

A FEW FOOTNOTES

Inspiring words and helpful information

This article contains quotes and "bits" of information from here and there on various aspects of horsemanship.

Here are some wonderful quotations:

"My horses are my friends; not my slaves" - Reiner Klimke

"Never teach a horse WHAT NOT to do, teach a horse WHAT to do." - Charles deKunffy

"Riding can never be neutral; you are either actively improving the horse, or breaking him down." - Charles deKunffy

"You cannot shape a horse, only his energies." - Charles deKunffy

"The horse must carry his neck according to the flexibility and weight bearing capacity of the haunches." - Charles deKunffy

"Where knowledge ends, brutality begins." - Charles deKunffy

"Ask for a lot, receive a little, reward often." - Jimmy Williams

"The fights you avoid do more good than the ones you win." - Dr. Alan Raun

"A word of encouragement during failure is worth more than a dictionary of praise after success." - author unknown

"You can only take someone as far as you've gone yourself." - Joanne MacBride (OK, OK, it may not be a "wonderful" quote, but it IS a quote.)

"These horses can learn in ten minutes what it takes other horses two years to learn." ~Cindy Matheson, Level II Dressage Coach, referring to the Arabian Breed while coaching Joanne MacBride and Atlantic in a dressage clinic.

And finally...for those of us who love to hack... "A canter is a cure for every evil." - Benjamin Disreli.

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Did you know that?

- the days of the flared lower leg and cocked ankle in saddle seat are long gone? This unnatural leg and foot position did not allow the rider to properly guide the horse using the pressure of her calf. - IAHA Equitation Manual
- in saddle seat the placement of the horse's neck dictates the elevation of the rider's hands - IAHA Equitation Manual
- leaning down to check leads should be severely penalized. A glance downward with the eyes is all that should be needed. Ideally, the rider should be able to feel the correct lead and diagonals. - IAHA Equitation Manual
- in saddle seat equitation there is no such thing as being "off pattern" - IAHA Manual
- markers or cones of any kind are not permitted to be used to mark points of a pattern in a saddle seat equitation class - IAHA Manual

In closing, I want to say that I hope that you have a rewarding relationship with your horses, no matter what their "careers". As Charles deKunffy said, "In the partnership with a horse, one is seldom lacking for thought, emotion and inspiration. One is always attended by a great companion." ■