

GLOBAL FOXTROTTER PROMOTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

SUPPORT THE MFTHBA

The new BoD is listening to our requests and is working diligently to develop a strategic plan that will bring the MFTHBA to the 21st century and beyond. They are working to improve our financial security and move our breed into the forefront of the horse industry. Of course this will take time. It will require support from the membership, and most certainly it will take funding.

One improvement on the horizon is a new, interactive website. This website should be up and running by March or April. Below you will find a picture of the basic layout design as it stands today (this is a snapshot of the "Shows" page.) I am sure there will be more changes, but as you can see, it is very nice and will put an extremely professional face on our association and breed.



It will include a members only area, secure online payment, pull down menus, a wealth of information about our breed and our events, online record access, and a section for trail enthusiasts. And this is just the beginning of the information we will find at our fingertips once the site is up and running.

The GFTPG would like to become a corporate member of the MFTHBA so we can become a sponsor of the website venture. For our support, the MFTHBA will include a link to our www.foxtrottersales.com website for 5 years. This will benefit every GFTPG participant as people looking for foxtrotters will ultimately see our classified page and our ranch directory after visiting the MFTHBA site. It will also let the MFTHBA know that we support the work it is doing for the membership and the breed. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote our horses and our ranches to traffic already interested in the breed.

We are asking those of you who are interested in supporting this cause to pledge \$100 to this advertising campaign. For those individuals who do participate, the GFTPG will put your ads at the top of the "Ranch Directory" page on our website and denote those individuals as sponsors of the MFTHBA. We strongly believe in the importance of supporting the new MFTHBA as it works toward improvements for the membership, and encourage you to help us with this cause. And as this is an advertising campaign, it will count toward the group advertising requirement for the year of 2008 for those who do choose to participate.

Interested participants can send an email to jnrhorses@aol.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

STALLION SHOWCASE

PERFECTION'S SPIDERMAN BY SANDY MATTINGLY

Perfection's Spider Man is our 8 year old homozygous black stallion. We are very proud of Spider and the fabulous offspring he is producing, but we are equally as in love with him and feel our lives wouldn't be complete without him. Spider is one of our greatest joys. He never fails to greet you every time you come to the barn - no matter what the weather is or the time of day. He has personality plus and Butch & I love to turn him out on the pasture to watch him gracefully glide along or show off for "his" girls. He's unlike any other horse we've ever owned! Spider loves to "race" us down the drive, steal the rag or tool out of your pocket or stand for as long as you want and be loved on. He's been known to come up to the fence by the house and whinny until you give him the attention he is sure he deserves. Spider has stolen the hearts of many that have visited with him.

We were fortunate enough to be able to purchase Perfection's Spider Man from Myrna & Joe Warfel in DeSoto, Mo, when Spider was just 14 months old. Through a series of events that I'm sure was none other than fate, Spider was saved from becoming a gelding and we were able to bring him home to raise as our stallion. We fell in love with him from the get go.

Spider's dam, Christy Ann was a very special mare herself and apparently passed her warm personality on to her last offspring. Perfection's Holy Moses is his sire and he provided the balance to the package. Spider has it all - he's athletic, sleek, gentle, personable and has the most natural foxtrot we've ever seen. Since he is brown papered, we had to have him approved under saddle. 14 days after the saddle went on his back for the first time, he was video taped and the tape sent to the Association where he was approved. You can not only see his gait - you can hear it - Hunk of meat and two potatoes!

He is passing these traits on to his foals. The Spider "stamp" is evident on every foal that he has produced. Spider foals are spread across the States and there are two on the ground in Canada with one of the mares bred back to him for a 2008 foal. We have one of his colts on the farm, that we are anxious to start under saddle next year, as it is evident he has been stamped!

Spider is booked to a limited number of mares each year. If you are interested in breeding to him, please visit our website at www.crossbuckfarm.com or contact me at ssm1116@aol.com or phone: 812-968-3315. At this time we do not offer AI. While color is not the most important thing to consider when choosing a stallion for your mare, it is a consideration. Because Spider is Hz black, he cannot produce a red based horse. For color combinations and what they produce visit Spider's page on the website. There's a color chart at the bottom of his page that will give idea of what color your foal might be.



Misty, A True Ambassador of the Breed by David Morris

Recently I was thumbing through my just arrived MFTHBA *Journal* and a picture of a gorgeous foxtrotter at the Ava show caught my eye. Below the picture was a list of Championships that this particular horse had won, everything that it could perform, and it said "He is a wonderful ambassador of the breed." I thought to myself "What is a wonderful ambassador of the breed? Is it winning at Ava, riding in a parade, or is it being able to run barrels one day and jump the next?"

The thought passed and I went on to ponder other worldly issues. A few days later I was sitting at the computer looking out the window at the horses grazing; I stopped and looked long and hard at one. She stood in the sun, non-distinct, dirty, showing some wear on her 17 year old frame, when a smile came to my face.

Let me introduce you to Misty Jet's Image, Misty for short. My wife bought Misty for me seven years ago, when I failed at riding her Arabs. Bringing Misty down from Northern Virginia, we put her in with the Arabs at the boarding barn. I actually tried to take lessons at the barn, but they let me know that she was a gaited horse in a non-gaited world. So when my wife would take her lessons, Misty was giving me mine out in the pastures. She taught me to ride.

A year later my wife and I found our own 20 acre slice of heaven and moved our horses out. During the home buying process we trailered our horses out for a trail ride off the property with the home seller. Half way through the ride the seller asked if I would switch horses with her, which we did. A few minutes later I received my first of many offers to buy Misty.

