



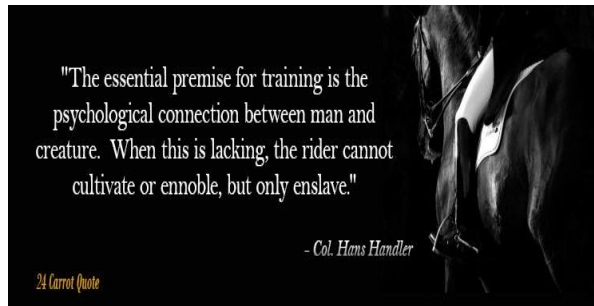
Central Plains Dressage Society Newsletter October-December 2021

Fun Friendly Forward

Congratulations to Kristin Wasemiller-Knutson who rode Vashti to the Open Grand Prix Freestyle at the USDF Dressage Finals in Lexington Kentucky. The music was the Grinch and I believe she debuted it at the CPDS Freestyle Festival a year or two ago. Here is a link to the video of the ride: <https://youtu.be/KHOWJSEYluE>



Kristin Wasemiller-Knutson and Vashti wowed the crowd in the Grand Prix Open Freestyle Championship at the 2021 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. Photo by Susan J. Stickle.



2022 CPDS CALENDER

CPDS USEF/USDF Recognized Shows

Valley View Equestrian Center
Stillwater, OK

March 26-27

Judge: Donna Richardson "S"

April 23-24

Judge: Lisa Schmidt "S"

June 4-5

Judge: Heidi Berry "S"

June 25-26

Judge: Amy McElroy "S"

September 3-4

Judge: Melissa Creswick "S"

October 29-30

Judge: Jodi Lees "S"

CPDS USEF Lite Western Dressage Shows

Valley View Equestrian Center
Stillwater, OK

April 2

Judge: Gail Matheus "R"

June 11

Judge: Susan Lang "R"

September 5

Judge Melissa Creswick "R"

October 23

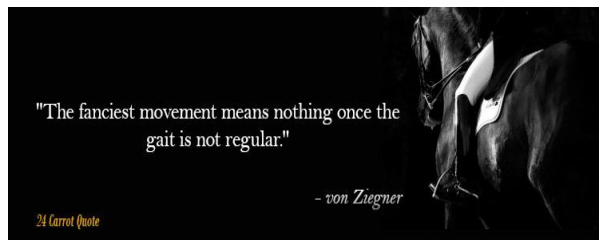
Judge: Debbie Riehl Rodriguez "R"

AHA Sport Horse (dressage and western dressage)

Valley View Equestrian Center
Stillwater, OK

May 14

Judge: Marie Maloney "r" dressage, "R" western dressage



Western Dressage Symposium: A Day of Learning and Connecting

After having to cancel our Summer General Membership Meeting in 2020 due to Covid we were very excited to be able to host a program this year. Patty and Larry Couch hosted the program at their Rocking "C" Stables in Inola, Oklahoma. Patty is a USDF Bronze Medalist and has spent the last several years concentrating on Western Dressage. She has trained three Silver Medal horses, two Gold Medal horses and one Supreme Champion in Western Dressage. During the past three years she has won six World Championships on two different horses.

Our speaker was Susan Lang from Wichita, Kansas. Susan has shown through USDF Fourth level on her Dutch gelding. Among her accomplishments are being a USEF Technical Delegate, "R" Western Dressage Judge, a member of the WDAA Test Writing Committee, serving on the USDF Technical Delegate Committee, and an "L" program graduate.

In addition to their individual accomplishments both Patty and Susan have a passion for teaching and helping others reach their goals. Patty teaches both english and western disciplines to all ages at Rocking "C" Stables, and Susan teaches at Capall Baile Stables in Wichita.

