



### Van Dahn Memorial Library

In November, we asked you to help us establish the Lilian Van Dahn Memorial Library. Although our holdings are small, they are available for check out. Books may be checked out for one week periods and can be renewed if other students have not requested them. See the receptionist for details. Again, we wish to extend our gratitude to Susan Johnson who has generously donated her time to help us organize and catalogue the library, and to the students who have donated books. We couldn't have done it without you!

The following is a list of the Van Dahn Library holdings:

- 201 Handy Hints for Horse Persons (Karen Bush)
- All Color Book of Horses (Elizabeth Johnson)
- Barrel Racing (Sharon Camarillo)
- Beds and Bedding (Mary Gordon Watson)
- Centered Riding (Sally Swift)
- Colours and Markings (Jane Holderness-Roddam)
- Driving: How to Drive and How Not to Drive (Anne Norris)
- Fields and Fencing (Mary Gordon Watson)
- First Aid (Jane Holderness-Roddam)
- Fritz and the Beautiful Horses (Jan Brett)
- Horse Anatomy: A Pictorial Approach to Equine Structure (Petter Goody)
- How to Draw Horses (John Raymond)
- Making Your Own Jumps (Mary Gordon Watson)
- Saddlery and Horse Equipment (Jennifer Baker)
- Skin Troubles and Remedies (Equus monography)
- The Body Language of Horses (Tom Ainslie)
- The Complete Book of the Horse (Carol Foster)
- The Gift of the Sacred Dog (Paul Goble)
- The Horse's Health from A to Z (Peter Rossdale)
- The Mud Pony: A Traditional Skidi Pawnee Tale (Caron Lee Cohen)
- The Pony Club Book (James Lewis)
- The Pony Club Quiz Book (British Horse Society)
- The World Atlas of Horses and Ponies (Peter Churchill)
- Trimming and Clipping (Valerie Watson)
- Western Horsemanship (Richard Shrake)

We still need your help! Take a look at the Recommended Reading List on page 2 and see if you would like to help make it possible for those books to be part of our library. If we all work together and donate at least one book or video, we can fulfill our dream of establishing the best equestrian library in town and honor Lilian's dream of producing dedicated, proficient, and well-educated riders!

### New Regulation Headgear

The American Horse Show Association, the United States Combined Training Association and the U.S. Pony Clubs have officially adopted ASTM F1163-88 helmet as their standard for protective headgear. Statistics reveal that 42,000 injured riders are currently treated each year in emergency departments, and one third of those injuries are neurologic. Head injuries are said to be the most common injury associated with equestrian sports. The new ASTM standard is estimated to provide three times the level of absorption of the old AHSA standard.

The new headgear, which has passed safety standards of both the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Safety Equipment Institute, beginning March 26, 1991, must be worn by all junior (under the age of 18) competitors in the hunter, hunter seat equitation, and jumper divisions at AHSA recognized shows, and by all competitors at Combined Training Events recognized by the AHSA and/or the USCTA.

Safety Equipment Institute tested and approved the ASTM Standard F 1163-88 for protective headgear, and only those models that meet the testing and performance requirements will bear the SEI label.

The AHSA has extended the December deadline to March 26 to allow the suppliers to accumulate stock, which at the moment is insufficient to meet the demands of consumers.

If you will be competing in any of the divisions listed above, you must meet this new headgear regulation. Be sure to look for the SEI label when you purchase your helmet. Even if you are not competing, we recommend that you consider purchasing this new helmet and always wear protective headgear when you are mounted.



