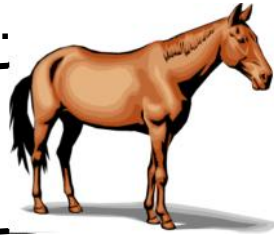


Notes from....



## Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

MAY 2014

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...as seen on



### Healing With Horses

Horses have moved from a primarily transportation role to a recreational activity role with the invention of the internal combustion engine. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, they are becoming healers. In the [June 2013 newsletter](#), Heather Valdez was introduced as a facilitator of this new direction here at SCR. We are pleased to announce that she'll be hosting a three day seminar for professionals to learn about the wonderful role horses can play in assisting in the healing of emotional scars.

From May 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, part of the "Ok Corral Program" will be held at SCR. Heather has brought in Greg Kersten to teach this series. The 10 or so seminar guests (seminarians?) will be learning how they can use horses in their practices. During these three days, they'll be using a mix of arenas and the classroom. We have carefully scheduled their activities so as not to overly impact the general usage of the stable. Since Leslie will be out that weekend, any impact will be further reduced. Once we have an exact schedule, an email will be sent to enable better planning for riding times. If you want to learn more about the seminar, follow this link. [More Information](#)

**Been to the restroom lately?**

**Thinking may be Martha Stewart moved into Serrano?**

**Didn't I just see this bathroom in the November Architectural Digest?**

Special thanks goes to our own Janet O'Faolain whose great spirit manifested such a stylish remodel of the Serrano restroom. Not only is her sense of style great, but she must be the neatest painter of all time. Her additions of hooks, and a chair will make the evening transition from work to play so much more pleasant. The rumor that it is a satellite Burke Williams is entirely false. All kidding aside, these types of unsolicited acts of charity are what makes the Serrano community such a wonderful place.

*“You have to know the past to understand the present.”*

**Dr Carl Sagan**

Over the years it seems that quite a bit of confusion has arisen about the feed boxes. As Carl says, we must first understand the history.

A little more than 10 years ago, the then owner of the tack store, Lisa, began to carry baled orchard and timothy for those few horses that couldn't eat the alfalfa or bermuda offered by the stable. In a spirit of cooperation, Lisa would sell the bale, and SCR would feed the owner-provided forage. Very soon opened bales were spreading across aisles and during the rains, pallets were crowding aisles even more with tarps and concrete blocks. To keep the stable neat and the aisles more open, SCR built boxes for the bales that the horse owners purchased. For those feedings, SCR charged an \$8 monthly feeding fee. Each day staff would pull the non-SCR purchased hay from the box, instead of feeding off the wagon. Back then there were just a few horses that purchased what were then, exotic feeds. Over time orchard and timothy became more popular. Around five years ago, the tack store called it quits, and SCR took over all the feed sales. At that time we made it more economical to feed orchard and timothy off the feed cart. The result being a reduction in the number of feed boxes.

Then some folks said that they liked the idea of a box in front of their stall, so could they

rent one of our feedboxes? Ok fine, and the \$9 feedbox was born. As the great recession rolled on, some other folks said that they would like to build their own box, as the \$9 was too expensive for them. In sympathy, SCR agreed with the caveat that the boxes must meet the exact construction, size, colors, etc. as the SCR feedboxes. With each generation, the interpretation of “exact” went farther and farther afield. For some if the color was similar, (but size was irrelevant), it was match. For others a “match” was defined if their constructed box had square corners. As of today, the standards have become meaningless. If one goes back far enough, a poodle is a wolf.

Secondly, what constitutes “SCR feeding” to qualify for the free SCR feedbox has become quite elastic. Again, originally the box was designed to hold a bale of feed. Then some folks started purchasing bales to supplement the 3 squares SCR fed. The argument made was that their tack sheds were too far from the horses to carry the feed and / or the bales took up too much room in the tack shed. OK, that makes sense. Since SCR was selling several bales per month, we agreed to waive the fee.

Then some horses started eating pellets as an alternative to baled timothy & orchard. Since SCR was selling and feeding, it made sense to keep that feed in the box. Again the feedbox rate was waived. Then this morphed into “Well the horse's bagged feed doesn't fill up the entire box is it ok if I put a halter, fly



spray, etc. in the unused portion of the box?”. Well that’s ok I guess. Then that morphed into “Well I don’t feed pellets anymore, but hey I purchase a lot from the store, so what’s the difference, shouldn’t I get a free box for my patronage?” Continuing on, it becomes, “I purchased something from the store each month to get my free box”, to “I once purchased something from the store, so I should get a lifetime box!” We’ve come far afield from the original intention of keeping the stall neat and aisles open.

The reason for this long history, is so you’ll understand the intent of the feed box, and our decision to return to the original intent. We’ve made some accommodations to the current condition, but what follows is the revised policy.

- 1) If SCR feeds your horses for at least one meal per day from an SCR feed box (hay, pellets, etc.) then the \$9 fee is waived. We charge \$8 for this service - so close enough. These boxes must remain unlocked, unclamped, unbungied, etc., to allow for unfettered access to the feed. If one does the math, those “it just takes a second” to get to the feed really add up. An extra 15 seconds for one worker to open and close x 3 workers feeding at a time x 3 feedings per day x 30.5 days per month, at the end of the year is costing the stable \$275 per year in extra labor expenses per horse.
- 2) You can also rent a feed box from the stable for \$9 per month and keep whatever you want in there and lock it.
- 3) If you purchase a minimum of \$125 per month from the store in supplements, feed, and / or pellets, the \$9 feedbox charge will be waived. Items purchased from the store that

normally would not be put in box such as shavings, drystall, gravel, rakes, etc. are not counted towards the \$125 minimum monthly purchase.

- 4) You may purchase a feedbox to put in front of your stall provided the following conditions are met: A) It is a Rubbermaid outdoor storage shed (what we’re calling a feed box) or a Lifetime. It cannot exceed any of the following measurements:

Height : 30”

Width : 60”

Depth : 24”

Volume: 18 cubic feet

The following Rubbermaid models are acceptable: 3753, 5E39, 5F21. The Following Lifetime model’s are acceptable 60012, 60059

- 5) You are allowed no more than one box per stall, and the box placement must be 100% in front or to the side of your stall. You must maintain your feedbox in excellent condition. Some like to keep their feed in a small metal trash can. Each stall may also have one metal trash (maximum: 24 gallon, 26” height, 20” diameter), in addition to the one feed box.
- 6) If you have an existing non-SCR compliant box or boxes, in front of your stall on or before May 6, 2014, you’ll be grandfathered in until January 1, 2016. At that time the “grandfather” exemption rule will be discontinued.

SCR will slowly be replacing our wooden boxes with the Rubbermaid alternative. While the plastic is a great alternative for rainy weather and chewing horses, the construction of the boxes should be upgraded. SCR will be adding braces to our new boxes, and we are suggesting that this may be something you might consider as well.