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Category: Books- Recommended reading

Subcategory: Hunter /Jumper books

Tip: Horses, by J. Warren Evans

HORSES, by J. Warren Evans DVM. Published by W.H. Freeman & Company, New York, NY This book covers all the necessary content of horse ownership. Dr. Evans has written the book in lay terms in a manner that is enjoyable to read and to understand what is written. J. Warren Evans is currently a Professor of Animal Science at Texas A & M University, and for 15 years was a Professor at University of California, Davis. His wealth of experience with horses and in teaching students comes through in his ability to clearly and accurately portray each of his topics. This book is not a Training Manual. Training is covered in only the basic approach to horses, and this book does not cover Training, proper Riding Styles or criteria, but he does cover how to properly handle a horse. Anyone wanting depth on Training, Riding Styles or requirements of a particular discipline, needs to review other books. Beginning with the Introduction, Dr. Evans discuss' ownership obligations, costs, facilities, care, careers, hobby/business, types of insurances. In selecting a horse, he discuss' seeking help and advise, locating a prospective horse, evaluation, cost in perspective to breed, sex, amount of training, age, size, color, conformation, market values, multiple ownerships, gaits, and defects in gaits, temperment and several other considerations for the perspective buyer of those first few horses. He then presents an enviable chapter on the evaluations of the physical and mental characteristics of your prospects. A brief discussion on various breeds, their original purpose, and their current popularity and why. A brief discussion on the registrations, pedigrees, and concerns. A very good section on barn/facility construction with references made for boarding, loafing, breeding, and a discussion on the uses for exercise and showing or pleasure trail riding. An excellent section on feeds and feeding. With so much information, most people will not use, but will be so much the better for knowing or at least reading about all the "proven's" of feeds and feeding. A section on Training, Conditioning, Trailering. Dr. Evans then discuss' grooming of the horse, his feet; with again enough information to last the lay person an entire lifetime! He has an excellent section on First Aid, how to recognize illness, and what to do after you have called your Veterinarian. This gives you confidence while you wait! He provides information about parasites and diseases. A section on Riding, Driving, Showing, Racing, Rodeo, Trail, Sport Events, Equine Assisted Therapy written as an introduction to the activity, as the Breed section is an introduction to the various breeds of horses. Dr. Evan's chapters on Breeding, Stallion and Mare care, Pre/Post Foal care, are quite informative, and intensive, providing a great foundation for anyone that fancies attempting that avenue of Horsemanship. His final chapters are dedicated to pursuing horses as a Business Venture, and he covers contracts, legal issues, insurances (again), records, accounting, staff & their selection, interstate and international guidelines. This book is an EXCELLENT REFERENCE to anyone that is and is not in horses as a permanent venture. The information is excellent, abundant, and so well

portrayed that it makes the reading and the comprehension so very easy and enjoyable.

Category: Breeds of Horses

Subcategory: Cold Bloods

Tip: The Shire Horse - Contact

Contact: The American Shire Horse Association at: www.shirehorse.org

Tip: The Shire Horse - Geldings

Geldings should conform to stallion standards, with the exception of the thick, masculine neck.

Tip: The Shire Horse - Height

Height: Minimum 16.2 hands and upwards. Average 17.1 hands.

Subcategory: Colored Breeds

Tip: Definition of Paint Markings

Each Paint Horse has a particular combination of white and any color of the equine spectrum: black, bay, brown, chestnut, dun, grullo, sorrel, palomino, buckskin, gray or roan. Markings can be any shape or size, and located virtually anywhere on the Paint's body. Although Paints come in a variety of colors with different markings, there are only three specific coat patterns: overo, tobiano and tovero.

Tip: Stock Type of Pinto

The STOCK TYPE Pinto is an animal suitable for (1) western events; (2) Hunter Seat events; and (3) a variety of other events. The Stock Type Pinto should display the conformation associated with Quarter Horse breeding. Generally, double-registered Paints (APHA) will be registered in this division.

Subcategory: Pony/Miniatures

Tip: The Hackney Pony Movement

The action of a pony differs from that of a horse in being more brisk but other wise the main features are similar.

