



New York State Horse Council Western Chapter

December 2024

The word from our President is to renew your membership NOW.

Go online to <https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=14> or use the form below.



New York State Horse Council, Inc Memberships are for the calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31

All fields required which apply!

First Name Last Name

Email: Address:

City: State: Zip Code: County:

Phone:

Business/Club/Organization Additional Information

Name: Website:

Category:

Options: Horse & Rider Services - Adoption / Boarding / Breeders / Camps / Carriage / Clinics / Clinicians / Dentistry / Education / Farrier / Horsemanship / Humane Welfares / Lessons / Rescue / Showing / Training / Transportation / Therapeutic / Veterinarian. Organizations & Clubs - Driving / Horse Organization / Horse Club / Social / Trail / Youth (4H, Pony Club, College teams, etc.). Trail Services - Lodging / Camping. Business Services - Insurance / Legal / Marketing / Promotional / Publications. Sales & Products - Barns/Buildings / Feed/Supplements / Tack / Trailer/Truck / Shop & Apparel

Description (short):

NYSHC Chapter ☐ Cattaraugus/Chautauqua ☐ Eastern Hudson Valley ☐ Orange ☐ Sullivan ☐ Ulster ☐ Western

Membership Type ☐ Individual With Insurance (\$66) ☐ Individual No Insurance (\$40) ☐ Family With Insurance (\$92) ☐ Family No Insurance (\$60) ☐ Life Membership With First Year Insurance (\$556) ☐ Life Member Insurance Only (\$31) ☐ Youth No Insurance (\$15) ☐ Commercial/Business/Association/Club/Farm (\$80)

NYSHC Newsletter via: ☐ E-Mail (No Extra Cost) ☐ Postal Mail (Add \$10)

*Make checks payable to NYSHC

Mail paper applications with check to:

NYSHC Membership/SB

PO Box 236

Marlboro NY 12542

OFFICIAL BUSINESS ONLY

Date Received:

Check Number:

Amount Paid:

Membership # for Renewals:

HONORS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL EQUESTRIANS

Edwin and Corky Sutton owners of HyWynne Farm in Akron NY

Edwin as well as his wife Corky have been inducted into the AHA Judges Hall of Fame. After almost 40 years of judging, Edwin retired in 2019

Tricolor Equestrians 4-H Horse Club

Congratulations to all the tricolor equestrians on the award banquet yesterday at the Holland Willows Restaurant and Bar. They all did really great capping it off with Maddie Wilkowski getting a High Point junior rider and Maddie Niewczyk being the sportsmanship award recipient! Such a great group of kids and they all ride Arabians 4H (except one who went rouge!)



MKQH Rodeo Team (all ages) Been a busy year for MK rodeo team:

OHSRA(Ontario High School Rodeo association) would like to thank DK Farrier Services and Westview Stables, with their support we were able to award our Champion with a Championship Buckle, Cinch Jeans Certificate, and Certificate, and Scholarship Dollars

Year End Goat Tying Champion Presented by DK Farrier Services and Westview Stables OHSRA would like to congratulate Leia Natalino on her fantastic 2023-2024 season. Leia had multiple sub 10 second runs, with her fastest time of the season being an 8.76, also the fastest time overall for the whole season! Leia was also our OHSRA Finals Goat Tying Champion, winning both rounds of the Finals.

Congrats Leia, what an awesome accomplishment!



Alexis Nikiel is a sophomore at Attica and has qualified for the Jr Patriot in Las Vegas (Dec 2024) & Fort Worth (March 2025) as well as the Yeti Worlds Toughest in Las Vegas for Barrels, Poles, Goat Tying & Breakaway Roping



There are approx. 15-20 other competitors that will compete in the 2024/2025 Sundance Youth Rodeo Association season starting this December

Wolcott Farm (Warsaw NY owner by Tina Wolcott)-was honored to receive the Agri-Business of the Year award. It is a privilege to be recognized in this way, and we appreciate everyone who nominated us. Also, a big thank you to the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism for putting on the awards banquet.

Our goal has always been to create a welcoming and enjoyable space in Wyoming County for people of all ages—a place where visitors can leave their stress and daily concerns behind as soon as they enter the barn.

We are thankful for the support and encouragement from our friends and customers, which has been crucial to our journey. Thank you all.



