Events to look forward to:

Canine Companion for Life 4-H Dog Expo
- May 1st-2nd, 2015

Northeast Nebraska 4-H Horse Show
- June 3, 2015 4:00pm

District State Horse Shows
- June 10th, 11th, 15th-18th, 2015

State 4-H Horse Show
- July 12th-16th, 2015

Mane Event
- July 14th, 2015

State 4-H Dog Show & State 4-H Companion Animal Show
- August 30th, 2015

Animal Science Open House
- October 26th, 2015

**Companion Animal Projects & Show**

**Hints** By: Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, PhD, Companion Animal Extension Specialist

May 2015

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**Extension Specialist**

Through 4-H youth can learn more about and show their household pets including cats, pet rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, and more. When showing their animal at the fair, they may be asked questions about the animal’s normal habits, its background as a pet, and general care. The guidelines below will help youth to prepare for the companion animal shows at their county and state fair.

**Leading up to the companion animal and cat shows youth should:**

- Visit the veterinarian. For the State Fair Companion Animal Show, all cats and ferrets must have a completed Vaccination form submitted to the State 4-H Office when registering for the fair. The form can be found online at: [http://4h.unl.edu/documents/466759/11788876/sf262.pdf/d1d8906d-0c99-4b91-a3e3-6141c99a195](http://4h.unl.edu/documents/466759/11788876/sf262.pdf/d1d8906d-0c99-4b91-a3e3-6141c99a195)
- Handle their pet daily
- Groom their pet on a regular schedule
- Practice positioning the pet on a table in the proper show position
- Begin practicing showmanship presentation
- Score sheets can be found online at: [http://4h.unl.edu/nebraskastatefair4hscoresheets#smallanimals](http://4h.unl.edu/nebraskastatefair4hscoresheets#smallanimals)
- Youth may video record their showmanship presentation and submit it to the Companion Animal Science program at UNL for feedback. Send link or files to: lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu

**One week before the show:**

- Clip nails and groom
- Practice your showmanship routine in front of different people
- It would be helpful to have a club night where all youth provided their showmanship presentations to each other. This allows them to practice speaking in a loud clear voice and get feedback from their leader/other members.

**Day before the show:**

- Animal should be brought to the fair in its normal cage or a travel cage with access to food, water, litter, and a shelter
- Pack all necessary food and grooming items for the animal
- Set out clean show clothes

**What youth should include in a showmanship presentation:**

- Youth’s name and age
- Companion animal’s name, age, and breed
- If your animal is spayed/neutered
- How you care for your pet
- What vaccinations your pet had
- What health treatments your pet gets (flea/tick preventatives, supplements, etc.)
- What your pet eats and how much
- How often do you groom your pet
- How did you prepare for show
- Something special about your pet

Visit the link below to sign up for the C & H Newsletter:

[http://go.unl.edu/chsignup](http://go.unl.edu/chsignup)
The first ever Companion Animal Challenge was held on March 14, 2015 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Animal Science Department. The Companion Animal Challenge includes a variety of different contests that youth can compete in that do not require them to have an animal to complete. Contests included the Dog Skillathon, demonstration contest, art and photography contests.

The Skillathon is a hands on event that tests youth’s knowledge of dogs. It includes stations on dog breed identification, equipment identification, health care, nutrition, and showing your dog. Jenna Dirkschneider of Otoe County finished as Grand Champion in the Intermediate age group (10 – 13 years old) and Cassie Katen of Otoe County as Reserve Champion. Lauren Lilienthal of Seward County received a purple ribbon and blue ribbons were received by Jayden Schorn (Holt Country) and Mya Eriksen (Hall County).

The demonstration competition was a public speaking contest where youth present on a topic related to companion animals and can use visual aids to help demonstrate the concept. In the individual competition, Lauren Lilienthal of Seward County was Grand Champion for her demonstration titled “How Dogs Learn” and, in the team category Jenna Dirkschneider and Cassie Katen of Otoe County received Grand Champion for their demonstration titled “Parasites of the Dog”.