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## Recommended Reading

### Combined Training

Horse Trials (Reiner Klimke)  
Practical Eventing (Sally O'Connor)  
USCTA Book of Eventing (Sally O'Connor)  
The Event Rider's Notebook (Mary Rose)  
The Event Groom's Handbook (Kane & Waltmann)

### Dressage

Practical Dressage Manual ( Bengt Ljungquist)  
Dressage (Henry Wynmalen)  
Dressage Questions Answered (Charles de Knuffy)  
Riding Logic (Museler)  
Dressage Riding (Richard L. Watjen)  
Horsemanship (Waldermann Seunig)  
Complete Training of Horse and Rider (Alois Podajsky)

### Hunter/Jumpers

Hunter Seat Equitation (George Morris)  
The DeNemethy Method (Bertalan DeNemethy)  
Learning to Ride Over Fences (Holly Hugo-Vidal)

### Western

Western Horsemanship (Richard Shrake)  
The Western Horse (Dave Jones)  
Using the American Quarter Horse (L.N. Sikes)  
Barrel Racing (Sharon Camarillo)

### Showing

The Competitive Edge (Max Gahwyler)  
How to Ride a Winning Dressage Test (Jonathan R. Burton)  
Fit to Compete (Christine Hughes)  
The Athletic Horse (Carol Foster)  
Riding and Schooling of the Western Performance Horse (G.F. Corley)  
Grooming to Win (Susan Harris)

### Magazines

California Horse Review  
Chronicle of the Horse  
Dressage and CT  
Equus  
Horse Illustrated  
Horses

Horseman  
Horseplay  
Performance Horseman  
Practical Horseman  
Western Horseman

## Winner's Circle

### T.E.S. Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show February 11, 1990

#### School Horse Division

**Walk/Trot Pleasure (17 & Under):** (A) 1. Barbara Lubin, Idaho; 2. Jennie Spear, Arizona; and 3. Maritza Hernandez, Vermont. (B) 1. Alexandra Buck, Carolina; 2. Brooke Roberts, Dakota; and 3. Max Azad, Pepper.

**Walk/Trot Equitation (17 & Under):** (A) 1. Maritza Hernandez, Vermont; 2. Barbara Lubin, Idaho; and 3. Jennie Spears, Arizona. (B) 1. Tiffany Fischer, Arkansas; 2. Brooke Roberts, Dakota; and 3. Nagal Azad, D.C.

**Hunt Seat Equitation (17 & Under) Novice:** (A) 1. Jennifer Kim, Nebraska; 2. Serena Meyer, Vermont; and 3. Alexandra Tuttle, Ohio. (B) 1. Jennifer Sinatra, Dakota; 2. Devin Dunsay, Tom Cat; and 3. Tina Klarie, Washington.

**English Pleasure (17 & Under) Novice:** (A) 1. J.K. Barrett, Pepper; 2. Serena Meyer, Vermont; and 3. Jade Maloney, Arkansas. (B) 1. Devin Dunsay, Tom Cat; 2. Allison Quaglins, J.B.; and 3. Joseph Kim, Blue Eyes.

**Beg. Crossrails (17 & Under):** 1. Alexandra Tuttle, Ohio; 2. Devin Dunsay, Tom Cat; and 3. Jennifer Kim, Nebraska.

**Walk/Trot Equitation (Adult):** 1. Meghan Hooker, California and 2. Janice Kuebler, Pepper.

**Walk/Trot Pleasure (Adult):** 1. Janice Kuebler, Pepper and 2. Meghan Hooker, California.

**Hunt Seat Equitation (Int. Adult):** Dean Dunsay, Tom Cat; 2. Tina Bothamley, Baker; and 3. Lee Kessner, Utah.

**English Pleasure (Int. Adult):** Dean Dunsay, Tom Cat; 2. Lee Kessner, Utah; and 3. Patti Norian, JB.

**Hunt Seat Equitation (Adult Novice):** (A) 1. Sloane Fisher, Alabama; 2. Patty Galvin, Sling; and 3. Joseph Goldstone, D.C. (B) 1. Cindy Hoffmann, Pepper; 2. Patricia Waldek, Ohio; and 3. Lynne Toby, Kansas.

**English Pleasure (Adult Novice):** 1. Patty Galvin, Sling; 2. Celia Vorsanger, Wisconsin; 3. Terri Gunnell, Washington. (B) 1. Cindy Hoffman, Pepper; 2. Patricia Waldeck, Ohio; and 3. Wendy Roebuck, California.

