



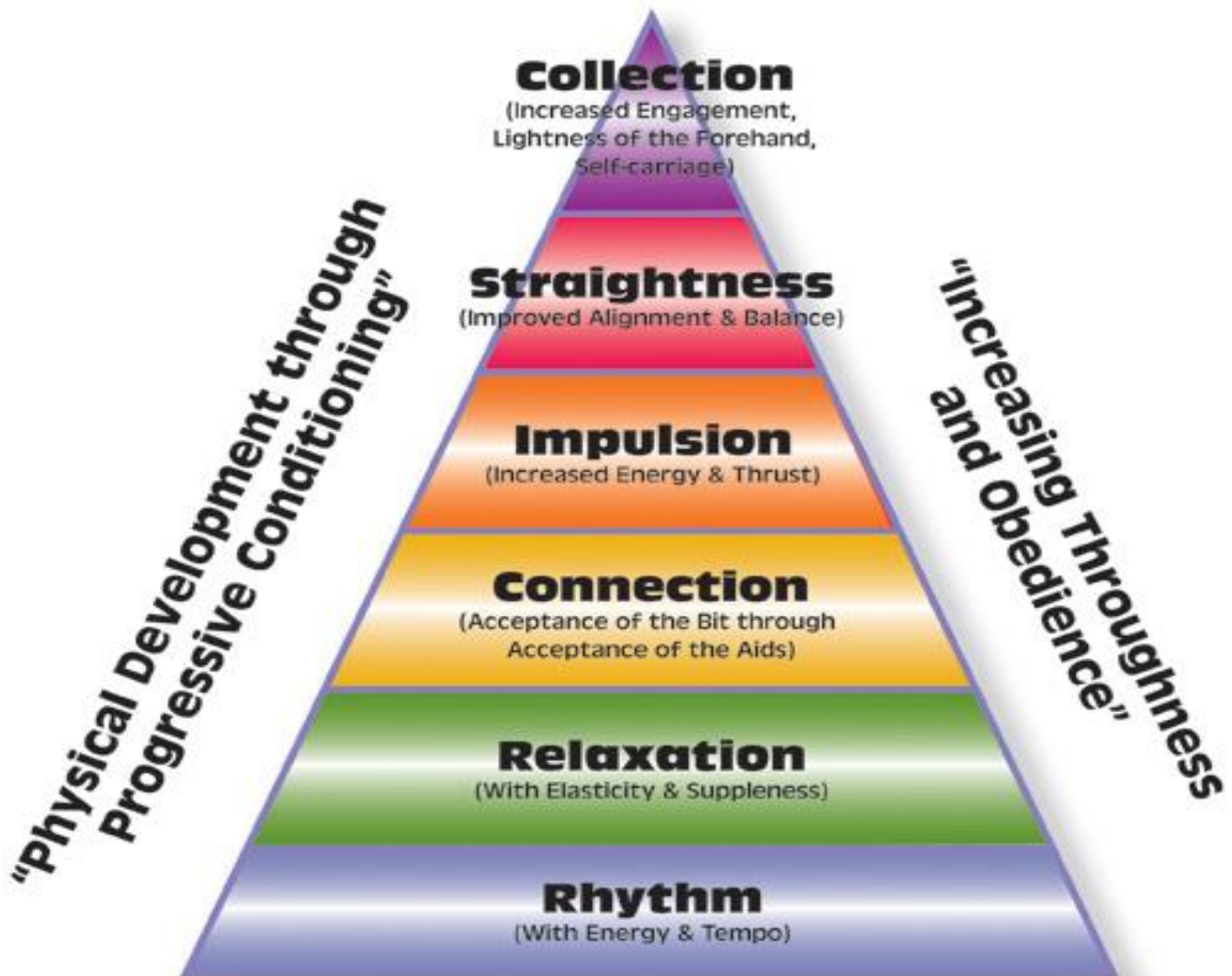
Half-halt



The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association
Volume Number 35 Issue Number 5 May 2023



Pyramid of Training



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Dormant at this time

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Beth Rippel

horsemomva@cox.net



New goals for SVDA members at our schooling shows: earn bronze, silver, gold, and ebony charms with scores of 70% or higher! 🏅🥈🥇🖤 Celebrate with a little bling

Congratulations to the Scholarship winners are Wendy Wilde and Katherine Gardner

Congratulations to Pinky Hipp



Out of Vogue "Denver" was in the top ten in the nation AQHA.
Amateur Yearend high point training level 9th
Amateur Select High Point Training Level 8th.



