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Read more on page 4.



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Hello friends! I hope all of you have been doing well and getting in some riding time even with all this summer heat.

In this issue we are highlighting our friends at the The Kansas Reining Horse Association. KRHA will be hosting this Sunflower Slide Show, find out all about it on page 4.

Once again the Cowboys For Cops Parade is back in Grove, Missouri! (See story on page 9 and sign up to participate.)

The health and safety of our horses are so important and this issue has a some great information on the health and safety of your horse(s). For example, Frank Buchman talks about a horses water needs on page 10 and *Ashley Purdin talks about tying up our horse on page 12.*

Our Better Horses family appreciates all the supporters. If you are interested in advertising with Better Horses, whether its radio, email, newspaper or TV; we are here to help you grow your business and get you out into Equine world!

Let me know if there is anything myself or Better Horses can do for you. Keep your eyes and heart focused on Jesus Christ Our Savior. Believe me, it is amazing on what HE can do for you.

Happy Trails & God Bless!



Ernie Rodina

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Relationships and Intimacy

& Many More!

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Who is ready to see some Reining?

The Kansas Reining Horse Association is gearing up to host the annual Sunflower Slide show from September 16th-19th at Domer Arena in Topeka, Kansas!

The Kansas Reining Horse Association is an affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association. This year I was honored to be elected President of this great association. I have been an NRHA member for 30 years and have been blessed to be in

the horse industry my whole life. We moved to the great state of Kansas in 2003 where I found my current reining horse family that welcomed me with open arms. KRHA was established in 1986 and many founding members, including Past President Brent Wright,

Ernie Rodina, and Art Canright, continue to lead us today. These individuals bring a rich history and lifelong dedication to our great organization.

The purpose of the KRHA is to promote and encourage public interest in agriculture and ranching through reining horse shows and programs, and to support the development of improved breeding of reining horses. So, the question is what is Reining? Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse within the confines of a show arena. In NRHA competition, contestants are required to run a pre-selected, approved pattern. Each pattern includes small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, roll backs over the hocks, 360-degree spins done in place, and exciting sliding stops that are the hallmark of the reining horse.

There are multiple divisions of competition offered at the upcoming Sunflower Slide show in Topeka, Kansas from September 16-19, 2022. This year we are excited to offer \$24,000 in added prize money to our show. We will be showcasing our wonderful futurity horses on Saturday afternoon and are very excited to offer our Nonprofessional and Rookie exhibitors a chance to compete in the Run for a Million show in Las Vegas in 2023. I would encourage everyone to come watch these magnificent animals and their dedicated riders who guide them around in an artful display of horsemanship. This year we are also thrilled to offer a beautiful Superior Saddlery Saddle worth \$6,000 up for raffle.



For more information about the show, our saddle raffle, and wonderful sponsors, please visit our website at KANSASREINING.ORG. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like more information, please reach out at SunflowerslideKRHA@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook at Kansas Reining Horse Association for all upcoming events in your area. Please come and see this amazing event that is part of our incredible horse culture in the Midwest. I hope to see you in September!

Susan Tullock
KRHA President



Is Your Horse Ready for a Cowboy Challenge?

How to prepare your horse with cattle.

Written by: Better Horses and Matt Jobe at the C Bar J Ranch

An introduction to cattle in the Flint Hills of Kansas while competing in “The Cowboy Challenge”.

Think of a horse and rider herding cattle across the plains, and your mind immediately conjures up the American cowboy. To simulate the old west, the Bar U Ranch invited 15 amateur cowboys to the second annual four-day “Cowboy Competition” with the winner receiving this year’s “Top Hand” award. Rex Buchman at the Bar U and Matt Jobe at the C Bar J ranch judged the event.

Those of us who enjoy riding might never have an occasion to emulate a cowboy, but have you ever wondered just what your horse would do in the middle of the Flint Hills of Kansas with free roaming cattle? It could be a fun experience, or it could spook your horse. Like many aspects of training,

it comes down to how you introduce your horse to a new situation.

Below are experiences and “Matt” tips provided during the four-day experience.

Day One: “Training for the Obstacles”

Arriving west of Strong City, the first reaction once arriving to the camp site was, “I should have practiced more”. The first day of competition began with the natural obstacle course along deep rivers and wide-open land. Confidence was shaken when two of the 15 cowboys got bucked off during the race.

Tip: Horses that have spent too much time in the arena suffer from their world being so “small” that the slightest change could set them off into a flight or fight spiral leaving their

owners afraid to try anything new. And horses that have spent all of their time outside and have never been in a barn or seen any obstacles can surprisingly have a similar reaction to the environmental change.

It is crucial, as the owner, that you get a solid understanding of what your horse is and is not comfortable with and what confidence holes your horse might have. When your horse gives you trouble and becomes afraid or defensive, this isn’t personal, it is feedback that he needs more exposure in a certain area. When you look at your horse’s training as an unending educational process, things will be less frustrating and your horse will be much more willing to trust your leadership.

Day Two: “Why Look for a Cow?”

Riding in middle of the most majestic scenery of the Flint Hills, the second day of the Cowboy Challenge was to round up cattle into a rodear and begin cutting specific cows out of the herd.

Tip: Depending on where you live and ride, you may already have encountered cattle. Maybe the most convenient path to your favorite trail takes you through a pasture of cattle. Perhaps the road you often ride on goes by a neighbor with a steer or two on his property.

In those cases, spend some time getting your horse used to cattle. But try new things with your horse, you might find that cattle can provide a welcome diversion from your other riding activities.

Matt brought up another reason to bring cattle into your riding

Continued on the next page



experiences. “There are so many cow horse bloodlines today,” he said, “especially in Quarter Horses. Someone might purchase a horse with cutting or reining training as their trail horse.”

Many trail horses come with a world of experience in all sorts of disciplines, but because we might be their third or fourth owner, we aren’t aware of their knowledge.

Day Three: Finding out “Cows Have a Bubble”?

The last two days of competition was exhausting, sorting and roping cattle. Immediately the horse and rider weaknesses are exposed. The comradery and the learning curve were invaluable.

Tip: Before you go looking for cattle, you should know a few things about how cattle react to horses and people. “Cows have a type of natural ‘bubble,’ meaning how close you can get to them before they move,” Matt said.

He explained that a cow that is used to horses and people has a small bubble. You could get very close to them before they’d bother to move because they’ve seen plenty of horses and you aren’t going to be an unusual sight. On the other hand, a cow who isn’t used to people and horses or is just naturally wild and nervous would have a very large bubble.

“If you had a really wild cow in a round pen, you might only have to move two or three feet to cause that cow to start running,” Matt said. “If you have a real quiet cow – in cutting terms, we call that a dead cow – he would have a very small bubble and you’d have to be really close to the cow in order to move it.”

“If you’re looking at a cow broadside and you’re at a right angle to the cow,” Matt said, “if you move to the cow’s hip, you will make the cow move forward. If you move to the cow’s head, you will cause the cow to turn away from you.” Moving toward the hindquarters will get you motion, while moving toward the head causes changes of direction.

Matt explained how you can use this principle to herd a cow. For example, say the cow has his hindquarters toward you, but his head is turned to the right. If you want him to move in a straight line away from you, move to the right of the cow and approach him toward the ribcage area. That will cause the cow to straighten up, because his natural inclination is to move his head away from you, and then move his hip.

A final thing to know about cattle is that they are more afraid of you on foot than they are of you on your horse. So, if your horse isn’t experienced around cattle, be aware of this, especially if you drop something, such as your cell phone, and want to dismount to retrieve it. Your act of dismounting may frighten the cattle, causing them to scatter and possibly spook your horse.

“You might want to note where the item is and first move the cattle away from it before getting off,” Matt said. “Then I would take my time and steady my horse with my hand on his neck before I dismounted. I would pay close attention to my horse’s behavior and make especially sure that the reins are firmly in my hand.”



Day Four: Roping Horse, Meet Cow

Once you know how cattle react to horses, you can introduce your horse to a cow. Much of your initial work will be similar to teaching him not to spook at other objects, such as a jacket, a towel or a tarp.

