

Dynasty and Granddar

A Friend Pays it Forward for Those Who Come After

Quarter Horse Paint gelding ~ foaled 1974
Arabian gelding ~ foaled 1982

July 2010, Kathleen M writes

I'd like to post a note of gratitude to this list for all that is done here. I will try to be brief. ;-)

My own horse, Nasty (Dynasty), has one of the original case histories. I think he was the second to be listed. Nasty foundered in Feb of 2000. He was 26, a paint, QH-type horse. My vet and I struggled with a profound founder — 13 degrees rotation in both front feet. About the time we felt we had a handle on it, he foundered again in May of 2001. He did not present as a Cushing's horse, but it was all my vet could think of...we thought about putting him down, but I just couldn't, so we started him on pergolide and I began a web search.

Luckily I found the ECIR Group quickly in June of 2001. Eleanor was here and Robin was still active, Lorna, Barb, Kay, Laurie. I met so many who were ready to help and learn. And we did. There were fewer than 500 members and we were all feeling our way. We learned together about diet and meds. Nasty was part of the Horse Journal field trial of LaminaSaver and featured on the Vita-key website. We struggled with his trim. Eleanor was with us every step of the way.

I made a new friend here in town. She had 4 horses, one of whom was an aging Arab gelding, Granddar. I encouraged her to change the diet and balance to their hay. I suggested running blood work just to get a baseline. She dragged her feet as we all do. She wasn't having any problems, so why bother?

In May of 2005, I had Nasty put down. He was 31. He had a blockage in his bladder and was starting to founder again. Yes, we could have hauled him to Davis. My vet did drain the bladder 3 times. But he was tired. You who have been through this know the look. He had an amazing last day of grazing on green grass in the sunshine of a beautiful spring day. Friends came to say goodbye. He went with grace and dignity as he had lived his whole life.

I looked for ways to “pay it forward”, as Lorna says. I remained on the ECIR forum and offered my help and experience.

May 2005



September 2009



October 2003



Summer 2009





Summer 2008



Summer 2008

PS -- As of the end of May, Kathi has purchased a new horse, a stunning paint horse that we are calling Jack (as in Jumpin' Jack Flash---he's a gas gas gas). Jack and her 22-y.o. MFT Stretch are on a balanced diet with all that is implied: tested hay, balanced minerals, flax, salt. You know the drill. He is 9, so is up to some serious riding and Stretch is going along with it. Jack's weight is coming down to where it should be. Both of the boys have coats that just gleam. It is fun, of course, to be dealing with healthy horses, but the important thing is to keep them that way. The ECIR Group will make that possible.

Kathi took her horses barefoot. I talked her new trimmer's ear off about diet and laminitis. Linda Cowles became an ECIR member and got Pete Ramey to join, too. They have both taken Eleanor's nutrition classes and continue to espouse the cause.

During 2005-2006, Granddar was being funny about his feet and I encouraged Kathi to do the blood work. Turned out he was PPID and IR. And here it was to do again.

I remained on ECIR and paid attention to what was going on. We soaked the hay when it inched up over 10% ESC+starch. We kept an eye on his blood work. He did well. Never foundered. Never showed any sign of laminitis. Kathi swears it is because I was always on her case.



All fall, we were doing 5-6 mile trail rides. Granddar loved it and was always ready to go. In February of this year, he lost his appetite. He had always scarfed down his beet pulp mush. Now he was just picking at it. After a couple of weeks of worry, we ran blood on him and he came back with elevated liver enzymes. We struggled. Eleanor offered suggestions and advice, Lorna offered encouragement, we tried.

At the end of March of 2010, Granddar was put down.. He had just turned 28. He had lost a significant amount of weight and nothing we tried was helping — antibiotics, pain relief, ulcer meds. It was probably pancreatitis or some sort of liver or kidney failure. We did not lose him to Cushing's or laminitis.

So, while this may not sound like a success story, it was. Both of these horses went on well beyond what may have been expected. I have belonged to the ECIR group since the beginning and have an amazing amount of knowledge to share. There are other people here in town that I have been able to either bring to the forum or give information to that has helped as their own stories unfold. My vet has more knowledge than he would otherwise have.

I have to acknowledge and share my gratitude to everyone on ECIR. The moderators and response team do an amazing job fielding questions and dispensing aid and advice. I certainly understand that this is an overwhelming process, but I also know that it can be done. The knowledge that is available here, now, is significantly greater than years ago. I encourage new members to accept what is offered here. It will work! Cherish every day that you have with your horse...as you learn what you need to know to help him/her. You can do this.

With Gratitude to the ECIR Group moderators, response team, and Dr. Kellon.