Please be aware that for all schooling shows and clinics sponsored by SVDA - a CURRENT negative coggins must be received or you will not be allowed to participate. SVDA must submit a report listing all horses, owners and coggins accession numbers to the Va Dept of Agriculture for every sponsored event. We can not make exceptions. So please get your coggins drawn early to allow processing time so that we don't have to refuse your participation on the day of a show or clinic.



A Report on the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Grant from The Dressage Foundation by Charlene Jensen

Cayman is a 17-year-old standardbred, thoroughbred cross. Prior to getting Cayman, I had not ridden dressage and he previously had been ridden hunter. We have been learning together and growing in our knowledge of dressage since January 2020. We have been on this dressage journey together for three years and have progressed from barely being able to walk a straight line to qualifying for USDF Region 1 GAIGS for training level and first level. It has been a wonderful experience and receiving the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund grant is an amazing opportunity to continue progressing mine and Cayman's dressage education. My goal for training was to progress my education in preparation for Cayman and me to ride second level as well as a first level musical freestyle. I wanted to strengthen first level and second level work including balance, collection, improve use of appropriate aids and improve rider position.

My plan was to spend a week with Jodi Lees at her farm, Rivers Edge Farm, riding Cayman, working with Cayman under saddle and on the ground, and auditing lessons/trained by Jodi. At the end of February, I loaded and trailered my horse Cayman from Southeast Virginia to Campobello South Carolina to enact the plan. We arrived safely in South Carolina in 7 hours, Cayman is a steady boy and trailers well. I was met by Jodi's working student, Chloe. She helped Cayman and I get settled in quickly. Once, I was settled in, Jodi started out training right away with an introductory lesson to get to know Cayman and me.

Day 1 – For my first ride, Jodi had me focus on keeping the connection with forward movement between the reins. Cayman has the tendency to slow the tempo or come above the bit to avoid the connection, which Jodi says is a normal avoidance. We primarily focused on developing/keeping the marching walk with soft connection, transitions between walk/trot, and forward moving trot with soft connection/soft body. The take home of that first lesson was “quality of movement”, you must have quality in the movement before transitioning from one gait to the next. That quality includes keeping the horse moving forward while maintaining a soft under neck with connection to the bit and rider even at the walk.

Day 2 – For my second ride, we focused on timing of the aids. Especially at the walk to keep Cayman marching and moving his hind leg up and under. We also focused on moving him from the inside leg to the outside rein. Using the inside leg to say, “go there” and invite them with the outside rein to say, “come here”. It was important to use my aids to help him stay connected and moving forward with appropriate timing and separation of the aids. We also continued the lesson from Monday of “quality of the movement”. We focused on use of the aids at the walk, trot, canter and during transitions while still maintaining connection, and forward movement. The take home of that second lesson was that I needed to be ahead of Cayman and use my aids to keep him focused on the task.

Day 3 – For my third ride, we continued to focus on forward movement, connection, and timing of the aids. Jodi had us work on shoulder in and haunches in to coordinate the aids and prevent Cayman from taking over. This lesson gave me a

better understanding between shoulder in, haunches in, Travers, and Renvers. It also gave me a better understanding of how to coordinate and separate my aids to give clear instruction to Cayman and keep/redirect him to the task. I became more aware of how my body position was affecting the movement and potentially giving conflicting information to Cayman such as keeping my shoulders aligned with his shoulders instead of twisting/rotating my shoulders away from the movement. At the canter, we focused on how my body position can help “bounce the ball” to keep the movement coming from his hind legs and help maintain balance during the up/down transition.

