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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

And what a great start to the new year it is....all this rain is fantastic

We were virtually on our last drop of water (house water) before this rain came - it is a wonderful Christmas and New Year present from the heavens above. We now have 3 x 22,500 litre tanks overflowing!!!

One needs to put on sunglasses to view the beautiful vivid green of the paddocks now! They have been brown for oh so long.

The dams were okay but this will fill them up for another 12 months. Water is so very precious.

We hope all those who need this rain are also benefitting from good falls that will be useful to you.

Well, what is in store for 2010?? Work, Work, Work your horse!!

Ever heard of the saying "Work makes a horse"??? That is why those so called 'station' horses were always so quiet and the kids could ride them—little toddlers on 15 hh horses!!!

Good training and lots of wet saddle blankets as Wayne is constantly saying to those who take their transformed horse home from our training stud.

Jenny hopes to make some major changes to her life with a change of career to allow her more time at home with the business and her horses. Yes, hopefully doing TAFE teaching in either business or community services OR both!! A nice little part time position with the local TAFE institute would be just lovely!!

Clinics, horse starting and training and hopefully getting to a few shows/drafts ourselves is on order for 2010.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR SOME GREAT PHOTOS

CHEERS FROM WAYNE AND JENNY.

CLINIC SCHEDULE

Exact dates to be advised

- ⇒ Orange, NSW - End Jan Early Feb - 2 Day clinic
- ⇒ Glossop, SA - early March 2010 - 4 day clinic
- ⇒ Canowindra, NSW - end of march 2010 - 2 day
- ⇒ Mudgee, NSW - April, 2010 2 day

ATTENTION

STARTING BOOKING IN FOR YOUR 2010 CLINIC

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Horse Behaviour continued
- ◆ Farriery Basics
- ◆ Quote of the Month
- ◆ Article requests....
- ◆ And some great photos!!

ARTICLE REQUESTS

If you would like to request any particular topics/information to be covered in the Newsletter - please do not hesitate to email Jenny.

OR

YOU CAN SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OF YOUR OWN!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Work makes a horse'

Farriery Basics

Ever tried to get hold of a farrier in an emergency and couldn't?

Here is a some simple step by step procedure for removing a loose shoe. A loose shoe could injure your horse's foot so it is best seen to as soon as possible.

What equipment do we need? These can be purchased from Produce Stores.....

To remove the shoe you will need several pieces of equipment. These include:



a buffer (or clencher cutter),



pinchers (also called shoe pullers)



You may also like to wear a leather farrier's apron to protect your legs

Removing a shoe - step-by-step

1. Remove the clenches

To remove the shoe, the clenches (nail heads) are first cut off or straightened with the buffer. This needs to be done or else the nail heads will not pull through the hoof. To do this place the sharp blade of the buffer under the clench (bent-over nail) and strike the buffer with the shoeing hammer. This is done to each clench.

Sensitive horses may object to this hammering so the clenches may be filed off with the fine side of the rasp. Care must be taken to ensure that the clenches are cut or straightened cleanly, as a rough clench pulled through the wall causes unnecessary damage.

Another option is to use a clencher cutter like the one in the picture below. This tool cuts the heads of the nails off, but only works if they are protruding.



2. Lever off the shoe

After the clenches are cut, straightened or rasped off, the pinchers are used to lever the shoe off. Before doing this though, pull out any nails that will come out easily.

Pulling out any loose nails makes levering off the shoe easier.

Insert the pincers under one heel of the shoe, making sure the jaws of the pincers are fully closed or the inner jaw may press into the sole causing pain. Using a rocking action pull the pincers forward and down towards the centre of the toe, with a short, sharp action. Repeat this procedure on the other heel.



Working from side to side, move the pincers along the shoe around to the toe.



3. Remove any left-over nails

Make sure that all nails are removed from the foot. Any nail stubs that are embedded in the wall must be removed by punching them out with the pointy end of the buffer, or pulling them out with the pincers. Put the removed shoe and all its nails in a safe place where neither you nor the horse will step on it.