The first part of the program introduced the expectations at each level of the Western Dressage tests from Basic through Fourth level. A huge thanks to our demonstration riders and their respective mounts: Cathy Orban on Buddy, Paeyton Gilliam on Smarty, Annie Houchin on Noah, Kyrianna Beard on Gigi, and Patty Couch on Prince. Participants were introduced to the purpose of the test and Susan narrated and discussed what the scores would be and why, as we watched the demonstration rides. We were introduced to each rider and horse combination and given a brief outline of their history. The audience was given time for questions after each ride.

Following a brief General Membership Meeting the group enjoyed lunch and a Silent Auction to benefit Tom Groves, a club member going through some medical challenges.

To conclude the day, Susan brought an array of Western Style bits and discussed the mechanics of how they work and whether particular bits are legal or not following USEF guidelines. It was a great day of learning and reconnecting with old and new friends.



Maggie Stonecipher and Ultimo

My journey to my Gold Medal is a bit unique. I was blessed with several great partners who showed me much patience and generosity in earning my Bronze (2006) and Silver (2008) Medals. I have battled my weight my entire life. My last year showing FEI was in 2009 and I was devastated by a judge commenting about my weight on an Intermediare Test stating that my horse would be better served if I lost weight before showing again. I decided my days of showing at any FEI level were in my past as it was not fair to my horse to ask him to work at that level with my weight.

In late 2019 I still had the desire to get back in the ring at FEI. I was browsing ads for FEI schoolmasters on the backside of their careers. I came across an ad for Ultimo (Timo) and something struck me about him. I contacted his owner, Becca, but she let me know that she had decided to keep Timo through the 2020 season to compete in her last year of the Brentina Cup. Becca and I stayed in touch as I casually followed her progress.

In January 2020, I also made the decision to start another journey. I started working with a therapist specializing in eating disorders. Through a lot of hard work, I was able to identify triggers to my eating and with the help of my therapist implemented healthier responses to my triggers. After several months I then started also working with a nutritionist who also specialized in eating disorder recovery. I am so grateful and blessed that by June 2020 I implemented a new eating plan that by March 2021 resulted in a loss of over 105 lbs. I have continued to maintain my weight and feel wonderful!

During this journey, Becca let me know that Timo would definitely be for sale again after the 2020 Dressage Festival of Champions in August 2020. I thought before I got too far ahead of myself that I would ask my trusted friend, Rebecca Rigdon, to go meet Becca and Timo while she was at the Festival of Champions. As luck would have it, Rebecca not only agreed but also knew Timo through his previous owner! With positive feedback from Rebecca, I moved forward with purchasing Timo in September 2020.

So here I am having not ever ridden above Intermediare with this marvelous beast in my barn. I was totally overwhelmed and so out of my league. At this point in time, I was down about 45 lbs in my weight loss journey. I spend the first several weeks just getting to know Timo and getting comfortable sitting on a horse this educated. I had no visions of grandeur at this point and just soaked in the beauty that was Timo.

In late October I felt brave enough to venture down to work with my trainer, Emily Miles. After our first couple lessons we did not know if I had the skill to catch up with Timo while keeping Timo's skills at a high level. But we kept working and working and working. Emily never waived in her dedication to working with us and by February, we all started to believe that I might make it back to the FEI show ring. We decided that given Timo's age (20) that we were going for broke by shooting for Grand Prix and my Gold Medal.

In April I ventured down to Tyler Texas for The Texas Rose Dressage Show where I scored a 65+% the second day. Wow! Wow! Wow! We then went to the April CPDS where we scored a 64+% to earn our Gold Medal. I was overwhelmed with the support from everyone at the show including the wonderful bottle of champagne to celebrate!