Subcategory: Warm Bloods

Tip: The Dutch Warmblood Horse

Today in Holland there are three distinct types of horses bred. The most numerous and internationally important is the "Rijpaardtype" or Riding Horse Type a distinctly modern, elegant sport horse bred for athleticism, good character and soundness. International jumpers, dressage horses, combined driving, and vaulting horses are selected from this category.

Category: English Tack, Clothing, Riding/Tips/Info

Subcategory: English Riding Tips

Tip: Correcting Balancing With Your Hands

To correct riding by balancing the upper body with the hands on the mouth of the horse: practise exercises on a lunge line. Riding with no hands, performing these exercises. Fold hands across the chest; hold arms straight in the air above the head; hold arms straight out to the sides; place arms behind the back (will really help to keep the rider behind the motion~!); place hands on hips; turn body 45 degrees and swing arms in rotation....reverse and turn the opposite angle; put hands on back of head; extend arms straight ahead at shoulder height. Practise these at the walk, then trot, then canter. Each gait will improve the upper body strength as you gradually progress the gait. Once you can do these easily, then add first one, then two, then three, finally four trotting poles; eventually progressing to cavalletti's or small 1' to 2' jumps; still on the lunge line.

Category: Famous Quotations

Subcategory: Famous Quotations-general

Tip: More On Use of The Mind While Riding

"Use your head for something besides a hat rack." Garland Bradshaw.

Tip: Proper Head Carriage of The Rider

"Keep your chin up, you should already know what color your horse is." Jimmy Williams.

Tip: Riding With Your Mind As Well

"You don't just ride on the horse's back, you must also ride his mind." Marty Mueller.

Category: Feeds, Supplements & Feeding

Subcategory: Vitamins/Supplements

Tip: Echinacea & Horses

Echinacea stimulates immunities by acting as an anti-viral, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory.

Category: General

Subcategory: Driving

Tip: Driving - Use of The Whip

In the Fine Harness class, the whip is used to increase the impulsion from the horse's rear quarters; hopefully with the ultimate goal of causing the horse to drop and drive in the rear quarters, propelling the front end of the horse up and increasing the motion-elevation-animation of the overall look. The Driver or "Whip" never hits the horse with the reins, but impulsion is always made by either a simple "cluck" or a light tap on the hip with the buggy whip.

Tip: Types of Driving

Driving can be for fun, pleasure, racing or showing. In Showing, the classes are Cross Country, Pleasure, Show, Fine Harness or Park.

Subcategory: General-general

Tip: B4 U Buy A Horse

Before you buy, research the disciplines that you really want to try out. Take lots of lessons. Compete on lesson/lease horses. THEN take along a trusted coach, trainer, farrier, Vet and find the horse with the temperament that suits you, with the temperament, talent & ability that suits the discipline that you want to pursue with that horse!

Tip: Horses Vision

Horses see either with both eyes (binocular vision) OR with one or the other eye (monocular vision). When a horse is looking at you remember that NO HORSE can see the immediate three feet in front of it, and not the immediate three feet behind it.

Verbally warn the horse of your approach if in these two "blind" areas, and always approach & touch the shoulder area first!

