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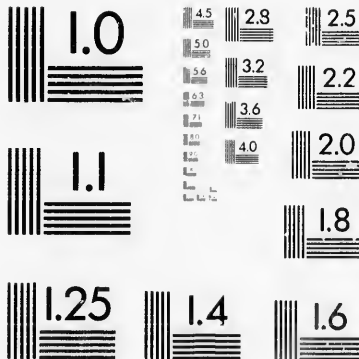
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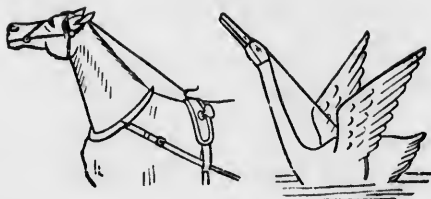
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We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.



THE CHECK-REIN.

Reasons Why it Should be Abolished.

The Humane Society earnestly hopes that *each person* in Toronto will consider it his or her duty to promptly report cases of cruelty to children and animals. Communications are kept strictly private and confidential when *secrecy is enjoined*, but correspondents are particularly desired to give their names, as neglect of this caution sometimes prevents proper investigation of complaints.

ISSUED BY

THE TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY,

103 BAY STREET, TORONTO,

*In the hope of influencing drivers and owners of horses
against this cruel custom.*

TELEPHONE 1958

J. J. KELSO,
Hon. Secy.

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THE CHECK-REIN.

A PLEA FOR ITS ABOLITION.

THE attention of THE TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY has of late been especially called to the growing cruelty, in Toronto, of tight-checking horses, and the following facts are given in the hope of inducing drivers to abolish this cruel and unnecessary restraint.

Sir ARTHUR HELP said :—

“Whenever I see horses suffering from a too tight check-rein, *I know the owner is unobservant, ignorant, or cruel.* *He is unobservant*, or he would know that his horses are suffering ; *he is ignorant*, or he would know that a horse loses much of its power pulling, and cannot recover himself if he stumbles ; and *he is cruel*, if observing and knowing, he does not remedy it.” Besides destroying grace and ease of motion (which the constraint of the tight check-rein must do), the poor animal, while standing, suffers increasingly with nervousness and restlessness, which find vent in the involuntary movements which not unfrequently call forth punishment from the ignorant driver. Those who own draught horses would do well to consider the tax which the check-rein adds to the animal's burden.

Many a tired horse, not thus fettered, droops his head while waiting, and so obtains the rest, which helps to repair his wasted energy before he again starts on his toilsome journey. Even a loose check-rein must prevent the horse from obtaining complete rest, and we must conclude that this strap is cruel, just in proportion as it prevents his head from falling into its natural position.

The check-rein is considered valuable to prevent horses from grazing or lowering the head. The same end may be equally attained by substituting a simple bridle rein, to be fastened to the saddle without passing through the loops of the throatlatch.

The Arching Neck and Bended Head.

The Creator formed the horse "with arching neck and bended head," a perfect combination of usefulness and beauty. If man by taking thought reins up a horse's head, thereby trying to improve the natural arch, he defeats his own object, because the neck is forced above and beyond the lines of beauty, which "lie within narrow limits," and the result is a stiff and stretched out appearance—to say nothing of the pain and inconvenience occasioned the animal.

If a horse has been abused, and under continued abuse has lost spirit and courage, his head will droop and decline below the lines of beauty, exactly on the

same principle that a man, once proudly erect, becomes stooped by trouble and discouragement.

Neither mechanical contrivance nor fashionable torture can restore lost spirit to a horse. No remedy exists but careful treatment and proper encouragement.

Either owing to the bustle of life or imperfect education, many people otherwise very worthy seem to forget that their horses have feelings, are sensible to cruelty, and appreciate kindness.

Opinions of Medical Men.

We, the undersigned practitioners of medicine, residing in Toronto, coincide with George T. Angell, of Boston, in his views as regards the cruelty practised on horses by the use of an over-tight check-rein, especially the over-check form of rein.

G. STERLING RYERSON, M.D.C.M.

W. J. GIBB WISHART, S.R.C.P., Eng.

I believe the old-fashioned check-rein, when *loosely worn*, is harmless; but I regard the over-draw check-rein as a cruel barbarity, which ought to be condemned by law.

FREDERICK W. STRANGE, M.R.C.S.

There is no excuse for the use of the overtight rein. Clipping is also fraught with mischief. The services of the horse are greatly lessened by these practices, and the poor animal is subject to pain and disease in consequence.

JAMES THORBURN, M.D.

My experience is that the old-fashioned check-rein is harmless if *worn loosely*, but I consider the overhead check-rein is a useless and painful encumbrance.

F. L. M. GRASSETT, R.C.S., Eng.

I do not consider that the old English check-rein is harmful if *loosely worn*. The over-check is unsightly, cruel, and unfit for use.

ALBERT A. MACDONALD, M.D.

I consider the over-check line unnecessary and cruel.

J. P. RUSSELL, M.D., Edin.

I heartily endorse the above condemnations, and would also add my protest against the cruelty of mutilation practised on the tails of these noble animals, depriving them thereby of the means of self-defence against the northern blast and flies.

W. T. AIKENS, M.D.

I think the over-check-rein causes unnecessary pain, and should not be used.

A. H. WRIGHT, M.D., To.

I endorse in every particular the opinions above expressed in regard to the senseless and cruel overhead check-rein, and it is to be regretted that the owners of horses who subject the dumb animals to the resultant torture should not have inflicted on them for a short space of time the pain that must be occasioned by the abuse of the custom.

