

The Horse.

BUYING A HORSE.

First, acquire a knowledge of horses, so as to know a good horse when you see one that is a model. There is more money lost, and more honest men are defrauded, in buying and selling of horses, than in any other product of the farm.

For the last twenty years I have had all sorts and shapes of horses, from the pony to the Shanghai, and the greatest weight in the least bulk is the animal for service. A horse weighing from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds is large enough for farm work. You must understand what you want an animal for before you go to buy. One minute is long enough to examine the standing points of a horse. These are: A good lively eye, inclined to hazel, and a pleasant countenance; a flat leg and open foot, shoulders set rather back, and thin at the withers, a short back, and no objection if it is slightly arched; the proper shape of the hinder part depends on what you wish the horse to perform.

The prevailing blemishes are blindness or weak eyes, ring-bone, spavin, hoof-bound, curbed, or thorough-pinned, stifled, &c., all of which an expert observer will detect in a minute's time. The heaves is the most difficult to detect, as that depends upon the treatment the animal has had for the week previous. The thumps, or palpitation of the heart may be detected easily by moving and exciting the horse. Judging the age of a horse by his mouth is very uncertain. You can tell to a certainty within one year until he is six years old, then you must judge from general appearance. Some judges rely on the tusk, but some horses never have any tusk—about the same number of mares have tusks as horses that have none. Some men will tell you that they know the age of a horse by the jaw, or the wrinkles about the eye, or by the joints of the tail. You might as well say you know the age of a man by the wrinkles in his face. The wearing of the teeth depends upon the general health and lungs of the animal. Bad teeth follow diseased lungs.

In purchasing a horse rely upon your own judgment, and when you trade do not ask a neighbor, as every man ought to know his own business. If there is much talking to be done, let the other do it. What you say let it be to the point, and stand to it.—Ohio Farmer.

HOW TO MANAGE RUNAWAY HORSES.

Always stick to your horses so long as they are fast to the carriage. If a line breaks or the bits give way, step out of the fore end of the carriage, even when the team may be running. Take hold of the harness and spring on the back of one of the animals. Once astride of a horse, one can reach forward, grasp his nose, and soon check his speed. When a horse is running toward you, as he comes up, stand so that he will be within reach as he dashes past; then make calculations to seize the reins near the bits with one hand and to grasp his mane or the top of the hames with the other hand.—A man may expect to be carried twenty rods; but if he will hang to the reins a horse will soon stop.

We saw a fine horse running away a few days since, with a wagon and a load of barrels.—After passing hundreds of persons who tried in vain to stop him, a lad sprang to the rear of the wagon as it passed, climbed up among the barrels, went to the forward end, and the lines being on the ground he stepped along on the thills, got on his back and stopped him before he had run one-eighth of a mile.

The numerous accidents in consequence of horses running away suggest the eminent importance of teaching them the monosyllable—*whoa!* A horse is never half trained or half educated until he has learned that *whoa* signifies to halt. But, in the first place, teamsters must be educated to employ that word at no other time than when it is desirable to have a team stop. When the word is used let it be spoken with a full, open and sound voice.—N. Y. Times.

HORSES PAWING IN THE STABLE.

Having noticed inquiries in regard to preventing horses from pawing in the stable, allow me to say I have been very much annoyed and provoked at a valuable horse of mine, in consequence of that bad habit, which seems to be the only bad trait of character he has ever manifested. I have tried a variety of means, among others the strap and chain, but all failed. Recently I devised a plan which has succeeded to my entire satisfaction. I made a frame four feet long and of sufficient width to reach nearly the top of the manger, from which I suspended it, allowing it to reach within about ten inches of the floor. I boarded up the sash or frame, in order that he could not get his feet over the lower bar, which was made of a round stick two inches in diameter. The act of pawing sets the swing in motion, causing it to strike against the shins, which so disgusted my animal that he gave it up entirely.—Com. in Rural New Yorker.

WHAT IS A BLOODED HORSE?

