



Pegasus

MAGAZINE

SUMMER

June, July, August 2012

beautiful

Paso Fino horses

SHOW SPECIAL

QUIZ:

can you read a
horse's mind?

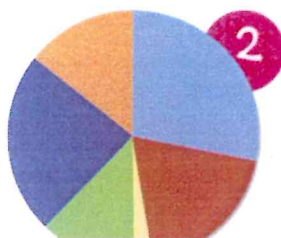
→ **STOP** runouts & refusals!

→ trailer tips for **EASY** loading!

→ **NEVER** knock a pole!

→ and **MORE!**

Summer Contents



2

Subscriber's Corner

What do readers have to say about Pegasus?



3

Can you read a horse's mind?

The perfect quiz for a to-be horse whisperer.



5

Behind the Scenes: Horse Nutritionist

Ever wonder what it's like to design horse food?



6

Triple Crown Highlights

The best parts of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, & Belmont

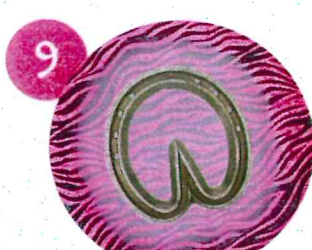


8

Dragonfly's Tack Attack

Dragonfly's Horse Help

Dragonfly has the answers to your horse questions!



9

Curly's Guide to Shoe Shopping

Horseshoes, boots, hoof polish and more!



11

Easy-loading Trailer Tips

Never be late to the competition again!



12

Get your horse ready in no time!

It's never been easier to tack up and groom.



13

Stop Refusals and Run-outs!

Get over it, horse!



14

Never Knock a Pole!

We'll make sure that your ride is *fault-less*!



15

Paso Fino Horses

The first part in our newest article series: beautiful breeds



17

Flying Horses

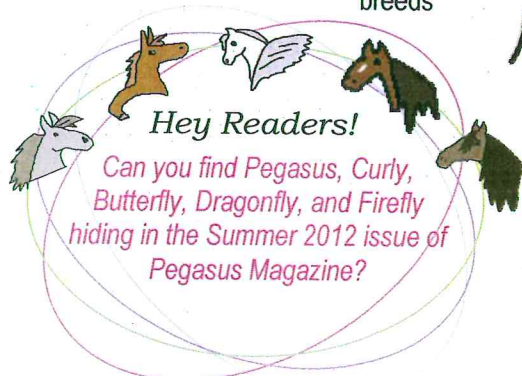
Pegasi aren't the only horses that can fly anymore!



18

Butterfly's Journal

Part five in Butterfly's epic diary



Hey Readers!

Can you find Pegasus, Curly, Butterfly, Dragonfly, and Firefly hiding in the Summer 2012 issue of Pegasus Magazine?

On the Cover:
Starwalker the 6-year-old Paso Fino Stallion

Subscriber's Corner

SUMMER

"Horse Retirement" was my favorite article from the last issue. I didn't think that horses ever retired! Thank you, Pegasus!
- Cindy, New Jersey

The article on the cost of horses really surprised me. I never knew a horse required so much extra equipment!
- Jenny, Wisconsin

The article on jump timing was a TON of help for me!
- Annabelle, Arizona

Hi Pegasus Magazine! My favorite color is pink and I absolutely adored the article on how that affected my riding! Who knew that such a simple thing could mean so much?
- Eliza, Kentucky

Best Reader Mail

I am chomping at the bit to read Pegasus Magazine!
- Linda, Oregon

I love horses with wings! And I can't wait to learn about horses without wings!
- Hallie, Washington

Q: What do you call a horse that lives next door?

A: Your NEIGHbor!
- Marie, South Dakota

Pegasus Poll

I would like to work with children or disabled people and help them learn how to ride. I know that they'd love it!
- Ernestine, South Carolina

I would want to be a mounted police because you get to chase bad guys... on a HORSE!
- Natalie, Oregon

I want to be a vet when I grow up so that I can work with horses, but also other animals too!
- Jane, Michigan

Question:

Which of the horse careers from the Spring 2012 issue do you like best?



- Riding Instructor
- Groom to Pro Rider
- Pro Rider
- Horse Breeder
- Charity Worker
- Mounted Police
- Horse Vet
- Other

Can You Read a Horse's Mind?

