

NEVZOROV

Vol 2, 2009

HAUTE ECOLE
EQUINE ANTHOLOGY

CARTULARIUM

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nosebands



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on a School
mount
The blue back

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Dressage:
let's dot the i's
and cross the t's

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International
horse festival

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The essence and details
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S WORD



It is extremely funny to watch the way equestrian world moves and develops. It strains under its own unsustainable codes of practice. It has been harsh for the equestrian community to learn that all the 'progress' and changes made are equally fatal for it. Even the attempts of the most humble and harmless reforms all lead somehow to failure within their competitive world.

There's nothing surprising. That world is a dead and false one...a very fragile one it seems. It is enough that someone raises some doubt, questions something such as rolkur for instance, and the result is an enormous schism between the ones who see the truth, and those who refuse to see at all.

At first sight, a sportswoman is still victoriously grinning, shaking her latest-won medal presented for her talent in expertly and subtly torturing her horse. However, no one here can applaud. In almost completely breathless, perplexed silence she is shaking this medal, which now is evoking not admiration, but bitter and difficult questions for the sport and its methods.

In looking at the overall picture, perhaps equestrian sport isn't yet close to its very end, but it is steadily moving right in that direction.

You have the second NHE Equine Anthology issue in front of you.

It is said that when the Persian satrap Hydarnes came to King Leonidas of Sparta to hold parley after the first day of the Battle of Thermopylae, he looked around the pass, strewn with the bodies of the Persians and through clenched teeth said: "My king Xerxes is delighted with your fortitude and dexterity in fighting." Leonidas answered, "Tell your King, that tomorrow we'll deserve yet more delight."

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Horse Encyclopedia by Alexander Nevzorov



This film marked the beginning of great conflict between people who truly love the horse and people who want to exploit it as before. Dozens of chapters – about great people and terrible epochs, about manege elements and famous horses, about scientific discoveries and age-old delusions – turned the horse world upside down.

The film was released in Russia in 2004 with runaway success and received awards in the Houston and New York Film Festivals. Innovative, unique, based on science and inspired by the sincerest loving view of relationship between two creatures that have walked side by side for centuries, but have never listened to each other.

The film has already changed the destinies of hundreds of horses and humans and has become an important hippological document, vital to any serious manege work.

Nevzorov Haute Ecole Principles



The film brings a viewer right into the heart of the School – to the School manege. For the first time ever, an outsider can watch the most important principles of work with a horse at liberty. Following the camera's lens, a spectator follows horse education in the most difficult High School elements, learns the importance of "Discipline" and "Composure", understands the purpose and practical value of the cordeo, touching techniques and the practice of longeing. The comments of Alexander Nevzorov, which accompany every segment, interpret what is essential for understanding and mastering the School work.

The magnetic grace and power of the School horses, the marvelous harmony of their interactions with the Master make "The Principles" not just a priceless hippological educational edition, but also a rare and beautiful film, which once and for all will change a person's view of the horse.

The Horse Crucified and Risen



For five centuries High School masters have fought an uncompromising and unrelenting war against the ignorance, abomination and beastliness that have been concentrated in equestrian sport. But here and now, at the turn of the millennium, when horse torture seems common, acceptable, and legal; old prophecies come true. A man stepped forth to open a new, truthful page in equine history and has brought us this film...

In this film – we see the victory of the great School master, preceptor Antoine de Pluvinel over sadistic James Fillis, equestrian sport ideologist. In this film – we see the newest scientific discoveries, which will make people change their views on the horse and its destiny in the human's world. In this film – we see ancient mysteries, knightly orders and bloody events of past epochs. This film also features the first horses in the world to have received an academic High School education at liberty and their teacher, manege Master, the founder and teacher of today's Nevzorov Haute Ecole, Alexander Nevzorov.

"The Horse Crucified and Risen" shines a light on the most important events in hippological history and gives a viewer the understanding of the essence of horsemanship, which is the basis for understanding the principles and practices of NHE.



LJUBLJANA INTERNATIONAL HORSE FESTIVAL

► Several months ago, an unexpected letter arrived in the NHE editor's office. Its authors – the hosts of the first International Equestrian Festival in Ljubljana (Slovenia) – were asking School representatives to participate at least for one day, “to make the event a success with this participation”. These organizers (as it soon turned out, very nice people indeed) were honest enough to say that they understand our distance from Natural Horsemanship, but wanted us to demonstrate the life's endeavor and love of horses in the view of Nevzorov Haute Ecole and to raise the level of horse-awareness worldwide.

Morally, there was no way to ignore that touching letter, and the official NHE representative for Italy, Maurizio Patti, went to Ljubljana. To understand what was it like, we interview Maurizio, who shares his thoughts and impressions of the festival.



What are the differences between this festival and other horse-festivals?

This was the first year of the festival and like every first time event, there were a lot of organizational problems. The organizers were very nice but at the same time very stressed out, and even up until the first day the halls were not ready to receive visitors. However, by the last 2 days there were enough visitors to make it successful. I guess the difference between this Festival and others is that this one was not as commercial as others and it was meant to let Slovenian people know more about Natural Horsemanship.

What was the aim of the festival? (As declared by the organizers)

Their aim, as I wrote above, was definitely to promote Natural Horsemanship (NH). They had Silke who showed Parelli, Honza who showed his own method, which he says is not Parelli's method, and all the Italian Parelli instructors who also demonstrated Parelli techniques. Other than that they had evening shows with Arabians, Lorenzo's show and a Lipizzaner dressage show, but that was the commercial part of the Festival.

Please, tell us about the so-called “natural horsemanship” areas of this international festival.

My impression about those who demonstrated NH is that they are still looking for something to add on to their methods. They are looking for something that will give them the solution to the hundreds of problems they still have with their horses. One might think me presumptuous with this assertion; actually, I am not because this is exactly what some of them freely expressed and showed me. They all came to see me there and everyone bought Alexander's DVDs and they did not buy them just to amuse their children.

And what were visitors' impressions when they saw the NHE stand?

Everyone who came to our stand was impressed by Alexander's work and also with Lydia's ability in photography. With those pictures, she shows exactly and clearly what we achieve with our horses. People were saying things like “To get that kind of relationship you definitely need to treat horses in a really special way and of course it can't be achieved in a traditional way.” Some even said that it would be impossible to achieve it with NH and I would like to add to this that they, without really knowing it, told the truth.

What kind of questions did you have to answer?

I had to answer many questions but the most repeated was: How does he teach the horse to collect? My answer was that without really understanding the horse's body and mind, if there is no trust, if there is dominance and not equality and if there's not good work in hand it is not possible to achieve it.

Many other questions were asked but what I really want to say mostly is that those who came to our stand really showed an understanding of the fact that there is no other or better way to connect a man with a horse than NHE. ■





PHILIPPE KARL'S PETITION

The essence and details of the scandal

► There is yet another scandal in the equestrian world. But this time it neither involves the primitive practice of doping, nor is it based on the obvious fact of the archaic barbarism of sportsmen, but an ideological one.

It was Mr. Philippe Karl who rebelled, the last of the Mohicans of “classical dressage”, an extremely graceful old man, who is a devoted and assiduous confessor of the very old manege rules and a living example of their application.

No doubt, he is an authority in the world of dressage – before all, as a representative of “the highest riders’ accomplishment”, the so-called “classical school”, an heir to the ideas and disciplines of High School and its 200-year-history. He has been fairly rated as a valuable relic, as something affected by its ancient and genteel ways.

However, all this time (from entering the Saumur school and up to signing the petition) – the relic Karl had simply been riding very stiffly, poetically picking holes with his spurs and breaking horses’ jaws. To put it shortly, he has been personifying the most classical tradition of French riding. But a strange thing happened – the relic suddenly began to speak. Moreover, the relic suddenly decided to speak out with an astonishing directness of speech.

Phillipe Karl burst into a nice letter to the management of the German Equestrian Federation and FEI, where, in particular, he informed Germans, that dressage “has degenerated to a superficial, coercive exploitation of the horse...judges have allowed the unacceptable to become the norm”. More than that, brave Karl reported that it is necessary to “protect the horses, put a stop to offenders’ games.”

This is followed by a list of actions that, in the relic’s view, can better the situation or even completely change it.

There’s no sense or need to list them. They all are naïve... and, like everything in so-called “dressage” are based on complete (deliberate or misinformed) ignorance of a horse’s anatomy and physiology. It is based on hypocrisy, self-approval and stereotypes.

(In general, the only one who can discuss the “legality or illegality” of traditional ways of influence on a horse in dressage is the one who is in principle ready to pay for his fleeting fun with the pain and humiliation of another.

The basis of such disciplines is the ingrained and developed attitude towards the horse as a mobile and programmed piece of meat, which must serve for the different entertainments and moods of a human. Naturally, such an attitude rests either on general intellectual underde-



velopment, or on the special psychiatric needs of a man who “recreates”. Like any other pathology, it can be better discussed in specialized psychiatric works.)

But that’s not the point.

So, indignant Karl demanded to change “for the horse’s welfare” the FEI rules and equestrian traditions (tight nosebands, connection of auxiliary reins, overflexion etc). We should notice that all the offers are absolutely innocent and do not encroach upon the most important sportsman’s right – the right to rule a horse’s behavior with the help of severe pain.

In point of fact, Karl’s petition has something in common with the suggestion of a well-known inspector of German concentration camps in 1943 – to make the gas

in gas chambers a bit sweeter by painting peonies and forget-me-nots on the walls of mass-execution rooms in order to uplift the spirits of those executed.

The Germans read the petition and in return derided both the relic itself and the whole “classical dressage” tradition to their heart’s content.

The poor man was roughly and openly cut down to his proper size, correctly mentioning that classical traditions of dressage are as fatal for the horse, as the sport ones.

Moreover – German sportsmen reminded him, that they do not care much about “noble traditions”, because their dressage rests not on them, but on “Heeresdienstvorschrift” of the year 1912.

In general, the mood of this reply and its whole sense clearly suggests that Karl or other relics had better not stick their “classical noses” into sport, and to voluntarily cover themselves with a bicorn (that is even now a part of dress for classical dressage) and to continue entertaining the public in such festivals as Equitana.

The sardonic reply was signed by Cristoph Hess, Thies Kaspereit and other German Academy of the Horse members from the coaching department of the German Equestrian Federation. ■



school



Tractate on a School mount



THE BLUE BACK



the second part

See the beginning in Vol. 1 , 2009

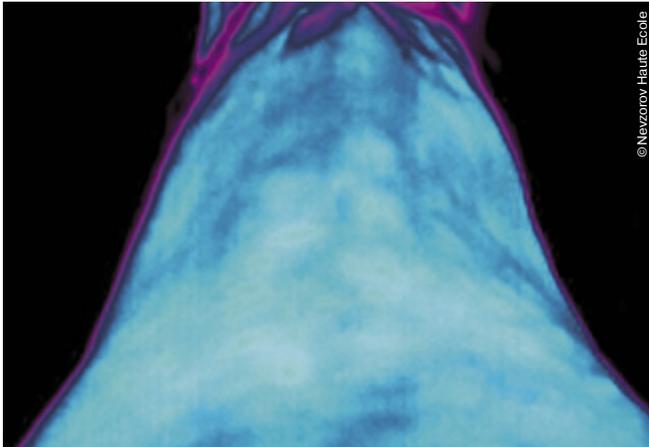
The School mount is not only the exact knowing of allowable.

It is also an exact understanding of impermissible.

Chevalier de Nestier ►►



Actually, it isn't "blue"; the colour is closer to "turquoise". However, out of consideration for the international thermographic term "Venet Dorsum" we may continue calling it "blue"



© Nevezorov Haute Ecole

Only the "blue back" can serve as a real and definitive sign that a horse has no discomfort, pain or soreness, whether it be new, chronic, local or global. The "blue back" is an absolute ideal and should be considered an absolute norm.

Only the presence of the "blue back" can offer us this assurance.

Only when there is "Venet Dorsum" can the weight of the rider, or any pressures (the saddle and the rider) not be considered a torture to the horse.

Everything is so simple.

Everything is easy to explain, easy to prove and easy to understand.

A horse's body is an exact science.

You can diagnose the "blueness" of the back in two ways.

THE FIRST METHOD (relatively complicated)

Computer thermograph

A computer thermograph is a complicated instrument that locates all the areas of inflammation in the horse's body. (Right now, we are talking about the back).