All the nails will be partly withdrawn and the shoe nearly off. To remove the shoe completely, grasp the toe of the shoe with the pincers and remove it by pulling it upwards, backwards and off across the foot.

Summary

- Correctly fitted shoes should fit tightly with no movement.
- Shoes become loose if they are left on too long; when the horse had dislodged a front shoe by stepping on it; or when nails come loose.
- Loose shoes are identified by the clanking sound they make when the horse walks, and on visual examination of the foot (movement/protruding nails).
- Loose shoes may cause striking injuries, or injury to the sole. They can also get tangled in fences and other structures.
- Equipment needed to remove a shoe includes: a buffer, shoe puller, and a leather apron (optional).
- Step 1 - remove clinches.
- Step 2 - remove any loose nails.
- Step 3 - lever off shoe, commencing at one heel and working around to the other one.
- Step 4 - grasp shoe at toe and remove it by pulling it upwards, backwards and off across the foot.

Article from Book called Farriery, 1982

LEARNING PATHWAYS

CONTINUING ON THE ARTICLE ABOUT HORSE'S BEHAVIOUR FROM THE NOVEMBER EDITION

Remembering that Natural Horsemanship techniques will teach your horse to use it's brain by thinking first rather than reverting to instinctual behaviour....all based on desensitising, trust, and skills on the handlers behalf.

Factors Affecting Behaviour

There are some things about horses that make them act the way they do.

The horse's brain is very small for its size, therefore its behaviour, or actions, are determined by instinct rather than reason. What this means is that the horse will react to, for example, a plastic bag blowing towards it by running away.

It is wired into the horse's brain that when something comes towards the horse that the horse does not recognise, it runs away from the danger. The horse doesn't stand there trying to work out what the bag is and if the bag is going to eat it!

This is how the horse survived for millions of years, by running away from danger. It is instinct, which means the horse doesn't even think about it, it just does it.

Behavioural Instincts of a Prey Animal

The horse has always been what we call a prey animal (the hunted) being hunted by predators (the hunter), so its survival depended on its ability to sense and run from danger. This instinct explains the horse's highly strung, excitable nature.

If a horse cannot run from a situation which it feels may be dangerous, its next line of defence is to kick, strike or bite. This reaction is likely to happen with young horses that are not used to being handled.

As horses get older they get used to handlers and riders and are taught these types of reactions are not acceptable. Should an older horse still show these behaviours, they become known as vices or bad habits. Other factors that affect a horses behaviour pattern include herd instinct and its position within the social hierarchy of the herd.

Monitoring and Reporting Horse Behaviour

As noted it is important that we know how normal behaviour presents for a particular horse because if the horse behaves differently to this in any way we can predict that the behaviour is abnormal for that horse. Abnormal behaviour may mean the horse is ill or injured.

When working with horses it is vital that we can pick up on abnormal behaviour immediately. For example, a horse has not eaten its feed where as its normal behaviour is that of a 'food hog'. Another example is the normal behaviour for a horse at a competition is to work calmly, happily, smoothly etc. For some reason it is bucking and resisting the rider, again, abnormal behaviour.

Instantly we can predict that something might be wrong and should follow appropriate procedures to rectify the problem.

Abnormal behaviour should be dealt with immediately, waiting to see what happens can sometimes be too late.

Summary

- Behaviour is what animals do!
- It is important to understand and recognise what normal horse behaviour is.
- Individual horses have their own normal behaviour.
- Recognising normal behaviour enables us to recognise abnormal behaviour quickly.
- If we note abnormal horse behaviour we should take action and work on rectifying the problem immediately.
- Documenting/observing abnormal behaviour and then following up on that information is vital to ensure optimum health and fitness of the horse.



At the time of writing this newsletter we have had over 4 inches in 36 hours!!!

Now, I could not resist putting this photo in of the 'Maestro' trying to get 'Buck's' attention for a photo for the Stock Horse magazine.

Remember, you take lessons off this guy!!!!!!!

