

Veterinary

Lameness is common, but even though you may have considerable knowledge and experience, it is wise to seek the opinion of an expert. Every rider should certainly have a basic understanding of the subject, and you are able to recognize when your horse is lame, this will be more easily achieved if you have a thorough knowledge of the horse and his action.

When you are riding, unevenness in the horse's step is fairly obvious. If you have any misgivings, the horse is almost certainly slightly lame. Dismount immediately and look for stones which may be lodged in his foot. Then look him over for any other obvious cause. If you can find no reason for it and he remains lame, lead him home on soft ground, or telephone for help.

Locating the source of Lameness

Identify the lame leg:

Take the horse on to some hard, level ground, walk him up and down, then trot him on a loose rein, if the Lameness is severe it will show at the walk. If he is lame in front he will nod as his sound leg comes to the ground, raising his head again to take the weight off the painful leg. If lame in both forelegs, he will tend to keep his head raised and to shuffle rather than stride out.

If you suspect lameness in one of his forelegs but can find no cause for it, it may be that the trouble is in one of his hind legs.

If he is lame behind, he will similarly try to take the weight on to the sound leg and relieve the painful one. Viewed from behind, he will drop his hip as the sound leg reaches the ground and raise the hip and hock of injured leg higher than normal as it meets the ground. As the horse is led past, you will clearly see a shorter length of stride from the lame leg.

Observing the horse at rest in the stable sometimes gives a clue to obscure lameness.

Although he is standing square, the pastern of the lame leg may be slightly straighter than that of the sound one, or he may be pointing the lame the foreleg in front of the other.

Colic!

Colic appear rapidly as violent intestinal pain that causes your horse to throw himself to the ground in a sweat, or it can develop as a slowly progressive syndrome that begins with a horse that is off his feed, seems depressed and perhaps is lying down in a quiet repose. If you suspect colic, it is sometimes helpful to make your horse walk or trot for 10 to 15 minutes to potentially move a gas pocket through the bowels. This can often relieve the distress. However, forcing prolonged exercise on a colicky horse is counterproductive, as it saps your horse's energy reserves while not actually curing the colic. Because of the life-threatening condition created by any intestinal upset (colic or diarrhea), it is important to call your vet immediately, even if the problem resolves itself spontaneously while the vet is on the way.

to Check on the Newly Shod Foot

■ The shoe has been made to fit the foot and not the foot to fit the shoe. The wall should not be rasped away to meet the iron. The toe should not be 'dumped' (over rasped). Both of these faults will remove the surface coat of the wall and will inevitably lead to cracking and breaking away of the rasped portions.

■ The type of shoe is suitable for the work required of the horse.

■ The weight of iron chosen is in correct relation to the horse's size.

■ The foot has been suitably reduced in length at both toe and heel and also on each side, so that it has a level bearing surface.

■ There has been no miss-use of the knife on either the sole or the frog.

■ That on soft surfaces the frog is in contact with the ground.

■ The correct number of nails has been used- three on the side and four on the outside, except in special cases.

■ The size of the nails is correct. They should fit and fill the nail holes.

■ That the nails have been driven well home.

■ The clenches are well formed and well seated. They should fit and fill the nail holes.

■ No daylight shows between shoe and foot, particularly at the heel region.

■ The heels of the shoe are neither too long nor too short.

■ The place for the clips has been neatly cut and the clips themselves have been well drawn and well fitted.

Jumping

Refusing to Jump??

In our last issue we discussed a reason why a horse refuse to jump; pushing too hard. In this issue we are going to give you more reasons behind refusal so as to help you try to avoid them.

1. Lack of Determination: Perhaps through apprehension or uncertainty, the rider fails to use effective leg aids and the horse senses this indecision.

2. Lack of planning. A poorly planned approach does not encourage good jumping. The pace should be balanced, with rhythm and impulsion

3. Loosing position. The horse becomes anxious and rushes towards the fence. The rider is 'left behind' and tense, causing the horse to be even more anxious. The rider must go with the horse. Or the horse suddenly slows down during the last few strides. This shifts the insecure rider forward. The horse may then refuse, run out, or jump badly and there will be little that the rider can do. The rider should stay in

balance as the horse slows down, so that he can use his legs effectively.

4. Over checking: by trying to alter the horse's strides in the approach, the rider constantly checks the horse until speed, balance and impulsion have been almost lost. It is then very difficult for the horse to jump.

5. Over riding: the rider hurries the horse, driving him on to his forehead by going too fast for too long. The horse must then steady himself to restore balance before he can jump.

