

A woman wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt, dark riding pants, and a purple riding helmet is smiling as she rides a brown horse. The horse is in motion, possibly performing a dressage movement, in an outdoor arena with a wooden fence and green trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

Issue 83  
AUGUST 2011

CHARNWOOD  
**TAILS**

**THE *FREE* MAGAZINE FOR HORSE  
AND ANIMAL LOVERS IN CHARNWOOD  
AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS!**



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# Welcome to the August issue of Charnwood Tails!



Left:

"This is a picture of my daughter, Grace, riding her new pony, Jazz. She's had him a month and they have come on in leaps and bounds and her confidence is growing by the minute. He's an oldie at 19 but is a total saint and the love of her life."

Sam Doherty

Right:

Sam Doherty jumping her Welshie, Mali-Ann.

"She's a sweetheart and loves to jump and we're having so much fun together!"

Front cover:

Jade Coles and Mali-Ann.

"She's super!"



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## CONTACT US!

Charnwood Tails, c/o 7 Ashby Square, Loughborough LE11 5AA  
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### A bit about ... the Hoof

- ◇ The primary purpose of the hoof is as a shock absorber and to protect the inner structures, which consist of the lower short pastern, the pedal and navicular bones and the lower deep digital flexor tendon.
- ◇ The wall of the hoof grows down from the coronary band or coronet. Hoof horn grows at approximately 1 cm per month.
- ◇ The inner surface of the hoof contains non-sensitive and sensitive laminae which are attached to the pedal bone.
- ◇ The concave shape of the underneath of the hoof gives strength and grip as the hoof absorbs most of the concussion of movement.



### AUGUST MINI WORDSEARCH

s t t h e t v m a p i t e m p  
 r r t e b q p a d d o c k o t  
 e e e k o u d f l r o r o n  
 k q t k r c e e h o o f o r l  
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 e l i o f o o h o p n i u c d  
 r s p a t s h a v i n g s s e  
 d a t m a b t e d a g t x s h

Words to find:

- bridle, brush, bucket, dressage markers, equestrian, haylage, hoof oil, paddock, prix st george, saddle, shavings, tackroom.

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The school will be open to external riders Monday to Friday between 11.30 and 1.30 for £20.00 per week paid in advance or £70.00 per month paid in advance. For that you can come everyday, Monday to Friday, working out at just £4 or £3.50 per session per horse to use a sand and rubber indoor for if you wish the whole 2 hours (this will be shared sessions) or you may hire a private session at £15.00 per hour.

Please call the farm on **01509 845048**  
or Hayley on 07725432355  
or email [hayleysankey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hayleysankey@yahoo.co.uk)

### SHOW DATES!

7th August - Dressage 29th August Fun Open Prize Show  
Full details on [Canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk](http://Canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk)

## Stables - an ideal feral home

Feral cats are the descendants of once domestic cats who are now living in the wild. Originally they may have been pets which have been abandoned by uncaring owners, or who have simply wandered away from home and got lost, often due to not having been neutered. These wild-living cats then often form colonies wherever there is shelter and a food supply e.g. farms, industrial estates, building sites etc. They may perform a useful function by hunting rodents but left unchecked it is a continual breeding cycle, where female cats may have one litter partially weaned and already be pregnant with another litter. Becoming continually pregnant also takes a high toll on the female cat, and often leads to potentially fatal diseases. Kittens are often abandoned to fend for themselves or eventually die if food becomes scarce.



The humane way to control a feral colony is to trap and neuter all the mature adults and return them to the colony site. If kittens are caught young enough they can be tamed and good homes found for them.

Rescue centres who deal with helping feral cats, are frequently in need of new locations to place them, because it isn't always possible to return them to their original home, (for instance on a building site, where it is just too dangerous). Ideal homes are farms, smallholdings, stables, or just a rural home with some land or a large garden. Having a small colony of feral cats in such environments is mutually beneficial - they take care of 'Mouse Control' and you supply them with a safe home. You would need to provide them with regular food and clean water daily, and somewhere warm and dry to shelter, such as a barn, outbuilding or shed. Feral cats relocated via a rescue group will already be neutered, but you will need to keep an eye on them to make sure that they remain healthy.



