

Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association

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A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

ANDY SUTLIFF

484-955-1881
sut459@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

JACK WERNER

267-246-6511
jcw@dejazzd.com

SECRETARY

JOANNE COTE THAYER

215-527-1826
Joanne.Thayer@gmail.com

TREASURER

BILL STEIN

570-428-2765
hws711@gmail.com

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

DAVE PHILLIPS

610-926-4810

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610-745-6006

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KARLENE MINNICH

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JON MUNLY

215-219-6800

CARL SHOEMAKER

570-217-4759

As our show season winds down I find myself reflecting on the year and how lucky we all are to be able to compete in this sport. The enjoyment of time spent with our equine companions and our cutting friends should not be taken for granted. On behalf of the PCHA I thank each and everyone of you who make this all possible.

Behind the scenes we are working hard to put together another great year for 2020. Although it will be different with the closing of Mt. Springs Arena, with change always comes opportunity and we have some wonderful alternative facilities to show in next year.

Wishing everyone a happy Halloween and wonderful fall weather to enjoy the outdoors.

Joanne Thayer



Barbra Schulte / Sandy Collier

HIGH PERFORMANCE CLINIC

Temecula, CA - Green Acres Ranch -
Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2019 ~ Sandy Collier

RETREAT

Moab, UT - Red Cliffs Lodge Retreat
Nov 7 - 10, 2019 ~ with Sandy Collier

2019 COMPILED EVENTS LIST

Oct 30-Nov 1 Green Acres Ranch, Temecula CA
Sandy Collier

Nov 7-10 Barb/Sandy Retreat, Red Cliffs Lodge

Nov 9-10 @ J.C. Cutting
Saturday
AM- Versatility
PM- Flag work
Sunday
Cattle Practice

EMERGENCY HAND BRAKE

Barb Schulte <https://barbraschulte.com/the-emergency-brake-two-handed-stop/>

The following is a transcript from a movie Barb created, which is linked on our website and Facebook page:

In this week's video, I describe a maneuver I call the "emergency brake." It is fundamentally a two-handed stop, which is used in a variety of disciplines for a variety of training reasons. I am describing it here for that use, as well as for the safety of everyone.

It can be used as a stopping maneuver (training or emergency). The context in which I was asked the question was all about safety and the ability to stop a horse quickly and efficiently.

In order to get the desired effect in a "pressured" situation, you must practice the movements outlined below so that they flow automatically. That takes slow practice at first.

I recommend you begin by getting the correct sequence of hand motions just sitting still on a horse. From there you can try a back up from a stand still. Then walk and get a stop with your emergency brake, two-handed stop. Build from there.

Here is the sequence:

1. Sitting aboard your horse, pretend like your arms and legs are connected to your trunk via hinges. Your four limbs can move freely without your trunk moving forward, backwards or to the sides.
2. Lift the reins in your reins hand straight up toward the sky, about 6-8 inches in front of your saddle. As you lift your hand, take the slack out of the reins. You are not going to do anything at this moment but get the motion of the direct lift Northward. Remember, your arms are on hinges... no upper body movement.
3. With your rein hand still elevate, slide your non-rein hand all the way down both reins, all the way to barely touching the horse's mane. Take all of the slack out of the reins. You should be about 8 inches or so in front of the swell of the saddle.
4. With a smooth motion, pull the reins towards your abdomen with the hand that just slid down the reins. Your hands should not be hovering above the mane. Stay low and right along the mane.
5. In summary, here are the keys: Keep your trunk stable. Lift the reins straight up and then slide the other hand all the way down to the horse's neck. This will give you maximum leverage, and because your hand is low, it will help you maintain a low center of balance.
6. Now use that second hand a get a few steps back. Release.
7. Next, walk. Drop your seat and smoothly use your new brake to stop and take a few steps back. Release.
8. Practice until you do this sequence seamlessly and accurately.



