

Horses come to college

BY JULIANNA FELLOWS
Staff Reporter

Most students come to school with school supplies and residence hall decorations, but a few Truman State students also bring something else: their horses.

Sophomore Kylee Short is one Truman student who boards and trains her own horse, Dorothy, at the University Farm. Boarding horses at the farm keeps them close and allows riders to develop and maintain relationships with their animals, Short said.

Having a relationship with a horse is important, and workers at the University Farm support this special bond and care for the horses accordingly, Short said. Trying to practice four to five times a week, Short knows her horse is always being cared for by responsible farm staff on days where she cannot make it to the farm, she said.

Last year, Short boarded her horse at Wind Riff Farm, about five minutes from campus, she said. In addition, Short said she rode as a part of Truman's Equestrian Team at the farm. This year, she chose to board her horse at the University Farm because the high quality of care the farm staff provides for her horses.

Short said her main reason for bringing Dorothy to the University Farm was the mare's age.

"I want to be a horse trainer, and if you give a three-year-old a break you are probably going to digress your progress," she said.

Although about five students board their own horses on the property, the University Farm provides horses for other students of Equine Science and Equestrian Team members to use during classes, practices and competitions, Short said.

"The whole point of the Equestrian Team is to be able to ride every horse, not just one horse," Short said.

Working with your own horse daily has many benefits because it allows the rider to develop a special relationship with the horse, she said.

Senior Christine Tosie, Equestrian Team president, said she chose to bring Sebastian, her 13-year-old Thoroughbred gelding — a castrated male horse — to the University Farm in order to continue her training with him.

"It is rewarding to work with one

horse on a specific problem and see improvements, which is difficult to do on the school horses because a variety of riders are riding them," Tosie said.

However, instead of riding their own personal horses at shows, Equestrian Team members randomly draw horses' names, Short said.

For the Stock Show, a western horse show which will occur Sept. 29 to 30 at the University Farm, the Equestrian Team will be using three other horses belonging to Short. Short said she hopes she will be able to ride one of her horses, though the selection will be random. These other horses do not stay at the farm year-round, but are boarded at the University Farm until after the show and are taken care of by Short and her coach, Emily Costello, Short said.

Taking care of one horse requires a lot of hard work, let alone four, Short said. However, she said the University Farm is a great place to do this because she has such a good relationship with Costello.

"Emily is amazing," Short said. "She can pinpoint every little thing you are doing, and can tell you how to change it, but she does it in a way that's not offensive. She is a mentor, someone to look up to."

There are four agriculture science majors living at the farm and they take care of all the chores, including caring for Short's horse Dorothy because she is boarded full-time.

During the morning, the horses are fed hay or grain, and then are let out into a pasture to graze. Owners can come during the day and work with their horses, and at some point during the day, farm staff will clean the stall. At about 4 p.m., the horses are brought into the barn again to receive feed and water.

Sophomore Alexandra Stephenson said she also feels comfortable boarding her horse at the University Farm. She brought her one-year-old horse, Xenon, to the farm about one month ago. Stephenson said she will train with him this year with the hope of competing with him next year.

Xenon has never been handled or trained before, so Stephenson is teaching him the basics to get him mentally and physically prepared for next year. Although he is only one, Stephenson said he



Calli Lowry/Index

Sophomore Kylee Short lets her horse, Dorothy, graze outside Sept. 9 at the University Farm. Short brought Dorothy to the University farm to keep up with the young horse's training.

is doing well and were it not for his intelligence, she wouldn't have taken the risk of owning a young horse. Training such a young horse requires extensive knowledge, but Stephenson said Costello always is there to help.

"I trust Emily handling my horse, because some people aren't experienced enough to handle a one-year-old, and she does a really good job with him,"

Stephenson said.

One of the reasons Stephenson boards at the farm is because she feels at ease working with staff at Truman.

"Back in my hometown, I had some issues with a horse I had before, and they didn't take care of my horse," Stephenson said. "The horse got a cut on its leg and it ended up not being ride-able. Truman is the only place that I am

going to trust my horse being safe. They have a really good facility."

For Stephenson, riding horses is a good way to balance school and fun.

"It's definitely a stress reliever for me," she said. "The Equestrian Team is the nicest group of people that you will ever meet in your life. We are all basically a family out there. We help each other out."

Surplus auction offers discounts

BY CHRIS BROWN
Staff Reporter

The Truman State Surplus Auctions, which take place every three months at the Truman State Surplus and Grounds Facility on La Harpe Street, help the University get rid of outdated excess property while providing residents and students with affordable used furniture and electronics, said Harold Reeves, Truman State Surplus Coordinator.

Reeves, who has worked for the Truman Physical Plant for almost 22 years, said these auctions sell goods at heavily discounted prices, from excess electronics and furniture to vehicles, bicycles and jewelry.

Reeves said an auction typically is run by two auctioneers — art professor Robert Jones and local auctioneer Jerry McMain, who do the auctioneering free of charge in exchange for the opportunity to bid on items at the auction.

Graduate student Bibodh Thapa has

attended 12 surplus auctions. He said he has worked as a campus mover for the Physical Plant for almost four years and he frequently attends the auctions to find an assortment of items.

"I have purchased lots of furniture from surplus auctions because it's really cheap," Thapa said.

However, not all those who attend the auctions are searching for furniture deals or items for personal use, Reeves said. Some who show up to bid actually make money re-selling the items they purchase at the auctions, he said.

"We have some repeat customers who sell stuff on eBay," he said.

The used furniture and electronics sold at the auctions come from various departments, Thapa said. When a department doesn't need a piece of furniture, computer, file cabinet or other miscellaneous items, they fill out a work order for campus movers to pick it up and bring it to the surplus shed. Throughout time, these surplus items accumulate and



Chris Brown/Index

Electronics, furniture and other miscellaneous items line the Truman State surplus shed. The next surplus auction will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 22.

when the shed is full, the University has an auction to clear out space and make way for more surplus items, Thapa said.

As a college student working with a low budget, Thapa said the surplus auction is a way to find cheap furniture and electronics because people can bid on items and get a good deal.

Junior Lydia Buck is another student who has taken advantage of the auctions.

"A good portion of the furniture in my apartment at the moment is surplus-bought stuff," she said. "My first microwave was two dollars that I bought at the surplus auction."

While Truman students take advantage of the auctions, students often are outnumbered by local residents at the auction, Buck said.

"It does start at nine o'clock on a Saturday morning, so a lot of students are not all that enticed to come," she said.

In addition to being a potential source of cheap furniture and other supplies for students, all proceeds from the auctions go back to Truman, so it would be beneficial to Truman if more students showed up, Buck said.

Truman students and local residents aren't the only ones who can benefit from the auctions. Reeves said bidders from neighboring areas and, occasionally, out of state come to Kirksville to participate and take advantage of low prices for used goods.

"We have people come from Iowa, down in Columbia, we even got some coming from Kansas City now," Reeves said.

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