He is a horse having more than an ordinary amount of drops or pounds of blood in his system in proportion to his size and weight.—This large amount of blood acts upon his system through a large heart and corresponding large arteries and veins, and put in motion, it acts in driving him to speed the same as an increased amount of fire under the boiler drives off a greater amount of steam, and makes the machinery go faster. This large amount of blood also acts in refining the skin, making it and the horse finer than a horse of less blood; it refines and gives elasticity to the muscles, the feet, etc., it refines the entire horse, making strong and valuable parts, and fitting the whole system for speed and endurance.

FEED FOR COLTS.

A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer*, who is a successful breeder of horses for driving, etc., gives that paper his method of feeding colts. He feeds all colts as many oats as they will eat up clean, feeding three times a day.—He gives weanlings four pounds of oats per day, with eight pounds of hay; to yearlings, five pounds oats; two-year olds, six pounds; three-year olds, eight pounds, with ten pounds of hay for each of the last ages. The colts are all handled from their birth. Even in the winter the young colts have a half hour's gallop daily, while the old ones are daily driven. A warm bran mash is given once a week, and also three or four pounds of potatoes, occasionally sheaf oats instead of hay, and in cold weather an occasional feed of corn.

CURBED HOCK.

A recent curb is generally easily reduced by rest, cooling, afterward stimulating applications or blistering. By these means it may often be perfectly cured; sometimes permanently. But this is by no means certain, for it is in no way improbable that it will be brought on again by exertion. If, however, after the curb has shown itself, it is trifled with and the horse kept going, the enlargement becomes so indurated that firing will probably fail to reduce it. A rank and decided curb is very difficult to get rid of, and very often is never cured. However, be the curb large or small, it generally does not interfere with the usefulness of the horse. Strong and well developed joints are not so liable to this deformity, which generally accompanies weak and ill-formed joints.

BREED WALKING HORSES.

Whether for travelling or for farm purposes a fast even walk is the best gait for a horse, and with such an idea the *Rural World* gives the following advice for the production of fast walking horses:—

Breeders should pay attention to this matter. In selecting a stallion to breed from, by all means select one that can walk fast. A slow walking stallion will be likely to get slow walking colts; while the stallion that has a long, rapid, spirited stride, will be likely to beget colts of a similar action. Then there is a great deal in breeding to a horse with spirit and ambition. These cold blooded horses will beget cold blooded colts. The nearer you can approach the through-bred, even for obtaining a fast walker, the better. There is game there, and spirit, and endurance, and stamina, and style. There are the neat, bony heads and prominent eyes, the small ears, the capacious nostrils, the large lungs and chests, the well developed muscles, the bones as dense as ivory. Even for walkers, then, get the nearest to thorough-bred possible, and the same for trotters, and, of course, the same for runners. You have then horses fit for any company, and for any purpose—to haul the plough, or buggy, or carriage, or to carry you upon their backs. Breed large, fine mares, to thorough-bred horses, and you will get colts that you will not be ashamed to have your friends see.

STABLE AND TRAINING.

Farmers are often regardless of the convenience of their stables. The horse is required to stand on a hard floor for a long time. He lies down for rest but it is much the same. To remedy this, straw, or some other light substance, should be placed in the stable, which would make a soft bed. The well treated horse appreciates all kindness. To make a horse gentle and kind, discipline should commence at its birth. It should be trained thoroughly, though kindly. He should be taught that you are his master—unmistakably so.

A gentle, vigorous and mettlesome horse can be made by the right training. In training, it requires gentleness and intelligence in the man. Be resolute with him when he is stubborn, show no excitement on your part; tolerate no vices or tricks, but encourage all his good qualities. By taking him when he is a colt, he can be fitted for use without any training when he becomes a horse. Overwork and small amount of bad food will kill any horse before he is hardly at his prime. We often see horses at thirty years of age strong and hearty; horses which have been worked continually from a young age; yet they were never overworked;

had done much work, but had never been strained. A continued tugging is what takes hold of the system, and it is that which breaks down many horses. There are but few rules in the training of horses. Special rules are of no great account. The disposition of horses differ, and they must be managed accordingly. There must be no contradiction in your course of treatment. Whatever is begun must be finished. Do not put him into cold, hard stables, or into those that are wet and filthy. He should have sufficient quantity of nutritious food, and a good supply of pure water when idle, and three or four times a day when working. Never allow him to drink when very warm, unless he is put into action immediately after drinking.

