

## Golden Saddlebred News

*Submitted by  
David Swindler*

Gasha Year end awards for 2006 are as follows: Hi-Point Adult Exhibitor- Judith Gandarillas, showing her deep gold gelding Cosmo. Hi-Point Youth- Katylan Klucas, showing her golden gelding Showtime Shamrock. Gasha Hi-Point Horse 2006-Cadillac Gold Edition, owned by Stella Austin, a great start for a young horse just getting exposed to the show world. Congratulations to these fine exhibitors and horse as I know they like myself showed in open shows to receive their point. On a related note worthy of mention is Sue Rothermel of Moral, Ohio who shows a dark gold filly-My Sunfire Angel who gave a real close run at Hi-Point horse for the year end. I'm hoping in the year to come to hear more about these horses and exhibitors so I can help pass on their showing the gold horse in open shows.

Erica and Richard Valladolid, owners of Val Web Creations who own several golden saddlebreds and spend hours sometimes working and as they say waiting for a good shot of the animals they photo or video sent me photos of what had to be the shortest wait for a good photo of their daughter Vivian's first time on a horse. Vivian is just about 6 months old, cute as a bug and all smiles when they lifted her onto the back of their gold gelding Zeus. Although she is dwarfed by his size her bright face says it all. Richard will have to work even harder I'm thinking as this will be 2-girls in the house that are horse lovers. I suspect within 2 years I'll have a photo or get to see Vivian in a lead line class.

On a note for horse owners who own a mini or two, I had some experiences this winter that were a first for me which I'd like to pass on about care for miniature horses in winter. A client in my barn has several that she uses for parties for children. In January a young mare went off feed, had a fever which spiked to 105. She went to the clinic and after much treatment over several days they had to put her down for impacted bowel. Then 3 weeks later I found a young gelding had not eaten his grain. So I checked his for fever and he had 102.5. We wasted no time calling a vet, got good advice over the phone but none could come out or would come out? (we do not have dedicated vets like the old days) So next day off he went to Ohio State Vet Clinic for treatment. They ran all kinds of x-rays, blood work, fluids and on and on. Like the other one they felt there was a bowel problem, but they knew it was not impacted. As soon as they got him hydrated and he began to eat after 3-days it looked better. Then the vet at Ohio State said this is a common problem with minis. That in the winter they do not drink enough water in which then they can bind up in the bowel. When it starts they get a fever and de-hydrate quickly. As we were quick to catch it good news came this time. Of course the vet bill was not so good, but we learned a lesson.

So to share the lesson is to make sure your minis drink water-monitor it daily either by marking the bucket or using smaller buckets. Be sure to give salt blocks and if they do not use them sprinkle a little plain salt on their grain. This will encourage them to drink more. Also in winter wetting down their hay will get moisture in them. Now this is for the stalled minis, and make sure they get exercise. For those out side same rules apply, but as they will be grazing on grass that more than likely has snow, rain, or frost, you may not have to wet hay but should still consider doing it. Be sure to keep a close eye on them as we found out when they get sick it gets then quick and is costly. So by taking several minor steps both the sickness and cost of care might be avoided. What little time it takes to monitor water or moisture intake and salt is well worth it. Gator-aid can also be given to help and some like it!

As my client was not aware of this problem with minis when she purchased them, this was heart breaker to lose one and almost another one, not to mention the extreme cost. I ask any of you who read this to pass it on to other mini owners. It could save them heartache and vet bills. It also can be helpful for us with regular horses as if we see they are not drinking enough water to take action to increase their water so they don't get bound up either.

Any questions or news please contact me at ([horseman@wirelessintra.net](mailto:horseman@wirelessintra.net)) or call me 614-296-3044. Let's all enjoy our horses and share information that will help others.