Hutcheson skilled at 'backing'

• from TRAINER'S on page 13

Ms Hutcheson attended Humber College for Equine Studies Management and went on to the competition circuit in the disciplines of jumper and eventing across Canada and Europe, also spending some time jockeying for Quarter Horse Racing in Ontario.

Her love of thoroughbred horses led to her involvement in training, breeding, buying and selling equines. She's trained extensively in British Columbia, England, Scotland and Germany and made a name for herself in the horse industry, recently earning her a feature article in Life and Fashion magazine.

Ms Hutcheson said one of her niches is "backing" horses, or getting them accustomed to having someone on their back.

"People used to call it breaking a horse, but it's kind of a harsh term because it's like you're breaking its spirit," she said. "I prefer backing because it's less harsh."

While doing this can mean enduring being tossed from the horse's back, Ms Hutcheson takes it in stride as part of the job. "It's a high-risk, dangerous job, and it's mostly male dominated," she said. "But, I feel women have more of a sensitive touch for backing."

Ms Hutcheson said her training program for show horses is usually about four to six weeks, while preparing a horse for the race track circuit can take about 90 days.

"Every horse needs a different approach," she said. "I usually can assess their temperament within a couple of days."

She points out that in addition to the training aspect of her programs, nutrition is also an important component.

"Feeding and nutrition play a big role in getting a horse to its peak," she said.

Some of the horses that Ms Hutcheson trained race at Woodbine, where she said they usually do very well.

While she said most of her current client base is local, her training takes her right across the country.

"I train for a lot of high-profile clients in Canada and Ontario," she said.

For more information on Ms Hutcheson and the services she offers, visit www.hutchesontraining.ca.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.c

Horse News and Views



- ♦ Giant hogweed (Heracleam mantegazzianum) is a large biennial. Sap from this plant on skin may cause blisters, scabbing and scarring in humans. It is unclear how this sap might affect horses. The first year, the plant is vegetative. The second year, it flowers and sheds seeds. It is very large, usually 12 to 16 feet tall in the second year with a flower head up to 4 feet across and loaded with seed. The leaves may reach 40 inches across and are divided into three leaflets which, in turn, are further divided into sharply pointed teeth. The main stem may reach 4 inches across, is hollow between the nodes and spotted with reddish purple sharp irregular bumps. The flower head could be compared to Wild Carrot in that the umbel divides into 30 to 50 branches which, in turn, consist of another umbel of 30 to 40 flowers. The whole head is flat on the bottom with slightly rounded top and white. It could possibly be confused with a similar but slightly smaller plant called Angelica and also Cow Parsnip, again slightly smaller. Giant Hogweed should not be allowed to set seed or a grove of these plants can result. (John Benham, Weed Inspector, South Wellington County)
- Ivermectin is approved for use in horses not intended for food. It is available under a number of trade names, e.g., Eqvalan, as an oral paste and an oral liquid (not for injection). Ivermectin is commonly used in the fall because of its activity against bots in both the oral and gastric stages. It is also licensed for control of: large strongyles (adult), small strongyles, pinworms (adults and 4th-stage larvae), round worms (Parascaris equorum - adults), hairworms (adults), large-mouth stomach worms (adults), neck threadworms (microfilariae), lungworms (adults and 4th-stage larvae), intestinal threadworms (adults) and summer sore (cutaneous 3rd-stage larvae) secondary to Habronema or Draschia spp.. Ivermectin is not affective against tapeworms. A recent field study suggested that roundworms on one farm were also resistant to ivermectin.

For further information contact Dr. Bob Wright (519) 846-3412 or visit our website: http://www.gov.on.ca/omaf/english/livestocl



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