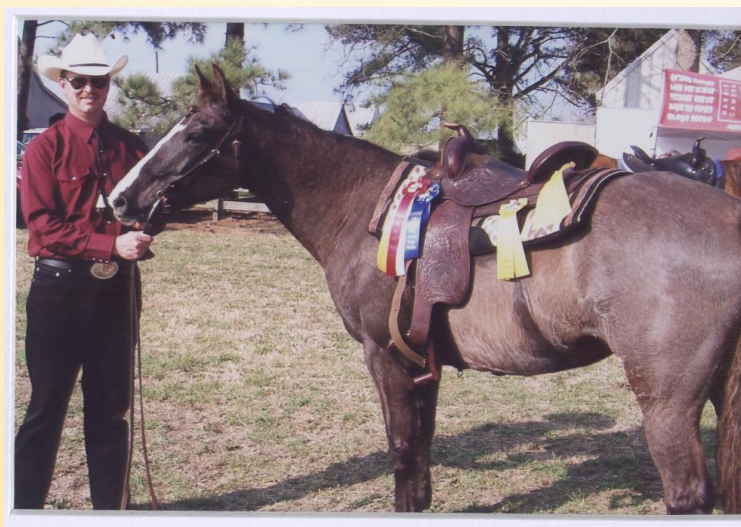
In the ensuing years, we hosted numerous people interested in the breed- friends out for a trail ride, as well as the occasional: "I have never been on a horse before" rider and the one constant is that we always grab Misty's halter. While she would never win a beauty contest, she has never failed to impress with her gait.

Nearly two years ago a pick up truck rolled down the drive. The driver jumps out, holds out his hand, and says "My name is Wayne and I am doing some barn work for your neighbor down the street. She said that I was having trouble riding her warmbloods, but you may have something down here that you could let me try." Once again I grabbed Misty's halter, brushed her down, saddled her up, and walked over to the round pen. Wayne donned a helmet, stepped into the stirrup, and sat down in a saddle. With my instruction and Misty's patience, in minutes, Misty and Wayne were foxtrotting circles around me and all I could see was the smile on Wayne's face.

Since then Wayne and I have become good friends. I was prepping another foxtrotter for the East Coast Open Show Circuit when Wayne walks up and asks me if he could show Misty. I said sure, but it will be for fun, do not get your hopes up for placing- Misty is a trail horse, not a show horse.

I was right. Misty was not big, nor flashy, nor placing. I thought Wayne would be discouraged, but a funny thing happened hours after we rode our division. A young couple pushing a baby stroller came down the barn aisle calling to us. We asked them if there was something that we could do for them. They said "No, we just wanted to find you guys and let you know we thought that the two of you actually looked like the only ones out there having fun." Since then, Wayne and Misty have become a hit, not for winning ribbons, but from the questions they get from people watching them ride in the warm up ring or in the show arena: "What kind of horse is that- you don't move in the saddle! What is that gait? Can I try a ride?"

A true ambassador does not need to be a champion, does not need to be big, nor even pretty. A true ambassador needs only to bring joy to the rider, which Misty has done time after time after time.



Wayne & Misty

ASK A VET

BY GABBY MOORE

Winter Horse Care Tips

Well we are only about 20 days away from the winter solstice and after that the days will actually get longer on our way to spring. In the meantime, we have a lot of cold weather to look forward to. Horses are fortunately able to weather most of the harshest winter weather with pretty minimal care. The long coats are grown in response to decreasing hours of daylight and not cold temperatures although cold weather may make the hair stand up more for insulation and appear longer. The long hair actually traps body heat and provides a warming insulating layer for your horse. Wet weather and heavy winds can significantly reduce this insulation. Having some sort of shelter is essential to helping the horses stay dry. A dry horse can withstand some pretty low temps comfortably. The worse thing we can do for a horse's health is place him in an insulated closed up building. This subjects the horse to high levels of ammonia and dust which will cause some pretty significant respiratory problems even in otherwise healthy animals. If horses are kept indoors for any period of time, be sure there is adequate ventilation. If using blankets, be sure that horses do not sweat under the blankets as temps rise during the day. If you have more than one horse using an open shelter, be sure a dominant horse doesn't keep others out or injure one in the enclosure.

Keep horses at a good weight. Fat and muscle will help these horses stay warm. If needing extra feed, try to do it with good forage or hay and not grain. In areas with hay shortage, feeding clean wheat or oat straw with protein and vitamin/mineral supplements, beet pulp soy hulls and alfalfa plus some enough long stemmed roughage going through your horse. This will help prevent colic and keep the horses occupied so they don't start chewing on board fences or tree bark or each others' tails. Total calorie requirements will increase approximately 15-20% for each 10 degrees below 30 degrees. A strong wind will increase this need even further. Forages will increase the heat production of the horse's body much more than will grain and will be healthier for the horse's digestive system. Finally, be sure that water consumption continues. A stock tank heater may be needed to keep open water available. Carrying some heated water to the barn may be needed for picky drinkers. Be sure to chop ice in ponds at least twice daily and stay to be certain horses are drinking before the ice returns. Lack of water is the number one cause of winter colics and can get serious if not recognized in time.

If riding in cold weather, take it easy and if conditions are slick from mud or ice, it may be better to do some ground work with the horse inside the barn than take a risk on injuring either yourself or your horse.

Have a nice holiday season.

Gabby Moore, DVM

Quality horses for sale for both Show and Trail

Visit our website through www.foxtrottersales.com