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# Instant Gratification in horse riding — there is no such thing

**As you become a better rider, you begin to run into obstacles that were previously unnoticeable. Invariably, there comes a time when the simple becomes complicated. Without warning, riding becomes more than just the various gaits and transitions, more than a turn with the hands.**

**You read and study and watch and discover that there is so much more to each gait, more to each turn, and more to the joys of riding.**

The original walk that once felt adequate is no longer satisfying. That wonderful canter is now not quite balanced enough. You discover nerve endings where there were none before, and you are inspired to reach for new heights thanks to energizing “feels” emanating from an enthusiastic horse, confirming more than ever that you are on the right path.

The joy that went along with the simplicity of riding is gone. You approach days of confusion, questions, and ultimately, frustration. You wonder why there seems to be so many details, so

many little nuances that change sometimes on an even daily basis. And you begin to wonder:

## Why is riding so difficult?

The quick and easy answer is that riding horses is about combining many and varied details into one—nothing can be achieved in isolation.

## Everything matters:

- the mood of the horse
- the weather
- the horses around you
- the regularity of the exercise the horse gets
- the type of feed
- the riding environment

**But there is more!** Aside from the environmental factors, riding is an especially difficult sport because of the balancing requirements inherent to moving in space on a living, breathing animal. Charles de Kunffy says it so well in his book, *The Athletic Development of the Dressage Horse* (1992):

*“The partnership between horse*

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## Welcome

**It's a New Day!** *The new reality in the horse industry today is that we must designate a huge amount of energy (and resources) to reaching out to attract new people. In every event a club or organization puts on, they need to be mindful of ensuring they are reaching out to invite new people to be a part of the events. New people bring a different flavor to our events. They are, by and large, uneducated, hungry for information and interested in every aspect of the horses. They require lots of attention but the return on that energy does pay off.*

*It is the successful organizations, farms and barns that constantly work on outreach. They are the ones attracting new people, signing up people to take lessons, leasing horses and selling horses. They are putting in the energy and time to educate and present opportunities for new people to participate and be involved. They are the ones who are growing, in a time when the industry is shrinking. How's business for you? Are you growing, shrinking or just holding your own?*

*Include outreach as you plan your events. It is worth the effort. The payback isn't quick but it is sure.*

*Next month I'll comment on the fact that many people within our industry do not want new people becoming involved. Can you believe that? Oh yes, it is very true. Stay tuned.*

Gary ■

Gary Millar  
President & CEO



# Horse Vision and its Effects on Horsemanship

***Our horses see the world very differently from us in many ways. These differences in vision, due to structure and placement of their eyes, have profound influences on how they react to visual stimuli and should be thoughtfully considered during their training and indeed in all aspects of horsemanship. These differences include field of view, color perception, light adjustment, motion detection, acuity and much more. In this article I hope to detail some of the differences particular to horse vision and how they relate to training, riding and caring for our equine partners.***

## Field of view

Most zoologists will tell you that the horse's eye is the largest of all land mammals.

Because of their size and how the eyes are set, the animal has nearly a 360° field of view; that is 'nearly' 360°. The horse cannot see directly in front of themselves for a short distance, nor directly behind themselves, unless they move their head. This is why we are all taught never to approach a new horse from either of these directions and to always make them aware of our location as we pass behind them.

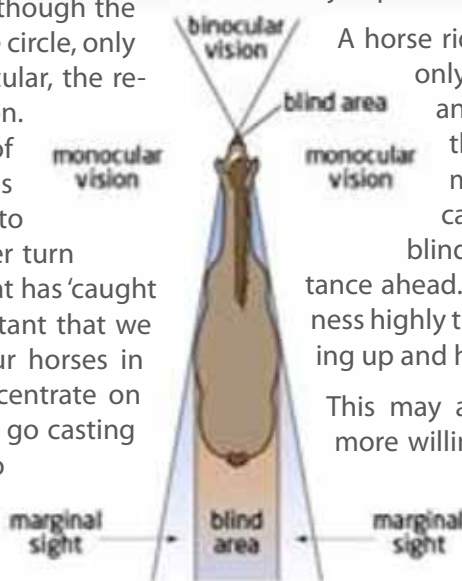
It is important to note that even though the horse can see in nearly a complete circle, only about 20% of that vision is binocular, the remaining 80% is monocular vision. This means that most of the field of view is seen by only one eye. This explains why your horse will try to swing his head to the side or ever turn his body, to look at something that has 'caught an eye'. This is why it is so important that we earn the trust and respect of our horses in order to have them able to concentrate on the work we ask of them and not go casting about with their gaze in order to bring things into full view and enable depth perception.

