AMERICAN QUARTER HORSES (EYE TO EYE WITH HORSES) pdf

1: Any tips on how to administer eye drops? - Horsetopia Forum

*American Quarter Horses (Eye to Eye With Horses) [Lynn M. Stone] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Presents the history of the American quarter horse and describes the breed's unique abilities and physical characteristics.*

Advice What are Corneal Ulcers? Any time a corneal ulcer develops, bacterial and fungal infections must be considered. In all kinds of ulcers, iris and eye inflammation are present, and must be treated to preserve vision. The deeper an ulcer goes, the longer healing time will be, with possible corneal scarring, or even loss of an eye. If you notice any eye issue in your horse, prompt medical attention is needed, no matter how small the actual problem may seem. Corneal ulcers, or ulcerative keratitis, are breaks or abrasions in the layers of the cornea that can cause an inflammation, or keratitis. They can range from superficial injuries that affect only the epithelium, or topmost layer of the cornea, to deep perforations in the cornea that may cause an iris prolapse. Although they may initially appear mild, without treatment corneal ulcers can threaten the sight of an affected horse. Book First Walk Free! Symptoms of Corneal Ulcers in Horses Symptoms of a corneal ulcer are: Squinting Cloudiness or blue in the cornea Red or swollen eye Inability to tolerate bright sunlight Eye pain Eye darkening Types Ulcers can be classified by the depth of the ulceration, or by the cause. Superficial Ulcerations These type of ulcers or abrasions are not very deep, often involving only epithelial cell loss. If there is no infection, they can heal quickly. Melting Ulcer This type of ulcer is deeply infected, and causes white blood cells that produce enzymes to flood the area. Often in response to a bacterial infection, these enzymes progress the ulcer more quickly by digesting the collagen in the stroma, a layer of the cornea. It is characterized by a liquefied, grayish appearance surrounding the ulcer. These are deep ulcers that require immediate medical assistance, as the cornea can rupture, causing the iris to prolapse. Equine Ulcerative Keratomycosis This is an ulcer caused by a fungal invasion. Causes of Corneal Ulcers in Horses Causes of a corneal ulcer can include: Trauma Foreign bodies, such as dirt Eyelid disease Bacteria, such as Pseudomonas, Staphylococcus, and Streptococcus Fungal infection Herpesvirus infection Diagnosis of Corneal Ulcers in Horses After a complete eye exam, your veterinarian will use various testing methods to correctly diagnose an ulcer. A corneal cytology will be done. Cultures will be taken and tested for the presence of bacteria. If a fungal infection is suspected, the presence of fungal cells in the cornea can confirm it. If an ulcer is infected, melting, healing slowly, or not responding to treatments, antibiotic sensitivity tests may be performed, as well as additional culture tests. Treatment of Corneal Ulcers in Horses Treatment will depend on the depth of the ulcer and severity of infection, and must be administered as quickly as possible to prevent vision or eye loss. Small, superficial ulcers can be treated with broad spectrum or species-specific antibiotics. Topical atropine is used to dilate the eye, and pain medication is given to reduce eye pain. This should resolve the ulcer within 10 days. If a melting, deep, or infected ulcer is present, it will need more treatments on top of those already listed. Anti-collagenase and antiprotease therapy is administered, such as autologous serum, and can be given in a subpalpebral lavage system. This is tubing placed through the eyelid to allow frequent or long term therapy. In the case of a melting ulcer, anti-enzymatics may be administered, and surgery may be recommended to graft healthier eye tissue over the ulcer to promote healing. In slow healing ulcers caused by the herpes virus, the damaged, dead, or infected ulcerous tissue is removed, then treated with topical medication. In the case of a fungal infection, antifungal medication will be prescribed. A fungal ulcer often does not respond to the first round of treatment, and can take months to clear, causing more pain for your horse. Surgery to transplant a healthy cornea from a donor horse may be recommended in severe cases. Surgery may also be recommended in cases of a descemetoceles ulcer that cause the iris to prolapse, with deep ulcers that can cause eye rupture, or to increase corneal thickness. If the eye does rupture, it can cause further illness and pain for your horse, as well as eye loss. In such cases, removal of the eye can be recommended. Recovery of Corneal Ulcers in Horses The rate of recovery will vary, depending on the depth of the ulcer, the severity of infection, and the cause of the ulcer in your horse. While superficial ulcers can heal in just over a week with proper treatment, more severe cases can see scarring in the eye, treatments that continue over months, and even vision or

complete eye loss. If you are treating your horse for the ulcer at home, you may be given medications to administer. Be sure to keep your horse in low lighting until the ulcer is healed. Feed your horse hay on the ground to prevent debris from getting into his healing eye. You may also use a fly mask to protect the eye from debris, flies, and any further trauma.