**Beg. Crossrails (Adult):** 1. Diane Dunsay, Tom Cat; 2. Lisa Humphries, Nebraska; and 3. Patty Galvin, Sling.

**Working Hunters (Adult):** 1. Pat Boyd, Nebraska; 2. Karen Henderson, Ohio; and 3. Patty Decker, Washington.

**Equitation Over Fences (Adult):** 1. Patty Decker, Washington, 2. Karen Henderson, Nebraska; and 3. Patricia Waldeck, Ohio.

#### Open Division

**Hunt Seat Equitation (Adult):** 1. Donna McDonald, Argon; 2. Eva La Rue, Exclusive Music; and 3. Janet Koppelman, Liberty Run.

**English Pleasure (Adult):** 1. Eva La Rue, Exclusive Music; 2. Pat Graner, Just Plain Charley; and 3. Stephanie Hodge, Jimi.

**Warm-Up Hunters (Adult):** 1. Kathy Mancini, Just Plain Charley; 2. Eva La Rue, Exclusive Music; and 3. Laura Ziffran, Utah.

**Working Hunter (Adult):** 1. Eva La Rue, Exclusive Music; 2. Laura Ziffran, Utah; and 3. Jon Yormark, Nebraska.

**Equitation Over Fences (Adult):** 1. Jon Yormark, Nebraska; 2. Donna McDonald, Argon; and 3. Laura Ziffran, Utah.

**Green Hunters (Open):** 1. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire; 2. Kerry Sherman, P.K.; and 3. Gillian Van Myden, Sadie.

**Training Jumpers (Open):** 1. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire; 2. Donna McDonald, Sinjin; and 3. Donna McDonald, Argon.

**Open Jumpers:** 1. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire; 2. Donna McDonald, Sinjin; and 3. Donna McDonald, Argon.

**Hunt Seat Equitation (17 & Under):** 1. Jennifer Reames, Best Fellow; 2. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire; and 3. Leslie Mounger, Joint Venture.

**English Pleasure (17 & Under):** 1. Ayshe Turner, Dutch; 2. Leslie Mounger, Joint Venture; 3. Jennifer Reames, Best Fellow.

**Warm-Up Hunters (17 & Under):** 1. Jennifer Reames, Best Fellow; 2. Cynthia Merino, Nebraska; and 3. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire.

**Working Hunters (17 & Under)** 1. Leslie Mounger, Joint Venture; 2. Cynthia Merino, Nebraska; and 3. Jennifer Reames, Short But to the Point.

**Equitation Over Fences (17 & Under):** 1. Nicole Braussard, The Man; 2. Michelle Katsky, Hawk; 3. Tina Donatoni, Devonshire.

*Note: Hillary Smotherman placed 2nd in Walk/Trot Pleasure at the T.E.S. School Show on December 17.*

## Western Roundup

### Western Riding: What's it all About? Part III: the Rodeo

by Angie Kissner and Kathy Matthes

Rodeo, the "father" of Western competitions, is a series of cowboy sports that began with the trail drivers in the Great Plains area. These men were not always able to go to town for entertainment, so they made a sport out of their daily work skills. As the idea caught on, each outfit established its own riding and roping champions, and the first rodeo took place when several outfits decided to match their champions against each other. The prize money, held in a hat, consisted of the cowboys' own bets.

In 1872, this new sport began to draw spectators when the folks in Cheyenne, Wyoming gathered to watch some Texans ride the wild stock. In 1883, the first public cowboy contest for prizes occurred at Pecos, Texas when longhorns were corralled on the courthouse lawn and roped down the main street. The first competition held in front of paying spectators was held in 1888 at Prescott, Arizona. Some famous rodeo contests were the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo (started in 1897), the Pendleton Oregon Roundup (1910), the California Rodeo at Salinas (1911) and the Calgary Alberta Stampede (1912). Since then, rodeo has developed into a highly competitive sport and is now governed by several organizations like the National High School Rodeo Association, National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, Girls' Rodeo Association, Professional Rodeo Cowboys and various state amateur rodeo associations. Today, contestants at the top rodeos compete for over \$200,000 and draw over 16 million spectators.

There are two types of standard rodeo events: **timed** (calf roping, team roping and steer wrestling) and **riding** (bareback riding, bull riding and saddle bronc riding).

