



HOOFPRINTS



APRIL 2025

DOUGLAS COUNTY TRAIL RIDERS

816 N. 1750 ROAD, LAWRENCE, KS

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

4th DCTR Monthly Club Meeting
(including guest speaker Kari Lyn Harris of K/H Cryotherapy)

19th BINGO Night!

May

2nd DCTR Monthly Club Meeting

3rd Trail Ride Hillsdale State Park

17th Roping Clinic with Jerry Owens



DINNER IS SERVED!

Dinner for our march Meeting will be sloppy joes/sloppy dogs!

Contact Julie Springer if you would like to volunteer & bring a side dish or dessert.

785-979-1161

a \$10 donation is greatly appreciated

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT • JUNIPER WETTENGEL



Estes is currently in full time training at Wonder Pony Farm under Liz Gravatt. They hope to bring her home and start competing this summer or fall.

They are in the market for a husband horse - preferably a mule.

Juniper has been a DCTR member for 15 months, is a current Board Member, Corresponding Secretary, and part of our Events, Membership, and Technology Committees.

Juniper lives in rural Douglas County with her husband, 13 year old daughter, Paisley, 2 horses, and 2 miniature schnauzers. They have 4 grown children out of the house. Juniper works full time as head of sales for a global outsourcing company. She and her husband own and operate a men's medical clinic in Overland Park where she acts as CFO and Chief of Unsolicited Advice.

Juniper has had a number of horses over the last 15 years and currently rides a 27 year old retired barrel competition quarter horse, a sorrel mare, named Honey Bee.

They just acquired a sassy 5 year old Arabian mare in support of her daughter Paisley's aspirations to compete in hunter jumper / cross-country events. The Arab's goes by Estes at the barn, show name Rocky Mountain High with a nod to their favorite family vacation spot in Colorado.



FUN FACTS

- Male horses have 40 teeth when they are adults (usually from around five-years-old), while mares have 36 teeth. In both cases horses' teeth take up more space in their heads than their brains.



- The longest tail ever recorded on a horse, according to the Guinness Book of Records, belonged to a mare in Kansas, called JJS Summer Breeze and measured 381cms (12 foot 6 inches) on 23rd August 2007.

- Horses produce approximately 10 gallons of saliva a day.
- The tallest horse on record was a Shire named Sampson. He was 21.2hh (7 feet, 2 inches) tall. Find out more about the world's largest horse breeds.
- Estimates suggest that there are around 60 million horses in the world, but...

There were no horses in Australia until 1788, when they arrived with the first Western settlers, and were used for farming and utility work. Only the strongest and fittest horses survived the hard sea journey over from Europe and Australian horses still maintain a reputation for being amongst the hardiest equines in the world.



EVENT INFORMATION

TRAIL RIDE @ HILLSDALE LAKE



**READY FOR SOME BETWEEN THE EARS TIME?
OUR FIRST DCTR HOSTED TRAIL RIDE WILL
BE IN MAY!**

EVENT DETAILS:

- **DATE:** MAY 3RD, 2025
- **TIME:** 1:00 PM
- **LOCATION:** HILLSDALE STATE PARK, SADDLE RIDGE CAMPGROUND
- **COST:** ALL STATE PARKS REQUIRE AN ANNUAL OR DAILY STATE PARK PASS (DAILY \$5)

***OVERNIGHT CAMPING IS AVAILABLE (TRAIL
BOSSSES WILL BE CAMPING)**

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

BINGO NIGHT!

**BRING YOUR LUCK AND ALL YOUR
FRIENDS (MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED)
ON APRIL 19TH FOR BINGO NIGHT!**

EVENT DETAILS:

- **DATE:** APRIL 19, 2025
- **TIME:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- **LOCATION:** DCTR CLUBHOUSE
- **COST:** \$20 PER BOOK (MULTIPLE CARDS)

**SOME SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE
PPROVIDED. FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR
OWN FAVORITES TO SHARE WHILE YOU
WIN FUN PRIZES!**



PARADE CERTIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT:

OUR PARADE COMMITTEE IS FINALIZING THE PARADE SCHEDULE DCTR WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR. 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. PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN@DCTR.ORG TO SCHEDULE A CERTIFICATION



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

TIP OF THE MONTH

Choosing the Right Cinch for Your Horse

A properly fitted cinch is essential for both rider and horse safety. Whether trail riding or competing, selecting the right cinch ensures comfort, stability, and peak performance.

Tip 1. Measuring for the Right Fit

Measure from one heart girth/sweet spot under your horse's belly to the other side. Another method is measuring from the bottom of the saddle rigging on one side, under the belly, to the other side, then subtracting 16 inches. The cinch D-rings should sit flat against the horse's sweet spot—too high or low can cause discomfort and soreness.



Tip 2. Material Matters

Your horse needs flexibility in the cinch for comfortable movement. Leather latigos allow natural expansion and movement, providing a secure but comfortable fit. Synthetic materials may lack this natural give.

Tip 3. Cinch Width & Saddle Rigging

The width of the cinch should match your saddle's rigging placement to avoid pinching or pressure points:

- Full Rigged: Cinch sits directly under the pommel.
- 7/8 Rigged: Slightly behind full rigging.
- 3/4 Rigged: Further back still.
- Center Fire: Cinch is centered between pommel and cantle.

The further forward the cinch sits, the more aware you must be of elbow pinching. Wide roper cinches may cause discomfort for certain horses in forward-rigged saddles but work well in others. Narrow cinches on center fire saddles may not distribute pressure evenly.

Tip 4. Fit Over Fashion

Every horse is unique—what works for one may not work for another. Watch for sweat and dirt buildup, signs of friction, or changes in performance.

Taking the time to properly fit your cinch ensures your equine partner is ready to perform, no matter the activity!