

HORSE

Minor Heir, 1.59 $\frac{1}{2}$, one of the pacing sensations of the year on American race tracks, has been sold to W. Savage, owner of Dan Patch, for \$45,000.

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During the last six years the United States imported horses to the value of \$7,618,000 and sold up to \$20,855,000 worth.

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The world's running record for one mile, of 1.37 2-5, made by Dick Welles, was recently broken on the Los Angeles, California, track by Centre Shot taking 1-5 of a second off the time.

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There are comparatively few pure Shetland ponies in the world. The price is governed to a large extent by the demand, which has always exceeded the supply. A well-developed foal at the time of weaning is worth from \$60 to \$80. To this must be added 15 to 25 per cent a year for feed, care and incidental expenses. A mature pony three or four years of age is worth \$150 and upwards; valuable stallions and mares, proportionately more. Cross-bred and other cheaper ponies may sometimes be had, but they are not so reliable for children. A pony with an unreliable disposition and void of quality and beauty is dear at any price. The pure Shetland represents the highest degree of docility and intelligence, and pure-blooded Shetlands are absolutely without the taint of a vicious trait.

Quantity of Alfalfa to Feed

A majority of horse owners are inclined to waste hay in feeding horses, that is, they feed more than is necessary for the maintenance of the horse and more than he can economically take care of.

Either heavy or light horses that are doing regular steady work should not, if one wishes to feed economically, have more than one pound of hay per hundred pounds of live weight. That is, a thousand-pound horse should receive 10 pounds of hay per day. A 1500-pound horse that is doing steady work should have about four pounds of hay with his morning feed, the same amount at noon, and about double the amount at night. Many horses will eat 30 or 40 pounds of hay a day if they have free access to it. If a horse is allowed to eat such quantities, half of it is wasted and if he is eating that amount of alfalfa hay it is worse than wasted, for it does the horse an injury. From two to two and a half pounds of digestible protein is all that an ordinary horse can utilize in a day, and in 100 pounds of alfalfa there are 11 pounds of digestible protein. This fare of alfalfa, if too heavily fed, is likely to cause kidney disorder and may even be responsible for abortion in pregnant mares that are fed too liberal a ration of it. If it does not cause abortion, weak, unhealthy foals will be the result. Have alfalfa fed judiciously to pregnant mares, heavy or light work horses, and it is beneficial and should be used, wherever it is obtainable, but should never be used as the exclusive roughage. Some objection is made to it on account of causing looseness of the bowels and making the horses soft and easy to sweat. This is due to their having it in too large quantities. Alfalfa hay should be fed as part of the grain ration rather than a roughage. If fed in this manner, its use will be found very satisfactory.

To produce a horse of the highest type, with the cleanest bone, the best-developed muscle, the best temperament and the greatest action and finish, nitrogenous feed must be used, and in no other feed can this most essential element of nutrition be so cheaply obtained as it can with alfalfa. The most successful producers of both heavy and light horses are today using alfalfa extensively in the development of their young horses.

There seems to be an almost universal opinion among horsemen, and especially among those that are raising heavy horses, that no other grass or combination of grasses equal or even approach, the value of alfalfa as a pasture for horses, and from an economical point of view it certainly has no equal, as it will furnish so much more feed per acre than any other grass. It will not only pasture more horses per acre, but it will produce horses of greater weight, larger bones and stronger muscles. A horse that has been pastured in an alfalfa pasture and fed a light ration of alfalfa all winter makes one of the finest horses to be found in any market today.

Speedy Stroke

Hackney mare strikes each of her knees with the opposite foot. Her knees are both enlarged. How can the thickenings be reduced, and how can the striking be prevented? Would it be advisable to whip her for it?

C. G.

This is called speedy stroke or speedy cut, but at the same time it does not indicate that the animal is speedy. Whipping will do no good; in fact, by the excitement and fear it would cause it would have a tendency to make matters worse. The trouble is due to faulty conformation. Horses which stand with their knees quite close, knock-kneed horses, are predisposed to speedy stroke, even though they may stand with their feet straight. The usual cause is an ill conformation that causes a horse to turn his toes outwards when standing. In these cases the feet roll inwards during progression, and the shoe is liable to strike the opposite fetlock, cannon, knee, or above the knee, according to the height of action. In many cases the conformation is all right down to the pastern joint, but in others a faulty conformation is noticed from the fetlock joint, the pastern deviating slightly outwards, and the foot planted with a decided out-turning. In other cases this deviation can be noticed from the knee. In all cases the animal stands with toes turned outwards, "soldier toed."