**Calf roping** was a skill that was required of cowboys while branding or treating sick animals and developed into a highly competitive rodeo event. A mounted cowboy behind a rope barrier is positioned on one side of a chute containing a 200-400 pound calf. The roper starts his horse so that it reaches the barrier when it is released—after the calf is released and crosses the score line. (A 10 second penalty is given if the barrier is broken before the calf crosses the score line). Once the calf is roped, the rider dismounts while the horse is stopping, throws the calf on its side and ties three legs together with a piggin string (a small, 6 foot rope). Meanwhile, the horse must keep the rope taut. Time is called when the tie is complete; the calf must remain tied for at least 6 seconds.

**Team Roping** is the art of heading and heeling steers which was developed from the skill required to handle cattle on the range. Two ropers start from a roping box as the steer is released from the chute. (A 10 second penalty is given for breaking the barrier before the steer passes the score line.) The header ropes the steer around the head and the heeler ropes the hind legs. There are two styles of team roping: **dally** (the roper must make one turn around the saddle horn with his rope to hold the steer) and **hard and fast** (the ropes are tied to the saddle horn). There are three legal head catches: around both horns, around the neck, and around one horn and the neck. A 5 second penalty occurs if the heeler catches only one hind foot.

**Steer Wrestling** was originally called "bull dogging." Two mounted cowboys (the dogger on the left and the hazer on the right) chase a horned steer weighing 450-700 pounds after it is released from a chute. (The dogger receives a 10 second penalty if he breaks the barrier before the steer crosses the

score line.) The hazer's job is to keep the steer running straight. The dogger has to grab the steer's right horn in the crook of his right elbow, dismount from his running horse, and stop the steer with his heels in front of his body at a 45 degree angle to the path the steer is traveling. The steer's head is then tipped toward the center of a left-hand turn, its nose is upturned and the neck is twisted. Time is signalled by a field judge after the steer falls on its side with all four feet up in the air.

**Bareback Riding** was not part of the cowboy's daily routine, but developed in the 1920s from competitive desires to out do each other. The rider mounts the horse (which has been rigged with a 10-inch leather pad with a hand hold) in the chute. On the first buck out of the chute, the rider must spur the horse over the break of the shoulders as the horse's front feet strike the ground. (The rider is disqualified if he fails to do so and also if his free hand touches the horse.) The ride is scored by two judges on a 25-point system (maximum of 100 points) for both horse and rider. The rider is judged on control, proper position and spurring; the horse is judged on how he kicks, how hard he jumps, how difficult he is to ride and how many directions he goes. Minimum ride time is 8 seconds to qualify.

**Saddle Bronc Riding** began as entertainment on the great cattle drives. Today, the bronc must be ridden with a saddle that meets PRCA specifications and a halter with a 6-foot long, 1 1/2 inch-thick rein, which the rider uses to maintain his balance. As with bareback riding, the rider must keep his spurs over the horse's shoulders until the first jump out of the chute is completed. The rider must then spur from front to back in rhythm with the

*Continued on p. 6*

Sources: J. Warren Evans, *Horses: A Guide to Selection, Care, and Enjoyment* (San Francisco: W.H. Freeman & Company, 1981); Anthony Dent (ed.), *The Horse Through Fifty Centuries of Civilization* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974); and Charles Chenevix-Trench, *A History of Horsemanship* (New York: Doubleday, 1970).

# Dressage

## The Sense and Purpose of Dressage Part II

There are six basic principles leading like a red line through the schooling of a horse. They are very much linked to each other, but show a certain graduation in how to progress in training: rhythm, relaxation, on the bit, impulsion (development of thrust), straightness and collections (development of force, carrying capacity and elasticity).

**1. Rhythm** is the absolute regularity of movements in all the three paces (gaits). One of the main demands of a correctly ridden horse is not fulfilled if the horse loses its natural rhythm in one of those paces.