Some people make a living out of "talking" to horses, but you don't have to be a horse whisperer to know what your horse is feeling! Take this quiz to find out if you're an equine mind reader!

1. When a horse stops swishing his tail, what does it mean?

- a) He is getting warm
- b) There are no more bugs to swat away
- c) He is scared or nervous

2. How should you approach a horse?

- a) From the front
- b) From the back
- c) From the side
- d) While looking it in the eye

3. You can tell what kind of mood a horse is in by looking at his ears! Match each expression to their equine ear portrayal.



Alert Bored Listening Angry

Extra Credit!

Why should you approach a horse this way?

4. A horse drops his head when...

5. Circle reasons below that do not cause a horse to roll.

itchy uncomfortable bored
wants a massage has laminitis
mad too cold
too hot has colic

6. Which is the friendliest gesture for a horse to make?

- a) Touching muzzles with another horse
- b) Scratching another horse's withers with their front teeth
- c) Neighing at another horse



Two horses: video.humanesociety.org **Flehmen Reaction:** uglyoverload.blogspot.com **Horses fighting:** complimentary-wallpapers.blogspot.com **Horses playing:** flickr.com **Chestnut horse:** horseforum.com **Bay horse:** animalwallpaper.org **Eye:** horsemagazine.com **Black horse:** sapphirefarms.com

7. Why would a horse curl up his upper lip?

- a) He is showing dominance over another horse
- b) He is hungry
- c) He is trying to taste or smell something more accurately



Extra Credit!

This gesture is known as:



8. Which playing and which is fighting?



10. A horse with a leaking eye is...

- a) Sick
- b) Crying because he is sad
- c) Normal and healthy. Equine eyes leak randomly for no reason at all.

9. What happens to a horse's coat when the horse becomes tense?

11. List three ways that you can tell a horse is relaxed by looking at its body language.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Answers

- 1. c
- 2. c (extra credit: horses have eyes on the sides of their heads)
- 3. a is listening, b is alert, c is bored, d is angry
- 4. He is being submissive or calm
- 5. has laminitis, too cold, mad
- 6. b
- 7. c (extra credit: Flehmen Reaction)
- 8. a is playing, b is fighting
- 9. a
- 10. It tightens
- 11. Upturned front hoof, drooping ears, closed eyes, swishing tail

*Each extra credit question is worth one bonus point.

0-5 Correct Random Guesser

You must have had trouble with this quiz! It's okay though, because Pegasus Magazine can help! If you keep reading our articles, you'll be an aficionado in no time!

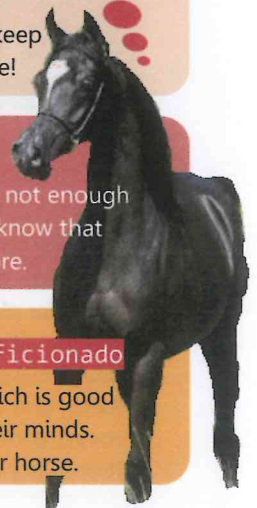
6-9 Correct Dedicated Student

You were able to get a few questions correct, but still not enough to be a master! Since you're a dedicated student, we know that you'll be working as hard as you can to raise your score.

10-13 Correct Mind Reading Aficionado

You always know exactly what a horse is thinking, which is good because horses really enjoy humans that can read their minds. This helps you to form a stronger bond with your horse.

Can you read my mind?



*How many did you get right?

Equine Nutritionist

Horses don't just eat hay. Large amounts of their diet also consist of cereal feeds, vitamin supplements, feed mixes, and more. **Let's get a behind-the-scenes look at the science that goes into feeding our horses.**

WHAT DO HORSES EAT?

Horses eat approximately 3% of their body weight each day. Depending on the horse, this can come from natural sources, such as grass, but it can also come from unnatural sources, such as packaged feed.

There are two main types of feeds: forages and concentrates. Forages, also known as "roughage", includes grass-like plants. Types of forage include grass, hay (dried grass), and beet pulp (a substance left over from sugar beet that is high in fiber and energy).

The concentrates include grains (such as maize, barley, oats, wheat, and bran), pellet mixes, and vitamin supplements.



