



Life with

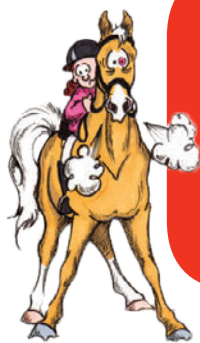


HORSES

MORGANE
SCHMIDT



Is Never



ORDERLY



CARTOONS FOR RIDERS WHO ARE IN ON THE JOKE

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Finding the 'Perfect' Breeches:

A quest on par with the search for the holy grail.



High Waisted Breeches

These make you look like you just stepped out of the days of yore. They are a super choice though if 'the ladies' would like a little 'extra support.'



Light Weight Breeches

An excellent selection for those wishing to share every panty-line, bump, bulge, and imperfection with the world. For everyone else these are probably a poor choice.

Low Rise Breeches

These work best for those pranksters who enjoy mooning people and those who delight in indulging an OCD-like compulsion to pull up their pants.



Unfortunate Seam Placement Breeches

These are for the purely masochistic and should probably be avoided by the general populace.



Like finding a unicorn....

Actually, a unicorn is easier and less painful to find.

For those of us not gifted with bodies like Greek gods, breeches-like bikinis and form-fitting evening wear—are just one of those things that take a lot of work to get right. Ideally you can find a pair that are both comfortable and flattering. Sometimes, though, I've been known to settle for simply comfortable and not entirely grotesque. Life's a compromise.



"Seriously? WHY?
Is this how you
show your gratitude
for all I do to
take care of you?"

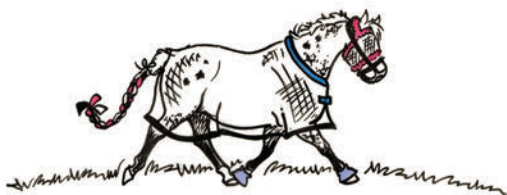
"Nope. It's just because I can."

Poo soup...
one more way to ruin your day.
Because why shouldn't horses poop in little
bowls of water too? Oh, yeah, because then
we get to clean them. Ugh.

Who knew steel shoes
don't float? My horses are masters of
losing things they don't like. Unfortunately,
I'm less of a master at finding said things
until they have begun to
properly decay.

"I'll give you a hint:
you'd have better luck finding
the Lost City of Atlantis or
the Loch Ness Monster."

Equine Scavenger Hunt:





A merry chase, indeed.
It would seem negotiations have
gone south. A great cardiac routine
for both horse and rider.

Horse Forums... An Inevitable Train Wreck

Susie Q. [Posts: 4]

Hi everyone! My Arab gelding has been acting buddy sour when I take him away from his pasture mate. Do you think it would help to separate them?

DressageLurver [Posts: 5,921]

I can't believe you have TWO horses turned out TOGETHER! Don't you know they could lame each other? I HIGHLY suggest you get them both their own 12x12 stall ASAP!

Nat-Chew-Rowel [Posts: 107]

You can't separate them! It's unhealthy. They need the physical contact of their herd members. You should play 7 Games with your gelding until you two reach a new level of oneness and understanding, then he will follow you willingly wherever you want to go and be your best friend.

MunByProx [Posts: 619]

Have you had the vet out? He's probably lame. You need to rule out lameness before you do anything else. He may be nappy to leave his friend because he's sore.

HoofBeatz [Posts: 89]

Why would you even own an Arab?! They're crazy! Get rid of them both!

QtPie [Posts: 1]

RIDING HORSESSS ISSS MEEAANNN!

Kollector [Posts: 459]

My neighbor once separated her two horses. One then ran through a fence to get to the other and shredded his legs up. It was pretty terrible. I'd get a third horse to keep one company.

R.A.R.A! [Posts: 5]

I agree with QtPie! You shouldn't even RIDE horses! You're basically enslaving sentient beings to do your bidding. It's just wrong!

AlterHalter65 [Posts: 15]

The OP is a TROLL and just trying to stir up stuff because she has a beef with the barn manager!

GitErDone1455 [Posts: 329]

Of course you should separate them!! That's the only way they will learn.