C. W. COVERNTON, M.D.

I can testify to the cruel barbarity imposed upon horses by the over-check. I have no hesitation in condemning it as in the highest degree injurious, and a severe torture to the poor animal, whose owner knows so little as to insist upon his wearing it. I have no hesitation in saying it ought to be condemned by law.

CHARLES SHEARD, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.

The over-check-rein is both injurious and barbarous, and ought to be prohibited by law.

J. ALGERNON TEMPLE, M.D.

I consider the over-check most cruel and unsightly, causing the horse to hold his head in an unnatural position. I am not aware that it has a redeeming feature.

EDWARD W. SPRAGGE, M.R.C.S., Eng.

I consider the over-check line in carriage or buggy driving most cruel and unnecessary. It hampers the movements of the horse's head, and must cause acute muscular pains and cramps.

ALLEN BAINES, M.D.C.M., L.R.C.P., London.

The old-fashioned check-rein, if *loosely worn*, is harmless. The over-check-rein is useless, unsightly, and the cause of great suffering to the horse.

S. HERBERT BURNHAM, M.D., F.R.C.S., Eng.

Toronto, General Hospital, May 6, 1889.

I am happy to endorse every word expressed in the foregoing certificates, and I am strongly of opinion that the over-check not only gives constant pain to the horse, but makes him cross, irritable, and sulky.

C. O'REILLY, M.D.

97 College St., Toronto, May 9, 1889.

Do away with all tight check-reins and heavy curb and snaffle bits.

W. H. OLIPHANT, M.B., L.R.C.C.P.S.

Opinions of Veterinarians.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY would advise all owners of horses to purchase a copy of the "Horse Book," which may be bought for 15 cents. •

In it will be found an *immense* amount of useful information. Speaking of the side check-rein, it says:—"The weight of scientific testimony is against this pernicious fashion, as shown by the following overwhelming condemnation by veterinarians sent to us, without fee, solely in the interests of humanity.

We, the undersigned veterinary surgeons, are of opinion that the use of the bearing-rein, when tightly

applied, is painful and irritating to horses, is directly or indirectly productive of disease when regularly worn, and by its mechanical action greatly hinders horses from employing their full strength. For the above reasons—on the plea of utility as well as of humanity—its use should be discontinued.

PROF. PRITCHARD, Royal Veterinary College, London.

PROF. AXE, Royal Veterinary College, London.

PROF. WALLEY, Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

PROF. McCALL, Veterinary College, Glasgow.

PROF. MAYER, Agricultural College, Cirencester.

PROF. MCGILL, Veterinary College, Glasgow."

Then follow the names of 564 members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, after which ten pages are taken up with special remarks by forty veterinarians and other practical horsemen, in which they describe the particular diseases and evils which arise from the use of the bearing-rein—diseases and evils which have been discovered, in a great measure, by years of experience in the post-mortem house and the dissecting room, as well as through connection with a horse insurance company. *The evil effects on the circulation of the blood, upon the veins, and upon the arteries*, are also described by John Adam McBride, Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

Stumbling.

If a horse stumbles he is not able to recover himself

or regain his legs with the bearing-rein on, and broken knees follow as a consequence ; whereas, if he has no bearing-rein on and stumbles, the probability is that he will recover himself without injury. This I have seen over and over again.

W. J. ARKCOLL, Macclesfield,

Royal College Veterinary Surgeons.

It is the tightened rein in the driver's hand that helps the horse when he stumbles.

Painful and Useless.

When a check-rein is used it should never be so tight that the horse cannot put his head where he would put it without a check-rein, when drawing a load through sand or a hill.

The check-rein is in nearly every case painful to the animal and useless to the driver, because it fastens the head in an unnatural position ; and, as the horse's shoulder and head fall together, cannot be of any real support in case of stumbling.

An Important Difference.

There is an important difference between a tight check-rein and a tightened rein in the driver's hand. The first is injurious, while the latter is often useful ; because the latter is a steady support to the animal's

head, from a distinct and intelligent source, the driver, whereas the former is only the horse's head fastened to his own shoulders or tail! The check-rein is inconsistent with the action of the horse's head, as clearly shown by the fact that when a horse falls it is generally broken.

Renders Falling More Frequent.

Instead of preventing falling, the check-rein is calculated to render falling more frequent. Other not uncommon results of its use are, distortion of the windpipe to such a degree as to impede the respiration ever afterwards, excoriation of the mouth and lips, paralysis of the muscles of the face, etc. It is a useless appendage, supported only by fashion. I feel that if this were more generally understood, numbers of excellent persons who now drive their favorites with check-reins would discontinue to do so.

WILLIAM PRITCHARD,

Professor, Royal Veterinary College,

London, Eng.

In connection with the check rein, swollen glands, poll evil, roaring, giddiness or apoplexy, coma, inflammation, megrims, and softening of the brain are among the troubles spoken of in the "Horse Book" by veterinarians, and George Fleming, of London, Eng., gives twelve reasons why it should not be used.

The Horse Book.

This edition has been revised by Mr. Fleming, Army Veterinary Inspector, War Office (F.R.G.S., M.A.I., President of the Central Veterinary Medical Society; President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; author of "Travels on Horseback in Mantchu Tartary," "Horse-shoe and Horse-shoeing," "Animal Plagues," "Rabies and Hydrophobia," "Veterinary Sanitary Science and Police," "Practical Horse-shoeing," "Vivisection—Is It Necessary or Justifiable?" etc.) It has been approved by several other veterinarians, to whom it has been submitted. John Colam, Secretary. R.S.P.C.A.

The price is only 15 cents.

The Docking of Horses.

In Massachusetts this crime is punished by imprisonment, or a fine of from \$100 to \$250 from every person who authorizes, does, or assists in this cruel operation.



