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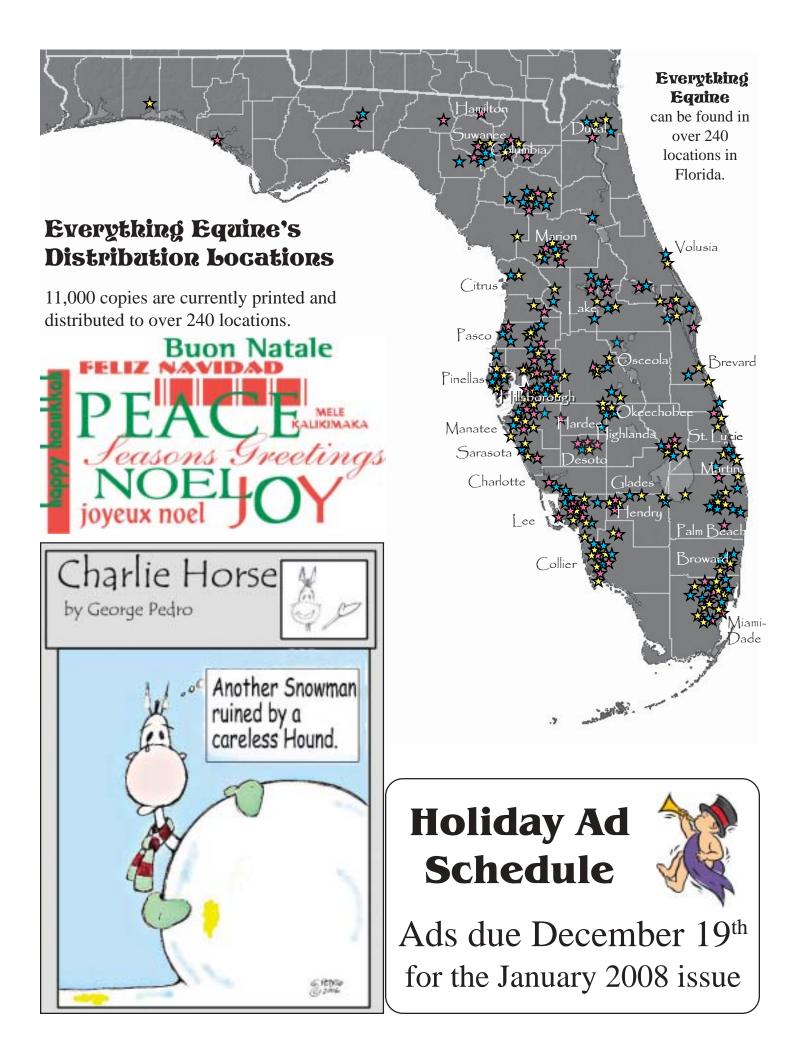
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# Browse by County:

Charlotte pg 9

Collier pgs 4-7

- Hendry 8
- Lake pg 17
- Lee pgs 10-11, 14 & Back Cover
- Maríon pg 15
- Osceola pg 20

Sarasota & Surrounding pg 17

- Statewide pgs 8
- Suwaunnee pg 9
- Volusia Front Cover

# Special Features:

Club Scene pgs 15-16 Enter to WIN pg 20 Horse Tales pgs 18-19 Just For Fun pg 9 First Horse Tips pgs 12-13

Your Fingertips:

Business Rates pg 22 Calendar pg 21 Classified Rates pg 22 Map of Counties pg 2 Everything Equine does not require your local feed, tack, or convenience store to advertise to be a distributor. If Everything Equine is not at your store of choice, please contact the office and it will be added to the mailing list.

