

NEWS LETTER

VIRGINIA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION CHARLOTTESVILLE CHAPTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Eleszabeth McNeel

Hello everyone, we are half way through the second month of the New Year which means longer days, warmer weather, and being outside are in our future!

Shake off the winter blues and get ready to join the Club in our upcoming activities. Our newly formed Educational Committee, chaired by Nancy Doody, is busy organizing events and activities to enhance your knowledge about this wonderful sport we enjoy with our equine partners. First, we have a clinic with Hannah Schmidt in March, and an educational session with Bruno Greber in April. Details in this newsletter.

Mark your calendar for March 20 from 6-8 pm. Come out to Eastwood Brewery for a meet and greet with other Club members. Bring your significant other and enjoy an evening getting to know everyone.

If you have any ideas for activities or events you think we should pursue, please contact any member of the board.

Happy Spring Soon!
Eleszabeth



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Hannah Pierucci Schmidt Clinic

23 and 24 March 2024
Grayson Farm
Scottsville, VA

"Flock Together" Evening of Casual Mingling

20 March 2024
Eastwood Farm and Winery
Charlottesville, Va

Long Your Horse Safely, with Purpose and Confidence!

13 April 2024

Isabel F. de Szinay Memorial Dressage Show

15-16 June 2024
Commonwealth Horse Park,
Culpeper, Va

Board Zoom Meeting
11 March 2024
7:00 pm

[VADA State February Board Minutes](#)

[VADA State Chapter Event Calendar](#)

Do You Have Something to Share with Members? An article? Have Ideas for Chapter Educational Events? Want To Hear From You!

email Erin Fitzwater at cgent76@gmail.com

2024 Chapter Membership

(as of 2/14/24)

Bettinna Longaker

Jeremey Fox

Nancy Doody

Beth Sproule

Taska Parker

Peta Wyllie

Nancy Lowey

Jeri Tate

Nicky Vogel

Roxanne Hagan

Robin Dannels

Lisa Macchi

Susan Laurie

Sandi Nelson

Donna Martin

Jillian Kirkpatrick

Carol Bauer

Wendy Owens

Melyni Worth

Sabine Desper

Malinda Zielke

Kim Aust

Gardner (Gardy) Bloemers

April Rivers

Isabella Rice

Molly Bull

Nancy Olson

Sarah Olson

George Williams

Roberta Williams

Eleszabeth McNeel

Erin Fitzwater

Kathleen Gruss

Michelle Anderson

Celia Refalko

Karen Rice

Laura Berne

Shaleena Arreguin

Sandy Worley

Anne Chapin

Flavia Anger

Halley Bell

Helle Stewart

Kim Schmidt

Hannah Schmidt

Melissa Wimmer

Sophia Bryant

Katherine Innes

Darla Fainter

Karen Fox

Laurel Moore

Hannah Parker

Ellen Hudgins

Bruno Greber

Barbara Greber

Bettina Anderson

Sandra Gaylinn

Brent Puesey

Kerri-Lyn Corry



The luck of the Irish is strong in this image, as there are many four-leaf clovers hanging around these leprechaun boots. Among these lucky clovers with four leaves lies one with only three. See if you can find the unlucky outcast.

On 18 February, the Chapter hosted 2023 year-end award luncheon at Michie Traven. Thank you, Shaleena Arreguin, for facilitating chapter awards and arranging the luncheon. A day of seeing old friends, a lot of chatting, and congratulations to award recipients. Again, thank you Shaleena and everyone who attended. A fun Sunday afternoon!



