



Federation of Riding for the Disabled International

September 2009 Newsletter

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Dear Friends of FRDI,

The much anticipated XIII International Congress in Germany is now past, and it was a huge success. About 900 participants from 39 countries came to get to know each other, learn and celebrate. The Gala show was impressive with its diversity of horse activities and well embraced by the general population of Muenster. Nearly 2400 spectators watched and applauded the well done demonstrations that focused the attention of all on the central and crucial role horses play as the link that connects the many different members involved in the vast world of horse activities. It was with great pleasure that I learned of many important interactions that occurred between participants waiting to perform at the Congress. Of particular interest were conversations between the Headmaster of the State Breeding Farm and students from the local therapeutic centers who excitedly informed him of the many important attributes of their noble steeds. Undoubtedly, horses were the true hosts of this important event.

Many thanks to the German Kuratorium for a warm welcome and an outstanding congress.

Sincerely yours,

Gisela H. Rhodes
Executive Director

Asking for YOUR Input!!!

FRDI is looking for a new name!

At the International Council meeting in Germany, it was suggested that FRDI has outgrown its name. The word 'disabled' is outdated and 'therapeutic riding' does not include all the activities our member organisations represent.

We would prefer to fill the letters 'FRDI' with a new meaning but we are open for any suggestions.

Current favorite is:
IFEATE

The International Federation of Equine
Assisted Therapy and Education

Looking forward to your
suggestions! Send your ideas to
office@frdi.net by November 15th

It's here ... and available from
the FRDI office!

Order now at office@frdi.net

President's Report

Greetings to all FRDI members

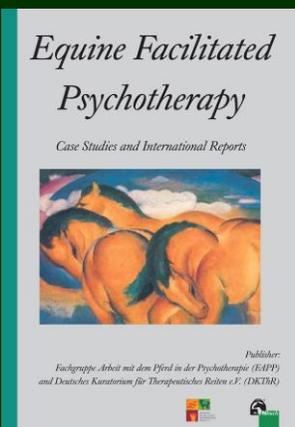
I enjoyed meeting with so many of you at the recent FRDI Congress in Munster. It was a wonderful time to catch up with people, exchange news and ideas.



I feel very privileged to have been elected to the Executive and to the Presidency.

I consider myself most fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and efficient executive and executive officer. We have already had many discussions and ideas and we are all looking forward to working together for the further development of FRDI. I will always be pleased to hear any ideas members may have to help FRDI develop to its full potential. Do keep us informed of your activities.

For those of you who don't know me I was treasurer of FRDI for the last three years. I live in Australia and two years ago moved from the state of Victoria to the state of Tasmania, (that little bit at the bottom of Australia). I am currently the President of RDA Tasmania and assisting the National RDA with their coaching program and standards. I am chairman of selectors for the Australian Para Equestrian riders and my real love



Case Studies and International Reports

FAPP is a group of qualified psychotherapists, who integrate horses into their psycho-therapeutic practice. Their backgrounds cover a variety of treatment orientations but they share the common interest in the topics and research in Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy.

The group, founded in 2001, strives to collect information spanning the broad spectrum of possibilities offered by the horse in the work of psychotherapy. The goal is to describe and reflect the procedures and outcomes and ultimately promote the development of Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy.

11 authors from Germany, Finland, Netherlands and the USA present their work in this book.

200 pages, with photos and illustrations
size 148 x 210 mm
\$ 42 plus shipping

Please
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sponsor
Eurodressag

is coaching at RDA and mentoring trainee coaches and volunteers.

When I have time I enjoy fishing in the many beautiful areas in Tasmania.

Pauline Perry

Welcome to the new FRDI Executive Committee



Photo: Courtesy of Gerlinde Hoffmann

From left: Pauline Perry, Australia, President

Jennifer Dixon-Clegg, U.K. Vice-President

Uta Rindfleisch-Wu, Taiwan

Ann O'Shallie, USA, Treasurer

Kerstin Offtermatt, Austria

Joanna Dzwonkowska, Poland

Call for Papers - 2009 Scientific and Educational Journal for Therapeutic Riding

The 2009 Journal will be dedicated to university and college students all over the world.

We are inviting students to send in abstracts of their studies, research and work in the field of Equine Assisted Activities.

e
(Barnmice)

Barnmice is thrilled to present Emotion, a stunning collection of photographic posters by renowned photojournalist, Astrid Appels, available exclusively through the Barnmice Gift Shop.



Astrid is the founder and editor-in-chief of Eurodressage.com, the largest dressage website on the Internet. She is a Doctor in English Literature and has a passion for photography. Her renowned photographic work has been featured in the equestrian world's most prestigious publications, including St. Georg, British Dressage, and P.S.I. magazine among numerous others.

The Emotion collection captures extraordinary moments from a summer of brilliant and breathtaking international dressage performances by the superstars of the sport, including Steffen Peters, Edward Gal, Anky van Grunsven, Laura Bechtolsheimer, to name a few.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the FRDI, the Federation of Riding for the Disabled International.