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2: Eye to Eye with Horses - Encyclopedia Britannica

Eye examinations were performed on all the horses. The study team found that the five horses which had inherited the mutation from both parents were all myopic (short-sighted) in one or both eyes.

The anatomy of the equine eye[edit] The equine eye includes the eyeball and the surrounding muscles and structures, termed the adnexa. The eyeball[edit] The eyeball of the horse is not perfectly spherical, but rather is flattened anterior to posterior. However, research has found the horse does not have a ramped retina, as was once thought. The nervous tunic or retina is made up of cells which are extensions of the brain, coming off the optic nerve. These receptors are light-sensitive, and include cones , which are less light-sensitive, but allow the eye to see color and provide visual acuity, and rod cells , which are more light-sensitive, providing night vision, but only seeing light and dark differences. Since only two-thirds of the eye can receive light, the receptor cells do not need to cover the entire interior of the eye, and line only the area from pupil to the optic disk. The part of the retina covered by light-sensitive cells is therefore termed the pars-optica retinae, and the blind part of the eye is termed the pars-ceaca retinae. The optic disk of the eye, however, does not contain any of these light-sensitive cells, as it is where the optic nerve leaves to the brain, so is a blind spot within the eye. The choroid has a great deal of pigment, and is almost entirely made of blood vessels. The tapetum lucidum reflects light back onto the retina, allowing for greater absorption in dark conditions. The iris lies between the cornea and the lens , and not only gives the eye its color, see "eye color," below but also allows varying amounts of light to pass through its center hole, the pupil. The sclera white of the eye is made up of elastin and collagen. The cornea clear covering on the front of the eye is made up of connective tissue and bathed in lacrimal fluid and aqueous humor, which provides it nutrition, as it does not have access to blood vessels. The lens is made up of onion-like layers of tissue. Although usually dark brown, the iris may be a variety of colors, including blue, hazel, amber, and green. Blue eyes are not uncommon and are associated with white markings or patterns. The white spotting patterns most often linked to blue eyes are splashed white , frame overo , and sometimes sabino. Homozygous cream dilutes , sometimes called double-dilutes , always have light blue eyes to match their pale, cream-colored coats. The adnexa[edit] The adnexa of the eye, including the third eyelid seen in the left corner The eyelids are made up of three layers of tissue: The opening between the two lids forms the palpebral fissue. The upper eyelid is larger and can move more than the lower lid. Unlike humans, horses also have a third eyelid nictitating membrane to protect the cornea. It lies on the inside corner of the eye, and closes diagonally over it. The lacrimal apparatus produces tears, providing nutrition and moisture to the eye, as well as helping to remove any debris that may have entered. The apparatus includes the lacrimal gland and the accessory lacrimal gland, which produce the tears. Blinking spreads the fluid over the eye, before it drains via the nasolacrimal duct , which carries the lacrimal fluid into the nostril of the horse. A horse with the head held vertically will have binocular focus on objects near its feet. Therefore, as a horse jumps an obstacle, it briefly disappears from sight right before the horse takes off. The wide range of monocular vision has a trade-off: Therefore, the horse has a smaller field of depth perception than a human. To use binocular vision on a closer object near the ground, such as a snake or threat to its feet, the horse drops its nose and looks downward with its neck somewhat arched. A horse will raise or lower its head to increase its range of binocular vision. They therefore will tilt or raise their heads, to help place the objects within the area of the visual streak. The horse is very sensitive to motion, as motion is usually the first alert that a predator is approaching. Such motion is usually first detected in their periphery, where they have poor visual acuity, and horses will usually act defensive and run if something suddenly moves into their peripheral field of vision. Color vision[edit] A representation of how a horse possibly sees a red or a green apple bottom compared to how red or green apples are usually seen by most humans top Horses are not color blind , they have two-color, or dichromatic vision. This means they distinguish colors in two wavelength regions of visible light, compared to the three-color trichromic vision of most humans. In other words, horses naturally see the blue and green colors of the spectrum and the color variations based upon them, but cannot distinguish red. Research indicates that their color vision is somewhat like red-green color blindness in humans, in which certain colors,

