

GLOBAL FOXTROTTER PROMOTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

Our Mission:

The purpose of this newsletter is to update members of our group on issues pertaining to promotion of the breed, association news, and to share tips and information. Our goal is to create a positive image of the association, our members, and of course, the horses.

To do this, we need your help and participation. Please submit articles of interest, information about promotion events in your area, stories you would like to share, or any other points of interest to jnrhorses@aol.com. We want to hear when you do well at a show, attend a clinic with your horse, or showcase your foxtrotter at any public event. Every time you participate in any horse related event, you are promoting the breed as well as having a good time.

This Fall we have plans to expand the website. Again, your suggestions are welcome. We plan to add a "Candidate Platform" page to keep everyone up to date on the upcoming election. We want to expand the "Classified" pages to showcase our sale horses. We plan to add more information about Foxtrotters and what they can do so newcomers to the breed can have a "one stop shop" for learning about the breed and finding that perfect horse. We also want to add an "Upcoming Events" page so everyone can plan to attend events of interest and be informed as to what other owners are doing to promote the horses. Of course this all can only be possible if we have your support.

You received this newsletter because you have demonstrated an interest in promoting foxtrotters. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please reply to the email you received and type "cancel" into the subject line.

2007 Accomplishments:

The Across America Foxtrotter Promotion Group was founded in early 2006. In 2007 the group name was changed to *Global* Foxtrotter Promotion Group at the suggestion of our international friends and in recognition of the eventual goal of worldwide promotion.

This year the Global Foxtrotter Promotion Group placed several print ads in various horse related magazines - The Gaited Horse, At A Gait, Trail Rider, Trail Blazer, and Horse Illustrated.

Our website (www.foxtrottersales.com) made a debut and is hosted and managed by Tim and Jenny Meyer. It is a great resource so please take advantage of it. It contains information about upcoming plans for the group and breed information, as well as a free classified section for our members. It also contains a "Ranch Listing" section highlighting contact information for all of our group members. We hope to expand the site to include other member related news so if you have any suggestions for the site, please email horsen1@chibardun.net. The site promotes the breed through the use of the internet and has the potential to reach millions of interested horse enthusiasts.

Upcoming Features:

Member Showcase – feature section to introduce our members

Horse of the Month – a feature section to introduce individual horses

BOD Candidate Platforms

Classified Section – to highlight horses for sale and will be taken from the website

Your suggestions welcome!

Trail Safety Tips

(by Chelsea Elmore)

Do not trail ride alone. Situations can arise where having a second rider to send for help could be a life-saver. If possible pack the following items in your saddle bag:

- *A hoof pick for loosening any rocks in their hooves
- *Knife for cutting leather and/or rope
- *Halter and lead rope to tie your horse or let it graze
- *Two bottles of water – one for you and one for your horse
- *Some type of bandaging for wrapping cuts
- *Flashlight in case it gets dark
- *Cell phone in case you get lost and need help
- *Pen knife and balling twine can be useful for tack repairs
- *Gloves for thorny bushes
- * Electrolyte gels or paste

Bring hay and feed for a long trail ride. Check all tack and equipment before leaving home and before starting on the trail. Wait until all riders are mounted before you move off.

Horses that kick should wear red ribbons in their tails. If you might be returning after dark, wear reflective clothing.

Keep at least one horse length between you and the horse in front. In larger groups, select someone who knows the trails as trail leader. The trail leader knows the trails, maintains the pace, and is considerate of others when increasing speed. Do not pass the trail leader. When riding during hunting season, make lots of noise and wear visible clothing such as a fluorescent vest and using rhythm beads on your horse is a good way to alert hunters that you are not a deer.

A horse will not drink water when it is mineral depleted. About two hours into the ride, feed electrolyte paste or bars and allow your horse a small drink. Look for low

alert riders behind you of their presence. Always use the right hand trail of a divided trail. Walk your horse when going up or down a hill and always on a paved road. If stopped on a steep hill, turn your horse sideways, parallel with the hill when possible. Do not let your horse drink too much water in the midst of all that work as it could colic. But you don't want to not give any water as it could dehydrate. Let your horse drink for one minute so it can get enough liquid to function but not enough to make it sick. Do not water your horse when it is hot. Let him cool down first. Remember that uphill traffic has the right-of-way regardless if it is a hiker, biker, or horse rider. Speed on the trail is unsafe. Ride at safe gaits. Do not leave the trail as holes and unsafe surfaces, sharp objects, and hornet's nests may exist in unknown areas such as open fields. If you are riding alone, let someone know where you are going and how long you plan to be gone. When walking on the road, walk facing the oncoming cars so that you and your horse can see what is coming toward you. If a vehicle is coming from behind, some drivers honk to let you know there are there. When riding in a group, cross the road at the same time. This prevents horses from fretting about being left behind and creating a dangerous situation with horses on both sides of the road confusing drivers. Large groups often send two of their most experienced riders about 100' down the road with long sightlines to stop traffic long enough to let the group cross the road safely. Drivers should be thanked with a smile and a wave for their courtesy. It may be safer to dismount and lead your horse across some bridges since footing may be slippery.

(Taken from an affiliate youth challenge requirement to write an article and was displayed at the South Carolina Fall Classic 2006)