**Tina Wolcott and her
daughter Bryttany Ward**

American Angels 4H Equestrian Drill Team is a drill team that does routines on horseback to help promote cancer awareness. Each rider represents a specific type of cancer by wearing clothing and tacking their horses in the same color as the ribbon representative of that specific type of cancer. The Angel Riders ride in parades and rodeos within the local area. For more information on how you can become a sponsor or donate to the Angel Riders, contact Toni Burnett at 208-800-9151.



Niagara County 4-Hers Excell at National Contest. Each November the National 4-H Horse contests are held in Louisville, Kentucky. This year, Niagara County was represented by two young horsewomen, Michellynn Schroeder, 17 of Sanborn and Emily Jago, 16 of Wolcottville. They traveled to Kentucky with 14 youth from around New York State to compete against 4-hers from 24 other states.



Michellynn participated on the Hippology team with 3 other youth. The team was awarded Reserve Champion. Individually she was 8th place in the written test portion of the contest. Other members of the New York State team placed second and 6th overall. Meanwhile, Emily was part of the Horse Judging team which placed 9th overall out of 19 teams..

While in Kentucky the group was treated to tours of Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Horse Park and Spycoast Rehab Farm. Emily and Michellynn's trip was sponsored in part by the Niagara County 4-H Sponsors. If you are interested in the 4-H program, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

2024 4-H Miniature Horse Inter-County Horse Show. The 2024 4-H Miniature Horse

Intercounty Horse Show was held at the Niagara County fairgrounds Sept. 28 & 29. 5 teams competed for the coveted gold medals. Each team consisted of 4 members and their miniature horses. We had 3 Alumni, 5 Seniors, 7 Juniors and 5 Novice members compete. 1st place team was the Mystery Minis (Scooby Doo theme), 2nd place team was the Hocus Minis (Hocus Pocus theme),

3rd place was the Minis of Clue team, 4th place was the Fairy Tails team and 5th place was the Mighty Mini Heroes team.



4-H Competitors from
Erie County, Niagara
County and Orleans
County

All teams competed in Formal Inspection, Jumping, Timed Cones (either in hand or driving), Gambler's Choice Obstacle (either in hand or driving), Team Problem and a written test on Saturday. On Sunday, they competed in Hunter, Halter Obstacle and Liberty classes.

We had 4 exhibitors who drove in Pleasure Driving and Reinsmanship classes. Stable management was also judged 4 times during the weekend and added to their overall scores.

For fun the participants did a Team Relay Contest which involved each team choosing 1 horse from their team. Then each exhibitor from the team used that 1 horse for a portion of the relay. Relay parts were: Showmanship, Hunter, Halter Obstacle and Timed Pumpkins

Fun was had by all and it was a great learning experience. The 2025 date is already set for Sept. 27 & 28, so mark it on your calendar. If you are or have a youth who would be interested in competing, please reach out to us. Don't have a miniature horse to use, no problem, we have plenty to lend.

Quillin Ltd Just want to boast on how proud we all are at Quillin Ltd for putting this amazing team together and recognizing Kelly and Tritons. Kelly Wodowski, one of our best team members here at QuillinLtd had an amazing accomplishment this year at the Arabian sport horse nationals. She's had her horse Triton HHF for less than one year and along with some top 10 awards at nationals, he became the National Champion purebred gelding for the Hunter type amateur to handle! Tito, as he is affectionately called, is a stunning 15.3 hand fancy chestnut with lots of chrome. Kelly and her mom Barb Walters (not the 20/20 Barber Walters) lol~ purchased him last year from Maureen and Kaitlyn Quillin.



Kelly also rode Tito in the dressage type amateur owner to ride class and during the first cut Tito got his tongue over the bit and Kelly got frazzled as we called for a time out. We were near the out gate and she's like "let me just go I just want to get out of here. He's getting upset". After a quick pep talk (I was mean) Kelly put her game face back on as she finished the class winning first place in the cut. A few days later was the finals for that class, and after an amazing ride, he came out the national champion under saddle!!

TRAIL RIDERS NEWS

Pay attention to areas marked No Horses

Mendon Ponds Address: 95 Douglas Rd, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

November 13th 2024: Emergency crews successfully rescued a horse stuck in the mud in Mendon Ponds Park Wednesday. According to the Honeoye Falls Fire Department, the horse got stuck near Devil's Bathtub Wednesday afternoon.