In addition, youth could enter art or photography contests with the subject related to a companion animal. In the art category, Jenna Dirkschneider (Otoe County) was Grand Champion and Gracie Swayze (Adams County) was Reserve Champion. Mya Eriksen (Hall County) received a purple ribbon and Cassie Katen (Otoe County) received a blue ribbon. In the photography category, Jenna Dirkschneider (Otoe County) was Grand Champion.

TRIVIA!
Test your knowledge with the following trivia questions! (Answers on page 4)

- What common disease in horses can cause the coffin bone to rotate and can often be caused by an overload of NSC (non-structural carbohydrates)?
- Greyhounds can run at speeds of 45mph. How fast can the average dog run?
Master Equine Manager:
Want to learn the science of horse management on your time schedule? The Master Equine Manager program is designed to enhance the broad-based horse industry by informing and educating people on quality horse care and responsible horse ownership.

The learning modules and topics include:

- **Welfare of Horses**: Understanding Horse Behavior, Facilities and Equipment, Equine Quality Assurance
- **Horse Nutrition**: Forages for Horses, Feeds and Feeding
- **Horse Health**: Equine Emergency Treatment, Vaccinations for Horses, Understanding Horse Parasites, and Hoof Care
- **Selection of Horses**: Conformation and Evaluation, Unsoundness’ and Blemishes

Begin by visiting [http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-master-equine-manager-certification](http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-master-equine-manager-certification) You will find a complete program description and registration information for easy access to begin learning anytime day or night.

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2015 UNL 4-H Horse Stampede

The UNL State 4-H Horse Stampede was held on March 14, 2015. Over 70 youth participated in this year’s competition. A new contest was added this year, Photography which had 8 contestants! There was a large increase in demonstration and public speaking numbers.

Champion Senior Horse Bowl: Dawson county

Champion Junior Horse Bowl: Boone County

Art Champions:
- Elementary Division: Emmi Dearmont (Lancaster County)
- Junior Division: Jennifer Tidwell (Douglas/Sarpy County)
- Senior Division: Holly Chushman (Lancaster County)

Public Speaking Champions:
- Junior Division: Payton Schiller (Cuming County)
- Senior Division: Leah Treffer (Dawson County)
- Senior Individual Demonstration: Marie Day (Douglas/Sarpy County)
- Junior Individual Demonstration: Greg Treffer (Dawson County)
- Senior Team Demonstration: Sarah Dannehl and Neil Henderson (Dawson County)
- Junior Team Demonstration: Emmi Dearmont and Sidney Smutny (Lancaster County)

Photography Champions:
- Elementary Division: Cally Dorff (Lancaster County)
- Junior Division: Trevin Hanson (Antelope County)
- Senior Division: Kirsten Hall (Douglas/Sarpy County)

We want to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the different events, and we hope to see everyone again next year for the 2016 UNL 4-H Horse Stampede!
So you want to buy a horse? By: Kathy Anderson, PhD
Equine Extension Specialist

Buying a horse can be both fun and frustrating at the same time. It is important to take time, do your homework and not let emotions take over. One of the most important decisions you will make is determining if this is the right horse for you. Safety and suitability of horse to rider are the utmost factors to consider to ensure a long, enjoyable experience. No horse or pony is always predictable! A suitable horse should fit your level of horse skills and be as safe as possible. It’s especially important that novice owners not get swept away by the color or visual appeal of a horse that may not be suitable for their skills and interests.

Setting the Budget
Early in your horse hunting, determine a budget and strictly follow it. Sometimes the initial purchase price is within your price range; however, the cost of routine care including feed, housing, foot care and veterinary expenses also must be addressed. Work out a budget to determine if this venture is truly affordable. The price must stay within your budget. Compare prices of horses from several sources, review current sale averages of breed auctions and talk with knowledgeable horse owners, trainers and brokers in your area to establish an idea of a reasonable price.

Planning for Use
It’s also important to be honest with yourself about what you want to do with your horse. Some plan to compete and show, while others want to trail ride or simply have a horse to ride. Evaluate the intended use in order to determine the appropriate breed, age and price range. An outstanding show horse may not be suitable for competitive or pleasure trail riding. Likewise, an excellent trail horse may not be very successful in the show ring. Regardless of intended use, it’s best if the first horse is already experienced for your specific use. An older horse that already has the skills needed is usually a better choice for a first-time owner or young rider.