You'll want your horse conditioned to the basic control cues, such as head down and hips over. If he becomes anxious about the cattle, his automatic responses to those cues will help you regain control over him and get him to pay attention to you.

Introduce the horse to the cow slowly, making sure you don't push the horse past his comfort level. Matt emphasized that how you work with your horse in open spaces is very different from the way horse trainers begin their horses in the round pen.

"Take it one step at a time and wait for the horse to relax," Matt said. "I find it helpful to put the horse on circles that I have already established, that I know he is comfortable with. Then I'd come back and approach the cattle in the pasture.

"Get him to a comfortable spot and then bring him back to the cow, even if we're just talking five or 10 feet. Do a comfortable circle, stop, let him relax, go back toward the cow. You may have to do this for days in a row.

"Cattle are herd-bound animals," Matt said. "So, if you try to separate a cow from the group, be aware that the cow's number one desire is to return to the herd."

Cattle in a group might also follow you in a pasture, especially if they

were raised together. "They don't come at you, but they follow you," Matt said. "That will really scare some horses. If that happens, you should turn your horse around periodically to reassure him. When you turn around, the cattle will stop or move away from you."

Unless you have access to cattle on your property, you're probably going to have to take your horse to the cattle. This is another reason to work on your control cues at home before heading to the cattle. Also, the more familiar you can get your horse with the area where the cattle are, the better the experience will be. If you need to cross the pasture of cattle, for example, spend time first riding up.

If your horse does have some cow sense, he'll start to become interested in the process. He might surprise you with just how much he already knows. Moving and playing around cattle may never be the number one activity for you and your horse, but it can give both of you another enjoyable way to work together.

ROPING TIP #1 – PRACTICE YOUR HORSE RIDING

Before you even think about nailing the ropes or get out there in hopes of catching your first steer, you'll want to get comfortable on horseback. Everything else comes second. Because if you're not comfortable in the saddle, you won't be able to do much on the ground.

ROPING TIP #2 – KNOW HOW TO POSITION YOURSELF IN THE ROPER'S SEAT

How your horse enters the field and how you position yourself for catching has a lot to do with your posture. If

you're seated incorrectly at certain times, you may not be able to get in the correct position to catch. When entering the arena, you should be sitting upright and keeping your body straight. When you're approaching the calf, you'll want to be in a forward position so you can rise out of the saddle for the catch.

ROPING TIP #3– DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE BENEFITS OF GLOVES

If you've seen team roping in action, you know there's a particular attire ropers seem to follow. And although you can wear whatever you desire while practicing, don't show up without your glove. The hand you use to throw the rope should be fitted with a glove. This helps grip the rope and protect your hand at the same time.

ROPING TIP #4 – PRACTICE WITH YOUR ROPE

When it comes to roping, there's no such thing as too much roping practice. Successful ropers are confident and comfortable when handling a rope. In the very beginning, learn how the rope feels. Try swinging it without a target. Does it feel too heavy? Are you swinging too much? Too little? Play around with the rope and change your pace to get a good feel for the mechanism of throwing it.

ROPING TIP #5– LEARN HOW TO DALLY SAFELY

There's a ton of information about how to swing and throw a rope, but don't overlook another crucial factor: learning to dally safely. Dallying is the act of wrapping the rope around your saddle horn. It sounds simple, but remember that you are riding a running horse and the other end of your rope is firmly attached to a 700-pound steer. If you aren't careful,

you can easily trap one (or more) of your fingers between the rope and your unyielding saddle horn. When the rope comes tight, it will cut off whatever digits are trapped.

ROPING TIP #06 – LEARNING TO DALLY SAFELY ON THE GROUND

You can sit in your saddle on a rack (or mounted on a standing horse) and have another person run away from you holding the end of your rope. Practice dallying in this slow, controlled environment before you attempt it in a high-speed situation.

There were some great prizes given away at this year's Cowboy Camp Competition. A huge thank you to all of the sponsors who donated to this year's event.

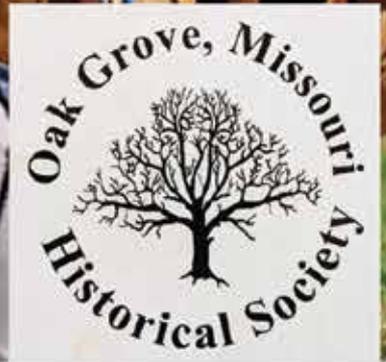
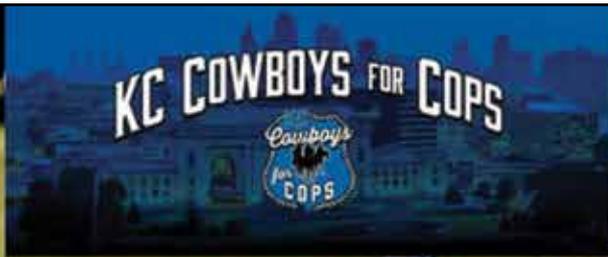
Congratulations to this year's 2022 Top Hand winner, Nocona C. Russell from Seligman, Missouri,

- Second place went to Ed Adams from Kansas City, MO
- Third place overall went to Mandel Denmon from Dorsey, Illinois.



If you would like to be a candidate for next year's "Cowboy Challenge" email Matt Jobe at matt@cbarj.com or message on Facebook at Flint Hills Ranchin Adventures.





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Oak Grove, Missouri, Brings Back Its Horse History

The Oak Grove Historical Society is passionate about preserving and sharing the history that shaped their community so that future generations will always appreciate the heritage of their town.

Back in 1928, two settlers came up from Tennessee to set up a camp on a branch of Sni Creek. Others soon followed, adding some log cabins and finally a store, thus creating a new settlement. This new township was known as "Licksillet". A couple miles east of this area was a grove of oak trees along Horse Shoe Creek. In 1858, this area was built up and was named "Oak Grove". In 1861, the two areas converged to be known as the Oak Grove settlement.

Oak Grove was hit hard by the Civil War and then the Confederate Guerrilla William Quantrill and his gang calling the area home. Oak Grove slowly rebuilt following the civil war and began hosting horse shows in the late 1890s.

Oak Grove Horse Shows displayed some of the finest horses in the country and generated enormous interest, magnified with the addition of street fairs and flower parades. At the 1911 show, there was an estimated 10,000 people in town with 250 entries in over 40 events.

The Horse Show continued to be a success from 1900 for over a decade,



but with the introduction of the automobile, there was a significant shift of interest.

Reclaiming some of the past tradition, The Oak Grove Historical Society is hosting the Kansas City Cowboys for Cops parade on Saturday, August 13, 2022. They hosted the event last year and it was a huge success with the downtown streets lined with people getting a chance to see all breeds of horses. Not only does it give horse enthusiasts a chance to ride in a parade and share their horses with others, but it generates funding through donations to support officers, first responders, and their families who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

For more information, check out the Facebook page "Kansas City Cowboys for Cops".



Water Needs of Horses Increase During Summer

By Frank J. Buchman

Horses can sweat as much as three gallons per hour, a serious health management concern during the hot summer. Thus, it becomes more important to ensure horses are drinking enough water to maintain good health. It is also essential to know when to back off an animal's level of activity.

"Depending on the temperature and workload, a horse can become dehydrated in two hours," said Kris Hiney, Oklahoma State University equine specialist.

Owners can suspect dehydration in their horse by recognizing the signs: sunken eye, dullness, dry skin and mouth, drawn up flanks, depression or excessive thick saliva. A simple, but not always accurate way to judge dehydration in horses is to conduct a

simple skin pinching test, Hiney said. Skin should immediately return into its natural position. If the skin remains in a ridge from two-to-five seconds, this could be a sign of mild dehydration.

The average horse will intake five-to-ten-gallons of fresh water per day. Water is needed to avoid colic, dehydration, and death. Just like humans, different horses crave or need different water amount intakes.