RailBird [Posts: 21,876]

I can't believe the awful advice you're getting! Everyone here is a total idiot. I sent you a PM.

OldNag [Posts: 25,078] Ignore RailBird, she's always got her panties in a knot. I'm not sure why they still let her post here!

PreVet [Posts: 324]

It's ulcers. It's always ulcers.

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Because we all know advice from the Interwebz is always super solid...and super snarky. Who doesn't enjoy reading a good train wreck from the comfort of their own home (preferably with some wine or a latte)? Of course, as much as I may poke fun at said forums, I have gotten some pretty decent advice on a few of them (you just have to be able to filter through the more "speshul" responses).

"Confirming my suspicion that horse people are all crazy."



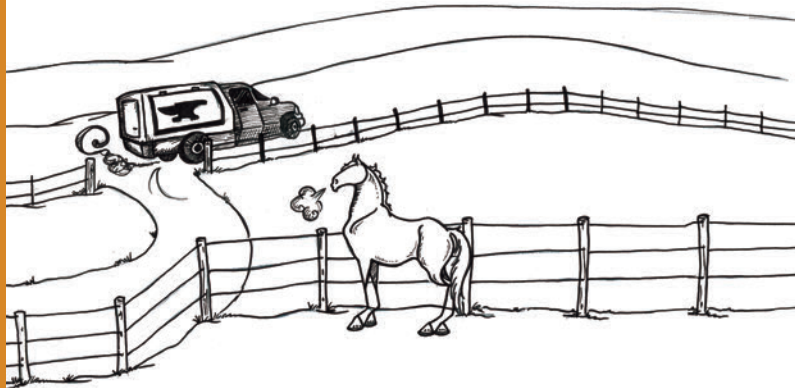
"What are you doing?"



"Ah. Indeed."

Horses (at least mine) seem to have myriad ways to test our patience and spend our money. Of course, sometimes it really is a toss-up if it's worse to be on the sending or receiving end of these sorts of calls.

Phone Calls:

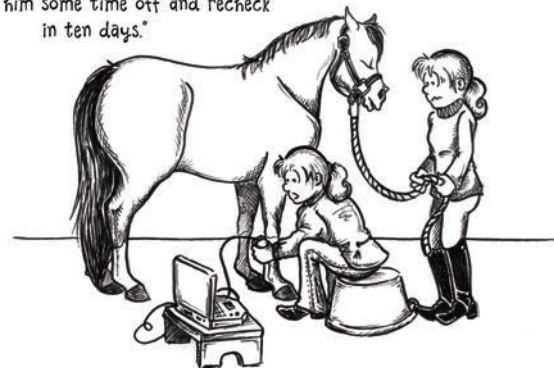


Some are more painful than others.



What Your Vet Says:

"So it appears that the vessel is thickened and active but I don't see any holes or obvious tears to the superficial flexor tendon, the deep digital flexor tendon, or the suspensory ligament. Let's give him some time off and recheck in ten days."



What You Hear:

"Blaß, blaß, blaß. THICKENED AND ACTIVE, blaß, blaß, TEARS, blaß, blaß, SUPERFICIAL FLEXOR TENDON, DEEP DIGITAL FLEXOR TENDON, SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT, blaß, blaß, TIME OFF..."