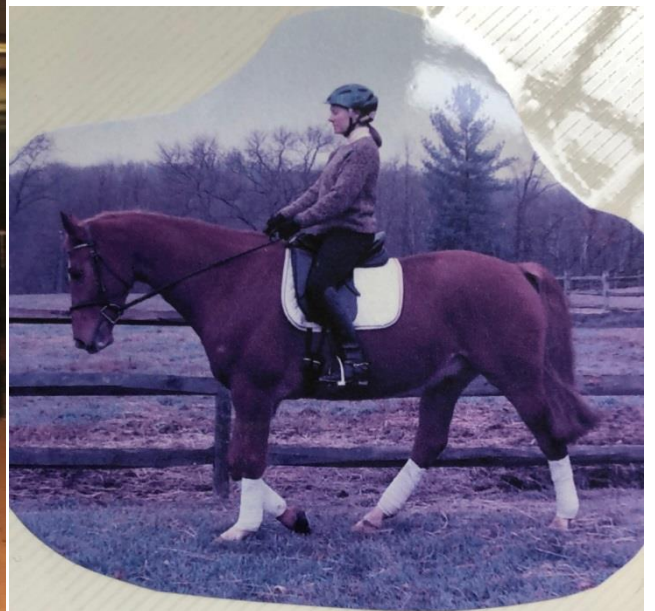
I am so blessed to be living my best life at 61 yrs old enjoying better health, happiness and learning to soar with my Timo. We are preparing for Regionals in a few weeks and I take each ride with Timo as a gift. You are never too old to go after your dreams and if you are lucky enough, you get to soar with a partner like Timo!!

Road to Gold Medals Takes Many Paths

By Roberta Clark

We dedicated dressage riders are usually goal oriented individuals who apply it to our riding. Being no different, my goal was to earn my medals on horses that I have trained myself with horses on a budget. And like many, it started years ago. My first horse I had brought along to 3rd but between working and getting my masters and administration certificate full time, I never gave a thought to more than the occasional show that I could fit into my schedule. It wasn't until I retired from being a principal to be a stay at home mom that I thought about making serious riding goals. I had purchased literally a lame horse, Accolade, who I thought was the most beautiful horse whose total vocabulary was, "Yes, I'll try for you." I have called Fritz "My horse from God." He came along at a difficult point in my life. Horses can save us during those times. Between my first horse and Accolade, I paid my dues on horses who tested my skill at staying on their backs! Between my vet who loved "Fritz" and my skilled farrier, we were able to keep Accolade mostly sound. With his navicular, Fritz NEVER had a lengthening let alone a medium and extensions weren't even a thought! Fritz and I just had to be better at all the other moments to make up for the 5 (plus or minus) for all medium/extensions we did not have. After earning my bronze, we moved to 4th and PSG. Fritz and I had earned all our scores for silver except one. Fritz's navicular came back, and I decided that was it. My vet convinced me that Fritz was fit enough at 21 for surgery. We did, and he was sound! I was not going to push Fritz after surgery at his age, so I leased him at my farm to a friend who was a lower level rider. Due to life changes, she was unable to continue after 3 months. Feeling horses live longer and healthier lives with a little job, I started riding him again. He just got better and better. At the last second, I threw him into a show in Kansas. It rained so hard it flooded the arena! Who would have guessed that water splashing his belly would raise his back to the point we had some EXTENSION LIKE movements. Fritz and I earned a 65% and our last score for SILVER!!!