Crews worked with ropes to safely free the horse. It was able to walk out of the park shortly before 5:00 p.m.

The Monroe County Fire Coordinator called it an 'unusual occurrence.

Fire officials say the horse's front legs and one hind leg were locked in soft ground, deep in the woods.

After several hours, they used a rope system to remove the horse from the mud, who was then able to walk off on its own.

Tips for Riding in the Winter

Dress warmly- Wear moisture-wicking layers, a wind-resistant outer layer, and insulated boots that slide out of stirrups easily. You can also add reflective gear to your clothing and your horse.

A blanket can be helpful if your horse hasn't adjusted to the cold yet, or if there's no shelter available. You can have a variety of blanket weights to keep your horse comfortable in different temperatures.

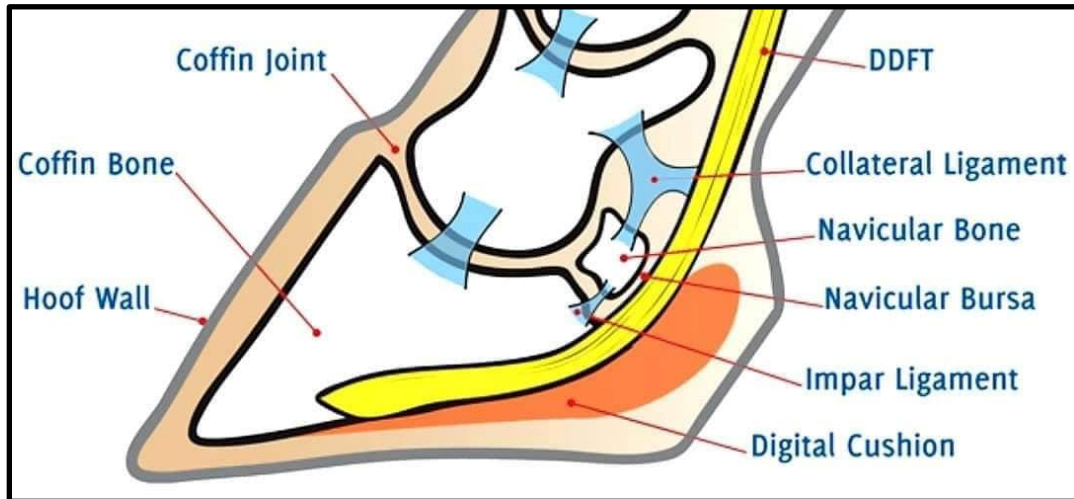
Be aware of the ground Frozen ground can be especially jarring on stiff joints, so allow extra time to warm up if you're riding an older horse.

Cool down gradually When you're done riding, gradually decrease your horse's pace until they stop breathing heavily and their nostrils return to normal. You can also put a cooler on your horse if they're sweaty to prevent them from getting chilled.

The temperature at which it's too cold to ride a horse depends on several factors, including:

- Location: Where you live can affect the temperature at which it's too cold to ride.
- Horse's health: A horse's health and fitness level can affect how cold it's comfortable in.
- Weather conditions: Wind and moisture can affect how cold a horse can tolerate.

NO HOOF NO HORSE



Hoof wall -The hard, outer layer of the hoof that's made of keratin and helps support the horse's weight. The hoof wall grows from the coronary band, a band of tissue at the top of the hoof.

The coffin joint lies between the second and third phalanges of each limb. The joint space is located under the interface of the hoof and haired skin on the limb (coronet band). Horses with coffin joint pain present with a wide range of symptoms: from acute lameness to poor athletic performance

The coffin bone, also known as the pedal bone or distal phalanx, is the final bone in the foot of a horse. The coffin bone is the foundation of the hoof.

The deep digital flexor tendon (DDFT) attaches between the wings (palmar processes) of the pedal bone. Directly above this tendon is the navicular bone.

Collateral ligaments are thick bands of collagen that stabilize the joints in their sides. They limit the movement of the bones in a joint to a single plane, allowing for flexion and extension, but restricting side-to-side and rotational movements.