especially red and related colors, appear more green. Therefore, most people paint their jump rails a different color from the footing or the surrounding landscape so that the horse may better judge the obstacle on the approach. Studies have shown that horses are less likely to knock a rail down when the jump is painted with two or more contrasting colors, rather than one single color. Sensitivity to light[edit] Mare and foal with eyeshine from the tapetum lucidum Horses have more rods than humans, a high proportion of rods to cones about This also gives them better vision on slightly cloudy days, relative to bright, sunny days. When light decreases to nearly dark, horses can not discriminate between different shapes, but remain able to negotiate around the enclosure and testing equipment in conditions where humans in the same enclosure "stumbled into walls, apparatus, pylons, and even the horse itself. This is a consideration during training, as certain tasks, such as loading into a trailer, may frighten a horse simply because it cannot see adequately. It is also important in riding, as quickly moving from light to dark or vice versa will temporarily make it difficult for the animal to judge what is in front of it. Wild horses, however, are usually far-sighted. Clinical signs of injury or disease include swelling, redness, and abnormal discharge. Untreated, even relatively minor eye injuries may develop complications that could lead to blindness. Common injuries and diseases of the eye include:

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3: A guide to loving and caring for blind horses

The American Quarter Horse Association, located in Amarillo, Texas, is the world's largest equine breed registry and membership organization. AQHA members share a passion for the American Quarter Horse and the vast lifestyle created by the world's most popular horse.

Horse owners should take every eye injury very seriously. Thomas Lenz February 25, Because horses have large, prominent eyes on the sides of their heads, they are more prone to eye injuries than other domestic animals. Most eye injuries result from a variety of causes â€" foreign objects such as dirt, sand or small rocks thrown into the eye during racing or running; scratches from hay stems, weeds or tree limbs; or accidental trauma from humans. Self-inflicted injuries occur when the horse makes a sudden head movement and contacts a trailer latch, hook, protruding nail, fence, bucket handle or some other object. Because the cornea almost entirely fills the space between the eyelids, corneal ulcers, abrasions and lacerations are the most common of all eye injuries. Only two to three days are required for some corneal injuries to become sight-threatening. It is critical for you to recognize the early signs that accompany corneal injuries and to seek prompt medical attention. In addition to recognizing the signs of eye injuries, a horseman needs to recognize signs of good and bad conformation. Eye injuries are extremely painful. The eyelids might swell, and redness could occur in the white part of the eye. Inflammation, which often accompanies eye injuries, can lead to a gray cloudiness of the cornea and, if severe enough, long-term scarring. Because the cornea is normally inhabited by bacteria and fungi, there is a great potential for even minor injuries to become infected. Minor infections can rapidly progress and result in permanent damage in as little as 24 hours if left unattended. If Your Horse Injures His Eye Have him examined as soon as possible by a veterinarian to determine the type and extent of injury. Wait to apply medication until after the examination because it could interfere with diagnostic tests. Do not reuse ointments. Used medication could be contaminated and cause infection if applied to a freshly injured eye. Therapy Therapy will be dictated by the type and extent of the injury, the complications encountered and the disposition of the animal. Therapy involves removing the cause, if still present, and controlling the infection with topical or injectable antibiotics, and ophthalmic atropine and oral nonsterodial anti-inflammatories. Atropine ointment is placed in the eye to dilate the pupil, which prevents adhesion formation in the iris and relieves pain. Did you know that complications and injury can result from certain types of conformation? AQHA members get a discount! Because atropine dilates the pupil, the horse should be kept in a dark stall and out of sunlight throughout the treatment period and several days after. Corneal injuries require aggressive therapy that can include treatment of the affected eye four to six times a day. Because corneal injuries can heal or worsen quickly, the eye should be re-evaluated by a vet 24 to 48 hours after treatment has begun. Prognosis With appropriate treatment, most corneal injuries have successful outcomes. The success rate is directly proportional to the speed with which the eye is examined and treatment initiated. Remember that an eye injury is a true emergency. The difference of a few hours can have a dramatic effect on the outcome. For more information on keeping your horse healthy, consult an American Association of Equine Practitioners member veterinarian in your area. For a list of members, log onto www.

