

Developmental Copy Editing and Fact Checking

Moderator: Kim Herbert, The Horse

Panelists: Dean Hoffman, Hoof Beats; Jennifer Bryant, USDF Connection; Cathy Laws, Primedia Equine Network; Jim Whiting

BEFORE:

Before being released into a resident group, your veterinarian can perform a physical exam that includes monitoring all vital signs, listening to the lungs with a stethoscope, and palpation of the external lymph nodes.

AFTER:

Before being released into a resident group, a horse should be examined by your veterinarian. This exam should include monitoring all vital signs, listening to the lungs with a stethoscope, and palpation of the external lymph nodes.

BEFORE:

For most Americans, Anthrax was a little known entity, until 4 years ago, when the bacteria gained world-wide attention, with the infection of 22 US postal workers, due to bio-terrorism.

AFTER:

For most Americans, anthrax was a little-known entity until four years ago, when the bacteria gained world-wide attention with the bioterrorism infection of 22 U.S. Postal workers.

BEFORE:

September 15th will never be a day I forget.

AFTER:

September 15th is a day I will never forget.

HUH?

Then, instead of rupturing the eardrum and draining into the external ear canal, it causes inflammation of the tympanic bulla, which houses the middle ear, as well as the stylohyoid bone (part of the skull).

FACTS and SOURCES

NEWSWEEK BACKS DOWN ON QURAN STORY (AP VIA YAHOO) Following intense pressure from the Pentagon, the magazine says it will look into suggestions that copies of the Quran may not have been flushed down toilets in front of inmates after all. The revelations sparked deadly anti-American protests in Afghanistan last week. Newsweek: Mark Whitaker's editor's letter addresses the growing scandal.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Know the difference in using:

Its and it's

There, their, and they're

Your and you're

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THIS?

As we all know the hair coat for the most part has a typical orientation pattern over the horses body, with exception of the often unique whorls, cow-licks, etc

BEWARE

Spelled check cane bee useful, butt be wear of knot you sing you're brains.

ORIGINAL LEAD/INTRO

Browse the internet "horses for sale" classifieds, and the options seem boundless. Horses of every breed and training level can be found. But depending on your competitive goals, when you want to go see the horses in person, the search can get a little more complicated: should you only shop locally, or travel around the United States? Should you buy a plane ticket and go to Europe to look at all the fabulous horses that you have heard about?

Not everyone has an unlimited horse-buying budget, ~~however~~. They need to get the most bang for their buck, and probably don't want to spend a lot of time looking around, either - time, perhaps, away from the barn, or from the job that earns the money to keep feed in the buckets and the vet and farrier coming back.

So what is the most cost-effective way to buy a horse? Is it better to buy a non-warm blooded breed and save a few bucks? What if you want to go to the Olympics? Do you *have* to go to Europe to find that superstar horse? Perhaps your highest ambition is to make it to the regional championships. If you can't find a horse locally, is it worth the time to ~~scan the classifieds and~~ send away for a few videos, then trek around the United States looking for the perfect horse, or should you book a trip to Europe and see a veritable herd of potential horses in a weekend?

There are a lot of questions, and a lot of opinions - sometimes strong opinions - about the best and most cost-efficient way to horse shop. Boil it down, and time and money are two of the main budget concerns in looking for a horse. For a busy professional, seeing a lot of horses in a short amount of time is one of the main reasons to go to Europe to go horse shopping.

PUBLISHED LEAD/INTRO

Browse the equine classifieds and the options seem boundless. Every horse sounds great in the ad, and the Internet makes it as easy to research horses across the country or overseas as it is in your local area.

But taking the next step and going to see those promising prospects can involve making some tough choices. Should you confine your search to a reasonable driving distance from home, or can you justify hopping on a plane (or two, or three) to see horses located anywhere from Washington, DC, to Washington state? Or is it a better value in the long run-not to mention better bragging rights-to travel to Europe to pick and choose among the fabulous horses that reportedly litter the landscape there?