The navicular bone This is another bone which is hard to visualise when viewed in cross section. It is thought to have derived its name because it is shaped like a boat. It is also known as the Distal Sesamoid bone (distal meaning furthest from the body, sesamoid meaning embedded within a tendon). The navicular bone is not actually embedded in a tendon, but it does sit just inside the back of the pedal bone and the deep digital flexor tendon passes over it. It prevents over-articulation of the joint of the pedal bone, maintains a constant angle of insertion of the Deep Flexor Tendon into the back of the Pedal bone and allows for additional tilt within the coffin joint when navigating uneven surfaces

The navicular bursa is a small fluid-filled structure in the foot that acts as a cushion where the deep digital flexor tendon passes over the bone and changes direction. A bursa has many properties similar to a joint or a tendon sheath. Bursae are lined with a membrane which produces synovial fluid.

The impar ligament, also known as the distal sesamoidean ligament or navicular impar ligament, is a broad, short, and strong ligament in a horse's foot that connects the navicular bone to the coffin bone:

Digital cushion is a thick, elastic, wedged-shaped structure in the rear of the hoof that protects the foot's bones and soft tissues

SOME COMMON HOOF PROBLEMS IN HORSES

Hoof Bruises occurs when there is hemorrhaging within the hoof tissue caused by acute trauma to the hoof. ^{[9][10]} Improper shoeing or farrier work and blunt trauma can promote the development of hoof bruises. The most common signs of a hoof bruise include visible patches of discoloration on the sole or wall of the hoof. Depending on the degree of bruising in the hoof, some horses may show slight sensitivity whereas others may be lame. Rest is needed for horses to heal from a bruised hoof. Using protective cushioning on the foot from shoes, pads, boots, or wraps may help horses feel more comfortable during the healing process.

Abscess A common cause of sudden and severe lameness, a hoof abscess develops when bacterial or fungal organisms enter the structure through a wound or opening and cause a subsequent infection in the inner tissues. Typical symptoms associated with a hoof abscess include variable degrees of lameness depending on the severity of the infection, a pounding digital pulse, and the presence of heat and swelling in the foot. Not all of these symptoms need to be present to suspect a hoof abscess.

Contracted Heels are seen primarily in the forefeet of light horses. The condition may be caused by improper shoeing that draws in the quarters. This prevents hoof expansion and adequate frog pressure. Dry hooves, excess scraping of the wall, and trimming of the bars make a horse more prone to contracted heels. However, this condition may also occur after the use of a hoof-immobilizing shoe, such as that used for fracture of the third phalanx (coffin bone).

When the heel is contracted, the frog is narrow and shrunken, and the bars may be curved or almost parallel to each other. The quarters and heels are noticeably contracted and drawn in. The hoof horn is dry and hard, and heat may be noticed around the heels and quarters. If the horse is worked at speed, it may become lame, and its stride length will be shortened.

Treatment is by corrective trimming and shoeing, performed by your farrier in collaboration with your veterinarian. In advanced cases, recovery can take 6 to 12 months.