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4: Eye to eye: Sight problems in Icelandic horses with "Silver" mutation explored - www.enganchecubano.c

The American Quarter Horse Foundation is dedicated to advancing the American Quarter Horse and the partnership it shares with humans. Supports equine research, industry scholarships, equine-assisted therapies and the preservation of the Quarter Horse's history.

Researchers from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences set out to learn more about the refractive state of eyes in Icelandic horses with the mutation. The so-called Silver or Silver Dapple gene primarily influences the black base coat color, usually diluting a black mane and tail to flaxen, and a black body to brown or chocolate. Black silvers often have sooty white or silver manes and tails with a flat, non-fading, dark grey or grey-brown dappled body coat. Mature bay silvers tend to have reddish bodies, though they can appear chocolate. Manes and tails are usually sooty silver, darker at the roots. The silver dilution is inherited as a dominant trait. A Black Silver horse exhibiting strongly diluted long hair with darker roots and flat gray, dappled body colour. The unusual coat colours arise from a missense mutation in the premelanosome protein PMEL gene. Unfortunately, horses that inherit the mutated gene from each parent are commonly affected by multiple eye problems that can cause sight problems and even blindness. Horses that inherit it from only one parent have less severe clinical signs. It is still unknown if the vision is impaired in horses that inherit the mutation from only one parent. Their study, the findings of which have been published in the journal BMC Veterinary Research, used Icelandic horses, all of whom were tested for the missense mutation in the PMEL gene. Seventy-one of them were found to have inherited the gene from one of their parents, while five of the horses were homozygous, having inherited the mutation from both parents. The remainder of the horses did not carry the gene at all. Eye examinations were performed on all the horses. The study team found that the five horses which had inherited the mutation from both parents were all myopic short-sighted in one or both eyes regardless of age. Up to the age of 16, no differences in the refractive state of the eyes could be observed between horses that had inherited the mutation from one parent and those that did not carry it at all. However, over 16, the horses carrying the mutated gene were more short-sighted that those without. The observed shift towards myopia in elderly horses carrying the gene from one parent suggested that the Silver mutation exerted a slow, progressive effect on the optics of the eye, they said. The refractive state of the eye in Icelandic horses with the Silver mutation Maria K. BMC Veterinary Research

5: Foundation Quarter Horse History - Old Sorrel - AQHA Hall of Fame Horse

Encyclopedia Britannica, Stunning photography portraying the most popular horse breeds at work, rest, and play helps children understand why these amazing animals capture our imagination and have a special place in our hearts.