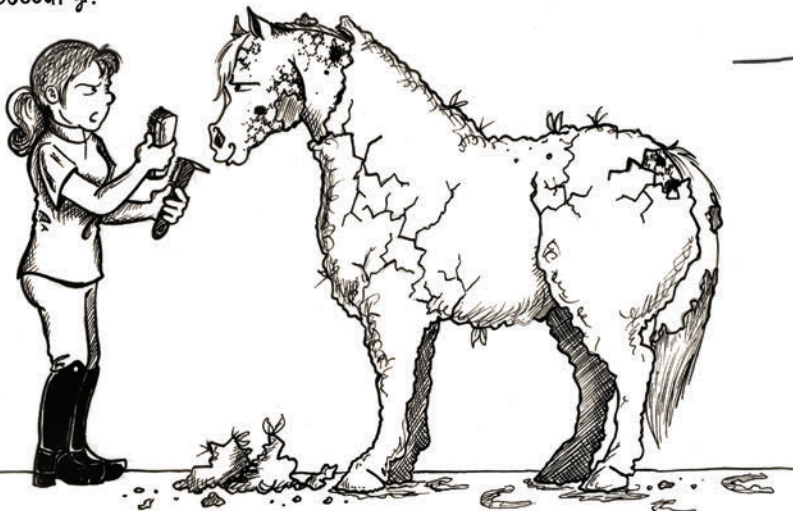


Usually I consider myself fairly intelligent. I can generally follow a conversation and read for comprehension; sometimes I even add insightful comments. Unfortunately, all that goes out the window when my horse has maimed himself and the vet is involved. At that point, usually when the vet is explaining what's up, my brain takes a momentary hiatus and all I hear is the potential doom. It's a super-fun skill.

On a schedule?
Bahahaha! Good luck with that.
It never fails. Horses are always a huge
time suck, but they turn into a time
black hole if you're even remotely
in a hurry. Good thing I've
conditioned everyone to my
perpetual tardiness.

When you ONLY have an Hour to Ride:

"Really? Was this
necessary?"



Famous Last Words:

"This horse is BOMBPROOF!
Beginners ride this horse. My GRANDMA rides
this horse!"



Define "ride." And is your grandma a professional
bronc rider? My dad always said never to brag on a
horse because the horse would always let you down.
While that seems to be perhaps overly pessimistic, I
can't help but think there's a grain of truth to it. Not
because horses want to let us down, but because
Murphy's law is a force to be reckoned with.

How to Read Horse Sale Ads:



"Is sensitive to his surroundings."

READ AS: He spooks at everything from butterflies, to invisible trolls, to rogue nations."

"Horse is very animated/spirited."

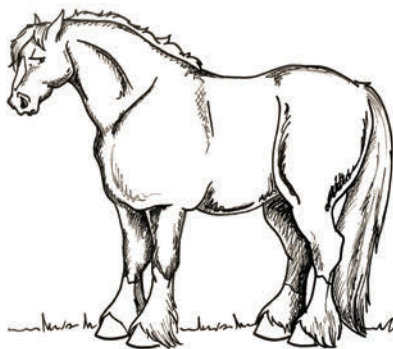
READ AS: He sees dead people and will frequently give you the opportunity to join them."

"Needs experienced rider."

READ AS: Horse NOT for the faint of heart (or those without hearty health insurance)."

"Homebred."

READ AS: This horse may very well kill you due to lack of manners."



"He's 16+ hands tall."
READ AS: He's probably 15.2, MAYBE 15.3 on a good day while being measured on a hill...

"He's a good eater."
READ AS: I've got nothing better to say about this horse.

"Requires a tactful rider."
READ AS: Must have the hands of a bomb squad technician and the balls of Chuck Norris.



"Beautiful Warmblood cross." (No lineage listed)
READ AS: Horse is of questionable origins but is too big and slow to be a TB.

-OR-

We just really want to jack the price up another 10k by claiming he's a warmblood of some sort.

"Her 1/2 sister is a National Champion."
READ AS: She's obviously not her sister (which is why we are selling her), but you can always dream and hope the parent they shared was the one responsible for the talented genes.

"Eligible for registration..."
READ AS: With a questionable registry *if* you can track down the papers documenting her lineage for the past five generations on both sides and pay a hefty fee.

Who hasn't had the "fun" of horse shopping and being shown horses that weren't quite what they'd seemed in their ads? It's almost as much fun as going on a blind date with someone billed as 6'2" with a wicked sense of humor and instead meeting a 5'7" wallflower who thinks horses are frightening (true story...). In any event, in an effort to avoid those sorts of scenarios, I've compiled this handy little list to help you better translate what those ads are really saying.

"Always in the ribbons."

READ AS: They were mostly pink and green in shows with no more than 5 or 6 per class which is why we didn't specify her placings.



"Aged gelding."

READ AS: See image below.

"Broke to death."

READ AS: See image below.