"Cool fresh water should be offered to the horse often during strenuous activities," Hiney said.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink. If where the water does not have the same taste as at home, the horse may refuse to drink.

"Before going to an event try flavoring the home drinking water with Gatorade or apple juice to accustom the horse to the flavor," Hiney said. For convenience of the horse owner, prepared powdered electrolyte packets can be added to drinking water to replenish necessary items.

Like humans, horses dissipate most of their excess body heat through sweating. When a person sweats, the electrolyte concentration goes up in the blood, resulting in thirst. "However, a horse's blood does not increase electrolyte concentration with sweat loss, so it may not be thirsty," Hiney said.

Studies show horses will cool themselves normally if the heat index is less than 130. However, a heat index exceeding 150 requires cooling assistance.

"Cool water rather than very cold water should be applied inside of the legs and on the neck," Hiney recommended. "Cold water can result in limited blood flow to the horse's skin." Continuous running water will help cool the horse faster.

Supplying fans or keeping the horse in an area with wind flow is ideal.



Water consumption of horses increases during humid summer days.

Fans with higher velocities provide more effective cooling. Standing under shade trees allows a horse to radiate some heat to leaves.

Long trips may require schedule changes to avoid the hottest time of day. "The muscle work of balancing in a trailer during a road trip can put an additional heat load on a horse," Hiney said.

"The rule of thumb," Hiney said. "If you are consuming and desiring water, then the chances are the horse is also having the same desires."

Riding horses is great exercise for the rider and also an additional strain on the horse's metabolism. "Be safe and smart. Keep the horse hydrated," Hiney advised.



Spraying horses with water helps cool them in hot weather.

Preventive Measures Help Decrease Horse Respiratory Infections

By Frank J. Buchman

Strangles is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection in horses, donkeys and ponies of all ages, breed, and sex. “The bacteria often infect lymph nodes around the jaw, causing them to become swollen,” said equine veterinarian Dr. Reese Hand.

In severe cases they can become so swollen that horses struggle to breathe properly, hence the name strangles. “The disease spreads quickly through direct horse to horse contact or indirectly through tack, water and clothing,” Hand warned. The bacteria can survive in water for up to four weeks.

Signs of strangles can vary enormously between cases. “Some horses only exhibit mild signs like nasal discharge,” Hand said. Other signs are depression, loss of appetite, difficulty eating, raised temperature, cough, swollen throat, and drainage of pus from jaw.

Incubation period between infection and clinical signs is between three and 14 days.

“Most horses will recover fully within six weeks, but infected horses must be isolated,” Hand said. “However, roughly 10 percent of horses will remain carriers of the disease at this point.” This means that they will no longer show clinical signs, but they still harbor the bacteria in their guttural pouches. “They can intermittently spread the disease to other horses,” Hand said.

In about 1 percent of cases, abscesses will develop within other body organs. “This is known as ‘bastard strangles’ and can be fatal,” Hand pointed out.

Another rare, but potentially life-threatening complication of strangles

is around the limbs and the head. “This accumulation of fluid can become so severe that there is circulatory collapse and death,” Hand said.

Sometimes strangles can be diagnosed on clinical signs alone but often a “swab” is required for confirmation. “This is taken from the throat by passing the swab up the horse’s nose,” Hand explained. “Alternatively, blood test from the horse identifies not only infected horses but also carriers and those that have been exposed.”

Guttural pouch endoscopy is another form of diagnosis during which samples can be taken for testing.

Mainstay of treatment for strangles is supportive care. This involves treatment such as anti-inflammatory medication for raised temperature and it also makes horses feel well enough to eat.

Feeding wet food from a lower-level feeder makes it easier for infected horses to swallow and encourages abscesses to drainage. “Hot compressing abscesses will help bring them to the surface, allowing them to rupture,” Hand added.

“Occasionally veterinarians will treat infected horses with a course of antibiotics, but this depends on the individual case,” Hand said.

Treatment for carriers involves removal of dried pus from guttural pouches via endoscopy and topical antibiotics within the guttural pouches.

“There is also a vaccine available to be injected inside the upper lip for at risk horses,” Hand said.

Preventive steps head off a strangles outbreak before it ever happens.



Strangles spreads quickly through direct horse to horse contact or indirectly through tack, water, and clothing.

“Have a clean environment,” Hand said. “When going to a competition environment, try to keep the area clean from other horses and their secretions.”

At a boarding facility, new horses should be isolated to make sure they don’t show clinical signs. “It’s also a good idea to test the horses for strangles,” Hand recommended. Disinfecting trailers that have brought new horses onto a farm or have returned from a show is also a good practice.

“The bacteria can spread through shared pitchfork, rakes, and that type of equipment,” Hand said. Horses showing any signs of illness should have their own dedicated equipment.

Another good practice is to combat continuing wetness. “Dry everything to prevent the bacteria from hiding in damp places like the wash racks or stall corners,” Hand said.



Signs of strangles can vary enormously between cases, but one common indication is a nasal discharge.



Standing Tied

Ashley Purdin at *Pioneerhorsemanship.com*

The lessons learned from being tied up for long periods of time are crucial to a horse's education. Unfortunately, it is an area skipped over by many riders and owners. Why is this? I have heard a lot of excuses over the years, so let's dive into a few of them and see if there is any validity there.

1) My horse paws when I tie him up

If this is something that you experience, it is actually a sign that your horse should be tied more often. Pawing is a normal part of a horse's mind processing the task of standing still. Being prey animals, horses are naturally claustrophobic. Tying them up to something increases this claustrophobia and makes them want to move their feet more. Pawing is one of the ways horses move their feet when they are otherwise restricted.

Generally, if you set up the tying lesson well, you would do it when the horse is a little tired - maybe after a trail ride or a groundwork session. This will decrease his need to paw or reduce the length of time he paws. Be sure to tie your horse somewhere that he will not hurt himself when pawing. The side of your trailer or to a fence is probably not the best place to start this lesson. A hitching post or a solid wall would be a much safer alternative.

2) My horse pulls back when tied

This is another reason to practice tying more regularly. A horse that has a chronic pulling back issue was probably not introduced to standing

tied in a systematic way. Someone probably just tied him solid and walked away. The horse panicked from the solid pressure, pulled back and got loose by breaking his halter or lead rope. Once a horse has done this, even one time, they are at risk of it happening again. Some horses become so anxious about being restrained that they will go to set back on their halter as soon as they see they are being tied.

Unfortunately, there is no forever fix for this problem. But there are still some options available to you. I recommend using a tie ring like a Blocker Tie Ring that will encourage your horse to stand still but will allow your lead rope to slide through if the horse panics. These have saved me and my horses a lot of injuries over the years and are still my favorite method of tying a horse.

3) Tying my horse for long periods of time is unkind

This is one I run into from time to time. Owners are worried about throwing their horse off of their schedule and routine. Or they feel like they are causing the horse emotional distress by tying him up and walking away. Usually these horses have been tied and "rescued" from the lesson when they become agitated which then encourages the anxious behavior more.

I like my horses to learn how to stand tied and even get to where they look forward to that part of their session. I usually will add it to the end of a ride and it is a whole lot less work and effort than anything we are doing

under saddle! There is also something about standing tied and learning how to manage their emotions on their own that is critical to the process of teaching your horse how to self-regulate their nervous system and become more self-confident.

Quick success tips:

1) Tie at the end of the ride and not when your horse is fresh.

2) Make it a regular thing. Don't wait until you are at a show or trail ride and start this on your trailer.

3) Choose a safe place to begin your horse's education on tying. A solid wall or a hitching post are great options.

4) Don't make this a sink or swim lesson. I consider tying a horse to something solid with their lead rope an advanced version of this lesson. In the beginning use a tie ring that will allow your lead rope to slide.

5) Tie your horse with a buddy that ties well. This will help decrease the anxiety of being alone. I like to tackle one thing at a time. At first my horse could tie with a buddy and once that is good I would expect him to start learning to be tied a little further away from his friend and eventually by himself.

