

# Horsing Around

A little fetish called Pony Play proves that some women never get over their first love: Trigger.

What a girl will do for a cube of sugar.

**W**omen orgasm when I give them shoulder rides," a gentleman said to me in a bar a few months ago. "Wanna try?" Now that's what you call a pickup line. So began my research into

"pony play," one of the fastest-growing sexual subcultures in the world.

Pony players have equestrian backgrounds, elaborate fantasies they need to trot out or a fetish for "animal transformation." Having unleashed their inner stallion, mare, wild Appaloosa, thoroughbred or high-stepping filly, they pair off with "riders" and "trainers" who handle them in the same manner as a real horse. Activities fall into three main arenas: show pony, cart pony and pony rides of the two-legged (shoulder or piggyback) or four-legged (down-on-your-knee-pads) variety.

"Most little girls like to play at being a horse,"

says pony girl Penny Birch, author of *Penny in Harness*. "Some of us don't grow out of it." Birch runs The Birch Bottoms and Lovitt Pony Girl Club, a 50-member, invite-only club for British housewives, lawyers and professionals. At the BB&L "showing off is the name of the game. We meet once a month, weather permitting. The principal activity is pony-girl play, carting—with our three-seater carriage—racing, training, dressage and what we call Canadian log pulling. This year, we're hoping to set up a fetish fox hunt with a girl as the fox."

You might be wondering what's in the tea, but Cleopatra allegedly liked to straddle the servants and it seems Aristotle also enjoyed giving the ladies a ride. Now, thanks in part to a loosening of sexual reins, glossy magazines like *Equus Eroticus*, and hundreds of Internet sites, pony play is hot-to-trot in all classes of society. The Stampede in San Francisco has over 300 members while The Equestrian Club in New York puts together Broadway-style pony-play performances. Equine enthusiasts also corral at summer pony camp where they compete in a Best of Show-style Erotic Thoroughbreds Event.

"Ponies are headstrong yet obedient," says Pet of Rogue Pony Stables. "It's exhilarating to feel your hooves beating against the ground, to whinny in that someone special's ear," says Pet, who grew up around horses and "adores leather." Ponies do not speak and adhere to an equine diet (carrots, apples, sugar cubes) and, when pulling a pony overnighter, find accommodation to be of the hay-stall variety. For some ponies, E143