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Business index **Business** 

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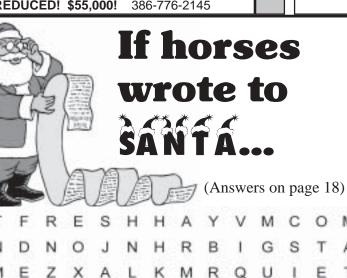
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Treats





Page 11

### Tips on Buying Your First Horse

Karyn Malinowski, Ph.D., Dean of Outreach & Extension Programs Fact Sheet #167

Nothing is more thrilling to a horse lover than the purchase and arrival of one's first horse. Too often, due to lack of knowledge, this exciting experience can turn into a disaster in a few short weeks. The potential horse owner need not experience this trauma if a few points are followed, coupled with some good common sense beforehand.

The first question to ask is, "Am I ready for a horse?" or, "Is my child ready for a horse?" Before answering this question affirmatively, do some honest self-appraisal. First, how good of a rider are you or your child? If your experience has been limited to a few rides on a neighbor's horse, a riding vacation at a dude ranch, or ten lessons at a local stable, you probably are not ready to take that big step. If you think your riding ability is adequate and an experienced horse person such as a riding instructor agrees, then consider the following points:

#### I. Cost



The initial purchase price of a horse varies significantly. Breed, age, sex, amount of training, and size are some of the variables. When considering breeds, determine future riding goals. If you are interested in jumping, hunting or 3-day events, consider Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, or Crossbreds of a hunter type. If you ride saddle seat, Saddlebreds, Morgans, or Arabians are

more appropriate. A registered horse with papers will cost more than an unregistered or a grade horse.

Age is of relatively little importance in mature, sound horses. Many horses live to age 20 or older while still being serviceable. With today's training programs and modern nutrition, an "aged" horse may remain active for years. A horse is in its prime between 7 and 9 years of age. However, an older horse, while not being able to perform as it did while younger, still may have many years of service ahead. An asset to purchasing an older horse is that its purchase price is frequently lower, the amount of training and experience is greater when compared to a younger horse of similar quality.

Geldings are generally more stable, provide a steadier, more reliable, dayto-day performance, and cause fewer problems than a mare when used strictly for riding and showing. Mares, because of their estrous cycle, have more personality quirks. However, if the animal is being purchased as a future investment, consider a well-pedigreed mare as a potential broodmare. Stallions should not be considered except by breeding establishments.

The amount of training a horse has received will influence its purchase price. Training of both the horse and rider is important. An inexperienced horse should *never* be purchased for an inexperienced rider! Only experienced riders can train a young horse.

Large horses (16 hands and over) generally are more costly than smaller horses because of their resale value. However, fit the horse to the rider and consider pony breeds for younger riders. Since the initial cost of most horses is less than their upkeep, purchase price is not as important as maintenance. Whatever type of horse you decide on, purchase the best horse you can possibly afford. Keep this price in mind and search for that horse until you find it. Never buy the first horse you fall in love with, and remember that a good horse costs as much to maintain as a poor-quality animal.

Reviewed in 2004 by Carey Williams, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Equine Management

Tack and equipment are a big investment which may run higher than the price of the horse itself. If you are on a restricted budget, consider purchasing used tack and equipment that is in good repair. It is better to buy high-quality used tack than to buy new, inferior quality tack. Try to restrict yourself to essential items first: halter, lead, saddle, bridle. Other purchases can be made later.

Maintenance costs of horses are extensive and vary among geographic areas whether you keep the horse at home or board it at a commercial stable. The estimated cost of feeding a horse is approximately \$100 per month. Additional expenses include veterinary and farrier fees, barn maintenance, bedding, electricity, and insurance. Based on the 1996 survey done for the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board, the annual cost for the privilege of owning a horse in the Garden State exceeds \$8,000. You can see why boarding a horse at a stable may be an option. Monthly boarding costs in this state run from \$250 to \$1,000, depending on amenities offered by the facility, for an average of \$400 per month.

