

# Kentucky Opens Equine Humane Center

**Kentucky Derby-Winning Breeders and Trainer Announce the Opening of New Shelter for State's At-Risk Horses**

## **The Kentucky Equine Humane Center Officially Opens**

**LEXINGTON, KY (April 13, 2007)** Horses of all breeds in Kentucky who are currently in life-threatening situations will receive the gift of a second chance at the Kentucky Equine Humane Center (KyEHC), which officially opened its doors on April 16. "This is an opportunity for all of us to do the right thing and play a role in ensuring the welfare and humane treatment of horses here in Kentucky, the Horse Capital of the World," said the organization's president, Staci Hancock. "With Kentucky's signature event, the Kentucky Derby, just around the corner, we believe it is an ideal time to open our doors and bring attention to the plight of



"Fine Stitches" enjoys a romp at the KyEHC

horses who are at risk."

Hancock and her husband, Arthur, own Stone Farm in Paris, Kentucky, which bred/raised Kentucky Derby winners Gato Del Sol, Sunday Silence and Fusaichi Pegasus. Both are on the frontline of the equine welfare/anti-slaughter movements. KyEHC is a first-of-its-kind facility, established with the specific goal of providing owners with a humane option when they need to give up their horses. The Center is located on a tranquil, 50-acre horse farm just outside of Lexington, Kentucky, which will be a safe refuge for at-risk horses of all breeds and disciplines. No horse in a precarious situation will ever be turned away. Adoptable horses will be placed in loving homes. Horses which are unadoptable due to chronic pain or permanent, crippling injuries will be humanely euthanized.

*(Continued next page)*

## OPRC Spring Dressage Camp 2007

*By Kris Brimm*

Spring 2007 was cold and wet, but that didn't stop the dedicated riders who turned out for the OPRC spring dressage camp featuring Lois Heyerdahl. For those of you who aren't familiar with Lois, she is an "S" rated dressage judge. You may have ridden for her at one of the IaDCTA shows or at a recognized show in Mason City. She was a good sport about working with green riders, green horses, muddy horses and slightly naughty horses. Lois never knows who is going to show up at one of the OPRC camps. She does know that it is always fun.

The Eastern Iowa Old People's Riding Club sponsored Lois on March 24 and 25, 2007, at Cedar Falls Equestrian Center. Kristen Johansen brought her new horse even though she had only been on him a few times during the winter. Susan Brigham brought her exceptional young horse for the experience. Kelly Burger and Deb Ashton brought their horses to tune their skills for teaching for ASPIRE therapeutic riding. Kris Brimm and Lois Pienkos brought more experienced horses to hone their skills for riding 1<sup>st</sup> level this summer. We even had three youth riders - Charla, Kendall and Alice. Carol Eilers, Laura Parks and Jamie Weise audited.

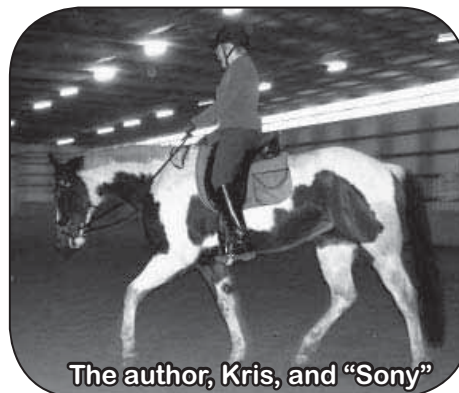
Lois worked with several of the riders on longeing their horses. She suggested using one side rein on the outside and running the longe line through the bit and then to the girth so the rider could use the longe line like a rein and ask for a slight bend to the inside



**Susan Brigham & Pal**

and apply half halts. The longeing gave the young horses a chance to release some energy so they could concentrate on their lessons. It gave the older horses a reminder to soften and supple to make it easier for the rider to round them into contact when riding.

