



# THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

NL 223

Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

January 2015

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## Animal Rights And Abuse: The Border Collie And The Carriage Horse

By Jon Katz, Reprinted with permission from [www.bedlamfarm.com](http://www.bedlamfarm.com)



Red the Border Collie keeps a close eye on his flock. Photo by Jon Katz.

The carriage horse controversy has raged back and forth all year, animal rights organizations trading accusation and insults with the carriage trade.

The mayor's proposed ban has met ferocious opposition, most notably from labor unions, newspapers and business organizations in New York City who are outraged at the proposed elimination of more than 300 jobs and who bristle at the overreach of a mayor who wants to shut down a well-regulated and prosperous business that has operated for more than a century in the heart of New York, mostly, it seems, because one of his major campaign contributors does not like it.

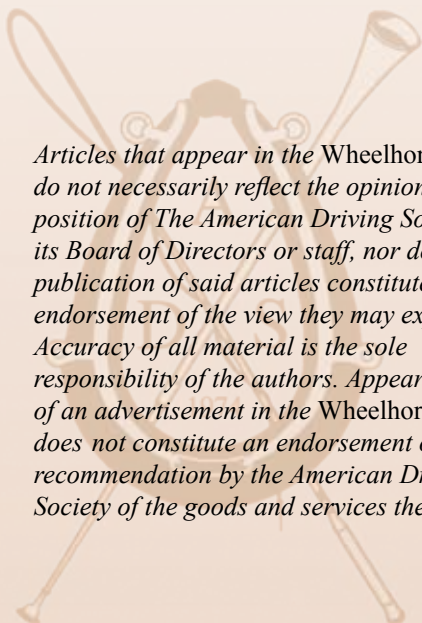
Those are valid objections to the ban, and they seem to be resonating with every single age, gender, racial and ethnic group in the normally fractious city. At least 66 per cent of New Yorkers oppose the mayor's ban, according to recent polls. I attended a rally for the carriage horses at City Hall, it was vocal and well-attended. The focus was on saving jobs, there was strong representation from the Chamber of Commerce and the Teamsters Union.

At the animal rights rally that preceded it, the focus was on their very new idea of animal abuse and the belief that animals like horses, no longer belong in New York City.

It was curious, but I didn't see a lot of animal lovers at either rally (oddly, it does not seem as if the animal rights people like animals or people much), I continue to believe the urgent issues in this controversy that affect the future of animals are still not being widely debated or understood. And they speak more directly

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## A Message from the Executive Director



With the opening of a new year comes the chance to reflect on the past and set goals for the future.

Speaking of goals, The ADS has several award programs that recognize the hard work

and dedication of members doing great things in a variety of areas. Winners are featured in ADS publications and on the website. In fact, this issue includes a wonderfully written story on page 6 by Hardy Zantke about the Youth Championships.

In most cases, applications for ADS awards are due towards the end of the year and are available on the ADS website. Despite the appeal of recognition, prizes, funding and even an actual trophy or ribbon, the ADS often has more awards than applicants. Set a goal for 2015 - Consider applying for an ADS award! Below is a short explanation of awards offered and how members can get involved:

### **Hours to Drive:**

Based on the number of hours you drive your equine for recreation. A log form for recording hours driven is available on the ADS website and is required to enroll in the program. Drivers can earn an "Awards Pin" for 100, 250, 500, 750 and 1000 hours of cumulative driving, by completing a log form. Logs must be submitted by November 30.

### **Youth Championships:**

Open to any ADS member under 21 years of age and based on his/her best verifiable scores sent in by the applicant and achieved during the 12 months preceding the closing date of November 30th each year. There are three categories: CDE, Pleasure and Recreation. Winners receive a \$750 ADS Grant for use on future driving endeavors.

### **Intermediate Calculated Championships:**

This program is intended to recognize, encourage and inspire drivers in ADS Combined Driving Events (CDE) in the Intermediate Division. Scores from any ADS-approved CDE occurring after this year's annual meeting (late September) can be used and the cut-off date is the last Friday in August.

### **Pleasure Driving Achievement Awards:**

After winning five (5) Reinsmanship classes or five (5) Working classes at any number of recognized ADS Pleasure Shows, the driver will receive a recognition certificate and will also be listed in The Whip and published on the ADS Web site. Awards are given at the five, 10 and 20+ levels.