One of the interesting things about the monocular peripheral vision of the horse, is that he is capable of seeing out of both eye simultaneously and separately. This is in part due to the limited corpus callosum development in the horse's brain. The corpus callosum serves to transfer information from one side of the brain to the other and without



good transfer, the two sides are left to operate essentially independently of each other. The advantage this gives the horse is that they can effectively see in two directions at once. The disadvantage is that something seen out of one eye, may appear and then appear when seen again out of the other. This is why your horse may occasionally treat something as new and scary when passing it on the right side when it has already passed it on the left side several times without fear. (I am aware of one study that claims the corpus callosum is more developed in horses than is commonly accepted, however until there are supporting studies, I will go with what previous studies, and my own observations suggest).

Another vital aspect of the horse's field of view is that though it has binocular vision for about a 65° degree arc, this arc is actually rather narrow vertically. Consequently, the horse needs to lift its head to focus its vision on objects at a distance and lower its head to see something on the ground in front of them. This is why the horse will lift its nose as its speed of travel increases, looking further ahead in order to have the time to adjust to changing conditions and obstacles in its path. You may notice that jumpers and cross country riders always allow the horse to 'have its head' on the approach to enable it to look at the approaching jump and even with this, the last stride of the jump is being done blind by the horse.



A horse ridden 'on the bit' or 'on the vertical' can only see limited distance in front of them and should not be expected to maintain this headset for faster work; which also means a horse ridden behind the vertical or with its head very low, is effectively blind to anything beyond a very short distance ahead. Is it surprising that we sometimes witness highly trained dressage mounts suddenly blowing up and having a panic attacks during tests.

This may also explain why horses are generally more willing to relax their poll, thus allowing the head to fall onto the vertical, while working on a circle. While moving in a circle they are looking only a short distance ahead as compared to when they are working along the wall. There are obviously other factors at work when schooling the horse on the circle, but the horse's field of view should be considered along with them.

I feel it is important that we not ask a horse to maintain a vertical head position for extended periods of time, but rather to break them up with frequent periods of free-



# Go, Downtown?

## WESTERN CANADIAN BREEDERS—SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

The **Arabian Horse Showcase** was the highlight of a three-day champion competition called the **Western Canadian Breeders**. The showcase aimed to connect people with the horses and the disciplines, from walk trot to native costume. Showing how athletic, smart, and fun that this versatile breed can be.

Outreach was a goal and included 'Sox' visiting three schools where children learned about horses, received reading material and had a chance to meet him after the presentation. 'Sox' also spent some time downtown meeting folks.

Two crews from Global News and Shaw Media were along for the ride with The StarPhoenix newspaper and local radio. There was also live feed of the showcase on ArabianHorseGlobal.com.



For all the details and an album of photos please assess DAH Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.879598122056711.1073741832.626982870651572&type=3> ■

dom to lift their heads and have a look around.

### Color Vision

A lot of people believe horses to be unable to see color, but research indicated this is not the case. It is true they are not able to see color as distinctly as we do, however they do see the world in color. Painting jumps standards strongly contrasting colors has been done for many years for the very reason that it helps the horse distinguish them from the background of the arena. There is evidence to indicate that horses have a degree of color blindness, but this does not mean they cannot see any color, it only means they might perceive the color red, much the same way as a human with red/green color blindness. So if you wish to paint your arena elements to help your horse see them better, white and blue would be more useful than red and green.

