



Even though the eight weeks of HITS Coachella hunter/jumper competition are already over, the start of the Del Mar National Horse Show always feels to me like the real start of the show season. Maybe it's because the show includes three disciplines: dressage, western and hunter/jumper. Or maybe I'm showing my age in that my heyday as a junior competitor coincided with the Del Mar National being an all disciplines-rolled-into-one-affair and it was a big deal for us NorCal riders to trek south to be part of it.

I'm super excited to see the pageantry of dressage Freestyles, Night of Horse during Western Week, and the Grand Prix of Del Mar in early May. Hope to see many of you there!

This issue we celebrate our amazing dressage scene. Hot news includes a USET Fundraiser April 26, highlighted by a month of training in Florida with Debbie McDonald, including horse transport, and human and horse boarding. Wow! The elegant dinner and silent and live auctions take place at the Cook family's beautiful Pomponio Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe, so you know it will be elegant and fun!

Another Olympian, Kasey Perry-Glass, follows in the footsteps of Debbie, her coach, by generously donating her time to a great cause: the May 4 Equinesta at the Perry family's farm in Northern California's Orangevale. Kasey was kind enough to speak with us right before leaving for the World Cup Finals in Sweden, and it is beyond exciting that she'll be talking about her Olympic, WEG & World Cup experiences and nutrition, and, if all goes well, riding her superstar Goerklintgaards Dublet. Big kudos to 16-year-old Jouelle Kimura who got the ball rolling on this fundraiser for the Foothills CDS Chapter and youth dressage programs.

Following hopefully in Kasey's footsteps is Brentina Cup contender Claire Manhard. Read about her, along with biomechanical expertise from Dr. Hilary Clayton and Nan Meek's great interview with international vet, Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

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Our annual extra focus on equine insurance is highlighted by Marnye Langer's fun piece on unusual claims and surprising circumstances that illustrate the value of a good policy and good relationships.

Finally, we don't normally cover the horse racing industry, but the 22 deaths from breakdowns at Santa Anita since late December prompted us to include March 16 news release that helps explain agreements reached in the wake of this tragedy. Not everybody in the racing industry agrees with all the terms of the agreement, but it certainly seems like steps in the right direction.

Thanks so much to Rainbow Equus Meadows for sponsoring this month's cover and for sharing the stories behind your beautiful horses. As always, if you have news or story suggestions, let me know at [kimfmiller1@mac.com](mailto:kimfmiller1@mac.com).

We're excited about our May issue, as it features one of my soft spots: entry level riding programs that are the gateway to our sport.

If you know of one you think we should feature, please let me know! We'll also be spotlighting equestrian real estate and previewing the Western States Horse Expo.

Happy Riding & Reading!

[Kim F Miller, Editor](#)

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[www.falshighly](http://www.falshighly)