**2023 Chapter Volunteer of the Year
James "Johnny" Jackson**



VADA-CH 2023 Year End Awards



VADA Charlottesville 2023 Year End Awards

Level	Open /Amateur	Placeing	Score	Owner	Rider	Horse
Schooling Shows						
Taining Level	Open	1	67.62%	The Akhal-Teke Fountation	Sabine Desper	Autumn Dream
Licensed Shows						
Training Level	Open	1	70.82%	Susan Laurie	Hannah Pierucci Schmidt	Wilhelmina
Training Level	Open	2	70.50%	The Akhal-Teke Fountation	Sabine Desper	Autumn Dream
First Level	Open	1	71.55%	Susan Laurie	Hannah Pierucci Schmidt	Wilhelmina
First Level	Open	2	63.57%	Malinda Zielke	Malinda Zielke	Jorie
Second Level	Open	1	67.17	Malinda Zielke	Malinda Zielke	CCS Culiwen
Third Level	Open	1	66.58%	The Akhal-Teke Fountation	Sabine Desper	Adamek
Fourth Level	Open	1	64.18%	The Akhal-Teke Fountation	Sabine Desper	Adamek
Intermediate 1	Amateur	1	61.80%	Logan Harmon	Logan Harmon	Reinder Fan Wifo



Performance Classes



Volunteering



Breed Component USDFBCS Qualifying Competition

Isabel F. de Szinay Memorial Dressage Show 15 - 16 June 2024 HIT Commonwealth Horse Park, Culpeper, VA

USDFBCS Qualifying Competition

VADA Charlottesville is hosting "Isabel F. de Szinay Memorial Dressage Show" on 15 and 16 June at Commonwealth Park, Culpeper, VA. Once again, we will have the breed show component on Saturday, 15 June. It will be a qualifier for the ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship East Coast Series. Performance classes will run on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday evening, the Chapter will host a show dine and chat gathering for competitors, owners, and volunteers.

Last year the footing at the Commonwealth Park facility had a much-needed renovation. The footing was completely replaced with high tech materials in most of the arenas. We think this is a major improvement! HITS has refreshed/upgraded the showgrounds. We think you will enjoy your experience there this year.

Our judges are Natalie Lamping, Jennifer Roth, Susan Graham White, and Margaret Freeman. Our Technical Delegate is Sheli King. Show staff include the following: Nancy Lowey, show manager; Bettina Longaker, secretary; Pam Perry, scorer; Nancy Doody, volunteer coordinator; Catherine Kern, awards chairperson; Erin Fitzwater, sponsorship coordinator; and, Molly Armentrout, stable manager.

The prizelist (coming soon) will be posted on the VADA-CH website (vada-ch.org). Entries will be on online "horsehowoffice.com".

Volunteering at the Show

Earn your volunteer hours to qualify for 2024 State and Chapter Year End Awards. Sign up as a volunteer, go to "Show Volunteer Sign Up" located under "Licensed Show and Clinics" on the VADA-CH homepage. Sign up now! Join us for a fun and an educational weekend!

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Sponsorship

VADA CH invites you to consider supporting the show by becoming a sponsor! We are offering levels of sponsorship opportunities from Sponsorship Bundles, Individual Class Sponsor, and Advertising on the showgrounds and in the digital show program. To discuss sponsorship, reach out to Erin Fitzwater at cagent76@gmail.com.

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Hannah Pierucci Schmidt Clinic hosted by Grayson Farm & VADA/CH

23 & 24 MARCH 2024

GRAYSON FARM, 6507 SCOTTSVILLE ROAD, SCOTTSVILLE, VA

Opening Date: 29 February 2024

Closing Date: 18 March 2024

Clinic Registration on Strider

ALL LEVELS ARE WELCOME. We hope to see riders new to dressage and riders wanting to improve their skills and move up the levels. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

VADA-CH Member Riders

Rider - \$80.00 Saturday, 23 March

Rider - \$80.00 Sunday, 24 March

Non-VADA-CH Member Riders

Rider - \$95.00 Saturday, 23 March

Rider - \$95.00 Sunday, 24 March

Auditors:

VADA-CH Members and Junior Members- Free

Non-VADA-CH Members - \$10.00 per day

Each Rider is permitted one Guest Auditor at no charge, but the Guest must complete an Auditor registration by the closing date.