Day 4 – For my fourth ride, we started working on walk to canter transitions. We focused on being able to set-up the transition without rushing. Making sure the horse stays on the bit, soft and round without rushing during the transition. This might mean setting up the transition several times and not actually completing the transition to prevent the horse from taking over but transitioning with quality of movement throughout. This set us up to have better gaits immediately and was essential to circumvent Cayman’s tendency to anticipate the transition or next movement. Jodi says, “Use the half halt and make him wait for you, set it up 100 times if necessary until he waits.” This was a major take home!!!

Day 5 – For my fifth ride, we continued to work on walk to canter transitions and timing of the aids as well as my position. We worked on keeping the balance and impulsion in the canter which required me to sit even in the seat and keep Cayman moving between the reins. The take home was learning to rebalance as needed and be self-aware of my body position, which was difficult but, essential to maintaining the bounce/jump in the canter and progression to counter-canter.



Day 6 – For my sixth ride, we continued working on trusting my seat to get the canter and not overusing the leg aids. This day was really a day to incorporate everything learned in the previous rides. We continued to work on timing of the aids, moving him from the inside leg to the outside rein, and keeping my body moving with his to receive his back, and keep his hindlegs moving underneath. We had forgotten about groundwork until this day. I watched Jodi doing groundwork with her five-year-old KWPN mare, Nadina. This was a great training to watch how to teach the horse body work from the ground and to teach the horse the rules of the space. I couldn’t wait to do this the next day with Cayman!!!

Day 7 – For my seventh ride, we did groundwork instead of riding. I was very excited to try this and learn something new. Cayman has great manners under saddle but, can be a bit of a bully on the ground and likes to invade your space. This was also a great alternative to riding seven days in a row which is something Cayman and I have never done. Cayman and I did well!!!! We learned how to obey the rules of space and not invade my space and for him to let me into his space without moving. I learned six different exercises in the groundwork to start with and plan on getting a rope halter and lead to continue with at home as well.

Each day continued with the same schedule. Before riding we would discuss what I learned the previous day and any insights. Jodi would answer my questions and provide clarification when necessary. I audited rides and training of all breeds and levels. From four-year-olds just learning the basics to accomplished schoolmaster horses. Then I had a daily lesson on Cayman and after our lesson, we reviewed the schedule for the next day, care routine for the barn, and then I headed to the Air BnB to relax and prepare for the next day. At the end of each evening, I journaled the day's lesson, reviewed the videos of my lesson, and reflected on what was taught earlier in the day.

I feel that this experience has taught me several things to reinforce the basics of riding and I have gained many insights into my riding. I think my biggest take home from the entire week is about the quality of movement. There needs to be quality of movement in walk, trot, canter before you can have quality transitions and before you can move onto more complicated movements. Another take home was knowing the intention of what you are asking of your horse, if you are not clear then the horse will be confused and neither of you will be happy with the movement. That means that the aids must be clear and appropriate to the movement you are trying to achieve.

Overall, it was really a gift to have this time and experience. I have learned significant amount over this week, I learned many new tools to continue reenforced the basics everyday so hopefully those are mapped to my brain. I feel more confident in my position with Cayman's training, I look forward to showing this season and I feel that I met my goals set forth at the beginning of this week. I am grateful for the quality time I spent training and being with Cayman without having to manage home and work life. I want to thank TDF, the Gifted Fund selection committee and the TDF Board of Directors for this opportunity and I want to thank Jodi Lees for agreeing to take me on as a student. It was a fantastic experience and worth every minute for the insights, observations, and the ability to ride/train consecutive days. Jodi and her husband, Bill, were very welcoming and the farm is beautifully maintained with rolling hills, trails, and outdoor arena with excellent footing. And Jodi is an amazing teacher and wonderful communicator, which made this week the fantastic experience I previously described.

