

Bendigo Pony Club
P.O. Box 2257
Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

October 2009

Pony Express



Samantha McIntyre & Chester
winner of the
Alison Bogumil Memorial Trophy
and the
Kristy Grinton Award
at this years Bendigo Show

CONGRATULATIONS



OCTOBER

10th—Neangar Pony Club—Open Combined Training Day

17th—Maldon Pony Club - Showjumping Series

22nd—Midland Zone Meeting—Maryborough

NOVEMBER

1st - Rally Navigation Ride—Malone Park

14th—Bealiba Pony Club—Showjumping & Dressage Competition

27th—Maryborough Pony Club— Schools Competition



They were ours as a gift
But never to keep
As they close their eyes
Forever to sleep

Look up into heaven
You'll see them above
The horses we lost
The horses we loved

Their spirits unbound
On silver wings they fly
A million white horses
Against the blue sky

It was with heavy heart that the Trahair family had to make the decision to euthanize Lizzy. We send them our sympathy.

BIRTHDAYS

Izabella McIntyre—31st

Samuel Nielsen—17th



A Horse's View of the World

- Arena: Place where humans can take the fun out of forward motion.
- Bit: Means by which a rider's every motion is transmitted to the sensitive tissues of the mouth.
- Bucking: counterirritant
- Crossties: Gymnastic apparatus.
- Dressage: Process by which some riders can eventually be taught to respect the bit.
- Fence: Barrier that protects good grazing.
- Grain: Sole virtue of domestication.
- Hitching rail: Means by which to test one's strength.
- Horse trailer: Mobile cave bear den.
- Jump: An opportunity for self-expression.
- Latch: Type of puzzle.
- Longeing: Procedure for keeping a prospective rider at bay.
- Owner: Human assigned responsibility for one's feeding.
- Rider: Owner overstepping its bounds.
- Farrier: Disposable surrogate owner; useful for acting out aggression without compromising food supply.
- Trainer: Owner with mob connections.
- Veterinarian: Flightless albino vulture



Congratulations to Georgia Welsh & Ted on winning the Supreme Champion All Breeds Ridden Exhibit at Bendigo Show. This win is a great credit to Georgia as she broke Ted in and educated him herself. Well done!

D.C.'S MESSAGE

Hello All,

How exciting is it for our club to be the proud owners of new cross country jumps? Thanks to all who attended the working bee to put the jumps in place. They look great and there are more jumps to come! They can also be moved to our new grounds when the time comes for us to relocate so we are well on the way to having a full cross country course.

Show season is in full swing and I have seen a lot of our members out and about at the shows enjoying some success in the 'dizzy' rings. If you would like details of your results to go in the newsletter please email them to Lauren at ssp_home@msn.com

Bendigo show was a big weekend of competition with the weather perfect one day and intolerable the next! It was the 150th anniversary of the show and some of our riders participated in the Grand Parade which was great to see. Maddison Maud won the Junior Ambassador of the Bendigo Show which is judged on personality, presentation and community and show involvement. Maddie goes on to compete in the regional finals in Geelong and if she is successful there she will compete at next year's Melbourne Royal. Good luck Maddison!

Congratulations to Samantha McIntyre and her beautiful horse Chester who had a very successful show. This lovely combination won the Alison Bogumil Memorial trophy for the most successful local rider in the pony club ring and then Sam went on to win the Kristy Grinton Award for the Supreme Champion Pony Club rider. Once again persistence and determination have paid off as Chester has not always been an easy ride and Sam's riding has stepped up a notch or two lately due to lessons, lessons and more lessons! Well done to you both... your club is very proud of you!

The Bendigo Show Committee hired our beautiful JUMP4JOY show jumps for the weekend of the show. The jumps looked fantastic set up as a course and are a wonderful asset for our club and our riders. The 6 Bar competition on Friday evening was exciting to watch. Sam Nielsen and Emma Lea had fun participating in the 6 Bar and the senior event was won by Bendigo Pony Club instructor Deb Browell on Josie Rae. Well done Deb & Josie!

Til next month,

Happy horsing (and showing!)

Sue

RIDER RESULTS

Emma Lea on Creedence

Neangar Park Open Gymkhana

- 2nd - PC Smartest on Parade 12-14yrs
- 1st - PC Handler - 12-14yrs
- 1st & Reserve Champion- PC Rider 12-14yrs
- Reserve champion - PC Mount Over 14.2hh
- 1st & Champion - Led Galloway 14.2
- 1st & Reserve Champion Ridden Galloway 14.2
- 2nd - Best Educated Galloway
- 1st - Pleasure Galloway 14hh

Bendigo Show

- 2nd Best Presented - PC
- 2nd Handler - PC
- 2nd Pony Club Mount
- 1st Pairs
- Novelties - 3 - 2nds, 1 - 3rd

Neangar Park

- 1st Grade 4 CT
- 2nd 4B Dressage
- 1st 4D Dressage
- 1st Dressage jackpot



QUARTER MARKS

Quarter Marks are used to disguise a bad rump or enhance a good rump. There is an art to creating the ideal quarter marks but this is just to give you a basis of the different types of standard quarter marks you can do.