KEY TIPS FOR HEALTHY HOOVES

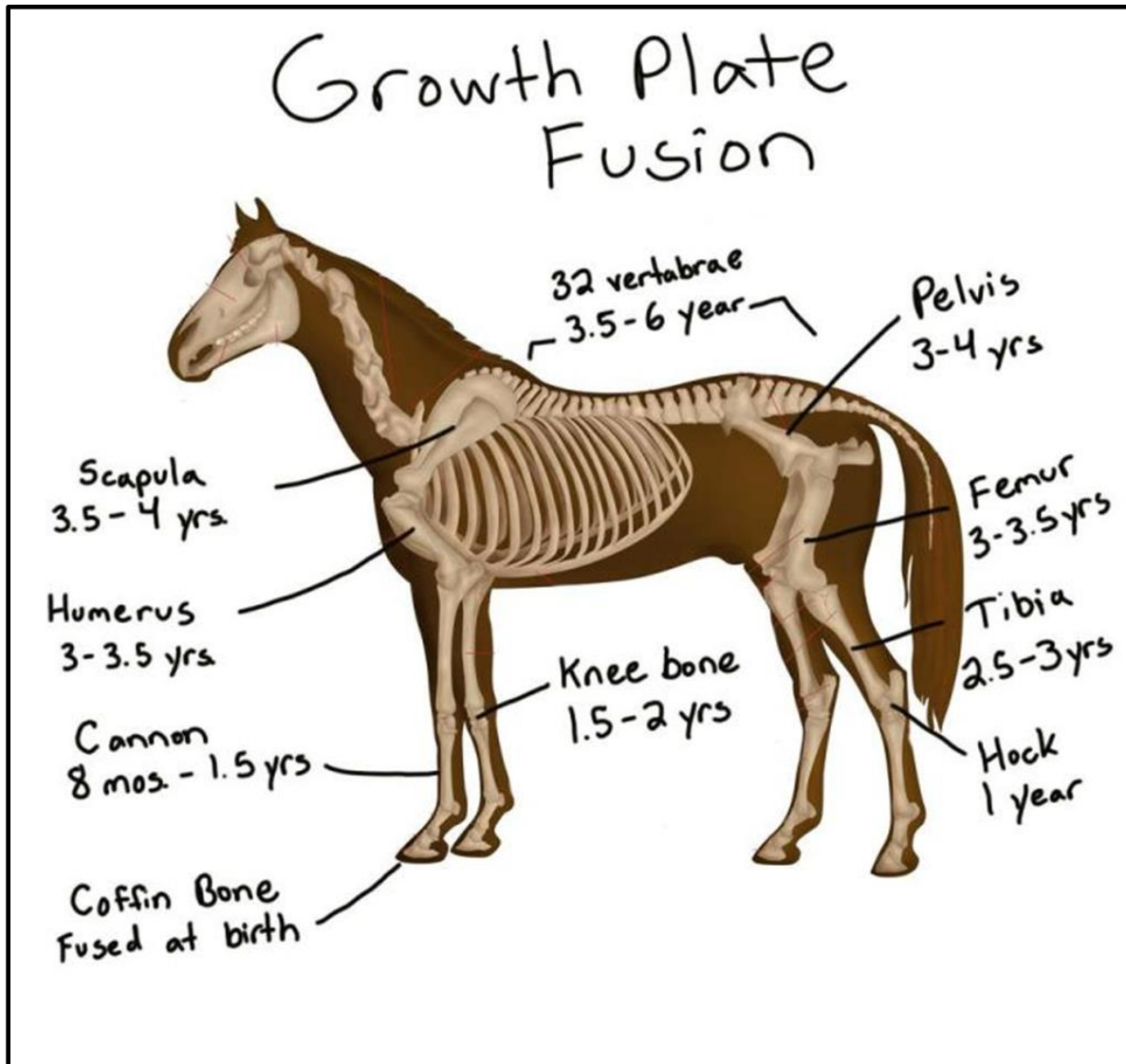
Nutrition: Feed a high-quality mineral/vitamin supplement

To grow and maintain healthy hooves, **horses require a balanced diet** that provides adequate amounts of key vitamins and minerals. Some of the most important nutrients known to support hoof integrity include biotin, copper, selenium, and zinc. For a 500kg horse at maintenance, optimal amounts of each of these nutrients are as follows:

- **Biotin:** 20mg per day
- **Zinc:** 400mg per day
- **Copper:** 100 mg per day
- **Selenium:** 2mg per day

WHEN CAN I RIDE MY YOUNG HORSE?

Although horse skeletons don't fully mature until age 6, suggesting they shouldn't undergo any training until this point is akin to suggesting children should not exercise until they are adults. In fact, exercise at a young age actually strengthens horses' musculoskeletal structures to prepare them for future strains. Factors that affect the growth of both the skeleton and structural soft tissue such as the ligaments, muscles and tendons can include genetics, nutrition, diet, gender, environment and stress.



How Do Horses Grow?

Knowing how a horse develops skeletally, we can make an informed decision about what is best for our horses. Skeletal development refers to the formation of bone; this begins in utero and does not stop until the horse has fully matured.

A key part of how any skeleton forms is down to the growth plates. Growth plates are found in all mammals; they are areas of cartilage that lengthen the bone and are found at the end of every bone behind the skull.

In the case of bones with multiple angles, like the pelvis, there are multiple plates in these areas. Susceptible to injury and fractures, it is not until a certain age that these areas solidify to form hardened bone.

The completion of growth plates varies throughout the entire skeleton; for example, the coffin bone within the hoof capsule is fused at birth, the hock solidifies at 12 months of age and the scapula at four years. The vertebrae which run along the length of the horse's body to form the spine, specifically from the tail to the start of the thoracic vertebrae behind the wither, right where the weight of a rider and saddle sit, don't complete this process until around six years of age.

