

HAMPSHIRE HORSE



In association with *Peter Cox Photography*

JANUARY 2005 (Issue 4)

What's On:

Thur 24 February: Monty Roberts "Horses in my Life" Tour – 7.30pm Quob Stables, Durley, near Southampton. (Not suitable for children under 8 years). Advance tickets £20, £25 on the door. Please make all cheques payable to 'Intelligent Horsemanship Ltd' and post to Lethornes, Lambourn, Berkshire RG17 8QS. Please send SAE and state clearly the date and venue for ticket purchase. Ring 01488 71300 for telephone bookings:- (£3 total booking fee on credit/debit cards)

Fri 25 February: Get Your Horse Fit – For Work & Play - Mixed evening with different speakers. 7.30pm Dummer Village Hall, nr Basingstoke. BHS members £5, non-members £6. SAE to Ms Kayti Harvey, 16 Tamella Road, Botley, Southampton, Hants, SO30 2NY. Tel 01489 699015 (eves only), email events@BHS Hampshire.org.uk

Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE

(www.merristwood.ac.uk) Contact Event Secretary on 01483 884147

Wed 26 January: An evening with the Paralympians (lecture/demonstration).

Tickets £15, credit card booking available

Mon 14 February: 10 out of 10 Clinic by British Dressage Judge Sarah Waylett

Advance bookings only, tickets £20 per session

Wed 30 March: Lecture/demonstration with Mary Wanless - Contact Lee Harris, MWD Project Manager, 5 Albert Mansions, Church Road, Hove BN3 2FS. Tel. 01273 736083

Sun 13 March: The Rockbourne Fun Ride (with jumps) – UK Chasers Course, Rockbourne, nr Fordingbridge. Advance bookings only. Email: events@BHS Hampshire.org.uk. Please see website for further details: www.BHS Hampshire.org.uk

Understanding Equus Workshops with Debbie Reilly, Equine Trainer & Behaviour Specialist
Oak Tree House, Hightown Hill, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3HE. Tel/fax: 01425 473151, mobile: 07715 732278.
Email: info@understandingequus.co.uk Web-site: www.understandingequus.co.uk

Mon 7 March: Understanding Equus Talk by Debbie Reilly at the Holistic Therapy Centre, Rockbourne, 7.30pm. Admission £3. Further details and directions from Gill, tel 01425 657444

***14/15 March: Equine Behaviour Workshop** (2 days) £275 (inc. overnight DIY livery)

***14-18 March: Partnership Course.** A fun yet intensive five-day course designed to help with your horse through mutual trust, respect and understanding. Price: £499. Spectators welcome by prior arrangement, £30/day.

***Bookings received prior to 31 Jan 2005 subject to 10% discount. Please mention Hampshire Horse.**

Fri 28 January: One day Dressage course by Claire Lilley. Location: New Forest

Fri 18 March: One day Show Jumping course by Claire Lilley. Location: New Forest

Fri 8 April: One day Dressage course by Claire Lilley, Warborne Farm Stables (nr. Lymington).

15-17 April: Dan Guerrero Hoof trimming clinic (Brockenhurst). 3 day intensive clinic to learn the basic skills to maintain your horses un-shod hooves. Dan qualified as a farrier in USA and is an expert in trimming barefoot horses.

Contact Amanda Barton, tel 01590 622393, email Amanda@barronsandsmithers.com for info

Tues 19 April: BHS Road Safety Test (open to all) – Wellington Riding Centre, Heckfield, Hook.

Contact Wellington's Training Team direct on 0118 932 6308

Peter Cox Photography

SPECIAL OFFER to mark the association of Hampshire Horse News Letter and Peter Cox Photography any order placed during January will be subject to a 10% discount on published prices – to get your discount simply send this advert with your order - for telephone orders just mention the Hampshire Horse News Letter – Montages are made up of your favourite photographs from the 2004 season. All photographs taken during 2004 season are still available for viewing on my web site at www.petercox-photography.co.uk – or Call me on 02392 691349 - all major Credit/debit Cards accepted.



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Facilities for Hire:

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www.chase-farm.co.uk Tel: 01428 604547 or 07884 306954, e.mail ashton@chase-farm.co.uk



The Importance of Cooling a Sweaty Horse in Winter

If you're going to get your horse sweaty in winter, you're going to have to cool him down. This is a much faster, easier, and more effective process if your horse is clipped and clean. Natural winter coats are great if horses spend their winters outside, with a shelter for cold, wet, windy days. When horses can move freely and keep themselves warm with free-choice hay and free-choice exercise, they'll hold good weight, stay warm and dry, and never get sweaty unless something gets into their pasture and chases them.

