



KDEA E Newsletter – December 2024

KDEA Mission Statement

KDEA serves the South Central Kansas dressage and eventing community by providing educational, social, and competitive opportunities that promote a harmonious partnership between horse and rider



KDEA Officers and Board 2024

President: Cassie Black

Vice President: Cyndi Harris

Secretary Jennifer Thuener

Treasurer: Hillary Akers

Board: Susan Lang, Becky Rolph, Kim Miller, Natalie Petz, Lisa Del Mundo, Marty Foster Dennett, Joanna Gunzelman, Eysley Hatfield-Jr Rep, Natalie Parnell-Jr Rep

In This Newsletter...

President's Message – by Cassie Black

KDEA Election Meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at Capall Stables

KDEA Education Session – Magnawave

USDF Convention – Upcoming in December in Houston, TX

US Dressage Finals 2025 – Moved from Kentucky Horse Park to Wilmington, OH

2025 Membership Year – Send in your Membership Application please!

Sunday, January 12th Awards Presentations!

USEF Rules – Microchip, Vaccination Rule, Reporting of Illness

How Not to Be Eliminated – Second in a Series

Member Article by Valerie Bowlby

Member Article by Kelli Wolf

Member Article by Eysley Hatfield (2024 Scholarship Recipient)

November 2024 President's Message

I first would like to thank everyone for making this year in KDEA one of the best! We had many new and active members with great ideas and positive impacts! Our shows and clinics were well attended and we were able to give out KDEA grants for further education and riding experiences.

As we move into a quieter riding season with darkness and cold affecting our outdoor time I like to use this chance to work on goals and further education. There is always more to learn and new experiences to find.

www.usdf.org has many educational opportunities available to members, and each KDEA membership comes with a membership to USDF, so it is a great chance to look through the website and watch or listen to these short clinic excerpts and podcasts.

Keep watching the KDEA website and Facebook page for more information about upcoming local events. We will be having our holiday get together and elections on December 10th and then our awards party on Jan 12th. Be sure to plan on both these events! We are also having Alejandra Gonzolez back in the spring for another biomechanics clinic and have a full slate of schooling shows and a Western Dressage lite show in 2025.

Thank you again for everything that you do as a member of KDEA. You are the driving force behind this club and we are looking forward to another amazing year.

Cassie Black, KDEA President

Nominations for Officers and Board – 2025 – KDEA Meeting December 10th

Please come to the KDEA meeting on December 10th, 2024 as we vote in our new (and returning) officers and board for 2025. We also need assistance on committees, and you do not have to be an officer or board member to serve on a committee. If you are interested in what being on a committee involves, please contact the Chair.

President: Cassie Black

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Board: Joanna Gunzelman, Eysley Hatfield (jr), Haley Kottler, Susan Lang, Marie Maloney, Kim Miller, Becky Rolph,

The above will be voted upon at the December 10th meeting. The committees below are looking for members who wish to be active in committee work:

Competitions: Susan Lang, Chair; Haley Kottler

Education: Jessica Ptak Hooker, Chair; Marie Maloney, Gail Knoffloch, Janet Kernan

Website/Publicity: Kim Miller, Chair

Awards: Kim Miller, Chair

Vollunteer: Marty Foster Dennett, Chair

Membership: Charlotte Pinkall, Chair

Nominating: To be Appointed

Newsletter: Susan Lang

If I forgot anyone who agreed to be on a Committee for 2025...sorry..but send me your info and I'll make sure you make it on "The List" of committee chairs and members.

Committee Spotlight: Competitions. Hello! This is Susan Lang, your long-standing KDEA competitions chair. What does the Competition Committee do?