6. Interfering. The rider continually fiddles with his hands. This constant change of rein contact causes the horse to lose confidence in the rider and upsets his concentration during the approach.

Above 120 cm Classes

By: Ahmed Talaat

In this issue we will start to talk about the double combinations, the difference between the fences of the doubles, the distances between them and the technical difficulties incurred.

At first we have to know how to measure the distance between the two fences, we add three numbers; I) the distance after landing from the first fence II) The strides distance-3.5 III) Plus the takeoff distance before the second fence.

The first stride is 3.5m, which is approximately the normal stride for the horse but the second stride is only 300 m, because the horse loses a bit of his speed after the first stride inside the double, therefore if we need to make the double two strides, we increase the distance of the one stride double by only 3m.

When jumping the Oxer we have to be a bit closer than the upright so that the distance of the takeoff to the oxer is 210cm, and the

takeoff to the upright is 260cm. The landing of the oxer is closer after the fence than the landing of the upright because the horse starts to land from the middle of the oxer so he lands closer than the upright; this makes the landing distance of the oxer equivalent to 160cm and the landing of the upright equivalent to 190cm.

There are 4 kinds of doubles: upright-oxer, oxer-upright, upright-upright and oxer-oxer, which is the toughest double and one of the toughest technicalities in course designing.

The ideal distance between fences, for the oxer-oxer one stride double is 720cm, for the upright-upright is 800cm, and for the upright-oxer is 750cm. Moreover, if we need to make the double two strides we just increase these distances by 300cm.

Finally, I hope you liked these little tips about course designing and I wish you all good luck.

Dressage

The Canter

The Canter is three-time pace with three beats to the stride. The rider can count, One-two-three, one-two-three, with a silent moment between strides. In Canter the horse should look and feel light on his feet, balanced and rhythmic.

The horse

The sequence of footfalls when the left is leading is:

- 1) right hind,
- 2) left hind and right fore together,
- 3) left fore (the leading leg), followed by a moment of suspension when all four feet are briefly off the ground.

The sequence of footfalls when the right foreleg is leading is:

- 1) Left hind,
- 2) right hind and left fore together,
- 3) right fore (leading leg), followed by a moment of suspension.

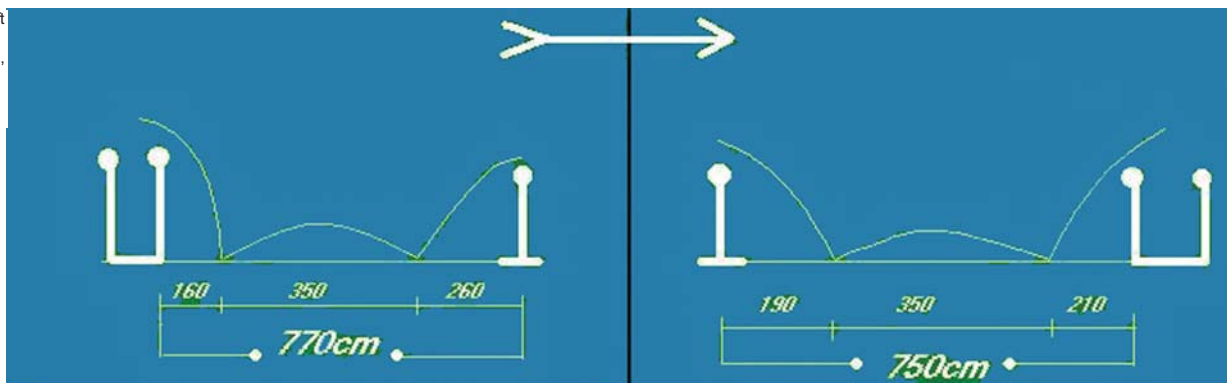
The working canter is the pace between collected and medium canter.

Aids to the Canter

Before asking for the Canter, check that the preceding pace is of good quality. The horse must be accepting the bit and going forward in balance and with impulsion. You should indicate with your inside hand the direction of the Canter (with a quick 'take-and-give'); sit for a few strides; bring the outside leg back behind the girth and give a definite nudge to the horse's side, while at the same time maintaining the impulsion with the inside leg. As the horse strikes off into the canter you will feel the alteration of pace and you must be particularly careful to remain supple, relaxed and in balance. Your hands must follow the considerable movement of the horse's head.

You should not look down to see which leg is leading. You will soon learn to feel which shoulder of the horse is slightly in advance of the other, and which hind leg comes to the ground first.

Fences From Left to right:
Oxer-Upright,
Upright-Oxer,



Fences From Left to right:
Upright-Upright,
and Oxer-Oxer.

