



Upcoming Show Season

Inside this Issue:

- Upcoming Show Season* 1
- Clinic at Clearview!* 1
- Spring has Sprung* 2
- Clearview Clothing* 2
- Barn News* 2
- The Training Scale* 3

As spring is quickly approaching, we are looking forward to the upcoming 2009 show season! At Clear View we offer riding for all interest levels. We are not solely a show barn, but if competition is something you are interested in we will be putting together a team to travel to a few local schooling shows.

We will be attending several dressage and hunter/jumper shows in the area throughout the spring, summer, and fall. What does this entail you may be wondering?

First, to show you must be an



owner, leaser, or have expressed permission from an owner. Clear View may allow certain school horses to travel, but this must be discussed with your instructor. The horse you showing must have an up-to-date Coggins Test; which will allow you to enter the premises of the show grounds.

Show clothing is another must, and this will vary depending on if you are entering a dressage or a hunter/jumper show. For a dressage show you will need dress boots, white breeches, black jacket, white show shirt, white stock tie, and white gloves. For a hunter/jumper show you will need field boots, tan or beige breeches, navy or hunter green jacket, show shirt with rat catcher, and black gloves.

Grooming for shows can also be quite different than everyday

grooming. Horses must be bathed, clipped, and braided. Tack must be cleaned and oiled, and different types of white saddle pads are used depending on the discipline you will be showing in. We will plan a short clinic to go over show grooming.

Most show days begin early in the morning and can be hot and tiring. We make it fun however by supporting one another as well as setting up a Clear View 'camp' with snacks and refreshments.

Fees involved with showing will include a trailering fee, entry fees for each class, and schooling fees



"No Hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle."

-Winston Churchill

Clinic at Clear View!

Its time to get excited about our riding! Wendy, Chris, and Becky will be offering a clinic on Sunday, March 29th.

Wendy will kick off the clinic at 10am with a 'test and train'. Riders will perform a dressage test and receive feedback and training. They will then go through the test again, with the

opportunity to apply Wendy's instruction. Brunch will then be provided in the lounge until 12:30. Following brunch, Chris will be teaching the importance of ground work including leading, lunging, and much more! At 2:00 Becky will be doing a segment on technical aspects of jumping; such as finding the perfect spot, striding, and riding

the perfect course.

The Clinic will be \$70 per person, which will include brunch and a total of 4 1/2 hours of intensive training! A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. Sign up soon!

BARN NEWS

Spring has Sprung

LESSON PROGRAM

Recommend a friend and receive a discount on your next lesson!

If you have a friend interested in taking lessons let them know about Clear View! If they sign up for a lesson with us you can receive a \$5.00 discount on your next lesson. Just have them mention your name when they schedule a lesson. After they complete a lesson you will receive a discount on **your** next lesson.

Spring is just around the corner, but we may have a few more chilly weeks ahead. Please pick up a copy of our cold weather cancellation policy located in the tack room, and remember if you have a non-weather related cancellation it must be done at least 24 hours prior to the lesson. If the lesson is not cancelled with enough advance notice a \$12 cancellation fee will apply. We understand that things often come up unexpectedly, but in order for us to provide you with the highest quality of service, our instructors must be compensated for the time they have set aside for each student.

Clearview School Show!

April 19th! Mark it in your calendar!

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Dominique on her purchase of Credit. What a great pair. Also, congrats to Maddie Davis for leasing Sy!

We would like to send a big welcome to Heidi Franks! She arrived on February 7th with her two super-cute mares Salsa and Saline. We are so excited to have them here at Clear View! Let's welcome Heidi into our barn family!

Spring is an eventful time for horses and horse owners. Horses and riders of all disciplines become more active. This is especially true in colder climates, where the winter season effectively shuts down most of the horse industry. After a long winter, warm spring days encourage people to get out on their horses again. The purpose of this article is to remind readers of some important spring horse care considerations.