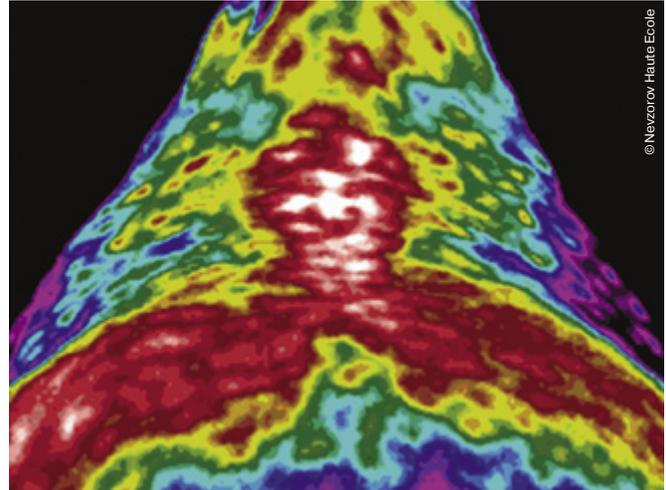
Deep inflammation or spinal injuries are shown in a certain way; inflammation of the derma or epidermis in another way, and superficial and deep muscles injuries in yet a third way. The point is that all inflammation is clearly shown.

Any purple, red or orange marks indicate only one thing; there is inflammation due to trauma or destructive processes and therefore there is strong pain in that place.

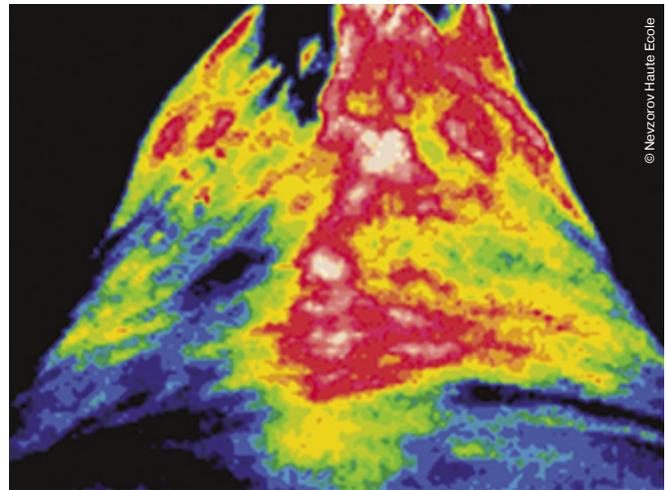
A simple example.

On the thermogram, numbers 1, 2 and 3, there are examples showing the back of three very different sport horses. The first one, if I'm not mistaken, is a showjumping horse of the highest level, the second and the third ones are dressage horses.

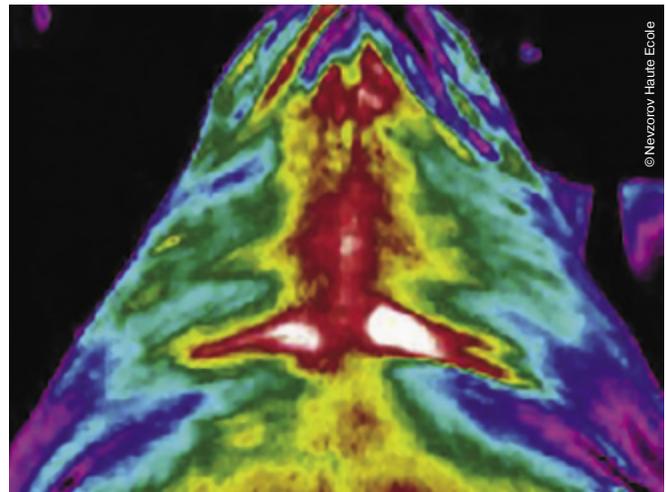
All of these horses are out of good health. All of them suffer, some worse than the others. The damage ranges from painful trauma to chronic back injury.



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It is interesting that the owners of all three horses had no idea that their horses were seriously ill, and they larked around with them (and still do!) to what they call “the max” (training, taking part in competitions etc).

The three backs are very typical. In equestrian sport, there are no other backs.

Maybe these images serve as a kind of a mirage, illusion or falsity of a spurious device.

On the other hand, maybe it is the fantasies of the School, wanting to justify its “incredibly strict” SPATIUM and interdicts.

No. The severe back injuries of all sport horses are scientifically proven fact.

Let’s take a paradigmatic academic edition, which has the status of a textbook, it is called “Principles and Practice of Equestrian Sport Medicine” and is under the editorship of D.R. Hodson and R.J. Rose. Open to the eighth chapter; “Myological Anatomy, Physiology and Adaptation to Training Exercises”, which was written in association with professors of veterinary medicine, David Shaw (Australia) and Stephany Yalberg (USA).

What shall we see?

Bah! We’ll see a terrible (but so well known) list of typical myopathies, the first of them, (from an inner crush injury) destruction of muscular tissues which is caused by the leaking of myoglobine and other contents of the cells (including creatine, kinase, and aldolase) into the blood-vascular system, and mitochondrial myopathy.

As a standard problem, we’ll see the crushing of the perimisium, affectation of the endomisium and the epimisium, and therefore there will be spasmodic myotonia.

The trauma of inner bursting of muscular tissue (transverse bursting of course) is described as a typical one.

This fact, which is delicately not announced by the School – which doesn’t want to pile on the pressure, is clearly described by the veterinary sports textbooks. What I refer to is strong necrosis of skeletal muscles.

However, I will have to return to the necrosis of skeletal muscles as a result of forced collection.

What is interdicted by the School is, as it turns out, known by sports medicine. The difference is that the School, from the very beginning, liquidates the reason for the problem. The sports veterinary industry sadly only attempts to cure the outcomes by deducing how severe the necrosis of the muscle is, observing how the inner fibrotic tissues are forming etc.

The School interdicts, readings from a diagnostic computer and the scientific facts of veterinary medicine, as you can see, say 100% the same thing. (Who would have had any doubts?)

In other words, when we say “sport horse”, we say “invalid horse”. This is about equestrian sport of all levels, from horse hire to the Olympics.





I have already mentioned that the owners of the three horses whose thermograms were shown as examples of strong pathology were absolutely sure that their horses were healthy.

Sounds strange, doesn't it?

In this case, one really sad factor appears; when the pain becomes chronic, the horse physiologically understands that any opposition leads to much more pain than so-called obedience, and he will compliantly perform the showjumping or dressage patterns.

In addition, the horse has exact physiological and myological knowledge that any opposition will lead to exacerbation of the impacts of the bit on the nerves of the head, and the deep boring impacts on these nerves will affectively make a final mess of all his biomechanical construction and redouble the sufferings in the whole body.

Moreover, the equestrian sport practice uses "the traumatic calm" of a horse, however strange it may sound.

Brazenfaced, Salomon de la Brove wrote honestly about it. A couple of century's later, Prussian and German theorists of cavalry repeat after de la Brove, "Only after something hurts the horse – he becomes truly obedient".

In fact, usually only serious inner injuries and pathologies give complete power to a rider.

The nature of every trauma and of every pathology is that its chronic, smoldering state is less painful than the outbreak of pain that is unavoidable while opposing the rider.

Only when the pain itself becomes excessive and reaches a lasting apogee in the so-called work, does the horse decide to commit mutiny, physiologically realizing that the highest point of pain has already been reached, and although there is little hope to escape the creature who is torturing him, hope exists and it is worth chancing.

Well, honestly, I didn't want to show it so as not to offend an extra sensitive reader too much, but I'm afraid I have to.

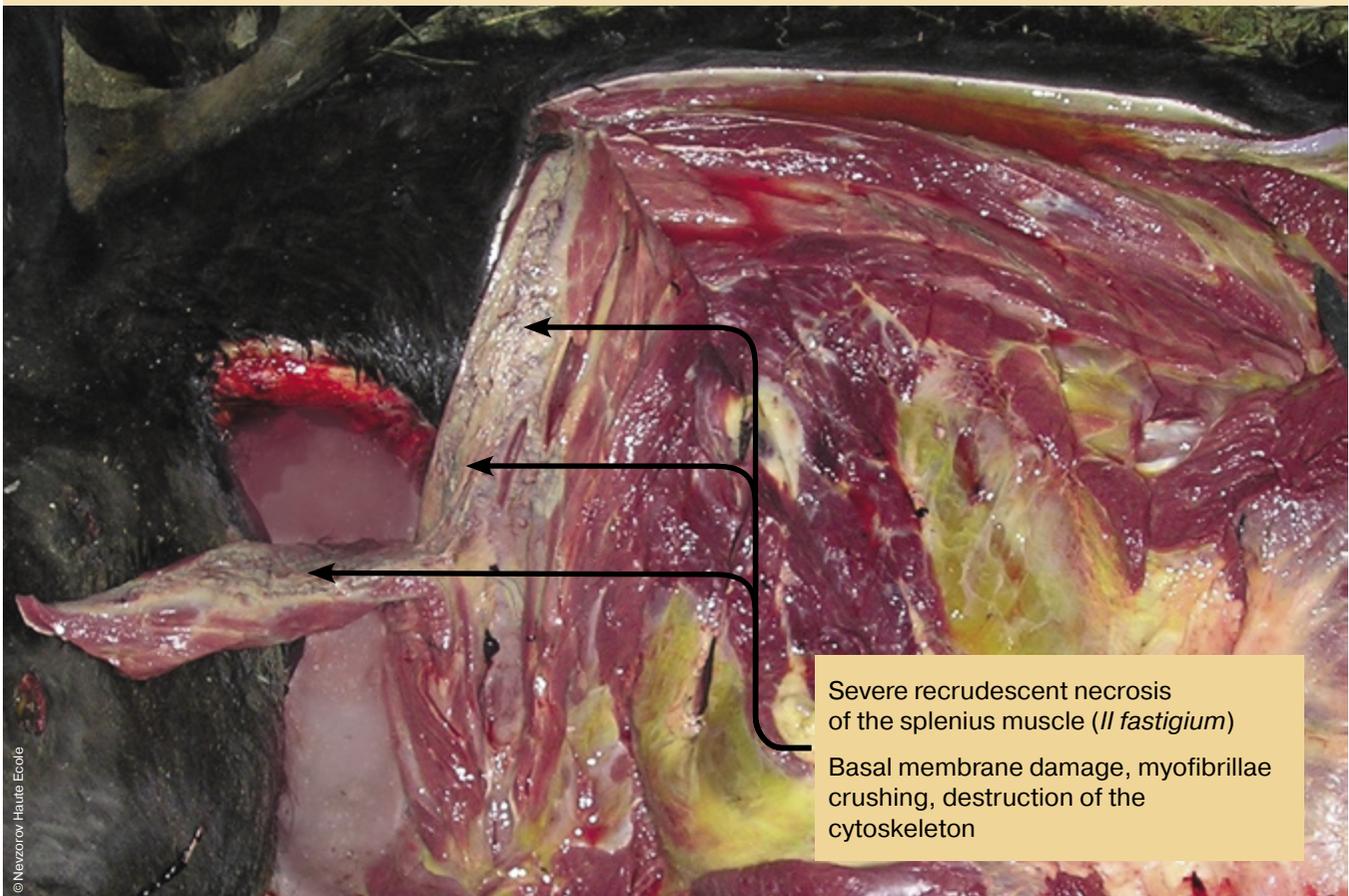
Here is the photo of the autopsy of a horse that was considered healthy, myologically at least.

On the photos, you can easily see the affected regions. This is necrosis of the skeletal muscles which were mentioned above, and which the veterinary sports folios decree as being the most typical condition to diagnose.

In this case, we see a very severe, obvious and definite chronic affectation of the splenius neck muscles. The ones

Dissection 08 (anatomic region – *m. splenius cap.*)

The group of muscles that enable "collection", cervical skeletal muscles necrosis





that together with the trapezius and atlas muscles – suffer most of all from forced collection.

The grey mass that is perfectly seen and shown on the picture is unquestionably necrotizing muscle tissue. Dead muscle tissue within the body of the living horse whom the equestrian sport community foredoomed to be a “happy athlete” (It is phenomenal that this term be used by the FEI in such an instance of marasmus. The term “happy athlete” is used for dressage horses.)

However, let’s get back to our topic.

First, let’s move from the neck to the back, the topic of our discussion today.

The thermographic examination is an absolute and accurate method of diagnosing damage.

THE SECOND METHOD

Another method of diagnostics, absolutely faultless, consists of the simple knowledge that the rider broke the School interdicts and spatium.

Unfortunately, any infractions of the interdicts or spatium will always, and definitely, cause the strongest, pathological and irreversible outcomes in the myological condition of the horse.

If the interdicts and spatium are maintained, we can be absolutely sure about avoiding strong damage or other myological pathologies (myopathies).

BUTTOCKS-CROTCH ITCH

However, I spoke about interdicts and spatium in the first part of this tractate and now I see no point in repeating it, even more so as they are accepted only in the School, and the others with their sports ignorance will torture and kill horses regardless.

Idiotic entertainment which they call equestrian sport cannot bear coming to any scientific or serious veterinary understanding and therefore, do not perceive any arguments.

This means that the School interdicts do not spread on voluntary cretins.

Firstly, they need to satisfy their “itch” that makes them climb up on to their poor horses.

This severe “itch” in the denoted parts of the body is always much more important to them than any facts of science, veterinary knowledge and sense.

They do not worry much about the fact that they, with the help of their sport will kill the horse.