These are important questions, and sport-horse industry experts have strong opinions as to which route is the best way to horse-shop. The mere suggestion that some buyers are better served by shopping abroad riles some U.S. breeders, who argue that the quality of their homebreds equals or surpasses that found in Europe. But the U.S. is a big country, and it takes time and money to travel to look at individual prospects in Los Angeles, Laredo, and Loxahatchee; whereas the horses are more densely packed per European kilometer.

For this article, we asked six experienced trainers, riders, buyers, and sellers to share their perspectives on the horse-shopping issue. They weighed in on the major factors-time and economics-and explained which shopping strategies they find most logical for various categories of buyers. Then we researched the time and money involved in various approaches so that, regardless of which avenue you pursue when it's time to look for that next horse, you'll know what you're getting yourself into. We'll also present the stories of two satisfied buyers: one who shopped domestically, and one who traveled to Europe.

ORIGINAL LEAD/INTRO

In 1987, Olympic medalist Carol Lavell was schooling in the arena, prepping for the Pan American Games - and wearing a back brace. With her body encased from hips to neck, she jokes, "I never had such great posture!" While Lavell finds the humor in it today, the spinal compression fracture that put her in a back brace was no laughing matter at the time. Nor is the back pain she's endured in varying degrees most of her adult life. But Lavell is also not alone.

Back pain is the second most-common neurological ailment in the country, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Only headaches are a more frequent complaint. In fact, some experts say that four out of every five Americans will have back pain at some point. And, in some ways, dressage riders are actually predisposed to lumbar discomfort. Here, we take a look at why that's so, then offer tips you can put to use right now to reduce current back pain and prevent future problems that might put you on the viewing stands instead of in the saddle.

PUBLISHED LEAD/INTRO

In 1987, U.S. Olympic medalist Carol Lavell was schooling in the arena, prepping for the Pan American Games-and wearing a back brace that encased her body from hips to neck.

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Although today Lavell can find humor in the situation, the spinal compression fracture that put her in a back brace was no laughing matter at the time. Nor is the back pain she's endured in varying degrees most of her adult life.

In this regard, Lavell is not alone. Back pain is the second most common neurological ailment in the country, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Only headaches are a more frequent complaint. In fact, some experts say that four out of every five Americans will have back pain at some point in their lives.

In some ways, dressage riders are actually predisposed to lumbar discomfort—a fact that's borne out in informal polling at any gathering of dressage enthusiasts. In this article, we'll take a look at why that's so. More important, we'll offer tips from back-health and fitness experts that you can use now to reduce any current back pain and prevent future problems that might put you on the sidelines instead of in the saddle.

ORIGINAL LEAD/INTRO

Heat. Friction. Pressure. Your tack can annoy your horse—so your task is to choose products that cause the least amount of discomfort.

When you ride, your horse is always wearing tack that helps you sit and communicate your cues. When you fasten a strap or position a cushion, you expect the item to hold tack in place (strap) or absorb the pressure (cushion). But even with the perfect saddle and the right bit, fitting your pad, girth, bridle, and noseband all require finesse.

The tack that contacts your horse's hair and skin should never hinder the movement of your equine athlete, but even a minor irritation can distract your horse's attention. Even a sensation that causes no pain can reduce the harmony you seek.

To ease the stress, we'll help you sort through diverse shapes and materials. Trainers, veterinarians, and show officials share insights on choosing and fitting the right products.

PUBLISHED LEAD/INTRO

Heat. Friction. Pressure. Improperly fitted tack can annoy your horse at best and cause pain at worst. Both, obviously, are detrimental to dressage performance; so your task is to choose items that make him as comfortable as possible in his work.

When you fasten a strap, you expect it to hold the tack in place. When you use a cushion or a padded item, you trust that it will absorb pressure and facilitate your horse's comfort. But even if you choose a perfectly fitted saddle and the right bit for your horse, getting saddle pads, the girth, the bridle, and the noseband just right requires finesse. To ease the stress, we'll help you sort through diverse shapes and materials. For this article, we asked dressage trainers, sport-horse veterinarians, and show officials to share their insights on choosing and fitting the right products.