- Set dates and locations for schooling shows (done in Nov/Dec) and get contracts in place.
- Acquire judges for schooling shows (done in Nov/Dec) and get contracts in place.
- Inventory and see that ribbons are ordered.
- Try to stock the "Prize Box" through the year (hint, we could still use more for Prize Box)
- Ensure that correct dressage tests are downloaded and used/publicized each year they change
- Ensure that insurance is in place for each date/venue
- Make sure that entry forms are generated (thanks Kim Miller) and published on website in a timely manner with correct information as to the date, closing date, show location, classes offered, waive of liability, etc.
- Coordinate with show venues as to move in, facility preparation, etc

- Take entries in, schedule show, advise riders of ride times
- Generate financial report for show (\$\$ taken in, costs/expenses)
- Put together dressage tests (label tests, get in order for judge and scribe)
- Work with volunteer coordinator as to volunteers needed, and times (thanks Marty Foster Dennett)
- Coordinate judge arrival, travel, housing
- Ensure that TIP Awards are at show (thanks Bekki Moore)
- Day of show – check in competitors, run show
- After show financials, get checks, report to Treasurer
- Write up results, send to Kim Miller for awards and for website
- Start working on next schooling show

We can always use more people on this committee to help with the above tasks (and don't worry, I will reach out for "Voluntellers" to try to get others involved... If you are interested in joining the Committee, please let me know.

- Next Month: Spotlight on the Education Committee

KDEA Education Session. Thank you to Ashlynn Riley for coming to our last KDEA meeting and telling us about the benefits of MagnaWave PEMF. Ashlynn has Windermere Wellness and serves clients in the Wichita area. Contact her for more information. 515-802-0080, ariley42204@icloud.com. If you have any ideas for KDEA mini education sessions (30 minutes at the beginning a KDEA meeting) please contact the Education Committee.

US Dressage Federation Convention. Susan Lang and Marie Maloney are headed to the USDF Convention in Houston, and will report back to us at the Dec 10th meeting. Susan will also write up notes for future newsletters. Susan is our KDEA delegate this year to the Board of Governor's Meeting at the Convention. The Board of Governor's is where USDF votes on policy/procedure updates and changes, as well as elects new officers and directors for the upcoming year.

US Dressage Finals 2025 – Moving to New Venue.

Big news! [!! United States Dressage Federation](#) and [US Equestrian](#) are thrilled to announce that the 2025 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® are scheduled for October 30 – November 2, at the [World Equestrian Center](#) (WEC) in Wilmington, OH. Based on consistent feedback from competitors over the years regarding the unpredictable nature of the November weather, WEC was selected as the site of the 2025 and 2026 US Dressage Finals, affording competitors and attendees alike an equivalency of experience in all aspects of this highly revered event. The selection of WEC was based, in large part, on the facility's over 200,000 square feet of climate-controlled riding space, in which all championship classes will be held, more than 750 permanent climate-controlled stalls, delicious onsite dining, and numerous luxurious lodging options.

Learn more about this update to our marquee 'Centerline of Champions' competition here:

<https://www.usdf.org/press/news/view-news.asp?news=1074>

2025 Membership Year. We ended 2024 with 98 members! While that isn't a record, it is close to our record year for membership and we hope you join us again for 2025. Membership form is on the website (www.kdea.org) and please remember to fill out and send in a form (and if paying by PayPal please indicate the date you paid, and mark the payment as "Membership." The 2025 membership year

begins 12/1/24... so get your membership in so you don't miss out on anything and you continue to get your USEF Connection magazine. So far this year, 18 people have renewed.

Sunday, January 12th KDEA Awards Presentations! The 2024 score submission date has come and gone, and the Awards Committee is busy figuring out who qualified and won KDEA awards for 2024. The Awards Meeting will be held January 12th at the Equestrian Estates Clubhouse and it will feature a NACHO BAR. Please contact Haley Kottler if you are interested in bringing something to share at the NACHO BAR. See you there!

USEF Competition Related News:

see also:

<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/tdooyXWtX28>

“Microchip Resources Available: The USEF Microchip Rule goes into **effect 12/1/2025 for the 2026 show season**. This rule will require all horses to have a microchip in order to be eligible to compete at a USEF licensed competition. In advance of the deadline, US Equestrian has developed a microchip resource webpage (<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/competition-management/competitionsafety-biosecurity/microchipping>) with important information and useful resources to help competition managers, examples of the resources include the Frequently Asked Questions, Microchip 101 Fact Sheet, and a Microchip MythBusters factsheet. There is also a new Microchip learning center video which includes information on how microchips protect equine health, how microchips work, and how they are implanted.