 <p><i>Old Mill Dressage</i></p> <p>Suffolk, VA</p> <p>757-582-2939</p>	 <p>Sandy Toby USDF Bronze, Silver & Gold Medalist “L” Graduate w/Distinction</p> <p>omdressage@gmail.com</p> <p>1752 White Marsh Rd. Suffolk, VA www.oldmildressage.com</p>
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VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 4-18-23 VIA ZOOM

Participating: Sheli King (VN); Alison Douglas (Central); Robyn Nunally (SVDA); Angie Stanaway (NE); Muffin Smith (SWVADA); Nancy Doody (C'ville); Laura Nelson (SWVADA); Anne Draine (NEVADA); Kathleen Kelly (SWVADA); Karen Rice (Fred); Diann Carpenter (NOVA) and members Rachel Rice, Lisa Beckwith, and Diane Boyd

Minutes: Laura Nelson made the motion and Anne Draine seconded that we approve the March minutes, and everyone concurred.

Treasurer's Report: Via email Jessie reported that our combined balance is \$179,650.

Report on By-Laws for membership type: Sheli reported that the bylaws reference senior and junior membership categories. They then go on to say that individual chapters can create additional membership categories. As most chapters are already using the term “affiliated” or “affiliate”, we request all chapters adopt that same terminology.

2024 GAIG: Sheli announced that we have been granted the 2024 GAIG. The dates will be October 10th thru 13th.

2024 Purple Book: We are forming a committee to brainstorm how to put together the online format, talk about security, etc. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Sheli. As with any committee, this counts towards volunteer hours. Diann Carpenter and Nancy Doody have already volunteered.

2024 Clinic: This is another opportunity for members to join a committee and earn volunteer hours. Those interested should contact Sheli. The first order of business is to establish a date and a facility. Nancy Doody and Denise Lennon have already volunteered to be on the committee.

DAL Update: Dates are July 14-16. Dianne Boyd reported that we have secured a photographer. Peta Jean Wylie will once again be sponsoring the Maestro Cup and we are looking for other SHAC, Challenge, and high score sponsors. Awards will be set up outside. The competitor's party will be on the mezzanine. Nancy Doody is asking chapters to support the shows with the combined chapter sponsorship package. The deadline for DAL is June 12th. Sign up is online and is \$200. Vendors are slowly signing up. Dianne also mentioned that she cleaned up the individual chapter logos and Nancy Doody emailed to the chapter presidents and newsletter editors.

GAIG Update: Dates are Oct 5-8. Dianne reported that Friday night will be the competitor party and Saturday night will be the doggy costume contest. Another reminder that this is parents weekend and hotel rooms are already almost fully booked.

AOB: Laura Nelson asked if the board was going to consider increasing the chapter grant funds as we are not having the chapter challenge this year. Sheli will talk to Tina and the executive board will have a meeting shortly.

Chapter Updates: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING INFO TO NANCY DOODY FOR THE WEBSITE

Central- Dressage at the Meadow- two one day licensed shows April 29-30th.

Charlottesville- They are having a Michael Bragdoll Clinic at Afton Stables April 26-27.

Fredericksburg – They are having a clinic with Bruno Greber on June 17th. The location is still tbd. They are also working on putting together a clinic with Jane Kelly in August. They are planning to send 2-3 teams to the Jr/Yr team competition.

NEVADA – They are having a fix a test clinic on June 4th with Nancy Lowey at Edgehill Farm. On May 14th, they are having an open show that is also 4-H state qualifier.

NOVA – May 17th is a midweek licensed show. June 10-11 is their Summer Dressage Festival. July 26-29 is their Dressage Camp. They have a schooling show August 5th. They also have an updated logo.

ShenVADA –

SVDA- Schooling shows- May 21, June 18, July 9, July 30, Aug 27, Sept 24 and Oct 29. They are also having a low cost clinic with Kate Knick at Silverleaf on May 6th.

Southwest- They are having a clinic August 12-13 at VA Tech with Stacy Pattison. They are also having schooling shows June 4th and October 15th at Green Hill Park.