There are also template patterns available: i.e. with small squares, diamonds, or triangles though I have found that they do not show up as well as ones done with a piece of cut comb. At the moment with the show season in Australia, the larger squares are in fashion. These can also make a small rump look bigger, and a pointy rump look flatter.



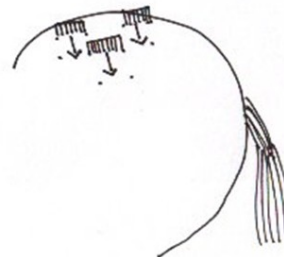
In the picture I have drawn above, I have drawn, the check pattern of large squares; what we call an 'apple-bum' (which is the bit closest to the tail); and 'sharks teeth' Firstly, I will explain to you what each quarter mark will do to enhance the horses rump

CHECK PATTERN: (WITH SQUARES, DIAMONDS, TRIANGLES)

This pattern is probably the most commonly used one. These are the ones mainly in charge of disguising or enhancing the rump. Larger squares will make a small rump look bigger (because of the bigger squares spread out more), and a pointy rump look flatter, because of the spread out effect. If angled in a certain way, these can make a flat rump look rounder. These types of quarter marks can also draw attention to a good rump, enhancing the look. Though these can enhance and disguise a rump, the effect is limited so don't count on an awful looking rump being disguise totally.

Method of how to do a check pattern (large squares) with a piece of fine tooth comb:

- 1) Firstly brush the hair in the natural direction of growth with a body brush. It will help if you spray some water or some 'show sheen' before you brush.
- 2) Once the hair is all straight, start on the top left hand corner of the rump (it's up to you how low or high you make them in proportion to the rump).
- 3) Line the comb up, teeth down, and comb downwards towards you until you make a square. *it is really hard to explain so bare with me*
- 4) Leave a combs space, and in line with the first square, repeat step 3
- 5) Now go down to where you left the combs gap, and line the comb up, drawing another square below the two squares. Depending on your horse's rump, you may do more on the top row. Either way, work it down so you have the most at the top, and least at the bottom. Like an upside down pyramid. Here is a picture I drew to show you what I mean.



I don't know where to get them, but I guess you can make it yourself, but I've seen some horses with star, circle, and even apple patterns on their rump. I guess all you have to do is make a stencil and use that to make those really cute quarter marks! Would look great with a pony turnout class!

Squares etc. are also done using templates. These are pretty self explanatory. All you do is hold the template down and brush towards you in a downwards direction. It always helps to have someone hold it down in place.

'APPLE BUM':

This is a pattern that is shaped around the tail bit. It is really two half circles around each 'buttock'. These can make a not so wide rump look wider but mainly it's just a finishing touch to your quarter marks and looks good.

Method of how to draw an 'apple bum':

- 1) Brush the hair in its natural direction using a body brush. As I said before, it helps if you spray water or show sheen before you brush
- 2) Start at the top of the tail and bring the brush around in a semi circle to you reach the bottom of the 'buttock'. You might like to brush it a few times to emphasize it and get the desired effect.
- 3) Repeat the same on the other side.

Here is a picture of how to do an 'apple bum':



“OUR PERFECT COMPANIONS NEVER HAVE FEWER THAN FOUR FEET”

'Sharks Teeth':

These look exactly what their name describes them as. They serve no particular purpose in enhancing or disguising the rump but again, complete the picture. These are probably the hardest pattern to look right, but as the saying goes, practice makes perfect. Now to tell you where they're drawn. This is the easiest way to describe their position ok: imagine a leg of ham... the sharks teeth would be drawn on the left hand side of the meatiest bit!

Method of how to draw sharks teeth: (really hard to explain so just imagine it)

- 1) Start a few centimetres down from the top of the leg crack.
- 2) Place the body brush on a 45 degree angle to the top and draw an arc away from you.
- 3) Move down a few centimeters and draw an arc to join the end of the last arc.
- 4) Now, starting in exactly the same spot as before, place the body brush on an approx 30 degree angle to the bottom and do another arc.
- 5) Repeat step 2) and 3) and 4) over again until you think you've done enough.

The diagram below will hopefully help you. The arrows are where you are meant to brush...roughly



Well, I hope you learnt a few basics about quarter marks. Just so you know, I have a few things I do when it comes to quarter marks; they're tips that I'll share with you.

Quarter Mark tips:

- Make sure your horse is not malting or remove all malting hair before you do these. Little detached hairs stuck to quarter marks looks awful.
 - Spray the whole rump or just the brush with water or 'show sheen' before you do the do the quarter marks
 - Always make sure the quarter marks are the same on both sides. One starting at the top on one side and one starting in the middle on the other side won't look good.
 - Never use the small template check pattern on a small or REALLY skinny rump. Trust me, it looks awful.
 - Even if you aren't really able to see the quarter marks, do them anyway because in some lights you can see it and looks great.
 - After you finish the quarter marks, spray hair spray on it to keep the hair in place and add shine.
 - Don't place rugs on your freshly done quarter marks *dah*
 - Redo them halfway through the day
- The best fine-tooth comb to use is the combs especially for looking for lice in human hair (!) They're the PERFECT size and perfect tooth space

LESSONS LUNGING CAN TEACH

ONLY IN
AMERICA!!!!!!