Microchip Questions: New rules can bring questions. Knowing where to ask is important

! • Microchip recording and horse record questions can be directed to Horse Services at horseservices@usef.org.

• Microchip specific questions (including types and how microchips work to protect equine health) can be directed to the Equine Health team at equinehealth@usef.org. “

Once your horse has a microchip, you will have to go to your horse's Horse Recording at USEF to enter the microchip number. From that point on, any show that you enter will verify you and your horse's memberships, which will automatically include your horse's microchip number.

Mandatory Reporting of a Fever Effective December 1, 2024, GR 873 requires mandatory reporting of a febrile horse to the competition veterinarian and competition management as soon as possible but no later than 2 hours after detection. A febrile horse or pony is one with an unexplained temperature above 101.5°F at rest.

Equine Vaccination Rule Compliance: As a reminder GR 844 requires horses entering licensed competition grounds to be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza and Equine Herpesvirus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within the prior 6 months. The rule states documentation shall be provided upon request by competition management. To best protect the competition and horses on the competition grounds, we strongly urge competition management to request and verify documentation prior to entry to the competition grounds.

HOW NOT TO BE ELIMINATED SERIES

Second Installment Topic: Lack of understanding of when a ride time starts and when a person is on deck. (“On deck” means you are the next rider to go in the ring.)

The USEF rule states..

“DR 122 I. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. In the Freestyle, the rider has 45 seconds to signal to start the music; however, exceeding 75 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. Exception: For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, entering the arena over 45 seconds but within 90 seconds after the bell has sounded be penalized for an error as specified under DR122.5. Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at “C” (losing a shoe, etc.). No competitor can be required to ride prior to their scheduled time except as required in GR830,” USEF RULE BOOK.

In other words...

The rider should be present in the appropriate area near their competition ring 45 seconds before their ride time. The rider’s scheduled ride time is when they should be going down centerline. If the rider presents themselves to the judge by riding around the perimeter of their competition arena, the rider should be ready to enter the arena when bell is rung!

For more information please read the United States Equestrian Federation Rulebook: USEF RULE Book/ALL the dressage governing regulations.

<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/F3p8pgrWgAo/dr-dressage-division>

Member Article - What your colt starter dreams about...by Valarie Bowlby

It's like your child's first day of kindergarten when you drop your pampered youngin off with a trusted colt starter. You get the same mixed emotions of pride, sadness, hopefulness, and excitement. But what does the trainer experience, and how can you bridge the gap between your four legged toddlers home life and school life?

Well let's get assumptions out of the way first. Assuming you've done the research on the trainer and facility and picked the best for your future goals based off of the trainers reputation, current and past clients, and the horses they're turning out, here are three things your colt starter dreams of you knowing and doing before they even touch your horse. Preparing the horse physically, preparing them mentally, and understanding realistic expectations. Doing these can and will get you the most success and the most value for your investment in your horse.

Preparing the horse physically sounds easy enough. But here's some things you might not have considered. When your horse transitions from being a complete pasture ornament into a full work schedule it's completely normal and logical for them to lose some condition in that transition. It's always better to bulk them up a little bit 1 to 2 months before training begins. If the horse lacks the energy then they will not have a genuine response to training which in turn will leave you with a less broke horse at the end of 90 days whereas a horse that can physically and honestly show their reaction to new things such as being saddled then the trainer is able to train more efficiently and effectively. Something as easy as having a fecal float test and easing the parasite load six to eight weeks before training begins could potentially save you from losing days of training later on. The same goes for dental work. A horse could lose up to a week of rides waiting on appointments and aftercare of a dental that could have been performed before training began. It goes without saying that your horse should have their feet managed every six to eight weeks however it's especially important to have them at least trimmed shortly before training begins This way the trainer does not have to spend time holding the horse for a farrier when it could be riding it in the early stages of training when having consistency is vital.