To view the complete collection, visit the Barnmice Gift Shop:
<http://shop.barnmice.com/acatalog/eurodressage.html>

Please submit a one page abstract in English to the editor Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen sanna.mattila@saunalahti.fi Deadline: October 16, 2009

Format for the abstract:
MS Word document, Times Roman, Font 12. Any images should be in jpeg format. Include your contact information and the university, college or school you are attending.

There will be a maximum of two academic abstracts per country included in this journal.

New Full Member

Please welcome the Pennsylvania Council on Therapeutic Horsemanship (USA)

The Pennsylvania Council on Therapeutic Horsemanship (PACTH) is a coordinating council serving therapeutic horsemanship programs and the participants, instructors, volunteers and administrators who are involved in these programs.

Founded in 1984 by Penn State University, Pennsylvania State 4-H and the Pennsylvania Easter Seal Society, the PACTH has a long history of support to the profession of therapeutic horsemanship through the following:

Workshops & Seminars

Pennsylvania Qualified Instructor Training Course (PQI)

NARHA celebrates 40 years of Therapeutic Riding



For more information on the annual conference visit www.narha.org



Now Available on the Internet:

English articles of the journal
"Human and Horse International"
("Mensch und Pferd
international")

(abstracts free to read,
full version may be downloaded for 10 Euros
per article)



Annual Conference

Networking opportunities

Start-up Information

Newsletter

Exhibits at Public Functions

State Host for NARHA Region II
Conference

For more information please visit

www.pacth.org



A DAY OF SMILES A report from Saudi Arabia

Anticipation.....
.. it was a warm, crispy

early Arabian morning at the stables, everything was in place: the horses saddled, the games laid out, plates of carrots on the table, the arena watered, the volunteers in their green caps and white shirts in clusters talking quietly about this and that. Jobs had been assigned and the borrowed pony ready to be pampered.

At last, the first bus crept round the corner, followed by another and then a huge scarlet coach and they all gorged out black abayas, blue clinic coats, colourful wheelchairs and lots and lots and lots and lots of smiling little people; somewhat awestruck as they shook off the trip and stepped into the brilliant sunshine in completely unfamiliar surroundings.

"Look, there's Attieh,... and Suleiman, and Maliha, and...and..." Volunteers expressed joy at familiar faces. The still of the morning burst into a bubble of noise

Katharina Alexandridis: *Horse-assisted
Movement-therapy for the Treatment of
Eating Disorders*

Ute S. Patrick:
*One Horse Power for success - The
cooperation between equine assisted
Occupational Therapy and Speech Language
Pathology*

Julia Springer:
*Therapeutic Riding with Persons Suffering
from Primary Fibromyalgia*

Lisa Graschopf: *Sterntalerhof - Palliative
Care with horses*

For information contact
www.reinhardt-verlag.de

as places were found, seating re-arranged, children trying to see what lay in store for them. A few moments of welcome and instructions and it was

Action Stations!

The horses came, each led by a volunteer they knew and trusted. Seven children were helmeted and sat in a row ready to ride - the smiles were getting wider and wider and there were giggles and chatting.

Then the magic moment: swung into the air by Adam with a smile as wide as his captive's, and "Wow I'm sitting way up on the back of a

horse! And gosh, it's moving. This is the most exciting moment".



Wheelchairs and walkers left gloriously discarded on the ground.

Accompanied by helpers on either side, each horseman rode their mount into the arena and round and round - for most, a completely new and enthralling moment. Cameras clicked, mothers waved and then the games started. Taking spoons across the arena, hanging them on hooks and picking up the toy on top; quickly, quickly back to the next

person, hand them the toy for them to take to the tray, and back again.. And then, too soon, it was over. But not quite. As Adam lifted them down each little person held a plate of carrots to reward their horse and this was really interesting. What huge teeth, what

big eyes, what gentle mouths, what soft skin.



Then back to colour in a horse and play basketball; even go and brush the pony and feed more carrots.

For the workers a quick swig of cold water and off again with the next seven smilers.

Standing back and watching, it was hard to realise legs were dangling uselessly, or hands faced backwards as they valiantly gripped the reins. One's gaze was instantly riveted on the beatific grin splitting the face with awe and joy.

Three hours and it was over; reluctant children persuaded into the coach, wheelchairs hoisted into the bus, little faces through the windows, little hands waving sadly through the glass. Quiet was restored and now the volunteers sat around exhausted yet happily sated with what they had been doing. Stories were swapped, a tear of happiness shed. Amazement at what had been achieved, exactly as planned, no mishaps, few tears except from some who wanted to stay on their horse forever. Mutual admiration for ourselves and for the DCA staff who had never been near horses before but marched into the arena with their charges as though it has been their lifelong occupation. And for those most important of all participants: our seven miraculous horses who made it all possible.

A moment of great joy and pride and then.... How can we improve it next year?

Don't forget to give us feedback!
Share your information, stories and photos with us!
I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Gisela Rhodes, E.D.

Federation of Riding for the Disabled

A.I.S.B.L.

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