6) Try to not rescue your horse if he becomes upset. If you have chosen a good location and method of tying, the ways he could hurt himself should be pretty limited. So let him go through the process of stressing and regulating himself until he finds his way back to calm and confident.

7) Make sure you have enough time for the lesson. Don't do this when you only have 20 minutes. It may take longer than that for the horse to settle.

Lastly, I want to leave you with this thought: Horses didn't ask to be a part of our world. But, living with humans and our human needs, routines and methods for doing things is just a part of their reality now. Have you taught your horse how to cope in the world of humans? Even if you don't really care if your horse ever stands tied well - lots of people tie their horses for various reasons. What if something happened to you and your horse had to be sold? Or what if you ran into financial trouble and needed to lease your horse out for a season? Nothing is impossible - and it is perfectly plausible that your horse might not be with you his entire life. Most horses have multiple owners throughout their lifetime. Right now your horse has you. Are you going to take responsibility for his mental and emotional development and teach him how to get along in the world of humans better? Or are you going to leave a hole in his training that could cause stress or injury to him or someone else down the road? Tying is important, mostly because it can be so dangerous if a horse doesn't understand it. Help your horse to understand and be confident so everyone can be safe.



You're Late

I'm starting my writing in the Billings, Montana airport. My flight is an early morning flight so I got up real early and made the one-hour trip to the airport. Because I am early, I can relax and get ready to enjoy the ride.

When I am helping folks get better at working with horses or livestock, one of the most frequent observations and comments is "you're late".

As an example of being late, getting to the airport with very little time causes lots of stress wondering if you are going to make the flight, could cause you to speed and disobey traffic laws, have to do things that you are not physically capable of, like run for a long way, and you may act in a way you would not normally act all because of the added pressure of being late.

When working with animals we can look at it as applying some type of pressure to achieve the desired result. For myself, I like to think of using three types of pressure. Driving pressure, drawing pressure and a maintaining pressure is how I separate them out in order to apply them at the correct amount and at the correct time.

Whatever approach you take in working with animals, and there are many, being late with pressure will always create more of a safety risk and less than optimal results.

Let's look at an example of being late and what can happen while riding horseback. You are on a trail ride and it is a little cool and you don't have gloves. You put your reins down on the horse's neck and put your hands in your pockets. Everything is

going fine until a deer jumps out of the brush and your horse spooks and spins and takes off, causing you to clamp down just to stay on (causing a driving pressure). By the time you get your hands out of your pockets and get ahold of your reins and get them gathered up and shortened, you are in a run, you are behind your horse's action and in trouble!

Now let's look at the same trail, same horse, same deer, but this time you have your hands on the reins and have good posture on your horse. As soon as you and your horse see the deer you immediately take the slack out of your reins and take ahold of your horse to bring him back to you, and support him until his anxiety's gone in about half a second and you both relax and go up the trail.

Working with animals is about a continuous decision making process.

The less experienced the human is, less choices are available and the decision making will take longer. This is why it is so important to match the animal or task with the ability and experience of the human.

By not being late with your ability to apply proper support (maintaining pressure) to yourself and the horse you stayed safe and created confidence in yourself and your horse, and had a wonderful ride instead of a dangerous terrifying experience.

Being late is very seldom a good thing. Preparing ahead and always being ready is.

Have fun, be safe and don't be late!

Curt Pate
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UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

As we go through life, we experience some interesting surprises. Many of these are even a blessing. Maybe such as, that rough haired scrawny looking three-year-old colt that spooked and balked at everything ended up being that horse of a lifetime. Perhaps one of the best announcements you have gotten in a long time, you actually found in your spam emails instead of your inbox. Go figure. Could be that some of the folks you thought you really didn't have anything in common with are the ones you are now going out to eat with once a week. You may also have been a

part of their children's wedding party, or were one of the first ones they called when their parent slipped away. Funny how things work out.

What about that wrong turn that takes you down a dirt road that is narrow and bumpy? Only when you get to the end and see the most beautiful shady lake you have experienced, ever. Yes, life has some funny outcomes. Who would have ever thought, that a homeless man who was born in an animal feed trough, who never traveled more than two hundred miles from his birth place, and was followed around

by a bunch of misfits, and then had no lawyer to plead his merciless case, thereby being put to death for no crimes at all, would become the Savior of all mankind? Huh! Strange how things work out.

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those of us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." (1 Corinthians 1:18-19) The message of the cross is a message of life through death. Jesus died for

the sins of all people. Yet, not all people will accept the message in all of its elements and thereby be saved. Doubt, disbelief, fear, peer pressure, ignorance and self-love are just a few of the things that keep us from ever experiencing that unexpected blessing. The gospel just may be that one thing you weren't expecting in your life. However, "it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe..." (Romans 1:16)

Del Shields

How a Dangerous Horse Helped Me with Relationships and Intimacy

An interview with Sergeant Major Ret. Tim Sixberry
United States Army
July 3rd, 2022

An interview with Sergeant Major Ret. Tim Sixberry, United States Army July 3rd, 2022

After 31 years in the military, I really was not a very good husband, father, or friend. I lived in a bottle. I was at rock-bottom and drinking bourbon every night, even passing out at times. I would self-medicate the wounds and anger. That is all that ever came out of me: anger. My wife hated me, and I hated myself. Understandably, my marriage ended in divorce. Then, I was medically discharged from service. My life had turned upside down, until I found HOOVES.

I hope you will continue to read and learn how a dangerous horse helped me with relationships and intimacy!

Have you ever been in a constant state chasing something and it eludes you?

Well, that was me -Tim Sixberry. I just wanted validation, certainty, connection and intimacy in my life.

Being a Sergeant Major in the military, you get to tell people what to do. There is no discussion of what needs to be done - I expected it to be done – no questions asked. I had the power, or so I thought.

I performed very well in the military. I believed that was the job where I



performed best. I had the status and I also had a family, but I had always had a family of my own outside of the military- specifically a wife and children.

Before I started my own family, I lost two of my soldiers. My life changed drastically and the loss was incredibly devastating to me. I became disillusioned with everything, including the whole military training process. I blamed myself for my leadership, for all of the training. After all, I was responsible for them, so



blaming myself led to deep-seeded shame and guilt.

After I lost my soldiers, conducting training exercises, giving orders, and delivering procedures became more difficult for me. When someone didn't follow through with what was instructed, I would lose it: yell, scream, and chew people out.

I could barely stand myself. I was so ashamed of how I felt and behaved. That is when I would drink, trying to stop feeling what I felt. Then the anger would really come out. No one wanted to be around me. I was toxic. Once the drunken haze would lift, I would constantly ask myself, "How do you end up this way?"

I now realize that I was experiencing survivor's guilt and PTSD. I had to ask myself, "Who was I?", "Who did I want to be?" I KNEW I had to work on these feelings and emotions, or I would end up dead.

This is when I found H.O.O.V.E.S.: Healing Of Our Veterans Equine Services. There, I met May: a feisty black and white mare that had been labeled as dangerous by

others. I interacted with May during a HOOVES session after my divorce. May and I bonded quickly. I began seeking someone of the opposite sex that I could talk with; someone that would really care about me, to be intimate with, and fulfilling that portion of my life that I felt was missing. I was craving the deep feeling of being wanted and needed, but didn't know how to communicate that.

Not what I expected, yet still the opposite sex nonetheless – the mare named May. May was sent to HOOVES because, according to her owner Kirsten, "May was unable to be handled and had a tendency to intimidate both people and horses by throwing her weight and size around".

Kirsten went on to say, "She's a big girl. You know, she has opinions and she's got a big personality and she's got her thoughts and she's very much a horse that you have to work with as a team, as opposed to you trying to dominate her, or tell her that you are a boss. You must work with her, not against her."

May, when I was working with her during our session, would just started ignoring me and would straight-up not listen to me. She did not want anything to do with me. I felt the anger and frustration rise up, like when my wife and officers did not follow through with my orders.

I was disappointed because she kept pulling away from me. I kept trying over and over to get her to listen, so I would repeatedly do the same thing. She continued to pull away from me. All I wanted was for her to listen and bond with me. I was trying to give her the same attention repeatedly, and that's not what she wanted.