Hundreds of saddle horses are required to run the ranch. Most of the cowboys are vaqueros of Mexican and Indian descent who have lived on the ranch all their lives. Cattle were made to be worked by horsemen and the King Ranch vaqueros are among the greatest. They savvy horses and cows. They know and demand good cow horses. This is why the ranch started its horse program which eventually resulted in the now famous King Ranch Quarter Horses. Although Bob Kleberg was not sold on the Thoroughbred as a cow horse the South Texas Billy horse did not fill his eye either. He wanted to eliminate some Thoroughbred characteristics and combine the good features of the Thoroughbred with the temperament, maneuverability and cow sense of the Quarter Horse. Caesar Kleberg, who ran the Canales division of the ranch, saw eye to eye with Bob, and it was Caesar who actually purchased the prototype for the King Ranch Quarter Horses, the horse that was to become known as The Old Sorrel. The colt was about six months old when Caesar first saw him in When the Clegg horse arrived at the ranch, it was named George Clegg after its breeder. However, as the years went by, the vaqueros around the ranch just referred to him as "El Alazan Viejo" or The Old Sorrel. He was registered as The Old Sorrel. When he was broken, both Bob and Caesar Kleberg rode him until they were satisfied he could do it all. Some of the things they were especially looking for and found were temperament, cow sense, endurance, intelligence, and a good mouth. Bob Kleberg knew exactly how he was going to breed the horse he wanted. He had been most successful in setting characteristics not long before when he created the Santa Gertrudis cattle. He also had some Quarter mares which he planned to use in his program. It must not be assumed that Solis was selected immediately from the first colt crop. There had been a continual elimination process which Kleberg supervised. The bottom half were gelded and put in with saddle horses. The top half were carefully broken and ridden by the family and the other top horsemen. Then they were ranked in all their activities. Selected fillies were also put through this routine. When the top three or four stallions were selected, each was given a carefully screened group of half sisters and some hand-picked Quarter mares for an outcross. When the foals of this second cross arrived, they went through the same process of culling and selection. It was then decided that Solis was best. In , when the first registrations were being made by the association, eight sons and grandsons of The Old Sorrel were being bred to bands of mares who were daughters and granddaughters of The Old Sorrel. Something like three hundred mares were involved in the program, and another five hundred of both sexes were still being tested and culled. It was from these groups that the horses were selected to be registered. Just over one hundred were registered. There were also ten or twelve mares by Chicaro. In almost every case, The Old Sorrel was the sire or grandsire. Take Wimpy, for example. The son had a Thoroughbred dam and the daughter a Quarter Horse dam. This breeding employed by Kleberg may seem a little close, or tight, as inbreeding is sometimes called. It may be tight for the average breeder with only thirty or forty mares, but when undertaken by a master breeder and geneticist like Bob Kleberg--using several hundreds of mares--it works. Proper individuals and careful culling insures success, and the desired characteristics are set. All were top horses. It is to the credit of The Old Sorrel that his colts have been outstanding in all activities, roping, cutting, racing, and showing. They are all-round horses. This was a Brahma-Shorthorn cross that was ideally suited for the hot, damp climate of the Gulf Coast. Before the creation of the AQHA, he was well on the way toward creating his own breed of sorrel cow horse, by crossing the Thoroughbred and the Quarter Horse. We were escorted on our rounds by Bob Kleberg, Dr. Northway, and Lauro Larry Cavazos. He had been intimately connected with both the Santa Gertrudis and the Quarter Horse programs. Cavazos was the ranch foreman. He knew the history and location of every animal on that ranch. Incidentally, he was one of the two or three outstanding horsemen I have ever known. Reference is made here to the following works by the above men: A Story of Two Centuries.

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6: AQHA: Eye Injuries

American Quarter Horses Eye to Eye with Horses This book discusses the history of American quarter horses, what they look like, and facts about owning one.

