

Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association

JUNE 2020



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A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY

What a fantastic turnout for our June show and first show of the year. We welcomed many new and old faces and look forward to seeing all of them again in July at our next show. The summer heat may be upon us but it will still be great to be able to get out and show. (insert your paragraph here) Until next time stay safe and happy riding.

Please remember that show recommendations from the NCHA and Stay-at-Home orders from Pennsylvania & New Jersey can change any time. We will keep you posted on our website and Facebook page as this situation develops.

Joanne Thayer



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2020 Show Schedule

Date	Location	Regional	PCHA
July 11-12	Elkins, WV		
July 18-19	Garwood Arena Columbiana OH		
July 25-26	Dream Park, PA		Yes
August 7-9	Shelbysville, KY		
August 8-9	Bloomsburg, PA		Yes
August 10-11	Louisville, KY		
Sept 12-13	Bloomsburg, PA		Yes
Sept 19-20	OPEN		
Sept 29-Oct 3	CONGRESS Columbus OH		
October 10-11	JMJ Farm Lewsburg WV		
Oct 24-25	Dream Park, PA		Yes
Nov 4-5	North American Louisville KY		
Nov 6-8	Shelbysville, KY		

Regionals CANCELED for 2020

2019 / 2020 CLINICS & RETREATS

BARB SCHULTE & SANDY COLLIER

Showing Clinic

July 17-19 @ Santa Ynez, Ca

High Performance Clinic

Sept 29 - Oct 1 @ Brasada Ranch, Powell Butte, Or
 Deposit refunds possible through July 29

Showing Excellence Clinic

Cutting, Reined Cow Horse and Ranch Riding Competitors

Oct 30 - Nov 1 @ Green Acres Ranch, Temecula, Ca
 Deposit refunds possible through Aug 30

Women's Combo Retreat/Skill Building/Trail Riding

Thurs - Sun Nov 12 - 15 @ Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Ut
 Deposit refunds possible through Sept 12

BEST HORSE PRACTICES SUMMIT

October 17-18
 Lexington, Kentucky



YOUR HORSE WANTS YOU TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT

EQUUS FIELD GUIDE TO EQUINE ALLERGIES

Learn the 5 most common triggers of allergic reactions in horses so you'll be better able to counter or prevent them.

Main points excerpted from article by Heather Smith Thomas, April 14, 2020, Equus Magazine

Outwardly, the signs of all of this physiological activity are usually seen in the skin and respiratory system. An allergic reaction in the skin, called atopic dermatitis, usually causes itching (pruritus) and/or re-current hives (urticaria). Other possible signs include patchy hair loss, bumps and crusting.

When allergies affect the respiratory system, the result is heaves, technically known as recurrent airway obstruction (RAO). Initially, heaves may produce nasal discharge, a mild cough and slight exercise intolerance, but as the condition advances, a horse usually coughs more frequently and deeply, and his breathing may be labored even when he is standing still.

Allergies are not common in horses, but when they do occur, early intervention can help keep a minor problem from becoming a significant health issue. That's why it's important to learn the most common causes of allergic reactions, the signs they produce and the most effective treatments.

Insect bites

Signs: itchiness, which sometimes results in hairless patches and inflamed, scabby skin. Bites can occur almost anywhere on a horse's body but are most often seen on the belly, root of the mane, base of the tail and face.

Best treatment strategy: [Topical ointments](#) may soothe the skin and reduce itchiness.

Airborne agents Just like people, horses can develop sensitivities to molds, dust, pollens & other airborne allergens.

Signs: Environmental allergies stimulate either respiratory or skin reactions. Skin reactions usually appear on the face, legs and body and may or may not be itchy. The signs may be seasonal or persist year-round. Respiratory allergies tend to produce nasal drainage, a cough and labored breathing. Other nonspecific signs of environmental sensitivity include runny eyes, general malaise and headshaking.

Best treatment strategy: Skin tests generally cost from \$300 to \$400, but the investment is well worth it if the results pinpoint the source of a horse's problem so that a targeted treatment can be adopted.

For allergic reactions limited to only a few areas of the skin, topical remedies are often useful.

Contact Almost anything you put on a horse, from shampoos to fly sprays or even your saddle pads and wraps, has the potential to trigger allergic skin reactions.

Signs: Contact allergies produce signs typical of atopic dermatitis, but the distinguishing factor is that the lesions appear only on or near the area of the body where the allergen was applied.

Best treatment strategy: Identify the source of the reaction and stop using it on your horse. Grooming products and even fly sprays are common culprits. Once you've identified the source of the problem, check the label and shop for a substitute with different active ingredients.

Food allergies It doesn't happen often, but horses can develop sensitivities to natural foods--grasses or grains--as well as additives in processed feeds or supplements.

Signs: The primary sign of a food allergy is hives, with or without itching, that cover the body. Other signs of atopic dermatitis may also be present. Seasonal symptoms may be due to an allergy to a plant that grows seasonally.

Best treatment strategy: Once the source of the allergy has been identified, eliminate that product or forage from the horse's diet. No other treatments are effective. The most common triggers are preservatives in feeds.

Medications, dewormers and vaccines True allergic reactions to drugs or vaccines are rare, but in a few cases the consequences can be fatal.