Subcategory: Horse Trailers

Tip: How To Load A Horse

G.F. (Andy) Anderson, DVM, who operates Equine Veterinary Associates in Broken Arrow, Okla., presented an effective technique of loading problem horses into trailers. With the use of a video and humorously delivered anecdotes, he explained to the listeners the necessary steps to take so that a horse does not learn how "not" to load. Some very simple tools are required, Anderson said. They include a halter and soft lead rope—sometimes a chain shank should be available—a horse trailer in good repair, a a lunge whip or pole six to seven feet in length with a plastic bag taped to the end, and, "most importantly, a positive, patient attitude." The goal, he said, is to encourage the horse to make positive choices to load, and to discourage any attempts to escape or evade loading. The plastic bag, he explained, is used to aggravate or annoy the horse until he reaches a point where he seeks the haven of the trailer to get away from the annoyance. The bag is not used to strike, whip, or beat a horse, merely to cause a slight unpleasantness (sound and touch) that the horse would rather avoid. However, he cautioned that the aggravation should be STOPPED the moment the horse demonstrates even the slightest indication that it wants to load. Some of these signs are lowering of the head toward the trailer floor and pointing the ears forward. Anderson told his listeners it is at this point that many horse owners make a classic error. If the horse lowers his head to sniff at the trailer, they immediately jerk it up in an attempt to pull the horse into the trailer. "I never pull on a horse or push on him," Anderson said, "because I don't want him ever to find out that he can out-pull and out-push me." Patience is required with this approach because a horse normally will exhaust all of its evasive options before entering the trailer. One option might be to run backward. When that happens, Anderson advised, make the horse back up much farther and faster than he intended until the horse realizes that the "running backward option" is not one to be repeated. If the horse turns sideways to the trailer, don't lead him away; rather, aggravate him with the lunge whip and plastic bag until he is once again properly aligned. Anderson also said he seldom uses his voice except to say "good boy" if the horse makes a positive move. He also doesn't jerk, yank, or put pressure on the lead rope except to point the horse's head in the right direction gently. Once the horse steps into the trailer, he said, allow him to stand there as long as or little as he wants. If he wants to back out, don't resist. Nor should the rear door be immediately closed or the butt bar slammed into place when the horse does load. "If you do that," he said, "you have confirmed the horse's worst fears about being inside that trailer." At this point, back him out quietly and lead him away from the trailer, then reload him using the same procedure. Don't be disappointed if the second loading lesson is more difficult than the first. After he loads and stands quietly the second time, quit for the day and you will rarely have future problems. It is highly important, Anderson said, to reward positive

behavior by petting and praising the horse. Negative behavior is answered with annoyance and aggravation. Some horses will learn to load, then won't back out of a trailer. First, Anderson said, one must look at unloading from the horse's perspective. In most cases, the horse can't see behind himself and is being asked to step out into "space." The horse doesn't know if he is going to step down into space for one foot or a hundred feet. Anderson's solution at this point is, if possible, to allow the horse to turn around and walk out. After doing this repeatedly, he said, most horses will no longer resist backing out. However, if they do, he recommended teaching them to drive and back in long lines in a training pen. The lines can then be used to encourage the horse to back from a trailer. Anderson concluded with these words: "I have loaded hundreds of horses without a single injury to horses or people. This method may require more time the first few times a horse is loaded, but it will save a lot of time over a lifetime. Many hard-to-load horses can be retrained in less than an hour, but some require longer. Most remain trouble-free afterward, so the experience is a wise investment."

Subcategory: SAFETY

Tip: Fire Extinguishers

2) Fire Extinguishers that are up to date on servicing and that are conveniently located in easy to access spots. Nothing worse than having an electrical or container fire, and no one knowing where the extinguishers are located.

Tip: Horse & Owner Records

9) All Horse and Owner records kept locked in a humanly accessible area in the case of emergency. In the event of having to call next of kin, Veterinarians, Farriers or whomever, keep a record of the owner and emergency contacts photocopied in the barn in a fire proof box that is securely locked away.

Category: Glossary of Terms

Subcategory: Colors

Tip: Gray or grey

Gray is a mixture of white and any other color of hair. A gray is born solid- or almost solid-colored and gets lighter or greyer with age and as more hair sheds out and grows.

Subcategory: Glossary of Terms-general

Tip: Bounce

A Bounce is when two or more obstacles are consecutive with no chance for the horse to take a stride between. Used in training for horse/rider to learn eye for distance, balance, strengthening upper body, and developing lower leg security.

Category: Grooming and Shoeing

Subcategory: Grooming

Tip: Grooming For Trophy/Medal Shows

There is no alternative in this life that substitutes for a daily full and complete brushing with a curry, then a stiff bristle brush, then a soft body/face brush and finally with a towel finish that can be coated with a fly spray. Supplements to the diet will help good grooming, but nothing will replace it in the overall look of your horse. Remember time spent with your horse that is not "performance" oriented, but is TLC, is valued tremendously by your horse, and can be rewarded by your horse by his performances in the ring for you.

