



Federation of Riding for the Disabled International

May 2011 Newsletter

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**The 2010 Scientific and
Educational Journal
is in the mail!**



Dear Friends of FRDI/HETI,

In March a major catastrophe happened in Japan which not only affected many people but also the animals. Please read the eye witness account of our friend and member Masako Nasata. In her latest e-mail she reports that now, 8 weeks later, life in Tokyo is almost back to normal. However, people in the Northeast are still living in shelters, the nuclear threat is not contained and the situation for the animals is still dire.

While not every emergency is as catastrophic, it is always a good idea to be prepared. Betz Haartz's article offers critical information about how to prepare your farm and center for potential disasters.

Deadlines are approaching fast - May 15 to submit a grant application to HHRF and June 30 for the Call for Papers for the congress in Greece.

The 2010 Scientific and Educational Journal with its new format is in the mail. If you are not a member you can purchase a copy through our office. As always, we appreciate constructive feed back on the journal.

And last but not least, you can now find us on Facebook. Anticipating that our new name will be finalized very shortly we registered under HETI - Horses in Education and Therapy International. Please come and visit and take advantage of this exciting way to communicate

Sincerely yours,

**Scientific and Educational
Journal of Therapeutic Riding
2010**



If you are an Associate or Full member and you did not receive your copy within the next two weeks, please contact the [office](#) to verify your address.



**2012 Congress for
Therapeutic Riding
Athens, Greece
April 24-27, 2012**

[Call for Papers](#)
Please click on the link
above for
information
Deadline to submit

Gisela H. Rhodes
Executive Director

President's Report

Greetings to all FRDI
Members

The major disaster in Japan has affected us all. The enormity of it is almost impossible for most of us to imagine. Like me I know your heartfelt wishes go to all those affected and I am sure we are all helping in whatever way we can.



On a happier note I am very excited about the new format of the 2010 Scientific and Educational Journal. I thank the editor Ann Kern-Godal most sincerely for the excellent professional presentation and draw your attention to her editorial. We look forward to the ongoing change progress of the journal and as always value and encourage your feedback. In addition we would appreciate feedback in the areas of communication and any other ways you would like us to improve the service to you, the members.

Pauline Perry

President

March 11, 2011 Disaster in Japan - by Masako Nasata

On 11th March, about a month ago, Japan was hit by a massive earthquake originating in *Sanriku, Tohoku* area, North-eastern part of Japan. More than thirteen thousand people died, fifteen thousand people are still missing, and

abstracts:
June 30, 2011



Visit the official website at
[2012 Athens Congress](#)

Find us on Facebook 



nearly fifty-three thousand houses were completely destroyed. Moreover, lots of animals lost their lives.

I would like to thank you for all of your support, thoughts and prayers to Japan in this difficult time.

On that morning, we took four ponies to an early development centre for pre-school children, where about fifty infants had first experience on and with ponies. About lunch time, after the successful event, all the people and ponies left there for home. Right after I came back to my room in Tokyo, it started to shake, and the shake got bigger and it lasted for quite a long time. Books and miscellaneous goods went down from a shelf and some plates and glasses were broken. It would have been a disaster if the earthquake had happened during the event, I thought. When I turned on TV, I was shocked to know how awful it struck in the north-eastern district.

There were several ranches for racing horses and riding clubs in that area.

When I knew the serious damages there, some faces and ranches came to my mind, which worried me. Within 10 days after the earthquake, my colleague and I got in contact with them fortunately.

One in Iwate Prefecture mailed me that his family, horses and stables were OK, and electric and water supply just started a week after.

The other in Miyagi, *Tsunami* struck area, was alive with his family but *Tsunami* struck whole of his ranch and most of the horses were lost.

The girl who used to be a volunteer in our therapeutic riding group lost her house and animals due to the *Tsunami* in *Soma, Fukushima*. She has been saving and taking care of horses at risk since 11th March. Ranches along the coast were damaged by the *Tsunami*.

The equestrian network in Japan started to help people and horses in the stricken area by collecting donations and information at first. Then, horse feed was delivered to the stricken area where distribution stagnated, and some ranches in different areas offered to accept horses from the disaster area voluntarily.