And so finally, I just got frustrated enough to ask her, "Well, what

do you want?" You know what happened next? It absolutely blew my mind when I asked the question, "What do you want?"

You know when you get to that stage when you throw your arms in the air, to your wife in an argument and walk away? It was like that! Once I changed my approach, she perked up and came towards me. It was almost like she was a new horse, so to speak.

She looked directly at me. I became very present to what had just happened, and to what she was asking. I started scratching on her neck near her mane because she moved forward. When I had my hands along her jawline, she stayed. I started scratching her there, too. And that's when she kind of wrapped

her head around me, like a head hug. It started creeping me out a little bit.

I said to myself, "Okay, what is happening?"- feeling that something totally different is being asked this time. She was acting differently; she even felt different. It really made me aware that she showed me what and how she wants it to be.

Then the realization came to me: every person, horse or living thing is NOT going to respond the same way to the same thing every time.

May taught me: Can I ask a question? Can I be present to another's needs? Can I feel the unspoken language of connection?

That is when it became clear to me - It was the question, NOT the telling! I had to let go of my Sergeant Major persona and find my true self. It was realizing that I can only get what I want by discovering what OTHER people want, and what is important to them by asking questions. We cannot enter any type of relationship without surrendering and dropping the façade of being ok, even when you are not.

That is one of the things I have been learning from May and the HOOVES practice - being vulnerable with authenticity

The horses illuminated this for me. They know when you are not being honest to yourself and hiding your true thoughts and feelings. After all, they only express through pure authenticity with vulnerability, but most of all without judgment!

Through all of this, sharing my story, being vulnerable with who I am, and being vulnerable with others - I

am allowing myself to heal, and not just be the big ball of anger I once was. Being who I truly am, and allowing others to be who they truly are, I now know that it is possible to get the deep, trust-based intimate, relationships in every area of life - even with a so-called 'dangerous' horse named "May".

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Controlling Harmful, Bothersome Flies On Horses Creates Complex Scientific Problem

By Frank J. Buchman

“Flies on horses are a major problem, sometimes harmful to health, and creates a complex quandary for owners to control.”

There are a wide variety of methods to help control flies on horses, according to Erika T. Machtinger, entomology professor.

“A combination of approaches is generally required for satisfactory results,” Machtinger pointed out.

Pesticides, typically referred to as fly spray, are generally the first product horse owners turn to for fly control. “These products are poisonous,” Machtinger emphasized. “If it kills flies or keeps flies off of horses, it is a harmful and must be handled with caution.”

Before use, pesticide labels should be read and understood completely. “Handle pesticides carefully and store them in their original containers,” Machtinger advised. “They should be out of reach of children, pets, and other animals.

“It is recommended to wear sanitary gloves whenever applying insecticide and always wash hands carefully after use,” Machtinger demanded.

Forages, streams, and ponds can be contaminated by pesticides if not

Constant stomping and tail swishing by horses are generally caused by irritating flies which require considerable different control techniques. (Erika T. Machtinger photo)

used properly. “Always dispose of empty containers right away, in a safe manner and place,” the entomologist urged.

There isn’t one silver bullet to fly management, Machtinger reemphasized. More risks are associated with fly populations than just nuisance problems.

“Flies can transmit pathogens that cause disease or other conditions in horses,” Machtinger said. “They can have a negative impact on horse condition and physiology.”

Farms can be perfectly managed and still have pest problems. “Basic water management can reduce many natural sources of water where flies populate,” Machtinger said. “Proper

farm and facility drainage should be established, and leaky waterers, hoses, or other water sources should be repaired quickly.”

Proper ventilation, like the addition of outdoor-rated fans, can aid in quick drying of bedding and stored manure. “Many fly eggs hatch in less than 12 hours, so proper manure removal and storage can limit pest problems,” Machtinger said.

Along with frequent cleaning, bedding choices can influence fly development.

“Sawdust tends to support fewer developing flies than other bedding choices like shavings and straw,” Machtinger said. “Adding a drying agent can keep stall floors unsuitable



Flies are a major menace to horses, and a difficult problem for owners to control. (Erika T. Machtinger photo)



for mass fly production, although flies often find small, protected places.”

Other sanitation practices can reduce the likelihood of fly development. “Keeping feed storage areas clean, removing spilled feed quickly, and covering feed bins will eliminate many sugar resources,” Machtinger said.

“Fly screens on windows in barn areas can reduce fly presence,” Machtinger continued. “Fly sheets, masks, and boots provide protection for horses. Fans in the stable area can interrupt flight and prevent flies from landing.”

Two problems exist with relying on chemical insecticides for fly control. “Since fly resistance to active ingredients has been increasing, it is becoming difficult to find products that work,” Machtinger said. “Second, while insecticides reduce adult flies in contact with the compound,

they don’t address the source of fly development.”

Several types of chemical control exist. “Residual insecticides and premise sprays are applied to walls, ceilings, and other places where flies rest,” Machtinger said.

Fly baits can be effective when competing food sources are limited. “Since baits are toxic, it will be necessary to prevent other animals and children from being exposed to them,” Machtinger reiterated.

Larvicides are specific insecticides that can be applied to fly development sites where large numbers of flies are predicted.

“On-animal fly sprays/roll-ons/wipes are available with a variety of active ingredients, percentages, and trade names,” Machtinger said. “These may or may not be effective depending on

local resistance and application.”

Feed-through regulators are administered as supplements to the horse, pass through the digestive system, and are excreted in manure. “Every horse at a property must be fed these feed-throughs to prevent flies from developing,” Machtinger said.

Selection and percent of active ingredient in fly control products are very scientific.

Pyrethrins and pyrethroids are most common for fly control on horses. “They’re compounds that have natural insecticide properties with knockdown benefits,” Machtinger, “However, they may not kill the insect pests, just repel them. These generally will break down quickly.”

Piperonyl butoxide is another compound often found with pyrethrins. “This acts as a synergist to make the products more effective,” Machtinger said.

Cypermethrin, permethrin, and resmethrin are synthetic forms of pyrethrin called pyrethroids. “They are more stable than the pyrethrins and have longer-lasting effectiveness,” Machtinger said.

“More natural products containing fatty acids are as effective as synthetic compounds in repelling flies,” Machtinger said. “They have a longer duration of effectiveness.”

For applications to be most effective, horses should be clean, free of dust, dry and all insecticide label directions followed.

“The products should be applied to target areas and then brushed

lightly in the direction of the hair,” Machtinger recommended. “Pay particular attention to the legs, belly, neck, face, and shoulders.”

Insecticide resistance is a frequent and legitimate concern when using pesticides. “Resistance allows some pests to continue to survive and reproduce in the presence of a toxin,” Machtinger explained.

Cross-resistance is when developed resistance to one toxin leads to resistance of a similar toxin. “Resistance can develop when pests are repeatedly exposed to a toxin,” Machtinger said.

After initial exposure, most pests may die but a few naturally resistant individuals survive and produce offspring that are resistant. “The fly life cycle is short, and offspring are produced so populations can quickly develop resistance,” Machtinger verified.

“To reduce resistance, it is important to not expose multiple generations of pests to the same insecticide,” she said. “This is important whether you are using fly sprays, wipes, feed-throughs, baits, or other methods of application.

“Rotate that choice with another insecticide which may have a different mode of action,” Machtinger suggested.

“Fly control on horses is an extraordinarily complex problem for horse owners. It requires continual changes and then often is still not completely effective,” Machtinger most honestly concluded.



GALLERY III

The gallery boasts an impressive display of artwork. Items range from individual note-cards to matted prints, canvas reproductions, and original paintings.

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EZE Latch for Trailers

It has been about twelve years since the owners of EZE Latch decided to join the vender group at farm and ranch expos throughout the middle United States. Taking the simple add-on trailer accessory to the shows has been a continual learning experience. Many lessons have been learned about the product and the process of presenting the EZE Latch to experienced trailer owners and those who want to be.