Subcategory: Grooming and Shoeing-general

Tip: Braiding Tails For Winter!

First collect the necessary items: show sheen, old nylon stockings, electrician's tape, tail bag, scissors. Clean & wash & rinse & condition the tail. Spin until Dry. Spray thoroughly with Show Sheen. Using only your fingers, comb the tail making sure that all tangles are completely worked out of the tail. Once fully dry you can begin to braid! Take a pair of pantyhose (preferably full of runs~!). Place the panty section at the top of the braid. Use the legs as you would a section of braid. Divide the tail in half, or thirds if it is exceptionally thick. Using the nylon sections, braid in from top to bottom the nylon sections in with the hair sections of the tail. Once finished braiding to the very end of the tail, secure the bottom of the braid with electrician's tape. Take the bottom of the braid and fold upwards towards the back of the horse, pulling the end through the braid about 1" below the dock. Repeat this feed through process until the braided section is about 12" long. It is fine to continue to feed through at the same place 1" below the dock. Once completed, you may have two loops overtop of each other, or you may have five loops, it will all depend on the length of your horse's tail! Now take electrician's tape and secure the tail loops at the top about 2" below the top loop through the base of the dock, and then about 2" above the bottom of the loops. Pull the panty section at the top of the tail down over the braids & secure at the bottom with electrician's tape. Slide a Tail Bag (preferably nylon) over the top of the nyloned braid & run the tab through the top of the braid, below the dock but above your braid loops. Taking electrician's tape, secure the top of the bag over the tab, making sure that it won't pull off! During the winter, using this method, I leave the tail wrapped up as long as possible. If your horse is getting the

bag very, very dirty, then repeat the entire process as often as is necessary. Each time you take the braid down, replace the pantyhose with a clean (but runned up) pair~!
Happy Tails To YOU!

Tip: Cleaning An Opened Hoof Abscess

Soak the foot in HOT epsom salts & water, to encourage drainage & disinfecting the opening. Apply a germicide to kill the bacteria (preventing further infection) and dry out the wound opening with packing materials (such as DRY J Cloths). Pack with a poulticing material to assist in drainage. Change at least daily after the first 3/4 days. Have the Farrier apply a Pad between the hoof & shoe (if required or necessary).

Tip: Prevention of Hoof Corns

Prevention is in proper & regular shoeing. Shoes should be re-set every 6 - 8 weeks, unless wearing therapeutic shoes, which the Veterinarian will advise the Farrier & you as to the frequency needed for re-setting.

Tip: Wide Webbed Shoes

Wide Webbed Shoes are for the rear feet of Reining Horses.

Category: Horse Care

Subcategory: Internal Systems

Tip: The Skin Functions

The skin is tough and elastic. The Skin is a sensory organ. The Skin will vary in thickness in different areas of the body according to the need for protection. Skin should always feel supple and should move freely over the structure in which it covers. The outer layer of skin (epidermis) is constantly dying and changing, and being replaced by new cells. The dead cells is the reason being why we groom horses regularly. Functions of the skin are: a) To protect the tissues/organs beneath from weather, infection, minor injury, damage from abrasion. b)to inform the brain of outside conditions. The Skin has many nerve endings enabling the horse to feel pain, touch, pressure, heat, cold. c)stabilizes body heat by warming and cooling itself.