FIRST AID FOR THE HORSE

BE PREPARED TO HANDLE WOUNDS

Would you know what to do if your horse accidentally encountered a sharp edge and ended up with a cut? Dr. Annette McCoy, an equine surgeon at the [University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital](#) in Urbana, offers information that will help you be prepared so you can stay calm and act quickly when dealing with wounds in horses.

Safety First

"Before you approach the horse, evaluate your surroundings, especially if the horse is in obvious distress. Is the area safe for you to be in?" says Dr. McCoy. A downed power line, for example, is extremely dangerous. In such situations, contact the appropriate emergency authorities immediately instead of intervening yourself.

"After you have determined that the area is safe, try to get some type of restraint on the horse if he or she is loose. This is most easily done with a halter and lead rope," explains Dr. McCoy. She advises having a two-person first aid team whenever possible: one person to monitor the horse and another to tend to the wound.

Assess the Injury

Adequate lighting is helpful, so keeping a flashlight in the barn is a good idea. Check the area for signs of blood, especially if you didn't witness the accident. The wound may have stopped bleeding, but if you spot blood on bedding or elsewhere you can determine whether significant blood loss had already taken place.

"If there isn't evidence of severe blood loss or current active bleeding, do a general exam of the animal. Run hands over the legs and take note of things like labored breathing or an especially rapid heart rate," recommends Dr. McCoy. "Anything more than a minor abrasion merits a call to your veterinarian for further assistance."

An Equine First Aid Kit

If your horse is actively bleeding, you may need to apply first aid while someone contacts the veterinarian. Wounds located near the joints and legs, neck or head wounds, and penetrating wounds should always be evaluated by a veterinarian.

"First aid steps for horses are fairly similar to those for a person. Put a compress on the wound and put a bandage around it. Applying pressure helps reduce blood loss," says Dr. McCoy.

Dr. McCoy recommends preparing a simple first aid kit for your barn. The kit should include something clean and absorbent (diapers or sanitary napkins work well) along with supplies to aid in compression of a wound, such as ace bandages or vetwrap.

It's also a good idea to be prepared with a simple splint if you need to immobilize a joint. Dr. McCoy recommends a PVC pipe cut long ways. "These are cheap and easy to cut down to appropriate size in a pinch," she notes.

Most horse owners have quilts and polo wraps that can be used for temporary bandages. If you have a freezer in your barn, Dr. McCoy recommends keeping a bag of frozen peas or something similar to use as a cold compress.

Gentle Cleansers

Lastly, if the wound is a simple scrape that you can handle on your own, a mild dish soap or betadine can be diluted in warm water to clean the wound. Dr. McCoy cautions against using hydrogen peroxide for this purpose.

"If you would like to use an ointment, SSD [silver sulfadiazine] cream or triple antibiotic are good choices," says Dr. McCoy. "Be careful with wounds sprays because some delay healing. If you are ever unsure of what to use, a quick call to your veterinarian can help you decide!"

Continued next page

First Aid Kit

Clean & Absorbent material, ie: diapers or sanitary napkins

Compression Aids
ie: ace bandages or vetwrap

Flashlight

Splinting material

Cold Compress / Frozen Compress materials (ie: peas)

FIRST AID FOR THE HORSE, CONTINUED

Veterinary First Aid

Veterinary attention may be warranted to evaluate the wound and the overall health of your horse and to perform additional procedures to stop bleeding and promote healing. For example, your veterinarian will clip and clean the wound to better examine it and may ligate specific blood vessels or stitch the wound together to address bleeding. Your veterinarian will give you specific instructions for bandage maintenance.

If the horse is badly injured or the injury requires ongoing care beyond the scope of one person, your veterinarian may advise going to an equine hospital. Acting on such advice promptly leads to the best prognosis and healing for your horse.

Proud Flesh, Proven Remedies

A concern unique to horse wounds is a condition known as "proud flesh." Proud flesh is essentially an excessive growth of granulation tissue, the tissue formed to heal wounds. The problem occurs most often on legs and resembles puffy red cauliflower at the edges of a wound. If this is occurring on your animal, the veterinarian should be immediately notified. Proud flesh will not heal on its own.