-Susie

## Events Support Pony Team USA for the 2015 Pony Driving World Championships

United States Equestrian Federation Foundation

Mark your calendars today to help support the U.S. National Pony Team! Saturday, February 28, and Sunday March 1, 2015, Katie Whaley and Jennifer Matheson, in conjunction with the United States Equestrian Team Foundation, will be hosting a special fundraiser at the Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, Florida. This exciting event will help raise funds for pony drivers representing the USA at the 2015 Pony World Championships September 2-6, 2015, in The Netherlands.

"This is an important year for pony drivers, and we need to be able to send the best team possible," noted Matheson. "Our goal is to raise awareness of the needs of our sport in order for it to continue at the top levels." said Whaley

On Saturday, February 28, there will be a fun hoedown for guests, which will also include a silent auction. The main event will be held on Sunday, March 1, when drivers will participate in a Derby Driving competition. This is a new form of competition that was recently recognized by the American Driving Society. Whaley added, "We also want to be inclusive in our fundraising efforts, so all levels of drivers are invited to compete in the Driving Derby."

The derby competition will feature two levels for drivers: Training (no cantering) and Preliminary (open to all above training level). The entry fee of \$50 is a tax deductible donation to the USET Foundation, earmarked Pony Driving. Four-in-hand pony driver Boots Wright and driving event organizer Ellen Ettenger will be donating their time to officiate at this event. The Grand Oaks Resort is donating the use of their facility, and Nupafeed USA will be sponsoring all of the obstacles for the event.

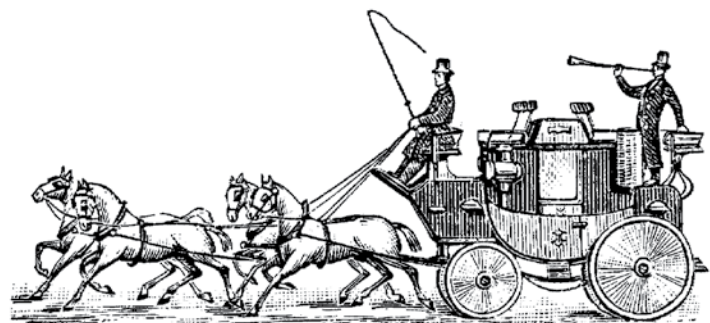
All drivers are encouraged to participate and be a part of this special benefit.

Details regarding the Hoedown and Silent auction will be forthcoming.

For questions regarding the driving derby, please contact Jennifer Matheson at [jennifermatheson@bellsouth.net](mailto:jennifermatheson@bellsouth.net). If you'd like to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact Katie Whaley at [hatsbykatie@gmail.com](mailto:hatsbykatie@gmail.com)

For more information regarding the USET Foundation and its mission, hoedown tickets and additional details please contact Sara Ike at [sara.ike@uset.org](mailto:sara.ike@uset.org).

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation ([www.uset.org](http://www.uset.org)) is the non-profit organization that supports the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing international, high-performance horses and athletes in partnership with the United States Equestrian Federation.



## New Frontier Town Obstacle at Clay Station Horse Park

By Teri Jump, Clay Station Horse Park



*Volunteers hard at work, setting the railroad tie sides of the buildings*

It started out with an idea. Our old obstacle, the huge wooden spools, was showing its age and needed to be replaced. Deb Packard and I brainstormed one evening last fall while running errands. The idea of a frontier town began to take place. We made a list of buildings that would be found in an old western town; which included the Sheriff's office, jail, post office, hotel, saloon and the like. We "advertised" that our town was accepting applications to sponsor one of the buildings. We had a lot of interest and soon had 20 "buyers" lined up, eager to begin construction!

In early May, we put on a "work day." All the owners of the buildings came out and helped with the construction of their and others' buildings. About 15 people showed up, ready to work hard. We started out with railroad ties as anchors, set into the ground. They were leveled, squared (as much as possible) and then set into the dirt. There was a lot of tamping going on!! The facades of the buildings were next. The plywood was cut by our friend from Australia, Wayne. The saw was

screaming all morning long as fronts, sides and roofs went on. Different shapes were requested and Wayne did a fantastic job of cutting them out! A nice lunch was enjoyed by all, then it was back to work! Construction continued throughout the warm afternoon.

