

Veterinary Ailments

Useful Devices in treating leg Ailments

Standing Bandage

Covers leg from knee or hock to the pastern. Used for support, protection, and to maintain a poultice or medication on the leg surface. Standing bandages should be changed every day. Apply bandage by starting them from the inside of the horse's leg, around to the outside. Use enough good quality material for at least one inch of padding or cushion.



Cold Water Bandage

Use any time cold water is indicated for a strain, sprain or to reduce body temperature. Usually bandage material is cotton because it holds moisture and wicks better than other materials. Roll



on bandage wet and reapply cold or icy water to bandage on leg when needed. Never let bandage dry on the horse, as the cotton will shrink and could possibly aggravate the condition.

Hoof Healer

A flexible treatment boot, covering the hoof to the knee. The horse can move in these boots while being treated. May be used with ice, poultice or other medication. A standing bandage is also recommended with the foot.



Ice Boots

Used when extreme cold is called for in treatment. The horse must be tied up or restrained when ice boots are used. Never leave your horse unattended in ice boots.

Kinds of Ailments

Step number one in treating ailments or any disease, is to know what you are dealing with and what its causes are, so as to be able to cure it right. To help you, here are some of the most common ailments, their definitions and causes.

Ailment

Bog Spavin

Bowed Tendons

Ringbone

Splints

Suspensory Ligaments

Thrush

Wind Puffs

Definition/Symptom

Over production of synovial fluid in the joint capsule of the hock.

Tendon damage causing inflammation of the tendon only. In tendosynovitis, the tendon and sheath are affected.

Bony enlargements below the fetlock. Most common in forelegs.

Hard swelling in the splint bone area.

the broad, elasticized band of tissue behind and attached to the lower row of carpal bones and sesamoid bones of the fetlock,

A dark discharge indicating poor growth and disintegration of the horn of the frog.

Joint Capsule distension with firm swelling due to fluid will be noticeable in the fetlock area.

Caused by

Faulty conformation, strains, sprains resulting from rapid turning and quick stops, deficient nutrition , improper levels of vitamins A & D, calcium and phosphorus.

Overexertion, muscular fatigue, bad footing or speed. Swelling and heat indicate new injury.

Direct injury, blows, and cuts.

Concussion or direct trauma. Poor conformation and nutrition imbalance also contribute.

Sprain, Injury, or strain.

Bad sanitation and atrophy of the frog contribute to this hoof problem.

Full training, followed by abruptly stopping exercise

DRESSAGE make it Professional

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The changes of direction

1. At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line he follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the rider, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.

2 When changing direction by right angles, for instance when riding corners, the horse should describe one quarter of a circle of approximately 6 meters diameter at collected and working paces, and at medium and extended paces one quarter of a circle of approximately 10 meters diameter.

3 When changing direction in form of counter-change of hand, the rider changes direction by moving obliquely either to the quarter line or the center line or to the opposite long side of the arena, then he returns on an oblique line to the line he was following when he started the movement.

4 At the counter change of hand the rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction.

5 When, for instance, at counter change of hand at half pass to either side of the centre line, the number of meters or strides to either side is prescribed in the test, it must be strictly observed and the movement be executed symmetrically.

The figures

1 Volte

The Volte is a circle of 6, 8 or 10 meters diameter. If larger than 10 meters, one uses the term Circle stating the diameter.

2 Serpentine

The Serpentine consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the center line the horse should be parallel to the short side. Depending on the size of the half-circles the straight connection varies in length.

3 Figure of Eight

This figure consists of two exact voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.

CARE OF THE UNSHOD FOOT

Working Unshod

This is feasible, if work on hard gritty roads or flinty tracks is avoided. It saves on shoeing costs, and an unshod horse has a more secure grip on every type of surface. Also injury from a kick by an unshod horse is likely to be considerably less severe.

The feet of a horse working unshod must be checked regularly by the farrier, who will ensure that they present an even surface to the ground and that any splitting and cracking of the walls receive attention.

Unshod When at Grass

It is usual and beneficial to remove

the shoes from horses that are not in work. This enables the hooves to grow without interference from nails. The farrier will be needed every four weeks or so to control the natural growth of the hooves and to encourage the correct shape and angle.

Young stock

The feet of young horses must receive regular attention from the farrier, because their feet may not grow evenly. Any defects should receive immediate remedial action to ensure that the feet are correctly shaped and balanced.

Jumping

The Rider's Position for Jumping:

A basic balanced position should be maintained while jumping, depending on the length of stirrup-leather that you use, it may be advisable to shorten them. This will close the angles at your knees and ankles (make them more acute), which will help you to maintain a balanced and secure position throughout all the phases of the jump. The horse will only be able to perform to the best of his ability if the rider's weight is balanced over his center of gravity.

Adjusting the Stirrup length for Jumping:

As a practical test, remove your feet from the stirrups and let your legs hang along. Now try folding forward from your hips (from the top of your legs, not from your waist). You will find it very hard to balance. Your lower leg will slide back and you may have to lean on your hands to catch your weight.

Shorten your imaginary stirrup as short as those of a jockey. Fold forward, now you will find that balance comes easily, because you will have a broad base of support; but you will not be able to use your legs effectively. You should find a length which is short enough to enable you to fold forward.



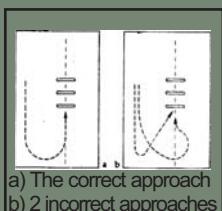
a) Too long; difficult to balance
b) Too Short; legs ineffective
c) Balanced

Building up confidence

If correctly trained from the start, a horse should never know how to refuse. By only asking him to jump when his pace is relaxed and rhythmical, and never over-facing him, refusals will probably be avoided. However, if problems arise and the horse refuses, the fence must be lowered at once, and be kept very small until confidence, calmness and obedience return.

The Centre line

When riding a course, on the turns and during the approach to the fence the rider must be aware in his mind's eye of the centre line. This is an imaginary line running along the ground straight through the centre of the fence or combination of fences. You should ensure a good approach to each fence, by making an even, rounded turn on to this line. Over-shooting it and having to make an "S" turn back, will unbalance the horse and cause him to lose impulsion and rhythm in the approach. This will result in a poor jump.



Approaches which take a short-cut on to the centre line (causing the horse to meet the fence at an angle) should not be attempted by novice horses or riders because the horse could easily run out.