Too much stress cannot be put on to the point that the training of the horse must be commenced at his birth. He must be trained when a colt. The principle that the discipline of children must commence young, applies very forcibly in the management of the horse. If by chance you get a horse lazy, balky, stubborn, dirty, and ungainly, get rid of him, for he will prove a curse instead of a blessing. When you purchase be sure to get good blood, which is as easy as to get bad. Buy those which have weight and muscle with fair action combined.—*Williamette Farmer*.

CARE OF HORSES.

All horses must not be fed in the same proportions, without regard to their ages, their constitutions and their work; the impropriety of such a practice is self-evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind.

Never use bad hay on account of its cheapness, because there is no proper nourishment in it.

Damaged corn is exceedingly injurious, because it brings on inflammation of the bowels and skin diseases.

Chaff is better for old horses than hay, because they can chew and digest it better.

Mix chaff with corn and beans and do not give the latter alone, because it makes the horse chew his food more and digest it better.

Hay or grass alone will not support a horse under hard work, because their is not sufficient nutritive body in either.

When a horse is worked hard its food should be chiefly oats—if not worked hard its food should be chiefly hay—because oats supply more nourishment and flesh-making material than any other kind of food; hay not so much.

For saddle or coach horses half a peck of sound oats and eighteen pounds of good hay are sufficient. If the hay is not good add a quarter of a peck more oats. A horse which works harder may have rather more of each; one that works little should have less.

Rack feeding is wasteful. The better plan is to feed with chopped hay from a manger, because the food is not then thrown about, and is more easily chewed and digested.

Sprinkle the hay with water that has salt dissolved in it, because it is pleasing to the animal's taste, and more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient.

Oats should be bruised for an old horse, but not for a young one, because the former through age and defective teeth, cannot chew them properly. The young horse can do so, and they are thus properly mixed with saliva, and turned into wholesome nutriment.—*London Horse Book*.

SWELLED LEGS.

Partial or local debility is generally the cause of horses' legs swelling over night in the stable. When swelled legs occur in a horse that is thin and impoverished, debility must be counteracted to promote a cure, by feeding somewhat liberally, particularly with a mixture of the edible roots, as carrots, parsnips, &c.; it is aided also by giving tonics, such as half a drachm of powdered sulphate of iron, and two drachms of powdered gentian root, mixed in the feed once daily. Smart hand rubbing and bandaging should be employed, for which purpose strong woolen cloths of any kind may be made use of; but flannel forms the best bandage when evenly and firmly applied, by means of a roller four yards in length, and four inches in breadth. Such bandage may be applied every evening as long as needed. Its application should always be preceded by smart friction of the limbs.

The *Turf, Field and Farm* says those keeping horses should twice a week throw in a handful of salt and ashes. Mix them by putting in three parts of salt to one of ashes. Horses relish this and it will keep their hair soft and fine. It will prevent bots, colic, &c. A little ground sulphur mixed with salt and ashes, and given once in two or three weeks, is also beneficial. All domestic animals will be thus benefited.

"Humph!" said an Englishman to a Scotchman, as they were walking over the fields, "oats are all very well in their way, but in England we feed them to our horses, while here they are food for men." "Ay, ay!" said the Scotchman, "an' just see what fine horses there are in England, and what fine men we have in Scotland!"

VARNISH FOR HARNESS.

Pulverize and put in a jug or bottle half a pound to a pound of gum-shellac, cover with good alcohol, and cork tightly. Put the mixture in a warm place. In about two days, if shaken frequently, the gum will be dissolved and ready for use. If the liquid appears as thick as thin molasses, add more alcohol. To one quart of the varnish add one ounce of good lampblack, and an ounce of gum camphor. An occasional coat of this is also good for rendering boots waterproof.