The itch worries them much more.

The victims of this itch, which makes people forget everything, can be found in both adults and children. All efforts

to educate them are equal to the efforts to wean Koreans of eating dogs.



Any efforts to prove the idiotic essence of their entertainment, the science, the veterinary knowledge, the School, this public answer... they fight against with their one obscene and insensately argued point.





MAGNITUD

Now that we finish our section about equestrian sport, we can start the substantial part of this chapter of the tractate about the School mount.

The next important condition of the School mount is MAGNITUDO, which means the power of the horse who is correctly prepared for the rider's weight with the help of special exercises.

In order to explain everything exactly and in detail, I'm returning to the thermograms for a moment.

Strictly speaking, the thermograms isn't an exact diagnostic device.

Locating the presence of inflammation, the thermograph only determines the fact that there is a problem, but doesn't recognize its name.

The more complicated examinations such as ultrasonography, scintillation scanning, x-ray etc. explore what the thermograms show, and will determine the problem accurately; they will mark and name it.

Nevertheless, the thermograth can still be extremely accurate when it states the health, soundness of muscles, epidermis, joints, and when it identifies the state called the "blue back".

The "blue back" is the first and the most important condition of the School mount and that is the direct offshoot of MAGNITUDO – the correctly developed, absolute power of the horse.

MAGNITUDO has a natural enemy, a mortal and pitiless one... it is so-called "training".

Training is a system that cripples the horse while preparing it for competitions.

All ratios of the so-called training of all the disciplines of the equestrian sport and other ignorant forms of horse usage, sadly, are created in such a way that the horse has no chance.

Forcibly training for long periods will produce movements contradicting the horse's natural biomechanics. Training breaks and hurts his mycological system, destroys joints and destroys his mental state.

What is "training" and what's the difference between training and the School term "MAGNITUDO".

MAGNITUDO is a very honorable desire to give a horse the full value of his myological condition, to exercise him, to develop his muscles just how they were designed by nature to work.

Training is an aspiration to adapt the horses' myology to the sport standards, which is based on the painful distortion of natural biomechanics and mind.

Even a superficial glance at the movements of the horse gives an opportunity to understand that when performing sports, or the so-called dressage elements,

the horse uses completely different muscles than while performing the same element (or very much similar one) at liberty (in games) or in School studies.

A simple example; the state of the neck of so-called sport horse.

Every "dressage" horse has a hypertrophic atlas muscle – a muscle that has the function of protection of the atlo-occipital joint from the causes of false collection (forced collection with the bit and restraint of the head).

Broadly speaking, the atlas muscle is the main muscle of the group of "safety muscles"; a guard-muscle, which covers the most vulnerable point of the cervical part. In nature, it has a very average devolvement because it is not used that often.

Any kind of bit hypertrophies it, by reason of its use and the resulting overuse of the muscle. Hypertrophy of the atlas muscle leads to the thinning and necrosis of the splenius, trapezius and serratus muscles, and sets off the whole "opposition-muscles" group, which is the sternomandibularis, sternohyoideus and omohyoideus muscles.

This group of muscles works to oppose the rider's hands and the impact of the bit.

No horse manages to escape from the painful action of the bit with the help of this "opposition group". It is this group, which "switches on" with the actions of the hands and iron instruments in the mouth.

(I just can't imagine what kind of fool would somebody be to mix up a horse who was been trained with the bit, with a horse who has been educated without any instruments of enforcement.

The muscular presentations of the cervical part are so different, that once you understand this, only a blind man, idiot or sportsman could not see the differences.)

Naturally, the reconstruction of the cervical part, caused by the influence of pain and the bit, spreads a kind of a myological "echo" all over the horse's body.

Practically everything is corrupted... everything, even up to the natural sequence of the muscles' actions; semitendinosus – biceps – gluteal profundus. We can see that in the horse performing passage at liberty or without instruments of enforcement.

A sport horse or a horse who has suffered from sports training has an absolutely different sequence of actions that is also easy to see; gluteal profundus – semitendinosus – biceps.

The whole body of the horse falls under a distorted presentation of natural biomechanics, which in fact, leads to the destruction of natural movements and changes them to painful puppet-like ones.

Incidentally, suggesting that all the changes of natural biomechanics come only from the painful "echo" of the bit and as a result of the reconstruction of the cervical part would



be incorrect, there has not been enough research done about it.

We see an evident destruction of natural biomechanics, it's an unquestionable fact, but maybe the bit is not the only thing that affects it. Perhaps also different kinds of myopathies are connected to the influence of the rider's weight or other "training" features.

Another question is that when we deal with sportsmen, we deal with an enormous level of cretinism!

Honestly, I'm writing through tears of laughter!

There is such a funny and very exact science to anatomy and its section – myology. All the movements have their anatomical formulas, everything is certain, everything is described and written down by the anatomists who "took a horses' body down to molecules" a long time ago.

Notably, such torches like Borelli began doing it on orders of the old School masters.

For example.

We need to teach the horse to do an important part of collection – to do a vertical flexion, directing a burst of power from the poll through the nuchal ligament to the latissimus muscle... and a concentrating burst of power from the caudal part... forward, also to the region of m. latissimus dorsi.

Everything is as simple as a kilo of carrots! Everything is that incredibly simple. You immediately get a proper, although at first, a rather "hard" collection (due to the special studiousness and dedication of the horse that performs it). That, without a millimeter of strap of course.

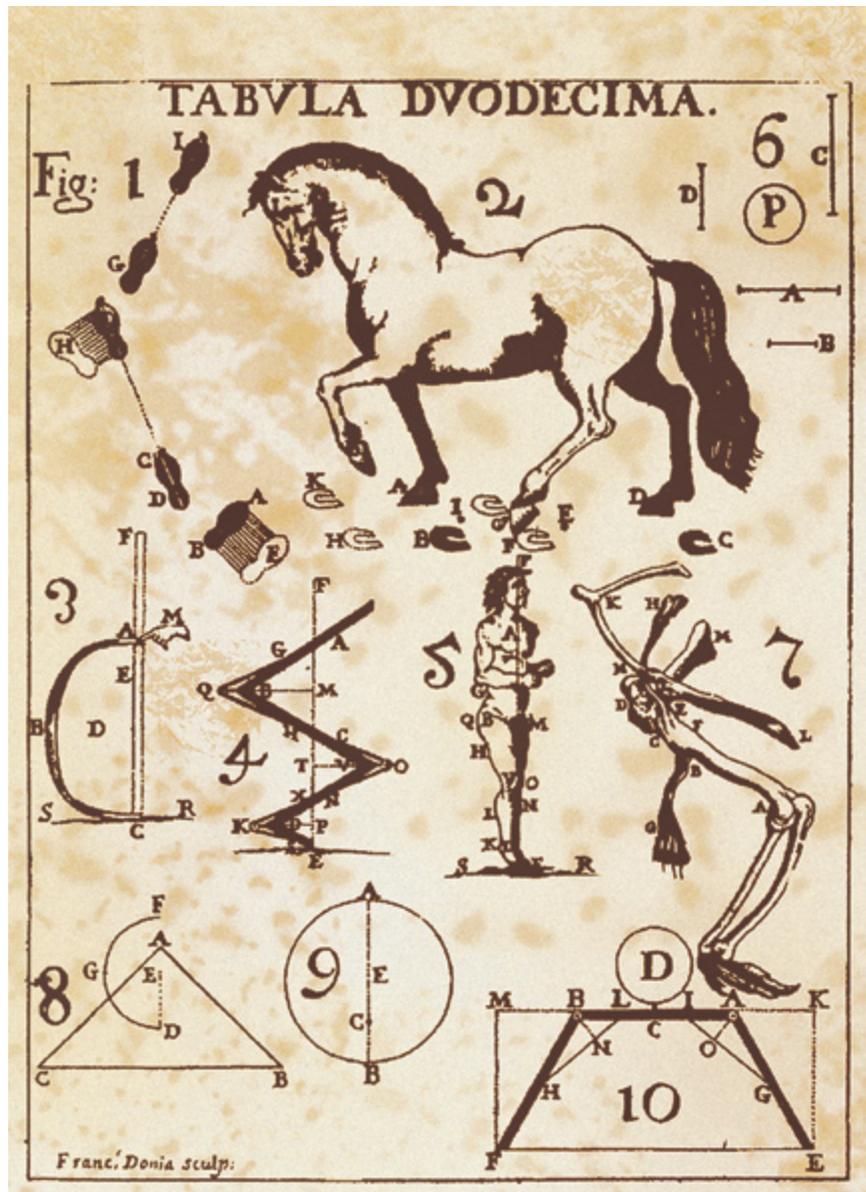
And what does the sportsman do?

He, wishing to teach the horse how to collect, begins exercising the muscles that oppose collection. The muscles of the cervical section that protect the fragile atlo-occipital and atlo-axidalis joints (art. Atlantooccipitalis, art. Atlantoaxidalis) from destruction.

Moreover, this is where the chain reaction starts, due to an unusual anatomic formula, after the atlas muscle is acting, all the muscles of the "opposition" muscles group with the rebellious brachiocephalicus at the head will begin hypertrophying.

Why do they not understand this?!

On the photos it can be very well seen how this stupidity is created with the help of the straps and what result they have.



In the table showing passage, I name the myological formulas of natural movements and natural collection.

I exemplified such simple examples so as not to pad the article with straight science. However, for those who want to understand, it is enough.

This is elementary knowledge, the easiest of all, and even then they try to demonstrate and prove that movements of the horses in equestrian sport are "similar" to the natural movements of the horse, when in fact they have nothing in common.

Myology is as pitiless as physiology, and categorical as well.

The breach, the worst breach, of natural myological presentation is that it first provokes a trauma, and then cruelly redoubles it.

In the same way, the so-called training is pathological for any building of the relationship "horse-rider". The prominent

MAGNITUD

Passage. Formula/musculus

phase I

1

- m. brachiocephalicus* – 17-20%
- m. sternomandibularis* – 17-30%
- m. splenius* – 60-70%
- m. trapezii* – 50-80%
- m. extensor carpi radialis* – 75-90%
- m. romboides cervicus* – 30-50%

2

- m. semitendinosus* – 75-90%
- m. biceps femoris* – 50-80%
- m. gluteus medius* – 35-40%
- m. gluteus superficialis* – 60-70%
- m. deltodeus* – 75-90%
- m. tricipitis* – 75-90%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* – 38-40°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* – 28-32°



MAGNITUD

Passage. Formula/musculus

phase II

1

- m. pectoralis descendens* – 35-40%
- m. sternomandibularis* – 25-30%
- m. pectoralis transvertus* – 55-65%
- m. extensor digitalis lat.* – 70-90%
- m. extensor carpi radialis* – 85-90%
- m. romboides cervicus* – 15-20%

2

- m. semimembranosus* – 55-70%
- m. soleus* – 60-85%
- m. tibialis cranialis* – 60-70%
- m. gluteus superficialis* – 70-80%
- m. pectoralis profundus* – 30-35%
- m. infraspinatus* – 40-45%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* – 40-41°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* – 28-34°



MAGNITUD

Passage. Formula/musculus

phase III



1

- m. extensor carpi ulnaris* — 60-70%
- m. sternomandibularis* — 18-25%
- m. teres maior* — 60-65% (conj.)
- m. trapezii* — 70-90%
- m. biceps brachii* — 85-90%
- m. romboides cervicus* — 25-28%

2

- m. semitendinosus* — 75-85%
- m. infraspinatus* — 30-40% (conj.)
- m. subcalvius* — 40-45%
- m. gluteus superficialis* — 75-80%
- m. deltodeus* — 75-90%
- m. tricipitis* — 60-70%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitali angulus* — 41-43°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* — 28-32°

MAGNITUD

Passage. Formula/musculus

phase IV



1

- m. serratus ventralis (cervicis)* — 20-25%
- m. supraspinalis* — 35-40%
- m. cleidomastoideus* — 10-15%
- m. brachialis* — 45-50%
- m. extensor carpi radialis* — 80-85%
- m. pectoralis profundus* — 45-60%

2

- m. infraspinatus* — 65-70%
- m. extensor carpi ulnaris* — 65-70%
- m. extensor digitalis comm.* — 45-50%
- m. tensor faciat lat.* — 65-70%
- m. vastus lateralis* — 75-80%
- m. rectus femoris* — 85-90%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* — 41-43°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* — 27-30°



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Hypertrophy of "antagonist-muscles", specific to equestrian sport. The sternohyoid and sternothyroid muscles are hypertrophied. So are the brachiocephalic and atlas muscles; the splenius muscle is atrophied. This is typical of horses used in show-jumping.



© Nevezorov Haute Ecole

It is easy to see how the "antagonist-muscle" group, in response to continual pain, has completely depressed the nuchal ligament and unbalanced the ENTIRE myological system of the horse (this is a typical result of equestrian sport).

purpose of training in this context is so-called contact. Please, name me at least one of the world's languages where the words "slave obedience" and "contact" are synonyms?

