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Mustang Riding Stables, Corpus Christi, An Epilogue

By Anna Bryant

CORPUS CHRISTI, (Horseback Magazine) - Mustang Riding Stables; no one living in the Corpus Christi area hasn't heard of them. They've been a beach icon for as long as I've been around... (which is a long time). The stable opened in 1989, and I won't forget when they closed. Hearing the news Mustang Stables was closing saddened me. They've been part of the hominess and originality of Corpus Christi and Padre Island, and the only place locally one could go get a taste of riding if they didn't have their own horse, or friends who did. One Sunday in January, a group of friends and I drove out to Mustang Riding Stables to meet the horses, which would be auctioned on St. Valentine's Day.

Sunday was Monika

[Oregon Gets Tough on Abandonment Walking Horse Industry Hammered by Kentucky Legislature for Animal Cruelty on Soring Violations](#)

Government Says Horses are Companion Animals in FDA Vet Document

FDA Reminds Public of Comment Period Deadline for the Draft Guidance for Industry on Anesthetics for Companion Animals

On December 17, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published in the Federal Register the availability of a draft guidance document for industry entitled "Guidance for Industry #192: Anesthetics for Companion Animals." The comment period for the guidance closes on March 2, 2009.

The purpose of the guidance document is to provide industry with FDA's recommendations for the development of new animal anesthetic drug products for companion animals (dogs, cats, and horses). The guidance discusses information that sponsors should consider when planning and conducting safety and field studies for their proposed drug product. The guidance also provides recommendations on how to analyze the study data and how to present the collected data in an organized package to CVM.

The draft guidance, once finalized, will represent the Agency's current thinking on the development of companion animal general anesthetic (injectable or inhalational) drug products.

The draft guidance document is available at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/Guidance/guide192.pdf>. The federal register notice can be found at:

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Graham's day off, but she graciously agreed to meet us and introduce us to her horses. It was her sad duty to dispose of the stable inventory after the death of her father.

We spent several hours getting to know these animals that had created so many memories on the beach while Monika told their stories. Some were older, some were newer models they hadn't had long - all were in terrific shape, and most obliged us when we wanted to pet them. One spotted mule, Winchester, went so far as to gently grab my arm every time I stopped touching him to pet the horse next to him.

We would be at that auction. None of us needed another horse, but we would go to make sure no one slipped through the cracks on a one-way trip to Mexico.

When the day arrived for the auction, we were armed with cash and trailers and were ready to bid. There were a lot of people there when we arrived, and we got there early. Saw some folks we know, many we didn't. It seemed like forever for noon to arrive; the designated time for the horse sale.

While the auctioneer hawked items on the other side of the property, Monika and friends obliged the audience, riding out horse after horse and telling who was good with kids and who needed an experienced rider. She looked both excited and exhausted. She'd worked for weeks

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-29953.htm>.

Interested persons may submit written comments on or before March 2, 2009, to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), FDA, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Electronic comments may be submitted to: <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Identify all submissions to the docket with the following docket number: 2008D-0623.

For additional information about the draft guidance, please contact Dr. Germaine Connolly at FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, 240-276-8331, germaine.connolly@fda.hhs.gov.

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Coalition for State Parks Releases Legislative Talking Points

During the last session of the Texas Legislature, over 200 organizations representing conservation, parks (state and local), hunting, fishing, wildlife, cities, counties and chambers of commerce actively participated in securing increased funding for state and local parks. Combined, these organizations represent millions of Texans who support our natural treasures and outdoor recreation. The legislature responded positively. But, that funding was for only two years and was only a down payment on the 10 year recommendations of the State Parks Advisory Committee.

Current Message:

Strongly support the Texas Parks & Wildlife Legislative Appropriations Request - base request and Exceptional Items. Both are essential to continuing the progress gained in 2007.

Strongly support full funding of the revenues generated by the "Sporting Goods Tax" for the benefit of state and local parks with 94% of the proceeds for state and local parks and 6% for the Texas Historical Commission.

Note: State Comptroller Combs recently certified \$248 million for the 2010-2011 biennium and deposited \$171 million into the state parks account (Fund 64), \$61 million in the local parks account (Fund 467), \$2 million in the Capital Account (Debt Retirement) and \$15 million into the Texas Historical Commission Account.

Strongly support the re-instatement of Rider 27 which encourages parks to benefit from self-generated revenues. In the past, these added revenues played a saving role in park financing.

to get ready for this day. She rode out Spudder, her personal horse- a lovely Paint/Quarter cross, and sat on Hurricane for a long time while her wrangler and two young ladies paraded my favorites; Princess, Dr. Pepper, and Raincloud out, among others.

Then it was noon. It was time. They brought out a team of Belgians first- Rob and Roy, and the auctioneer asked for \$12,000. He didn't get it, but he did get about \$5,000 for the pair. The rest of the driving horses followed, and we were relieved every time one sold. The riding horses were next. Not only did they go high, bidding stayed high the entire time. We'd hold our breath every time an older horse would come through, but even the 24 year old Blackfoot, who likes to trot, did well. My guess is the average sale price was around \$1,000 per horse. A little girl was in tears when she won the bid for the horse she'd ridden when she visited the stables, and then we knew exactly why the bidding was high; folks came out and bought the horses they'd grown up riding.

One of my friends bought Midnight, a gorgeous Percheron cross and another bought the last little old pony brought through - Sweet Pea, who foundered in the past and has Cushings Disease. He'll be a pasture ornament, as well as his 27-ish year old little self should be. Of all the horses, Sweet Pea went for the lowest bid- \$275.

These funds should only be used for their intended purpose: the enhancement of our state and local parks, hunting, fishing, wildlife, kayaking, equestrian trails, and canoeing venues.

Conversely, strongly disapprove of the diversion of "Sporting Goods Tax" funds to other agencies for programs that have little or no relationship to state, local parks or historical sites. In no case should any exceptions to this position be considered until all the needs of the TPWD Legislative Appropriations Request are met.

Note: Hurricane Ike damages are about \$99 million and were not included in the initial request. These will have to be funded separately through general revenues or bonds.

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The hardest part of the day was seeing the horses loaded. It was heartbreaking to witness, and it's a scene I hope I never see again. Most didn't want to load, all were very vocal about leaving their herd mates. But they are going to new homes with folks who really wanted them. We learned there was at least one killer buyer there, but we were there to ensure he went home empty-handed. Apparently, so was everyone else.

Mustang Riding Stables may be closed and the property wiped clean, but the feelings they fostered in their patrons will live on through their horses.

Anna Bryant is an artist & budding writer with a lifelong love of horses. Her work reflects this affection, and gains depth as she gathers hands-on knowledge of these magnificent creatures. Samplings of Anna's artwork may be seen at www.charcoalfilly.com.

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