

July 2019

Dawson Pointe Stables Newsletter

Horse(s) Of the Month:

Peanut:



Hi everybody, my name is Catalay's Cinnamon Peanut and my chosen mom is Sam. I met her when I was just a year and a half old and my life had been horrible before I met her. I never got any good food and couldn't even stand up when I was rescued. I thought nobody loved me, but then Sam came into my life and I knew she had to be my mom forever. She always puts me first and does what's best for me, even if I don't like it. She learned how to

talk with me and listen when I talk back. We have overcome so many things and I am now 9 years old and healthy as I can be!

My Haffie hobbies include eating everything in sight if I'm not busted by mom or staff and begging for treats while in cross ties using the cute face I've perfected. Mom's Haffie hobbies are trying to teach me dressage, making me drive a cart and slow down instead of canter, taking way too many selfies with me and telling me a thousand times a day how much she loves me. Truthfully, I love all of that, I just don't tell her! Mom and I are so grateful for every minute together and for all the special people who help us along the way. I love my safe and happy home at Dawson and all of the staff there who are now a part of our family.

Topic of the Month:

Hay, Hay, Hay

There are five steps to understanding the process of making hay:

- 1.) **Cutting** (The grass is cut in a tight line and left to dry for at least two days.)
- 2.) **Tedding** (A Tedder is used to spread it out and promote drying all parts of the hay.)
- 3.) **Raking** (A wheel raker will flip the hay so the other side can dry out and then puts the hay in a fluffed-up line, so that the baler can pick it up)
- 4.) **Bailing** (A baler will put make the hay into large square bales)
- 5.) **Storage** (Hay will then be stored in a dry place until it is used)

The more complicated part to the haying process is finding the perfect time and conditions to cut and bale. Cutting, especially first crop, can be complicated. We want the grass or alfalfa to be at a certain point of maturity before we cut, but we also do not want it to mature past a certain point (The hay will become stemmy

and horses won't eat it as well.). Weather is also an important factor. We do not want to cut the hay with a strong chance of rain because it needs to stay dry for at least 2 days after cutting. Due to first crop being towards the beginning of summer there is a higher chance of the weather being unpredictable. For example, this past spring and early summer has been very wet and unpredictable times, because of this people have had to wait to cut their hay. What happens if the hay is rained on? The hay will have to sit longer to dry or risk having high amounts of moisture which could cause mold. With that being said, it is important to understand that the farmers who make the hay cannot guarantee that every bale of hay will be as good as quality as the bale before it. It is quite common for some bales to get moldy or dusty (Every bale is different even if they come from the same field. To ensure you are feeding good hay to your horse, you have to know what to look for. Here at Dawson Pointe Stables, our employees are trained to know what moldy hay feels, looks and smells like. We are constantly looking through the hay before the hay goes into a horses stall. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to our barn manager, Vanessa Middleton.

What's new / Upcoming Projects:

1. Outdoor wash stall has been set up and finished! It is open to all borders. Please only tie the horses to the rings that are on the posts. NO tying to the rail. Please remember to always clean up after yourself and your horses.
2. The square pen now has footing. Please be respectful of your fellow boarders, make sure to wait your turn or if you have used it for a longer period of time and someone has been waiting, be sure to give them a turn.
3. Second Rough board is still underway.

Reminders:

1. Please be sure to keep watching the Facebook wpage as Vannessa will update everyone on pasture rotations.
2. Please be sure you are latching all gates properly for the safety of all horses and riders.
See picture below:



Tip of the Month:

Tips on Keeping your horse and yourself cool at the barn!

- ❖ Hosing your horse down is a great way to keep them cool during the summer, but please ensure your horse is fully dry before you put them back out to pasture. When horses are wet it can attract the sun and cause your horse to overheat and/ or also cause sunburns on their body.
- ❖ If your horse is prone to sunburns, baby or horse sunscreen is a great way to help prevent sunburns. Fly masks that cover the sensitive parts (Ears and muzzles) on your horse can also help prevent sunburns.

Also remember to apply sunscreen to yourself!

- ❖ HYDRATE YOURSELF! When at the barn and working your horse in high temperatures and/ or high humidity it is extremely important to stay hydrated. Bring a water bottle with you to the barn.

For more tips on how to keep you and your horse cool during the hot summer days please visit the websites below:

- 1.) <https://extension.umn.edu/horse-care-and-management/caring-horses-during-hot-weather>
- 2.) <https://dressagetoday.com/rider-wellness/how-to-ride-safely-in-extreme-heat-30252>