

“More tips from saddlethehorse.com”

“Has anyone tried feeding whole flax seed? I prepare by pouring boiling water over to crack the hulls and release omega 3s. My 3 barefoot horses love and their hoof and coat quality is amazing. I make a big batch and store it in the frig, 1/2 a cup a day will do it. Also much cheaper than hoof supplements (with no additives too), A 50lb bag will last my 3 for about 5 or 6 months.

Val”

“Alastair,

The thing that was impressed on me with bits is – always wash after use. That way any grass, saliva, whatever does not set and become hard. Should this happen it would be like putting sandpaper in their mouth.

Peter”

“I stand by adding celery seeds (ground) to the horse’s feed. It helps to promote all degenerative or joint diseases. Also it increases circulation and it encourages the horse to drink more water which removes toxins. Natural is always better.

Ray”

“I used to feed a salt block then I read that horses aren’t designed to lick enough, they don’t have rough tongues like a cow. So I got loose salt but still my horses chewed wood fences in winter. So this year I bought Red Cal from Dr Dan the Natural vet, it’s sea salt with added minerals you feed free choice. My horses are eating it up like mad (it’s loose too) and so far are not chewing the fences.

Susanna”

“My horses always start nickering and come to me.

The problem starts when the horse is always caught and put to work or something else they may not enjoy. Sometimes I just walk out and give them each a hay cube or other treat and a rub and leave or I will catch them and give them a good brushing.

Anything they enjoy so they are happy to see me and not worried about what I am going to do. Much easier and enjoyable for me and them.

Em”

“100% agree! I spend time with my horse every day (boarded with approximately 60 other horses, not stabled), even if it’s just to walk out to the pasture and schmooze him. If I am out in the field for a purpose other than to bring him in, I make it a point to love on him while I’m out there. For every 3 or 4 days of riding we do, I make sure he gets brought in and completely groomed and then just turned back out. I’ve never had to chase him through the pasture and more often than not he comes to me willingly and walks with me respectfully wherever I want to go even without a halter or lead. I know that I get more out of these experiences than he does, and the bonding opportunities are unbeatable!

Chanin”

“Horses see clearly in the dark - it's dusk that's the worst time of day for your horse. His eyes can take 30 minutes to configure to 'night mode' - that's a long time for prey horses in the wild) – which is why your horse may be more jumpy in the evening. Give him a little space during

this time – if you're riding, it's good time to take a break.

Tina”

“If your horse has colic, a little nervousness can help his motions. Try loading your horse into his trailer. This is often stressful for horses. Most poop instinctively, out of nervousness, which is a great help for colic.

T”

“Horses love routine. If there's no confusion, it's unlikely there'll be any fear. Stick to a schedule. Not just for feeding, but riding and grooming too. Your horse will love you for it, and it forces you to a more rigid structure too. The more disciplined you are, the more disciplined your horse will be.

Claire M.

“If you spray horses on a hot day you need to use a sweat scraper to get rid of the excess water because it actually traps heat. Rolling in the mud is one of the ways horses keep warm.

Most horses shouldn't need fly repellent because they have their own natural ways of keeping the flies off — twitchy skin and flicky tails.

Emi”

“There is a thing called “Shoo fly” that you can plait into your horse's mane. It looks a bit like a credit card and it actually does seem to work at repelling flies and mosquitos. I have a horse that is particularly sensitive to any kind of spray (including water) or rub on, or roll on – so the Shoo Fly really helped him get through summer.

Heather”

“We use baby oil on rain scald. Rub it onto the rain scald, leave it. Repeat as necessary. The baby oil normally kills the rain scald and then it comes off with brushing and scratching.

Rob”

“I click to my animals, and clicking is used a lot in my barn. I work with a horse whose click is assigned to trot. If he hears a click, he trots. a kiss, he'll canter. Personally, I think that “walk on”, click, kiss, and “whoa” are an effective way to train (just ONE effective way)

however I work with other horses, where clicking means speed up. Then you've got the horses where clicking is the norm for them and they don't even know what you're asking any more. Clicking can be used daily without confusing a horse, as long as it's clearly associated to what you'd like him to do, and the horse knows completely what you're asking for.

Megan”

“Stop thinking like a human and start thinking like a horse. Good horsemanship focusing on: Knowing your horse and knowing yourself. If he is under confident and scared of everything than “slow is fast”. U need to establish trust with him by actually introducing new activities such as lifting his hoof. Work on that activity for about 10 minutes then stop. If u take him for walk in bush and he spooks, stop and let him smell and familiarize himself with object he's scared of. If he is an overconfident horse u need to put more pressure on him to push him to his limits.