The problem with getting sweaty in winter is not that the horse is WET, the problem is that when temperatures are low and there is even a weak breeze, a horse can become chilled when its coat and skin are wet. A clipped horse with a rug has some way to retain heat and some protection from the cold. An unclipped horse with a dry coat can "fluff" the coat and keep a layer of air next to its skin, and that horse too has a way to retain heat and protection from the cold. But a clipped horse with no blanket has no protection and no way to retain heat, and a WET horse has even LESS protection than a clipped one! The long coat will hold a lot of moisture over a long time, and if you can imagine yourself standing out on a cold day, in the wind, wearing a soaking-wet terrycloth bathrobe, THAT's what your horse would feel like if he were standing outside in cold weather with his long winter coat wet.

If your horse grows a long, thick winter coat, and you work him hard, and his coat becomes soaked with sweat, you will have to walk him dry and groom him to clean his coat so that he won't be itchy. This can take a long, long time -- several hours, usually. Most people don't have this much time to walk a horse dry after a ride, because they have to go home or go to work. That's why many people give up riding during the winter, and let their horses grow long coats and enjoy their natural weather protection. Other people, who want to continue riding during cold weather, are careful to ride gently and slowly, walking for the most part, so as not to get the horse sweaty. Still other people want to continue to ride actively through the winter months. If you're in this group, you should consider clipping your horse and rugging him to make up for the lack of his winter coat. That way, you'll be able to ride, he can become sweaty, it won't take you hours and hours to cool him down, and then you can put his rug back on when he's dry and clean and comfortable.

(With thanks to Jessica Jahiel's HORSE-SENSE)

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Pus in the Foot ('Gravel')

What is 'pus in the foot'? Infection in the foot is by far, the most common cause of acute (sudden), single-leg lameness in the horse. Infection results in painful inflammation and pus (abscess) formation. The hoof is a relatively rigid structure and abscess increases pressure within the sensitive structures, which, like infection or bruise under a human finger nail, is very painful. This condition should be excluded first, in all horses who become suddenly lame on one leg, before other diagnoses are considered.

What causes 'pus in the foot'? Infections are caused by one or more of the many types of bacteria which normally live in the environment or on the foot. Infection is introduced most commonly through the sole of the horse's foot, by a bruise or puncture wound to the sole, by a nail 'bind' or 'prick' at shoeing, through a hoof crack or by tracking through the white line.

How is 'pus in the foot' diagnosed? Characteristically, lameness develops suddenly, from slight to severe, over 24-48 hours, involving one leg only. When the pain is severe, the horse may sweat and blow and refuse to bear weight on the affected foot. The foot may feel warm and the pulse in the heel blood vessels (digital pulses) may bound. The shoe should be removed from the affected foot to allow thorough investigation and treatment. A discrete area of pain on the sole can usually be found with hoof testers or sometimes even finger pressure (the horse pulls the foot away in obvious pain).

When the shoe has been removed and the sole cleaned and searched, there maybe signs of a puncture wound, crack or area of discoloration at the white line, corresponding to the area of pain. Pressure from hoof testers may cause pus to ooze from the wound. Further searching with a hoof knife usually results in an ooze or spurt of pus and/or gas from the abscess, initially painful but subsequently resulting in dramatic improvement.

Where the abscess cannot be located immediately, the foot should be poulticed overnight, to help the abscess to 'ripen' and the foot to soften, before trying again to find the abscess. If the abscess still cannot be found, a radiographic (x-ray) examination of the foot may be made to look for a pocket of pus/gas and to rule out other possibilities, e.g. fractures of the bones in the foot.

Occasionally, in deeper-seated abscesses, the infection may track upwards through the hoof laminae to eventually break out at the coronary band, rather than at the solar surface of the foot. In other cases, infection may track along under the sole ('under-run sole').

How can 'pus in the foot' be treated? As soon as the site of pain is accurately established with hoof testers, the sole should be searched with a hoof knife to locate the abscess (signified by an ooze or spurt of pus and/or gas) and then pared away over the abscess to allow efficient drainage. The hole can be flushed with hydrogen peroxide and/or an antibiotic solution or foot spray and then the foot should be poulticed for 24-48 hours to encourage thorough drainage of pus through the hole. Tetanus antitoxin must be given, if the horse is not fully vaccinated up to date or if vaccination status cannot be confirmed.