The walk is a 4-beat, stepping movement. A stepping movement is when the horse always makes contact with the ground -- all four legs are never off the ground at one time. The walk should always be calm, relaxed, but also diligent (active). The sequence of footsteps (or foot fall pattern) is on the same side, but not at the same time. For example, if the horse starts with the right hind leg, it is followed by the right front leg. Likewise, the left hind leg is followed by the left front leg. If the right or left legs lift from the ground together and step down at the same time, the feared "pass" has occurred, which is extremely difficult to correct. The main reason for this fault is walking too fast and bringing the horse on the bit too early. Only a sensitive rider can manage to correct the faulty rhythm by putting the horse on the bit in special half steps, so that the unnatural pace can be set right. If the horse has fallen into the "pass," it is good to ride calmly at the walk outside in the bush where the ground is uneven, so that the horse can climb up soft hills. Cavaletti work helps as well.

The trot is a 2 beat, swinging movement. The word "swinging" expresses that this pace has a moment of free suspension where all our feet are off the ground at once. The sequence of footsteps is, for example,

right hind leg together with the left front leg, followed by a moment of free suspension, then the left hind leg together with the right front leg. The fault that occurs the most -- especially while developing the medium or extended trot -- is that the horse becomes too quick.

The canter is a 3 beat, swinging movement. The sequence of footsteps in the right-hand canter is: left hind leg, right hind leg together with left front leg, right front leg and then a moment of suspension. In this gait, irregularity of rhythm occurs quite often, though not as much as with the walk. The disunited, 4-beat canter usually occurs in the first period of collection, when the shortening of the canter stride is done without the necessary elasticity of hands (not giving the reins after half halts) and no support is given through energetic, pushing aids. This fault can be corrected by cantering with more extension, by cantering on the circle several times and by renunciation of any collection in the canter.

**2. Relaxation** is an unfeared state and is the basis of harmony between the rider and the horse. It is the main element of an easy and pleasant look. Only relaxation makes it possible for the horse's back to act as the center of movement. Only when the horse "gives his back" and the rider achieves a more or less correct technical execution of the lesson can the rider experience the desired good feeling. The horse can withstand heavier stress without danger of injury if the muscles are warmed up. Only a relaxed horse can accept the aids of the rider without becoming cramped or tense.

A horse is relaxed when it moves with rhythmic regularity, when it rounds the back (swinging back) which allows the rider to sit comfortably and give the forward pushing aids, when the horse stretches his neck forward and downward looking for the hand of the rider and takes it, and when he carries his tail naturally and without tension. One of the most important signs of relaxation is the snorting of the horse.

Relaxation exercises with the rider are, for example, walking on a long rein, rising trot, big circles and serpentines, turns on the forehand, changes between trot and canter, yielding of the thighs, cavaletti work, and jumping small fences. Correct lunging before the work with the rider can be of great help in achieving correct relaxation, especially with horses that possess weak or sensitive backs.

When we talk about a horse being on the bit, we understand a soft, steady communication between the hand of the rider and the mouth of the horse. It should be the same pressure with both reins. The steadiness of this communication is of immense importance: a frequent, "springing" rein is just as wrong as a stiff, motionless or too firm communication. It is okay when the horse slightly bends his neck and accept the bit voluntarily as the rider applies the forward pushing aids and when the horse chews confidently on the bit and stretches his neck forward and down as the rider gives the reins. The horse has to be on the bit. It is a fault if the horse goes "above," "against" or "behind" the bit. The horse that goes "above" the bit has to be corrected by holding the reins and giving energetic, forward pushing aids to force the horse to accept the bit and to bend the neck. As soon as the rider succeeds, he must immediately give the reins to achieve the necessary stretching of the neck downward so that the back can start to swing.

The horse going "against" the bit should be corrected by making half halts, i.e., holding the reins against the energetic, forward pushing aids for a very short moment and then giving in. This should make the horse softly accept the bit. Energetic, forward pushing aids in connection with the giving forward hand should finally make it impossible for the horse to remain begin the bit.