With the exception of a pony for my daughter, like most of us my horses were inexpensive meaning \$3K or less! Then enters World Classic, a 3 y/o into my life who was imported from Germany. Like all the horses I seem to purchase young, WC grew up to be very tall. He was so sensitive, though! So light with the contact or I could have never ridden him. He had the issue though. He HATED the warm up situations and white horses! One summer I just hauled him to show after show taking my life into my hands until he finally thought the warm area with many horses wasn't so scary. Again, like many of you training, horses hurt themselves. After training him to I 1 with piaffe and passage which were so easy for him, he injures himself and our dressage career is over. Shortly before WC's injury, Divino enters my life. His entry is not how you would like to receive a new horse. It was through the death of a close friend. Peggy, Divino's mom, who was healthy, thin and active became ill, and was gone in less than 12 hours. When Divino came to live next to a school that had football players practicing near my arena, he lost his mind! With time he found it and would even trail ride on the buckle. I don't know about you, but I train mainly on my own with an outdoor arena and sorry to say no mirrors. With the sporadic help of clinicians and Dede, Divino and I worked from 2nd level through GP. Along the way, some clinicians tried to convince me to sell Divino for a young rider's horse as he is a lovely mover and had the training. Like most every horse I have, they stay with me for life, but especially Divino! Divino and I continued on our path until we got to GP. I am blessed that Divino has a very nice piaffe and passage as we do NOT have a line of one tempis. Again, here I go with having to make other movements better for I am missing a movement. The day I got my last score for my GOLD medal was the day that my brand-new show bow broke, my boot's zipper split wide open, and I had grabbed two different white gloves! Thank goodness I had my old show bow with me, stall neighbors at the show who grabbed duct tape and electrical tape for my boots, and a student who ran and grabbed a matching pair of gloves. By this time, I was so chilled that nothing mattered but riding the test the best that we could. Of course, I had jokerster friends coming to the stall afterwards with very sad faces to give the appearance that I had not made my score. I was elated when they finally presented smiles! But looking back, what was the most enjoyable about the journey was the blessing of riding these different horses that came into my life and the people who have journeyed with me. My poor barn group who followed me to different shows with champagne in hand for a celebration. It took several shows! Whatever your goals are whether it is to get to a schooling show or a medal, enjoy the journey, horses and those who journey with you, it is worth the trip!



Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act.

If you are an equine activity sponsor, professional or participant, it is important to understand that the [Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act](#) (the Act) does not provide unlimited protection from liability.

To begin, [the Act's limitation of liability](#) can be broken down into three parts. **First**, the Act provides qualified liability protection for "injuries" to certain defined individuals resulting from the "inherent risks of livestock activities." **Second**, the Act provides qualified protection when the equine activity sponsor, professional or participant is acting in good faith, and **third**, the Act provides qualified protection when the equine activity sponsor, professional or participant acts consistent with recognized livestock industry standards.

Of primary importance, the Act specifically does not limit liability for death resulting from the "inherent risks of livestock activities." See [Okla. Stat. tit. 76, § 50.3](#).

Also, employees of equine activity sponsors or equine professionals who are injured on the job, while performing their duties subject to workers compensation laws, are not covered under this Act. However, the Act would apply to those equine businesses exempt from Oklahoma workers' compensation laws.

Additionally, spectator injuries are not covered under the Act unless the spectator places "himself or herself in immediate proximity to livestock activity." See [Okla. Stat. tit. 76, § 50.2](#).

About the Author

Mary Westman is an Oklahoma attorney practicing equine law, Morgan horse breeder, owner of AQHA performance horses and registered nurse with an MBA. A native of West Virginia, she now lives with her husband, David, in Norman, Oklahoma. She can be contacted at mary@marywestmanlaw.com
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Further, this Act does not limit liability for personal property damage such as damage to other horses, equipment or tack.

Moreover, in the age of COVID19, communicable illnesses contracted while engaging in livestock activities may not be considered an inherent risk of engaging in a livestock activity bringing these illnesses outside the scope of the Act's protections.

While there may be other situations where the Act would not provide protection from liability, the clear language of the statute does not provide protection from certain spectator claims, employee claims covered by worker's compensation, death resulting from inherent risks of livestock activities, bad faith, gross negligence, intentional unlawful conduct, certain product liability claims or damage to personal property.

Finally, the Act grants parties the right to agree, in writing, to extend liability protection. See [Okla. Stat. tit 76, § 50.4](#). As a contract, the effectiveness may be limited by the failure to observe contract formalities and/or the failure to observe industry standards. Look for a Horse Bitz® on liability waivers coming soon!

This fact sheet is a very high level overview of the Act designed to illustrate the protections conferred under the Act are qualified and limited. Assessing liability risk is a very fact intensive review and should be discussed with a knowledgeable equine professional or experienced attorney.

This Horse Bitz® fact sheet does not constitute legal advice and is intended to be used for educational purposes only. Published February 2021.