It all began with the inventor and owner getting his knee hurt while on horseback and then trying to hook up his gooseneck trailer. It was a very painful process to crawl up into the bed of the pickup to latch the trailer's coupler. Arden Vernon thought there

had to be a better, easier and less painful way to accomplish that task. So with thought and planning the EZE Latch came to be. Now with both feet firmly on the ground he can latch and unlatch his goosenecks.

After trying to make the latches himself, it was apparent that he needed help. A machinery manufacturer was found to make the latches and thus a business was born.

It was then decided that the new device would best be introduced at farm shows. A unique display trailer was built by Mr. Vernon featuring a pickup bed on wheels with a simulated gooseneck hitch in the back. It causes strange looks as it is pulled down the highway. But it serves its purpose to demonstrate to the public how the lever system works to pull couplers open and

allows it to shut again.

Changes and improvements have been made during the years. The handles have been lengthened to accommodate taller pickups and dual wheelers. Also, the latches are now powder coated.

Arden and his wife, who man the show booth, have learned that patience and a good sense of humor is of great value. Some can immediately see how it functions while others need more explanation. But with the display trailer and actually using the EZE Latch, that's a fairly easy task. Sharing that the device doesn't require batteries or

computer apps is a big selling point. And it only takes about 10 minutes to install.

If you see the EZE Latch sign at the next farm show, be sure to stop and look the booth over. The owners like to visit with new friends and catch up with the many repeat customers. Or call 866.231.8589 for questions or to order. Visit www.ezelatch.com for videos.



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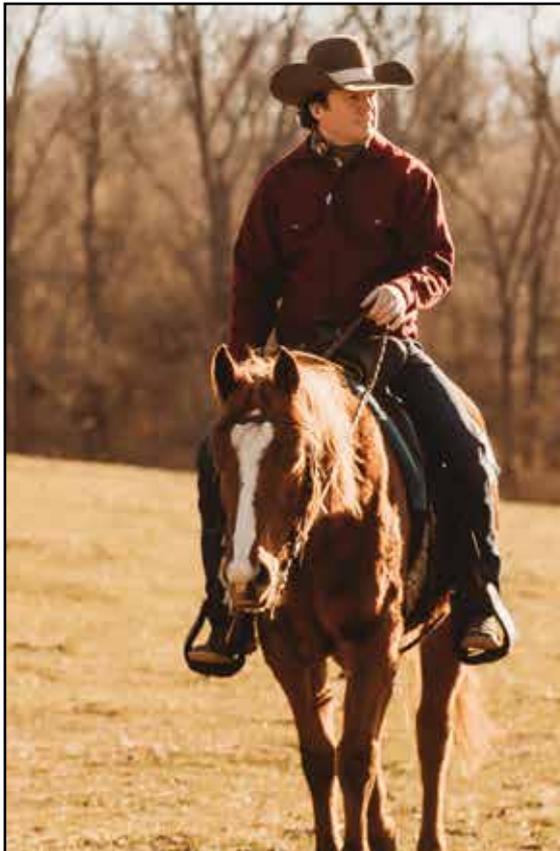
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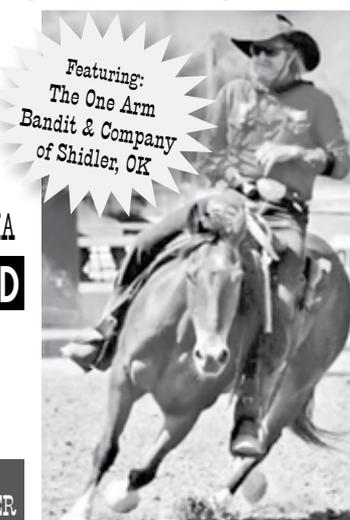
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Lack of Riding Time?

By Al Dunning

Many horse lovers have to divide time between family, work and attention to their horse. Here are some exercises that may help you have quality time with your horse.

When time is short, you must first be safe while doing your horse justice. All horses need grooming care, exercise, and your compassion...at least!

Always spend time checking your horse for health needs, nutrition, and soundness. Grooming, hoof care, and conditioning should be at the top of your list.

After that equestrians should be careful that their horse is safe and their equipment is proper.

Exercise 1: Every horse becomes “fresh” if they are not exercised regularly. Know your horse and always think “safety first”. When short of time, saddle your horse properly and spend time with them on a long-line, exercising them in both directions. This will take the fresh off of them and give you time to evaluate their energy level and soundness while conditioning them.

Exercise 2: I always walk my horse to limber them up before advancing to the next gait. Bending and flexing their neck and pole is beneficial to their control and softness. Afterwards, trot circles maintaining a good pattern, working at varied speeds. Backing is essential to control and muscle strength. Backing circles of different sizes is a good skill for many events and creates a foundation for collection.

Exercise 3: If you have been giving your horse regular exercise, you should consider working your horse at all gaits. Start at the slow walk and then urge them with leg contact to walk more briskly. Then finish with returning to a slow walk. Do this at all gaits, varying your forward motion from slow to an extension of each, and then returning to a relaxed control. Work on collection as you progress.

Exercise 4: A horse cannot be ridden in too many circles. Circles are key to gaining collection, steering, and overall control. Set four cones up approximately 20 feet apart for a focal point. Ride outside the circle (large and round) and graduate it down to a tighter circle. When you accomplish a smooth round circle, go larger again. This can be done at all gaits as you and your horse get comfortable and controlled.

Exercise 5: It seems like a simple exercise, but after spending a bit of time warming up, work on maintaining straight lines. Set some cones on either end of your arena and practice lining up your horse from head to tail, walking straight. When you accomplish that, try it at the trot, and then lope. It's not as easy as it sounds.

Exercise 6: One of the true essences of control and collection is the ability to side-pass and two-track. This skill will supple your horse and aid in total body control while enhancing your horse's light leg cues. Start side-passing with your horse's head toward the fence. Your goal is to keep you horse “straight” while

moving sideways. You can advance by placing a log and practicing moving across it, side-passing without touching it. You can further advance to an L shape obstacle.

Two-tracking is keeping your horse in a straight line while moving forward and to the side in a uniform manner. Making it even and smooth will keep you thinking about how to use the correct amount of leg and rein constraint. Don't force it and stay soft with your cues.

These are just a few exercises that are fun for you and your horse and can be done in a short period of time. The key is only to ask your horse for a small improvement on each ride. Be considerate to always warm-up and don't expect too much, too quick. If you are taking one step at a time, having fun, and always thinking of your horse first, you and your horse will benefit from every “short” ride.



Walton Wisdom Tip

ULCERS

Here are a few signs that a horse MIGHT have ulcers.

- Eating habits change
- Seem irritated when tacking up
- Sensitive when brushing
- Change in attitude when riding
- Sensitive to certain pressure points
 - Loose stools
 - Lethargic, colicky

The only one way to verify if a horse has ulcers is by having them scoped by a veterinarian.



Phil Schmidt Watercolors

Sailor and Pilot Paints Subjects He Loves

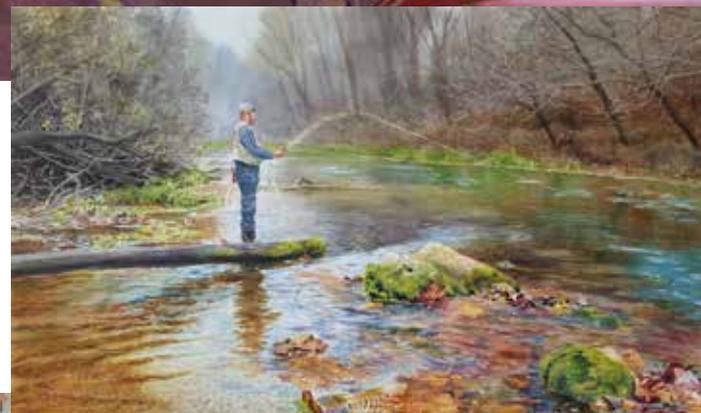
I discovered my love for watercolor in high school, attracted to the lovely, sometimes delicate effects achieved by blending transparent pigments on wet paper. John Pike's book, titled simply "Watercolor", a gift from my high school art teacher, formed the basis of my knowledge of painting.

