

Let's talk about horses

By Jennifer Barr

Now that spring is coming (despite the weather) most people are thinking of riding more often. For a great many "backyard" horse owners the winter has been a time merely to feed and pat the horse rather than ride him. Most horses are fat and out of shape from a winter of eating and walking around a paddock. Come to think of it, so are most owners.

Hopefully your horse has had daily exercise turned out freely. If he has been shut in a barn all winter I won't even comment (the four letter words won't go through the computer!) You are probably wanting to enter some shows, go trail riding or just plain pleasure riding. Both of you will need some preparation for this.

Try to have some sort of schedule in mind-it really helps. For example, first riding time: ten minutes of walking, five minutes trotting, five minutes walking again, five minutes sitting trot, some exercises at the walk for you and some circles, turns, halts etc. for the horse-no more than a half hour at first.

Gradually increase this, include a little cantering the second or third time out-no more than five minutes though. After a couple of weeks you'll both stop aching, the horse's gait will be smoother as he becomes supple and you'll be sitting the saddle better.

If you don't take your time and muscle up your horse, you place undue stress on him. He can become subject to breathing and leg problems and end up being an expensive, useless, unhappy animal. Enough sald.

Question: I ride my horse in a spaffle bit but have trouble stopping him when we are out riding. Should I go to a more severe bit?

Answer: There's two alternatives here, you could use a dropped noseband with the snaffle, or you could go to a curb bit-either a westerm curb or an English pelham depending how you ride.

Exercises in a closed pall-19 dock will help him. When trotting or cantering and you decide to ask for a halt, warn him at first by taking up the reins a bit and sitting back slightly. Ask for a halt by driving your spine under you and into the saddle (sounds painful doesn't it?); squeeze your legs in order to get his hind legs under him and take a little on the reins. Take and release several times as firmly as necessary to stop him then reward him with a

Please send letters to Jennifer Barr, R.R. 2, Acton.

Ospringe . .

Continued from Page B4 Arthur Tranah.

Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Howard's guests over the weekend were their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig of London, and their grand-daughter Linda Furlonger of Waterloo University.

Demonstrations The Ospringe 2 Super Knits at their fourth and fifth meetings have had demonstrations on appliques, adjusting patterns for knits, and making mitred, bound, and rolled neckbands. At the sixth meeting they were shown several apper insertions, and applications of clastic. On March 21 they went on a bus trip, along with Ospringe I and Mimosa, to Hespeler, to the woollen mills. They toured one of the mills, and shopped at the fabric store for some materials to work on.









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handyman tips

Spring Cleaning

Rubber Heel Marks on vinyl floors can be removed with petroleum solvent such as Mac Eachern Wax Stripper.

Wax Bulld-Up. Self-polishing wax needs ammonia solution and scrubbing with stiff brush. For other waxes use solventtype wax remover, such as Mac Eachern Wax Stripper.

LU in a series Black-Stained Hardwood Floors. Place soft cloth soaked in concentrated oxatic acid on spot until stain is gone.

Stained Walls around heat registers can be cleaned with solution of trisodium phosphate sold at Beaver. Removing Cellulose Tape

from walls is difficult. Try heating it with warm iron. A petroleum solvent or nail polisher remover may then remove the

Ekço Step-On Can White, Avocado,

Poppy or Gold.

Plastic liner.

Solvease Floor & Wall Cleaner Pro-style, lifts

did and grease without scrubbing.

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141b. 148 Z-

Enameled sleet dustpan with

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297

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