Unlike the bones in the legs, where the growth plates of the limbs run vertical to the ground, the spine is horizontal and relatively unsupported, relying on structures of connected soft tissue. This leaves the vertebrae extremely vulnerable to the impact of a rider on the back before they are fully fused. The final plates to close are those of the spinous process of the withers and the base of the neck.

There is no such thing as a (skeletally) slow maturing horse or one that is fast maturing. No horse is skeletally mature before the age of 6. And that is on the low estimate for age.

- Growth plates are not just in the knee. Every bone behind the skull has a growth plate. Not every single one needs to be converted to bone before starting. There is a schedule of when bone fuses...this is the information needed to know when to start a horse. Not their outward appearance. It is a known fact that during growth, proprioceptive awareness can regress, greatly increasing the risk of injury.
- Starting a horse is not the same thing as riding a horse. Starting a horse does not mean cantering it 3-4 days a week in an arena.
- Injecting a horse that is in pain does not mean you fixed a problem. You masked it.
- You can build correct muscle and teach a horse how to move their body from the ground. This creates a solid foundation to work from once your horse is ready to actually be backed. Teach a horse to use its body correctly before backing and you'll save yourself a lot of vet bills down the line.
- Hocks are "late" for maturity. The growth plates on the tibial and fibular tarsals do not fuse until a horse is 3-3 ½. Ever wonder why so many horses seem to have hocks issues?? Horses need to learn to carry themselves and their own weight well before adding a rider.
- There are DOZENS of activities you can do with a young horse to build healthy muscular development. None of them involve a saddle or your weight on their back. Teaching a horse to carry themselves correctly BEFORE adding a rider is essential and cannot be done in a week.
- A 2 ½ year old horse is a baby. Mentally and physically. We see far too many injured performance horses at VERY young ages - broken down and/or sour from work. It's wrong. Period. They need slow and steady work and need time to recover from even the slightest of injuries.
- It is important to note that bones mature at different times and more distal bones mature prior to the more proximal bones. In simpler terms, bones that are farther away from the body (coffin bone, cannon bone, etc.) mature faster than bones that are closer to the body (vertebrae, pelvis, etc.).
- Bone (re)modeling refers to the growth that occurs around the shaft of the bone to alter size and shape (circumference). In this process, [osteoblasts](#) add bone and [osteoclasts](#) take bone away. During this process, the bone is put in a vulnerable state. The purpose of bone remodeling is for bone repair, adaptation, and calcium homeostasis.

How to Properly Train the Equine Skeletal System

There are many things you can do to help lessen the stress put on the equine skeletal system. First and foremost, proper turn-out is KEY. Horses are meant to move around and use their muscles and bones. If they are kept inside and aren't able to move around freely, they can be more prone to skeletal and muscular injury and will have a harder time maintaining their physical condition.

THESE ARE GREAT RIDING RULES FOR MIDDLE AGED HORSEWOMEN

- 1) We DO NOT need to show up with our hair combed and wearing makeup and a clean shirt.
- 2) Moaning, groaning and complaining about aching muscles is perfectly acceptable, as is taking Motrin (or something stronger) prior to a ride.
- 3) Helping someone on or off the horse does not mean the rider is an invalid. It only means the horse got taller overnight.
- 4) No one will comment about how big someone's butt looks in a saddle.
- 5) Everyone will wait patiently while someone dismounts and adjusts equipment. They will also wait patiently until that person re-mounts and is ready to move on--no matter how long that takes.
- 6) When a horse is acting up, we will just accept that it is having a bad hair day - it is not the rider's fault.
- 7) Mentioning that it is too hot, too dry, too humid, too cold, too wet, too buggy, etc., is considered self-expression, not whining.
- 8) Wanting to be first, last, walk, or just stop does not mean the rider is a wimp. Sometimes it is necessary to teach a horse who is in charge.
- 9) We will take time to discuss the important issues of the day, like who is dating who, who is cheating on who and any other relevant information that needs to be passed on.
- 10) We will acknowledge that horses are very strange animals and that sometimes, for no reason at all, we fall off of them. If this happens to any rider, the other riders will ascertain that the person is okay and then not mention the incident to another living soul, especially husbands and significant others.
- 11) Our horses are not fat, they are "big-boned."
- 12) We need to keep this riding thing mysterious and strange-sounding. If everyone finds out how much fun it is, the price of horses will go up and we will not be able to afford a dozen of them.
- 13) We can and will continue to ride where and when we want to. [OBJ]