When feral cats are re-located they should be confined to a secure indoor area such as a barn, containing bedding areas, litter trays and food and water for up to three weeks, whilst they acclimatise to their new environment, otherwise they will simply run away when released. Although they will initially fear human contact, over time you should be able to earn their trust to some extent. Some feral cats may eventually become friendly to varying degrees.

At this time of year there is a huge population explosion with cats generally, but especially with the

ferals. If you are interested to know more, please contact one of the centres below.

Bramcote Animal Rescue - Tel: 0115 9220286 or Email: amanda@bramcote-rescue.co.uk

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare - Tel: 07881 430387 or Email: bjcats@googlemail.com

New Ollerton Cat Rescue - Tel: 01623 835212 or Email: cat171@tiscali.co.uk

Animal Accident Rescue Unit - Tel: 0115 920 5172 or Email: admin@aaruu.org.uk

Cat Action Trust 1977 - Tel: 02476 347738, 02476 730240 or Email: info@cat77.org.uk

Cats in Need - Tel: 02476 384358



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# Advertise in Charnwood Tails!

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**\* Pre-payment is required for all advertisements please \***

For advertising enquiries please email

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or phone **07961 535189**

(If unanswered please leave a message and we'll get back to you)

**COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 18th August**

[www.charnwoodtails.co.uk](http://www.charnwoodtails.co.uk)

RIDE WITH YOUR MIND

Vivienne Isaac

## Learning & Practising

I love learning something new, especially in relation to horses and in particular anything that enhances my relationship with them. Last week I splurged all my non-existent holiday money on three days of Linda Parelli's 'Game of Contact' course, held at Stoneleigh.

It lived up to expectation and then some. A simple process to go through to really help horse and human understand riding with contact – as opposed to on a loose or casual rein.

There are benefits to both styles. On a loose/casual rein with no contact the horse learns to balance himself and it can be used to build confidence and trust between horse and rider. The rider also learns to use her body independently and not rely on the reins to hold on to the horse.

Riding with contact helps to shape the horse, encouraging him to engage those muscles that will benefit his posture. As with ourselves – good posture and bodily use leads to fewer injuries and a longer, pain-free life. That's got to be a plus for both of us!

To play the Game of Contact, you need to have good posture and control of your body so that you can maintain your position without relying on the reins. Well, if you've practiced the exercises I've mentioned over the last couple of years, you'll be well on your way to mastering your own body.

And here's the rub. It's easy enough to learn the theory of something – it's a whole other game to ACTUALLY DO IT. For most of us, making changes takes practise, and it needs to be perfect practise at that! Some say it takes 10,000 repetitions for a change to become second nature – that's a lot of practise – although don't forget you can do a lot of that practise as mental rehearsal or as simulations.

So I've learned a lot. It's a simple process – but that doesn't mean it's easy!! I've made a start and understand what I need to do, and in which order. Now I need to help my horse understand, and take the time it takes so we both progress. This can be the time when, if it doesn't go as well as it did when the 'master' was doing it, we can become disillusioned and give up.

Fortunately I made lots of notes to refer back to if I get a bit stuck or don't get the response I was expecting from my horse. Feedback from my horse, 'eyes' on the ground and video will all help me keep my 'practise' on track and make sure I'm practising what I learned and not some vague version of it. Contact with my tutor is another invaluable tool.

Another point I need to be aware of is that it can be easy to get carried away with doing something new and over do it to the point of fatigue or boredom – as always balance and perspective are an important part of our journey with our horses. Practise enough of the right things to make progress but don't overdo it until you're both sick to death!

So what are you learning and practising this summer?

If you'd like help to learn how to use your body to impress your horse, and have fun practising, give me a call and I'll be pleased to help. Too stressed to learn? Injured? Lame horse? – perhaps try some Shiatsu to get you back on track.

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# Horse Fly Facts

A scientist at a Hungarian University, named Dr Gábor Horváth, discovered that white horses attract fewer flies.



