

action is when the foot is lifted from the ground without the slightest deviation literally, and brought forward in a straight line, maintaining the same distance from the center of the opposite limb that it has from the center of the opposite foot when standing.

Another defect of action is "forging"; that is, the striking of the shoe of the fore foot with that of the hind foot on the same side. This makes a click, click, click that to a horseman is very annoying. Some horses forge when jogging, but do not when at a faster pace; others forge at mostly all gaits. The tendency to forge is indicated by a very short back, especially what is called a "roach back," where there is quite a noticeable elevation in the region of the loins. While all short or roach-backed horses do not forge, we seldom see a forger who is not well marked, in at least having a short back. The defect can often be remedied by shoeing heavy in front and light behind. This gives greater length of stride to the fore feet, and shortens, to some extent, that of the hind, and it also causes the animal to life the fore foot higher, so that the hind shoe will not strike it. In other cases, shoeing with the slips or half shoe in front, will answer. Like many other defects, different individuals require different methods of shoeing to rectify the defect. While a back that is too short is undesirable, too long a back is probably worse; the former may cause defective action, but indicates strength, while the latter not only indicates weakness and want of constitution, but also defective action. A very long-backed horse has usually slovenly, awkward action. It must always be understood that, while certain conformations indicate certain action, there are always exceptions, and it is necessary in all cases to see a horse in motion in order to verify our suspicions or indicate our mistake. In some cases, from reasons that we cannot explain, well-marked indications are at fault, and a horse in whom we expect excellent action is very defective, and vice versa. On this account, it is often impossible to classify a horse, especially between the heavy and the light harness class, without seeing him in motion. As regards the conformation of croup, we, in any class, want one rather long and not too drooping. A short, drooping croup indicates defective, stilty hind action, with lack of flexion of mostly all joints. Where the croup is of fair length, too much droop is not so serious. (By the croup we mean from the termination of the loins to the tail, including the whole width of the animal.) The conformation of the hocks is also material. A horse should stand with his hocks fairly close together, the points rather closer than the anterior surface; that is, with a slight deviation forwards and outwards. What is called "cow-hocked"—that is, with the hocks quite close, especially the points, and the limbs deviating downwards and outwards—usually causes ungainly action and rather a shuffling gait, while the opposite, the hocks wide and the feet close together and somewhat intoed, indicates a cross action in the planting of each hind foot towards the opposite fore foot. A well-marked angle at the point of the hock indicates good hock action, while a poorly developed angle indicates the reverse. The well-formed horse stands with his hind feet fairly close together and the toes deviating slightly outwards. Too much of this deviation is not desirable, as it usually indicates too wide action, and the reverse indicates too close action and a tendency to interfere or strike the opposite fetlock with the shoe of each foot. Wide action with the hind feet is undesirable in most classes. It is allowed to considerable extent in the roadster, and we often see horses of this class whose conformation is nearly or quite correct, who, when going fast, will go quite wide behind, but even in this class closer action is now generally preferred.

Interfering in horses is often hard to correct. In many cases colts do it when first worked, and cease after becoming stronger and accustomed to shoes. In other cases the fault continues, and, while various devices and methods of shoeing have been tried, the manner of shoeing depending much upon the particular part of the foot or shoe that strikes, there are some cases that cannot be rectified by shoeing, and the only means of protection is boots.

"WHIP."

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The Ontario government has instituted an investigation into the horse industry of the province. The object is to obtain information to be used in deciding as to the best policy to adopt to encourage more extensive breeding of the best types of horses.

Weaning Colts.

The age at which colts should be weaned is to a great extent governed by circumstances. Under ordinary conditions it is well to allow the mare to nurse the foal for four months or longer. If, when the foal be this age, the mare is required to do regular work, I think both will do better if the foal be weaned. On the other hand, if the mare be in fair condition, not required to work, and still yielding a reasonable quantity of milk, the foal will do better if not weaned for a month or two longer, and the mare, having no labor to perform, will not suffer. The ordinary process of weaning, which consists in separating mare and foal, and allowing no further intercourse for several weeks, or until the mare has ceased to secrete milk and the foal to look for it, is, in my opinion, irrational, wasteful and uncalled for.