At the end of the day, most of the buildings were completely framed and some had been painted already! It was starting to take shape!! We all went home, tired but happy with our progress.

Another work day was scheduled in early June. We had fewer people show up this day, but those who did worked really hard. The center of town was completed and the windmill installed. Ted La Voie made the windmill and donated it to the town. The rest of the buildings were framed in and painted and the first decorations went up. Walter Kramer was the first to decorate, with his barber shop; complete with the red and blue pole! The decorating continued with Stan Packard making window frames for us to use. The windows were screwed onto the plywood sides after they were decorated. I went to the local craft store and found some really cute decorations. The decorating of buildings continued over several days, as some owners took their facades home to decorate them. They returned them after they were decorated. Terri Riley and Theresa La Voie's facades/buildings were above and beyond; real professional looking! Most of the decorating was done the night before the Summer Festival CDE, which was the first time we drove through this obstacle! Construction will continue; we still have a few buildings to complete, as soon as the show season winds down we'll have time to do this. All in all, it's a wonderful obstacle, fun to drive and as far as I am aware, we have the only one like it anywhere!



*A view of the town center obstacle with the windmill*

## Carriage Horses, continued from page 1

than any of the rally speakers to the rights and the welfare of animals. I was sorry to see that there were few people speaking about the real lives of animals. Perhaps another rally for another time. It is a conversation that urgently needs to happen in New York City and elsewhere. It has not happened yet.

New Yorkers are handicapped, the media there seems to know or care little about animals, and few of the city's residents – most dramatically the animal rights activists – seem to know anything about animals who are not dogs or cats.

Outside of New York, animal lovers are awakening to the significance of the carriage horses and their fate. At stake is what abuse really is and what animal welfare means. The animal ideologists in New York are openly xenophobic about animals, especially those that are not pets. They believe all animals are victims or potential victims, and that animals like the carriage horses are simply not safe around human beings or urban environments, they must all be removed to protected preserves. They believe work for animals is exploitive, cruel and abusive.

When people ask me about it, I invoke the parable of the border collie and the carriage horse, because these animals are so similar but are perceived in such radically different ways. Maybe when considered together, they can bridge the divide.

The animal rights groups say the ban is necessary to stop the abuse of horses. They say the horses are unhappy and yearn for the freedom of the wild, for green pastures and social companionship. Assuming that they are sincere, and are not simply acting as agents for the real estate interests who drool over the West Side stables, as many New Yorkers believe, then people need to understand what is abuse for animals and what working animals like carriage horses and border collies (I have owned border collies for 15 years and written seven books about them) really need.

Animal abuse is a crime everywhere in the United States, it is against the law to neglect or mistreat animals to the point of grievous injury, suffering or neglect. It is illegal to deny shelter, food, water or medical care to animals in need. No legal jurisdiction anywhere in the United States considers it abuse for working animals to work – for border collies to herd sheep, for horses to pull carriages, for bomb-sniffing dogs to search for bombs, for seeing eye dogs to guide the visually impaired, for donkeys to haul wood and goods, for ponies to give rides

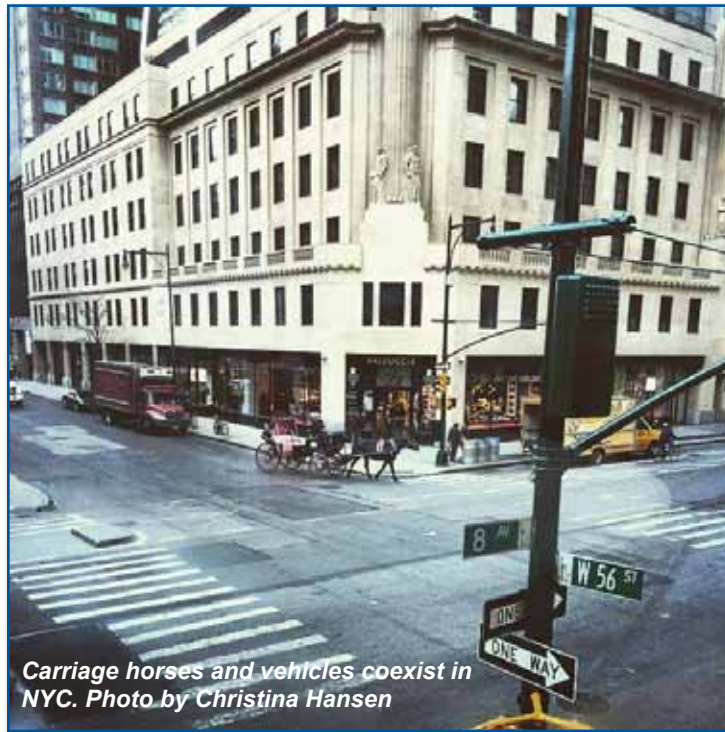
to children, for elephants to be in a circus, for animals to be used in movies.