Mentally preparing a young horse for training is a completely different concept. There's no written rules for how this should be done, however here are a few things to keep in mind. Your trainers nightmares (pun intended) are not about training feral horses that have never been handled in fact quite the opposite. It takes incredibly more time effort and energy to reverse bad habits and pushy behavior from a spoiled pushy desensitized colt then it does from one that is completely feral. A horse that knows how to run on the end of a lunge line but holds its head to the outside paying attention to anything but the handler while changing speed and direction anytime it wants is much more difficult for your cold starter to work through than one that doesn't know how to lunge at all. An overly friendly horse that's constantly searching for treats with no regard to personal space or boundaries that pushes people with their shoulders is going to have a much harder time mentally than one that is standoffish and not used to being handled. You're cold starter dreams of training horses that have just been handled minimally that don't have a lot to erase before they can start to build them up. But don't let this concept discourage you. Obviously you have a goal for this horse and yourself. So cultivate your relationship with your horse but do it with mindfulness and don't do it a disservice by overly desensitizing it or spoiling it.

Coincidentally this ties in to your own expectations with your colt starter. Your trainers should have a conversation with you before you sign a contract about what your goals are, What your skill level is, And what the potential of your horse is. We all know that every horse is different just like every human is different. We all learn at different speeds and through different methods. Some of us are good at math, some of us are good at lead changes, And some of us take 300 repetitions before the light bulb goes on. Your trainer really has no way of knowing how fast your horse will learn, what your horse needs for the lessons to stick, or how many repetitions it will take for it to figure it out. These are all things your trainer will learn within the first couple weeks of working with your horse however it's impossible for them to give you an accurate timeline of what your horse will know and when. Some horses need to ride simple transitions for 2 to 3 weeks before they figure it out with balance cadence and rhythm while others may only spend one to two days. Your trainer dreams of you knowing that they are doing what's best for the mental and physical health of your horse while also working as fast as possible towards your goals. Remember it is always better to pay for another month for a good foundation than to have a colt rush through with holes in its training.

In conclusion if you can prepare all of the physical needs of the horse before it goes to the trainer so the trainer can spend more time riding your horse then driving it to the vet, getting a horse to the trainer that is open to training rather than obtuse to the idea, and keeping your own expectations realistic You will have a great experience with your horses first trainer. Remember at the end of the day, just like a kindergarten teacher, your horse trainer is on your horse's side and only wants the best for them and you.

PS your horse trainer loves home made chocolate chip cookies, so you know, leave a good impression when you drop your colt off.

Member Article: Have you thanked you stall help today??? -Even if it's you! - by Kelli Wolf

A healthy horse leaves signs, as does an unhealthy one. When you clean a stall you get a first hand look at how your horse is feeling. Your stall help is usually the first person in the barn and the first to sound the alarm if needed!! I've been cleaning stalls since the 70's - 1970's that is!! Worked for many

different types of horse professionals. To me the smell of a well maintained horse facility is the first thing I notice, good or bad. Don't you think horses can tell? That clean fresh savings smell or that other not so fresh smell!?!

We are all responsible for how well our horses are taken care of. You either pay someone to maintain a fresh, clean environment or you jump in and do it yourself!

To me there is nothing more gratifying then knowing when the horses come in to their stalls they are clean, dry, stocked and ready to have a good day/night in a safe living space.

So I ask you, have you thanked your stall help today?

My mom and I do stalls/feed for Gail Matheus when she's out of town. We take great pride in making sure her horses are getting the best care while she's gone. She just recently picked up a boarder, so now we have another stall to clean. My mom, at 85 is thrilled because it means more exercise for her!?! Not many folks would think that!

The other evening, I received a text from the new boarder thanking me for having the stalls and everything done so the horses could go right in for the evening.

It really made my day! Not that Gail doesn't always thank us and truly appreciates our help. It just got to thinking how important good stall help is and what trust the owners must have to hand over the reins of their facilities to allow us to take care of their horses.