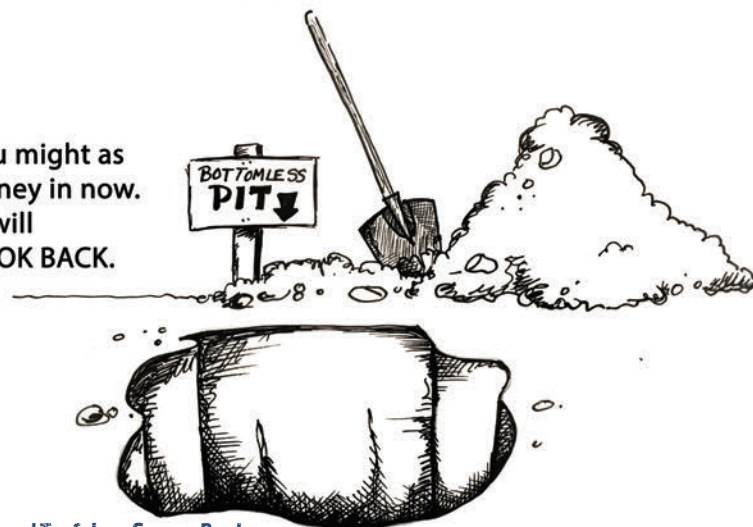
"Needs some maintenance."

READ AS: See image below.



"Free horse."

READ AS: This is a farce; you might as well start dropping your money in now. If you're smart you will
RUN AWAY AND NEVER LOOK BACK.



Horse Order Form:

Find your next Soulmate!

Breed*: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____ Height: _____

***ADD 10% TO BASE PRICE FOR WARBLOOD BREEDS**

Color:

- Chestnut
- Bay
- Grey
- Black*
- Palomino*
- Buckskin*
- Paint
- Appy
- Roan
- Cremello
- Perlino
- OTHER (please specify): _____

***ADD 5% TO BASE PRICE**

Soundness:

- Mostly Lame
- Slightly Lame-ish
- Moderately Sound
- Totally Sound*

***ADD 10% TO BASE PRICE**

Level of Training:

- Feral
- Reasonable Prospect
- Started
- Someone Sat on it and Didn't Die
- Moderately Trained
- Champion of the World
- Any Idiot can Make this Animal Perform*

***ADD 10%-15% TO BASE PRICE**

Color Add-ons:

- Full Chrome Package*
- Socks
- Blaze
- Star
- Stripe
- Snip
- Other (Please specify): _____

***ADD 5% TO BASE PRICE**

Mental Soundness:

- Dead
- More 'Whoa' than 'Go'
- Moderate Go
- Sensitive but Sane*
- Rear on Fire
- You have something to prove...

***ADD 10% TO BASE PRICE**

Show Record (?):

- Yes* No

***ADD 10% TO BASE PRICE**

Personality:

- Apathetic to Your Existence
- Stoic
- Friendly
- Actually Likes You
- In Your Pocket
- Borderline Pushy
- Aggressive
- Everyone but You Hates this Horse

Vices (?):

- None OK*
- Cribber
- Weaver
- Screamer
- Bucker
- Rearer
- Bolter
- Biter
- Fence Breaker
- Stall Destroyer
- Blanket Shredder
- General PITA
- Other (please specify): _____

*ADD 10%-15% TO BASE PRICE

Other Notes: _____

Color Add-ons:

- Full Chrome Package*
- Socks
- Blaze
- Star
- Stripe
- Snip
- Other (Please specify): _____

*ADD 5% TO BASE PRICE

'Personalized' Receipt:

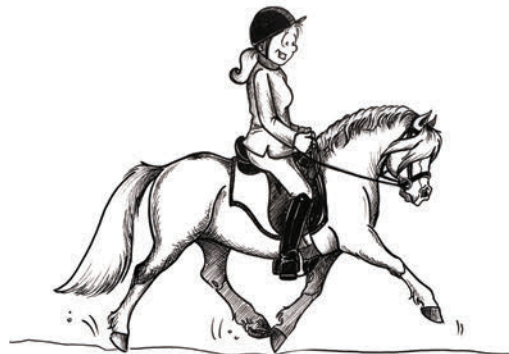
- None
- Husband/Significant Other
(PRICE LISTED AT 10% LOWER THAN ACTUAL)
- Bragging Rights
(PRICE LISTED AT 10% HIGHER THAN ACTUAL)

'Unicorn' Option (?):

A BEAST OF NEARLY MYTHICAL AWESOMENESS
THAT ONLY ONE CAN EXIST ON THE PLANET AT
ANY GIVEN TIME.