The claim that it is abuse for draft horses to pull light carriages on asphalt in Central Park – central to the mayor's claim that the carriage trade is "immoral" – comes completely outside of the law, tradition, expert belief and common experience. I know of no reputable trainer or behaviorist or veterinarian who believes it is cruel for the carriage horses to do this work.

In fact, the carriage horses embody the very opposite of abuse by any acceptable legal or moral definition. By every account, they are fed, sheltered, regulated, given regular medical care and work, considered essential for the health and well-being of animals like this. "Happy" and "sad" are words animal rights people use, but not words that people who know animals use. Animals are neither happy or sad, they are content or uneasy.

Generally speaking, animals that are fed and sheltered and well-treated are content, they do not make career choices or aspire to other kinds of lives.

And this is where the border collie comes in. In the animal world, and in the still rational sectors of the animal rights movement, it is actually considered cruel and abusive for border collies to be deprived of work. Reputable breeders warn border collie buyers not to get border collies if they do not have work for them to do, it is considered cruel for border collies to be confined in homes or apartments without work. These dogs will literally go insane – the opposite of content – if they have nothing to do.



This is not a controversial position, and no border collie advocate, some of whom are also animal rights activists, would consider it abusive for these dogs to work hard herding sheep, and in all kinds of weather. People love to watch these dogs work on TV or at the many herding trials held all over the country, they do not seem to understand that seeing the carriage horses work is no different. There is great joy in seeing an animal do what an animal is bred and meant to do. My border collie Red is not regulated, he does not get five weeks of vacation, he works in the summer and the winter, day or night, snow or sun.

Providing that kind of work for a border collie in the animal world is considered noble, even heroic. The people in the carriage trade have done the same thing for the carriage horses, most of whom would be long gone to slaughter if they were not

*Continued on page 7*

# Take a Drive with Mickie Bowen at the 2015 Midwest Horse Fair!

Midwest Horse Fair Communications



Mickie Bowen will present a clinic at the 36th annual Midwest Horse Fair, April 17-19, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

If you would like to participate in this clinic, complete the application by January 11, 2015.

The application is now available at [www.midwesthorsefair.com/horses/clinic-participant](http://www.midwesthorsefair.com/horses/clinic-participant).

To audit the clinic, attend the Midwest Horse Fair - the schedule will be released in the coming months.

The Midwest Horse Fair is owned by the Wisconsin Horse Council, Inc. All proceeds from the Fair are returned to the WHC and are used to represent and foster a unified equine industry in Wisconsin, promote the equine leadership, education, service, and communication, and to take a

proactive role in the future growth and development of the equine industry. Mickie Bowen's association with horses began in childhood, and has led to a satisfying life of fox hunting and breeding Welsh ponies. Her passion for Welsh ponies led to another passion - driving single, pair, tandem and four-in-hand, which has led to a successful career in driving competitions and judging.

Mickie has competed in, and judged most of the major national driving shows. She has also judged in Europe, serving on the Ground Jury of the 1st and 2nd World Disabled Driving Championships, and in Canada at the Canadian Classic and the Royal Winter Fair.

