



The gaited Post

The Official Newsletter of
The Gaited Horse International Association

Gaited Horse International Association
507 N. Sullivan Road, Veradale, WA 99037-8531 USA
Phone (509) 928-5690 Fax (509) 928-2392
e-mail: gaited@gaitedhorse.com Website: www.gaitedhorse.com

WELCOME TO GHIA!

Greetings! We would like to introduce each and every one of you to a brand new Gaited Horse Association. The Gaited Horse International Association; an organization dedicated to promoting all gaited breeds. We believe you will enjoy this vision we have and we want you to join us!

Before I go any further in telling you about us, I want everyone to know about an on-line version of our Gaited Horse Magazine (updated bimonthly). We do not have a printed copy of the magazine, but we hope that you will visit our on-line version when it is complete.

Now, let us tell you what GHIA is all about: We are a nonprofit association that is committed to promoting gaited horses worldwide. We want to provide a network system for all gaited horse enthusiasts, breeders, trainers, judges and anyone just interested in gaited horses.

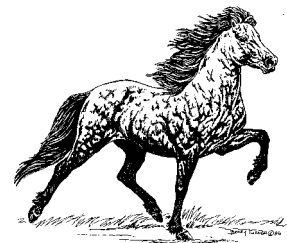
We wish to become a central location where you can get advice and support about these breeds, as well as linking with all the Gaited Registries so that we can provide answers not only to technical questions, but also to promote a chat list so that you can enjoy other people's views and horses on-line.

We will have this newsletter - published quarterly - filled with current events, health and nutrition information, and other informative, and entertaining articles. They will not be just about one gaited breed, since we want to keep them broad based so that all gaited breeds will be shown so you - the readers - can enjoy them, as well as learn about other gaited horse breeds.

We will have a Breed Column where one breed is represented each quarter. If you have information on your breed that you would like to donate, please send it to our editor at: gaited@gaitedhorse.com.

Membership is very important to us at GHIA, and we encourage everyone to join us! Since we are a nonprofit organization, all proceeds are used to allow us to continue promoting the gaited horse. A membership to GHIA costs only \$25.00 per person or family, and with membership you get the following:

- A Free Gaited Horse International Association T-Shirt
- Our Free Quarterly Newsletter
- One Free Listing in the Breeders Directory on The Gaited Horse Web site (at www.gaitedhorse.com)
- A 20% Discount for One Advertisement on The Gaited Horse Web site



We will also have a annual fund-raiser - The Autumn Classic Gaited Horse Show - in the fall, which is an all-breed show held in Spokane, WA. We encourage all GHIA members to support this fund raiser and the show.

Please feel free to browse the web site, join the e-mail list-server and become a GHIA Member. It is our hope that you'll enjoy it!

If you have any comments, articles, or pictures you would like to see in our newsletter, please submit and show them off here!

OUR FEATURE ARTICLE: EPM

Understanding This Deadly Disease Is A Lesson in Prevention and Control

Correspondence by Linda, from the Gaited-List

The following column is taken from a post to the Gaited-List by a fellow member, in response to another person who reported her stallion had EPM, to help inform the other readers about this disease, and what to do to help in the prevention and treatment of this disease. We are presenting it here to further inform our readers and to help you to detect and prevent this disease from taking your horse.

EPM - also known as Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis - is a disease that is not new to equine medicine. It has surfaced in several parts of the United States since the 1960's, but was originally called "segmental myelitis" (inflammation of the spinal cord) before it was discovered in 1990 that researchers identified a protozoa - *Sarcocystis neurona* - as the agent that caused the disease.

The protozoal parasite (which current evidence indicates might also be *Sarcocystis falcatula*) is thought to infect wild birds and opossums. Wild birds become infected and pass on the parasite in their feces. The opossum feeds on dead birds, and can also pass on the parasite in the same manner. If feces with the parasite present contaminate a pasture or other feeds, it can infect horses in this manner. It also explains how the disease is widespread in horses.

Once the parasite enters the horse, it travels along the blood and infects various areas of the nervous system, which results in a variety of symptoms. The onset of symptoms can begin almost immediately after infection, or years later, depending on the degree of infection and/or the strength of the individual horse's immune system. Depending on which part of the nervous system is involved, this might be:

- Incoordination-function of one leg might be impaired, or a more general impairment of gait or movement.
- Atrophy (shrinking) of various muscles.
- Weakness.
- Difficulty in swallowing, or any one specific symptom.
- Behavioral changes; brain damage might cause these changes directly, but ataxia and instability of gait might cause a horse to react differently than usual.



Veterinarians and owners must also be aware that this disease can also mimic other diseases, such as: Wobbler Syndrome, Injury, other infections of the nervous system, and various lameness problems.

