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### Acknowledgments

We are convinced, above all, that veterinary practitioners, trainers, and others responsible for dealing with the horse's problems, need to accept that crookedness is a cause of many of them.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all the horse owners who have entrusted their horses to us. Without them we would not have been able to accumulate the knowledge that we are now passing on through this book. Though it is impossible to mention everyone by name, we would also like to thank all those who stand, or have stood, steadfastly by us.

However, there is one name we should like to mention. Much of the work involved in the preparation of this book could only be done successfully in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. A special word of thanks is due to the Hotel Voss in Westerstede for providing this.

# 4

## **Correcting Crookedness: Practical Work**

## WHERE TO TRAIN

- *A round pen, or circular school, 11 meters in diameter, which is our preferred size.*

### **The round pen or schooling ring**

*Centrifugal* and *shear forces* are very difficult to control, and if they are not dealt with during basic training, they may cause problems later. Special attention needs to be paid to them. They are the first of the forces over which you must gain control, and you should do so even before the horse is ridden.

These forces will affect the ridden horse to an even greater extent when it is worked on turns and circles, so you must ensure that it will be able to cope. To remind you, the horse is a creature of flight and tends to want to move in a straight line, so it must learn to go round in a circle. If you work it in a normal rectangular school, the horse will find it harder to understand what we want it to do. Moreover, there will be nothing to restrict the centrifugal and shear forces, so these will be acting on it constantly. The logical solution is to construct a boundary: why not work in a place where it is as easy as possible for the horse to understand what is required of it? This is why we use a round pen, or circular schooling area.



## Equipment

We are not the only ones to advocate a round pen. It is recommended in books about longeing including those of the FN (the German Equestrian Federation). Obviously, there are differing opinions on the size of the pen: for example the FN recommends a minimum diameter of 12 meters. However, the size depends on what you are using the pen for, so if it is for specialized corrective training the requirements are different. What suits one may not suit the other.

The fact that people are having so many problems with their horses, and that so many horses have to undergo corrective training, suggests that centrifugal and shear forces are the most difficult problems to deal with in training. To help you get to grips with these forces, we'll first set out a list of requirements as a guide. Without a proper framework, it is impossible to achieve your aim.

The first requirement is the round pen (or circular schooling area), which helps you with the difficult task of controlling these forces. We know from experience that 11 meters diameter is an ideal size for this pen.

### **Cavesson and longe line**

Among the "tools of the trade" are the cavesson and longe line. Equipment has been the subject of much discussion, especially since the increase in popularity of different styles of riding, and in this case particularly the old style classical equitation. Our work is constantly being compared to this, that or the other, but there is no point spending time here discussing this. All we ask is that people do not judge our system by comparing us to others, but instead take the trouble to ask us why we are doing what we are doing. What is the background? This may take more effort but it is worth it. If you take your work seriously, as we do, you have your reasons for doing things. Here again we must ask people to be tolerant and open-minded.

We do not orientate our training toward any particular branch or style of horsemanship: we work with a specific aim in mind, namely correcting problems in the way of going that originate in incorrect training. The cavesson and longe line are there to help us achieve this aim. The style of riding and the job

## EQUIPMENT



● *This type of longeing cavesson belongs only in the hands of professionals and experienced trainers.*



● *This one, in our opinion, is the most suitable kind of cavesson for the average rider. Experience shows that because of its fit and its precise action, it is "kind" to the horse.*

the horse has to do are not important.

We like both models of cavesson shown in the photos above. This is because they fit the horse's head exactly, with the noseband just below the cheekbone. A cavesson must not slip because it needs to be precise in its action: close control over the horse's longitudinal axis is crucial to the success of training. The cavesson in the first photo is a modified design with a very precise action. It is the "professional" model, which means that its use requires more skill. Since it has no browband or throatlatch, it enables the horse to be controlled with a lighter contact and is less bulky and more comfortable than the second shown cavesson. It is important that the part of the noseband around the nasal bone is particularly well-padded. The second cavesson is excellent for use by amateurs.