*Special thanks to Patricia Kinnaman for permission to reprint this article from the Van Dahn Instructor's Manual -- author unknown.*

## Dear Miss Winnie

Dear Miss Winnie,

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a Western horse. I look Western, I move Western, and I think Western! Last week I found myself in the dressage ring with a student who was frustrated because I didn't "bend." I kept trying to bend my neck farther around because that's what I thought the student wanted, but she only got more and more frustrated. What is this "bending" stuff and why should a western horse have to do it?

Your very Western friend,  
Dakota

Dear Dakota:

*Don't worry. We all know that you're a terrific Western horse and, from what I've heard, you're a pretty good English horse as well. You should be grateful that you get the chance to go in the dressage classes because the basic training is excellent for all kinds of horses -- yes, even Western horses like you! As far as "bending" is concerned, don't try to accomplish it by just bending your neck around. You should not be bending from your neck, but rather flexing from your poll (that top joint that connects your head to your neck). The student should only be able to see just the tip of your inside eye and nostril. We all know that horses can't bend their spines sideways like humans, but you can bend your body around your rider's inside leg by bringing your inside shoulder and haunches closer together. If you are also moving forward and accepting the bit, you will feel this wonderful sense of balance when you are asked to perform circles, serpentines or deeper bends in the corners of the arena. And try not to think of bending as just a "dressage" thing -- you'd be surprised at how much better you could run barrels if you learned to bend properly!*

Best regards,  
Miss Winnie

Dear Miss Winnie,

I'm sending this letter to you from my lonely spot down at the end of the barn. I am really not a bad guy. I try to be nice to the students, so they will come and visit me more often. I am always eager to see them when I see them handing out treats, but they always seem run out of goodies before they get to me. Instead of carrots and apples, I just get apologies. I've even tried kicking the bars in protest, but that makes them just drop their carrot bags and run! I get so depressed when all those empty orange and blue bags blow into my stall. What am I doing wrong?

Your lonely-hearted friend,  
Alaska

Dear Alaska:

*I don't think that the students are being mean to you on purpose. Every student should bring treats for the horse they ride in the lesson, and they usually end up giving the extras to their favorite horses in the barn, but they shouldn't have to bring treats for everyone. I don't think they realize how upset some horses can get when their buddies get treats and they don't. It looks like you need to remind the the students who ride you to bring treats for you, but you are certainly not as neglected as you sound. The working students always have treats for all the school horses. Perhaps you are scaring the students away when you make a fuss by kicking the bars. A little self-control and better stable manners just might earn you a few more devoted friends...and some extra treats!*

Regards,  
Miss Winnie

## Rodeo

*Continued from p. 4*

horse's bucks, and the spurring strokes must be smooth and in a long arc. Two judges each score the horse (1-25 points) and the rider (1-25 points), and it is based on how difficult the horse is to ride, the rider's control, and how he spurs his horse.

**Bull Riding** is very dangerous and most riders get kicked, butted, or stepped on when they get bucked off or jump off the bull. A rope with a hand hold is placed around the bull's chest and the rider places a gloved hand in the hand hold while another cowboy tightens the rope. The free rope end is laid across the rider's palm, wrapped behind the hand and across the palm, and the rider clenches the rope with all his might. A bell attached to the rope serves as a weight to pull the rope free after the rider dismounts. Two judges score both the bull and the rider: 1-25 points for the bull (judged on its ability to jump and kick high and to change directions suddenly), and 1-25 points for the rider (judged on his ability to stay in control of the ride, remain erect and use his spurs correctly). The ride must last a minimum of 8 seconds, and the free hand cannot touch the bull.

Obviously, not everyone is cut out for all the rodeo events, but many Western riders enjoy participating in the team and calf roping events. Like all the Western disciplines, these events require skill and training to achieve success.



## Vet's Notebook

### Thrush

by David W. Ramey, DVM

Horses have a lot of foot problems. In fact, it's been estimated that approximately 70% of all lameness problems in horses are somehow related to the feet. Common problems, like thrush, can be prevented with good, sensible hoof care practices.

Thrush is the horseman's term for a moist infection of the tissues of the hoof. When the hoof is kept moist (from muddy conditions or when manure and bedding are allowed to accumulate in the foot), it becomes a good candidate for infections. The conditions of a dirty foot (lack of oxygen, presence of infectious agents, and moisture) are the perfect environment for the development of bacteria or fungi. However, the exact causative agent is rarely determined.