- Yes* No

**MAY DELAY SHIPPING. CURRENTLY
BACKORDERED UNTIL 2025.*



If
horse shopping
was easy... or sane.
Another word would be sane.
Really, what more is there to say?
If you've ever been horse shopping
you know how absurdly
time-consuming,
gut-wrenching, and
soul-sucking
it can be.

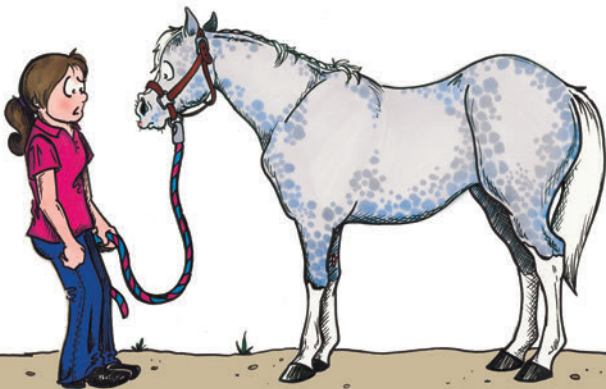
Delivery and final purchase price of horse will be confirmed after this order form is received. Returns are accepted for a nominal re-stocking fee. Horse warranty included for 1 year after purchase date.

As if taking on a mature, trained horse doesn't offer enough excitement and anxiety. Many a savvy horseman has acquired a real gem by buying what looked like a mutant camel as a two-year-old. Of course, others have simply acquired a mutant camel.

Two Year Olds:

Because why should the front legs and hind end match?

"I'm just going to turn you out for another six months, perhaps BEHIND the barn, and hope this is just a phase..."

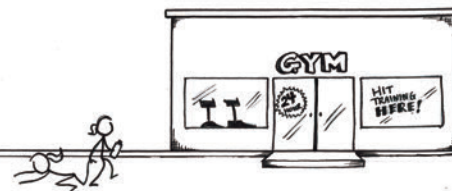


Unfortunate Equine Truth #18:

If you want to be a FABULOUS rider, you can't just do this:



You must also suffer THIS:



Simple fact:
I didn't want to believe this but, alas, it's true. Particularly if you have an athletic equine partner to keep you on your toes (or bouncing gracefully out of the tack). This is almost as depressing as the fact that I can't live on white bread and sugar without turning into the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man.

Dressage Pit Crew



A similarity to Nascar...and on that note, if they can pay someone for making a bunch of left turns, I feel like they should be willing to pay someone for directing a 1,100-pound animal in a series of circles BOTH ways! This comic is for that 60 seconds before you go in the ring, when your horse is a lathered mess, he's still in his boots, you have mud all over your boots, and you're not quite sure where you laid your jacket.

I may be dating myself with this reference, but... "A" is also for "a\$\$hole." Horses who spook at things they're really not scared of fall into this category. Occasionally the letters K,E,H,C,M,B,F and a few others also bring about this reaction.

Today's Spook is
Brought to You by...



The Letter 'A'
'A' is for Apple.

(What *other* words can you think of that start with the letter 'A'?)

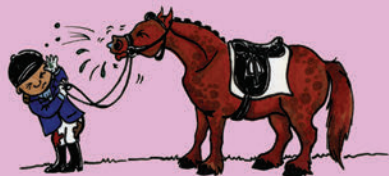
Show Clothes: Just Another Exercise in Futility.

While I really am grossly in love with the bling in the dressage ring, you have to admit that a little goes a long way.

If you can't Enchant them with Excellence...