- **Horses who haven't shed out their long winter coats** will heat up faster when working and take longer to cool down and dry out on warm spring days. A shedding blade or block will help to hasten shedding by pulling out long hairs.
- **Consider clipping a long winter coat** if you are planning to get back into a regular riding routine. A clipped horse or pony may still need to be blanketed if the temperature dips.
- **Spring time is vaccination time.** Consult your veterinarian for the recommended vaccinations.
- **Horses accustomed to being blanketed during the cold weather may still need blankets** during temperature dips or rainy weather. Don't forget to remove the blanket when the weather warms up again!
- **Keep an eye out for signs of thrush** which can flare up during wet weather. Thrush is a bacterium that survives without the presence of oxygen. It thrives in moisture and can eat your horses' frog. It can be almost always prevented with

daily hygiene habits on your horse. If thrush shows up, you will see a black, puss-like discharge with a strange odor. There are some commercial remedies to help get rid of thrush if you spot it. Some of the products you can look for would include: Thrush Buster, Kopertox, and Thrush Remedy. However, prevention is the best cure for thrush. Daily hoof picking and a clean environment are key.

- **Keep an eye out for rain rot** which can also flare up in wet weather. Rain rot is one of the most common skin infections seen in horses. Rain rot can appear as large crust-like scabs or small, 1/4 inch matted tufts of hair. There is usually dozens of tiny scabs that have embedded hair and can be easily scrapped off. In the early stages, you will be able to feel small lumps on the horses' skin or hair by running your hand over the horses' coat. Rain rot usually appears on the horses' back or rump, along with the back of the fetlock and front of the cannon bone.
 1. Keep the horse in a dry, clean area that is very well ventilated. Give the horse protection against biting insects. Separate the horse from any others that also have rain rot.
 2. Use an antimicrobial shampoo that lathers well. Vigorously lather the horse, let sit for 10 minutes, then rinse. Be sure to follow with a conditioner that works well. Continue this for daily for 1 week.
 3. Remove all scabs that are present. This is usually painful for the horse, so be gentle! The best way I have seen to remove these scabs is to temporarily moisten them (so they become soft and easy to remove). Be sure to dry the horse immediately after scab removal.

Clear View Clothing

What better way to show your barn spirit than to sport a Clearview hat, shirt, coat, or other gear!

We will be putting together a few samples of clothing and gear for you to vote on, so that we can get an idea of what everyone is interested in. We

will then place an order including the items with the



most votes. The larger each order is per item the more discounted it will be.

A few ideas include polos, t-shirts, baseball caps, hooded sweatshirts, fleece vests, zip-up fleeces, and light jackets. A selection will be posted on the bulletin board. Place your vote

The Art of Classical Riding : The Training Scale

by Duaa Anwar

Some time ago, I asked a renowned dressage trainer if he thought my four-year-old horse had potential to excel at Grand Prix. My horse had the bloodlines, conformation, temperament, talent, and all the things that are usually typical of horses trainable to that level. He smiled at me and said, "A good horse is made."

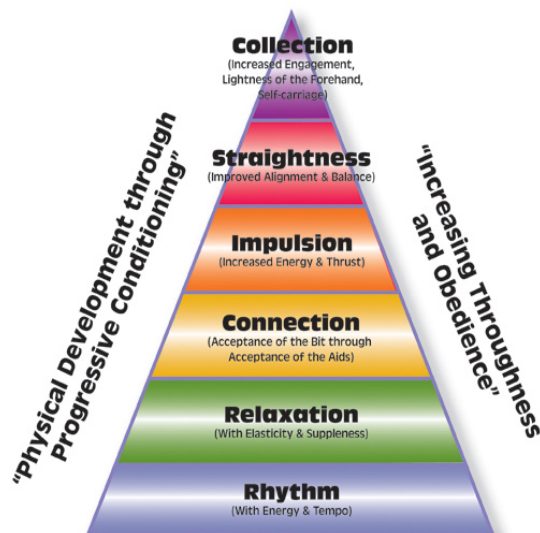
His reply hit home. I may have the best-bred horse in the world, but without good training, I had nothing. Bad training can make the best horse look terrible; good training can make the average horse a star. The question is, what is good training?

The best riders and trainers in the world will tell you that good training is that which is built block by block onto a strong, solid base. That base is comprised of the following six elements in that particular order.