Nabekake ranch in *Nasu-shiobara* city which

HETI - Horses in Education and
Therapy International
(formerly FRDI)

www.facebook.com/HETI.international



May 15
Deadline for Grant Application

CONTACT: KC Henry, HHRF
Executive Director, 440.543.8306,
KCHenry@horsesandhumans.org

Horses and Humans Research
Foundation 2011 Call for Proposals

Research Funding Available To
Investigate the Impact of Equine
Assisted Activities

Accepting applications up
to \$50,000

May 15, 2011 Deadline

Chagrin Falls, OH - March 4, 2011
Horses and Humans Research
Foundation (HHRF) invites
proposals to investigate the effects
of horses on humans. The
Foundation's broad research
agenda includes basic research as
well as clinical studies that will
ultimately impact physical and
mental health and the quality of
life for participants in equine-
assisted activities/therapies.

Grants are awarded on a
competitive basis, taking into
account scientific merit, scientific
and clinical significance and

can be a gate city to the North-eastern district
played the role of a carrying feed terminal.
Donated feed was collected there, and it
was delivered to the stricken area. The
owner of the ranch expressed that he would
like to support as many horses as possible
either for racing, riding or pleasure.

When I visited that ranch two weeks after the
earthquake, 21 horses were in quarantine
stables. They were evacuated from two
different ranches in *Fukushima* within 20-
50km of the nuclear power plant.

Not only the earthquake and *Tsunami* but the
nuclear accident afflicted people and animals.
Two owners who were brothers and evacuated
with their horses and dogs talked about how
they reacted after the disaster...

Their stables were strong enough not to get
any serious damage in the earthquake on
March 11th, but they started to think about
evacuation when they learned to know about
the terrible damages in the larger area.

They could think about the risk of the nuclear
power station as they grew up there and
learned about it. They quickly decided to move
their horses and collect horse lorries and
petrol with friends' help.

Mares, stallions, and geldings had to be in the
same lorry unusually. They were much more
quiet than usual. Probably they knew about
the emergency situation.

They saved *Tsunami* victim horses, too, from
rubbles while hearing in the sirens of the
Tsunami warning. One of the horses called
Happiness Love, a 26 year old retired
competition horse, was saved with serious
injuries 2 days after the *Tsunami* struck, but
it is trying to overcome the problems. What a
strong vitality this horse has got!

There are horses struck by earthquake or
Tsunami while some were saved.

There are still horses within the 20-30km
range of the nuclear power plant while a lot of
them were moved to safer places.

Even in a difficult situation, people try to
think what they can do for their equine
friends.

It will take some more years for Japan to
overcome the devastation of this disaster.

I just believe we will take the step forward
and during this process, horses will play a
precious role for adults and children with
broken heart.

the Foundation. Preference will be given to investigators with solid credentials and research experience. The average grant award is \$50,000 for up to a one year period.

Now available at the HHRF website:

- Informational 'webinar' for prospective grant applicants. This informational webinar is a pre-recorded event which focuses on the HHRF research grant application process and lasts about one hour. Click here to listen.

- All application materials
- Copies of previously funded applications
- Feedback from the scientific review committee about previously submitted applications

Researchers may contact the foundation office for assistance finding local programs that provide equine-assisted activities/therapies, for possible collaborations.

Additional links:

- [HHRF Board and Committees](#)
- [DONATE](#)

For more information on supporting this research or becoming a donor, contact KC Henry, Executive Director, KCHenry@horsesandhumans.org.

#

Horses and Humans Research Foundation is dedicated to facilitating universal understanding and appreciation of the significant influence of horses on humans. The foundations goal is to promote research that will 1) Benefit special program participants by improving equine assisted activity best practices; 2) Educate the public, including professional affiliates, regarding the value and benefits of horses and equine assisted activities.

Quick Links



I pray for all the people and animals who have been affected and are suffering from the earthquake/Tsunami and nuclear accident.

Masako Nakata



Pray for Japan

If you would like to support the rescue effort please visit [The Retired Horse Association](#)

Disaster Preparedness for Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy Centers

By Betz Haartz Betz is a retired Physical Therapist. She provided riding lessons, Hippotherapy and Consulting services to EAA&T Centers and served NARHA as workshop faculty, committee member and as Board of Director member. She trained for Disasters with United Animal Nations as an Emergency Animal Rescue Service Volunteer.

