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

For more information contact
Kerry.Patton@quinnipiac.edu

THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2007

Membership Classification (Check One)

- Individual \$20
- Student \$15
- Club * \$30 (1-50) \$40 (51-100) \$55 (101-200) \$70 (201-350) \$85 (351-500) \$105 (500 & up)
 1 Delegate 2 Delegates 3 Delegates 4 Delegates 5 Delegates 6 Delegates
- Business or Professional \$50 **NEW** **RENEWAL**

*Note: Club Membership Fee and number of delegates is based on the number of club members. Please submit this form with main contact name.

Attach listing of additional delegates with name, address, phone & E-mail address.

Membership decal available Static Sticker Check which one you wish to receive with your membership. Additional decals are available for \$1.00 each

Referral Name _____ How did you hear about the CHC? _____

CLUB or BUSINESS NAME (if applicable)

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY / STATE/ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST (Please Check all that apply)

- Trails Zoning Booth Legislation Trade Show Road Safe Website Insurance
- Mounted Horse Patrol Education Horse 911 SART

I would be willing to phone horsemen in my community for emergency equine issues.

- Yes No

I would be willing to serve on committees . Yes No

I endorse The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. and its Goals

_____ *Signature*

Make checks payable to:
The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 57
Durham, CT 06422-0057

Telephone: 860-482-9500
www.cthorsecouncil.org