

Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association

February 2021



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A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY

We hope you have all made it through this winter weather.

These images show some of the issues caused by the severe cold and snow in Texas.

Looking forward to Spring!
Joanne Thayer, Secretary



Frozen Troughs
Austin, Texas
Source:
American-Statesman



Texas Firefighter pulls Horse from Frozen Pond
USA Today

IRISH  CREEK



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2021 Show Schedule

- May 1st - 2nd, 2021 -
Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA
- June 12th - 13th, 2021 -
Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA
- June 26th - 27th, 2021 -
Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA - PCHA/ECCHA)
- July 17th - 18th, 2021 -
Dream Park, Logan Township, New Jersey
- Sept 11th - 12th, 2021 -
Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA
- Oct 23th - 24th, 2021 -
Dream Park, Logan Township, New Jersey

Register online at pchacutting.com/showinfo



MOVING FORWARD

Have you ever said, "Well, moving forward, let's _____."
You let go of anything that holds you back. You look to what you want to create next. You focus on progress, a move in a positive direction. Road-blocks are released and all is right in your world once again.
Don't you love that feeling?
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Take the opportunity this winter to see videos and read blogs
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IN PERSON 2021 BE UNSTOPPABLE EVENT

Apr 22 - 25, 2021 - Red Cliffs Lodge, Canyonlands of Moab, Utah

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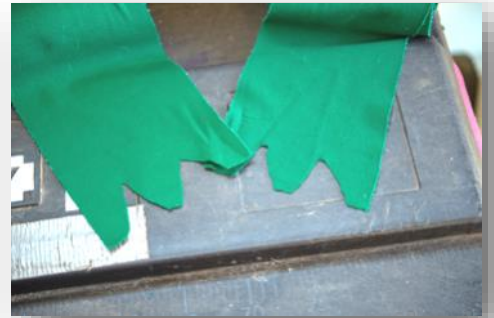
January 24, 2021

We think some of these hacks are great - I especially like numbers 3, 4 & 5!

For more images and articles, see <https://practicalhorsemanmag.com/health-archive/10-barn-hacks>

Looking for ways to make your life easier? Here are some of my favorite barn "hacks"—tips and tricks that I and other professional groomers across the country use to save money, time and hassle.

- Ω Hack 1: Dry wet boots and saddle pads by hanging them on a stall chain. (Note: If your horse is a Curious George who can't resist the temptation to rearrange such items, hang them across the entrance of an unoccupied stall, tack room or feed room.)
- Ω Hack 2: Label buckets for bits, feed, poultice, stall freshener (such as Sweet PDZ®), etc., with adhesive mailbox letters (available at most hardware and home-supply stores), so you don't mix them up. Nothing turns off a picky eater more quickly than grain that tastes like liniment!
- Ω Hack 3: Heat water in a (supervised) Crock-Pot® or instant hot kettle to create hot towels for stain removal and warm up your horse's bit during cooler weather. Always check the bit against your own skin to be sure it's not too hot before bridling him.
- Ω Hack 4: Use scissors to cut designs into the ends of leg wraps and polos so you can always match up pairs (pick a different design for each separate pair). This is especially helpful if you own multiple wraps of similar color but different lengths.



- Ω Hack 5: Keep a stash of size 5 disposable diapers on hand for a variety of uses: as bandages for wounds, wraps for hoof poultice or packing, and soaked with water and then frozen for icing tricky-to-wrap leg areas, like fetlocks and knees.

- Ω Hack 6: Put tennis balls on the ends of your cross-ties to prevent them from making a loud noise against the walls or ground when you unclip your horse. Simply cut a slit on either side of each ball, then feed a double-ended snap through it and clip it to the cross-tie.
- Ω Hack 7: Soak pull-on bell boots in hot water to make them more pliable and easier to pull on.
- Ω Hack 8: Hang a hoof pick near your horse's stall door to pick his feet before you lead him out of the stall so the barn aisle stays tidier.
- Ω Hack 9: Soak limp carrots in a bucket of cold, clean water to revive them. Yes, this really works!
- Ω Hack 10: Use a trunk as a step stool to pull, trim or braid your horse's mane. First, be sure the lid is sturdy enough to hold your weight without collapsing!

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Every horse is different. Don't let the pressure of getting ready for a particular event cause you to push your horse past what he's capable of doing.

BUD LYON, with NICHOLE CHIRICO, Nov 26, 2020

When it comes to competition, some people purchase prospects with the goal of competing in certain age events with them. For example, the National Reining Horse Association has an event for 3-year-old horses that's considered to be one of the top reining competitions in the country. So it's very common for people to look at yearling and 2-year-old prospects with the goal of competing at that event.

However, it's also important to let your horse develop at his own pace. While he might be showing potential early in his life, it's never a good idea to try to push him past what he's physically and mentally capable of doing so you can compete at an event.



When I first got this horse into my program, our goal was to compete in the 3-year-old events, but he needed to slow down. While I don't rule out showing in certain events until we get closer to the show, I do allow him to slow down and then reevaluate his progress later on.

Nichole Chirico

Ω **Understand Your Horse** Just like people, each horse learns differently. You need to study how your horse reacts to certain things in order to be successful with training him. Does he need more repetition on certain maneuvers? Or does he pick up on stuff quickly and try to take advantage of you? You need to be able to tailor your training program to your horse.

While it's easy to get wrapped up in the idea of competing at certain events throughout the year, you can't force a horse to be ready by a certain time. This goes for horses of all ages and disciplines. If you're introducing an older horse to a new event it might take time before you can go and show. If you're planning a trail-riding trip in the backcountry, but don't feel like your horse is ready for something that intense, skip that trail ride and give your horse the chance to learn what he's expected to do before he has to go do it. In the end, it'll make the experience better for you and your horse.

Ω **Challenge Him; Don't Scare Him** There's a difference between challenging your horse to learn something new and scaring him. Challenging him allows him to continue progressing in his training career and learn how to get better with every ride. Trying to force your horse into doing something is only going to backfire and will probably teach him to hate his job.

While it's OK to expect more from your horse in certain circumstances, don't put him in a position where he can get injured or have so much mental fatigue that he no longer wants to do his job anymore. If he's constantly mentally fatigued, he's not going to be a willing participant in what you're trying to accomplish and will probably start to pick fights with you over very small things. If your horse gets to that point, it could take months—even years—for him to recover.

It's never fun to have to skip the events you've been preparing for, but always remember there will be other shows in the future. A horse that isn't physically or mentally ready for a 3-year-old event might make a great aged horse and just need some more time under saddle.

Ω **Be Patient** Being a good horseman means doing right by the horse. Sometimes this means being patient and not getting frustrated when things aren't going according to the original plan. As a trainer, I like to see horses reach certain benchmarks throughout the year, but if I feel like my horse needs more time to develop, I let him, so he can have a bright future and long career down the road.

For a video and more images & articles, visit

<https://horseandrider.com/western-horse-training-tips/develop-at-his-own-pace>

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Techno-Funny

My phone generated a panorama that makes it look like she's lounging two horses at once!



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