Once the horse is much more comfortable and there is no more drainage of pus, the empty hole is treated with an antibiotic foot spray and the foot is dry bandaged for a further 24-48 hours. The hole is then packed with cotton wool soaked in an antibiotic foot spray until it has healed.

In some more extensive cases, further flushing of the abscess cavity may be necessary over the next 2-3 days.

The horse should be kept in clean dry conditions until the hole is completely healed and then the foot may be re-shod.

How can 'pus in the foot' be prevented? You should pick out and examine your horse's feet every day. Make sure that your horse's feet are regularly trimmed and shod, by a competent farrier, to prevent hoof cracks.

Treat all puncture wounds, either nail pricks or other accidental injuries, by cleaning them and applying an antibiotic foot spray and poulticing, where necessary, without delay. Always call your veterinary surgeon to investigate lameness during the early stages, to try to prevent complications such as under-run sole and tracking to the coronary band.

Caution - Make sure your horse is always fully vaccinated against tetanus, an invariably fatal infection which can gain access through hoof injuries. The degree of lameness should improve rapidly within 12-24 hours after the abscess is opened and the pus is drained. If this is not the case there maybe a more serious problem, requiring more extensive investigations.

(With thanks to the Liphook Equine Hospital, www.liphookequinehosp.co.uk)



Where to Ride:

Rural Rides at Blackdown Riding Club, Lower House Farm, Ropes Lane, Fernhurst, West Sussex GU27 3JD



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For further details please visit www.ruralridesuk.co.uk or contact Joyce Whatley on 01428 654106, or 01730 826878 (phone/fax), email qejoy@hotmail.com

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A Bit of Fun !! - Horse Astrology by Kim Devries (for those who know their horse's birth date).

Aquarius (January 21 – February 19) - The Aquarius horse is determined and friendly, yet also naturally quirky. This horse is not so much dependent upon its environment for security, as it derives most of its security from being in the company of others. The Aquarian horse will thrive living in a herd, and has the ability to form friendships with everyone. This horse will work tenaciously for you if you find ways of engaging its mind through unusual and unorthodox approaches in training and riding. The Aquarius horse's behavior will always have an unpredictable quality, so life is never boring with this horse! The somewhat eccentric and erratic nature of the Aquarian personality strives to cut through superficialities and test sincerity on all levels. If your horse is convinced of your authenticity, then it will shine for you. As the sign of Aquarius rules the fetlocks and flexor tendons, it is important to take care to support your horse's legs by bandaging before a work-out, otherwise your horse may develop problems in this area. Even though it may not be apparent, the Aquarius horse is prone to nervous tension, so it is important for you, as an owner, to spend adequate time with your horse, doing activities, which build your friendship and help your horse to relax.

..... To be continued.....


Horse Treats – How about some different fruit?: Horses can, and do, eat many different fruits. You know about apples, of course, but your horse might enjoy an occasional piece of some other kind of fruit. Most horses love pears, peaches, apricots, plums, melon, and watermelon - even watermelon rinds. Some horses enjoy bananas, some like mangoes, fresh coconut, grapes, dates and figs, most horses enjoy raisins. Some horses adore citrus fruits, especially grapefruit and oranges.



Some fruits aren't good for horses - you shouldn't feed horses tomato or rhubarb. Some fruits aren't good if fed in huge quantities, so be moderate with your horses' treats. You can safely feed apples and peaches, for example, but if your horse's pasture shares a fence with an orchard, don't

give your horse access to a lot of apple, cherry, or peach windfalls. The seeds contain a tiny amount of cyanide, and too many of those seeds can kill a horse. (With thanks to Jessica Jahiel's HORSE-SENSE)

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FOR SALE	Eggbutt French link bit, 5½" . Nearly new, only used twice. £10 E-mail: jo.smith87@ntlworld.com Tel: 023 9235 5123 (Waterlooville)
FOR SALE	Ariat Heritage Jodphur Boots , black leather with front zip, size 7 ½. New, worn just once. £45 ono Tel: 07736 709081 (Horndean)
	FOR SALE: Wheel cover for spare wheel of 4x4. Stainless steel edge with picture of horse (black sketch on white). Excellent condition. Suitable for Rav4 or similar. £45.00 ono. Tel: 023 9259 6491 (Horndean) / email: laudan@zoom.co.uk

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HAMPSHIRE HORSE



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January 2005