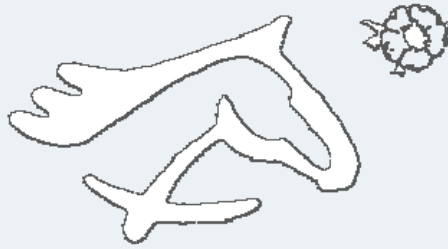


July 14, 2009



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SPRING NEWS FROM HCBC

Premise ID coming soon to a barn near you!

A Premise Identification program is being put in place throughout Europe, the US, & Canada to track animals in case of a disease outbreak. Other livestock were first and now horses are to be phased in. Implementation may be as near as 3 years. The federal government has given each province the responsibility to develop and implement a program. In BC, Horse Council will keep and maintain its own database, with data to be verified by the Ministry of Agriculture. Application will be made for provincial funding to support that work. It's expected that within 3-5 years, all horses crossing the US border (and possibly provincial borders too) will have to have a premise ID, showing its "place of residence." The details are far from finalized, but it looks like every boarding stable, fairgrounds, show barn, horse park, and every facility where horses live or gather will have to be registered, with a unique identifier, allowing for tracing of the movement of horses, should the need arise. Premise ID is one building block of a traceability system being mandated by the federal government: Equine ID is the other and that is being addressed on a national basis by Equine Canada.

HCBC Will Work with SPCA to Protect Horses

The SPCA is called on to respond to cases of equine cruelty, abuse, or neglect but often doesn't have the necessary expertise. Under a new Memorandum of Understanding, Horse Council and the BCSPCA will develop and provide training for SPCA special constables as well as a voluntary industry advisory program that they can contact for advice in specific cases. HCBC will also develop educational resources to use in educating horse owners about proper care.

Link to Donations: When we see news reports of abused or emaciated horses, Horse Council gets many calls from people who want to help. BCSPCA has agreed to set up a horse distress fund, as they have for dogs and cats, so that people can make donations targeted specifically to horses. HCBC will put a link on its website to allow people to easily make donations to that fund.

Equine Education Conference Set for 2011

Dr. Hilary Clayton, popular speaker and internationally known expert on the biomechanics of equine gait, will deliver the keynote address to HCBC's first annual education conference at Kelowna's Delta Okanagan Conference Centre, Jan. 22-24, 2011. The rest of the program is only in the preliminary stages at this time, but it looks very promising. If you have any ideas to whom you would like to listen to, let me know. They are also looking into chartering buses for Zones to be able to attend and not worry about driving. This is a great idea especially for us in the North!

BC Heritage Championships Adopts New Ideas for '09

Horse Council's BC Heritage Championships (formerly Western Heritage) is adopting new classes, demonstrations and a banquet with entertainment this year, with an emphasis on fun. The event is being held at Heritage Park in Chilliwack, July 11-12, offering a great opportunity to show off your BC owned horses. Riders have to buy a Heritage Log Book from HCBC for \$6.30. See the HCBC website for details.

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