#### II. Stabling



Stabling is one of the horse owner's most expensive and important considerations. Keeping a horse at home is least expensive, but keep in mind that someone must take care of the horse at all times. Horses need adequate shelter (even if it is just a three sided shed) and an exercise area. In our urbanized state, zoning laws and public health

ordinances are strict. Waste disposal systems must be arranged in advance if you are to be a good horse owning neighbor. Good quality fencing that is aesthetically pleasing, as well as safe and secure for horses (no barbed wire), is essential.

Although it is nice to have adequate pasture for your horse, it is not mandatory if good nutrition is provided. It is necessary, however, to provide adequate space for your horse to receive outdoor exercise (especially if riding time is limited). Rural horse owners rarely have problems finding a place to ride, but suburban horse owners may experience difficulty in locating trails and/or acreage for riding rings.

While boarding a horse away from home may cost more per month, there are advantages. First of all, someone is always available (at a reputable stable) to keep an eye on horses and for assistance at all times. Secondly, you do not have to worry about building and fence maintenance or insurance on the farm property. Thirdly, the boarding farm must meet zoning and health regulations or it wouldn't be in business. Lastly, most public stables also provide riding facilities.

The more you know about horses, the better your chances are of finding a suitable horse and enjoying it. Honestly evaluate your horse knowledge and expand it if necessary. Free materials are available from the state Extension Specialist in Equine Management and at County Extension offices. Also, horse management short courses are periodically offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, including an annual horse management seminar. Reference material is available in textbooks, horse related periodicals, and web-sites. Visiting horse farms and talking to professional horse people is an excellent way to learn more about the industry.

#### III. Where to Purchase a Horse



Certain times of the year are better than others for buying horses. Selection is best in the fall and spring, but horses tend to be cheaper in the fall because sellers try not to "winter" horses because of feed costs. Prices are least expensive in the winter, but the selection is limited.

If you are inexperienced in purchasing horses, ask a professional horse person or a veterinarian to assist you. Horse dealers are one source of purchase. Many are honest and try to match the right horse with the right person. Not all, however, are scrupulous. Unless the dealer has a good reputation, gives a money-back guarantee, or has exchange policies, the novice buyer is advised to look elsewhere.

Horse auctions are widespread, but very risky. This is a place for a trained eye, and even then finding a nice horse may be questionable. It is very difficult to try a horse and examine it at an auction, and often little is known about its past history, personality, or health records. If you decide to attend an auction, take along a professional horse person.

Your best chance of finding a nice beginner's mount is from a private individual who may be attending college, has lost interest in horses, or who is ready for a more challenging mount. These animals are usually advertised by word of mouth, on bulletin boards in tack shops, in County 4-H offices, or in local newspapers. Read the classifieds and ask your equestrian friends to keep their eyes and ears open.

Reputable breeders and trainers are other good sources for obtaining a horse, because most build their reputation by word of mouth and repeat customers. They usually keep their animals in good condition, deal in purebred stock, and have excellent knowledge of the horse's history. Prices may be higher, but to the novice the extra dollars spent initially are well worth it. Here you may be able to take a horse on trial, but before you do, get all of the conditions of the trial on paper.

#### **IV. Evaluating Prospects**



Once you locate some suitable prospects, start screening them over the telephone to save time and money. Remember, ask questions and be honest with the seller regarding your needs, riding ability, and expectations from the horse. Most sellers will answer questions objectively and honestly, because if the horse is obviously not right for you, they don't want to waste their time, either.

After you have narrowed your prospects, you will want to see and try the horse. If you are a novice, take a professional horse person with you. The first point to consider in evaluating the prospect is its disposition and level of training. As soon as you arrive at the farm, begin your critique of the horse in question. Do not wait for the seller to bring the horse to you; go with him/her to find out how the animal reacts to its present owner and to other people. Disposition and training are very closely related in determining the horse's suitability and serviceability. The horse may have a beautiful disposition, but if it is untrained or improperly trained, it can be dangerous.