Various manners of shoeing have been tried without marked success in remedying the faulty action. Placing the toe calk about the length of itself inwards on the shoe will sometimes check it. Some recommend a shoe, the internal half of which is much heavier than the outer half, on the principle that when the foot is elevated the weight of the inner half will have a tendency to lower the inner part of the foot, hence prevent striking. Others claim that the opposite method, viz., making the shoe heavy on the outside, gives better results, but neither method, so far as I have observed, has given satisfaction. Shoeing with light shoes has a tendency to keep the feet below the knees, while the use of quite heavy shoes has that of carrying the feet above the knees, either of which removes the tendency to strike, but as the height of action with either light or heavy shoes varies according to the speed at which the animal is driven, either method may prove ineffective. Different methods of shoeing have different actions upon different horses, according to the peculiarity of conformation and action, hence each animal's peculiarities must be studied, and the horse be shod accordingly. In many cases the most careful and intelligent shoeing will not correct the fault, and all that can be done to prevent the repetition of the injury is to wear knee boots. The enlargements already existing cannot be reduced so long as the cause continues. If the striking can be checked the daily application of a little of the following liniment will reduce them, viz., 4 drams each of iodine and iodide of potassium, and 4 ozs. each of glycerine and alcohol. Apply a little once daily, with smart friction.

Common Ailments of Horses

During the Provincial Winter Fair, at Guelph, "Some Common Ailments of Horses" was the subject of profitable discussion. Dr. J. Standish, of Walkerton opened the discussion with a few general comments summed up as follows:

Acute indigestion was commonly caused by excessive quantities of food. Digestion being aided by secreted fluids, the excess of food prevented these fluids performing their function. The lack of proper digestion gave the horse distress. Chronic indigestion was due to derangement of the mouth, preventing complete mastication, or to derangement of glands in the mouth, stomach and intestines. It could also be produced by excesses of non-nutritious food. It was not the quantity of food consumed, but rather the quantity assimilated, that kept the horse in condition. The food given should be regulated by existing conditions. If a horse had been ill for a time, smaller quantities were advisable until he regained his appetite. Animals should not be fed excessively when not working. Hay should not be left in the manger in front of a horse all the time.

Flatulent and spasmodic colic were due to much the same causes. The ailments could be prevented by following practices in feeding similar to those mentioned under indigestion.

Heaves were due to overfeeding, the stomach being distended. Timothy hay over-ripe, or clover hay over-cured, would cause this ailment.

Moderate feeding on balanced rations, with regular watering and sufficient exercise, would avoid it.

Lymphangitis, a disease in which the small vessels accompanying the veins are affected, sometimes known as "Monday-morning" disease, could be prevented by moderate feeding and reduction of nutritive food when the animal was not at regular work. Bran mash on Saturday night, and again on Sunday, and perhaps Monday morning, was a preventive. If the case became habitual, 4 drams saltpetre could be put in the Saturday night's mash.

Azoturia could be prevented by plenty of exercise. A grain of prevention was worth a ton of cure. Lack of exercise was the cause of this disease. The exercise stimulated the heart, liver, stomach and other organs, and thus removed the cause.

A disease common in foals, known as joint-ill, was due to a germ that entered the navel in early life. These germs accumulated in a joint or in soft tissues. Prevention lay in keeping the surroundings of the foal in clean condition. Lime in the stall, and the application of antiseptics to the navel, was good practice.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF DISCUSSION

Q. Is it possible for a foal to contract the disease before being born?

A. I have never known of such a case, but it would be possible immediately after delivery of the foal, and might occur during delivery if the germ be present on the tail or quarters of the dam.

