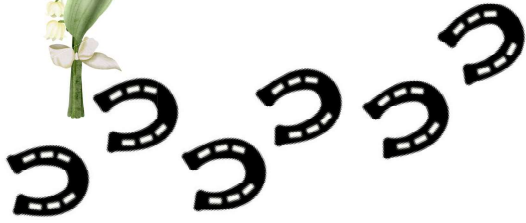




HOOFPRINTS



MAY 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 2nd** DCTR Workday & Club Meeting
- 3rd** Trail Ride Hillsdale State Park
- 17th** Roping Clinic with Jerry Owens

June

- 1st** Trail Ride Perry State Park
- 6th** DCTR Workday & Club Meeting
- 8th** Sunday Funday Fun Show
- 15th** Eudora CPA Parade
- 27-28th** Top Hand Cowgirl Challenge

i'm going to take a wild guess and say 'dressage'



DINNER IS SERVED!

Dinner for our monthly meeting will be Mexican!

Contact Julie Springer if you would like to volunteer & bring a side dish or dessert 785-979-1161

A \$10 donation is greatly appreciated or in May & June, come early for the club meetings and take a workday assignment to earn a free dinner!

FUN FACTS

Horses Can Feel Emotions in Human Voices

Studies show horses can detect emotional tones in a person's voice — they can sense if someone is happy, angry, or nervous by how they sound.



Horses Can Recognize Themselves in Mirrors

Recent research suggests that horses have self-awareness — they can recognize themselves in a mirror, a trait shared with only a few other animals like elephants, dolphins, and magpies.

Did You Know?

- When horses greet each other, they often do it by breathing into each other's noses — it's their special way of saying hello.
- Horses can sleep both standing up and lying down, but they only get deep, REM sleep while lying down for short periods.
- The pattern of ridges on a horse's hoof is as unique as a human fingerprint — no two hoof patterns are exactly alike.



EVENT INFORMATION

TRAIL RIDES



**READY FOR SOME BETWEEN THE EARS TIME?
OUR FIRST TWO TRAIL RIDES OF THE SEASON
ARE IN MAY & JUNE!**

MAY @ HILLSDALE:

- **WHEN: MAY 3RD, 2025 1:00 PM**
- **WHERE: HILLSDALE STATE PARK, SADDLE RIDGE CAMPGROUND**

JUNE @ PERRY

- **WHEN: JUNE 1ST, 2025 10:00 AM**
- **WHERE: PERRY STATE PARK, WILD HORSE CAMPGROUND**

COST: ALL STATE PARKS REQUIRE AN ANNUAL OR DAILY PARK PASS (DAILY \$5) MUST EITHER BE A DCTR MEMBER OR OBTAIN A 1 DAY MEMBERSHIP FOR \$10

***OVERNIGHT CAMPING IS AVAILABLE (TRAIL BOSSES WILL BE CAMPING AT BOTH EVENTS)**

**CONTACT LIZ ROMBACH AT
EMROMBACH@YAHOO.COM OR
TEXT 785-393-3107**

PARADES

**OUR FIRST PARADE OF THE SEASON IS
THE EUDORA CPA PARADE**

- **WHEN: JUNE 15TH, 2025 7:00 PM**
- **WHERE: DOWNTOWN EUDORA**

**IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN, PLEASE
PRIORITIZE GETTING PARADE CERTIFIED
ASAP. WE WILL BE OFFERING PARADE
CERTIFICATION BEFORE THE MAY AND
JUNE CLUB MEETINGS.**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE RELEASED
AS THEY ARE RECEIVED FROM THE CPA
COMMITTEE**



PARADE CERTIFICATION REMINDER:

EVERY RIDER/HORSE COMBO MUST BE PARADE CERTIFIED TO RIDE WITH DCTR. CERTIFICATION IS FOR THE SPECIFIC RIDER/HORSE COMBINATION ONLY, SO IF YOUR HORSE IS PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED BUT WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT RIDER OR IF YOU ARE PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED AS A RIDER, BUT WILL BE RIDING A DIFFERENT HORSE, THAT WILL REQUIRE RECERTIFICATION. IF YOU NEED CERTIFIED, PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN@DCTR.ORG. WE WILL BE OFFERING CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE MAY AND JUNE CLUB MEETINGS.



ROPING CLINIC

Limited to
14 Ropers

May 17, 2025 10am - 4pm
DCTR Arena Lawrence, KS

— ★ ★ ★ —
\$150 Clinic
Fee paid to
DCTR.

*Must prepay
to reserve
your spot

Want to learn to rope?

Spend the day with
roping expert Jerry
Owens in his clinic
perfect for beginners



Begin on the ground
then roping hot heels

Participants will
receive a new head
rope!

Concessions will be
available for purchase
for lunch

Contact Windy @785-418-5935

**COME
JOIN US!**



**FAMILY
FUN!**

2025 DCTR FUN SHOW

Spring Fun Show June 8, 2025

Douglas County Trail Riders Arena, 816 N 1750 RD, Lawrence KS

Delicious concessions! Classes for everyone!