Whether your horse experiences proud flesh or has a normally healing wound, Dr. McCoy advises using only products your horse's veterinarian has authorized.

"Be careful with internet-marketed supplements and healing aids," she warns. "Many of these do not have scientific basis and may do nothing or, in some cases, may even harm your horse."

If you have any questions about lacerations and wound emergencies, contact your local veterinarian.

By Hannah Beers, July 16, 2018, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine



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THE TOP 6 THINGS YOU'LL LEARN FROM DOING BARN CHORES

It's hard. It's time-consuming. It's often thankless.

To the outside observer, it might seem that working in a barn is unrewarding and just that: chores. I mean, all you're doing is feeding and turning horses in and out, cleaning stalls and sweeping aisles, right?

Well, anyone who has actually worked in a barn knows differently. In fact, people who work with horses have to become highly skilled, be fairly athletic, and must know how to pay attention to detail. While people can start with little to no experience, they usually get paired with longtime horse keepers who

can mentor them until they have enough experience to work independently.

Working in a barn can do more than just give you a gym-level workout. Here are the top six lessons you won't be able to avoid if you stay long enough at the job.

6. Hard Work Is Necessary

This is probably the first thing you'll learn if you get the chance to ever work for the horses.

You'll quickly realize how you can actually move heavy things if you put your mind to it. You might have to go up and down stairs or ladders to get to the hay loft. You'll have to fill feed bins and then horse buckets with grain. Those feed bags and hay bales need to be moved, stacked and then fed. The walks to the paddocks can be long, bumpy or snow-covered. No need for you to go to the gym after that!

5. It's ok to get dirty

Because you won't have any choice in the matter! You'll likely end up with hay bits in your hair and down your shirt, mud all over your lower legs, dirty jeans because of having to lift the feed bags off the dirt floor. Then there's the mouth goop that the horses leave on your shoulder as you lead them out, and splashed water as you fill buckets.

4. Team work makes the dream work

After you have to do the barn all on your own, you quickly learn the value of help. There's nothing better than two (or more) people sharing the chores, one person taking on one task while the second person does another.

3. Routine is wonderful

This lesson probably will come from the horses themselves. Horses thrive on routine. Timeliness, feed, exercise... the more regular these can be, the happier the horses in your care. You'll learn the value of establishing and then maintaining a routine.

2. Efficiency is key

Every barn worker learns all about efficiency and saving energy - not just the electrical kind!

Before you figure out your routines, you might end up having to walk back and forth to key areas - such as the feed room, the tack room, or the paddocks. Soon enough, you'll start figuring out how you can save as many trips as possible - because, let's face it - the number of steps you walk can add up pretty quickly when you're walking real distances!

You'll work out what you should carry with you even while you're heading to a paddock to do something else.

10,000 steps? Haha! Even after multiple step-saving attempts, you'll still end up somewhere in the 15-25,000 steps region. That's in ONE DAY!

But you won't be able to stand for inefficiencies ever again!

1. Horses come before anything else

This is truly the #1 lesson you'll learn if you work in the barn. While it's true that you're working for the barn owner, or for the boarders or lesson students, you'll soon realize that it's all about the horses. How will you learn this valuable lesson?

It might happen when you notice that one of the paddocks run out of water, and how the horses stand around the water tub waiting and waiting - in the heat of the summer. Or you'll notice how a horse gorges on his hay when he comes inside - after having finished the morning hay on that long snowy wintry day, when there's no grass to be found otherwise.

These mistakes will urge you to be more diligent because the horses are literally reliant on you. And it's a big responsibility.

There is one other thing that happens when you add all this up. In the end, you become a much more empathetic human being. Which will serve you the rest of your life.

https://www.horselistening.com/2018/11/22/top-6-things-youll-learn-from-doing-barn-chores/?fbclid=IwAR2_Z5BRjag-DQP7KLg2a44I55Blv9STyDhINvywVtrVwrnzz8R86sXSLLM



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