Horses manifest varying degrees of blindness as cataracts mature. Very small incipient lens opacities are common and not associated with blindness. As cataracts mature and become more opaque, the degree of blindness increases. Phacoemulsification cataract surgery is the most useful technique for the horse. This extracapsular procedure through a 3. The emulsified lens is then aspirated from the eye while intraocular pressure is maintained. The thin posterior capsule is left intact. There is little inflammation postoperatively in most horses following phacoemulsification cataract surgery and a quicker return to normal activity with phacoemulsification than other surgical techniques. The results of cataract surgery in foals by experienced veterinary ophthalmologists are generally very good, but the cataract surgical results in adult horses with cataracts caused by ERU are often poor. The problem is that new blood vessels form on the iris and anterior lens capsule in the eyes with ERU and they can bleed during the surgeries. The surgeon often cannot stop the hemorrhage and severe hyphema results. It is a group of immune-mediated diseases of multiple origins cause inflammation of the iris, ciliary body, choroid, and retina Figure Recurrence of anterior uveitis is the hallmark of ERU. While the pathogenesis is clearly immune-mediated, the specific causes of ERU are unknown. Hypersensitivity to infectious agents such as Leptospira interrogans is commonly implicated as a possible cause. Leptospiral titers for L. Positive titers for serovars of 1: Serology for Leptospira pomona can be used for prognostic evaluation of the likelihood of blindness occurring in one or both eyes. A complete ophthalmic examination should be performed to determine if the uveitis is associated with a corneal ulcer. The presence of a corneal ulcer precludes the use of topical corticosteroids, but not topical nonsteroidal drugs. Inflammation of the brain is found in ERU. Irreversible blindness is a common sequelae to ERU, and is due to retinal detachment, cataract formation or severe chorioretinitis. ERU Therapy The major goals of treatment of ERU are to preserve vision, decrease pain, and prevent or minimize the recurrence of attacks of uveitis. Specific prevention and therapy is often difficult, as the etiology is not identified in each case. Treatment should be aggressive and prompt in order to maintain the transparency of the ocular structures. Medications should be slowly reduced in frequency once clinical signs abate. Therapy can last for weeks or months and should not be stopped abruptly or recurrence may occur. Some horses with ERU require life-long therapy! Overall, the prognosis for ERU is usually poor for a cure to preserve vision, but the disease can be controlled. The Appaloosa breed seems to suffer from the most severe cases. Anti-inflammatory medications, specifically corticosteroids and nonsteroidal drugs, are used to control the generally intense intraocular inflammation that can lead to blindness. Prednisolone acetate or dexamethasone should be applied initially. When the frequent application of topical steroids is not practical, the use of subconjunctival corticosteroids may be used. Systemic corticosteroids may be beneficial in severe, refractory cases of ERU, but pose some risk of inducing laminitis and should be used with caution. The nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs NSAID can provide additive anti-inflammatory effects to the corticosteroids, and are effective at reducing the intraocular inflammation when a corneal ulcer is present. Cyclosporine A can be effective topically for ERU. Flunixin meglumine, phenylbutazone, or aspirin are frequently used systemically to control intraocular inflammation. Some horses become refractory to the beneficial effects of these medications, and it may be necessary to switch to one of the other NSAID to ameliorate the clinical signs of ERU. Topical atropine minimizes synechiae formation by inducing mydriasis, and alleviates some of the pain of ERU by relieving spasm of ciliary body muscles. The reasons for this are not known. Cataracts occur in a high percentage of cases post-vitrectomy in both regions. Retinal detachment can also occur postoperatively. Sustained release suprachoroidal cyclosporine A implants may also be beneficial to treating ERU. This intraocular pressure IOP averages 23 mmHg in the horse eye. Glaucoma is associated with ERU. It is most common in Appaloosas. Therapy for the uveitis and laser therapy for the glaucoma is recommended. Cases are also noted in Thoroughbreds, Paso Finos, and Standardbreds. Clinical signs include visual impairment in dim light with

generally normal vision in daylight, and behavioral uneasiness and unpredictability occurring at night. CSNB does not generally progress, hence its name, but cases of progression to vision difficulties in the daytime are noted. Figure 17 Ophthalmoscopic examination is normal Figure Diagnosis is by clinical signs, breed, and ERG with decreased scotopic b-wave amplitude and a large negative, monotonic a-wave. CSNB appears to be caused by functional abnormality of neurotransmission in the middle retina. There is no therapy for this condition but affected animals should not be bred. Acutely blind horses are extremely agitated, anxious and dangerous. Horses can adapt amazingly well to blindness, whether unilateral or bilateral, if allowed to adjust to their new condition. Several internet websites are devoted to the care of blind horses and other blind animals. Congenital stationary night blindness CSNB 2.

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7: Wild Horses: Eye to Eye with Horses by Lynn M. Stone

eye on royal. m, quarter horse, eye on royal quarter horse: royal sovereign gr quarter horse # beduino gr thoroughbred (usa) romany royal.*