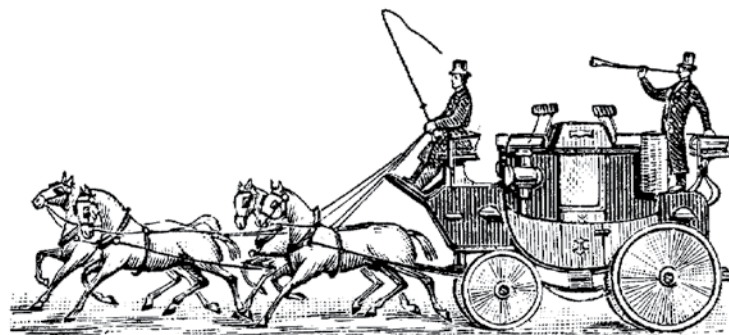
Mickie is a founding member of the American Driving Society, and served on the board of directors for the first 20 years of its operation. She currently holds "R" USEF and ADS judging cards in driving disciplines, and an International Judging Card for disabled driving. She is proud to have served as Executive Director and chef d'equip for United States Driving for the Disabled for 20 years.

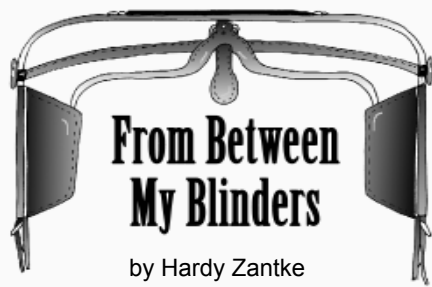
For pleasure, Mickie now drives a four-in-hand of Welsh Cobs.



*Mickie Bowen and a Unicorn of chestnut Welsh ponies.*

*Mickie Bowen at the Myopia CDE, late 1970's*





## 2014 ADS Youth Championships

It is time again to announce our annual ADS Youth Championship results. In previous years I have listed them by the three different disciplines: Pleasure-, Recreational-, and Combined Driving. This year many of our young drivers have entered more than just one, so let me go through the list by drivers:

Our main Champion this year is 14 year old LUKE DAHLBERG from Solon Springs, WI with the low score of 89.79 penalty points from the Preliminary VSE division of the Hickory Knolls CDE in Fitchburg, WI. Luke is well known in our program as he was our Pleasure Driving Champion last year - and also has the high score again this year with 20 points from the Villa Louis Carriage Classic in Prairie du Chien, WI from two firsts out of eight drivers each in: Working Pleasure Jr as well as Your Route/My Route in Junior Cones.

Next in Pleasure Driving is another well familiar name: Now 16 year old ABIGAIL SIMMONS from Omaha, NE with 12 points from the BITS Summer Carriage Classic in Webster City, IA: 7 points for a 1st of 5 in Reinsmanship plus 5 points for a 2nd of 5 in Timed Obstacles. Abigail is also in second place in Recreational Driving with 87.75 hours, the category which she won last year, and she came in 6th in Combined Driving with a penalty score of 124.95 from the Longview Lake HDT in Kansas City, MO in the Preliminary Single Horse division. (Score was 108.657 + 15% for HDT = 124.95).

In CDE driving our next entry is 17 year old SABRINA CAMERON from Stephentown, NY with 97.27

penalty points in the Preliminary Single Horse division of the GMHA CDE in Woodstock, VT. Sabrina is back with us after coming in 3rd in Pleasure Driving in 2011 already.

By our rules Luke can claim only one of the two championships in the same year. So please allow me to declare all three of the above our 2014 ADS Youth Champions for Combined - and Pleasure - and add for Recreational Driving 18 year old COLTEN PARKER from Batavia, Ohio with a total of 111.8 hours driven this year. We welcome Colten as a newcomer to our program, and are happy to note Colten also participated in the CDE category coming in 7th with 132.02 penalty points with a Preliminary Pony Pair at the Kentucky Classic CDE as well as in Pleasure Driving in 5th with 8 points from two first places of two drivers in the CAA Carriage Festival.

All above four 2015 ADS YOUTH CHAMPIONS are eligible for an ADS grant of up to \$ 750,- to participate in a Youth Clinic or similar event and should receive a sports jacket. Our Whip editor will contact them in due time for a profile in the May Whip.

In next place is also already well known now 13 year old AVERY WILSON from Louisville KY with 98.94 penalty points from the Gayla Bluegrass CDE in Georgetown KY in the Preliminary Single Pony division. Avery also came in next in Pleasure Driving with a total of 11 points from the Grand Oaks Classic in Weirsdale, FL: 6 for a 1st of 4 drivers in Reinsmanship-Utility and 5 for a 1st of 3 turnouts in Reverse Psychology-Utility.