Q. How is it that horses do not contract heaves on the prairie?

A. They do not gorge themselves on the prairie. They are always out nibbling at the grass, and prairie hay seems to be succulent and tender. During the time they are not busy, they usually are out on grass.

Q. What would you consider a reasonable supply of grain for an ordinary horse?

A. It is impossible to give a definite answer. About three gallons a day, divided into three feeds, at reasonable labor, should suffice for a 1,400-pound horse. In addition, hay, as much as would be eaten in one hour at breakfast, 35 minutes at noon, and one hour at night; and roots twice a week should be fed. In idle periods the oat supply should be reduced to one-half gallon twice a day, and only a small quantity of hay at noon.

Q. Do not many so-called horse-tooth doctors ruin good horses?

A. I am glad that point has been brought up. I believe much harm is done to good animals in this way. It is always best to go to a recognized, reliable veterinarian. The charge might be higher, but the ultimate cost, in most cases, is lower.

Q. Is impure air in stables the cause of digestive derangements?

A. Yes. Impure air gives a depressing influence on the heart and other organs, and may result in indigestion.

Q. Would ten pounds silage night and morning be too much for a horse. Some say it injures the teeth, because of the acid present.

A. I would consider that heavy feeding. Twice a week should be enough.

Q. Can heaves be cured?

A. No. The symptoms may be alleviated, but the disease cannot be cured.

Q. What have you to say regarding diphtheria in horses?

A. I suppose it is the disease called cerebro-spinal meningitis, or it may be influenza. No doubt, it is due to something in the water supply. Stabling in unventilated places and in vitiated air frequently causes such diseases.

Q. Is there any cure for lockjaw?

A. Yes, in many cases special treatment with a serum (antitoxic serum) will effect a cure.

Q. Would you prefer alfalfa to clovers?

A. Yes, in conjunction with other foods. It requires intelligence in feeding, and must not be given in excess, particularly if damaged by frost or poorly cured.

STUDY DISEASES AND PREVENTION

A lengthy and costly experience with horses led Wm. Smith, of Columbus, Ont., to state that the horse-breeder should know horse diseases and measures that would result in avoiding them. Farmers know that horses should be regularly watered and fed, and that they should get palatable and nutritious food, but too often they did not put into practice what they knew. Another

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mistake farmers make remedy, and when the rushing for a veterinarian was incompetent when

An attempt to fatten at least to fit him for feeding on Sunday, joint-ill was said to have money value in horse ease. In former years but he had listened to disease several years ago. He did not think ailment before birth-broken. The use of in the stalls prevented

Heaves, though no viated by judicious fact, liberal supplies of food, should be withheld

TREATMENT

How common ailments were dealt with by Dr. tario Agricultural College could be treated best tended to by a complete purgative, and perhaps tion and flatulent and cult to distinguish in first, raw linseed oil 1 4 ounces, was a good necessary to give bell dose. Spasmodic colic no treatment; the tro time. If it was found tincture of belladonna sweet nitre, about 1 to suit. Aconite was an doses killed quickly, death, unless the hea when this drug had strength, and had little

Q. What causes spa

A. Some horses are Cases are known when with it on changes of feeding.

Q. How does the pu

A. During the spasm while the normal is 36 to

Q. What medicine

A. Give no medicine absolutely necessary. gative should be withheld

Treatment of lymph ministering a purgative aloes and 2 drams of gi nitrate of potash night a of heat to the swollen exercise and precaution: result in permanent cure

For Azoturia, the bes lute rest and comfort a were noticed. The adm was good practice.

Q. How often should

A. My theory is that he wants a drink. If he can be allowed to te freely. As a rule, it meals, and not after. C much to do with a horse'

Flooring H

Clay, planking and concrete of which stable floors are three, a good clay or earth best, providing it could be as regards cleanliness, dry face. It is good for the h soil itself, if the soil is dry or soaked with urine a clay floor is not a practical it answers fairly satisfactory requirements it is far from ought to be.

The objection to plank durability, and since the distance above the ground breaking through. Also dark and filthy, and give A good plank floor is ab that can be laid down, but for a few years, hardly any priced lumber cares to in one in. They have to be none too reliable at best. floor of the three materials do with less bedding, but are higher actually in cost.