Disaster preparedness for Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy (EAA&T) Centers is complex because of the many variables that exist at these Centers. For example, EAA&T Centers serve the public, people with disabilities and have large animals on-site. Depending on the time of day or situation there may be many staff members, volunteers and participants at the center. At other times, there may be few if any staff or

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Order your flowers through [Petals Network](#) and a portion of your purchase goes toward FRDI's fundraising efforts.



Learn how to make a rope halter and support FRDI at the same time.
For more information, [click here](#).

The Mary Selway - Swift Development Fund

This fund was established from a bequest to FRDI from the estate of the late Mary Selway-Swift.

Mary was involved in the field of therapeutic riding over many years - in the United Kingdom and in South-East Asia (specifically in Hong Kong and Singapore). It was Mary's wish that this fund be used to promote and improve the educational opportunities, training and quality of riding

volunteers present. When preparing for disasters, it is necessary to prepare for two types of disasters; those that require staying in place and those that necessitate evacuation.

This brief article can only provide minimum information, thus, it is the author's mission to start you thinking about and researching how to prepare your center for disasters.

A local and/or regional Emergency Management Office (EMO) is the first place to turn to for help in creating emergency plans.

The EMO may have a different name in your area, so seek out its equivalent wherever you live. Police or Fire officials should be able to direct you to your local EMO.

The local EMO needs to know about your center. They need to know that you serve the general public and a population that may be disabled. They also need to know that you have large animals at your site. These factors should grab their attention, because your center's needs should be taken into consideration as the EMO creates *their* plan for the community. Your center's needs will require greater attention than the typical horse farm since you serve special human populations. If possible, you will require advance warning of a pending disaster and extra time and assistance if there needs to be an evacuation. If you are in a rural location, that is likely to add to the complexity and challenge in the event of an emergency. You may want to invite the EMO planners to your site so they can better understand the situation at hand.

The local EMO can help you with your emergency planning. They can provide you with information on types of disasters that are unique to your location. They can also help identify

therapy through the development of therapeutic riding programs internationally. She was particularly concerned for those in developing countries or in places which have limited access to training opportunities.

Any payments from the fund will be made annually on 7 OCTOBER on the recommendation of the Planning Committee of the FRDI Executive Committee.

Please contact the [FRDI office](#) for an application.

Upcoming Conferences

June 3-5, 2011

CanTRA's

2011 National Conference

Basics & Beyond

Prince Edward Island, CA

Location: The Joyriders T.R.A.,
Stanhope, Prince Edward Island, CA

Information: ctra@golden.net

Phone: (519) 767-0700

Contact: Louise Niven

July 14-17, 2011

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION FOR
THERAPEUTIC RIDING

International Seminar for

Therapeutic riding

LEVEL I

The first part of a three-Level course, which will be completed within 12 to 18 months in Athens.

Location : Olympic Equestrian Centre,
Athens, Greece. (next to the airport)

Information : www.elethip.gr

special preparations that should be made for each type of disaster. The EMO can provide lists of what your center should keep on-hand in case of a disaster. Your local EMO can assist with determining the best methods for providing adequate warning in the event of an emergency. The EMO can help you plan for emergencies that require evacuation or staying in your location. An EMO will probably have many useful suggestions.

Review your plan with the EMO on an annual basis. Remain in contact with the EMO at least once a year. Utilize this opportunity to remind them that your center exists, has large animals on site, and serves the public as well as people with disabilities. Annual communication with the EMO will provide updates about current emergency information. The center's emergency plan should be reviewed annually and new information can be incorporated into revised plans.

On Your Own

Back up planning in addition to the EMO's assistance is vital. While your EMO will certainly try to help you in the moment of crisis, the reality is that they are going to be swamped, no matter how efficient they are. It is a good idea to devise some independent alternatives to any plan, just in case you are without their immediate support.

Institute a buddy system. Seek out a similar center or farm with whom to work, pool resources with and provide mutual support. Consider developing a relationship with a buddy that's not in the immediate area, in order to reduce the chances of having to grapple with the same disaster at the same time. The unique location and special features of your area will help determine how far away this buddy should be. Closer buddies can offer more logistical support

Phone : (0030) 6977 20 11 86
Contact : Irene kapari
Email : info@elethip.gr

August 25 -28, 2011
**Interactive Vaulting Workshop &
Certification**

Location: Riding to the Top, Windham,
Maine, USA
Contact: Kate Davis
McKelvy kmckelvy@ridingtothetop.org

September 28- 30, 2011
**V Brazilian Congress of
Equotherapy and
II Iberian-American Congress of
Equotherapy**

Official languages: Portuguese and
Spanish
Location: João Pessoa city, state of
Paraíba, Northeast Brazil, Brazil
Information:
www.Equoterapia.org.br/congresso.
Email: congresso@equoterapia.org.br



Calendar Updates

Remember to send your
important dates - workshops,
trainings, competition etc. in
English to the office.