On the other hand, all the training in the world cannot change the disposition of a naturally ill-tempered horse. Observe the horse as the seller approaches and opens the stall door. Does the horse appear with its ears pricked forward, calmly awaiting the handler, or does it charge the door trying to savage you with bared teeth? If the horse is in the pasture, is it caught easily? How does the horse react to, and interact with, the other horses in the pasture? If you intend to transport this animal, question the seller about its trailering manners.

Once the horse has been caught and haltered, observe its motion while being led. Is the walk surefooted and even, with each foot striking the ground with the same amount of force? Note any indication of stiffness or lameness. Never accept the excuse that new shoes or recent removal is the cause of lameness.

Observe the horse's stall for any signs of bad habits. Look for kick marks on the wall, uneven floor wear near the door, which denotes a pawer or weaver, or signs of chewing, which denotes a cribber. Stable vices keep a horse unfit both physically and mentally, and are often impossible to cure. Check the horse's tail for rubbing, which may indicate pinworms. If the horse's stall is bedded with dampened bedding and if there is no hay in its rack, you may be looking at a horse with heaves. Check the horse's medical record for vaccination history, recent Coggins testing, and deworming information.

While the horse is standing on level ground, ask to see the horse groomed to observe its habits when handled. At this time, check its basic conformation and for signs of blemishes or uneven wear of the feet and shoes, which may signal unsoundness. Observe its action as it is led to and away from you, both at a walk and a jog.

To find out if the horse is suitable for you, try handling it yourself from the ground first. Lead it, brush it, and then ask to assist in saddling and bridling. Does the horse accept the bit and tightening of the girth readily? If you cannot tack it up yourself, there is no sense in proceeding any further. Assuming that the horse has been tacked up, ask if you can observe the seller riding the horse. At this point, check on soundness, wind, smoothness of gaits, and manners under saddle. Does the horse collect itself, move into the bit and back readily? Does the horse move with a long, free-flowing stride? Is the horse being ridden with all types of additional equipment such as martingales, curb chains, and side reins? If so, the horse may have some bad habits.

Next, you and/or your instructor should ride the horse. Is it responsive to your aids in a pleasant manner? Does it respond quickly and readily? After you have ridden the horse in the ring, take it on the trail, in open fields, past cars, bicycles, dogs, etc. If you have progressed to this stage and are still interested in the horse, thank the owners and leave the farm for a critical evaluation of the animal in your mind and with your professional horse person. If you are still interested, go back and ride the horse several times, preferably at different hours during the day.

After shopping around and deciding on a likely candidate that fits your criteria, ask a veterinarian to perform a pre-purchase exam. These exams range in cost and in the services that they provide. Depending on the type of horse and the purchase price, a qualified veterinarian will be able to advise you on what should be done, i.e., x-rays may be recommended. A veterinarian's fee is money well spent.

At the time of purchase make sure you receive a dated bill of sale describing the horse, how much you paid for it, and its papers if the horse is registered. Check registration papers closely to be sure that they match the horse in question. See that all transfer arrangements are in writing and that ownership transfers on the registration certificate are up to date. When transferring the horse to your name, mail them to the breed registry yourself.

Remember, a poor horse results in dissatisfaction. Shop around. Never fall in love with the first horse you see. Always buy the best horse you can afford. Do not settle for more than you can handle or less than you expect. If you have done your homework and your expectations are realistically in line with your ability and pocketbook, you should be able to choose from several horses that suit your needs. You are the one who must live with the horse afterwards. Make sure that you make the final decision.

http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/publications/howto/ FS167.htm