Category: Horse Grooming Tips

Subcategory: Horse Grooming Tips

Tip: Grooming Checklist

Before you get to work beautifying your equine, gather all of your horse grooming supplies. Keep in mind that for health reasons you will need separate horse grooming kit for each animal—this will lessen the risk of spreading disease and infection. It's also a good idea to keep all supplies in one location so that you're not scouring the barn or stable in search of every tool (a tote can be quite helpful). Here is a list of grooming supplies that you will need to properly maintain your horse: • Rubber currycomb • Metal shedding blade • Soft brush • Grooming mitt • Grooming sponge • Soft body brush • Soft face brush • Dandy brush • Body brush • Plastic comb • Detangler • Mane Tamer • Bot knife • Sunscreen • Hoof pick with brush • Hoof dressing • Fly repellent • Shine spray

Category: Horse Medical Supply Tips

Subcategory: Horse Medical Supply Tips

Tip: Healthy Hooves for a Happy Horse

A horse's hooves are amazingly resilient, however, titanium they are not. A hoof is actually a living organism and quite capable of being damaged and stressed. It's useful to apply a hoof moisturizing cream to the hooves to help keep them healthy. However, if your horse does develop cracked, dry hooves try applying Vaseline with a paintbrush (this also a great rain repellent). If your horse is continually suffering with dry, brittle hooves, has cracked hooves that won't keep shoes, or chronically suffers from sore feet, it's a great idea to invest in horse supplements for hooves. *Make sure that any hoof supplement you select contains Biotin and Methionine. Biotin is essential to all connective tissue and Methionine is an amino acid that is crucial in achieving healthy hooves.

Category: Horse Tack Store Tips

Subcategory: Horse Tack Store Tips

Tip: Get in Gear!

Riding is a great hobby but not one that you should dive into without careful preparation. Before you ride you will need to purchase the right gear to make your experience safe and enjoyable—equine tack stores are a great place purchase the essentials. Here is a guide to dressing for a horseback riding adventure: • You will need to put on pants with straight legs that are not baggy or extremely tight (riding breeches, straight-legged jeans, or jodhpurs). • If you are in a warmer climate, wear a light, breathable shirt (cotton is a great choice). If you are in a warmer climate think layers. Wear a long

sleeved shirt and slip a sweatshirt or jacket over it. • ALWAYS wear socks. • ALWAYS wear a riding helmet. • Riding gloves can be useful but they aren't necessary. If you do choose to wear them, however, prevent slippage by choosing some with leather palms.

Category: Jumping

Subcategory: Advanced

Tip: Testing Scope

Do YOU know where your horse should take off to clear an obstacle? Do you know where your horse is most comfortable in his take off? Are you able to adjust our horse's take off point? All of these demonstrate scope or an eye for distance.

Category: Questions Submitted

Subcategory: Injuries or Diseases

Tip: Virus' and Bacterias'

I need two diseases that are caused by Viruses, and three diseases that are caused by bacteria. Can you give me some answers, and could you explain the difference? Thank you! Answer: Virus Infections: Cold, similar to colds as received by Humans. Symptoms are: slight nasal (and sometimes eye discharge) slight temperature, off feed, dull coat appearance, listless - no energy, spends time just staring, quick breathe or shivering muscles. Requires Veterinarian to determine if antibiotics are necessary, keep out of draughts, blanket, provide lots of fresh, clean water frequently to encourage the horse to drink lots. Equine Influenza, which is highly contagious & infectious. If you suspect this, immediately isolate the horse, and call the Veterinarian. Symptoms include: sudden rise in temperature, dry & shallow cough, exhaustion, depression, mucous discharge from nose (can be clear & runny), loss of appetite, inflammation of eyes, gums and other mucous membranes. Needs regular vaccination schedule. Strangles, which is very highly contagious and infectious! Symptoms include: sharp rise in temperature, profuse mucous nasal discharge, formation of abscess in the area under the head inbetween the jowels or cheek area, signs of great depression & distress, off feed almost completely, swallowing with great difficulty, throat tense & enlarged. Isolate the horse, and provide a change of clothing to attend to horse, with gloves, and separate cleaning utensils such as wheelbarrow, rakes, forks, shovels, and then wash hands thoroughly immediately before changing clothing, and then after changing clothing & using utensils. A very highly contagious and infectious viral disease!!! Bacterial Infections: Tetanus, enters the body through a wound from off of the ground. Any horse that is not inoculated is at risk. Symptoms: general stiffness, high temperature, standing in a