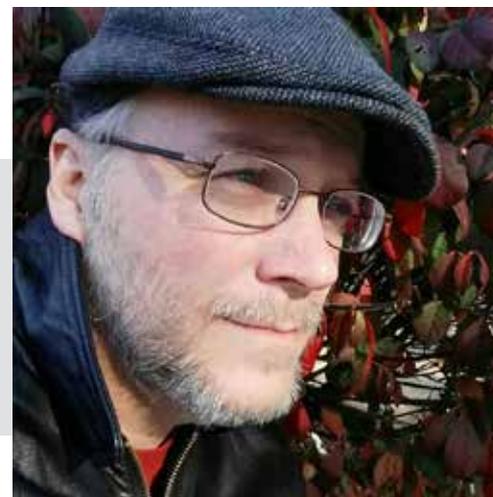
I was fortunate to get a job in commercial art at age 18, was married at age 21, and began raising a family, and have spent the last 40+ years in the commercial art profession. It was only recently that I was inspired to once again take up painting after visiting with a few exceptional watercolor artists at the Plaza Art Fair in Kansas City, saying to my wife, "I'd love to do this." Her response: "I'd love to be the wife of the artist!" Since that day, I've passionately pursued painting subjects I love and making paintings that others will enjoy.

My knowledge and skills as a graphic designer greatly influence my work as a fine artist. All of my paintings are carefully planned with composition in mind. My photo references are often manipulated on the computer, adjusting the composition, simplifying the subject, studying value patterns, adjusting

hue and saturation, making as many versions as necessary to create a pleasing design. I often paint a quick, postcard-sized sketch in grayscale as a value study. The next step is often a small practice painting of around 9 x 12 inches to confirm color choices and to determine the areas that will pose the biggest challenges when painted larger. It is not unusual for more than one practice painting to precede the attempt at a painting of 18 x 24 inches or bigger.

As a fine artist, I divide my time between shooting photo references for my art, drawing and painting, and studying constantly to become a better artist. I'm always looking for new venues to show my work and have a busy schedule of watercolor workshops, gallery events, private shows, competitions, and art fairs. I still make time for my graphic design clients, with the conviction that being a good designer makes me a better painter. I am a licensed private pilot and a recreational sailor, so naturally, many of my paintings are an expression of my love for aviation and boating.





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Oral Care for Your Horse

Chris Blevins, DVM

Equine Field Service Clinician

Veterinary Health Center

Clinical Professor, Kansas State University

Examining the oral cavity is critical for overall, long-term health of the horses. Just as we go to the dentist for oral exams and treatments annually, our horses also need oral exams and possible treatments annually.

Did you know that horses graze 16-18 hours per day? To graze they use their teeth to chew up the roughage in small particle size to use for digestion. This emphasizes the importance of the oral cavity and teeth for the horse's life.

Oral Exam

The oral exam and any necessary treatments play a crucial role to maintain overall health, independent of age. Unlike humans, equine teeth are hypsodontal, meaning they continue to erupt throughout the life of the horse. Equine teeth have the same amount of wear as eruption to keep the length of the teeth consistent as they age. Young horses are very dynamic as they are losing their deciduous (baby) teeth and getting their permanent (adult) teeth. Middle aged horses can have different malocclusions of their teeth that arise based on uneven wear. Geriatric horses may develop attrition (chewing) problems with advanced age and potentially develop loose permanent teeth. An oral exam is important for proactive dental health evaluation in all ages of horses.

During the process of buying a new horse, veterinarians can perform a pre-purchase exam, part of which

may include an oral exam. During this component of the exam the veterinarian can age the horse based on the teeth and identify possible dental abnormalities that may be present.

Multiple abnormalities can be found during an oral exam, but the most commonly diagnosed include uneven wear of the chewing surface of the cheek teeth (pre-molars and molars). Medical descriptions define these as sharp points of the teeth that usually cause soft tissue damage such as oral ulcers within the oral cavity. However, greater than 50% of equine oral exams have multiple abnormalities that require veterinary care in addition to the presence of sharp points.

Your veterinarian will take multiple steps to perform a dental exam on your horse. First is a physical exam to make sure the horse is healthy for sedation and treatment of the dental structures. They could find other potential medical issues at this time. A study looking at geriatric horses (>20 years of age) presenting for oral exams had other medical problems in a majority of the cases (Brosnahan and Paradis 2003).

Components of the Oral Exam

There are five components of an equine oral exam your veterinarian will perform.

1. Extra oral findings: This includes asymmetrical (one sided) swelling of the head, nasal or abscess discharge, and sensitivity of palpation of the

head/mandible area. Once the horse is sedated, the veterinarian can then rinse out the mouth and place an oral speculum on the patient to complete an inter-oral examination.

2. Occlusion (chewing surface) of the teeth: A very detailed examination for alignment of the teeth. This part of the exam will determine if even wear is present and sharp points are inspected.

3. Oral soft tissue. The soft tissue can be traumatized while chewing or during riding. In addition, the soft tissue exam will include inspection for growths within the oral cavity (including a cancer screening).

4. Periodontal status: This includes the attachment of the tooth to soft tissue and bone (evaluating for gingivitis, diastema and periodontal disease). Veterinarians use equine dental mirrors and/or oral endoscopes to aid in this part of the oral exam (Figure 1). In addition, periodontal probes can be used for checking severity of periodontal pockets.



Figure 1: Oral exam performed with oral endoscope in the horse's mouth. Diagnostic video images seen on multiple monitors including hand held monitor in this picture.

5. Endodontic status: Veterinarians evaluate the teeth for fractures and exposures of the pulp horns on the chewing surface.

Depending on the oral findings, dental radiographs aid in completing the diagnostics of the oral exam. Dental radiographs help with tracking disease processes (periodontal and endodontic status), and possible needed treatments. Multiple views of radiographs are needed to get the full scope of the oral structures of interest. (Figure 2)



Figure 2: Radiograph of the mandible and cheek teeth (arrow depicts abnormal 3rd Cheek Tooth)

Treatment

Treatment of the oral cavity is based on two main aspects. The first is pain of the mouth (during chewing or riding). The second is function of the mouth for mastication (chewing of feedstuff). Every horse does not need to be the same in dimension and size. They are all made differently, so treatment is focused on these two areas.

Treatment can be categorized into four levels.

1. Prophylaxis or reshaping teeth (based on sharp points): Veterinarians are careful not to over shape the teeth and cause dysfunction or pain. The average chewing angle of horse's cheek teeth are not square like ours. They are angled about 15 degrees, so

it is important to maintain this angle.

2. Performance dentistry: The treatments are related to pain during riding/driving the horse. Wolf teeth extraction and bit seats applications are in this category. Owners need to be aware that not every wolf tooth needs to be extracted from every horse. Only if the wolf tooth/teeth are causing issues while riding would they need removed. Successful wolf tooth extraction is performed by a veterinarian with standing sedation and local nerve blocks to the appropriate area.

3. Corrective dentistry: This includes cheek teeth malocclusion treated with occlusal adjustments of steps, hooks, ramps and/or waves. As treatment is being performed the veterinarian is monitoring for heat damage and pulp exposure (blood

and nerve endings in the teeth).

4. Advanced dentistry: Incisor and cheek teeth extractions, diastema procedures, orthodontic treatment, and endodontic treatments are in this category. Teeth/dental extractions can be done by an equine veterinarian standing or under general anesthesia depending on the tooth and abnormality. Diastema treatments are multifaceted. Depending on the diagnostic findings of the veterinarian, diastema treatment could include reshaping teeth, periodontal packing (with dental impression material) and/or tooth extraction of severe cases. (Figures 3, 4 and 5 show diastema and treatment)

It is important to have your veterinarian involved with your horse's health including oral health care. Contact your veterinarian

to set up your annual equine oral exam. Your horse's health is counting on it. If you have additional questions about equine oral health call your veterinarian or the equine veterinarians at the Veterinary Health Center, Kansas State University: 785-532-5700.