You won't find it anywhere.

Only in the equestrian sports slang.

If they have complete slave obedience, they call it contact. If the horse makes the tiniest attempt to escape from the



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At left: painful hypertrophy of the "antagonist-muscles" begins with a tie-down and any of the head paralyzers.

At right: the painful hypertrophy of the sternohyoid and sternomandibularis muscles is clearly seen. Such hypertrophy develops as an answer to a constant pain caused by bits. It is easy to see the atrophy of the nuchal ligament and the muscles that enable collection (this is typical of dressage training).

pain, from the sufferings or rebel against the torture which lasts for too long, or to express somehow their feelings, that means that there is no contact there. And that means that they should achieve contact (slave obedience) with the help of increasing the pain level. That is the simple formula of the equestrian sport.

And so-called training develops this. (Obnoxiously, everywhere there is only hierachy, lies and vagueness. Simple vagueness that prevents calling obedience, obedience – a beating, a beating and a crippling, a crippling...

No... They made up their own vocabulary... contact... punishment... training... (Ugh!)

For the final understanding of the differences between so-called training and MAGNITUDO you should know the following:

1. "Training" serves only itself, not the organism of the horse.
2. "Training" is an unnatural maintenance of muscular tonus rather than anything defined by nature for a proper life and health of the horse.
3. "Training" lives off the horse's blood and has an excellent appetite.
4. There is a requirement for "training" if the owner prepares his horse to be eaten. (It's not a coincidence that the rascal-cook who wished to fry the horses in the hippodromes – and only the blooded horses who had already raced. Right, he knew that racing training incredibly increases the concentration of glycogen in muscle fibres, and that is probably what gives a very special taste to the horse's flesh.)

5. In 99% of all the cases, the training is done by only a small "economical factor". "Mucky girls" in the stables, calling themselves riding masters and coaches, make up a new way of earning money, scaring the owners who depend on them, declaring dogmatically

* Editorial comment: By the "rascal-cook" the author probably means Gordon Ramsay, the horsekiller-cook, England's prophet of horseflesh as an acceptable meat on the dining table.

MAGNITUD

Caracole. Formula/musculus



1

m. brachiocephalicus – 35-45 %
m. sternomandibularis – 25-35 %
m. splenius – 50-70 %
m. trapezii – 60-80 %
m. extensor carpi radialis – 45-60 %
m. romboides cervicis – 40-50 %

3

art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus – 25-35°

2

1. *m. semitendinosus* – 40-50 %
 2. *m. biceps femoris* – 45-55 %
 3. *m. gluteus medius* – 50-55 %
 4. *m. gluteus superficialis* – 65-80 %
 5. *m. deltodeus* – 25-40 %
 6. *m. tricipitis* – 25-50 %

art. Atlantoaxialis angulus – 20-25°

Caracole
phase I



Caracole
phase II



Caracole
phase III

© Lydia Neveznova



Caracole
phase IV

© Lydia Neveznova



MAGNITUD

P. E. Formula/musculus

1

- m. brachiocephalicus* – 30-35%
- m. sternomandibularis* – 20-30%
- m. splenius* – 60-70%
- m. trapezii* – 60-75%
- m. extensor carpi radialis* – 50-60%
- m. romboides cervicus* – 50-70%

2

- m. semitendinosus* – 60-70%
- m. biceps femoris* – 50-60%
- m. gluteus medius* – 50-60%
- m. gluteus superficialis* – 60-70%
- m. deltodeus* – 45-55%
- m. tricipitis* – 35-50%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* – 45-50°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* – 35-40°



MAGNITUD

Piaf. Formula/musculus

phase I

1

- m. brachiocephalicus* – 30-35%
- m. sternomandibularis* – 20-30%
- m. splenius* – 60-70%
- m. trapezii* – 60-75%
- m. extensor carpi radialis* – 50-60%
- m. romboides cervicus* – 50-70%

2

- m. semitendinosus* – 60-70%
- m. biceps femoris* – 50-60%
- m. gluteus medius* – 50-60%
- m. gluteus superficialis* – 60-70%
- m. deltodeus* – 45-55%
- m. tricipitis* – 35-50%

3

- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* – 45-47°
- art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* – 35-40°



MAGNITUD

Piaf. Formula/musculus

phase II



- 1**
- m. serratus ventralis (cervicis)* — 20-25 %
 - m. supraspinalis* — 40-45 %
 - m. cleidomastoideus* — 20-25 %
 - m. brachialis* — 45-50 %
 - m. extensor carpi radialis* — 70-80 %
 - m. pectoralis profundus* — 45-60 %
- 2**
- m. infraspinalis* — 65-70 %
 - m. extensor carpi ulnaris* — 50-60 %
 - m. extensor digitalis comm.* — 35-40 %
 - m. tensor faciat lat.* — 75-80 %
 - m. vastus lateralis* — 75-80 %
 - m. rectus femoris* — 75-80 %
- 3**
- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* — 43-45°
 - art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* — 27-30°

MAGNITUD

Piaf. Formula/musculus

phase III



- 1**
- m. extensor carpi ulnaris* — 65-75 %
 - m. sternomandibularis* — 15-25 %
 - m. terec maior* — 50-60 %
 - m. trapezii* — 70-90 %
 - m. biceps brachii* — 85-90 %
 - m. romboides cervicus* — 30-35 %
- 2**
- m. semitendinosus* — 75-85 %
 - m. infraspinalis* — 40-50 % (conj.)
 - m. subcalvius* — 40-45 %
 - m. gluteus superficialis* — 75-80 %
 - m. deltodeus* — 40-60 % (conj.)
 - m. tricipitis* — 50-60 %
- 3**
- art. Atlantooccipitalis angulus* — 44-48°
 - art. Atlantoaxialis angulus* — 28-30°



that the training is needed for their horse, and in fact, all they do is just cripple him.

By the way, correct myological development can't be given in shocking doses (one or two hours of torture a day). It is just bottomless stupidity.

MAGNITUDO, the School myological preparation of the horse, uses many elements.

85 % of these elements and exercises are taught and realized at "liberty" and "from the ground", that means that their descriptions would be more appropriate in the "Tractate on the School work from the ground" and not here.

Here it is possible to analyze several movements that perfectly exercise the horse. (On the condition that spatium and all the School interdicts are kept.)

The most "forceful", and at the same time, energetic exercise, is the Caracole.

CARACOLE

This name is an old School one; in the first centuries of the School existence, it meant a very short, very collected powerful gallop, the most effective one of all the gallops.

The origin of the element's name is very simple – it came from a French verb "caracoler." It is true that back then this word, both silly and off the point, was used in cavalry where it meant "shooting a horse from its place". Polemologists, perhaps because of the beauty of this word and misunderstanding of its meaning, also called it an incredibly foolish maneuver and thus it was laughed away by the contemporaries (General Krusso) and descendants (Sir Charles Oman).

In the School understanding CARACOLE is a manege gallop-like movement with maximum lifting of front legs and very soft mobilization of the caudal part at the same time.

The advantage of CARACOLE is in its deliberateness and "shortness" and that is why the gluteal profundus and the semitendinosus muscles, which feel the special strain, have a possibility to "breathe" after each half-tempo of caracole.

However, all the four phases of the CARACOLE you can see in photos of the attached table.

One of the most important elements was and probably will always be the Spanish walk, which exercises the trapezius muscles superbly. Notably, if in exercising the trapezius there is (let's confess) an artificiality, then take into account the necessity of special toning up of all the near and under-saddle regions. The Spanish walk is not just feasible, but also dogmatically required.

The same important element of exercising is also Piaf. (Precisely Piaf, and not "piafféeee", though strictly speaking, this manner of spelling and pronunciation is incorrect and is just a School jargon. However, sacred School jargon is better than a vapid correctness.)

Nevertheless, despite the need and importance of piaf, passage, and of Spanish walk in exercising, in MAGNI-

TUDO, in revelation, and education of the School mount's power; CARACOLE rests as a king of the elements.

Generally speaking, it is the dilettantes who divide horses' movements into natural and artificial.

That funny distinction was introduced by sports dressage, ideologists of whom are the keepers and prophets of principled hippological ignorance, and this distinction found further lodgment in their minds thanks to FEI rules, which are concentrated forms of barbarism, lies and hypocrisy.

What does real, official, hippological science think about it?

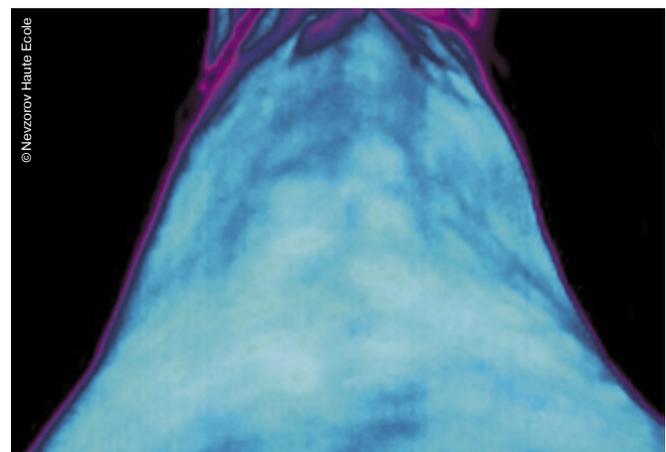
A famous work of G. Waring (Horse behavior) which systematized all the currently known knowledge about natural horse behavior, and which has the status of a textbook, maintains an absolutely different position than that of the FEI.

It is enough just to open the book, and on the 48th page, in the detailed description list of all the native, natural movements of the horse, we'll see – Ballotade, Capriole, Courbette, Croupade, Levade, Misair, Sentado etc.

G. Waring confines himself to affirmation and summation of the facts, observations, and scientific researches. It is clear, that he shows extremely authoritative evidence.

However, for the School there hasn't ever been a question about "artificiality" of elevated, high elements.

By the by, finishing this (the second) part of the Tractate on the School mount, I came near forgetting to conclude.



"The blue back" showed on the thermogram is the back of the same stallion that you can see on practically all of the illustrations of the Tractate.

And that, is that.



*Alexander Nevzorov
Lydia Nevzorova (photos)*

To be continued.



MAGNUS KAOGI (KAOGI THE GREAT)

KAOGI ICHACHIGA
Stallion 2000 year of birth
Russian saddlebred
169 sm. withers height



Cloé Lacroix

Nezorov Haute Ecole Official representative in Canada Dean of School

"Here are your mittens, Cloé! You left them at the barn".

"Thank you for finding them" I replied to my boyfriend. "I guess I forgot them this morning when I was playing with Thunder?!".

"Don't thank me! Thank your horse! When he saw me arrive in the field he walked towards the paddock, picked up the mittens you left on the railing in his mouth and brought them to me!"

Let me tell you the story of my first horse whom I tenderly nicknamed Big Boy.

I was told that to be a good horse owner I should keep him in a stall, have his premolars removed and to put shoes on his feet.

Although I provided my horse with all of the "right" equipment and a "good"

home, nothing went right. Thunder was not happy.

After a week of watching him in his stall I decided to face my fear... to saddle Thunder and to go for a ride. I mounted him in the field. He didn't move. That's good, I thought to myself... but there was just a little bit of a problem... he didn't move at all! For twenty minutes he refused to take even one step. It didn't matter how hard I kicked his flank with my heels, squeezed my legs around his body or turned his head; he refused to take one step. I know now, that deep down he was just listening to me and he knew that I was afraid. He was just being a good horse.

A lady told me that she knew someone who could help me. She gave me the phone number and I scheduled an appointment with the man for the following week. It was the beginning of a beautiful journey for the two of us.

Monday morning at eight o'clock was my first lesson. The "trainer" asked me to groom my horse. I put Thunder in the cross-ties and started to brush him. Thunder was agitated because being in the cross ties in the morning usually meant that his stall was being cleaned and breakfast would be served shortly after. I was really unsure of what I was doing and each stroke of the brush was mechanical. Although the "trainer" was talking to my boyfriend, I knew he was watching me. Little did I know how much he learned about me and my horse just by observing us.

As we were walking to the paddock he told me that he noticed Thunder was shod. I was proud of myself, I figured at least I did one thing right... but then he asked me the killer question: "Why?"

I was getting confused. First I was told I needed to control my horse with a bit and to nail shoes to his hooves. Now this man was telling me just the opposite. For some reason I cannot explain, I had the feeling that he was right. I trusted this man, and I know Thunder did too.

I never knew quite what to call him, "trainer" was not an appropriate word to describe how he worked. "Teacher" was more accurate, but because I like to give nicknames to people, I decided to call him "The-Hippie-Trippie-Horse-



man". He didn't seem to dislike it, but his real name is Michael Bevilacqua.