NEXT MEETING May 23rd AT 8pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm. Respectfully submitted by Alison Douglas



Kathy Rowse

USDF "S" Judge

USDF "L" Faculty Member

USDF Bronze, Silver & Gold Medalist

Grand Prix Rider, Instructor &

Trainer

Teaching Beginners thru Grand Prix



Also available to teach at Silverleaf Farm:

Kate Knick, USDF Bronze & Silver Medalist

www.silverleaffarm.org

1468 Peppercorn Lane

Suffolk, VA 23432

757.617.9505

kathymrowse@gmail.com

SVDA 2023 Calendar

Schooling Show Schedule

Date	Location	Judge	Open	Close
05/21/23	Back Bay Farm	Jane Kelly	04/24/23	05/08/23
06/18/23	River Birch Farm	Margetet Little 'r'	05/22/23	06/05/23
07/09/23	Willow Creek Equestrain	Wanda Escobar 'L'	06/12/23	06/26/23
07/30/23	Seahorse Run	Kris Hamilton 'r'	07/03/23	07/17/23
08/27/23	TBA	Robyn Nunnally 'L'*	07/31/23	08/14/23
09/24/23	River Birch Farm	Donna Gatchell 'L'*	08/28/23	09/11/23
10/29/23	SVDA Championship Show Wakefield 4H Center	TBA TBA TBA	@C @B Ring 2	10/02/23 10/16/23

*L Graduate with Distinction

Sanctioned schooling shows

Wakefield Airfield 4-H Center

05/20/23

07/15-16/23

08/19-20/23

10/28/23

Crescent Bay Pony club held at Northwest River Park

06/04/23

08/05/23

10/01/23

Licensed Show 2023

05-12/13/14 **Dressage in the Sand Hills** – Pinehurst, NC

05-13/14 **Raleigh Spring Dressage** – Raleigh, NC

05-18/21 **Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival & Lexington CDI2* Dressage** – Lexington, VA

05-27/28 **Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II – Va. Beach, VA**
Mayday Dressage – Pinehurst, NC

Board Meeting January 12, 2023, 7:30pm

Secretary Minutes

Roll Call:

Wendy, Cookie, Lora G., Robyn, Charlene, Whitney, Karen Barnard, Amanda Leahy, Amanda Britton (Petroski), Kim B., Toni

VADA REP:

Robyn reported:

Purple Book will be discontinued after 2023.

Report sent to VADA with positive responses to USEF Reg 1 recognized show.

VADA Awards Banquet info posted on VADA Website.

President:

The New Test Clinic 1-8-23 (Debbie Rodriguez, Whispering Miracles) was well attended, and we made about \$1500.

Our Banquet is Jan 21, please get your reservations in.
All board members are expected to attend membership meetings.
Meeting Minutes for August board 2022 meeting were approved.

Secretary:

Minutes for (8-15-22) board meeting emailed to board (01-10-23).
Minutes approved by board at 1-12-23 mtg.

Scholarships:

1 pending from 2022.

Juniors:

VADA Junior Team challenge scheduled for June 2023.
Age raised to 25 (new division).
Contacted local trainers for participants for coaching and riders.

Website:

No Problems

Schooling shows:

Lora reported:

Date	Location	Address	Judge(s)		
26-Mar	KCD	pending confirmation	AnnMari Ingersoll, L Graduate with Distinction		
23-Apr	Harmonia	pending confirmation			
21-May		open	Jane Kelly, L Graduate		
18-Jun	River Birch Farm	30470 Camp Parkway, Courtland, VA	Margaret Little, "r" Judge		father's day
9-Jul	Epps Farm	pending confirmation			
30-Jul	Seahorse Run	2733 Whaleyville Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434	Kris Hamilton, "r scribe - Heather Boyer		
8-27	Peace Haven	pending confirmation	Robyn Nunnally, L Graduate with Distinction, USEF WD "R" Judge		
24-Sep	River Birch Farm	30470 Camp Parkway, Courtland, VA	Donna Gatchell, L Graduate with Distinction		
29-Oct	Wakefield - Char	15189 Airfield Rd, Wakefield, VA 23888	tbd		

Championship Show:

Cookie will manage.

Licensed Schooling shows:

2022 USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards Program

- We will not participate in the USDF Awards Program in 2023
- 2022 Preliminary Standings for Reg 1 Non-Prof Training Level posted.
- SVDA member Morgan Burton and Ginger are second with 67.586.

