



**NORTHEAST
KANSAS
HUNTER ASSOCIATION**

RINGSIDE REVIEW NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that we've come to the end of another horse show season already. On behalf of the NKHA board, I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting the organization and the horse shows. It has truly been a pleasure watching all of the riders learn and grow with their horses and ponies over the past year.

We hope you enjoyed the chance to compete for the eight different high point year-end awards this year. These awards, given in honor of the NKHA charter board members, will be presented at the annual banquet on Sunday, December 9 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. And of course, all of the division year-end awards will be presented as well. We look forward to seeing you there.

No matter how the year-end standings turn out, all of our competitors deserve a hardy congratulations for all of their hard work, time and effort! As I look back at my riding career, I don't so much remember what place I won at a show or at an awards banquet. Instead, I remember all of the fun times with friends, the life lessons horse showing taught me and how great it felt when my horse and I finally got it all pulled together in the ring.

When you look back at the 2007 NKHA season, I hope you have many similar fond memories.

Pam Evans

Nomination Slate for 2007-08 NKHA Officers

President Elect
Shelly Gray

Treasurer
Kylie Fowler

Corresponding Secretary
Dehlia Burdan

Publicity Secretary
Ashley Foster

Points & Membership
Secretary
Amber Kozak

NKHA Members Win Kansas Horse Council Foundation Academic Scholarships

A big congratulations goes out to these NKHA members who were awarded the scholarships in 2007:

Allie Archer, Elizabeth Godfrey, Hannah Schroller, Kelly Schwartz, and Alice White

The Kansas Horse Council awards scholarships each year to individuals who are involved in the Kansas horse industry. Scholarships are awarded based on applicants' involvement with the horse industry, academic achievement, and community service. In order to be eligible for the scholarships, applicants must be members of the KHC, be involved in the horse industry, be involved in community service, be enrolled in school, and must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0. When applying for these scholarships, applicants must also provide two letters of recommendation to the KHC.

If you are interested in applying for these scholarships in 2008, visit the KHC Web page: www.kansashorsecouncil.com.

Congrats to the 2007 NKHA Medal Finals Qualifiers and Ribbon Winners!

The NKHA congratulates all of the riders who qualified for the 2007 NKHA Medal Finals.

On October 20, many of the qualifiers competed in the 2007 NKHA Medal Finals which were held at the K & K Hunter Show at the Kansas Expocentre. **Lisa Oliver** and her mount, Popeye, caught the judge's attention and ended up winning the class. Congratulations to Lisa for being the 2007 NKHA Medal Finals Champion.

We would like to also recognize the top ten riders in the Medal Finals. Congratulations to everyone!

1. Lisa Oliver - Popeye
2. Julie Oliver – Amazing Grace
3. Stephanie Bell - The Perfect Star
4. Natalie McAllister - Hemingway
5. Brianna Peddicord - Brave Heart
6. Amy White - Hennessey
7. Hayley Bannister - Rhythmical
8. Joanna Kowalewski - All Dad's Money
9. Kassidi Livingston - Silver Who
10. Randi Jones - Just Joe

Tips for Making a Good First Impression in the Hunter Ring

As most horse people have heard, a hunter horse should be fat, happy and possess a glossy, dapple-covered coat. The fat, happy, shiny, dappled hunter makes a great initial impression on the judge and catches the eye of other competitors. Taking the time to properly care for and groom your horse, in addition to knowing a few helpful grooming hints, can improve the overall appearance of your horse.

Even though hunters are judged on how they jump around a course of fences and how they move, a hunters' overall appearance also enters into a judge's decision. A well-groomed horse steps into a ring far ahead of a horse that is not well turned out.

Start with the basics when taking care of your horse. Regular grooming is essential if you want your horse to have a shiny coat. The number one grooming tool in your grooming box is the curry comb. The curry comb stimulates circulation in the coat and helps to improve muscle tone. Currying your horse brings the oils on his skin to the surface which will lead to a shinier coat. Nothing is better than the curry comb in getting your horse's coat to look its best.

Keeping your horse clipped and its mane pulled will make a drastic difference in your horse's overall appearance. It is not always feasible to body clip a hunter. Even if the horse isn't fully clipped, simply trimming the horse's nose, ears, and legs can give your horse a more polished look. If the horse has white legs, clip all of its white hair to improve its appearance.

To ensure that your horse looks its best, pull its mane on a regular basis. Pulling the mane serves to both shorten and thin the mane. A well kept mane is about four inches long. A hunter's mane should be short enough to braid yet long enough so that the mane naturally lies on the right side of the horse's neck. Even if you properly pull a mane, some manes refuse to lie on the right side of the neck. If your horse's mane lies completely or partially on the left side of its neck, braiding it down a few days before a show can help to keep the mane on the right side of the neck during the horse show.

A beautifully groomed tail can also help your horse make a positive impression. A full, brushed out tail completes the overall picture of a show hunter. Washing and conditioning the tail can ensure that the tail is in the best condition. In addition, spray conditioners are available to help keep your horse's tail in good shape in between baths. Before a horse show, wash and condition the tail, and then begin to brush the tail out. When brushing out the tail, start from the bottom of the tail and work your way up to the top. Brush the tail before the show, and continue to brush the tail during the show in order to keep it detangled and beautiful.