Next is a new name in our program: 17 year old Jennifer Hinkel from Franklin, WI with 10 points in Pleasure Driving also earned at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic: 8 for a 1st of 6 drivers in the VSE Cross Country and 2 for a 4th of 6 in the VSE Working Pleasure. Jennifer also is third in the Recreational division with 38.5 hours driven.

Jennifer is followed by 12 year old BETH DAHLBERG - our winner Luke's younger sister - back also from last year - with a total of 6 points both from the BITS Summer Carriage Classic: 4 for

a 2nd of 4 entries in Turnout Jr. and 2 for a 3rd of 4 in Pick Your Route. Beth also sent in her scores from Skunk River as well as the Notara Driving Trial, yet both are from Training Level which, unfortunately, are not eligible yet. I look forward to hopefully receiving her Preliminary level CDE scores in 2015.

Then we have our 2012 Champion and 2013 runner-up: Now 16 year old Reggie Glover from Weimar, TX with 117.99 penalty points from the Tejas Carriage Association CDE at Black Star Farm in Rockwell, TX in the Preliminary VSE Division.

And finally, last but not least one more new name: 16 year old Eli Decker from Yuba City, CA earning a score of 123.29 penalty points in the Preliminary Pony Pairs Division of the Vineyard Classic CDE in Woodland, CA.

Congratulations to all of them! I am very happy to see how our young drivers are so well rounded and diversified over all divisions, how they stay with the program and are improving each year, how we have new participants each year - while some of the previous years' names drop out, which while for some it might mean, they are off to college - we are also proud to see some of them progress very well into the adult driving scene. Yes, I am thinking of our previous Champion Jacob Arnold right now: Winning the marathon and coming in as total 7th at this years Single World Championship! He too started some years ago in our ADS Annual Youth Championship program!

I am looking forward to continuing the program in 2015. Details are on the ADS website. Start your Driving logs right now - and send in your entries latest by Nov. 30.2015.

Happy and safe driving in 2015

## Carriage Horses, continued from page 4

pulling carriages in New York.

The border collie and the draft horse are at different ends of the same spectrum. What applies to one applies to the other in most ways. Initially, the mayor and his supporters in the animal rights movement argued that the horses were being abused, this argument collapsed after scores of veterinarians, behaviorists, journalists and trainers accepted the stable owner's invitation to come to the stables and see for themselves. I was one of those people. Even the mayor has dropped the claim of abuse, the argument has shifted now to the cruelty inherent in the horses being exposed to awful city fumes and endangering the public if they get spooked or panicked.

The new arguments are not faring much better, since no horse is known to suffer from respiratory disease, according to regular veterinary checks, and no human being has ever been killed by a carriage horse, not one in 150 years. Hundreds of people in New York die each year in motor vehicle and bicycle accidents

The life of the border collie offers guidance and insight for well-meaning animal lovers seeking to get to the real issues for animals in the carriage horse controversy, those beyond jobs and business regulation. Draft horses are the border collies of the equine world, unlike many horses they have been bred to work with people for thousands of years, almost all of that time doing labor that is dramatically harder and more intense than anything a carriage horse ever has to do in Central Park in our time.

Equine advocates will testify, as will border collie breeders, that it is actually cruel for carriage horses to be denied work and activity, just as it is cruel for border collies to be denied work. Denying work to working animals is in many ways the new abuse. It is an awful thing to see, working animals will become sluggish, overweight and disoriented without work. I believe this so strongly that when I got my first border collie, I bought some sheep and then bought a farm in upstate New York. I love this breed and was determined to give them the lives they deserve, that I have sheep still, and Red works with them every day of his life. He is a therapy dog to boot, he works almost all of the time. And his work is celebrated, not condemned, by everyone who sees it.

I can't imagine a crueler fate for him than to be banished to a rescue farm where he had nothing to do all day but sit around a pasture and eat. Like the famed horse trainer Buck Brannaman (the inspiration for the movie "Horse Whisperer"), I can't imagine a worse fate for a carriage horse, especially in the name of animal rights. This notion of what a horse needs is, in my view, is a demonstrably ignorant and emotionalized fantasy.