### Light Adjustment

Horses are far better adapted to see in low light situation than we are. They can perceive objects in light levels so low as to be essentially pitch black to us. What they cannot do as well as us is adjust to rapidly changing light levels. This is why they will stand for several moments blinking blindly when a light is turned on in a dark barn. It also explains why a horse might balk at entering the shadowed end of an area or refuse to step into a dark trailer on a sunny day. This is something we must

be cognizant of in all our dealings with our horse, just because you are able to look into a dark place and see that it is perfectly safe, does not mean your horse can.

### Motion Detection

Horses are highly sensitive when it comes to spotting motion. When unexpected motion is detected in the peripheral vision, which has poor acuity, the horse's first instinct is not to turn and look at it with both eyes, bring it into focus and determine what it is and how far away; its first instinct is to run to a absolutely safe distance, then turn and look. Have you ever notices how nervous your horse gets when riding outdoors on windy days? It is because EVERYTHING is moving and he cannot determine what is a threat from what is not.

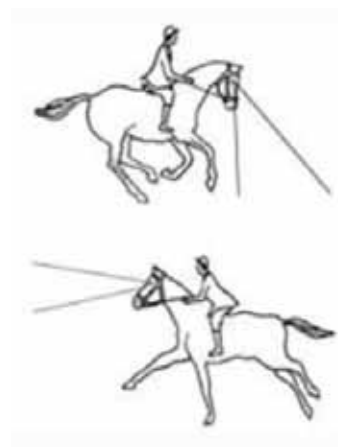
Here again I must reiterate how important it is that you have your horse's trust and respect and by this I do NOT mean your horse should be more afraid of disobeying your command than it is of that thing moving over in the bushes. I am saying your horse should have come to respect your judgment and worthiness as a leader and trust you to protect him so if you do not think it is worth getting scared about,

he won't concern himself with it.

Obviously this could be a topic for another article or even a whole book, but suffice to say that one of the main factors that you will want to keep in mind is the 'connection' to the horse. By connection I mean riding in presence, being aware of your horse and making him aware of you, through the aids at all times. I am not talking about micromanaging every motion of the horse. What I am suggesting is that by keeping the seat independent, moving with the horse, the hands light and rein aids flexible and keeping your legs lightly touching the horse's side at all times, you can maintain mutual communication with

your horse. By doing so, you will become aware right away when he is startled by some movement or sound and is instinctively reacting with flight. This way you can react more quickly to counter this reaction with a calm firming of the aids for just a moment; in other words catching the spook before it becomes a run and assuring the horse

that you are right there with him, protecting him and that he has nothing to fear.



[CONTINUED ON PAGE 5]

# Scratch that itch!

Finding out where your horse likes to be scratched—and then scratching him just in the right spot—is a great way to bond.

Scratching is an important social activity among horses, and joining in makes you one of the herd. You'll enjoy the contortions and lip wiggles a good scratch produces, and you'll add a strong nonfood reward to your training toolbox.

Here are some tips:

- **Just start scratching and watch his reactions.** If he likes what you're doing, his lips will stretch and wiggle. He may put his head high in the air, or reach around to scratch you back.
- **Places horses usually like a scratch:** The sides of the neck, the shoulders, and the chest. More unusual spots to scratch: the center of the back and along the midline of the belly.
- **Important:** If you don't know the horse well, avoid possibly sensitive areas like the belly or flanks. If the horse seems annoyed, stop and step away.
- **Proceed with caution:** Some horses will want to scratch you back. Some can do so gently and responsibly. Other get carried away and use their teeth—ouch!

If you're feeling teeth or think you're about to, stop scratching for a moment or step away from the pressure. Most horses get the hint to lighten up. Mutual grooming is an important social skill for them; they have a strong interest in doing it right. ■

## Is it me or the horse?

***I would bet we have all wondered about this question through our riding careers. When you are faced with a riding dilemma, do you ever get into a finger-pointing game? Do you get down on yourself and blame all your riding problems on yourself? Or do you just get mad at the horse and think that all would be well if you only could find another horse to ride?***

Chances are that all of us have done both at some time or another.

Early in our riding education, we may not be too worried about how the horse is going. We are usually so focused on staying on and using the correct aids, that we are generally more than satisfied to get the walk/trot/canter and stay on!

But as the saying goes, "the more you know, the more you know what you don't know." As we become more proficient, we begin to notice nuances that we didn't before.