It is probably unnecessary to state that the colt should be taught to eat chopped or crushed oats, bran, etc., before the process of weaning commences, otherwise he will be sure to suffer and grow thin. Experience has taught all feeders or breeders of stock that sudden or violent changes of diet or usage with any class of stock is dangerous and often expensive. When this is the case with adult animals, it is reasonable to expect it to be more marked in the young; hence, in order to avoid danger of digestive diseases in the young, and trouble with the mammary gland and possibly digestive trouble also in the dam, we should exercise good judgment and be satisfied to take considerable trouble when weaning the colt. In most cases the mammary apparatus is still quite active, and a considerable quantity of milk is being secreted when the owner decides that it is time to wean the colt. The colt, in addition to the grass and grain that he has been eating, has thus far also been accustomed to the milk. In fact, this has been his principal diet, and if suddenly deprived of it he cannot avoid failing in condition and fretting. Then, again, the secretion of milk in the mare will not cease all at once, and unless the gland be relieved of it, mammitis will be the result. Instead of milking the mare by hand, and, of course, making no use of the milk, as is usually done, the colt should get the benefit. My idea of the proper process of weaning is as follows: When it is decided to wean the colt, he should be placed in a comfortable box stall, by himself, or with other colts. There should be no mangers or boxes into which he can rear or jump and probably hurt himself, and the door and walls should be so high that he cannot jump over them, nor get his fore feet over. The mare, if needed for work, should be taken out; if not required for work, should be tied in a stall, or placed in a box stall, at considerable distance, probably better if they be out of hearing. The mare should be taken to the colt three times daily for a few days (say a week) and left for 15 or 20 minutes each time. The second week twice daily will be sufficient, and the third week once daily, and this continued so long as any considerable quantity of milk is secreted. In this way each gradually becomes accustomed to be separated from the other. The change of diet for the colt is gradual, and he receives the benefit of the milk that would otherwise be wasted. It also obviates danger of mammitis in the mare, and the gland gradually becomes inactive. In the meantime, the young thing should be given about all the nice, well-saved clover hay and chopped oats he will eat. I like finely chopped oats, and consider it good practice to steam them by pouring boiling water on them in a pail, covering the pail with a rubber sheet to prevent the escape of steam, allowing it to stand for a few hours, and then feeding. A mess of this kind night and morning, and a few whole oats with a carrot at noon, in addition to hay and a feed of bran about twice weekly, has given good satisfaction. Where practicable, the addition of cow's milk gives excellent results, but this is not often easily obtainable. After the colt has ceased looking for his dam, he should be allowed to take exercise daily in the yard or paddock, and his feet should be trimmed every few weeks. Usually the wear is not equal to the growth in these cases and if not attended to, the feet will be an abnormal size and shape, which may permanently injure him; hence, they should be trimmed to the natural shape as occasion demands.

WHIP.

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J. McCallum of Dauphin, Man., has been getting together a bunch of seven fillies and one stallion in Scotland.

The Race Horse Champion Replies.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

When I read the heading "This Man is Incorrigible" with which you supplied my letter, printed in your issue of Sept. 26, I was at first under the impression that you were using bad language about me.

However, I find by looking in the dictionary that incorrigible merely means "that which cannot be corrected."

No, Mr. Editor, not that bad but merely like the Scotchman, "open to conviction, but de'il the man can do it."

Now, surely it must be the of A B C veterinary knowledge that bandaging is done to prevent legs becoming dicky.

Where I come from (God's own country) all valuable horses (carriage horses, hunters and even well cared for saddle horses,) have their legs bandaged.

You tell me that "racing is in disrepute, for three things! crookedness, betting, and the caravan of human wrecks that it carries in its train." You might as well say, that human nature is in disrepute for the same three things.

Diogenes, you quite remember, had quite a cruise in his tub, before he discovered an honest man. The amount of betting done in this country is greatly exaggerated, it is the custom for "fly" youths to brag about what they have won or lost, but sometimes it is not the empty casks that make most noise.

What "human wrecks" would be doing with a racing string, I can't imagine; work from five in the morning to nine or ten at night, is what most race horse men have to do—and a wreck of any kind would be liable to hunt a softer job.

"Can an aggregation be found anywhere of more fluent swearers, liquor drinkers, cigarette and morphine fiends, than constitute the major part of a horse race string?" My! Mr. Editor, where have you been? For the last few years the racing crowd, have been the most sober crowd at the fairs.

My wife, who has always been a great horse-woman, but without any knowledge of racing, attended several race meetings with me last summer and as she began to understand things, made the remark that, "people in general knew so little about racing that it is hardly worth while to try and explain it to them."

The public see crookedness where there is no crookedness. The best pony race I ever saw, was run near here this summer. The first and second pony belonged to the same man, the result was a surprise to the owner, the second pony almost beating her stable mate, who was out and out the best pony running this year. The crowd, nevertheless, all thought the race was fixed. One of my own mares can't run in the mud, she started in a race, with mud up to her fetlocks and was beaten by a horse whom she had previously beaten, the crowd yelled crooked, but it wasn't. When there is anything really crooked, believe me, it is not caught on to by the "prominent citizen judge" or by the "crowd." That good old Socrates, nearly three thousand years ago, decided that the people knew nothing about horses, and if you will permit me to say so, they know very little more yet!

INCORRIGIBLE.

STOCK

Give Attention to the Breeding Ewes.

The time has arrived for breeding the ewes for next spring's lamb crop, in fact in some small flocks matings have already been made. One of the essentials in the successful breeding of sheep is to cull out every breeding season the ewes with defective udders. Springtime is a busy time and the profit in raising sheep is soon dissipated if the owner has to spend many hours at lambing time with ewes on account of gargetty bags, or lambs refusing to suck. Another matter that the careful shepherd will attend to before turning the ram into the breeding flock, is to tag the ewes, by means of the sheep shears removing tagged wool and other impediments to the procreative act. The novice at sheep breeding may not appreciate how the lamb yield is affected by the neglect of such precautions, especially the latter, many a good ram is permitted to waste himself by unsuccessful attempts to the chagrin of the