A person’s horse handling abilities should be carefully and honestly evaluated. Compare the rider’s skill level with the experience, ability and disposition of the horse being considered. A novice rider usually is not well suited to a young, inexperienced, or highly spirited horse. An older, calmer horse with considerable experience and patience is generally a better match for young or inexperienced riders. Remember: “Green plus green equals black and blue!”

Help us make our newsletter better!
Answer the following questions and send your response to http://go.unl.edu/chsurvey

1. What would you change about this issue?
2. What is one thing you’d like to see in the next issue?
3. Do you believe there is helpful information in this issue? If so, what is helpful?
4. Any other suggestions to better our newsletter?

Trivia answers!

- What common disease in horses can cause the coffin bone to rotate and can often be caused by an overload of NSC (non-structural carbohydrates)?
  Laminitis! Be careful when letting your horse graze lush green pastures
- Greyhounds can run at speeds of 45mph. How fast can the average dog run?
  19 mph!!
So you want to buy a horse? Continued:

Recommendations from professionals or knowledgeable horse owners can be very important in locating suitable horses to match one’s ability. An inexperienced rider likely will not have a safe or enjoyable experience with an inexperienced horse. If the first horse experience is enjoyable, you or your child will spend more time with the horse and advance more in horsemanship skills than if frustrated with a horse not well suited to the rider’s ability. Save the 2- or 3-year-old horse for when you or your child need a greater challenge to spur interest.

Locating A Horse

Locating a suitable first horse can take much time, and patience is very important. Plan to spend considerable time searching and trying out horses. Don’t rush into any purchase.

Horses for sale can be found in many ways. Local riding instructors, trainer, professionals or breeders can be very good sources. They usually are familiar with horses in the area, and breeders want to make sure their horses are well represented. Friends, trustworthy horse owners, 4-H leaders, tack shop owners or the advertising boards at tack shops or feed stores are all good sources. Horses often are advertised on various websites, social media, etc. Also, watch for flyers at stables, events and anything else involving horses. In today’s market, many sellers also will provide videotapes for initial preview of horses they have for sale. These can be excellent screening tools.

Trying It Out

No matter how or where you find a potential horse, plan a visit to try it out and take a knowledgeable horse person along. Observe the horse as much as you can in various situations such as in the stall, while saddling, around other horses, etc. Pay close attention to indicators of its temperament and personality. Watch its eyes, ears and tail for signs of kindness or irritability. Ask the seller to do an initial ride so it can be observed.

Work the horse to demonstrate its intended use. If the horse is a jumper, work it over fences. A pleasure horse should be ridden in an arena or on a trail, or a reining horse should be worked through the maneuvers of a reining pattern.

Next, the horse’s potential owner should ride the horse. Follow the owner’s instructions to get the horse to perform with the cues to which it is accustomed. A second or third visit may be needed before making the final decision. A more informed buyer will be more willing to make the final purchase and likely will be more satisfied with his or her purchase after the sale. Additionally, sometimes a brief trial period (7-10 days) can be arranged for the prospective buyer. Check out this short video with tips when looking at a potential horse to purchase at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4kdo7Oo-7I (Buying A Horse: Tips for the On-Farm visit)

Is your local youth doing great things with companion animals or horses?!

Do you have updates or news on youth in your area dealing with companion animals or horses? If so, send the information and pictures to lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or lcottle2@unl.edu. Your youth may be featured in our next issue!
Northeast Nebraska 4-H Horse Show– June 3rd, 2015 4:00pm– Ridge Ranch Arena, Homer, NE

- This horse show will feature a clinic-like atmosphere with one-on-one interaction with the judge and ribbons will be awarded to all riders.
- All riders from age 8-18 are welcome.
- Some of the available classes include: Break-A-Way Roping, Working Ranch Horse, English and Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, Reining, Pole Bending, Barrel Racing and more!!!
- Pre-Registration is due by May 29th, 2015

For more information or to register visit: horse.unl.edu