The little things seem a lot more important—a hollow back, a bad stride that could have been avoided, a lack of bend or even a heavy contact. We start to troubleshoot and try different solutions that we think may help.

Invariably, we run into a plateau during which things seem to never change—no matter what we try, we just can't seem to get the results we want. And that is when we start to wonder—is the problem ours? Or is it the horse's? Here are some thoughts.

**Obviously, it's the rider.** Without a doubt, we can ride only as well as our best skills. No matter how long we've been riding, there is always more to learn and fine-tune. So if we have any problems, our limitations quickly become the horse's as well.

It also works the other way. The more effective you are, the better any horse will go for you.

For instance, if you have a stickable seat, you won't have a worry if the horse goes for a romp or buck. You'll just ride it out and pick up when the horse settles down. Or let's say you have a terrifically effective seat. Every horse you ride, even if not necessarily "trained" to the seat, will respond well to your ride simply because of the timing, coordination and balance that you offer to the horse.

Here's another scenario—has this ever happened to you? You ride in a lesson and the problem that has been plaguing you for weeks is instantly eliminat-

ed because you listen to your knowledgeable instructor and make what seems to be one small positional change. Suddenly the horse

snorts and begins to float.

During those moments, it definitely seems as if all problems begin with the rider.

Having said that, the unique quality of riding is that there are two players in one game. How does the horse fit into this picture?

**Obviously, it's the horse.** How many of us have wistfully wished that our horse could be as calm/successful/kind/athletic/whatever as our friend's horse seems to be? (C'mon, admit it!)

We know that some of the idiosyncrasies surely belong to the horse. We've heard of stallion or mare lines that have certain characteristics (good or bad) that seem to be passed down regularly.

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### Visual Acuity

I mentioned the acuity of the peripheral vision in a previous section, now let's address it more completely.

In general the horse has slightly less visual acuity than we do, though still better than a lot of other animals we are familiar with; cats or dogs for instance see with less acuity than do horse. Horses may have an advantage on us when it comes to seeing at great distance, but in the middle distance and up close, they are weaker. It is very important however that we remember factors specific to the horse's acuity.

First, due to a linear area of the eye where the concentration of ganglion cells very high, there is formed a "visual streak" where acuity is radically higher than outside this area. This 'streak', along with the placement of the eyes on skull is what creates the narrow field of focus for the horse, I discussed earlier.

The other aspect we must keep in mind about the horse's visual acuity is that the horse changes focus MUCH slower than we do. Our eyes have evolved to be able to almost instantly change focus when we shift our gaze from near to far or vice versa, however the horse's eyes take much longer by comparison. When we spot something moving out of the corner of our eye 'over there' and glance over to see what it is, we can very quickly determine what it is, if it is moving at us and whether or not it is a threat, then go on about our ride. Because the horse is simply not able to do this, so we must be cognizant of fact and consider it as we train or ride.

### Conclusion

I will wrap up this article by suggesting that as responsible horse owners it is incumbent on us to be aware of,



and take into consideration, how differently our horse perceives his world from how we see it.

When we find ourselves thinking "What has gotten into this horse, what does he see, there is nothing over there?" It would serve our best interests, as well as those of the horse, to remember that what he is seeing may be very different from what we are seeing.

It is also vital to keep in mind how the frame we are asking the horse to adopt affects how and what he can see. Consider for a moment, how calm you would be if someone blindfolded you and asked you to run an obstacle course?

We ask a great deal from our equine partners by way of trust and obedience. It is up to us to be sure we are deserving of this trust by not asking that it be blind. ■

*and rider is difficult to achieve and even more ambitious to make beneficial to both. Horse and rider possess the two most unlikely anatomies to be harmoniously united for the purpose of progressing effortlessly through space. The horse has a narrow, precariously balanced, horizontal structure, much like a pipeline. This structure has narrowly set, weak underpinning, the legs, bridged by a weak back. There, almost at its weakest point, the most unlikely candidate for partnership, the vertically pipe-like human, wishes to intercept at a 90-degree angle. Both are creatures of precarious balance, even when left alone to cope with the ground. In riding, we wish to harmonize our balance with the horse's for common progress through space."*

Obviously, there have been thousands upon thousands of "mutually beneficial" partnerships in the past and in the present; apparently, the human body can in fact become united harmoniously with that of the 4-legged horse that travels so relatively effortlessly over the ground. The trick is to learn how to become harmonious—how much to give, how much to take, and when to accept what is being offered

to you.