Horses notice the quality of our gaze and sense our intentions, writes equine-guided life coach Laura Williams, who advocates for ethical and equal treatment of horses as partners in learning. She remains there with her Russian husband and her horses. Laura teaches clinics and workshops internationally. Walk amidst any herd and, if you look closely, you will notice that the horses are watching you. Their heads may be up and alert, or down munching grass. They may be facing you or turned to the side. They may even have their bums toward you. But they see you. Their wide-angle view with eyes strategically placed on the sides of their heads allows them to see nearly full circle, with the exception of right under their noses and directly behind them. As you walk, you will notice that they are tracking your movement and, at once, tracking the eyes of the other herd members, too. Their survival historically depends on noticing how the other horses are reacting to any given situation. The first signals are noted in the eye. Do you see the signals, too? Where is the focus of the herd? Of any particular horse? Is it on you? Is it on the other horses? Or is it on both at the same time? As you draw near, can you notice the exact moment when the horse switches focus from a wide-angle view or something else â€¦ to you? That is the moment I look for before stepping into a space of communication with horses. I notice the subtle shift of the eye to meet my own, the softening of the gaze, then the blink, the sigh. What is it that you have come to say? As soon as I notice this momentâ€¦I stop, I pause. Then I wait for the horse to ask what comes next. Does the horse welcome me deeper into the space with soft eyes and lips, or does he show worry about my approach with not so subtle tail flicks or ear pins. Is it wide and wary, suggesting the horse is ready to walk off? Or is it warm and inviting, open to making a connection? Whether I am on the ground or in the saddle, making eye contact with my horse is key to establishing a connection. When I connect with a horse eye to eye, I also connect to my breath, to the ground through my feet, and I make my intention clear: I come with love. You can trust me. They say the positioning of our eyes marks us as a predator and can be threatening to the horse. But I believe horses are smarter than that and can read beyond our physical features. When dealing with my own horses, of course, they know very well I am not about to eat them for lunch. Making eye contact is the least we can do for our horses. Horses notice the quality of our gaze, they sense the intention with which we approach, and they feel the emotion behind it. Are my eyes soft, glowing, full of wonder, and seeking to connect? Or are they hard and determined, seeing the horse as a subject to train or overpower? Do my eyes show that I am not fully present, that I have somewhere else to be? Is my gaze warm and welcoming, or cold and predatory? A horse notices this and reacts accordingly. So go ahead, meet your horses eye to eye. Show up in your truth and let them know that you see them. Track where the attention goes by following the eye as you work with your horse. This small, humble gesture is pregnant with meaning. You are open to having meaningful conversations and ensuring neither side of the dialogue is ignored.

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8: American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame - Wikipedia

Making eye contact is the least we can do for our horses., suggests Laura Williams. Horses notice the quality of our gaze, they sense the intention with which we approach, and they feel the.