Michael taught me many things about horses. How they live, about their needs and their world. The most important lesson I retained is to be in the moment, to observe, and to listen. I know that might seem too simple, even superficial, but it's not so easy to put into practice. Between my lessons I was having fun just hanging in the field with my horse and his friends. By then, Michael had explained to me all the harm of stabling so Thunder was on "pasture board" and living in a herd.

Our favorite game was to hide few carrots or apples anywhere in the field and to play "treasure hunt". One day as we were walking to a tree to find the hidden apple, I stopped to push a big round bale of hay that was stuck in the mud. I was pushing on it with my whole body, but nothing was budging. It was wet and heavy, but I was determined to move it and I kept on pushing and pushing with all my strength. Thunder approached and I thought that he was going to eat the hay but to my surprise he leaned his chest on the bale and start pushing too. I was laughing and I couldn't believe my eyes! I continued to encourage him "Come on Big Boy, push!"

He turned around and started pushing with his hindquarters, which made me laugh even more.

I knew something special had just happened. Thunder and I had just had our first conversation, we understood one another and a strong relationship was forming.

I continued taking lessons from Michael, and I remember him talking about a Russian man and a discussion forum. One October day Michael showed up for class with a slightly deflated ball. Needless to say, the cowboys at the barn thought that he was a weird and strange man, and they made fun of him, but Michael didn't seem to care at all. That's one of the things I like best about him.

Michael told me how important games are in a horse-human relationship. The following lesson Michael asked me to try to show Thunder how to lift his leg and to put his foot on a rock. I had no idea how I was supposed to

do this and I was waiting for more instructions.

"O.K, weird man, tell me the trick now?! What is the cue? What do I do next? Where do I touch him? Do I need a rope?!"

I drove back home after the lesson with the feeling I wasn't learning anything. I was even thinking that



maybe it was time to put an end to this, but then something suddenly clicked in my head. The pieces of the puzzle came together, everything became so clear. There is no method! There is no trick! All I have to do is observe, listen and try... and do my best to make myself interesting for my horse, make him want to spend time with me and try to understand his language rather than impose on him with mine.

I joined the NHE forum in December 2005, five months after Thunder came to my life. I have never stopped learning and I know that I still have a lot more to learn. Horses became my passion and I acquired two more within the same year. Although I love them all, Thunder and I have a partic-

ular bond because we learned everything together. He is my school boy and he loves it. He knows some NHE exercises and takes great pleasure in learning. He knows colours and can differentiate many objects and pick them up for me. I don't ride Thunder, I don't ride any horses. I derive pleasure and satisfaction from ground-work and games. People who used

to make fun of us look at us differently now. I think they envy us. I am often asked, "How do you do this trick?" And "How do you make him do that?"

My answer is always the same, "Every single horse is exactly as special as Thunder is, if given a chance. Every horse can dazzle you with his brilliance... if he is educated, stimulated, and respected. It is that simple".

I can't finish my story without thanking Lydia and Alexander Nevzorov for so generously sharing their vast knowledge, and Michael Bevilacqua, who believed in us and made this all possible.

*Cloé Lacroix
Photos by Dany Jean*







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dressage: **Let's Dot the I's** **and Cross the t's**



Do you want to kill a horse?



© Nevzorov Haute Ecole

Take up dressage!

Among the usual merchandise of sex shops such as handcuffs, collars, big flexible phallic-shaped whips, spurs, strapped facemasks, black bodice and panties, there is a black BDSM head mask. ▶▶



Or rather it is not just a head mask, but a full hood mask which wraps completely around the head, face and neck. This mask may blindfold the wearer, those varieties without eye slits (I ask you to remember this fact).

But this mask always has a perforated mouth. The perforation can look like "BARED TEETH" or a "SMILE".

In the article "Fear and Spite" those whose face is tightly encased within the BDSM head mask were considered. They are show jumpers and their masks sport the "BARED TEETH" perforations. Their faces are always awry belying an obvious fear of the horse and with a specific furious intensity of "sport". Now let's consider those, whose masks show the "SMILE" perforation. This is so-called dressage.

It is no accident that I referred to the product line of a sex shop. This is the most direct and clear analogy, full stop. As a matter of fact, when we talk about equestrian sport, it is our DUTY to realize what makes those people who practice it tick.

Let's look at the current calendar.

It is 2007 now.

It is clear that for a sensible relationship with a horse there is no need for any accessories, straps, or metal tools in the horse's mouth or on a man's feet, or for the barbarically cruel effect of cords, clasps, and rings – in short, all the types of equipment of equestrian sport. The uselessness of all these things has been scientifically proven and is common knowledge.

All over the world, masters of horse education exhibit shining examples of communication with a horse without any painful tools. They refused on principle to use any devices that would cause pain in a horse's mouth, or to their nose, poll, sides, croup muscles and legs.

Currently there are enough masters (of different levels) of this orientation in the world, that we can talk of the fact that the system is generating, for example, performance of such elements as courbette, piaffe, and balancer by a "naked" horse. This is not an illustration of special gifts but just an ability to bring out the natural friendliness of the horse, his quick-wittedness and talent.

I have to say that my pupils overtake their teacher and soon will surpass. The story is the same with the other masters who refused to cause pain to a horse based on principle. There are many of them and their methods are effective as well.

It appears that all things are possible. The beauty of riding, and training in hand, play, intricate exercises

and High School elements are possible. Friendship, true friendship with the horse is possible. Everything is possible.

This is the path where bits and whips do not torture the horse; no one beats him or pricks and prods with spurs; no one tears apart his mouth, lungs and tendons. This is the path where the horse is not driven with fabulous speed to invalidism and death! This is the path of love, truth, honor, sense and great results.*

In principle, when people who sort of "love horses" (according to their own estimation) see that they must pull off all barbaric mediaeval tools from their horses, the tools which have only one function - to control a horse through causing severe, paralyzing pain, those "horse lovers" will be bound to make friends with the horse, to create the relationships which enable them to show this very "love" in full.

But an absolute phantasmagoria occurs – an illogical and wild one.

"Horse lovers" such as show jumpers, dressage riders, eventing riders, owners of horses for hire, and amateurs (otherwise known as "PO", or "private owners", those who ram down on sore horse backs with their bottoms, never knowing for what reason), foam at the mouth whenever this path is mentioned.

As it turns out, without the bit and all sorts of straps which serve to torture the horse, when they have no way to inflict pain and injury on the horse by forcing him to go in for so-called sport or its amateur shadow, when they have no cause to dress in special clothes like red hunt coats and hunt caps, they lose interest in a horse at once. The horse becomes pointless for them.

It's hard to believe but it's true!

About 85% of the polled sportsmen candidly acknowledge that if equestrian sport was forbidden or eliminated in some other way, horses would become absolutely uninteresting for them.

Moreover, they debate in all seriousness the horse's right to exist in the case of prohibition of equestrian sport.

Is it absurd? Sort of...although psychology (specifically sexology) researched this phenomenon long ago. Now I have to advert again to a very unpleasant analogy for some readers. (My profuse apologies).

* All of today's masters (myself included) had shameful pasts; they all used to go in for sports, stunts or "classical" riding, but we managed to find the courage to admit to the harshness of what we used to do!



The experiments were carried out in Salzburg with couples and groups practicing so-called BDSM.

In the course of experiment it was found out that the pervert lost interest in a partner without a mask, collar with spikes, shackles, strapped bodice, or in a partner who banned any beating.

The “horse lovers” have approximately the same reaction when they are deprived of an opportunity to inflict pain on a horse and the use of their customary habits.

I realize the extreme crassness and directness of this analogy and I apologize to all who might be offended by it and its seeming impropriety.

But now everything becomes clear once and for all. Possibly I can help someone to make sense of the reasons which lead him (or her) to equestrian sport. If we answer the question: how did we come to this, we'll possibly be able to find the answer. We'll be able to understand why someone who has realized the nature of equestrian sport, engages in it, and why someone would stay.

There is another striking fact. Nearly 100% of the polled sportsmen and amateurs cannot explain intelligibly why they chose the equestrian sport rather than another sport. They try to get away with banal pretexts such as “it's beautiful” or “I love horses so much”.

(Apropos, when you hear that the sportsman says “I do love horses so much”, - you would do well to remember that Chicatilo “loved women so much”. (Chicatilo – Russian maniac sort of Jack the Ripper (*translator's note*)))

But I do understand the senselessness of condemning all these people. I'm only trying to find out what incites them to get involved in equestrian sport. One may say, considering practitioners of BDSM and their psychological doubles from equestrian sport, it is very likely they all have deep inward causes for demonstration of this specific behavioral model.

Flogging kits, spurs, and laced up bodices are the breath of life to those people who buy them in sex shops. They cannot feel any strong sensations without all these props. Simple relationships give them nothing. Yes, the existence of other, normal relationship is well known for them, but they don't feel any interest in such relationships or are hostile towards them.

It is quite understandable. Normal, natural relationships are drab and boring for them... They need “exceptional” feelings – the hiss of a whip, anguished cries, pleading

for mercy, the tears and blood of their partner, and above all – the feeling of pain they inflict on another person is a must for them.

But there is a strange statistical coincidence: there are as many people who believe that martingales, tiedowns or curbs are necessary to handle a horse... as those who are hooked on expressing love with the big flexible phallic-shaped whips, spurs... and the mask with “BARED TEETH” or a “SMILE” perforation.

Of course, this is just a humorous statistical coincidence and nothing more than that. But the similarities of psychological archetypes, motivations, degrees of aggression and almost all other characteristics are striking, let's face it!

There is even masochism (that is the desire to feel pain) as every sportsman knows about the inevitability of falls, injuries, fractures, dislocations, injuries to the face by the horse's poll and hooves, and other displays of aggression from the horse, who was driven into a frenzy by pain.

But the “sportsman” gets on the poor horse again and again. What for? He does it in order to experience a mortal “fear of the horse”, “fear of injury” (the pain of highly probable trauma) again. He gets on the horse in order to drive her to hysterics with beating and pain in her mouth, to inflict pain and to experience “fear of horse” and pain to himself.

We are starting the difficult analysis phase from this point. Everything seems to be right but something is still not quite settled. BDSM with its blood, whips, masks and chains is a voluntary thing.

The BDSM is founded upon “mutual consent”. But in equestrian sport nobody asks whether the horse “wants” to do sports or not. They do everything by means of brute force, cruelty, beatings, sedatives, tools and other devices.

So we have a psychological analogy of a horseman and the sadomasochist pervert. It sounds terribly unpleasant, I'm shocked too.

But each sportsman considers himself normal and sees nothing pathological in his passion for dressage.

And what is more, he sees nothing pathological in the “process” of dressage.

They regard the tools of dressage (bit, whip, spurs) as something natural, something they cannot do without.

But, it is curious that...according to the poll of the BDSM participants, they see nothing extreme or pathological either in the peculiarity of their actions or in other paraphernalia associated with BDSM.



In their view the whips, spurs and masks are something natural, something that must-be for them, and without all these things the very “process” is impossible.

Well, we've got an unpleasant, although explanatory, analogy but it is only an analogy.



Jerking the reins, whips, beating of the bit on the teeth, blood, the horse's wheeze, awful hits of horse's legs against the obstacles when horse “ploughs” into fences, falls and overturns, all these things are visible to the naked eye and too evident, as well as in racing, driving and three-day eventing.

Our task is too easy in the way of evidence from these kinds of equestrian sport to be absorbing.

We'd better investigate so-called “dressage” which is considered the most dignified and decorous discipline of equestrian sport.

There are no falls or flips and not any extremes in this kind of sport as the dilettante practices it. The horse's agony is not really visible at first glance.

Only an expert who knows how, where, and what to look for, can see that everything happening in the dressage arena is torture for a horse.

Let's take a look too.

I will remind you we need to find out the truth about pain, about its power, degree and effect.

The type of people who practice the pastime known as “equestrian sport” won't tell the truth. Perhaps they don't know, don't feel, or... don't see it is one.

As I have already told you, the masks from aforementioned kit can be BLIND. Instead of the truth, they will tell us something about “unity with horse”, “love of horse”, “happy athletes”...

Anatomic, physiological, postmortem, and biomechanical examinations of the consequences of both classical and sport dressage methods can be summarized and produced as scientifically proven facts.

Now, let us look at those people who cannot clearly answer the question: why do you participate in equestrian sport? They actually look for some very SPECIAL feelings in it.

But they are unable to admit it. But in accordance with our “unpleasant” analogy these special feelings are directly related to the gaining of strong pleasure from the infliction of pain on another being.

Following the “analogy” further, a crucial issue arises, we must ask if equestrian sport can really give such an exciting and complete experience from the INFLICTION of pain.

Does the horse really suffer? This is a serious matter, which requires scientific proof. Let us examine. But let's complicate the task. We will not analyze show jumping for example. Everything is obvious and too superficial in this kind of equestrian sport.