Group lessons were held in the morning,



**The author, Kris, and "Sony"**

followed by private or semi-private lessons in the afternoon. Riders were grouped by their experience and the needs of their horse. Lois is very kind with her criticism and riders responded well to her instruction. The main thing Lois worked on with each horse and rider was submission and contact. At lunch on Saturday, Lois had us pair up and one of us acted as the horse with a bit on our waist, while the other acted as the rider holding the reins. We "drove" each other while trying to keep from pulling the bit all the way around. Riders were surprised at how hard it was to be the horse and know where to go if the contact wasn't there and how light that contact could be and still be effective.

Saturday night we went for dinner at the Park Place Event Center. Deb DeVries gave a presentation on body type and exercises to improve fitness for equestrian sports.

On Sunday, Lois had us ride through the new tests at the level we would like to be showing this summer. As we rode each movement she commented on what the judge would be looking for and gave us an idea of how that movement would be scored. The four-lesson format was tiring for the participants, but we got a month's worth of lessons in two days and everyone improved.

In addition to the riding, the camp offered the opportunity to meet new people who share an interest in horses and have fun. Consider participating in a dressage camp near you. Sign up early, prepare through regular lessons and conditioning, and it will be money well spent.



Derby-winning trainer, Nick Zito (Strike The Gold and Go For Gin) and his wife Kim, are on the KyEHC board of advisors. According to Nick, "Regardless of pedigree or performance, all horses have to be treated the same. Consequently, we all have the same responsibilities to meet those needs, whether we are working with Kentucky Derby winners or horses that are just horses. Again, they have to be treated the same."

John Nicholson, Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park, site of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010 and home of legendary racehorses John Henry and Cigar, observed, "A tremendous responsibility comes along with the privileges of being the Horse Capital of the World, so our industry and state need to make certain we are setting the highest possible example when it comes to equine welfare. Unfortunately, there is a vast, urgent need for shelters that will take all breeds of horses. The Kentucky Horse Park is contacted on a regular basis by people who are desperate to find a safe place for horses who are in a vulnerable situation. We are very happy that the Kentucky Equine Humane Center will ease suffering by meeting some of those needs."

The KyEHC is governed by an impressive board of directors and advisors', representing a number of breeds and disciplines, whose commitment to horses and to the horse industry are matters of record. The organization's executive director, Lori Neagle, was co-founder of the successful Thoroughbred rescue organization, ReRun, and has extensive management and hands-on experience with racehorses, and in particular with geriatric horses. The KyEHC has already received tremendous support from the equine industry and the community. Among those who have already committed their around-the-clock support are Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Sallee Horse Vans, Jerry Parks Insurance Group, Equus Media,



Volunteer Karen Hunter and "Lotsa Sprinkles" - Joy Gilbert, photographer

The Bell Group, Griffin Industries, Kentucky Horseshoeing School, Stephen Hillenmeyer Landscape Services, and Dean, Dorton and Ford.

Several organizations in the National Horse Center at the Kentucky Horse Park are also networking with the group, including the United States Equestrian Foundation and the Kentucky Horse Council.

All financial and in-kind donations are tax-deductible. Monetary donations will be received through the KyEHC Fund at Bluegrass Community Foundation, 250 West Main Street, Suite 1220, Lexington, KY 40507.

For more information on the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, click on [www.kyehc.org](http://www.kyehc.org) or call Lori Neagle, Executive Director, at 859-327-9866 or 859-881-5849.

\*KyEHC Board Members: President - Staci Hancock; Vice President - Joan Ciampi;

Treasurer - Ralph S. "Bud" Watson II, CPA; Secretary - Meg Jewett; Susan Bryson, Esq; Tom E. Daugherty, DVM; Arnold Kirkpatrick; James Smith, DVM; Advisory Board: Josephine Abercrombie, Alice Chandler, Diane M. Curry, Tracy and Carol Farmer, Greg and Becky Goodman, John Hettinger, Chris and Judy McCarron, Lori Kirk-Wagner, Congressman and Mrs. Ed Whitfield, Mary Lou Whitney and John Hendrickson, Nick and Kim Zito. CINDY RULLMAN Marketing and Public Relations Dept.

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