TIP (Thoroughbred Incentive Program)

We will be participating in TIP (Thoroughbred Incentive Program) awards program this year.
Jenn Cobb is the contact.

Awards:

Our annual SVDA Banquet is Jan 21 in Suffolk.
See the SVDA Website for more information.

Q&A:

SVDA Clinic reimbursement: SVDA reimburses members for some costs of low cost clinics.
Volunteer hours posted in FB (Google docs)

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 pm. Submitted, April 27, 2023, by Toni Meranda

Show schedule for 2023

Dates as of Feb. 3, 2023

May

- 06/07 Tryon Spring Dressage 2 – Mill Spring, NC
12/13/14 Dressage in the Sand Hills – Pinehurst, NC
13/14 Raleigh Spring Dressage – Raleigh, NC
18/21 Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival &
Lexington CDI2* Dressage – Lexington, VA
SVAD - Back Bay Farm
27/28 **Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II – Va. Beach, VA**
Mayday Dressage – Pinehurst, NC

June

- 03/04 Capital Dressage Classic – Raleigh, NC
10/11 Summertime Blues – Pinehurst, NC
VADA/NOVA Summer – Leesburg, VA
Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II – Va. Beach, VA
17/18 VADA-CH Isabel F De Szinay Dressage – Culpeper, VA
SVDA - River Birch Farm
24/25 Dressage at the Park I & II – Raeford, NC

July

- 01/02
08/09 SVDA - Willow Creek Equestrian
14/15/16 Dressage at Lexington – Lexington, VA
VADA/NOVA Summer – Leesburg, VA
15/16 Rise 'n Shine - Pinehurst, NC
22/23 Summer Breeze Dressage – Raeford, NC
Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II – Va. Beach, VA
29/30 Raleigh Summer Dressage I & II – Raleigh, NC
SVDA - Seahorse Run

August

- 05/06 Early Morning Blues – Pinehurst, NC
12/13 *Tryon Fall Dressage 3 & 4 – Mill Spring, NC
19/20
26/27 VADA/NOVA Summer Wind down I & II – Leesburg, VA
SVDA - TBA

September

- 02/03 NCDCTA Labor of Love I & II
Cool Down Dressage – Pinehurst, NC
09/10 VADAF Dressage at Rosemont I & II – Spotsylvania, VA
Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II – Va. Beach, VA
16/17 *Tryon Fall Dressage 1 & 2 – Mill Spring, NC
NCDCTA Harvest Moon Dressage – Raeford, NC
23/24 SVDA – River Birch
30/01

October

- 30/01
05/08 Great American Insurance Group – Lexington, VA
Pinehurst Fall Dressage – Pinehurst, NC?
14/15 CBLM - New Jersey Horse Park – Allentown, NJ
22/23
29 Wakefield Airfield – Wakefield, VA
30 SVDA Schooling Championship Show



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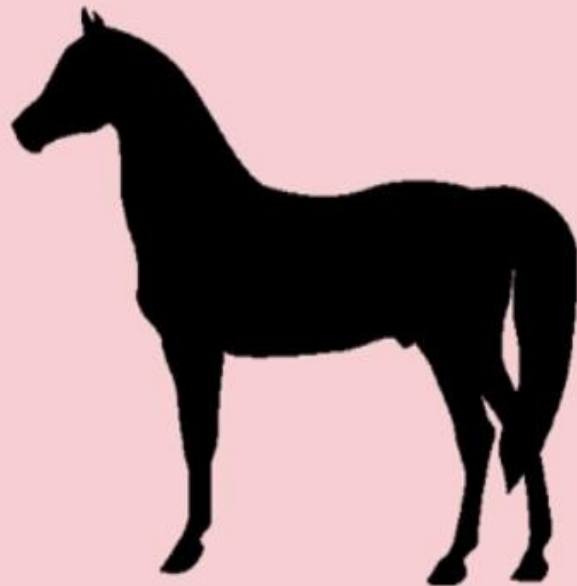
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