The signs of thrush are easy to identify. An area of moist, smelly tissue will develop on the foot. These infections usually occur in the grooves next to the frog of the foot (the sulcus of the frog), or in the groove in the frog between the heels. Infected areas are painful when pressure is applied (with a hoof pick, for example) and in severe cases, thrush can cause lameness. If untreated, deep thrush can get high up into the soft tissues of the foot and result in substantial lameness as well as significant down time for your horse.

There are many commercial treatments available for thrush. However, two basic principles need to be followed. First, the horse's foot must be kept clean. It may also be necessary to remove some of the diseased or overlying hoof tissue to allow the infected tissue to be exposed to the air. Second, a topical treatment must be applied to kill the infection. Generally, the agents used for thrush infections kill both fungus and bacteria, so it's rarely necessary to find out which particular one caused the thrush. Treatment for the

infection includes application of iodine, formaldehyde, potassium permanganate, bleach solutions, or sulfa antibacterial powder. If you clean up the foot so that all surfaces are exposed to air, keep the foot clean and dry, and apply the proper treatment to kill the infection, the thrush problem will usually go away.

It's not at all uncommon for the bottom of the hoof to develop a powdery, white covering, particularly if the horse is due for shoeing. This is not thrush. It is just the normal shedding of the hoof tissue that occurs as the hoof gets long. In cases where the feet become very long, pieces of the sole or frog may also shed. Again, this is normal.

Thrush is an irritating problem that can be easily prevented with regular hoof care. The two most important things you can do are to follow a regular shoeing schedule with your farrier and to clean the feet out often. Consistent professional hoof care will help prevent cracks, bruises, and hoof imbalances that can contribute to lameness. Cleaning your horse's feet often will not only make harder for thrush to develop, but daily examinations will help you determine if there are any foot problems developing.

So it behooves (no pun intended) horse owners (and T.E.S. students) to do everything they can to keep their horse's feet healthy. There's really no reason for a horse to develop thrush if its feet are looked after properly. Like anything else, an ounce of prevention (hoof care) is worth a pound of cure.



*The Vet's Notebook is a monthly column that answers your equine health questions. Please address questions to: Editor, T.E.S. Talk, and leave them in the School office. Ramey Equine Group is an equine exclusive practice serving the Los Angeles area since 1987. Dr. David Ramey and Dr. Patricia Chow provide full service care to horses of all breeds and occupations, including medicine, surgery, ultrasound, endoscopy, and X-rays. Call (818) 953-8528 to schedule an appointment or if you have any questions.*

March

Calendar of Events

1990

**Traditional Equitation School**

- 4 A Day at the Races
- 18 Dressage Schooling Show
- 19 Castle Leslie Riding Holiday Orientation with Media Travel, 7 p.m.
- 19-21 USET Dressage Clinic with Robert Dover



**L.A. Equestrian Center**

- 2-3 Pyramid Society Egyptian Arabian Horse Show  
Steve Gallaway (606) 231-0771
- 9-11 Cornerstone Dressage Show  
Glenda McElroy (818) 841-3554
- 13-18 Hollywood Celebrity Horse Show
- 13-18 Saddlebred & Hunter/Jumpers \$25,000 Grand Prix
- 22-25 So. Calif. Half Arabian Horse Show
- 30-4/1 Golden State Gay Rodeo and Festival
- 23-25 Dressage Show, Glenda McElroy (818) 841-3554

**So. California Area**

- 3-4 Dressage by the Sea, Malibu Riding Club (213) 457-9550
- 3-4 Meadows of Moorpark Horse Trials (805) 523-7325
- 10-11 Show Park of San Diego Spring Horse Trials (619) 481-6536
- 18 Mill Creek School Show
- 18-19 Dressage Among Friends, Agoura Hills (818) 343-7008
- 14-18 Gold Coast Winter Classic
- 22-25 Show Park Spring Special San Diego
- 29-4/1 Beach Cities, San Diego

Traditional Equitation



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