

## Drum Beat

IF YOU WANT  
THE TRUE  
MEASURE OF A  
MAN, LOOK AT  
HIS HORSES AND  
DOGS. . . IT WILL  
SPEAK VOLUMES

*We desperately NEED you! This is a registry run ENTIRELY by volunteers with an overwhelming LOVE for the Drum Horse. We NEED other like minded individuals worldwide to help the registry. We need volunteers to join committees, meet online monthly, have your ideas and suggestions form the growth of the Drum Horse Worldwide! IDHADrum-horse@yahoo.com if you can help.*

### To Clip Or Not To Clip, THAT is the Question!

By Rebecca McKeever

One of the many question I am asked repeatedly is about clipping - just how do we present our Drums at shows? Drums should be presented in a clean, neat manner. Chin and ear tufts should be clean cut to give the Drum a more elegant appearance. The whiskers on the muzzle are a different matter. I would never consider trimming muzzle hair on any of our horses that lived outside 24/7. For those that show, however, I would have to consider the type of show venue. If the show was going by the new IDHA rules for Drums, clipping is optional. If the show is running under their own rules and Drums are judged with other breeds, clipping a muzzle might be the difference in a win or a place. That is a decision owners need to decide. As for body clipping ...yes! Clip away if you need to! Drums can get very hairy and will take forever to dry in the winter months. Of course they must be blanketed for the rest of the winter, but they are much easier to keep clean. There are many different types of



clips: hunter clip, trace clip, blanket clip etc. As a general rule, don't clip your horse's legs below the elbow - no matter the clipping pattern. Bridle paths are another issue. Some of our Drums, especially the F1's have tons of mane. This makes keeping a bridle on safely sometimes impossible without overly tightening the throat latch and impeding airflow. Some resort to clipping a small bridle path. But cutting any mane or forelock hair goes against our nature as a "hairy horse enthusiast". An answer to this is a



piece of equipment I used when driving my pair of hairy Haflinger ponies was something called a gullet strap. It's a simple leather strap that connect the throat latch to the noseband. This can be tightened down so that the bridle cannot slip over the ears. It is unobtrusive and easy to fit and use. The gullet strap can be ordered from Driving Essen-

tials: <http://www.drivingessentials.com>. Better safe than sorry. The pictures illustrate our stallion, Avalon's King Arthur sporting his bridle and gullet strap. Let's be safe out there!



Above: Bridle with Gullet Strap—hard to remove.



Above: Bridle without Gullet Strap, easy to slide off!