**So many questions!** You must learn to differentiate between too much, too little and just enough; between too early, too late and just in time; between resisting, energizing and being plainly passive. When is the horse going too quickly, too slowly, too enthusiastically, too lazily? What do you do in each case? How do you combine all your aids to communicate the right message at the right time? How do you not only refrain from interfering with your horse, but even learn to improve your horse to become better than his original state?

**What is the answer?** There is no easy answer. The most obvious consideration is to seek out a credible instructor well versed in not only in all things 'horse', but also in instructional techniques and experience. There is no replacement for an 'eye on the ground'—no blog post, no (however well written) book, and no video (although such media do play a role in

the over-all education of a rider). The person on the ground is the one who translates what the rider is doing now into what the rider can do in the future.

The other task, however difficult, is to try, try, try and try again. Pack it in one day, and start all over again tomorrow. Learning to change muscle memory

and developing a blueprint takes time, dedication and repetition. Each time you change the 'rules' on your horse, be ready for a step backward before a further step can be reached. There is no other way.

Be patient—with yourself and your horse, and find joy in the pure accomplishment of learning from your horse; focus more on the journey rather than the goal. As Mr. de Kunffy writes so eloquently, "Riding is, therefore, an ongoing, never-ending, challenging process. That aspect makes riding so intelligent and significant an effort. One merely strives, one never arrives." ■



**DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES ALWAYS WANTING TO INCREASE ITS EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.**

Facebook Pages differ from Facebook Groups and Facebook personal profile pages in several respects and we would like to lay out our reasons for creating the Page.

- Page information and posts are available to everyone on Facebook. This makes our events, postings, and pictures available to anyone on Facebook.
- Anyone can like a Page to become connected with it and get News Feed updates. Some find this to be a far more convenient way to stay up to date.
- Groups are basically chat rooms, there's no real "look and feel" to them. Their primary focus is for live discussions that can be continued at any time.
- Pages, however, act more like a blog with actual content pieces and the ability to add new tabs, static information, and the like. A Page is definitely a more interesting place to be.
- When it comes to getting visibility off of Facebook: Pages can be seen by non-Facebook users, and can be crawled by search engines as any other static page would. Facebook Groups cannot!
- Finally, Pages come with analytical tools that administrators use to track visits. These tools help us analyze if we are getting our message 'out there.'

We need your help! There are more than 1400 individuals within our database. The next time you are on Facebook, please visit and like our page. Find the link below or on our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Discover-Arabian-Horsescom/626982870651572> ■

BY HORSELISTENING.COM

# Seven Steps to Better, Easier Stall Mucking

***It's no one's favorite job, but here's how to save time and maximize results cleaning stalls.***

Having the proper tools on hand helps to make stall mucking a less arduous task.

Stall mucking is a fact of life if your horses live all or part of the time indoors. Here's how to streamline the process while doing the best job possible.

**1. Get ready.** Dress appropriately: "barn clothes," rubber boots, gloves. Gather the right tools: five-pronged pitchfork; multi-pronged shavings fork (apple picker); broad shovel; wheelbarrow or muck bucket with cart. Turn out your horse: Cleaning is safer and easier if he's elsewhere. Position the barrow/cart: Angle it just outside the stall door so it's pointing in the direction you'll want to head after filling it.

**2. Attack the obvious stuff.** Using the five-pronged pitchfork, lift all manure piles into the barrow or cart. Position the fork so you take only the droppings and wet bedding, leaving dry bedding behind.

**3. Sift for smaller stuff.** Using the multi-pronged fork, pick through the partly soiled sections of bedding. Shake fork-fuls gently back and forth or up and down to allow bedding to drop while the "road apples" remain.