Stabling:

\$15.00 Day Stall (daily)

\$30.00 Saturday Overnight Stall

Facility

Covered arena and outdoor warm-up arena. Limited stalls available with preference to riders from a distance.

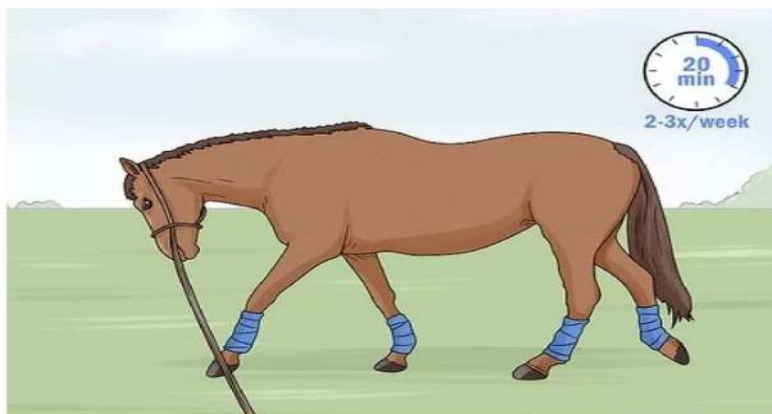
Day Stalls: Include shavings, water and access to facility for hand grazing.

Overnight Stalls: Include shavings, water, night check, and access to facility for hand grazing.

Grayson Farm will feed breakfast/night check grain and hay. Please provide feed instructions, grain and supplements in baggies and your own hay. Medications/supplements will not be administered unless powdered and mixed in with grain by owner). Trailer parking on the property is available. There is no turn-out option.

Laura Berne, Clinic Organizer laura@respitefarm.com

WORKSHOP WITH BRUNO GREBER



"Longe Your Horse Safely, with Purpose and Confidence!"

An opportunity to have a hands-on experience in working your own horse on the Longe with the help and support of Bruno's expertise.

Bruno will also demonstrate and discuss the advantages of Long Lining.

April 13, 2024 1-4 pm

Bruno Greber Dressage in White Hall

Contact Eleszabeth McNeel
at E7Aquila@aol.com to sign up for this educational clinic.

Auditors encouraged - members free; non-members \$10.



Chapter Educational Events Committee - Join!

The Chapter has set up an "Educational Events" committee to synergize and build a well-thought-out 2024/2025 Chapter events calendar. What events would you like the Chapter to host? Have ideas? Why not become a member of the committee? It's an opportunity to build member relationships and assist in building a proactive Chapter.

Contact Nancy Doody at ndoody15@gmail.com to join. Evening Zoom meetings after barn chores and an occasional face-to-face meeting.

Exploring the Benefits of Biotin for Horses: A Supplement for Equine Hoof Health

Author: Melyni Worth, PhD
Foxden Equine



What is Biotin?

Biotin, also known as Vitamin B7, is a crucial nutrient in equine nutrition and health. It is well known for its role in improving the condition of a horse's hoof, hair, and skin. While horses produce some level of biotin naturally in their hindgut, additional supplementation can offer numerous benefits.

Biotin is a water-soluble vitamin, part of the Vitamin B complex. It's essential for overall health, affecting everything from energy metabolism to the growth rate of the hoof. In the equine world, biotin is most often associated with hoof care, as it's important for hoof horn growth and hoof quality.

Biotin is naturally found in many types of forage that horses eat. However, the levels of biotin in a horse's diet may vary depending on the type and quality of the forage. In many cases, horse owners opt for supplemental biotin to ensure their equine friends are getting enough.

Benefits of Biotin & The Role of Biotin in Healthy Hoof Growth

Though biotin deficiency is rare in horses, adequate biotin is important for hoof health, supporting the new hoof horn's growth rates and hardness. The amino acids methionine and zinc, along with biotin, are key components that support hoof structure. Supported by equine research.