9:00 AM Start

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Pleasure Driving | 15. Western Pleasure |
| 2. Obstacle Driving | A) Adult B) Youth |
| 3. Halter | 16. Western Horsemanship |
| A) Stock Type B) Non-Stock | A) Adult B) Youth |
| 4. Showmanship | 17. In Hand Trail |
| A) Adult B) Youth | 18. Trail |
| 5. Carrot Race | 19. Extreme Trail |
| 6. Lead Line | 20. Bubble Gum Race |
| 7. Ride A Buck - Bareback | 21. Musical Flags |
| 8. Walk/Whoa/Back* | 22. Pole Bending |
| 9. Walk/Trot Pleasure* | A) Adult B) Youth |
| A) Adult B) Youth | 23. Barrels |
| 10. Walk/Trot Horsemanship* | A) Adult B) Youth |
| A) Adult B) Youth | 24. Flag Race |
| 11. Egg & Spoon | A) Adult B) Youth |
| 12. Jumping | 25. Rescue Race |
| 13. English Equitation | 26. Bareback barrel racing |
| 14. English Pleasure | |

**Participant can't enter loping classes*

***Rider/horse combination may enter only one
(A) or (B). Any riding style is welcome.*

Races will not start before 1:30 pm

**\$4/Class Youth 18 & Under \$6/Class Adult 19 & Over \$20 All Day DCTR Member
\$5 arena/office fee**

Classes may be combined. No refunds. Placings are final.

Show clothes optional. Helmets recommended. Riding boots required.

Used Tack Booth will be set up at the show. Please consider donating your used and unwanted horse items
for the club to sell.

Outdoor show - in case of inclement weather, call before you haul!

Show Contacts: Lakyn Roehrich 785-304-7687 Shawna Roehrich 785-979-5222

DCTR is not responsible for accidents or thefts.



Limited to
30 Cowgirls

COWGIRL CHALLENGE

June 27-28, 2025
Lawrence, KS

Do you and your horse have
what it takes to compete?!?!
1 horse + 1 cowgirl = 5 events

\$125 Entry Fee paid to DCTR.
*Must reserve to reserve your spot

Events timed & judged

- drag course
- jumping course
- pole bending
- obstacle course
- ranch pleasure

Scoring:

- 1st 10 pts
- 2nd 9 pts
- 3rd 8 pts
- 4th 7 pts
- 5th 6 pts
- 6th 5 pts
- 7th 4 pts
- 8th 3 pts
- 9th & on 2 pts

Buckles for Top Hand & Res. Top Hand
in each division

Divisions 18-39 & 40+

Ribbons 1st - 8th

Prizes 3rd - 5th

Trailer tie-out
or supply
your
own pen

— ★ ★ ★ —
Friday Night Social:
Potluck & Bunco

Saturday Events begin 9am

Camping
available
No hook-ups
Generators
welcome

— ★ ★ ★ —
Contact Windy @785-418-5935

TIP OF THE MONTH

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BIT – IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSE

Just like athletes need well-fitting gear, horses need bits that suit their anatomy and preferences. Horses can and should have a say in what bit feels right for them.

Key Fit & Comfort Considerations

- Horses differ in: tongue size, palate height, lip thickness, saliva production, and mouth space
- Watch for signs: excessive chewing, head tossing, open mouth, resistance

Main Bit Mouthpiece Types

1. Straight Bar (Mullen/Ported)

- Acts on tongue/lip corners; no palate pressure if fitted correctly
- Good for fussy mouths, tongue over bit, or overbending
- Not ideal for strong horses that lean

2. Single Jointed

- Nutcracker action; pressure on bars, lips, and sides of tongue
- Can jab the palate — many horses react by opening their mouths
- More mobile than straight bars — discourages leaning

3. Double Jointed

- Peanut: gentle and rounded — great starting bit
- French Link: low profile, suits large tongues and low palates
- Dr Bristol: harsh when used flat-side down (but may be gentler if flipped per original patent)
- Barrel: acts like straight bar but allows independent rein aids — good for uneven rein contact

4. Multi-Jointed (Waterford)

- Prevents leaning/grabbing; acts on tongue, bars, lips
- Can cause uneven pressure and be bulky
- Not ideal for small mouths or large tongues

Other Key Factors

- Bit Material:
 - Stainless steel = dry, cold
 - Sweet iron, copper = warmer, encourages salivation
 - Plastic/Nathe = soft feel, good for over-benders — but check regularly for damage
- Saliva Management:
 - Too much = discomfort
 - Choose stable bits for horses who over-salivate
- Positioning & Fit:
 - Adjust based on bit type, mouth shape, cheek teeth position, and lip flesh
 - Bit should sit comfortably without pressing into lips or teeth
- Width: about a finger's width visible on either side
 - Cheekpiece & Ring Style:
 - Eggbutt = better for over-benders
 - Loose ring = discourages leaning
 - Choose cheekpiece for discipline and control; horse chooses the mouthpiece
- Important Reminder
 - ✓ Always check teeth first — hidden dental issues can make any bit painful
 - Use a qualified equine dentist (BAEDT or vet-trained)