The works of professors of veterinary medicine and deliverances of doctors of veterinary medicine were summarized. They are: R. Cook, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Honored Surgeon (USA); H. Strasser, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Germany); S. Skinner, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (USA); E. De Buckeler, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (England); I. Colloredo-Mannfeld, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Austria); Professor Zelenevskij, Director of anatomy department of Veterinary Medicine Academy, and many others.

The Research department of Nevzorov Haute Ecole, together with experts of the Forensic Medical Examination Office in St. Petersburg: Professor V.D. Isakov, Doctor of Medicine, Deputy Chief of Forensic medical examination office for the expert department; Professor B.E. Sysoev, Doctor, Medical examiner of higher category, Candidate



of medical science., and the Ballistic Examination Bureau: S.M. Logatkin, Candidate of medical science, Colonel of Medical Service, Deputy Chief of body armor facilities testing laboratory, have conducted studies of the effect of the bit on the nerves of the horse's head.

All of the results obtained during examinations and experiments are verified and certified by numerous necropsies (postmortem studies and dissections of equines).

On the grounds of the expert findings in these studies, necropsies, and dissections, it may be safely said that the principle effects on a horse in so-called "equestrian sport" who has been subjected to the principle of constant shocking pain, and methodical torture, are irreversible pathological changes to the horse's vital organs. What comes next is invalidism and a slow premature death.

No living creature in the world is inflicted with such strong and prolonged painful torture as the horse in equestrian sport.

Dressage, with its generally accepted methods, rests only on use of painful tools and uses pain as the main and only motivation, like all the other disciplines of equestrian sport.

Naturally, so long as this method of action is accepted as constant and the interaction of "rider-horse" is impracticable without it, there are significant abnormal changes that occur in the horse's organism.

These changes can be easily identified both by necropsies after death and by clinical diagnostic techniques while a horse is alive.

But we will consider the necropsy results as absolutely indisputable and unambiguous, which strike out various treatments, arguments and discussions entirely. It is the dissection that opens all the "secrets" of equestrian sport.

That's why I'm saying: "Let us ask the carcasses of horses killed by dressage.

They have nothing to hide but have something to say."

The extent, severity and nature of internal injury of a horse according to necropsy or dissection findings make it possible to decipher the pain code of such a discipline as dressage.

Rummaging the cold muscles, bared nerves, enormous stratified hematomas and dissecting joints and membranes, the picture of "the most elegant sport" becomes clearer in all its terrible clarity on the table in the dissecting room.

The cold piece that was a horse just this morning, is phenomenally understandable and absolutely honest.

So, what exactly happens on the dressage training (or "battle") field? In accordance with all requirements and qualifying standards of any type of dressage, the horse is forced into false collection (with a violently flexed poll and engaged hindquarters) by means of special devices, lever force and other forms of pain.

What happens in a horse's organism as a result of false collection? The first consequence of false collection is the full or partial crushing of parotid salivary gland (*glandula parotis*). This is the gland that primarily takes upon itself "the blow of vertical flexion" because of its location. It suffers most of all and turns into a mush, into a solid stratified hematoma

The depth of hematoma as seen in different horses varied from 3 to 13 (!) centimeters.

But each of these horses had glands turned into mush.

The photograph shows clearly the upper subcutaneous layers are practically unaffected. Their color is natural; they haven't got any impact marks or signs of external blows.





This affected area is deeper, somewhere at a depth of one centimeter.

The following photos confirm – yes, this is a deep inner lesion that has been formed by a traumatic cause.



I give you a comparative photo of the other horse's autopsy findings. This horse sustained a lifetime of severe subcutaneous injuries. (When he was in agony in a terminal state, he strongly knocked himself against the walls of the stall.)

Look at this – a severe but subcutaneous hematoma.

The depth of hematoma is about 3 millimeters, to be more exact from 1 to 3.

But in our case everything is different.



It is obvious that the trauma has originated from within, not due to external causes such as external blows or wounds. It is the gland that is located in this place, which actually has a “grayish-yellowish-pink” color in its natural state. Its “dressage” color can be seen perfectly well in the photo of dissection too.

Prolonged constant squeezing of the parotid gland (as in forced collection) accounted for this inner lesion. The gland is squeezed between caudal part of vertical ram-

us of mandible and atlas. The gland structure is much weaker than any muscular tissue structure. It is easily affected. Five minutes of collection is enough to damage some horses.

Poor density of gland (in comparison with the density of muscular tissue) cannot protect the arteries. The following arteries and veins are pressed and injured with varying degrees due to collection: condylar artery (*condylaris*), external carotid artery (*carotis externa*), great auricular artery (*auricularis magna*), superficial temporal vein (*temporalis superficialis*), external maxillary vein (*maxillaris externa*) and some other arteries and veins.

This is how it looks during trainings and events.



And this is how it looks during autopsy.





There are large quantities of affected and irritated nerves during the pressing of the parotid gland in collection. And practically all of these nerves are “sensory”.

There are the facial nerves (*n. facialis*), internal auricular nerves, caudal auricular nerves in the “lesion zone” caused by collection, and the basic branch of the caudal auricular nerves. Frontal and lacrimal nerves are subject to an extra amount of pressure.

The effect of the crushing of all these nerves causes painful shock which is severe and stupefying. You can see a typical hematoma of the parotid gland, caused by dressage, in the photos. The different color of the strata denotes that hematoma has many strata and is “cumulative”.

That is to say that the horse with profound and very painful trauma to the parotid gland (and the sublingual gland as well) has been repeatedly forced into collection, and goes on building the new strata of hemorrhages caused by compressed veins and arteries. By the way, this is a typical finding.

Besides the unbearable pain that the horse experiences (the list of affected nerves), colic was guaranteed for him from the moment his mistress had taken a fancy to try dressage.

I will briefly explain what colic is.

The death of every sport horse by colic is only a matter of time.

The crushing of the parotid gland by forced collection guarantees it. This leads to abnormal changes in the whole digestive system.

The chemical composition of saliva changes as the parotid glands - the largest of the salivary glands – are crushed and necrotized as a result of forced collection; the bit in the mouth injures the sublingual gland (*glandula sublingualis polystomatica*). The mandibular gland (*glandula mandibularis*) which, relatively speaking, does not suffer as severely, emits a seromucous secretion and its excess upsets the balance of chemicals in the saliva composition. Saliva tests of sport horses reveal cardinal differences between the saliva of a sport horse and that of normal saliva!

The rest is a technical matter. Acute stresses from pain and the effect of the bit, which is unavoidable in the life of every sport horse, leads to ulcers. The chemical changes of the saliva composition and its quantity leads to gastritis, colitis and others.

Gastritis, colitis, and ulcers lead to colic, which causes death. The process is so simple that it is unworthy of special discussion. Unfortunately, the outcome is predetermined.

When “sportsmen” try to whitewash themselves or rehabilitate the sport, they shout the names of the long-lived horses, those who were used in equestrian sport during a specified time of their life. The list is traditional, there are only a few names. They shuffle their names in different orders: Kvadrat, Druzhok, Sophist, Budynok... Druzhok, Sophist, Budynok, Kvadrat...

Usually when I hear these names I ask them politely, “More!”

Another five names of horses, those who were in sport but somehow managed to reach the age of 20 (of a horse’s natural biological 40-year life span), arise with an effort.

I ask for “More!”

Once they pulled up the names of 15 horses!

Well, let us suppose (my princely gesture) that there are 100 of them!

God forbid, but the list of those who survived in Auschwitz, is dozens or even hundreds of times longer!

The quantity of survivors of the biggest “death factory”, primarily oriented towards the mass murder of people by Nazis, outnumbers by a hundred times the quantity of horses who reached age 20 in equestrian sport! But this is sentimental talk; we have once again digressed from the research issue. Let’s return to our subject.

So, we’ve got the proven fact of the presence of intense and constant pain of the parotid gland of a dressage horse. There are no doubts due to the character of the lesions. During its development, any animal that breathed was openly and continuously tortured. But there is one more factor.

Due to forced collection, injury of the atlantooccipital membrane (*membrane atlantooccipital dorsalis et ventralis*) is unavoidable.



The membrane tissue is delicate and thin. Its tears and ruptures do not really cause distress to a horse.



Minutes of forced holding of the head in a “vertically flexed” position is enough to tear or injure the membrane tissue.

But! As soon as the membranes are torn (and this is the inevitable sequel to collection) the defense mechanism that protects the spinal cord is lost.

The membranes shield the great foramens between the occipital bone and atlas during the flexion and extension of articulation.

The most unpleasant thing is that the destruction of atlantooccipital membranes, and the membranes over the atlas and axis junction, free the so-called dens axis (*lig. dentis dorsalis et ventralis*), which starts “attacking” the spinal cord from below.



The painful sensations in this area are extremely severe.

By the way, most respectable anatomists and pathologists, in regards to the amount of pain experienced by a horse, place membrane destruction ahead of the tragedy of the parotid gland.

It's only partially true, as the destruction of membranes leads to spinal injury, crushing of intervertebral cartilages and consequently heavy compression of the ventral parts of vertebrae, and partially crumble the *periosteum* and even affects the latticework of bone filling containing embryonal connective tissue and bone marrow (*substantia spongiosa*) according to autopsy findings of the cervical spine by Horst Weiler.

Taking into account the super sensitivity of the periosteum, it is very likely that the pain with its inevitable constant reinjury exceeds the pain of the crushing of the parotid gland.

The impact of this dens axis “attack” upon the spinal cord has not yet been explored. It might be assumed to have both long term physical consequences and painful sensations for a horse, but there is no verified data and I don't want to speak before there is proof.

Nevertheless there is probably nothing pleasant or good in any painful force, especially considering its direct impact upon the spinal cord.

However, the physiological outcomes of crushing the parotid gland, compression of vertebrae and tearing of membranes ensures invalidism and bitter death for a horse.

But as I've told you, we won't examine that now. We are solely examining the pain factor as the main “tool” of equestrian sport and its impact on a horse.

The cited findings above make it possible to affirm definitively that the pain factor is very strong, and may be exorbitant.

There is no doubt that the pain factor is the very tool by means of which sportsmen control a horse. It is clear that all so-called “sports” horses are similarly injured.

Only one thing is incomprehensible: How and why does the horse stand for such severe pain? Why, while enduring steady excruciating pain in the poll and behind the jowls, does the horse continue moving, jumping or performing passage? Is there a more severe pain that “sentences” a horse to obedience?

But again we need to receive an unambiguous reply. The reply excludes any use of “belief – disbelief”. We need the facts of physical proof, not just belief.

There is such pain.

The torturous effect of the bit on a horse's mouth has already been described in great detail.

This torture has been scientifically proven by veterinary medicine. But let's ask the dead horse again. And give a fair hearing to it, this time concerning dressage.

So... this is a diastema (*margo interalveolaris*), the place which the bit effects. The photograph shows clearly common hematomas – the results of using bits. The photos





show the typical injury of the lower jaw bone periosteum where the diastema (i.e. "bars of the mouth") are. This injury is practically standard in every sport horse.

Next to the injured jawbone (upper skull) is the jawbone showing the smooth diastema of the horse who never knew a bit.



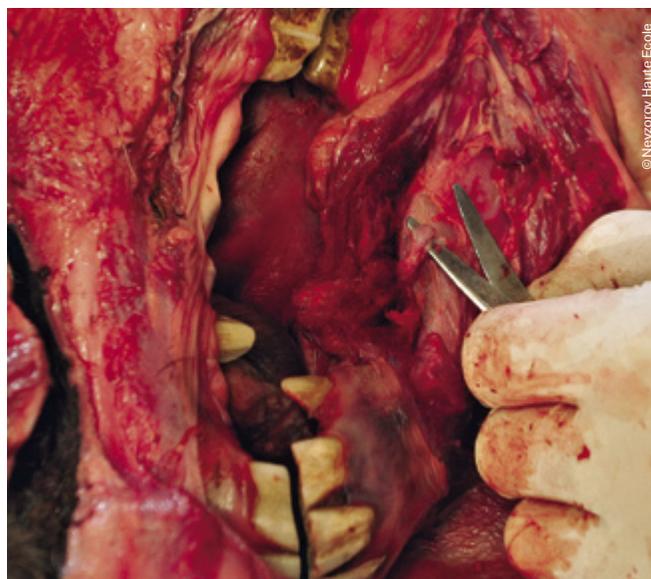
The next photo shows why the bit is placed here.

Here in *margo interalveolaris*, in diastema, the most sensitive part of trigeminal nerve is located (I am picking it up with scissors in the photo).

There is no submucosal layer on the *margo interalveolaris* and the bit affects the nerve directly. The nerve is supersensitive.

The bit beats and presses right on this place.

What is the force of this beating and pressing?



In the course of recorded experiments it was found out that a jerk on the bit causes the press force of 300 kg per square centimeter.

"An ordinary" typical effort by so-called "good hands", is about 120-130 kg per square centimeter.

That is 120-130 kg straight to the nerve.

According to descriptive adjectives, pain like that in the area of the nerve can be called "especially acute, burning, paralyzing".