The Elements in Brief:

1. **Rhythm:** It is the result of mental and physical relaxation. When the horse is relaxed, he is able to step into the natural rhythm of the four natural gaits: walk, trot, canter, and the rein-back. The walk is a 4-beat movement, the trot 2-beat, the canter 3-beat, and the rein back 2-beat. A horse that trots in rhythm is trotting in a clear 2-beat rhythm with a steady tempo. There is good rhythm and bad rhythm: Good rhythm is when the horse's canter is a true 3-beat, bad or incorrect rhythm is when it becomes a lazy 4-beat. Rhythm faults in the walk are when it comes close to 2-beat, and in the trot when it resembles a lame, hopping horse.

Pyramid of Training



Cont. on page 4...

ALLOW ME TO HELP TURN YOUR CREATIVE VISIONS INTO REALITIES!

*With over 10 years of professional experience in the decorative painting industry.
Call or email to set up a portfolio review and brainstorming session!*

CLEARVIEW STABLES "FAMILY" DISCOUNT. . .10% OFF ANY PROJECT!!!!



FAUX FINISHES AND MURALS



*HANDPAINTED
FURNITURE*



ACRYLICS ON CANVAS

Debbie Nietsch, Decorative Artist

412-889-7267 or 412-257-3557

Clear View Stables

320 Whittengale Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Phone: (724) 693-9686

We're on the web!

www.clearviewstablesinc.com

*“Building a great community
of friendships with horses
and riders in harmony.”*



2. Suppleness: A dressage horse is ultimately an athlete, and every athlete requires a certain level of flexibility. Suppleness is the looseness and flexibility of the horse's body. There are two types of suppleness: longitudinal and lateral. Longitudinal suppleness is the looseness of the horse's haunches, back, neck, poll, and jaw. Giving him the ability to swing forward while remaining fairly on the bit. Lateral suppleness is the degree to which a horse can bend his body and neck sideways, either to produce a circle or to move sideways.

3. Contact: When the horse is accepting the rider's hands, seat, and legs, it is said that he is offering good contact. Many people mistake contact for the horse being on the bit. That is not necessarily true and denotes riding with the hands alone. A horse moving under a rider is in contact with his seat, legs, and hands. Good contact is when the horse accepts and responds to seat and leg aids while maintaining a round outline with a mouth that is relaxed and accepting the bit. You can point out good contact when the horse's back is raised, his quarters engaged, his poll the highest point, his jaw relaxed, and his nose a hint in front of the vertical (That is also a sign of good riding and training).

4. Impulsion: Free-flowing energy initiated by the rider, causing the horse's back to swing, his quarters to engage, and his forelegs to articulate. Good impulsion is mirrored through a horse that appears to have an innate desire to go forward with active, lively steps. How far the horse steps underneath his barrel and how much he engages his hocks are both measures of impulsion. Basic training regulates the horse's engine so that impulsion becomes second nature to the horse, and the rider does not have to push all the time.

5. Straightness: Horses are naturally crooked, so straightening them is the job of the rider/trainer. For example, many horses canter with their quarters slightly in. Crookedness is caused by uneven suppleness; i.e. one end slightly stiffer than the other, and a weaker hind leg. Good training focuses on developing both sides and hind legs of the horse equally, which eventually leads to absolute straightness. A horse is truly straight when the hind foot steps in the line of the front foot (or sometimes a little deeper to the inside in the case of collection).

6. Collection: The pinnacle of the training pyramid, collection, is the ultimate goal for the dressage horse. When all the previous elements are present, collection just happens! Collection involves the lowering of the croup, lightness of the forehand, and shorter and higher steps. Collection is possible in the walk, trot, and canter. A rider on a horse doing a great collected canter feels as though he/she can let go and the horse would still maintain perfect rhythm and self-carriage without any interference from the rider.

The elements of the training scale describe the essence of dressage training whether you are working at backing a 3-year-old or perfecting your piaffe-passage transitions. Any problems encountered during training, provided they are not due to physical or psychological problems, can be traced to a weak link among the building blocks of training.

The first and most important building block is rhythm. Because rhythm is at the base of the pyramid, you cannot be focused on improving straightness if the rhythm at any gait is poor. In fact, you cannot be entirely focused on suppling exercises if the rhythm is poor. Likewise, you cannot be entirely focused on contact if the horse is tight and tense (the absence of suppleness). The key to adopting the training scale is to understand how each block or element is related to the next.