

Hunt Night is Rich in Tradition and Pageantry

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show has kept the history of riding to hounds in America alive by hosting Hunt Night each year. Originally, the three major indoor horse shows, Harrisburg, Washington and Madison Square Garden, featured Hunt Nights to bring the various hunts together for camaraderie and competition.



The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is now the only remaining showcase for field hunters and riders at the indoor horse shows. In 2008, 14 teams representing 10 Hunts traveled to Harrisburg, some covering more than 800 miles to participate in this unique night of history and tradition.

There are classes for ladies, gentlemen, teams and hounds and to top off the night, the North



American Foxhunting Horn Blowing Championship, a contest among the country's top Huntsmen. The tradition and pageantry of the night is absolutely spellbinding!

Foxhunting is a union of humans and animals in the beauty of nature's setting. The hounds pursue the quarry across plains or through



woods, fields, creeks, marshes and over rock walls and fences. A crescendo of sounds and sights that thrill you beyond imagination play out in front of you and your horse until the fox goes to ground or hounds lose the scent and the hunt is over.

Foxhunting has existed in North America since Colonial days. Much of what little is recorded about early hunting comes from the diaries of George Washington. Washington's diaries are laced with frequent references to foxhunts near the nation's capital.

On one occasion while Congress was in session, hounds ran near the capital. Many Congressmen ran outside to watch hounds and some jumped on their horses and joined the chase.



Hunt Night at the PNHS is full of pageantry and history and is something that should not be missed.

PNHS Vendors Are Something Special

Some of the best shopping in the nation can be found at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show. Many people save up all year to spend their money with the myriad vendors that come to Harrisburg.

Since the horse show comes just before the holidays, the variety of gift options at the shops makes the show the perfect place to find the right gift for anyone on your list.

Over 70 vendors will line the two concourse levels at the show complex, and not only is there the traditional jewelry, clothing and

equestrian themed gifts, there are many shops and services that are unique to this show.

One of the special vendors is Gil's Sharp Shop, which will service and sharpen your clippers and blades, just in time for the winter season. Many exhibitors and spectators bring all their clipping equipment to Harrisburg just to see Gil and have him make sure that everything is in good working order.

Nancy Baldwin of Windland Farms brings a barn full of furniture to the show each year. Each piece is hand painted and unique. She is

a spectacular artist and can personalize and customize any of her pieces so that you will have a one of a kind item that has special significance to you.

When you talk about custom made items, none can compare with Der Dau Custom Boots and Shoes. The variety of leather colors and finishes that can be made into fashion footwear is astounding.

This year, bring your shopping list and take advantage of the outstanding shopping experience at the horse show.

Terrier Racing—Even The Dogs Get To Show At PNHS

One of the many featured events at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, and one of the most fun to watch, is the Terrier Races.

Racing is perhaps the most exciting of all the terrier trial events. There are two types of races: flat and hurdles, also known as Steeplechase. A track is a straight course with a starting box at one end and a stack of straw or hay bales with a hole in the middle at the other.

A lure, usually a piece of scented fur, is attached to a piece of string that is pulled along by a lure machine. The dogs are muzzled for safety, theirs and the catchers. The first dog to cross the finish line, which is behind the bales at the entry to the catch pen, is the winner.

That is not always the dog that was first as they entered the hole in the hay bales!

There are quite a few people necessary to run a proper Terrier Race. The **Racing Judge** stands at the finish line marking the order of finish; the judge's decision is final. The **Racing Steward** organizes class entries into heats; assigns color collars; checks muzzles for proper type and fit; observes races for slipped muzzles or fighting terriers; assists in the selection process for starting box position. The **Racing Starter** makes sure dogs are properly loaded into the starting gate; opens the gate; signals lure operator to start the lure/race; help observe activity in front of the straw bales (i.e., fighting, catching lure). The **Dog**

Catchers are six able-bodied people to catch the dogs in the catch area; gloves are recommended.

Entries must cross the finish line completely to place in a race. The finish line is the backside of the barrier. First to the hole is not necessarily first through the hole.

How to Train Your Terrier to Race

You can start the training of your terrier in your own back yard. The idea is to get them used to



chasing a lure so that when they are in a real race, they will know what to do. You can use the following items to perform the training:

- String and Lure - Tie a piece of fur (a sock will work also) to a 20 foot piece of string
- Racing Muzzle - to get your terrier used to wearing one
- Tease the terrier with the fur (to get its attention)
- Run away from your terrier with the lure

trailing behind you

- Let your terrier catch the fur so that it will be a satisfying experience for it. Repeat these steps several times.
- Hurdles - Build simple hurdles from inexpensive PVC piping. Drag the lure over the hurdle to get your terrier to jump. It works!
- The best practice for racing is to actually run your terrier in a real race (i.e., with other terriers, muzzles, spectators, etc). Attend a fun day for good practice.
- Start your terrier racing at a young age (4 months). Don't let them race over large hurdles since their joints are still growing!
- Don't let your terrier overheat.