(Perhaps the "jerking" pressure is in fact much stronger. But neither the dynamometers nor other special equipment of the Forensic Medical Examination laboratory were able to measure the stronger efforts. The instruments returned an off-scale reading when the typical equestrian sport practice of "sawing the reins" and other force tensions were employed.)

All the experiments were carried out together with specialists and experts of the Forensic Medical Examination Office in St. Petersburg, veterinarians and journalists.



The experiments were formally recorded and videotaped. Thus, whether one agrees with the outcomes of these experiments or not, it is really a matter of fact, not of belief.

During the course of experiments emerged the degree of traumatic pressure to the tongue of the horse.

The anatomical model of the tongue made from ballistin was practically crushed by a gentle effort from the hands of a thirteen-year-old boy.



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(Ballistin is the material that most closely resembles the structure and density of living tissues in everything except flexibility. In forensic medical examination, ballistin is used to register a hit or pressure). The main pressure of the bit acts upon places where the lingual nerve (*lingualis*) plexus is located.

The bit causes a pressure on the tongue of 100 kg per square centimeter (this is with an ordinary rein tension; the rein acts as a connection for the bit of course). A jerk intensifies the pressure and it reaches 250–300 kg per square centimeter.

Or rather on the lingual nerve which is supersensitive as well. (The white branch on the model is a lingual nerve (*lingualis*), and yellow branch is a motor sublingual nerve [*hypoglossus nerve*].)

I believe there is no need to describe the painful sensation that comes from a pressure of 200–300 kg on the sensory nerves. A real tongue would take such pressure. Owing to the super flexibility of living organic tissue, all of the more muscular tissue would reshape immediately. It would sustain an injury, but the pressure wouldn't make such a mark on it as it does on artificial ballistin. Let's continue.

Another branch of the trigeminal nerves sustains a hit. This branch is located in the chin groove under which a curb chain runs. This place is almost devoid of muscular tissue, there is only skin, a branch of nerves and periosteum there.

What can the curb chain do, a very standard curb chain on a standard curb bit? The curb chain applies pressure to the bone and nerve at an amount of more than 300 kg per square centimeter.

The force measurement instruments used to measure the degree of curb chain pressure were used in another way. A different model of a horse head was made from material withstanding the pressure of about 100 kg before it breaks with its thickness of 3 cm.

TWO EXPERTS of various ages and constitution using two different models BROKE OFF the lower jaw after the first tensioning of the reins, which confirms the readings of the instruments.

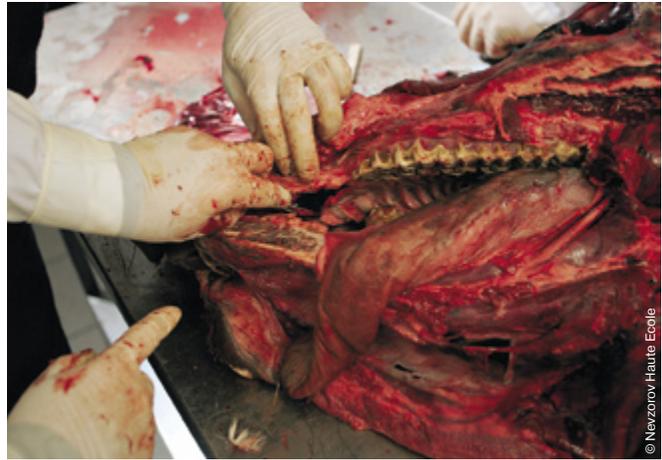
Clearly horse bone is able to withstand much stronger pressures on this area, but we're not talking about functional damages. We are concerned with the degree of pain that a horse feels caused by the use of standard sports equipment.



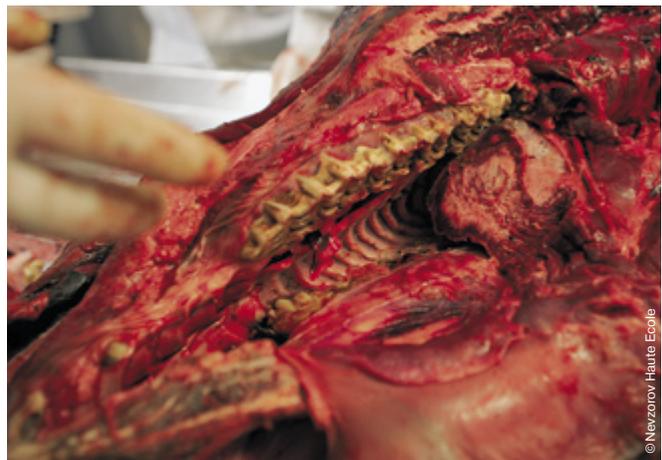
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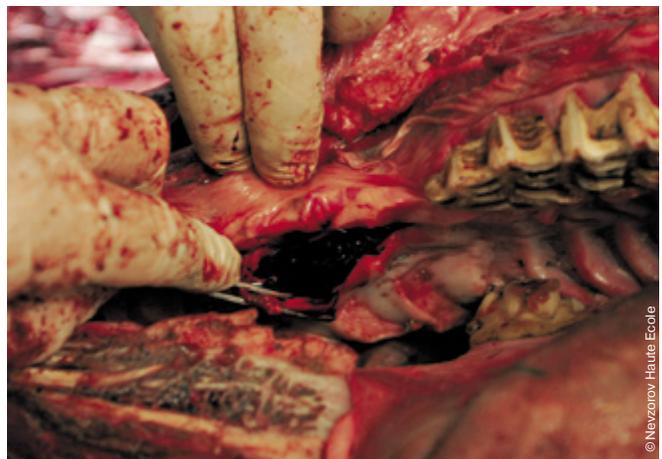
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Now, let us consider THE HARD PALATE (*palatum durum*).

Both the curb port and the central part of the snaffle cause an equal effect on “gently rolled tissue”, on the mucous membranes of *palatum durum*. The only difference is that pressure of the curb port is nearly constant and the hits by the central part of the snaffle are more abrupt but occasional. The thickness of masticatory mucous varies from 2 mm (within the grooves) to 6 mm (on the ridge).

Between this thin layer of mucous membrane and palatine bones are located the thick branches of the palatine nerve (*n. palatines major*).

This thin layer of mucous membrane is unable to protect the palatine nerves against the hits and pressure of 180–200 kg per square centimeter caused by the bit.

The hematomas under the mucous membrane, which can be perfectly seen in the dissection photographs, give an idea of the amount of pressure force (and therefore the degree of pain can be inferred).



These photos show the real thickness of the hard palate mucous membrane.

We might continue talking about the impact of bits on the teeth and lips, or how they shove the horse's tongue into its throat, about the injuries to the epiglottis and so on, but much thorough research has already been dedicated to it.

Now we are talking only about the DEGREE OF PAIN, or rather about how severe that pain must be to make the horse "forget" about the pain in his poll and in the area of the parotid gland.

Performed experiments obtained figures which are easily converted to physiological sensations. These provide unequivocal evidence that pain in the mouth is more intense, sharper, or more "hypnotic", than even such severe pain as pain in the decomposing gland and crumbling vertebrae.

Therefore the horse "obeys".

The medals of Van Grunsven or Poturaeva speak volumes about that as well, though.

I have to confess when I first saw the findings of the examinations I couldn't believe my eyes. I didn't believe the experts. I didn't believe the instruments. We changed dynamometers and electronic sensors twice. But everything was repeated again and again. I didn't realize that even an ordinary "gentle" action of the bit in the mouth is so painful.

I knew that the pain exists, and that it is strong (I also used to work with bits in the past), but I was not ready for figures of 100, 200 and 300 kg per square centimeter.

It seemed to me that with an effect like that, the horse's head would fall apart during the first training. But we deal with very strong, very buoyant flesh, with very powerful physiology and a very substantial osteal system. So, 300 kg per square centimeter is not the limit yet. The head does not fall apart. It just paralyzes the horse with pain.

By the way, the experiments were also conducted on real cadaver horse heads. With the pressure of 300 kg horse-flesh does not really "fall apart". Severe inner "paralyzing" injuries are inflicted but there are no signs of external damage. (A real horse mandible can be fractured at the pressure of 450–600 kg. The "old School" curb-bits of S. de la Brove, D. Izvitti design ensure that effect).

Ordinary sports curb bits, or the ones that are used in classical dressage, just crack the periosteum. They can exceed the pressure of 300 kg but only just a little. The dilettante, who wants to believe in the myths of equestrian sport, cannot see the severe injuries. They are not obvious.

Veterinarians stay silent in a cowardly manner. They make a living serving sport. 99% of their "client base", their profits, connections, and career opportunities come from sport.

Yes, everything connected with show jumping and dressage is steady, painful torture for any horse.

Everyone who deals with a horse liberated from painful action knows that the horse with an ability to "vote", with belief that the torture is over forever, has nothing in common with the downhearted sports horse moving under the hypnosis of constant pain.

For many years sportsmen have been generating lots and lots of lies about horses. They consider the drilled, forced, obviously "painful" movements, which have nothing in common with natural biomechanics of a horse, "beautiful". They award medals to each other when the horse shows these movements. The more there is a "pain component" and marionette-like movements of a horse, the higher the mark. It is a concern for both so-called "sport" and so-called "classical" riding.

However, this again is sentimental talk. We have scientifically proven facts which dot the i's at last.

So, we can sum up and get back to the starting point of the research. People who take up so-called "dressage" are looking for some "special" feelings in it.

They get them.

Every movement of the bit in the mouth, with the spurs and the whip, has a purpose and results in causing either more or less pain to a horse. This is the main irrevocable "component" of their pastime.

Do they know about the pain they cause a horse? Do they know that they are killing the horse?

Of course, you could say that about 100% of dressage riders both in sport and "classical" disciplines are barbarians. Illiterate barbarians who have no idea about parotid gland structure, facial nerve branches, about the super vulnerability of the mandibular gland.... They know nothing about the horse, about his anatomy, how he moves, and what he feels.

Yes, it is so.

They are barbarians, it must be confessed at last. Nuno Oliveira, Alois Podhajsky and Guerinier were barbarians, too. All those people really had no notion of the strength and structure of the "toy" they broke for their own pleasurable sensations, self-affirmations and some "aesthetic ideals".

Arthur Kottas, the star of the School of Vienna, toured Moscow not long ago and without scruple demonstrated in public his complete ignorance about the anatomy and physiology of a horse. Needless to say this is also true about dressage riders in sport. That is to say that if they are illiterate, if they don't feel the horse, if they don't understand



and don't know her anatomy and physiology, if they don't understand anything, are they mistaken when they torture a horse and think it's ok for her?

What drives them then, they who are worshiping fanatically with awe the pastime, which is based on causing severe traumas and violent pain to a living creature?

Their fanaticism is so strong that any possibility of relationship with a horse which excludes pain and death of a horse, they take loathingly?!!

Alas, there is a science called psychology and it discovered everything long ago. It is known that it does not mat-



ter whether a person possesses the knowledge of what he does or not. He is aware of some feelings about what he does.

This is called sense perception, emotional knowledge.

The information, value and accuracy of this sense perception, containing dozens, even hundreds of sensations, nuances and instincts, can rival scientific knowledge.



But it differs from scientific knowledge quite fundamentally. It is impossible to express. It is difficult to formulate and to note.

But that doesn't mean it does not exist. In short, a person who ruins a horse realizes what he does. Not on a scientific level, but on an emotional level.

The possibility to force, tear and pull around the flesh, to manipulate both its deep and subcutaneous strata, to triumph over the living creature, known by the name of HORSE, methodically via pain, are probably the very feelings they look for in dressage.

Has anybody the heart to call dressage a normal pastime of sane people? But then the answer is already quite clear through the analogy with BDSM. And it is fully justified.

Everything stated above does not apply to the persons whose pictures were used to illustrate these studies.

I accept that these people could not realize the fateful consequences of their pastime on a horse.

I testify that all sportsmen in the photos acted according to all standards of behavior established in equestrian sport, and in full conformity with all guidelines of the FEI. ■

Alexander Nevzorov





Here we introduce to you
a list of rare and ancient things
which were not known
to hippological history
or were completely forgotten.
In this cartularium there will be
forgotten things and texts,
which are vital for attainment
of Equine History.

cartularium



Serreta-type noseband

Europe, XVI–XVII centuries A.D.



Weight – 247grams.
Twisted steel, the inner section of the twist is inlaid with short sharp serrations.

This Serreta-type noseband was widely used by the European riding schools over a long period. The example shown is intended to be used exclusively with the curb while riding on horseback. The serreta-type noseband has a pressing and crushing effect on the horse's soft tissue and nasal bone with every slight movement of the reins. Later, when brought to Latin

America by the Spanish conquerors, it was modified into a bosal. When people specializing in ancient weapons and armory happen to come upon these relics in their collections they seldom, if ever, take the trouble of identifying their function and origin. This serreta-type noseband was described as “an odd spur of an odd design” when purchased!