He and five colleagues wrote and published a study called *An Unexpected Advantage of Whiteness in Horses: The Most Horsefly-proof Horse Has a Depolarising White Coat*.

They experimented with a small number of 'sticky' horses and a large number of horseflies (of the variety called tabanids). The horses were sticky because the scientists had coated them with "a transparent, odourless and colourless insect monitoring glue".

They brought the horses - one black, one brown, one white - to a grassy field and, every other day, they collected and counted the flies that had become attached to the sticky horses.

The results, tallied over 54 summer days, showed the sticky brown horse trapped 15 times as many flies as the sticky white horse, and the black horse, poor thing, trapped a whopping, buzzing 25 times as many flies as the white one.

The reason for the differences, say the scientists, come from the way light bounces off horsehair. Polarised light - light that's all vibrating in the same direction - attracts horseflies. When that light reflects off dark hair, it stays polarised. But when polarised light glances off white hair, it becomes less polarised, which, to a horsefly, is not so attractive.

- Adults horse flies can be up to 25 mm long.
- A horse fly's bite can be very painful to horses and humans. Unlike insects that pierce the skin, horse flies have mouth parts that work like miniature knives, which they use to slash open the skin with a scissor-like motion.



- It is the female fly that is responsible for biting, as the males are mainly pollen and nectar feeders.
- Eggs are laid in masses ranging from 100 to 1000 eggs on a vertical surface overhanging water or wet ground favourable to larvae development. The eggs hatch in 5-7 days.
- They overwinter in the larval stage and pupate during the spring and early summer.
- Adult life cycle is 30 to 60 days.
- Horse flies (Tabanids) are most active during daylight hours.

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Advertisements for inclusion in the next issue need to reach us by **18th August**  
Please **EMAIL** to [info@charnwoodtails.co.uk](mailto:info@charnwoodtails.co.uk) or **POST** to 7 Ashby Square, Loughborough LE11 5AA.  
For **bold** listings please send required wording along with a cheque for £5 payable to Charnwood Tails

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BROODMARE OR COMPANION. Very quiet Thoroughbred Mare for very long term loan or sale. This lovely girl cannot be ridden due to an injury sustained 3 years ago (does not require treatment). Has bred a lovely foal last year and is very good to do in all ways. Would suit someone who needs a field mate or for producing a homebred horse. Comes with complete wardrobe of rugs etc. Good to shoe box, clip etc. Price/terms negotiable as home more important. Please contact 07967 143077 / 07841 700218

**BOLD ADS ONLY £5!**  
Copy date for September issue  
**18th August**

## HORSEWEAR

BLACK/WHITE ENGLISH LEATHER BRIDLE hardly worn, full size, with dressage reins, £40. Black square large number/saddle cloth £10. Boot/hat bag, blue with red binding £5. Foam pad for roller £3. White cottage craft girth 46" £5. Overgirths x 2 hardly worn approx 80" £8 each. Plastic spurs with various spur ends £5. Studs - various size, 4 new road studs, wire brush, T bar and other stud remover, plugs £12. Green velvet silk £5. XC number holder £5. Woof back boots 3 velcro straps, good condition £10. N.E.W. equine front boots £6. Please phone Lisa on 07985 575920 if interested in anything

14" GP SADDLE SOFT ENGLISH LEATHER havana brown med fit can be seen in the horse at Dishley Grange. 14" brown suede show saddle med fit only used in the show ring £150.00 please call Sarah on 01509 843229 or 07973 899421

POLYPAD TAIL RAPPAL PURPLE - new - tag still attached. £5. Tel: 01509 560727

15" FVLDE WHP SADDLE IN EXC COND. Black, Xwide fit for the native breeds. £250.00. 15" MW GP/Jumping saddle in English leather, tan coloured. Lovely comfy, deep seat, in really good condition other than some scuffs on the cantle. Reflocked by local saddler last year, £100 ono. Mobile 07834 360025

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CALDENE SOUTHWOLD HACKING JACKET, new this season worn 5 times only, size 14 to 16, beautifully made, ideal for showing workers. Over £110 new, will take £60. 07906 991627 Mountsorrel

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## WANTED!