symulated "park" stance, eye membranes extending over the eyeball (as in a second eyelid), in the very last stages, the jaws become locked shut. Botulism, is a bacterial infection and the most potent toxic to humans. Horse death rate is 70/90%. Symptoms are: flaccid paralysis of the musculature system, especially of the tail, tongue, weakened gait, decreased tone of the eyelid, decreased bowel, seating, shaking forelegs, colic, bloating. Once horses start lying down, the heart & respiratory rates increase dramatically. Death follows respiratory arrest. Contacted by ingestion of the bacteria through either contaminated feed or water. Feed contaminated by dead birds or the stool of contaminated birds. Anthrax, contamination by ingestion or from a biting insect. Horses can contact from overgrazed pastures, or after flooding that spreads the spores. Symptoms from ingestion include: colic, enteritis, septicemia. Symptoms from insects include: fever, swelling in an edemic manner of the throat, lower chest, abdomen, prepuce and mammary areas. Can be prevented by vaccination. COPD...Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is this what you were referring to with COPD in your questions under grain? Hope this helps, Mary.

Category: Riding Instruction and coaching

Subcategory: Coaching or Instructing-general

Tip: Questions To Ask Choosing A Coach #6

6) What do they expect from their students: a) at a lesson, b) between lessons, c) frequency of lessons, d) progress of lesson level, e) goals.

Subcategory: Walk Trot Tips

Tip: Keep Your Heels Down

The greatest lesson that any Rider can ever learn is to Keep Your Heels Down. Practice--Practice--Practice. You really just have to keep your mind on your heels until it becomes your physical nature to have them so dropped that it is excessive. It helps if you can have someone lunge you on a horse, so that you do not have to hold the reins, or steer. Practice riding without reins. At the walk, then trot, then canter, then trot over poles on ground, canter over poles on ground, and eventually trot--then canter over small jumps (try to not go over 2 feet 6 inch fences) on a lunge line or without using your reins. While you are riding, put your hands on your waist; then on your shoulders, then head, then strait up in the air over head, then strait out from the shoulder, then you can become very fancy, and touch opposite hip side or knee side, and eventually the toe of the opposite leg. To maintain position doing these exericies, YOU MUST KEEP YOUR HEELS DOWN, or you will pop out of the saddle and always be fighting your position and balance.

Category: Showing

Subcategory: Showing Western

Tip: Showing In Western Trail

Trail is the test of a Horse's ability to trust the Rider & obey when faced with new, strange or frightening obstacles or situations.

Category: Shows-Trade Fairs/Schools-Colleges-Camps

Subcategory: Camps-USA/Canada

Tip: Horseback Riding Vacations Western USA/Canada

FITS Equestrian Solvang, CA 800-666-3487 Muir Trail Secluded Ranch Lakeshore, CA
Groups of up to 20 persons By The Week ONLY! Shea's Ricochet Ridge Ranch Ft.
Bragg, CA (home of Alfred Hitchcock's "BIRDS") 707-964-7669 Don Donnelly Gold
Canyon Ranch Gold Canyon, AZ www.dondonnelly.com 602-982-7822 Horse Trailering
On The Road Southern Pines, NC 800-316-8863 North American Horse Travel Guide
Boulder, CO 800-366-0600 Nationwide Overnight Stabling Directory Arkansas City, KS
316-442-8131 Hidden Creek Ranch Harrison, ID 800-446-DUDE 3 Bars Ranch
Cranbrook, BC, CANADA (in the Rockies) 250-426-5230 Sundance Ranch Caters to
Families ONLY! Ashcroft, BC, CANADA 250-453-2422 Warner Guiding & Outfitting
Banff, AB, CANADA (in the Rockies) 403-762-4551 Horseback Adventures Brule, AB,
CANADA 403-865-4777 Boundary Ranch Kananaskis Village, AB, CANADA
403-591-7171

Category: Tack

Subcategory: English Tack

Tip: Dressage Double Bridles/Bits

In Dressage, the Double Bridle is used. The curb controls the flexion and the collection of the horse. The snaffle helps to elevate and laterally balance the horse, as well as assist suppleness.

