

# EDITOR'S MEANDERINGS

Stacie G. Boswell, DVM, DACVS, who has written horse health articles for *Horse Around New Mexico* magazine, recently moved from Ruidoso to Montana. Her article on page 37 about the dangers of locoweed will be her last for *Horse Around*.

Shortly after Karen Lehmann created *Horse Around* in 2013, Stacie started submitting articles. Not only were the articles well written, but they clearly showed Stacie's concern for horses and their owners. Karen says Stacie did not merely choose topics that interested her, but rather let horse-owning clients show her what information was needed. What Stacie saw in the field determined what she wrote about.

When I purchased the magazine in 2015, Stacie kept submitting articles with photos, all excellently written, and well-researched, with clear photos and captions. One of her first articles was about documenting your horse for traveling and included a close-up photo of a tattoo on the gums of a horse. That photo should have prepared me for the Stacie Boswell photos to come. Only Stacie could have provided such a photo: No amount of searching on iStock for "horse, gums, tattoo," could have netted anything like it.

When she wrote, "Too Fat, Too Thin, Just Right" about knowing if your horse is at a healthy weight, I started to understand how empathetic she was to horse owners. She did not admonish anyone for having a horse that was too fat or too thin. She recognized that an owner might get used to a slow weight change in their horse, and therefore not know that they were at an unhealthy weight. But ultimately, she was always on the side of the horse. As a vet, she had seen too many thin horses, and met too many horse owners who just didn't know. She went on to suggest feeding vegetable oil as a low-cost way to put weight on a horse.

With each article Stacie submitted, I began to see a mission behind her writing. When I finally met her in late 2016, she explained why she researched, wrote, and photographed with so much heart. Guided by what she saw in the field, Stacie wanted to educate people about how to better care for their horses. We were at the Greenside Restaurant in Cedar Crest. Stacie was just as enthusiastic in person as she was in her writing and photography.

For me, the best example of her enthusiasm appeared in her November 2017 article about Pigeon Fever. She submitted a photo of a horse's engorged breast, with a stream of yellow pus shooting out. This was the caption, "A horse with Pigeon Fever showing pus being drained from a mature abscess." Then, "The volume of pus can be surprisingly large!" Exclamation point!

By then, I had become desensitized to the Boswell photos: close-up, slimy horse teeth and gums showing before and after teeth floating; a pinworm emerging from a horse's anus (again, close-up), and; a gelding's penis with arrows pointing to the locations of beans.

Before that photo, I didn't know exactly where the beans were hiding. My gelding is very grateful to Stacie for those arrows! I never censored the photos, in part because I didn't think there was a need, but moreover because I kept Stacie's purpose in mind: To help educate horse owners for horses' sake.

So thank you Stacie for your articles, photos, and enthusiasm. But most of all, thank you for explaining to me why you did it. Your goal has become the mission of *Horse Around New Mexico* magazine. We flat out stole it from you: "To help make the lives of horses better, by educating and inspiring their owners."



*Cecilia Kayano*

My favorite photo of Dr. Boswell. She makes teeth floating fun! (To read her articles in past *Horse Around* issues, visit [HorseAroundNM.com](http://HorseAroundNM.com))

# HORSE AROUND

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Next Issue: Vacation and Travel Issue

Well-written, informative articles and high-resolution photos are welcome. Submissions will be considered and are subject to editing. The next issue, the Vacation and Travel Issue, will appear at New Mexico outlets on May 1, 2018. The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2018. The deadline for ads is April 5, 2018. For information contact Cecilia Kayano, HANM Editor, 505-570-7377, [HorseNewMexico@gmail.com](mailto:HorseNewMexico@gmail.com), [www.horsearoundnm.com](http://www.horsearoundnm.com)



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COVER PHOTO: Mary Anne Maynard rides Nite in the Sabinoso Wilderness. Photo by Cecilia Kayano.