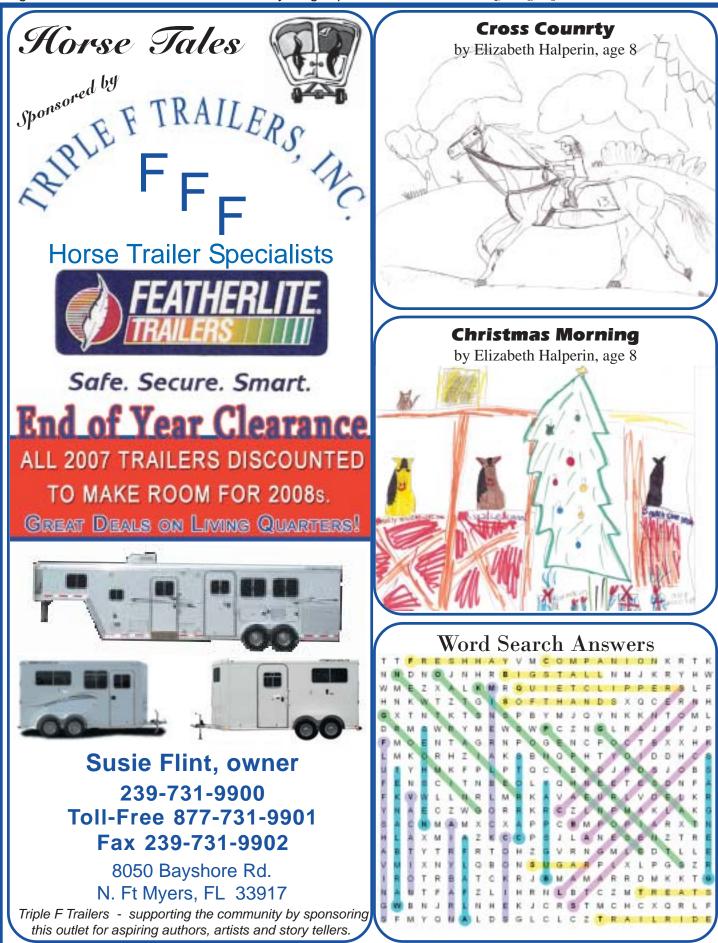
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Page 18 December 2007

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By Half Vast Connie

Old barns along country roads, half hidden from my view, I'd much rather my ponies reside there than anything brand new. The rough-cut boards are still intact though they are weathered gray, High above in the loft, I find bales of dusty hay.

The stalls are empty now, but the former occupants I wish I knew! Equines in the old days were well-cared for & skinny horses there were few.

Did a draft horse live here that pulled a plow? A pony that rode a child to school?

For sure, all of them had a purpose – all had work to do!

An uncaring developer will tear down my old barns – in the future soon,

But for now, the spirits of past horses live in there still, if one is but in tune,

I hear them nicker softly and I see their curried shiny coats, I listen in the silence, the quiet air of contentment, devouring their oats.

There's a wooden feeder in each corner – creation of a farmer old, I wish I could sit & talk awhile – what stories could be told! But the farmer's gone with his horses – no tales to relate! And I am just a little sad for I was born 100 years too late!

Take me back to times of people working hard and children having fun! Back to classmates who really liked you – didn't try to kill you with a gun!

People owned their cars and houses, no credit card debts or liens! Telephones stayed in the house, didn't hang on the pockets of your faded jeans!

For now, I'm content among old horseshoes, dust, and rusty bits I find. Taking time to "smell the flowers" in an old barn with purple morning glory vine.

Guess I'll always have a longing for those times when people had a care.

'Til then old barns shall be my solace – for my best friends live in there.



Christmas is the perfect time to send a thank you to all the people who read and advertise in my magazine. I hope everyone has a fantastic holiday season and Happy New Year!



Thank you! Melody Halperin

Horse tales is an area where original, unpublished works by local writers and artists will be featured. If you have a short story, poem, work of art or anything that you've created and are interested in seeing in print, please submit to Everything Equine. Everything Equine and local businesses provide this opportunity for children and adults alike to show their creative abilities and talents to the entire community. Please limit your submissions to horse related tales that coincide with an equestrian or farm oriented way of life.