We will promptly publish them

in the way of shared resources,
transportation and labor. At the very
least, a buddy relationship can help by
providing an evacuation
destination. **Review your buddy
system annually** in order to reassert
your commitment to support each other.

Involve a Veterinarian. Your vet
may or may not have thoughts on
emergencies, but it can be worth asking
them if they have any suggestions as you
prepare, review and revise your plan. Ask
the veterinarian to provide two weeks
supply of medications that are regularly
used at any given time. This will allow for
the rotation of supplies to ensure that
they remain fresh. Ask the veterinarian
how to obtain more medication
immediately following a disaster.

More alternatives. Make note of
other possible evacuation sites. Print out
and keep handy the directions for two
routes to each evacuation site. Such
evacuation sites might include
fairgrounds, racetracks, equine centers
and horse or livestock events
facilities. However, remember that these
facilities will fill rapidly if a disaster is
wide-spread.

Rehearsal. Writing a plan is
challenging enough. Practice can be even
more overwhelming. However, time
spent now in making sure your horses will
load on the rigs and that your staff,
volunteers and participants know what is
expected of them can be the keys to
success. Please practice and practice
frequently!

Additional Suggestions

**Documentation, records and
paperwork.** Being able to positively
identify animals and prove that you own
them may be necessary during an
emergency. In addition to this, copies of
current health records such as medial

on the website!

histories, including vaccinations or tests that are mandated on a local or national level are vital. If the authorities request or require that tests or vaccinations be duplicated the documentation may be all that's between you and unnecessary medical interventions.

Assemble a folder with copies of information on your animals and keep this up-to-date and in a location where you will be sure to take it with you when you

evacuate. The following is a list of items that might be useful. Be sure to keep this information current and review the file annually.

Color photos of each animal from all four sides.

Photos of animals with their owners or farm staff to help verify proof of ownership.

Current vaccination and blood test documentation per your local and/or national requirements.

Proof of ownership such as bill of sale, registration papers, passport, DNA documentation, tattoo information, microchip records, and/or brand registration.

Temporary Identification. In a disaster, your contact information may change along with your location. At times there is no alternative but to release animals into the care of someone else or they may have to be released "into the wild". While the latter is the last thing anyone wants to think of, there might be the need to just let them go and evacuate yourself. The following is a list of ways to temporarily "tag" your horses so you can be reunited at a later date.

Write your name, address, phone number(s), emergency contacts and email address

- Use weather-proof tags and braid them into manes. At the very least, this information can be written on surveyor's tape. Keep a supply on hand.

- *Write on the animal's body* using a livestock marking crayon.
- Use clippers to *shave the information into the animal's coat.*
- Use paint or markers to write on the hooves. Keep in mind that this might wear off or become covered with mud.

Other thoughts.

When writing your plan, be sure to incorporate instructions for times when the center is active as well as when it may be closed. It may be helpful to train a few loyal volunteers to assist staff in meeting participants' as well as horses' needs. These situations require great thought and creative planning.

Leather halters will not melt in a fire and will break if they become caught on an object.

You and a buddy center can share in the purchase of expensive equipment in order to lighten the financial load. For example, a portable generator can help with getting water to the horses.

Disaster preparation is a living entity. Once preparations have been developed, keep them alive through updating, review and practice. Hosting the general public, providing services for people with disabilities and caring for large animals creates situations that mandate a greater responsibility in disaster response. In those scary moments when a disaster is happening, you and those who count on you will appreciate and take comfort from the time and effort you made to research, create and maintain the best possible disaster plan.

I would like to thank the United Animal Nations Emergency Animal Rescue Service whose material was used as a foundation for this article (www.uan.org).

We welcome your feedback!

Share your information, stories and photos
with us!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Gisela Rhodes, E.D.

Federation of Riding for the Disabled

A.I.S.B.L.

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