Racing Tips

Practice makes perfect - rarely does a first time racing terrier do well. Normally they either sit in the starting box, play with their muzzle, or run in the wrong direction. Don't quit after the first failure. Jack Russells are smart and catch on quickly.

Allow your terrier to watch some of the races to get excited. After awhile, you probably won't have to do this since your terrier will know when it's race time.

Come watch all the excitement and maybe give it a try. You never know, there might be another Champion in your barn — the terrier variety.

More Opportunities To Show at Harrisburg

The 64th annual Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS) is expanding the size of classes in four popular hunter divisions.

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is increasing the approximate number of entries that it will accept in the Pony Hunter and Junior Hunter divisions from 27 to 30. It will also increase the approximate number of entries it will accept in the First Year Green Hunter division from 35 to 40, and in the Second Year Green Hunter division from 30 to 35.

"We are thrilled to increase the number of qualifying horses and riders in these divisions," said PNHS President Liz Shorb. "Competing at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show is a major accomplishment in a rider's career, and it brings us great pleasure to allow more riders to have that experience."

In addition to the increase in qualified entries, the PNHS is also adding a new Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" division, which will invite twenty-five horses to compete. This division is newly recognized by the USEF, and due to

its great popularity, the horse show is adding it to the schedule.

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show will also be increasing prize money in some of its hunter divisions.

"Our hunter riders are sure to be excited about these changes to our hunter divisions," said Shorb. "The hunter divisions add a sense of grace and beauty to the PNHS, and we are proud to recognize that contribution."

PNHS In Partnership with Kiwanis Youth Foundation

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is extremely proud of its history as a not-for-profit event.

Since 1946, thanks to proceeds from the show, more than \$1.4 million has been donated to worthy programs across the nation.

The Harrisburg Kiwanis Youth Foundation has been a beneficiary of the show since the beginning. The Youth Foundation donates its proceeds to numerous programs that serve the youth in South Central Pennsylvania. Kiwanis volunteers also assist the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in various aspects prior to and during the show.

Proceeds from the horse show are split between the Pennsylvania National Horse Show Foundation and the Harrisburg Kiwanis Youth Foundation. Last year Kiwanis grants allocations went to the following worthy organizations in the Harrisburg area:

- Salvation Army
- West Shore YMCA
- York YWCA
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Dauphin County 4-H
- Dauphin County FFA
- HOBY
- Neighborhood Center
- American Red Cross (Susq. Valley)
- Big Brothers/Sisters
- Boy Scouts -- Keystone Area
- Little League Baseball (Hbg)
- Second Mile
- Foundation for Free Enterprise
- Harrisburg Youth Symphony
- ARC of Dauphin County
- Channels Food Rescue
- Sickle Cell Council
- Nativity School

Queen of Speed — Laura Chapot

The old adage "saving the best for last" was true as Laura Chapot of Neshanic Station, NJ and Bradberry, owned by Harold Vogel, were the last horse and rider combination to enter the ring; a minute later they exited with the win in the \$25,000 NAL Open Jumper Speed Final at the 2008 Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

Chapot has been on top of the standings in the NAL for three consecutive years, but had previously been denied the win in the Finals. Last year she changed that statistic. "It was so exciting to actually win this class", said a beaming Chapot. "It seems like I have been second a dozen times. The horse went great - - it was one of those rides where everything works out the way you want it to."

Michel Vaillancourt's twisting course of 15 jumping efforts took its toll on many of the country's top riders. Three-time Olympian Anne Kursinski was the first rider to post a clear round aboard Lorenzo, a rangy bay gelding owned by Market Street, Inc., in a time of 63.385 seconds. Callan Solem riding VDL

Torlando for his owners the Torlando Group was clear over the jumps but had a time fault, completing the course in 74.272. The crowd had to wait until the last ride to see another



fault free performance.

"The course ended up being a lot tougher than I expected it to be", Chapot offered. "When you are trying to go fast and clean it is not so easy and everything comes up so quickly indoors. The faults on course were coming in all different places. People were trying to make the inside cuts, a lot of bending lines with lots of

opportunity to change the lines just by jumping in at the wrong angle. Many had trouble in the triple because they were trying to make the inside cut after fence 8 which made the triple come up so short and you came in with less power, and in the triple you had vertical to oxer to oxer and it is a very challenging scope test to jump that oxer to oxer combination."

As the order of go was determined by the point standings going into the Final, Chapot, as the point leader was last. While explaining the course to the crowd, her father, Frank Chapot, joked that as the class progressed the times would get faster and to root for his daughter who just might leave a stride out to the final fence. The crowd did cheer as Chapot crossed the timers in 60.211 seconds with every fence still standing and without leaving out a stride to the final oxer. "I could have very easily done that on this horse" said Chapot, "But I knew what Anne had done and I knew what I had to do to beat her. My horse is very fast and it was a major advantage going last. If I had to go first I would have had to go a lot faster."