**4. Dig for the urine spot.** Geldings and stallions tend to pee in the middle of a stall; mares often go alongside a wall. Use the broad shovel to dig out all wet bedding and to scrape the bottom of urine spots as clean as possible.

**5. Redistribute remaining bedding.** Even out what's left in preparation for adding the new stuff. Bear in mind that bedding doesn't have to be perfect to be functional. If there's absorbency left in bedding that's been trampled or otherwise used some, put it at the bottom of the urine spot. (There, it'll be the first to go the next time you clean, and you'll have gotten some good additional use out of it.)

**6. Wheel the barrow.** Transport all waste and soiled bedding to your collection area or compost pile. Return to the stall with fresh bedding.

**7. Add the fresh stuff.** How much to add will depend on how much you took out. Spread and even it with the shavings fork, making sure it's distributed deeply in the middle and over any peripheral peeing areas.

## How Often, and With What

**Frequency.** For horses that live in their stalls, twice a day is ideal, and once a day (usually in the morning) is standard. If horses move in and out of stalls, you may get by cleaning less frequently depending on where they most often "go." Soiled stalls attract flies plus contribute to hoof problems such as thrush, and ammonia fumes from urine can harm respiratory systems, so be judicious. Regular cleaning also saves money on bedding, as the longer you go between cleanings, the more bedding gets churned up and will need to be tossed. Another important benefit of regular mucking is that it allows you to examine each horse's waste, waste patterns, and any changes that could alert you to health problems.

**Types of bedding.** The most common are baled straw; wood shavings in bales or bulk; and pellets made from wood, corn cobs, or straw. Alternatives include seed hulls, peat moss, sawdust, chopped flax/hemp, and shredded paper/cardboard. Experiment to find what works best for your setup from among the cost-effective options available in your area. Note: The use of stall mats enables you to economize on bedding and still keep your horse comfortable. (Search equine bedding material at [HorseandRider.com](http://HorseandRider.com) for details on options.)

## And Then Periodically...

...strip your stalls completely and disinfect the floor and walls with a solution of chlorine bleach and water. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly, then sprinkle a stall freshener (such as Sweet PDZ) before re-bedding. ■



## AHRLP IN SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Outreach was an added goal of this year's **Western Canadian Breeders (WCB)** competition by including visits to three schools and downtown on June 19. The WCB partnered with Gary Millar of "The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project".

Children learned about horses, received reading material, asked questions and had a chance to meet Sox—touching and petting was encouraged! "What a absolute joy to see the expressions on these kids faces, and some of them had their hearts nearly bursting out of their chests, they were so excited!"—Tex Kam, President of the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry. ■



For all the details and some great photos please assess DAH Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.879598122056711.1073741832.626982870651572&type=3> ■

WITH ... KASSIE SHEEHAN

## 20 Questions

about your life with Arabian horses

**1** What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

*Showing, training and loving them! I'm also President of the Aurora Arabian Horse Youth Association.*

**2** How many years have you been around horses? *6 and a half years.*

**3** They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you? *They were the first horse I rode and I just fell in love.*

**4** Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

*I'm not allowed to choose favorites! Wouldn't want anyone to get offended! ;)*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor? *Susan Fyfe of Keno Hills Stable.*

**6** What is your favorite horse book? *Black Beauty.*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie? *Spirit by far!*

**8** What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

*Riding and caring for them.*

**9** What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse? *The day I realized I was loved back.*

**10** What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

*This has been my first year showing so just getting into the ring and having a spectacular ride feels amazing.*

**11** Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present? *Just any horse who has a great personality and loves the ring :)*

**12** Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person? *Patience is key and being forceful will get you no where.*

**13** What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse? *When they recognize you and nicker when they see you.*

**14** What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

*I would say that they are great companions for any shape, size or age of person and not to listen to the rumors of them being "hot tempered".*

**15** What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

*That horses are like big dogs and not to be intimidated by their size!*

**16** Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share? *No.*

**17** What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

*Try riding western pleasure, a park horse or sidesaddle.*

**18** What about "kids" and an Arabian horse? *I teach younger children how to care and ride horses so I have gotten first hand experience seeing the harmony and gentleness between a young rider and their horse.*



**19** Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)? *Just the*

*absolute team work that it takes to ride and work with horses amazes me. They could easily injury us but they choose not to.*

**20** What are your words to live by? *The horse may only be as courageous as the rider is.*

Is there anything else you'd like to add? *Be kind and careful with your horse for what you do may be forgiven but never forgotten.* ■

# Editor Message

At **DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES.COM** we are always excited to bring you this vital line of communication.

