

HEAD AND NECK 1

When the horse centers collectedly his head and neck are up because
main
The neck and head are the seat of resistance in a horse. That is showing
resistance to the riders hands. If you have a horse which is hard to
control it is in all probability because of one of two reasons.
Either the horse has such poor conformation that he cannot be properly
suppled and balanced OR he has not been sufficiently schooled to
become suppled and balanced. The head and neck MUST readily respond
to the rider's hands in order for the horse to be under complete
control and unless the horse is well balanced and has had suppling
exercises his neck may be incapable of responding to the hands.
For instance if a horse bucks what is the first thing he does? Put
his head down. And if he rears the first thing he does is throw his
head up isn't it? Therefore if you have your horse properly suppled and
his head and neck will respond to your hands, he will not buck or
rear. Of course any horse is capable of a few little bucks in play
but you don't mind that anyway.
In order for a horse to run away he must stick his head and neck out
and the neck will be so rigid that you cannot pull him up. The fact
that the neck is so rigid is the reason you cannot stop him from
running. You never saw a horse really running with his head up did you?
Therefore proper schooling, by which I mean the suppling and flexion
of the neck (aswell as other parts of course) is very necessary.
The head and neck are the balancer of the horse. When the horse
stumbles he MUST have freedom of his head to regain his balance.
Did you ever try walking the rails on a railroad track or try walking
on any narrow board? You would automatically put your arms out if
you felt unbalanced. Your arms would be your balancers and the horse's
head and neck are his.
When the horse is galloping his head and neck are thrust way forward
just as you would lean forward a bit if you were running fast.

and write and add and subtract and multiply reasonably well, we'd
When the horse canters collectedly his head and neck are up because
he is collected which means that he is well under himself and is showing
more of an up and down motion rather than a forward one. Therefore he
has to have his head up to do this. If it were down he would be going
ahead more and would not be collected.

If you will notice, next time you ride, you'll see that the horse's
head and neck are at a different angle for every gait. If they aren't
the horse is very poorly balanced and needs some schooling along this
line very badly. It takes a lot of patience and a lot of time to
school a horse properly and a good ---- a really good horseman---

would tell you if you asked him that one horse or two at the very out-
side are all he can possibly school in one year to be ready for green
classes---not open classes--just green classes.

Of course this is really schooling. He wouldn't just put on a saddle
and start jumping and while there ARE horses which have been schooled
this fast way who do well in the show ring, they will never have that
finished look that the well schooled horse has.

The well schooled horse has probably a month spent on him ~~with~~ just
~~bring~~ having a mouthing bit in his mouth for a little longer period
each day. Then he will be schooled on long lines for another month
Then gradually he will be broken to saddle and THEN the real work begins.
He must go through all the suppling exercises. He must learn to travel
in a circle, the circle becoming smaller and smaller until he can
travel gracefully on the small circle. He must canter on both leads
equally well. He must be able to turn on his forehand, and turn on
his haunches. He is taught all the aids and Then and not until then
he is put over a small jump to start his jumping career. Now all this
may seem a bit exaggerated but it is exactly the same principle as
education of the human being. We go to school and if we learned to

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and write and add and subtract and multiply reasonably well, we'd probably get along all right in the world. Geometry and algebra seem like a lot of foolishness because nine times out of ten the average person will never use it again once he walks out of school with his diploma. But is certainly wasn't time wasted to study even if we didn't use it ever again. It has done us untold good because it has developed our minds. And so with the horse. He will probably never be asked to do these difficult figures BUT doing these figures and exercises has helped to supple his body, in other words to educate his body, and has made him accept the aids or signals given to him. He automatically responds and so is well schooled.

You have never heard tell of a prize fighter who took on his first fight without ever having any training did you? It would be a very foolish thing to do, and the same applies to the hunter or jumper. To be a successful athlete you must have training and a horse ^{who jumps or hurts} ~~isxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is an athlete.

In order for a horse to run easy he must stretch his head and neck out and the neck will be so rigid that you cannot pull him up. The fact that the neck is so rigid is the reason you cannot stop him from running. You never saw a horse really running with his head up and neck out. Therefore proper schooling, by which I mean the suppling and flexion of the neck as well as other parts of course is very necessary. The head and neck are the balancer of the horse. When the horse has freedom of his head to regain his balance. You never try holding the reins on a railroad track or try walking on a tightrope. You could not hold the reins out if you were on a tightrope. Your neck must be your balancer and the horse must be able to stretch his head and neck out and thrust his head forward. If you would lean forward a bit if you were running fast.