Supplemental biotin has been shown to improve hoof growth and hoof quality. Studies have reported greater growth rates and hardness in hooves following biotin supplementation (Reference: Equine Veterinary Journal). This is particularly beneficial for Lipizzaner horses, which have been shown to have hoof horn abnormalities.

Biotin doesn't just support hoof health; it also affects the horse's hair and skin. Some research even suggests that biotin may influence mood in horses, although this is not yet well-supported by equine research.

Choosing the Right Biotin Supplement

If your horse's hooves are brittle or if you notice poor hoof condition, consider supplementing with biotin. Most supplements recommend around 15-20 mg of biotin per day, although this can vary based on individual needs.

When selecting a biotin supplement, look for one that also includes supporting nutrients like amino acids, copper, and zinc. These not only help improve the existing hoof but also support the overall health of your horse.

For hoof care, dosages ranging from 15 mg to 20 mg of biotin per day are commonly recommended. However, consult your veterinarian for advice tailored to your horse's specific needs.

Exploring the Benefits of Biotin for Horses: A Supplement for Equine Hoof Health



Using Biotin to Create a Quality Hoof

Supplementing with biotin is a well-recognized practice for enhancing hoof quality, especially in cases of brittle hooves. Equine research strongly suggests that this vitamin, also known as vitamin B7, can significantly affect hoof quality and growth rates. While biotin deficiency is rare in horses, adding a biotin supplement to your horse's diet can provide marked improvements, particularly if the existing hoof condition is poor.

Equine supplements, often containing 15-20 mg of biotin per day along with zinc and amino acids like methionine, can be a holistic approach to equine nutrition and health. However, it's essential to note that while biotin helps the hoof structure, it's not a stand-alone solution. Incorporating other nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids can further support horses, not only for hoof care but for coat condition, performance, and mood.

Although a horse will need several months to show new hoof horn growth, horse owners have reported greater growth rates and hardness in hooves of horses after consistent supplementation. Still, it's important to consult the latest equine veterinary journal studies to be up-to-date on how feeding biotin can complement other aspects of hoof horn quality and overall health.

To sum up, if you're contemplating how to use biotin to improve hoof condition, a well-rounded approach that includes monitoring biotin availability, existing hoof health, and diet may yield the best results. After all, horses produce biotin naturally in their hindgut, but sometimes they need that extra support to show the benefits.

Author: Melyni Worth, PhD
Foxden Equine

Biotin Discussion with Melyni



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USDF VIRTUAL EDUCATION SERIES

The USDF Virtual Education Series hosts education sessions with industry professionals over a variety of dressage and equine education topics. Members are eligible to sign up through the online submission form to receive the webinar link and access to the session. Each session is free to USDF members and is USDF University accredited. Members will receive 0.25 education credits upon verification of attendance. The webinar will start automatically through the provided link at the designated date and time. All times are listed in Eastern Time. Questions? Email education@usdf.org.

Each session will last 60 minutes and includes a live Q&A with presenters. Suggestions for future education sessions or topics may be emailed to education@usdf.org.

You do not need to purchase a Zoom licensed account to access the session. Interested members will need a device with audio and visual capabilities. Can't attend a session? Sessions will be available for streaming in the USDF Education Library within 30 days following the scheduled session.



Fitness Routines for Spring
Presented by: Jec Ballou
May 7, 2024 at 8:00 PM ET

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Other Series Available

The Purpose of the Movements
Presented by: Sarah Geikie and Bill McMullin

An Introduction to the USDF
Amateur/Junior/Young Rider Handler
Class
Presented by: Shea Johnson, Caitlin
Gallagher, Erin Bell, Kristi Wysocki,
Natalie DiBerardinis

Tips for Improving Scores
Presented by: Bill McMullin and Kathy
Rowse

DSHB SOS: An Overview of Scheduling and
Scoring
Presented by: USDF Competition
Management Committee

Signed, Sealed and Delivered: Preparing
Contracts for Dressage Competition
Management
Presented by: Tom Struzziere, Carlie Evans,
and Elizabeth Clarke

[More Information](#)



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