

## REINS IN MOTION NEWS

SPRING 2020



**W**elcome to the first edition of the **Reins in Motion** quarterly newsletter. We are so excited to be able to bring you regular updates from the **Reins in Motion Foundation**. As this is a new venture for the team at *Reins* we would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please tell us what you think and give us suggestions of what to include by emailing us at [info@reinsinmotionca.com](mailto:info@reinsinmotionca.com)

### THE SPRING EDITION FEATURED HORSE IS.....FAB!

**F**abergé or just Fab as he is known around the barn joined the *Reins* herd in December 2018, when he retired from his old job. He is 22 years old and is a beautiful chestnut Swedish Warm Blood. At just over 17HH Fab is the tallest horse at *Reins*. He might be big but he is a real sweetheart and loves to get kisses and a few scratches on the neck. Fab loves being around children and has become a firm favorite with everyone since his arrival at the barn.

Before joining *Reins* Fab lived in Southern California and used to compete in Equitation classes with his owner Dominique. Fab was very proud when he won the title of Champion Youth Equitation Horse with Dominique at Thermal, a show in SoCal. He has won many championships and kept many riders safe and happy. He always travels well and does his job no matter who is on him.

Fab has done a fair bit of travelling in his time, he was born in Sweden on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1998 and was hired onto the Swedish Dressage Team! He was "fired" at age 4<sup>1/2</sup> and was sold to a Dressage barn in Malibu before finding his way to Dominique and then *Reins*. His dressage past makes him sometimes think he is a bit fancy and show off a little bit while he is trotting around the arena. Have a look next time you see someone riding him and look out for the spring in his step!



Familjen Grönkvists hingst FABERGÉ e Navarino var bästa svenskfödda 4-åring. Jan Brink satt i sadeln. (foto: Krister Lindh)  
2004 Olympic Rider



We love you Fab!



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## FEATURED VOLUNTEER – MISS MARCIA

**M** eet Miss Marcia, one of our Tuesday Volunteers who can be seen helping out around the barn and at Camp Arroyo, operated by The Taylor Foundation. Marcia is one of our horse handlers and side walkers. Marcia loves seeing the excitement and smiles



of the kids at *Reins* as they accomplish new skills. Of course, she also LOVES those four-legged friends that give so much of their heart to us and their nuzzling too! They all have such unique personalities and qualities, but if forced to pick a favorite Marcia is a little smitten by one of our newer horses, Julio. *'He's a big guy, loves affection and is so handsome! Love those big brown eyes.'* Marcia started volunteering at *Reins* after spotting a post on a Volunteer website to work with children with special needs using horses as a teaching aid. Having owned horses in the past, including in Montana and a racehorse at Golden Gate Fields, Marcia knew this would be the perfect match for her! (We think it is too 😊) *'I wanted to give back to the community, love kids and have loved horses since I was a young child. I think I have learned*

*more about myself and gotten back so much more than I have given these last 7 years.'* In her spare time Marcia likes to refurbish vintage furniture, enjoys remodeling her home, and heading to the snow for some skiing. *'Reins is a very important part of my life. I am so blessed to be able to participate in such a wonderful program and to have met such amazing people who have become my friends.'*

Inspired by Marcia's story and want to get involved with **Reins in Motion**? You don't need to know anything about horses, we will teach you if you want to learn but if not, there are plenty of other volunteer roles. Email us at [info@reinsinmotionca.com](mailto:info@reinsinmotionca.com) and check out the website <https://www.reinsinmotionca.com/volunteer>

**W**hile you were all Sheltering-in-Place I have been busy with many jobs around the barn. We have sorted and labelled all the grooming boxes so that each horse now has their own brushes. We have put a new saddle rack up in the tack room for the English saddles. We have also been working with all of the horses to make sure they are fit and healthy to return to work. Busy, busy busy....

Don't forget to check out the **Reins in Motion** Facebook Page for news on your favorite horses.

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Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Moonie - 15<sup>th</sup> May

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### THE SPRING HORSE FACT

Horses are measured in hands. Each Hand is the equivalent of 4 inches. Expressed HH. So Fab is 4x17 hands = 68 inches or 17HH.

This is an ancient measurement based on the breadth of an adult human hand.

Horses are measured from the ground to the withers, which are the part of the horse just in front of where your saddle goes.

### WHAT IS A SIDE-WALKER?

**S**ide-walkers are a very important part of the volunteer team at *Reins* as their whole focus is on keeping the rider safe. While the horse handler is focused on ensuring the horse does his job properly and safely, the side-walker is alert to what the rider is doing. It is easy for some of our riders to get distracted by their surroundings and

losing concentration on horseback is never a good plan. Side-walkers assist instructors to get riders focus back on the riding lesson.

They also help our non-independent riders stay in the saddle by holding on in a way that maximizes rider safety but is not uncomfortable for the rider. Side-walkers have to be reasonably fit, if the horse is trotting, they need to run alongside to keep hold of the rider and there is lots of walking, you'll easily get your 10,000 steps in!

When a rider uses the ramp to mount, there is lots of team work, involving up to 2 side-walkers and an instructor all making sure the rider mounts safely. The horse handler needs to make sure they stay close enough to the ramp all the way to the bottom so the poor side-walker doesn't need to jump off early to stay with their rider – a bit of agility helps here!

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## FUNDRAISING NEWS

**W**e have decided not to run our annual fundraiser this year as COVID-19 is changing how we interact with each other and has introduced uncertainty, making it difficult to plan. Our priority at *Reins* is to do our bit to help everyone stay safe and healthy.

There are, however, other ways you can support **Reins in Motion** this year.

### 1) Set Reins in Motion as your Amazon Smile Charity

AmazonSmile has the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com, but when you shop on *AmazonSmile*, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase to a charity of your choice. To set **Reins in Motion** as your charity go to 'your account' and 'lists' and select 'AmazonSmile Charity Lists' and use the search facility to find **Reins in Motion**. <https://smile.amazon.com/>

### 2) Purchase something off our Amazon Wish List

We also have a wish list on Amazon so you can purchase products for us that we need that will be sent directly to us, so all you need do is click that button!

### 3) Sponsor a Horse!

We all have our favorites and there are different levels of sponsorship so choose the one that works for you. <https://www.reinsinmotionca.com/sponsor>

- ★ for \$10 a month you can become a 'Horse' Fan Club Member
- ★ for \$25 a month you can become a 'Horse' Jockey Club Member
- ★ for \$50 a month you can become a 'Horse' Rodeo Club Member
- ★ for \$100 a month or an annual donation of \$1000 you can become a 'Horse' Winners Circle Member

### 4) Just a one-off donation.

That would be lovely for us too - <https://www.reinsinmotionca.com/donate>

### 5) Pennies for Ponies

Keep getting a pocket full of pennies? Why not save them up in a jar and then when the jar is full donate them to *Reins*.