The newsletter is published in November, January, March, May, July, and September and will continue to be sent to you by e-mail blasts. It will also be posted on the DAH website with a link on Facebook.

The newsletter will cover many topics:

- We will feature, *The Arabian Horse in History*, where the generally ignored role of specific horses in history will be presented.
- Will also have a spotlight section where we present information on a specific Arabian horse owner, trainer, barn, program, or event in our industry. What a great opportunity to get to know our fellow horsemen and horse lovers.
- "Activities" puzzles, games for the young and the older ... just play.
- Check out our articles, stories and classifieds.
- 20 Questions ... about your life with Arabian Horse ... with.
- The team is more than willing to work with other horse associations regardless of breed type or discipline to assist them in getting their message out.

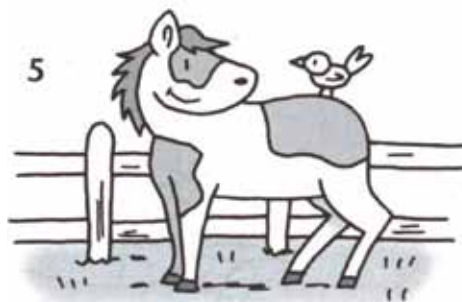
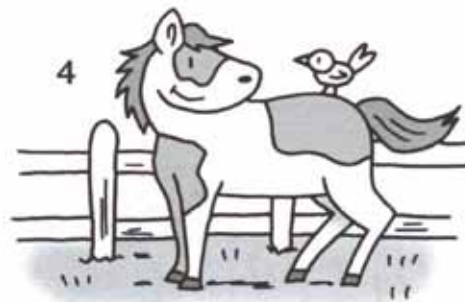
Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our e-mail listing, please e-mail:

**info@discoverarabianhorses.com** ■

CAN YOU FIND THE IDENTICAL TWO

## Match Race

These eight pony pictures may look the same, but only two are identical. How quickly can you find the one that matches #1 exactly? ■



ANSWER: 1 and 4 are identical.

## Wacky Phrase Craze

Blaze's owner can't remember whether she left his new halter in his stall, in the horse trailer, in the tack room, or hanging from one of the fence posts. If only one of the following statements is correct, where is Blaze's halter? ■

- 1 The halter is in Blaze's stall.
- 2 The halter is in the horse trailer or in the tack room.
- 3 The halter is in Blaze's stall or hanging from one of the fence posts.
- 4 The halter is not in the horse trailer.

ANSWER: The halter is in the tack room.





**ARABIAN HORSE WORLD MAGAZINE - WONDERFUL WOMAN OF THE WORLD**

The June Issue celebrates the Wonderful Women of the World. Pictured here is one of the participants Shirley Popplewell of Rae-Dawn Arabians with RD Taneeka (LD Pista x Natalie K). Photo by April Visel.

Rae-Dawn Arabians is one of the top equine facilities in the world, producing beautiful Arabian Horses with exceptional movement and charisma.

RD Arabians' World-Class Breeding Program is an international success story and has become one of the fastest rising sources of competitive bloodstock in North America. Rae-Dawn Arabians farms are located in Saskatoon, SK Canada and Scottsdale, AZ U.S.A.940

For the full article with details on all the participants please access the June Issue online at <http://www.arabianhorseworld.com> or ■



<https://www.facebook.com/ArabianHorseWorld>

# Getting There

Where can you go to take part in a pony contest? Travel through the letter box below to find out. Start with the circled letter and follow the directions. Use the arrows on the left to guide you. Whenever you land on a letter write it down on the blank space. Then read DOWN to find out where you're going. ■

ANSWER: Youth Show.