On the day of the horse show there are lots of little tricks that will make your horse look his best. Before traveling to a show, give your horse a bath. If the weather is too cold for a full bath, still be sure to wash the white parts on your horse's legs. The extra white sheen on a horse can really add to its overall look. Incredibly enough, white legs alone (in contrast to off white legs), can make the horse seem fancier.

Right before tacking up to go into the ring, spritz your horse's body and tail with a spray conditioner. Then, give the tail a final brush and rub your horse down with a towel. This will increase the shine of your horse's coat and tail. Putting baby oil on your horse's nose and around its eyes can also add a lot to the overall look. Along with baby oil, baby powder can be applied to white markings to make the white truly white. Finally, painting a horse's hooves with hoof polish right before leaving the stall and right before entering the ring adds an extra touch. Before you show, double check to make sure there are no shavings in your horse's tail and that there is no sign of grass in your horse's mouth. Use a small towel to wipe down your horse's mouth. Before you walk into the show ring, give your horse a final once over to make sure you did not overlook any aspect of his turnout.

Even if your horse is the least expensive in the class, doing your grooming homework can make your horse look as appealing as the most expensive entry. Emphasis is placed on initial impressions in the hunter world. This is one reason you should strive to make sure your horse looks great. The most important reason, however, for devoting so much time to proper grooming is that this type of care improves your horse's health. It is easy to just load your horse and go to a show without properly preparing. However, when it comes down to deciding which horse should win the class, it is the grooming that will truly set you and your horse at the top of the judge's card.

Banquet Is Right Around the Corner

The leaves are changing colors, the days are getting shorter, and, yes, once again the NKHA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet is upon us! This year, the banquet will be held on Sunday, December 9 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, KS. Tickets will be \$20 per person.

As usual, the banquet should be a fun day for riders and horse lovers to gather together and celebrate the show season. In addition, there will be a silent auction and a special guest speaker. As always, door prizes will be given and awesome year-end awards will be presented. We hope that you all can join us for all of the fun!

Invitations will be sent out soon. Watch your mail for your invitation!

Auction Donations Sought

As the annual banquet approaches, this means that the NKHA is looking for items for the silent auction. Each year we have very unique, special items in the auction. Monies raised through the auction support the NKHA and its activities.

Do you have an item that could be placed in the auction? Or, do you know someone who would be interested in supporting the auction? In the past, auction items have included paintings, photos, books, saddle pads, special services, and unique horsey gifts.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping support the NKHA's auction, please let us know. We really appreciate the support of our members and community businesses!

If you would like to donate an item, please contact Sue Birtwistle at foxycricket2000@yahoo.com.

Showing from the Trailer

Natalie McAllister

As with all horse showing, summers on the NKHA circuit can guarantee at least one trip with your horse in the trailer. However, many of our local horse shows either do not have stalls available or can only offer a limited number of stalls for securing your horse until show time, and often times the trailer has to become the point of security for your horse. Tying your horse to a trailer for an extended period of time is quite different from leaving your horse in a secure stall, and the proper precautions should be taken to avoid injury to your horse.

Before leaving for your horse show, be sure to give your trailer a quick look over. First, check to see if you have twine or something similar to tie on to the manufacturer's trailer ties. These manufacturer ties are made of metal and welded onto the side of the trailer, which makes them particularly strong but this lack of give could cause serious injury if your horse were tied and spooked. These metal ties do not give if a horse forcefully pulls away from the trailer, but if the lead rope is tied onto a piece of twine tied to the metal ties, your horse will be able to break the twine and free himself in the case that he becomes panicked. Also consider your hay bag before leaving for the horse show. Net hay bags should be checked on frequently because as the horse consumes the hay, the bag will begin to sag, which will put your horse at risk for sticking a leg through the netting and becoming injured. Nylon hay bags do not sink, and do not require being checked on as frequently. As a last point on your check list, check your trailer flooring for holes or weak spots and make sure your tires are fully inflated.

After you have arrived at the show grounds and unloaded your horse from the trailer, be sure to check the ground around the area you plan to tie your horse. Often, broken glass, nails, or other sharp objects can be concealed in grass, and these items can become lodged in your horse's hooves. Also, be aware of any nearby trailers and avoid tying your horse too close to other competitors' horses as you never know when or if a horse may kick. When you tie your horse to the trailer, do not forget to use the twine tie instead of the metal tie and fasten your horse with a quick release knot. Avoid tying your horse near parts of the trailer, such as the back door, where a horse could catch his halter. If you are using a nylon halter, this is especially important because your horse will not be able to break the halter should it become snagged, and he could potentially hurt himself seriously. Also, make sure the area around your horse is free of your tack and supplies or anything else that he might get tangled in to avoid leg injuries and spooking. Before leaving your horse tied, keep in mind that he will need shade, water, and perhaps a refill of hay later on in the day, and be sure to check on him every so often. Lastly, when have tacked your horse up and are ready to show, take care not to leave your halter hanging from the lead rope tied, as another horse could catch and break a leg in this hanging halter.



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Check Us Out on the Web – www.nkha.net

*Visit www.nkha.net to find all the information you will need for the 2008 show season!
You'll find a variety of info on the Web site including: schedule of shows/events, current list of
members and registered horses, the NKHA rulebook, membership and horse registration forms,
newsletters and show bills.*