Serreta-type noseband

Austria, XVIII century



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*Капцунъ желѣзный есть желѣзная
полоса, изогнутая дугою, съ тремя
кольцами, къ которой приделаны на-
головникъ. Такіе капцуны бывають
выпые, зубчатые и гладкіе. Гладкіе
изъ всѣхъ лучше, потому что зуб-
чатые осаднивають носъ. Капцунъ
долженъ класть на палець выше муш-
тучныхъ колецовъ, дабы не препят-
ствовалъ онъ дѣйствию удила и
привзелей.*

В 2

Weight – 430 grams. Brass with traces of gilt.

This example functions in the way that is typical of all the serreta-type nosebands and all the nasal appliances in general. It dates back as far as the late Medieval Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Its Austrian origin is evident as it comes in a set, with spurs of the same design covered with the same gilt and having the same Vienna trade mark. This Serreta-type noseband is likely to belong to the Vienna School (The Spanish Riding School) as its name implies.

This riding tool is still a compulsory component of Spanish riding. Today classical riding-school gurus have come to some disagreement about the terminology. All of them without exception use this nasal instrument but refer to it by different names. Luraschi prefers the word “Mediacane”, the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art call it a “Cavesson” and in Russian XVIII century hippological treatises it was labeled as “Captsun” (“капцунъ”).





This section is dedicated to discourses for those who are capable of shining the cold searchlight of science on any hippological problem.

World-known hoof-trimmers, luminaries of veterinary science, historians and professors of higher educational institutions of hippology will tell you about their work, their ideas and horses.



colloquium



Equine Sciences Academy – untypical phenomena in the world of hippological education.

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And it's Derry McCormick and Cindy Sullivan, who are untypical and absolutely remarkable chancellors of this Academy.

Women, who believe deeply in main ESA's principle – the partnership between the human and the horse is an honor and trust that must not be broken.

With wondering calm insistence they make this principle not only statement but the real base for educational program in ESA.

Derry McCormick: **we will not accept anyone who does not work in the best interest of the horse...**

... I have loved horses since I was a child. I always asked for a pony, but my mother said no, so I took riding lessons and spent time around horses whenever I could. When I was twenty eight I bought my first horse and have had her for almost twenty years now.

I have always been an animal lover and believed that trust and kindness were the basis for a relationship with any creature. I was always "gentle" with my horse as I understood it, but still did most of the traditional things as far as riding, boarding, feeding etc. When she was six, my mare was diagnosed with navicular and became progressively more lame. Riding was no longer an option,

and I spent the next eight years or so trying all the different conventional treatments and protocols to help her. I finally pulled the shoes as there was nothing more we could think of to try, and was amazed when she became more sound and her feet started to improve. I started researching barefoot trimming, but couldn't find anyone to do what I wanted, so decided I had to learn to trim myself. Once I became involved with people who taught and practiced this, I learned about diet, laminitis, hoof function and barefoot soundness. This opened the door to more and more information about all the other aspects of horse keeping, and the fact that everything in a horse's life affects his body, mind and spirit.

The journey continued as I learned about a different kind of relationship with, and approach to horses, which has led me to where I am today. Although my love and affection for horses is much the same as it was, my philosophy, approach and understanding of what a horse needs to thrive physically and emotionally could not be more different from ten years ago.

How was the idea of creating "Equine Sciences Academy" born?

After hands on experience in other trimming certification programs, we decided we wanted to create a school that was more comprehensive and addressed much more than just the feet.



We wanted to be part of the dedicated group of people out there educating horse owners and professionals about the true nature of the horse, and how we can and need to become far better stewards of these amazing animals. My partner and I spent two years working to get our curriculum, advisory panel and instructors together. We opened the Academy to the inaugural class in October, 2007.

Who was your partner?

Our Director of Academic Affairs and Senior Field Instructor, Cindy Sullivan. Cindy is one of the most trusted and experienced natural hoof care practitioners and instructors in the world. She has a site on the Internet, www.tribeequus.com, and it will be very useful to everyone to visit it.

You've chosen rather untypical way of giving knowledge...

Yes. Courses are not one teacher and a textbook, rather they are a compilation of information and resources from a wide variety of professionals in the equine world.

By the way - how did you learn about NHE?

We first learned of NHE several years ago and were very impressed with their philosophy, the obvious love and respect for horses, and what they could accomplish without force or punishment. It fit in completely with our philosophy and we asked Lydia if she would be kind enough to sit on our Advisory Panel and she generously accepted. She has provided materials for our curriculum, and we collaborate on various projects and ideas. I think our goals are the same in that we want to help educate people and make life better for our domestic horses. We want to teach that there is much more to a relationship with a horse than most people ever thought possible, and that we have a responsibility to care for them based on their needs not ours. We hope that over the years we can continue our relationship with NHE and work together for benefit of the horse.

Of course! And why have you chosen such format of education?

This format presents students with a comprehensive overview of available information both conventional and non-conventional. Our goal



is to teach students to think critically as they evaluate and distill information, not to teach any one viewpoint or perspective. We do not believe that any one person or organization is "the" source or has all the answers. We believe that knowledge is a dynamic collective work - one we should all contribute to, draw from and share. We do not have employees as such. Our Advisory Panel volunteer their time, efforts and materials to help educate our students, and our instructors are independent contractors who work closely with the Academy.

How do you gauge your students?

Students have to pass 18 online courses in all fields of equine care and management. They also have to attend Orientation and pass 6 practicums and 2 practical final exams,

one after they complete their course work and first year practicums, and another after they complete their intern year, case studies and practicums. All our students are still working on their first year courses, so while many have started case studies on their own, none have yet been required by the Academy - these are for the intern year.

So, your specialization is hoof trimming?

Yes, our only certification, and therefore specialization, is in hoof care.



The primary purpose is to certify students as natural hoof care practitioners. In our view however, competence in this field can only be achieved when the student understands that in order to be success-

ful at the hoof, you have to understand the horse as a whole and that every part of his life affects every other part. Our curriculum covers the key concepts of all major aspects of horse care and management, as we believe that any facet of horse care can only be effective if you understand the whole picture. We do have students that also specialize in other disciplines and pursue additional certifications in massage, dentistry or nutrition for example. We do not view specialization as a problem in and of itself as those who special-

ize usually have much more training and experience in their field. The key is that any equine professional also understands all the other factors and influences in the horse's life, and that what they do does not "stand alone".



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interested in learning and exploring new ideas and concepts, and who understands and accepts the "whole horse" philosophy of the Academy is welcome. We understand that many have not been exposed to, or do not understand some of what we teach when they enroll. We hope that by the time they complete the program, it will have become self evident that the closer a horse gets to his true nature, the more he will thrive, and that many of our modern day horse keeping practices go against his nature.

Otherwise – will you refuse?

We will not accept anyone who is self serving, does not work in the best interest of the horse, or those that cause harm by what they do.

Do you afraid of the situation when knowledge from your academy is used not for horse's good, but against it?

Not to our knowledge, but it is not possible to monitor what every student does or will do in the future. We can only hope that the education and critical thinking skills we provide will keep them working for the good of the horse.

Derry, it seems that although the human has been living near the horse for centuries, there is very little true information on horses and true knowledge. Do you see any explanation?

I think the answer is probably a combination of man's inherently egocentric nature, and the horse's incredibly generous and forgiving nature. We tend to utilize that which is easiest, most expedient and most rewarding for us, often with little regard to the consequences unless they directly affect us. The horse's willingness to work for us and do what we ask of him through pain, discomfort, poor environment and poor treatment has allowed us to develop and continue practices that benefit us, not him. There has been little incentive to do otherwise as most horses never

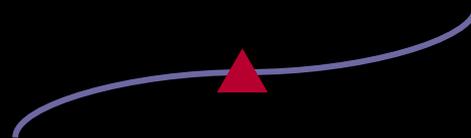
The best scenario is a team of specialized professionals who understand this and work together in the best interest of the horse.

How do you hand-pick scientists and students for your Academy? Is everyone welcome?
For our Advisory Panel we only choose equine professionals who are truly working to improve the life of the domestic horse and whose motivation is the best interest of the horse. Any student who is genuinely



The Equine Sciences Academy

The Best Source for
Career Based Education
in Natural Horse and Hoof Care



Applying the principles
of the natural life
of wild horses
to the care
and custody of
domesticated equines.

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The Equine Sciences Academy is the most comprehensive and professional training program in natural horse



and hoof care available. The purpose of the academy is to educate students in all key aspects of the care and custody of domesticated equines based on study of the life way of the wild horse.

The Academy teaches that formulas for care or treatment do not ultimately serve the best interests of the horse. It is important to approach each equine



as an individual, to assess body and mind to determine what effects the forces of life have had on that individual, and provide appropriate care based on that unique assessment at that particular time.

We also believe that no part of the horse can be isolated from the rest. Any attempt to do so, is to ignore the

balance of nature's design. To the reasoned eye, it is clear that what affects one part of the horse, affects the horse entire. For example, we believe that the majority of hoof problems experienced by domestic horses have their genesis elsewhere in the body, thus most hoof issues are a symptom rather than a cause. Failure to recognize and address these issues will result in poor hoof care re-



sults regardless of the quality of the work. The ESA gives you the comprehensive education needed to properly evaluate these complex issues in the field and recommend the appropriate professional (chiropractic, saddle fit, dental, etc.) Simply learning to trim is not enough.

Courses are presented in a non-conventional format. They are not limited to one teacher or philosophy or method, rather they are a compilation of information and resources from a wide variety of professionals in the equine world. Our goal is to guide students to thinking critically as they evaluate and distill information, not to teach any one viewpoint or source. We do not believe that any one person or or-

ganization is "the" source or has all the answers. We believe that knowledge is a dynamic collective work - one we should all contribute to, draw from and share. This diversity is important in exploring new ideas, honing critical thinking skills, and learning to think "outside the box". The ESA's comprehensive curriculum provides this all important overview and perspective.

The Academy's Advisory Panel consists of some of the most respected names in the equine community: Pete Ramey; Lydia Nevzorova, Dr. Robert Cook, , Garrett Ford, Katy Watts, Dr. Tomas Teskey, Dr. Eleanor Kellon,



Spencer Laflure, Carol Brett and Lesley Ann Taylor, Andy Beck and Dr. Elizabeth Schrader. These advisors serve to review the curriculum and keep the Academy current on new findings and research.

The Academy will also be launching an Equine Sciences Degree Program for those who want a comprehensive education as a base for other disciplines. The theory and fundamentals of hoof care will be included, but students will not be required to complete the practical hoof care training.

For more information please visit www.equinesciencesacademy.com

Inspiration ...

Education ...

Application ...

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complain, or at least their complaints fall on deaf ears and blind eyes, and they continue to do their best to get the job done.

Fortunately, now the science is on "horse side". But there are so many views and theories, which differs from each others deeply... Is it a sign of today's hippological knowledge stage - or are they its peculiarity?

I think probably both. Unfortunately I believe there will always be people that see horses, and all animals, as dumb, unfeeling creatures who are here for our benefit. I do also believe though, that as horses are no longer primarily work animals in most places, and have become more a part of the "pet" domain, that more people are interested in their horses' happiness and well being, not just their ability to perform. One of the big hurdles now is changing the conventional idea of what constitutes good care and well being for a horse. Many of our "best" kept horses live in an environment that is very detrimental to their mind, body and spirit.

What do you think the future is for horses in the human's world?

Change is difficult and slow, particularly in the horse world, and tradition is often more important than common sense. I think though the future is brighter than it has ever been, largely in part because of the internet. There is information available to anyone who wants it, and it is no longer controlled by the few who would prefer that things remain the same. It is also obvious to anyone that dares to think differently that they are not alone, and that horse people all over the world are looking for a better way. I am optimistic that the current trend of learning how to better care for our domestic horses will continue to grow and that slowly the old ways will become obsolete.

Do you have horses? How do they live? How are your relations?

I have two horses, a 20 year old Thoroughbred mare and a 10 year old Thoroughbred gelding. I have a large indoor area in my barn for shelter, two fairly large paddocks and a large arena. The footing var-

As far as I know, you recently got a new addition, a donkey. How is he or she now?

Actually I just got my second miniature donkey. They are amazing.



ies in different areas - sand, pea gravel and dirt. They can come and go as they please in and out of the barn into the paddocks and arena. I have no stalls. They get free feed hay 24/7, beet pulp and mineral supplements - no sweet feed or grain and no fresh grass as they are very prone to laminitis. They do not wear clothes. They have all kinds of different toys to play with. I have not ridden in several years now, and work on games and exercises at liberty. They are very trusting and sweet and love attention.

They are very different to horses in their temperament and will, but they are so much fun. They love to cuddle and want to play all day. They are more difficult to work with in some ways, but are very engaged and want to interact a lot. They get along fine with the horses, but as Cindy says - horses just don't speak donkey! ■

*Derry McCormick
Interview by Maria Sotnikova
Photos by author*



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