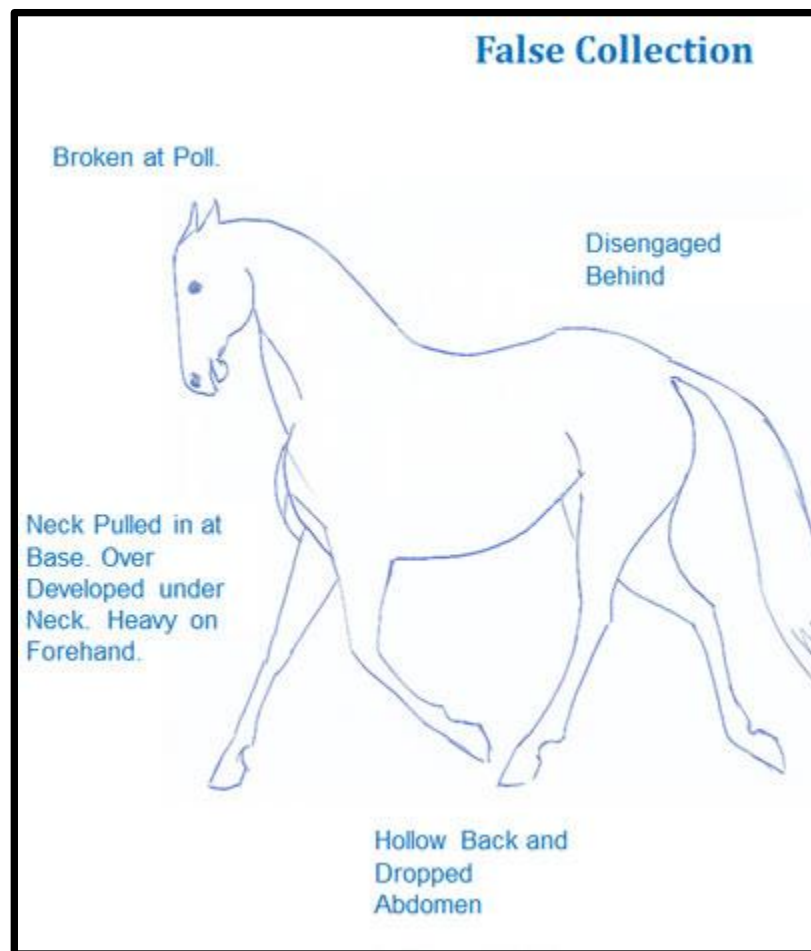


COLLECTION

Collection is something that is greatly misidentified and misunderstood among many riders. When riding, collecting a horse means shifting its weight from its front legs to its hind legs. When collected the horse will take shorter strides, flex its hind legs, and elevate its front end. Its back will raise and round from the withers to the loin, and its tailhead will lower.

To achieve collection the rider uses their seat and legs, with their hands acting last to "catch and recycle" the energy produced by their seat and legs. Collection is difficult for both the horse and rider to achieve, especially at the beginning. The rider needs to redefine their leg and seat aids, which are used differently when working on collection.

Head position doesn't dictate whether the horse is collected. Collection is when the weight is increased on the hindquarters and decreased on the front quarters. The offspring of this is the back raising and rounding from the withers to the loin. The tailhead will lower at the same time for this to happen.