Cutting Horse, a discipline within Western Riding Styles. Article and Photos Copyrighted - see credits below. In the discipline of cutting, the cutting horse is meticulously trained to work on his own in a duel of instincts. His opponent is the cow, and the horse must anticipate every move the cow wants to make, then block the cow with his own movements, as quick, sure and deft as any high-star athlete. Cattle are dedicated herd animals and feel safe only when they are part of the herd, which means being in the herd, and they will do absolutely all they can do to stay in the herd. From occasional friendly contests to see whose horse was best, this equestrian sport discipline was developed, which draws loads of spectators and has grown to be an industry in itself, with many dedicated breeders of generations of proven cow horses. This sport awards prize monies unheard of in other events, especially in the aged events, the futurities and the superstakes and derbies. Dominating this fascinating sport is the American Quarter Horse, which was especially bred for the job for many decades and is without equal as a cutting horse. The fact that American Paint Horses have won major events as well does not disprove this, as they are entirely based on Quarter Horse breeding. The cutter enters the ring, with four helpers, two of which are so-called corner men who keep the cattle from spreading to the sides; they also help the cutter bring out a group and make his cut. The two others are called turnback men and are keeping a cow that is being worked from bolting to the far end of the ring, pushing that cow back to the cutter so his horse can show to the best of his ability. The cutting horse continually blocks the cow from returning to her pals. When she finds she is not able to return to the herd, she will try to break in the opposite direction to escape the pressure. The turnback riders are there to prevent that, but their job is also to gauge the pressure on the cow when turning her back towards the herd, according to the ability of the performing horse. The cutter has 2. He may peel off a cow from the fringes of the herd, but must show at least one so-called deep cut, taking his cutting horse deep into the herd and bringing out the cow he wants to work. He must do that without disturbing the herd. To make his cut separate a cow and keep her from returning to the herd , he normally brings out a bunch of cows, lets them slowly break back to the herd, until finally there is only the one left he chose to work, preferably in the middle of the pen. Up to this point, the rider may use his reins to steer his horse, but must now drop his reins, letting the horse work on his own. A good cutting horse will immediately be electrified and watch that cow intensely, gathering himself to be able to explode in either direction, usually lowering his head to be at the same level with the cow. The cow is eye to eye with the horse and may pause for an instant, but then the game, the duel of instincts begins. Time and again, the cow tries to return to the herd, only to be stopped repeatedly by the horse and kept isolated. When the cow moves or swerves, etc. He must not use the reins to direct the horse, and every time he might pick up his rein hand ever so slightly will result in a 1-point penalty, regardless whether the reins became taut or not. A rider may use his legs and spurs to help his horse, as long as he does not touch the horse in front of the cinch, but must not use his reins, or even appear like he did. He also must not try to help or influence his horse by leaning in the direction he anticipates the cow to move. TURNING DOWN A COW It is possible to quit working a cow that the cutter considers a poor one, one that is too wild, or too lazy, but the rider of a cutting horse is only allowed to quit a cow if she is either standing still on all four feet, or is turned away from him. In this situation the turnback men come in as helpers, too, offering an opening to a cow that proved to be an undesirable one, so she will turn away from the cutter. The cutter may then go back to the herd to get himself a new cow out to work. There is no limit as to the number of cows he may work, and no minimum, although it would certainly be asking for trouble if he made his cutting horse work only one cow for the entire 2. Should the cow get to the back fence to the left and right of the herd that would be a penalty. The heaviest penalty of 5 points is incurred if the cow makes it clear back to the herd, running by the horse. But a back fence, losing a cow, picking up on the reins are not the only penalties the cutting horse can incur. Whenever the horse is late following a move of the cow - without actually losing her - it is called a loss of working advantage and is

penalized one point. Other penalties are charged for biting or kicking the cow, failing to isolate a single cow, shouting at a cow, and in other instances too numerous to be mentioned here. Judges add or subtract from the seventy points each competitor has at the get go. A horse that has real cow sense, that takes an interest in the work and faces the cow eagerly, that has developed true cutting horse mental skills to out-think the cow and anticipate moves, is the ideal horse. But such a horse must also have incredible athletic abilities. To cut a tough cow is one of the most strenuous activity in equine sports, requiring a horse to be extremely physical. While a roping horse should follow the cow, and a reined cow horse controls and dominates the cow in a different way, the cutter needs to block and fall back. An unschooled or poorly schooled horse tends to get closer and closer to the cow while working it, which is a fault leaking. Working up too close can actually give a cow a better chance to slip past the horse. Balance, athletic moves, quick stops, turns on the hind legs, calmness in the herd, smooth moves on a lose rein, all define the good and highly competitive cutting horse, but the inborn cow sense sharpened to an effective tool is the high point. On a working ranch, cowboys must separate cattle from time to time, or occasionally separate out one cow, and this requirement in ranch work is where the cutting skills of a horse first became essential. The western horse has a long legacy as a stock horse and this is probably how the instinctive cow sense eventually became innate in some bloodlines. When a horse really ducks and dodges with a passion while heading a cow, you can be sure that the horse has apart from his training - an innate cutting horse nature. A good set of withers is important too, because no matter how tight you cinch the saddle, if the horse doesn t have good withers the saddle will shift during all the abrupt movements. Good withers make life easier on both horse and rider. Basically, athletic ability, cow sense, and sound conformation are all needed for a good cutting horse. Cutters do not have to have skills normally associated with riding, but must know the rules, must have control of their rein hand not to use it, must be able to stay on board, but most of all, must know cattle. Picking the right cow is a great part of success in cutting, so is to know when to quit a cow. Just as the cutting horse has learned to anticipate the movements of a cow -- to read a cow it is called -- so must the rider be able to read a cow. A competent cutter can do a decent job on an average horse, and may even defeat a good horse. Photos from left to right. Reproduction of any portion of this copyrighted website without written permission of the publisher is prohibited and subject to legal action. Popular Breeds utilized in Cutting:

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