

Let's talk about

HORSES

By
Jennifer
Barr

How many times have you driven along a country sideroad and met people on horseback cantering or galloping down the centre? The centre of the road is no place to canter, of course—unless you don't mind being an accident statistic—but I wonder how many riders are aware of the fact that cantering on a hard surface does untold damage to their horses' legs.

According to many vets, the hard surfaces of sideroads (even dirt roads) cause too much concussion on the front legs at a gallop. This concussion can make a horse's legs sore and eventually cause such diseases as Navicular (incurable); ringbone (incurable); and various other bone and ligament problems.

At the gallop or canter, the horse's weight is all on one foreleg for a portion of each stride. It is this strain coupled with a hard surface that does the damage.

So next time you want a good run, stay on grass or sand surfaces for your horse's sake. On the sideroads, stick to a walk or trot.

Friends keep raising their eyebrows at our ever-increasing menagerie, but isn't that what living in the country is all about? Most people move to the country in order to have a little fresh air, some space and "all the pets they or the kids desire." One usually finds this pales after a while—the pets, that is. Especially when mother ends up feeding the lot.

Married, I moved from a semi-urban environment to a large farm. Always an animal lover, I went hog-wild and rapidly acquired a fantastic amount of cats. The realization that I no longer had my mother to care for them—I was "mother" now—put somewhat of a damper on the project.

But we've still had quite a variety over the years. Currently we have a more controlled family than usual and the children are old enough to help look after the zoo. Four horses, two boarding horses, two donkeys are joined by two non-descript dogs (one is son, Patrick's), three beautiful cats—two nearly pure Persian and one pure-bred Himalayan, my pride and joy. Not to mention Petunia, the baby pig who will join us when she leaves her mother, Sebastian, Erica's guinea pig, and David the hamster.

Let the eyebrows climb. The joy we receive from our multitude far outweighs the costs in food and energy. I sincerely hope you gain similar benefits from your pets.

After all, isn't that the purpose?

Playground Report '74

Winnie Kroes is a playground leader for Halton Hills and will be informing the public each week on the progress in playground.

By Winnie Kroes
Well, to start things off, we have three playgrounds this year, which are located at M. Z. Bennett, Robert Little and Prospect Park. These playgrounds are open from nine until four with an hour off for lunch. Children ranging in age from six to 12 are invited to attend. Playground is over August fifteenth.

Each Friday we go on a trip. This past Friday we went to Marineland and Game Farm in Niagara Falls. Five hundred people left Acton and Georgetown on eight buses to see the show. The show included bears, elephants, a lion, tigers, dolphins, sea lions and of course Kandu the baby whale. It was a real enjoyable day. This Friday we are planning to go to Ontario Place.

There are other special events but they are up to the leaders themselves. Swimming is every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Besides the regular crafts, games, songs etc., we all hope to have accomplished a feeling of friendliness to ourselves, our parents, and our town and to share with them our ideas in making playground even better next year.

N.F.S. week

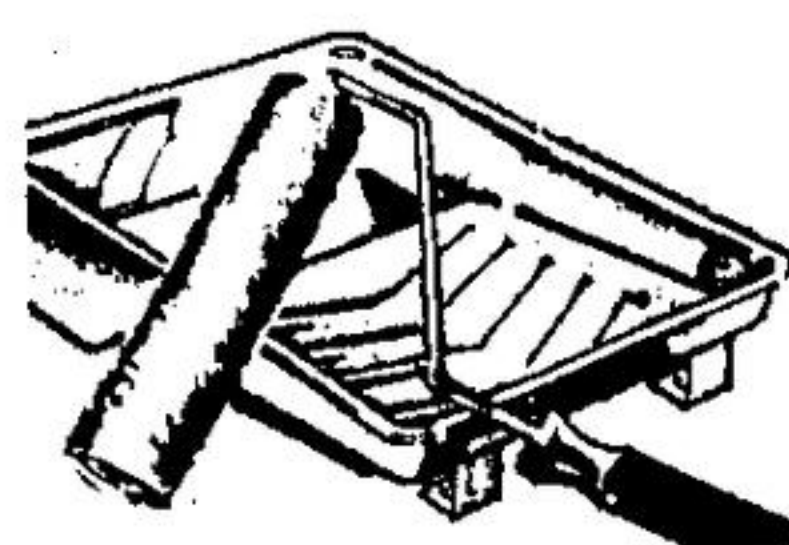
National Farm Safety week begins on July 25 and runs until July 31.

The Ontario Agricultural College farm and home week is being held July 9, 10 and 11 at the University of Guelph.

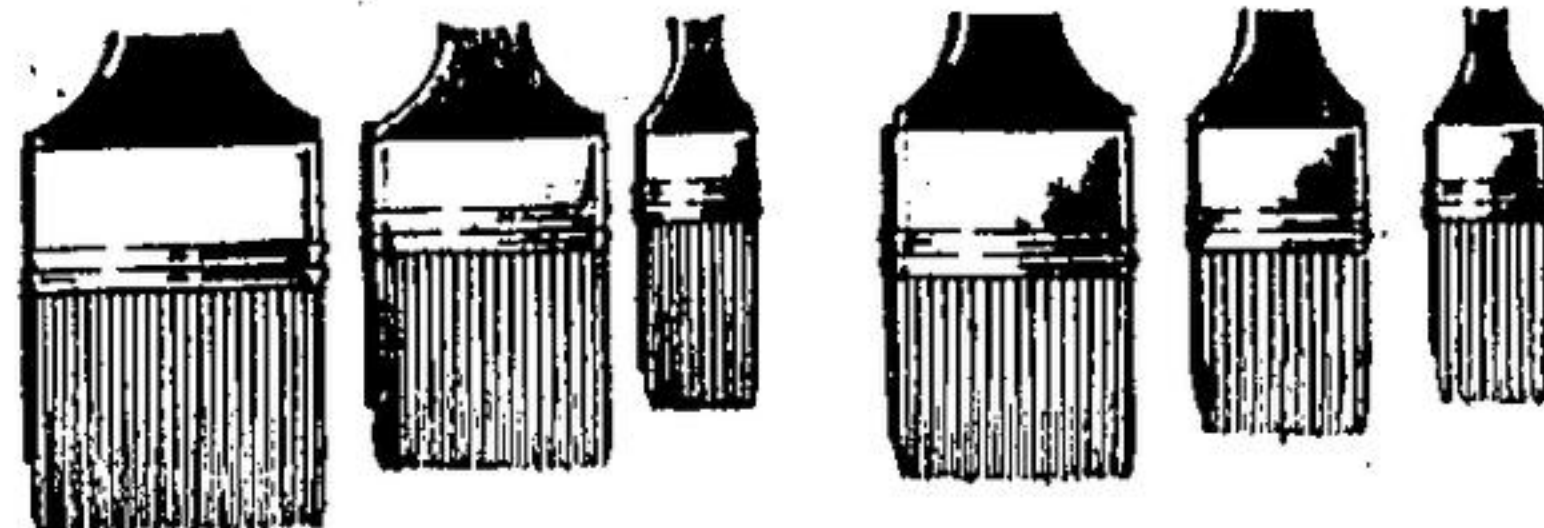
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