So when I dump that last wheelbarrow, check all the doors and latches, turn off the lights, I still to this day feel an enormous amount of pride. That for one more day the horses have a clean, safe place to live!!

Member Article: My Report on RRP – by Eysley Hatfield KDEA scholarship recipient and Junior Board Member

Participating in RRP has been my favorite experience that I've had in the horse world so far and will most likely be my favorite for a very long time. RRP or the Retired Racehorse Project is a program created to promote/increase the demand for thoroughbreds in sport and decrease the amount of thoroughbreds left without a home or career. Trainers all over the country take these fresh off the track thoroughbreds and retrain them for a new discipline in 10 months. Once the training period is up, they can travel with their horses to Lexington where to compete against each other at the Kentucky Horse Park, which is the most magical place ever to compete, in my opinion.

When Rhi Schulte first asked me if I wanted to join her on a team with Tom, I was so excited! I had dreams of him jumping over all the things, collected trotting in freestyles, and doing flying lead changes in no time- but I soon realized that you can't just rush the training of a horse and constantly just drill drill drill until you reach this specific goal in a specific amount of time. Horses, like us, have bad days, get injured, need breaks, or sometimes life just gets in the way. I've always known these things- but having a set amount of time to train gave me a different perspective on it. Doing the RRP experience with Rhi has taught me 2 of the most important things I've learned so far in horses, acceptance and patience.

After a long drive we arrived at the horse park late Monday night. We set up Tom's stall, got him off the trailer, fed him some dinner, and unhooked the trailer. We got ourselves some food and headed the rooms to sleep because we had to be up early for a busy schooling day in the morning. We woke up early Tuesday and drove to KHP. We fed, mucked, and took a very excited Tom for a walk. When we

got back we tacked up for Rhi's dressage schooling. Then it was time to jump. Rhi definitely had her hands full helping me through the nerves, I was the youngest person in the show jumping warm up ring and was pretty intimidated, but after a couple practice jumps we decided we better just to go for it and schooled the course. Tom & I made it through the course and we were off to a cross country course down the road so Rhi could school XC.

Wednesday was Eventing day and it was a long one! Rhi and Tom rode a great dressage test in the morning, Tom and I went clear in our jumping round, then after a super fast saddle swap Rhi and Tom headed out to cross country finishing with another clear round. Tom was such a good boy. Thursday we woke up early to feed and walk Tom. After some lunch we went back to KHP to get ready for the Dressage portion of the competition. The warm up ring got me again, I was the youngest one out there and the thought of riding with Rolex Stadium in the background was a little overwhelming. Thankfully Rhi was there to help me through warmup and walk with me up the hill to the arenas where everyone was waiting. The test itself was a blur. Mostly I remember coming out of the ring & feeling good about it, giving Tom a big pat, and asking my mom if she could hear my heavy breathing. I hopped off Tom and Rhi got right on to do their Demo ride, basically a freestyle without music, in the next ring over. We both felt confident about our rides. When scores were finally posted we realized that Tom had placed 2nd in Teams for Dressage and 4th for Eventing. It was so exciting, Tom did so great! Competing and placing at RRP was incredible.

Now that the excitement has died down and I've had time to really think about RRP, I have to say the best part of the whole thing was the road to get to the Makeover. I got to have this really challenging but amazing experience with my mentor. I learned so much about training horses and about myself. I have a greater appreciation for hard work and what it takes to get past a difficult time. I just feel really lucky to have spent this year with Rhi and Tom. As someone who is just starting to train horses, hopefully beginning a career in training, I feel like the Thoroughbred Makeover as a whole was the best environment that I could have been in. Everybody was so sweet and welcoming and I really felt like I was apart of a community throughout the entire process, but especially when we were at Kentucky Horse Park competing. I highly recommend RRP to anyone who might be ready to kick off their training career, up for a challenge, or just wanting to become a better horse person. I can't wait to do the TB Makeover again!