8:15 AM



8:45 AM

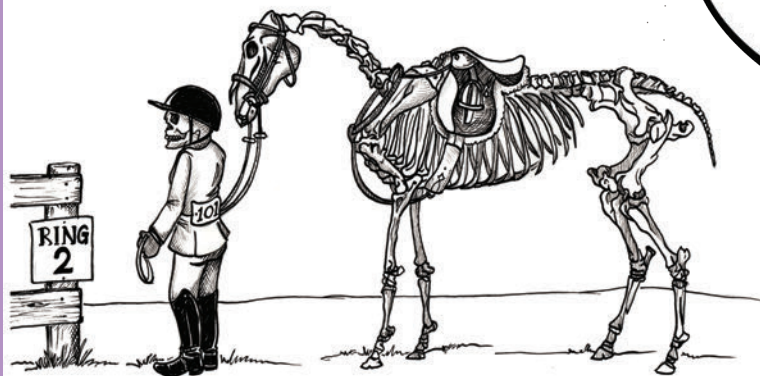
If you've ever shown, you know I'm right on this one. Unless you have a herd of grooms and a hermetically sealed bubble to shroud yourself in, you'd better just face the fact that before you ever enter the ring, you'll be covered in a fine coating of horsey grunge.



Blind Them With Bling!



Hunter Shows...



Hunter shows be like...
NEVER-ENDING.
For all my hunter/jumper friends who know
the joys of waiting hours for your
class, only to finally go sit down and then
have it called so you can scramble
like mad to get ready again.
I don't miss that.

Show prep.
Because this is STILL
true.... Because
sometimes it's you who
needs to do 40 laps
before gracing the
warm-up ring.
Being a consummate
weenie myself, I can
attest to
this happening.

"First show.
She needs to lunge a little."



"Where are you going?
I thought you showed
this afternoon?"

WARNING:

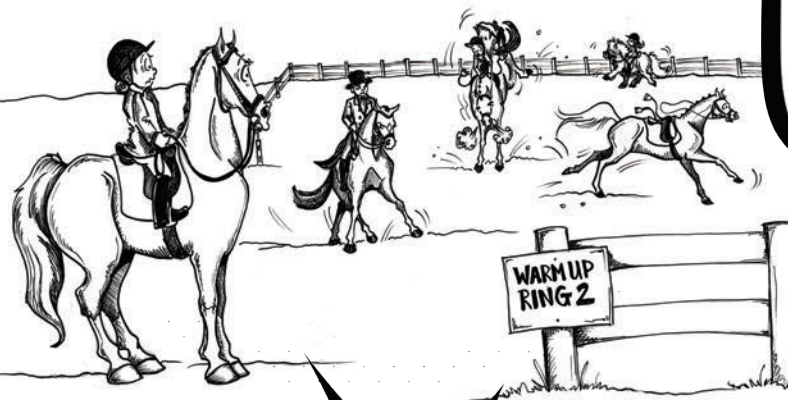
CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE

...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...



Time for some honest self-assessment: If you start off the cross-country phase trying to puke in such a manner so as to ensure the Gatorade coming out backward does not hit and spook your horse, all the while asking yourself what was so wrong with just doing plain old dressage, you might need to reconsider your riding goals. A moment similar to this may just have been when I realized that hurtling myself over fixed obstacles was not really my forte. Good thing I realized how wimpy I was early on, as it has given me plenty of time to throw my money and effort into an arguably even more expensive and somewhat masochistic discipline. (Hello, Dressage.)

The Warm-Up Ring: 3 RING CIRCUS OR DANTE'S 7TH CIRCLE



How many horses can you fit into a 20- by 60-meter pen?
It depends how high you stack them.

Though I recognize that the warm-up ring is a necessary evil at horse shows, I still don't understand why so many people riding in it are either feckless or believe they OWN the ring. Also, I get that there are green horses (I have one!), but let's all just agree not to take the screaming harpy on a string into the warm-up ring with 47 other horses when you have other options.

X. Halt. Salute!
I'm pretty convinced that showing is in fact a form of masochism. If only we could all be as confident and competent going down center line as we are at nearly any other time when riding. Oh, well. Here's to dreaming (or at least some mild drinking before my next round of tests).

A. ENTER, WORKING TROT...

X. HALT, SALUTE.



Proceed with the realization that you've just forgotten EVERYTHING you THOUGHT you knew about how to ride dressage.



Dressage



Oh, really?

You're doing it wrong.