Tip: Proper Removal of A Bridle With No Curb/Lip Attachments

To Properly remove a bridle with no curb or lip chain or attachments: Have a halter with

lead rope attached on the near arm. Tie the lead rope around the horse's neck lower than the reins. Place reins at the mid neck length as though for riding. Loop the near arm through the reins. Undo the noseband, then the throatlatch. Take a hold of the crown with far hand. As the bridle comes off of the front of the horse's face, allow the horse to release the bit from his mouth before taking the bit away from the horse. Once the bit is clear/free, then let the bridle slide down the far arm until elbow level. Use the near, and far hand to draw the halter over the horse's head, and fasten on the near side. Slide the reins over the horse's head, and completely remove. Undo the lead rope from the horse's neck, and either cross tie, tether tie, or lead to.....

Subcategory: Western Tack

Tip: Western Cutting Saddles

Western Cutting Saddles are very low and flat in the seat, with a higher, squarer cantle and swells. This is to help the Rider stay seated.

Category: Tips About Horse Books

Subcategory: Tips About Horse Books

Tip: Heal Your Horse Yourself?

We can't control when our animals get sick but we can control how we handle the situation. Generally, a horse owner will have a regular veterinarian that tends to their horse but calling a veterinarian isn't always convenient—or affordable. Horses can suffer from a variety of illnesses and diseases that are actually easily remedied or even prevented. There are great horse care books available that walk you through the process of administering remedies and medications. In addition, they can get you up to speed on cutting-edge remedies that you may not have known about. Best of all, they can help you decide when you should call your veterinarian and when you can handle the problem yourself. In addition to books, there are also books available that can help you identify the different ailments and illnesses that affect your (much like a “Physician's Reference”). Just because you can identify an illness, however, does not mean that you don't have to call the vet. If a condition appears serious, it probably is—don't wait until it is too late.

Tip: Horse Dental Care

If your horse is constantly tossing his head, moving stiffly in a certain direction, riding unsteadily, or bending his neck you probably have a problem on your hands. Some horses exhibit these behaviors as a form of defiance. However, all of these behaviors are common actions of a horse suffering from some kind of dental ailment. You may

need to get to the root of the problem—the horse's mouth. In addition, watch to see if he is dropping his feed (this is also a sign of a tooth-related problem). If teeth have recently become pointed and are stabbing into the animal's cheek he may respond by performing any of the aforementioned actions. A horse's immediate reaction to the pain is to move his head in a manner that prevents the teeth from cutting into the now painful area of his mouth. Pick up one of the many horse care books on teeth that are available to help guide you through the prevention, care, and treatment of dental problems.

Category: Tips About Horse Supplies

Subcategory: Tips About Horse Supplies

Tip: Put an End to Your Horse's Summertime Blues

Summer is the time for some fun in the sun! The days are longer, the temperature is warmer and everyone is in a better mood. Everyone that is, except for your turned out horses. Extreme heat and humidity can really take a toll on your horses as they graze in the pasture. Additionally, flies tend to be more plentiful in the summer months, making for an uncomfortable situation for those equines. You can, however, help them feel more at ease. Try setting up some garden sprinklers on the outskirts of the pasture—horses love this. Before long you will notice that your horses will gather near the areas where the sprinklers are set up and enjoy the pleasant mist of water. The best part is that the flies hate the constant mist of water and will basically fade out of the picture. It is in your horses better interest, however, to use a good fly spray for horses as well—the horses will, of course, venture out of the sprinkler mist on occasion.

Category: Training

Subcategory: Problems and Vices

Tip: Solutions For The Horse Prone To Buck

Horses that are prone to buck should be either: a) free lunged with protective boots prior to riding; b) lunged with a reinless bridle, protective boots, and no saddle to allow the horses' back the flexibility to release the tension as it desires to do by bucking. This also doesn't allow the horse's mind to comprehend that they CAN buck with a saddle on!

Subcategory: Training - Intermediate

Tip: Impulsion, Does.....