Veterinary.

NASAL GLEET—TREATMENT.

Chronic bronchitis, which sometimes follows the acute stage of this disease, is marked by a discharge of watery and sometimes mucous fluid from the nose. Respiration is accompanied by a wheezing noise caused by obstructions within the bronchial vessels, from a thickening of the lining membrane, or from the accumulation of sero-mucous fluid within the cavities.

Nasal gleet is a chronic affection and is accompanied with the discharge of a thick yellow mucous, which, when the animal is at grass, assumes a green color and sometimes is tinged with blood, and, if not arrested, finally ends in ulceration of the cartilages of the nose, assuming a glandular form. In fine weather it sometimes subsides for days at a time, and again returns with the recurrence of wet cold weather. If the symptoms are as last indicated, the nasal passages should be syringed daily with an infusion of bayberry bark, one ounce of bark to a pint of boiling water strained through a close linen cloth, and applied after cooling. Give with the feed daily one ounce of the following mixture: Equal parts of grains of paradise, marsh mallows, sulphur, charcoal and white mustard seed, powdered. Keep the animal warm and provide good, nutritious food, and give occasionally half an ounce of balsam copaiba and two drams of sweet spirits of nitre in thin gruel.—*Western Rural*.

CURE FOR FOUNDER.

I noticed in your paper, a few weeks ago, a sure cure for founder horses. I send you mine, which I have tried on many different horses, and in cases of long standing:

Take some old woollen blankets or rags—if woollen rags are not handy, take straw—and wrap the legs tight, up as high as you can conveniently, then take hot water, hot enough to scald the hair off a well horse, pouring it around the horse's legs until they are well soaked; then in an hour serve the same way except not quite so hot, and in two hours he will be as well as ever. This I know to be a sure cure, and there is no danger of injuring the animal, as would be the case with turpentine. The horse is paralyzed; the limbs are cold, and the hot water will start the blood circulating and start the perspiration. I have taken boiling hot water and applied and never injured a hair.—*Com. in Western Rural*.

OPEN-JOINT.

If there is a lacerated wound which has suppurated, forming matter, cleanse the wound and apply a paste of balsam of fir and powdered charcoal, and apply a cold water bandage to be kept wet. If there is much discharge of joint water, use an equal part of powdered bayberry bark with the dressing and dust the parts frequently without removing the dressing. Sometimes it is necessary to splinter the joint, and apply a starch bandage to prevent moving of the parts. If this is necessary it will be indicated by the condition. A starch bandage is formed by soaking the bandage in strong starch and allowing it to dry on the limb. At all events, avoid exposing the limb more than is necessary.

OVER-REACHING IN HORSES.

This unpleasant noise, known also by the term "clicking," arises from the toe of the hind foot knocking against the shoe of the fore foot. In a trot one fore leg and the opposite hind leg are first lifted from the ground and moved forward, the other fore leg and the opposite hind leg remaining fixed; but to keep the centre of gravity within the base, and as the stride or space passed over by these legs is often greater than the distance between the fore and hind feet, it is necessary that the fore feet should be moved alternately out of the way of the hind feet to descend.



application else should assertion, and would beg of you next spring it may be result for pu this metho year many had heard said that h believed mor and that it had repe continue to merits were to prevent again. I a in a few ye are always the grosses just as sim Here it is: Immedia sprinkle on about one More will the corn w tablespoon would do. worms in s without do they will c or any see eat the you salt in the plantation C The exp done by th The wor continue c my brother per, or in s he gives hi The grains tender cor and wither salt should ately after solved by t the air, au greatly dil therefore s and also th may enter leaves, wh that some would try against the flict a nati of the crop successful recognize voting me which I w an exper

At a rec Club, a di tion of tur Mr. Jam ence in the believe th and manur manure at to prepare plough, ha the ground drill up an if you put acre, you t tried salt was any b Mr. Wil turnips for ploughing tried it in ference eit and manur time in th nured a pi through 1872, culti