Horseback

Horseback Safaris - Standard

experience. All guests should be

we and our horses are ready for you.

at least 12 years of age; 10 years of age is an acceptable age

with proven riding experience. Guests weighing more than 275 pounds will need to be assessed by our Equestrian

Director before they are allowed to take a Horseback Safari.

Florida Cowhunter skills of ridin', ropin' and cow cuttin'. (Florida cattlemen weren't "cowboys" because hunting those

Overnight Trail Ride Safari combined with a next-day "Rawhide Roundup." More time is spent riding the wilderness trails of Forever Florida and learning about nature, less

wild Spanish-descent cattle in Florida's woods and swamps

was a man's job, they said.) Choice of campground depends on weather, type of group and recommendation of the riding

Another favorite is similar, but shorter – an

Club, Flying Clubs, School Groups, Church Groups, Families,

Friends, Scout troops or multi-troop Camporees - there are activities and a campground on Forever Florida or the Crescent J Ranch that are just right for a bonding experience.

more than 30 years, we expanded to a remote but up-scale campground 'way back in the wilderness of Forever Florida,

then added two campgrounds in between and most recently, a large area "up front" (near the highway) that comfortably

See the Facilities and Events page for more details.

holds up to twenty Scout troops for a big Camporee.

be worked out with our staff.

Corporate Co-workers, Schoolteachers, Professional

From a small primitive one-troop Scout Camp on the Crescent J that has been used by Girl and Boy Scouts for

Variations on these basic campouts and safaris can

Call-in reservations are recommended in order to assure that

A favorite with visitors is our two-night "Crescent J Cattle Drive Weekend Safari," which includes some training in

one-hour, two-hour, or threehour horseback safaris are available daily. Horseback

Safaris can be arranged for riders with varying levels of © 2007 Everything Equine

1-941-375-2029

#### The next drawing is for a two hour horseback safari for two!

Congratulations to Eugenia Barton, of Winter Haven, FL. She won last month's drawing for a two hour Horseback Safari for two at Forever Florida!



Enjoy the ride! There will be another drawing next month, so send in your entry form! Winner is chosen by luck of the draw. Odds of winning depend on how many entries received.

Congratulations to Paula Jordan, who won last month's drawing for MD's Choice supplements.

### MD's Choice and Forever Florida Give-A-Way

#### ways to enter

- By mail. Use entry form below. 1)
- Email your request to be entered to 2) everythingequine@comcast.net.
- 3) Automatically be entered by submitting a classified ad.

Enter To Win

One form per month enters you in all monthly drawings!

Name

Address \_\_\_

Phone Number

Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

If your name is drawn for the MD's Choice Products, please indicate if you would like Arthrosamine for \_\_\_\_Dogs or \_\_\_\_Humans.

Mail to:

**Everything Equine** 460 6th St NE

Must receive entry by the 20th of the month. One entry per person per month. Winner is Naples, FL 34120 chosen by luck of the draw.

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### Ad deadline is the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Glassified Ad Rates**

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	(Please circle one)					
Small 1/12 page	\$12	\$24				
Medium 1/8 page	\$18	\$35				
Large 1/6 page	\$24	\$46				
Extra Large 1/4 page	e \$35	\$60				
Includes Photo and 30 v	words, additional	words \$0.25 each				
Text only ads include 6						
Description: (one word per l	box, may use addition	nal paper if necessary)				
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### **Business Ad Rates**

	B/W	One Color	Full Color			
Front Cover	n/a	n/a	\$360			
Inside Cover	\$234	\$272	\$325			
Back Cover	n/a	n/a	\$340			
Centerfold	\$349	\$412	\$499			
Full page	\$214	\$246	\$299			
1/2 page	\$133	\$149	\$176			
1/4 page	\$90	\$101	\$123			
1/6 page	\$74	\$84	\$101			
1/8 page	\$53	\$58	\$69			
<b>Business card</b>	\$38	\$42	\$48			
Save 10% by prepaying for three months.						