Start at the circled letter

Y

Move 1 space EAST and 1 space SOUTH

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Move 1 space NORTH and 1 space WEST

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Move 1 space WEST

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Move 1 space WEST and 1 space SOUTH

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Move 2 spaces NORTH and 1 space WEST

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Move 2 spaces EAST and 1 space NORTH

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Move 2 spaces EAST and 1 space SOUTH

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Move 2 spaces SOUTH and 2 spaces WEST

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To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more games and activities, check out the Discover Arabian Horses website "For Kids" section at [www.discoverarabianhorses.com](http://www.discoverarabianhorses.com) ■

# Slow feeder haynets?

**Researchers at the University of Minnesota have tested the rates of consumption for 'slow' feeding haynets and found that they increase the amount of time horses spend eating. The study shows that "slow feeding" nets can have a positive welfare outcome for horses because they mimic the horse's natural feeding pattern where he might graze up to 14.5 hours per day.**

As many of today's horses are stabled or kept on small pasture with inadequate grazing, they are often fed two large meals each day, and have limited opportunity to forage. To compensate many horse owners provide unlimited access to hay. This can result in obesity because the horses tend to consume hay in excess of their energy requirement.

From a welfare point of view it is of benefit to reduce intake and increase time spent consuming the forage.

Researchers used eight adult horses who were fed in individual stalls. Horses were fed hay using four different delivery methods:

- off the stall floor (control);
- from a large net (6 inch openings);
- from a medium net (1.75 inches openings);
- and small net (1 inch openings).

During the data collection period horses had access to hay for two 4 hour periods: 7:00 to 11:00 am and 4:00 to 8:00 pm each day. Through-

out the trial, grass hay was fed at 1% body weight twice each day.

To determine forage consumption rate, stopwatches were started once horses began eating, and stopped once horses either finished all offered hay, were no longer interested in eating, or the 4 hour time period had expired.

All refuse hay was collected and weighed. Total forage consumed was calculated by subtracting amount of refuse from hay offered.

Results showed that horses eating from the net with medium holes took just under 2 hours more time that horses eating from the control or large hole nets (5 hours vs. 3.2/3.4 hours) and horses eating from the small hole nets took twice as long as those eating from hay off the ground. The horses given medium and small hay nets also consumed approximately one third less hay in the time allowed.

Researchers say the results demonstrate that small or medium nets were effective in decreasing rate and amount of forage consumed and increasing the total time of forage consumption occurs in adult horses.

If small or medium hay nets were used for twice daily feedings in a stable setting, the anticipated amount of time horses would spend foraging would be 10 to 13 hours each day; more closely mimicking a horse's natural grazing behaviour. ■

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4]

Without a doubt, the horse can be the one that initiates a problematic situation. As I explained in my book, *Horse Listening: Stepping Forward to Effective Riding*, we often find ourselves becoming reactive riders when horses move so quickly that we don't see something happening until it is too late. The horse does something, and THEN we try to undo it.

Let's take the bucking horse example again. Not every horse bucks. It is quite possible that you could find a horse that simply is not inclined to buck. Instead, he might brace and hollow the back, but otherwise truck along without any hint of a misstep. So one horse's behaviour is not necessarily the same as another's.

If you are lucky enough to have a Golden Horse, chances are you won't have to go through the same learning curve as the rider with the horse that tends to buck.

**It Takes Two to Tango:** It looks like we're back at the beginning. Is it the rider or the horse?

The long and the short of it is that there are two beings involved in the one activity. Each affects the other and there is no way out of that equation. Sometimes, it's not even what you did, but what you didn't do in a particular situation.

The level of training helps. If the rider is well trained, then she can quickly bring the horse along since she knows what to expect and what to do to prevent problems. If the horse is well trained, then he can support and guide the rider as she tries new skills and makes mistakes.

(Incidentally, this is exactly why they say that a green rider-green horse combination is the least desirable.)

Keep in mind that as the human being in this partnership, we are necessarily the ones to take responsibility for our actions and our skill level. If we get stuck, we are the ones to do the problem solving. Maybe we have to find someone else who can help us learn or find another appropriate solution.

In this horse-rider dichotomy, avoid finding blame and instead, work toward finding solutions. ■

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