Once your horse lunges nicely for you in the round pen or arena, you can venture out and lunge in the open, exposing him to new surroundings. Use lunging as an opportunity to teach your horse new lessons. If your horse loses focus on you, gets distracted, and turns his head away from you while lunging, bump the rope a little bit to get his attention and bring his head back on the circle. (Try not to pull, or your horse will learn to pull against you.) In addition to keeping him focused, this will also help develop suppleness.

Make sure that while you are lunging your horse, you try to maintain a soft and steady contact through the rope. Try to encourage your horse to move out on a large circle, releasing the rope so it slides through your hand as your horse moves forward and out. If the horse swings in closer on a smaller circle, don't let the rope drag on the ground. Take in a coil or two to keep the contact constant. You may think it is awkward at first to be constantly adjusting your rope to maintain contact, but you will need to do the same thing with your reins when you ride. As you lunge your horse, he will learn the feel of your hand through the rope, and become comfortable with it. Later, when you ride him, he will recognize that same feel through the reins, and get comfort from the familiarity of it.

You can also use lunging time to work on voice commands. To condition the horse to respond to voice commands, repeat the commands as he performs them. When he is walking, slowly repeat "walk-on". When he trots-give him a snappy "trrrrr-ot!" command, and keep repeating it as he trots. Use a " and whoa" verbal cue when you stop the horse, but don't use it if you can't stop him! When you are first conditioning your horse to voice cues, if you repeat the "whoa" cue and he won't stop, he won't associate it with stopping. (It's the same for the other cues as well.) When cantering your horse, repeat "can-ter" as he canters. Note that all the cues I use are two syllables. Two syllable cues seem to work the best, as the first syllable gives the horse direction and prepares him to respond, the second syllable elicits the response.

It is also important to teach your horse to work at different gaits and speeds. Work on teaching the horse to adjust from a trot to a jog. If he should get too fast, send a little jiggle through the rope to help slow him down. If that doesn't work, take in a coil of rope and decrease the size of your horse's circle. That will slow down his forward motion and help him to collect. If the horse breaks to a walk instead of a jog, put more pressure on him to continue driving him forward at a jog. Once your horse masters collecting the trot and jogging, you can start asking your horse to canter on the lunge, to help him learn to collect himself and balance through turns. When preparing to canter, jog the horse on a smaller circle. Watch his leg placement, and when the horse steps on the outside hind leg, pressure the horse with a canter cue. Your goal is for your horse to rock back on that back leg, and lift himself into a nice canter. As the horse pushes off into the canter, he'll need to move out on a larger circle. To accommodate him, make sure you let the rope slide a release through your hand, so it doesn't jerk your horse accidentally. Without this release of the rope, the horse may be pulled out of the canter, or, he can be unbalanced and pulled into the wrong lead. Canter on the lunge gives your horse an opportunity to learn smooth departures, balance, collection and eventually, correct leads.

Lunging can also be used to familiarize the horse with going over different terrain, over obstacles, through water, etc. When horses first negotiate over something new, they tend to lunge or rush through. This erratic approach can make a rider tense and interfere with the horse's desire to go forward. After all, if the rider, as a leader, is tense and unsure, this unsure-ness will transmit itself to the horse, and make him tentative as well. By challenging the horse to work over/through obstacles while lunging, the horse will be prepared to negotiate obstacles quietly, when mounted, later on. Lunging also gives you the opportunity to start working your horse in new locations, and around other horses. Take advantage of this, as it will help your horse learn that that he has to focus on you and the task at hand, regardless of distractions, and that the rules are the same, where ever you take him. By using lunging in a progressive manner, and working through tasks slowly, you will make it easy for your horse to remain calm and willing. You can start lunging when your horse is green, then lunge him again later, as he learns to wear a saddle and bridle, and then again, when he is ready for mounting the first few times.

When your young horse is finally ready for mounting and riding, don't mount him yourself, find a steady rider to mount him for you, while you take control of him on the lunge line. Since the horse is familiar and comfortable with your leadership and cues, it will be easy for him to learn to carry the weight of the rider without anxiety. Your contact with him through the lunge will comfort him. Once the horse understands he should remain calm and controlled while mounted, little by little, you can wean away from this extra support, and start riding him yourself.

These are valuable lessons to work through. They will strengthen your horse's self-confidence and carriage, help him grow mentally and physically, and prepare him to be a safe, pleasant companion, and riding horse. However, be smart, and use discretion when lunging-don't overdo it. It is good when used correctly, but a disaster if overused or abused!

Warning: While lunging is a valuable training method to use, it can be stressful the

horse's joints if done in excess, or on footing that is too hard, soft, or slippery. It can create permanent injury to young horses who aren't mature enough.

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