U have to be the leader. Think of it as being their mother. Momma protects them and makes them feel safe because she always has control. Her babies stay beside or behind her because they

know she will give them a back kick. U need to do the same.

Everything is about pressure and release. For instance, you get on the horse and he doesn't want to go. Don't be afraid to take the crop and give him a light tap on the shoulder. If he doesn't respond tap him harder on the shoulder. If that's not enough give him a good wack on the shoulder. U need to find out what makes your horse tick. Most horses don't like to back up or turn around. Do that when he doesn't.

Don't start something and then give up when he misbehaves. That teaches him to misbehave.

Rosiland"

"Horses are herd animals. If they think their owners rank lower than them, by all means, they'll show that. Yes, sometimes it is necessary to use the whip and even spurs, because that horse needs to be broken of its bad habits. Other times you may need to look a little more into it. Show your horse who's alpha, and they'll listen a lot more.

My friend's 9-year-old only just started lifting his hooves. We trained him to give his hoof first, get a treat, and then hold it for longer periods as we continued. Now we can pick his hooves without worrying about him kicking and/or stomping on us.

For the riding issue, keep things interesting! Never do exactly the same things every time you ride; your horse will come to expect it and learn to get bored very quickly. Take more walk breaks than you're used to if you have to. And make sure she knows who's alpha!

Cheyenne"

"Naughty horses does not necessarily have to play up, they can be just lazy as well, trying to get out of work – I have a thoroughbred who I exercise after work, so the other horse is in the stable and he has to work, he pretends to spook and refuses to move – just be firm and a good tap with the whip changes their minds quickly – it is a matter of discipline!"

Karien"

"This is something else I have learnt, but Selsun gold is good for rain scold. I have used it on a thoroughbred mare I had up in the Northern Territory in Australia and it worked really well. but it may not work for every horse.

All you need to do is put it on the affected area and leave on for 10 min or so, then wash it off real good, and repeat again after a couple of days if it hadn't cleaned it.

Tritty"

"Hi have just made a fly repellent out of rosemary and lemon boiled together, then left to steep overnight. I used it for the first time today and it seems to work really well."

Deb"

"This is 110% true. Until I was disabled a few years ago I worked with horses a lot. I'd go from stable to stable to do what I call manner training which was basically getting the horse to trust me. A lot of grooming was involved because that way as the trust grew I was able to put my hands anywhere on the horse without it getting spooked. This allows you to do just about anything with your horse from cleaning his feet to cleaning his ears, eyes, and nostrils. You must be very patient. Second best thing is always keep your voice and actions calm and level no matter what. If he spooks and sees that your voice and body language hasn't changed he'll learn that whatever spooked him wasn't anything to worry about. I constantly talk to the horses. It doesn't have to be

about anything just calm and level.

Jerri”

“This is so true and wise, I set up a de-spook hedge with all type of things tied to it (plastic bags, bunting, open umbrellas etc.) and let the horses discover these things for themselves. Afterwards we have a ‘touching’ session with each object in turn so the horse is well and truly de-spooked. We do not leave these things in the hedge when we are not there though- for safety’s sake.

Jane”

“Don’t forget the dental bills, and ulcers. Horses that are kept in stalls are most likely fed from a trough or raised feed bucket. When a horse grazes in the pasture they are constantly reaching out with their neck and chewing with their molars this causes a more correct alignment of the jaw and gives a more even wear pattern on their teeth. IE less need to have the teeth floated. Horses produce stomach acid 24/7 but they only produce saliva when they chew, their saliva has a neutralizing effect on the acid. Horses that are not allowed to graze free range get a concentrated amount of stomach acid built up, this can cause ulcers and also the strong acid going through the digestive system destroys beneficial bacteria and gut flora.

Don”

“I ride treeless. The reason why is because I have a percheron that is only 4 and changing almost monthly I find it very comfortable and believe until she has fully grown it is best for her instead of having a treed saddle that can hurt her because she is growing so fast. You have to mount from a mounting block other wise the saddle might slip slightly but apart from that, I’m loving it.

Stasha”

Hope you liked 'em! More coming through your inbox shortly.

If you have a tip please do mail me: al@saddlethehorse.com

Course, I'm biased, but if you're after bonding with your horse, don't forget to have a quick peek at this:

http://saddlethehorse.com/horse_whisperer.html

Best

Al