Testing for this disease is accomplished in one of four ways: one, called a Western Blot test, on an infected horses blood; two, A Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) test, which if a particular antibody shows up, then the parasite is in the nervous system; three, a PCR (DNA) test to look for specific nucleic acids which are specific only for this parasite; and finally a Necropsy, after the animal dies or is euthanised an autopsy can reveal the agent and associated damage.

Treatment for EPM can be done using such drugs as Trimethoprim or sulfa drugs (which attack the parasite), Daraprim, and Anti-Inflammatory drugs (DMSO, Banamine, or Butazolidin) to reduce inflammation. The side effects of these medications are terrible, and parallel a human taking treatment to fight cancer. Horses can get very sick, and suffer from Anemia, decrease of hemoglobin in the blood, reduced RBC from Bone marrow (which will lead to the Anemia), etc.

Usually, the best prevention against the disease is to take necessary steps to limit or remove avenues of infection; follow a regular worming & vaccination schedule. Feed your horses regularly with high-quality food, especially hay; never feed your horse old hay, and keep hay covered and away from opossum and wild bird droppings.

Also give your horses Vitamin E and Selenium, but be careful because too much can be just as dangerous for a horse. Also avoid high stress situations and environments; provide shade when a horse is hot, shelter when it is wet, and avoid excessive workouts. Especially when the horse shows poor condition. Also watch your horse for any signs of the disease: watch how it moves, and look for abnormal behavior and atrophied muscles.

More information on EPM can be found on the Internet at the following addresses:

UPDATE ON EQUINE PROTOZOAL MYELOENCEPHALITIS (EPM) IN MICHIGAN
<http://www.canr.msu.edu/dept/ans/b7mar96.html>

Granstrom joins AVMA Education, Research Division- JAVMA May 01, 1997b
<http://208.192.104.13/onlnews/javma/may97/s050197b.html>

For more immediate information, contact your local veterinarian for details and assistance.



Rachael Ely sits atop El Chino, a world-champion Paso Fino.

A DREAM COMES TRUE

Thanks to a Gaited Breed Show, a Former Horsewoman Regains Her Dream!

Correspondence by Darlene Wohllart

For one woman, the September 1998 Grand National Paso Fino Championship Horse Show & Sale was something very special. Special for her, because a dream she had came true.

You see, this young woman - named Rachael Ely - is confined to a wheelchair due to a misdiagnosed bacterial infection, which has left her partially paralyzed. Before this illness, Rachael was an avid horsewoman, showing her Morgan Horse around the country. Today, while still wheelchair-bound, she travels with her parents, Douglas and Linda Ely, to Paso Fino and Morgan Horse shows around the country. The Ely's own a business called The Horse Menagerie, which is based in Ava, Missouri.

Rachael discovered the beauty of the Paso Fino Horse, and fell in love with one particular world-champion black Paso Fino stallion; El Chino, who is owned by J.R. Morales.

During the Grand Nationals, little did Rachael realize that following the Bella Forma Stallion Grand Championship Class she would not only meet the horse of her dreams, but she would even sit on him.

Rachael's family and friends wheeled her out the side door next to their booth in the arena, as J.R. Morales led El Chino up to her. Gently, El Chino reached out and touched her face, seeming to understand her situation, and stood absolutely still as Douglas Ely lifted his daughter on to the stallion's back. Linda Ely stood nearby with tears in her eyes. She said, "I am overwhelmed at the love of the Paso Fino people."

Now, the Ely's are thinking about acquiring a Paso Fino of their own.



PARDON OUR CYBER-DUST!

GHIA's Web site is Getting A New Look!

If you've been looking at the Gaited Horse International Association web site, you may have noticed something different; we're currently in the process of updating and revamping it's look for 1999! One of our webmasters is working hard to redesign it and make it more accessible, and more pleasing for our members and for others that wish to use our site for a reference point for Gaited Horse breeds.

We appreciate your patience with us, and promise that the new GHIA website will be better than ever! Site launch date is estimated by Mid-February,1999.



Readers! Watch for these Columns, Coming in Future Issues!

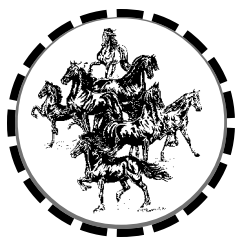


Letters From Our Readers; you're invited to write in and tell us what you think about...

Breeder's Spotlight; we'll highlight a Gaited breeder in the U.S., their ranch, and their services.

Hoof Beats; stories of inspiration about owners, riders, and enthusiasts of Gaited horses.

Horse Laffs!; Got a funny tale about an experience with riding or Gaited horses? Tell us, and it'll go here!



The gaited Post

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, W A
Permit #4

Gaited Horse International Association
507 N. Sullivan Road
Veradale, WA 99037-8531 USA