Figures 3 (3 images): Top Image-Diastema diagnosed with an oral dental mirror. Hay is packed in the diastema (between the two cheek teeth). Middle Image-Equipment and dental impression material used to treat the packing of the diastema. Bottom Image-Pink dental impression material treating the diastema (image from the dental endoscope).



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2 cans white shoo sweet corn
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1/2 diced green bell pepper
2 Tbsps finely chopped onion
2 stalks diced celery
4 stalks of chopped green onions
1/2 cup cherry tomatoes (cut in half)
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
salt and pepper to taste

Drain the corn well then add all the ingredients together
(EXCEPT THE TOMATOES).

Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours or better overnight then add the
tomatoes. Stir often.

Drain off some of the juice before service.

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A rainy spring and dew on grass can be tough on your horse's feet. Standing in mud and other wet conditions can cause thrush and compromise the integrity of your horse's hoof structures. Here are a few things your vet and farrier want you to know:



1. Pick out your horse's feet daily! This is a rule all year round - but especially when it is muddy. Mud packs into the crevices of the hoof, blocking airflow and creating the perfect environment for thrush.

2. Try to keep horses in clean dry stalls when it is wet. Not only will this save your horse's hooves it will save your pasture or turnout. Turnout areas with a solid base and rock or "screening" footing are good alternatives for grass/dirt turnout in damp conditions as well. Turning out during daylight hours when the dew is off of the grass can help the strength of the hoof wall and solve a lot of "lost shoe issues".

3. Treat at the first sign of thrush. Know the signs and begin treatment early. While it is a common condition, it should not be taken lightly. In severe cases, if left untreated it can penetrate structures of the hoof causing lameness. There are a variety of products to use to combat thrush: Koppertox, Thrushbuster, Durasole, Farrier's Formula are a few popular ones.



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Carmel-Glazed Pear Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed, beaten
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 cup reserved pear syrup
- 1 16-ounce can of pears, diced
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Carmel Glaze

- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons reserved pear syrup
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Cream together butter and sugars until light. Blend in eggs and vanilla. Sift together all dry ingredients and add to butter mixture alternating with pear syrup. Stir in pears, raisins, and nuts and pour into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes or until done. While still warm spread with caramel glaze.

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The Trail is Hot

By Del Shields

It has been an interesting year so far this spring and we finally made it to the first day of summer. Our trail has taken us to many new places this year. We started off in Florida for back to back shows at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, then to the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park near Live Oak. It was a great time filming world class Fox Trotter horses at the Jokisch Family Stables in Freeburg, Illinois. A real highlight was the event we held at the amazing Clover Cliff Ranch right here in Elmdale, Kansas. We enjoyed True West Campground in Jamestown, Tennessee, then Mammoth Cave Horse Camp near Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. From there we drove to Maryland to film the beautiful private farm setting of the Valley Meadow Farms Bed and Barn. Leaving there, we headed for Fort Robinson in Crawford, Nebraska, which is a terrific place in so many ways. From there we headed back home where I am busy catching up on the Ranch, editing shows and booking new locations. Oh yeah, and doing lots of grand-fathering.

Best of America by Horseback television show is enjoying being on RFD TV for eighteen years this year. It has been such a blessing to meet so many wonderful people along the way. If you have never joined us on one of our events, we hope you can one day soon. We always have a terrific time.

Shevawn and I are getting ready to host our Annual High Trail

Ranch Ride/Event again September 23-25 here at our ranch near Humboldt, Kansas. You can join us by calling 620-433-1819. We limit the number of riders, so call soon if you wish to join us. We'd love to share our home with you.

We also just set up a Ride at the Perry State Lake for the weekend of September 9-11. You can call our office to sign up for that ride at 540-829-9555 as well as all the other rides on our www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com

website. I'm itching to announce a couple historic event/rides we are working on for next year, but cannot let the cat out of the bag just yet. Keep up with where we are going, and come ride with us. We will be returning to The Hughes Ranch just outside of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, in October. This is a 13,000 acre working cattle ranch where our riders had a really great time last year. In November, we are headed down to Texas to enjoy the 7IL Ranch near Cat Springs. We are soon going to list the date, we will be

going to an amazing privately owned ranch just an hour and a half east of Dallas, Texas. Hang on for the ride...We like keeping it western.

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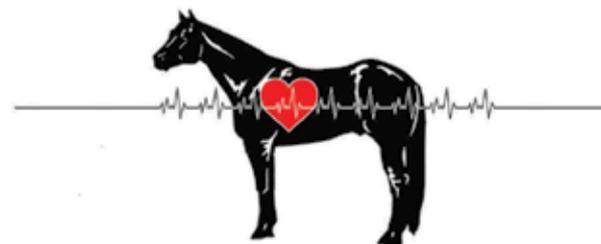
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Matt's Wish

Matt's father, Ernie, was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia in April of 2019. After witnessing his father's battle with this devastating disease, Matt wishes to help the 1.4 million individuals and their families fight Lewy Body Dementia. It was his dream to help find a cure for LBD through research, outreach, and education.

While Matt is not with us today, his parents have dedicated their lives to help him make his wish come true.

We hope you will help make Matt's Wish a reality for him by donating here and supporting their cause.

Donating is the most efficient way to support our fundraising efforts. Your donation is 100% deductible and you will receive a receipt for the same. If you would like to make your donation directly to LBDA.org,

please feel free to do so and indicate "Matt's Wish Campaign" on your check or in the notes.

"Let's make his dream a reality. Nothing could make me, Connie, and our family happier."

Many thanks for your support.
 Ernie & Connie Rodina & Family

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Tips for Selling a Horse Property in the Summer Heat!

By Maggie Stonecipher

As we experience excessive heat early this summer, the challenges of having your property on the market are compounded for both buyers and sellers. I have been showing a lot of properties in this heat and I have been surprised at the lack of staging of the property. It is tough and stressful to have your property for sale but if you want to get top dollar, these few tips may go a long way.

Be Ready for the Showing - Showing a horse property almost always requires an appointment which means the seller has approved the appointment and has notice. Don't accept an appointment if it does not give you enough time to prepare.

Clean and Neat - It is so uncomfortable to tour a horse property when it is dusty, dirty and full of cobwebs. You don't want your buyer walking out of your barn feeling like a dirty mess. Take some time to knock down the cobwebs, dust of the walls and sweep the floor. If you have boarders, ask your boarders to straighten up their areas and do some 'spring' cleaning. I recently toured a \$1M+ listing that was so dirty and messy that it was very disappointing. The boarder tack room was a total mess and filthy! With this heat, both my buyer and I felt covered in dust and dirt by the time we left. Not very impressive!

Ventilation - Go the extra mile not only for your horses but for your prospective buyers. Add extra fans

around the barn so that it does not feel stifling in the heat. Set up clean fans in your stalls, tack room, grain room, aisles and other common areas. The circulation goes a long way to cooling your barn.

Clean Stalls and Arenas - If a buyer is looking at your horse property, they most likely have horses and want to envision where their Dobbin will live. The normal smells in a barn are heightened with hot weather, and not in a good way. Take the time to clean your stalls, paddocks and arenas prior to the appointment. Add fresh shavings to your stalls.

Manure Management - Dispose of any manure mounds before showings! Dump muck buckets and the manure spreader. In the heat, these become quite smelly and attract flies.

Organize Your Barn - Everything should have a home! Organize rakes, shovels, manure picks, grain/hay areas, hoses and most importantly, tack rooms. Declutter what you don't absolutely need by purging or putting in storage. Make your barn organized and easy to tour!

Take out the Trash - Empty all trash cans prior to showings. At a recent showing the trash in the common area smelled like it had been there for weeks. The trash cans throughout the facility were overflowing.

You only get one opportunity to make that first impression so make yours by putting your best foot forward and showing off your horse property!






Kathy Wismer
PHOTOGRAPHY



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