RIDER WANTED FOR 13HH MARE, would suit small adult or teenager no heavier than 9 stone, must be of good ability of riding, the pony has fantastic manners if 100% in traffic and to hack out alone, loves to jump (when a bit fitter) only looking for rider as my daughter losing interest and the pony is going to waste and she loves to be worked, you need to be able to ride at least twice a week and be able to get yourself to and from the field, this is situated in East Leake and is on the main No.1 bus route, contact Sam 07754 168256

SHARER REQUIRED. I have a 15.2hh mare who we need someone to come and ride twice a week. We will require a small contribution. She is a very safe and sensible mare but we do want people who have a good knowledge about horses. Lots of hacking and a chance to do local shows. We are in Gotham, Nottingham. Call 07765 231644 for more details.

PART-TIME JOB REQUIRED. I am 17 years old and have a very good understanding of horses and a good knowledge. I am bright and bubbly so always nice to be around. I am looking for a job to help with costs for when I go to university next year. As I am doing A-levels the days and times may need to fit around my timetable. I can offer re-schooling services and I can teach people to ride. If you have anything that could help me out please get in touch. Call/text on 07765 231644

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# Diary Dates



If you would like your event including in this section, please email to [info@charnwoodtails.co.uk](mailto:info@charnwoodtails.co.uk)

## **Sunday 7 August**

OPEN SHOW, Soar Valley Riding Club – Equifest & Royal London Qualifier, Farley Way, Quorn, Leicestershire. Tel: 07813 969114 or [www.svrc.co.uk](http://www.svrc.co.uk)

DRESSAGE, Canaan Farm, Costock. See [canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk](http://canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk)

## **Thursday 11 August**

DRESSAGE, Mooreland Stables, Griffydam. Tel 07734 847 697. [www.moorelandstables.co.uk](http://www.moorelandstables.co.uk)

## **Saturday 13 August**

DRESSAGE, Diamond Equestrian, Thurlaston. Tel Kim, 07950 213691  
[www.diamondequestrian.co.uk](http://www.diamondequestrian.co.uk)

## **Sunday 14th August**

REDGATE ANIMAL SANCTUARY DOG SHOW & OPEN DAY. 11am-4pm. 233 Shaw Lane, Markfield. Various stalls, see the Sanctuary animals. Adults £2, children 80p. Tel. 01530 243925

## **Sunday 21 August**

OPEN SHOW, Sutton Bonington Riding Club. Details: [www.suttonboningtonridingclub.co.uk](http://www.suttonboningtonridingclub.co.uk)

FUN OPEN SHOW, Diamond Equestrian, Thurlaston. Tel Kim, 07950 213691  
[www.diamondequestrian.co.uk](http://www.diamondequestrian.co.uk)

KNAPTOFT RIDE, LRBA, 12 miles. Contact Kim Hall, 0116 2478214

## **Tuesday 23 August**

CLEAR ROUND SJ TRAINING, Diamond Equestrian, Thurlaston. Tel Kim, 07950 213691  
[www.diamondequestrian.co.uk](http://www.diamondequestrian.co.uk)

## **Saturday 27 August**

DRESSAGE, Mooreland Stables, Griffydam. Tel 07734 847 697. [www.moorelandstables.co.uk](http://www.moorelandstables.co.uk)

## **Sunday 28 August**

OPEN SHOW AND INDOOR DRESSAGE, Rearsby Lodge RC, Brooksby Equestrian Centre, Brooksby, Leicestershire. Contact Liz Atkins 0116 2871662 [www.rearsbylodge.com](http://www.rearsbylodge.com)

## **Monday 29 August**

THORPE MALSOR RIDE, LRBA, 14 or 19 miles. Contact Liz Woolston, 01536 770314

FUN OPEN PRIZE SHOW, Canaan Farm, Costock. See [canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk](http://canaanfarmequestrian.co.uk)

## **Sunday 4 September**

ONE DAY EVENT, Diamond Equestrian, Thurlaston. Tel Kim, 07950 213691  
[www.diamondequestrian.co.uk](http://www.diamondequestrian.co.uk)

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