#### Classified or Business ad?

Classified ads are for selling a tangible item. 2 photos of the same item can go in a LARGE or EXTRA LARGE classified ad. Two or more items can be listed in the same classified ad if it is text only (no photo) or if they are closely related and being sold together. (a pair of mules or horse w/ cart) Classified ads can not list business information. A web address may be listed in a classified ad ONLY IF more information about the item for sale is listed on the web site.

Business ads are for services, such as boarding, farrier or stud, and/or any ad that contains a business name or information.

Name:		
Address:	City:	St:Zip
Phone #: ( )	Email:	
County:		
Credit Card #:	Expiration Date:	
Everything Equine 460 6th St NE Naples, FL 34120 or	Office: 941-375-2029 or 239-403-3784 Fax: 941-870-2510 Email: everythingequine@comcast.net	MasterCard

email digital ad to everythingequine@comcast.net. If you email your ad, PLEASE do not include payment information. We will call you for your credit card information. There is no charge for ad development; however, all ads created by Everything Equine are the sole property of Everything Equine. If ad is to be used in other publications, an additional fee will be assessed.

alMake

# VetSupplements.com

# **Products that Guarantee Results!**

Our nutritional products are the highest quality and most effective that you can buy. And we back that statement up with the best guarantee on the market. You <u>WILL</u> see results or you <u>WILL</u> get your money back, GUARANTEED!

Made by vets, for vets, and now available at a store near you
Hooves, Joints, Digestion, Reproduction
For correcting problems and maintaining good health
Products for Horses, Pets & People



For individual consultation and to find a dealer in your area, call **1-800-628-0997** 

#### **RESULTS BASED GUARANTEE**

Our guarantee covers the initial treatment period, usually 6 to 24 weeks, depending on the problem. (For serious problems, please call us for the most effective dosing.) You WILL see results or get a full refund for the containers you purchased (limit 3 containers). No formal testing is required for the reimbursement.

Dealer Inquiries & Sales Reps welcome. Call 800-511-4613. For more information on our products, visit WWW.Vetsupplements.com JAUCRE!



# JAN. 18, 19 & 20

FRIDAY TPM (JUNIOR RODEO) SATURDAY 4PM SUNDAY 1PM 12 & UNDER \$5 / 13 & UP \$10



60% PAYBACK ALL OPEN EVENT WINNERS RECEIVE BUCKLES ALL-AROUND COWBOY & COWGIRL RECEIVE BUCKLES + \$500

BULL RIDING SSBR Sanctioned Event - \$70 Entry Fee \*\*Advanced Call In for Bull Riding - Jan. 14 & 15 (8-9pm)\*\* Carl Sellitti 941-423-4408 - (Accepting SSBR Card Holders First)

Junior Rodeo (Friday Night) Pee Wee (10 & Under) Juniors (11-17)

Goat Tying, Barrels & Poles \*Junior Steer Riding \*Junior Bull Riding \*Calf Riding (6-10) \*Mutton Bustin (5 & Under) \$20 Entry Fee For Each Event \*Does Not Count Toward Points

OPEN EVENTS Ribbon Roping \$60 (team) Womens & Mens Goat Tying \$30 Steer Undecorating \$60 (team) Wild Cow Tail Decorating \$60 (team) Womens & Mens Barrels \$30 Womens & Mens Poles \$30 Buddy Pickup (2 m/f) \$60 Team Roping & Branding \$90 (3) Team Roping \$30 Per Person

\*\*Advanced Call In Required - Dec. 10, 11& 12 (6-9pm)\*\* Julie Higginbotham (239) 693-1558 - (\$15.00 Late Fee at Time of Rodeo)

LEE COUNTY POSSE ARENA 17401 PALM CREEK DRIVE - NORTH FORT MYERS WWW.LEECOUNTYPOSSEARENA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: SHERRY CODY (239) 543-6938