Impulsion creates/does: creates spring, creating scope. elasticity in stride, relaxation

throughout. lightness, lengthening of stride. required to clear fences. Improper or lack of will eventually interfere with ability to clear fences.

Tip: Using Behind The Motion To Create Extension

Open wide the hip angle so that the upper body actually leans backward behind the vertical. As your seat bones push deep into the saddle, you should feel the horse extending his stride as long as your hands remain soft on the contact. Although this is totally unacceptable in the Show Ring, it can be a useful tool in training~!

Category: Vetting & Horse Care Products

Subcategory: Vetting & Horse Care Products-general

Tip: Basics of a Prepurchase Exam

You should seek the help of a vet because they are trained to evaluate horses on a variety of levels. Not only can they look at a horse's general health and pinpoint lamenesses, they can also look at conformation issues and help gauge the horse's ability to excel in a discipline. A pre-purchase exam is a collection of information and data. There is no pass or fail. Every horse has faults; the exam is a process by which they are uncovered for the prospective buyer to evaluate. The Examination It normally takes a veterinarian about an hour to do a pre-purchase exam. Most veterinarians have a checklist that they go through when they do the exam. Some of the key areas they look at include:

- # Heart and lungs. Your veterinarian will listen to the horse's heart and lungs using a stethoscope to make sure the heart's beating normally and to determine whether the horse's lungs are clear or not. Many healthy horses have heart murmurs, though sorting out an "athletic" murmur from one that could indicate heart disease is not always easy.
- # Musculoskeletal system. Your vet will palpate and perform flexion tests to carefully check each leg for any soundness issues. If your veterinarian has any doubts about the soundness of the horse's legs, X-ray films may be in order.
- # Teeth. Your veterinarian will look at the appearance, shape and degree of wear and tear on the horse's teeth. If there's a question as to the horse's age, your veterinarian can determine the approximate age of the horse by examining his teeth.
- # Nose and throat. The nose and throat are examined to make sure that they're clean and free of discharge or growths.
- # Ears. The ears are checked over to make sure that they're free of lice, mites or other small bugs and don't have an excessive buildup of earwax or foul discharge.
- # Eyes. An ophthalmoscope is used to examine the horse's eyes for any cloudiness or other abnormality.
- # Skin. Your veterinarian runs his hands all over the horse's body and legs, searching for swellings, cuts, lumps or scars. If the horse has had an injury in the past, the veterinarian might be able to tell by examining the horse's skin.

Tip: Joint Therapy

Hyaluronic Acid directly injected into the joint lubricates tissues reducing the friction & alleviating the pain.

Tip: Leather or Plastic Pads

Leather Pads, are a natural fibre. They are better for long or extended useage. They are the preferred pad. Easier for the farrier to shape to the hoof and are more forgiving, if not quite so fitted! Being natural, the hoof doesn't collect moisture as readily. Plastic Pads, are man made non breathable materials. These type of pads are better for short periods where surfaces are rougher, and wear is greater. Not as highly recommended for recuperation of any hoof problems, except where damage could be continued or increased without a pad protection. Being man made material, they have a tendency to collect moisture more readily within the sole/frog of the hoof area. Pads are used for protection of the sole and hoof; Extension of the hoof; To even up two hoofs, either in the front or back; To adjust the movement or gait of a horse.

Category: Western Tack Tips

Subcategory: Western Tack Tips

Tip: Western Style Riding

Western style riding is inclusive of trail riding, competitions (rodeo, barrel racing, pole bending) and show classes like reining and pleasure. Western riding is often thought of as a less formal style of riding than English riding. Western horse moves can differ greatly from those taught to English style trained horses. For example, a competitive Western horse will be taught to do a roll-back. Additionally, there's a good chance a Western horse will be taught to do reining where he slides to a stop—an English style horse will not be trained to do these things. A Western horse will additionally be taught to neck rein (moving in whichever direction the rider indicates by applying rein pressure to the neck). And, as you can imagine, Western apparel differs greatly from English apparel—you wouldn't wear the same thing in an English jumping competition as you would in a rodeo!