The famed biologist Jared Diamond has written that working horses, of all the animals in the world, including dogs and cats, are the best animals suited to live and work in urban environments. They are the "most domesticable" because of their gentle nature, their herding instincts, their tolerance for other species, their connection to human beings, and their genetic appetite for work. Many people have told me they

know the carriage horses are sad because they stand in line with their heads down and a rear leg cocked. They simply do not know that this is the relaxed – content – position of a horse. Horses that are abused or frightened or restless do not stand like that and do not look like that.

Diamond writes that a phenomenon he calls "creeping normality" keeps us from seeing things like environmental degradation, or the loss of animals from the natural world. Instead of banning horses, a moral government would be working hard to keep them safe and present among us. The problem in the animal rights movement, and in many urban communities disconnected from the animal world, is that people no longer know the difference between a border collie and a carriage horse, nor do they know what makes them so much alike.

In the carriage horse controversy, I like to think I am supporting the horses, I like to think I am supporting the carriage drivers. I hope I am. I am also supporting my own right to live with my animals in freedom and in serenity, so long as I do not mistreat or abuse them.

If the carriage horses are being abused, then so is Red. If they can ban the carriage horses, and the elephants, and the ponies, and the horses in Hollywood, then they will one day come for Red and all of the animals who work with us and who have shared the joys and travails of the world with us since the dawn of time. They will all continue to disappear. I see now that for reasons I don't quite comprehend, this is the goal of the modern-day animal rights movement, not a side affect. Every animal is a victim, every human an abuser.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that personal freedom is as fragile as it is precious. It can die in a swift stroke, or it can suffer death by "a thousand cuts." I believe the social movement that calls itself an animal rights movement is diminishing our personal freedom to live with animals, and that the right of animals to live and work in our world is dying by a thousand cuts. That is why the carriage horse controversy is so important.

*About the author: Jon Katz has written nearly 25 books including numerous works of non-fiction about dogs and life on Bedlam Farm. He has written for The New York Times, The Wall*

*Street Journal, and Rolling Stone (to name a few), Katz is also a photographer and the author of two children's books. He lives on Bedlam Farm in upstate New York with his wife, the artist Maria Wulf; his dogs, cats, donkeys and sheep.*



**A carriage horse outside the famed Tavern on the Green. Photo by Christina Hansen.**

**Omnibus Changes**

For a complete up-to-date Calendar and Omnibus, visit [www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org)

**Classified Ads**

Classified ads are accepted for the *Wheelhorse* at a cost of \$1 per word with a \$15 minimum for a one-month insertion in the next available *Wheelhorse* publication. Payment must accompany ad text (checks, Visa, Mastercard accepted).

COMPETITION FEI YELLOW CONES: \$27 each. Orange Marker Balls \$2.70 each. Number Boxes 1-20 Red and White; \$30 each. Letter Boxes A-D Red and White; \$30 each. Complete Dressage Arena with Letters now available. Accept MC/Visa. Phone Gayla Driving Center 1-800-360-5774. (KY)

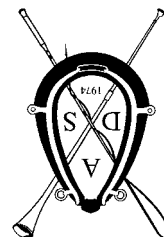
**OMNIBUS CHANGES**

View Omnibus Web pages for complete updated information.  
[http://americandrivingsociety.org/06\\_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp](http://americandrivingsociety.org/06_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp)

- NEW! Jan. 18, 2015:** Windsor Driving Derby Qualifier #1
- NEW! Feb. 14, 2015:** Windsor Driving Derby Qualifier #2
- NEW! Feb. 14, 2015:** Columbus Sleigh Rally
- NEW! March 8, 2015:** Windsor Driving Derby Qualifier #3
- March 13, 2015:** Arizona CDE VSE arena size clarification
- March 15, 2015:** Morven Park, pairs added, judge change, clinic added.
- March 22, 2015:** Live Oak International CDE Mail entries to Roxie Salazar, 12303 SW 38th Street, Ocala, FL 34482
- NEW! April 5, 2015:** Windsor Driving Derby Finals
- April 11, 2015:** NTW Sunrise Ridge HDT - Dressage arena size clarification.
- May 1, 2015:** Vinyard Classic, **(CANCELLED)**
- June 28, 2015:** Skunk River HDT, Secretary address correction.
- July 10, 2015:** Inavale CDE Organizer and cones updates

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