Signs: Usually, an allergic horse will experience localized swelling at the injection site and possibly an outbreak of hives all over the body. In rare cases, however, a horse may develop anaphylaxis, a systemic shock reaction. This generally occurs suddenly, shortly after the administration of the medication or agent, and the horse may collapse and die without immediate veterinary treatment. True "penicillin" reactions often result in immediate death.

Best treatment strategy: Discuss any concerns with your veterinarian. If a horse reacts to a vaccine, he may be hypersensitive to the product's adjuvant, the ingredient that stimulates an enhanced response from the immune system.



SANDY COLLIER

REINING RIDING SMART Tips 11-13

This is a continuation of riding smarter not harder horsemanship skills. Here are Tips #11-13.

Be creative.

I usually try to teach my horses something a certain way, but if I'm not getting through by the third attempt, I take a different approach. In other words, I won't force a horse to learn something "my way."

Let's say I'm asking for the transition from the large, fast circle to the smaller, slower one, and my horse won't slow down. I can lope him until he wants to slow down, then reward that thought. This works with many horses, but if it doesn't, I may try breaking him down to a trot, then to a walk, then to whoa and rest.

I may also try pulling him into a circle to slow him down. Or, as a last resort, I may draw him "into the ground" and back him up to reinforce my point.

Ultimately, you must figure out what works for each horse, as each learns differently.

Some trainers have a "my way or the highway" mentality. When a horse fails to respond, they say, "This horse doesn't 'fit' me, or boy is he dumb" What they're really saying is, "I'm not very creative."

Be systematic.

Don't try to teach your horse something you haven't laid the foundation for.

Also, don't get into an argument you don't have the tools to win. Before you ask your horse to move laterally, for example, you must first be sure he understands the concepts of giving to bit pressure and moving away from pressure on his sides.

Go back to get ahead.

Start every schooling session by asking your horse for something he already knows well and is comfortable with. Then, after he's shown you a few times how solid that is, sneak another little bit of learning in there.

For example, go back to walking a good circle before you ask for that little lateral step. Break all learning down into small chunks, always returning to the last thing your horse did well (especially if he gets confused), then inching forward from there.

This keeps him in a positive frame of mind for learning.



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UNDERSTANDING CATTLE

THE RHYTHM of Working a Cow

BARBRA SCHULTE

One challenge in working a cow, is to get all of the pieces of accuracy, form and rhythm to stay correct... no matter the speed of the cow.

Linked on our website is the video of Lloyd Cox and Blackish working a cow, which is a great example of the pretty form and rhythm we all aspire to achieve as we work a cow. Below, I (Barbra) explain the component parts of working a cow, which you will be able to identify as you watch the video.

Let's start from the place where you and your horse are traveling across the arena, on a straight line, and in position with a cow.

You: Good position as you travel... slightly ahead of the cow... your leg in the cow's shoulder.

Cow: Begins to slow down.

You: Because you're reading the cow as you travel... and you and your horse are in position to stop the cow... when you see the cow begin to even think about slowing down, your seat drops to help your horse rate the cow and get ready to stop.

Cow: Stops.

You: Collapse your back and drop your seat softly down "into" your saddle as you see the cow stop. Continue to exhale and imagine your core dropping into your horse.

Cow: Still stopped.

You: Stay low. Stay down. All the while, read the cow. Sink lower.

Your Horse: His weight remains on his hindquarters as he feels you stay quiet, still and low in the saddle. He reads the cow.

Cow: Turns and goes the opposite direction.

You: When the cow first begins to turn, you stay still. Your eyes remain on the cow. There's a momentary "wait". You stay low as the horse pivots 180 degrees on the "line" and comes out of the turn slightly behind the cow.

You: When you get to the 180 point, you are behind the cow... again, just for a moment.

You: Now, proactively, but accurately, you accelerate your horse on the line to get into position to stop the cow.

You: Now you're back traveling with the cow. The cycle begins again as noted beginning at the top of this list.

NOTE: The natural tendency is to do the opposite re: rush the turn when you need to wait ... and not travel in position or with authority once you are traveling on the line.



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WHEN TO WORRY ABOUT FEVER

An elevated body temperature, commonly called a fever, can be an early indication of viral or bacterial infection.

Christine Barakat with Melinda Freckleton, DVM, May 12, 2020

One of the first things to do when you suspect your horse isn't feeling well is take his temperature. An elevated body temperature, commonly called a "fever," can be an early indication of viral or bacterial infection.

Normal body temperature for horses can range between 98 and 100 degrees. Some horses naturally run hotter than others, but individuals tend to be fairly consistent day to day. That's why it's helpful to get a baseline for your horse's temperature when he is healthy. If you don't already, make it a habit to take his temperature once or twice a month, just to keep tabs on his normal readings.

A slightly elevated temperature—100 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit—may not be cause for concern if the horse otherwise looks healthy and behaves normally. It's possible he's still warm from recent exercise, being over blanketed or even just standing in a sunny spot. This is called hyperthermia, as opposed to fever, and your horse's temperature will return to normal once his situation changes. If your horse looks withdrawn, is refusing feed or otherwise seems ill, however, let a little time pass and then take his temperature again. If the fever is sustained, touch base with your veterinarian.





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