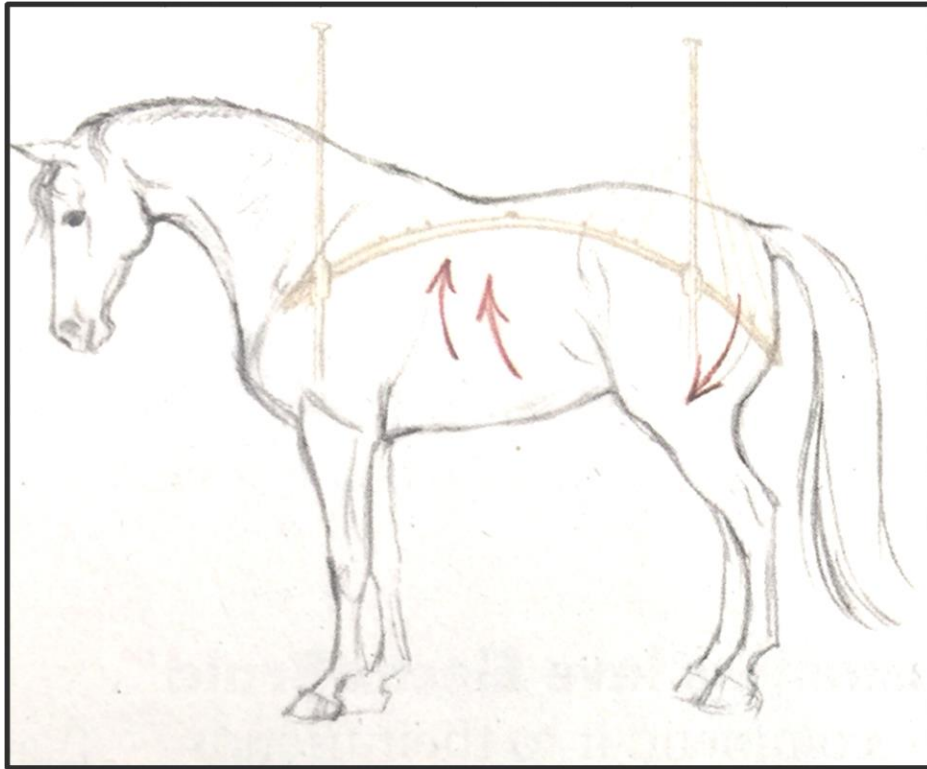


To perform a good quality collected trot, the horse needs to transfer the weight off the forehand back on to the hindquarters, creating more energy from behind so he can push himself uphill into the bridle. To ask a horse for collection at the lope, make sure you have enough leg on, otherwise the horse will lean on the forehand and break the pace. You should not be pulling back on the reins when trying to achieve collection. Work in short bursts to start with and slowly build it up, making sure the horse has a break in between — like humans would have between sets at the gym.

Your legs should be in contact with the horse's sides, keeping the horse soft and responsive. Keep the horse in a collected position until you feel consistent softness in the horse's mouth and sides, then release.

True collection is a way of riding your horse that teaches him to round his back, lower his croup and travel with his hocks farther under his body. When done correctly, collection also teaches a horse to flex at the poll, relax his lower jaw and become soft, supple and light.

You should not push your horse to long working on collection because it can be physically demanding and lead to exhaustion. When first learning collection, keep sessions short and give your horse plenty of breaks.



Remember a horse can become frustrated if you work on collection for too long, as it is a demanding exercise that requires significant muscle engagement and mental focus, and if not managed properly, can lead to confusion, discomfort, and ultimately, frustration for the horse.

Here Are Just a Few of the Benefits of Getting Your Horse Collected:

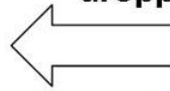
- Your horse's stops will be deeper and and at the same time his mouth will feel softer. His neck and shoulders will also be more relaxed.
- Gaits will be smoother and more comfortable for the rider
- Flying lead changes will be more controlled and precise with far fewer missed hind leads.
- Spins and turn-a-rounds will be more free and smoother too. Usually, a well collected horse will have a better (more level) top-line when spinning.
- Your horse will lope smoother and more balanced because he'll be striding with his hind legs farther under his body. His lope will be more controlled.
- Better head-position while performing any maneuver.

VIEW THE DIFFERENCES

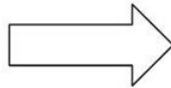
On the forehand? Balanced? Collected??????



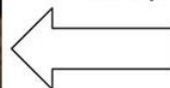
This horse is **on the front end**, the withers are lower than the croup and the horse has a **dropped right shoulder**.



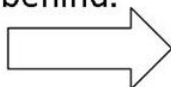
This horse is a **balanced** horse. The withers and the croup are level.



This horse is **collected**. The wither is higher than the croup and the horse is driving from behind.



Many people mistakenly think that a horse is collected if the horse is flexed at the poll and the nose on the vertical. Notice the croup is higher than the withers and the horse is strung out behind.



Barb Cunningham
3021 Johnson Creek Rd.
Middleport NY 14105