RESEARCH LABS

Many horse feed companies have research labs where they test horses to learn more about the equine body. Purina Mills, the leading horse feed company in the United States, is home to one of the world's largest horse research facilities. It has treadmills for horses to run on that help scientists learn about equine perspiration (sweat) levels, joint movement, and other tests pertaining to horse diet and exercise, as well as many other state-of-the-art machinery and technology. Because of their breakthrough research, horses are living longer than they were 20 years ago.



CHOW TIME!

Horse feed comes in so many different varieties that it's often difficult to choose which one to use! There are specialized feeds for older horses, horses prone to specific diseases, horses with joint problems, easy keeper horses (horses that gain weight easily and can stay healthy with small amounts of food), and even foals. Before buying milled feed for your horse, consult your vet or trainer. The feed needs of each horse vary drastically from animal to animal.

ECO-FRIENDLY

More and more equine feed companies are changing their feed mills and production rooms to make them friendlier towards the environment. Spillers horse feeds uses natural light in all of their rooms when the sun is bright to reduce energy use, has made sure that their mills are low-risk pollution sites, and has even increased the air quality in the last few years.



Horse Sports Highlights

Triple Crown

Rewind

Let's take a look back at the 2012 Triple Crown jewels – the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes!

Get to Know...

I'll Have Another!

On May 5th, when the gun was fired to announce the start of the world's most famous horse race, nobody expected a horse named after someone's love of donuts to win. They didn't think a horse that was in the second-to-last position in the starting gates to even have a chance. And they definitely didn't think that his Mexican-Canadian jockey, Martin Gutierrez, who'd never raced in a Kentucky Derby before, could get lucky. But, against all odds (his were 15-1), I'll Have Another beat



I'll Have Another: guardian.co.uk and arcadiasbest.com



I'll Have Another became famous for passing up his competitor, Bodemiester, in both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness.

all of his competitors by 1½ lengths, even the strong, fast, highly-trained Bodemiester, who was the fan favorite with odds of 4-1. He set the record for being the first horse to win the race from Post 19, his starting gate, and became part of horse racing history.

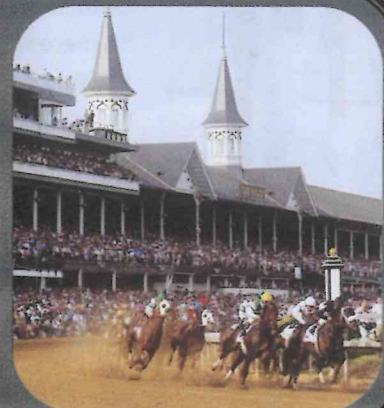
I'll Have Another's jockey was amazed and ecstatic after his surprising win. "I believe in my horse 100 percent. I give all the credit to the horse. He's the one who's changed my life," Martin Gutierrez told Fox News afterwards. "I try to enjoy every single minute of it. This is once-in-a-lifetime."

Kentucky Derby

Length: 10 furlongs, or 1.25 miles long

Age: This was the 138th Kentucky Derby! The first one was held on May, 1875.

Fun Fact: The two-foot-tall Kentucky Derby trophy is made of 56 ounces of 14 and 18 carat gold. Winners also receive a blanket of roses that is draped over their back in the winner's circle, earning the race its nickname "The Run for the Roses".



Kentucky Derby: louisvilleky.gov

...more highlights



Preakness Stakes

Length: 9.5 furlongs, or 1.19 miles

Age: This was the Preakness's 138th run!

Fun Fact: The Preakness Stakes is held on the Pimlico Track. It is the last run of a long day of thoroughbred racing, and the most important. It is called the Preakness because the first horse to win a race on the Pimlico Track was named "Preakness".



I'll Have Another's odds increased drastically after his impressive first win. He became the fan favorite, Bodemiester taking second, and was given the 9th Post on Pimlico Track (the best spots are posts 5-9). As soon as the race began, Bodemiester galloped to take the lead, and I'll Have Another settled into fourth. The four leaders broke away from the pack and surged down the stretch at a rapid speed. In the last hundred yards, I'll Have Another made his way past all three of the horses in front of him and took first in the second leg of the Triple Crown with *literally* flying colors.

Belmont Stakes

Length: 12 furlongs, or 1.5 miles

Age: At 144 years, the Belmont is the oldest Triple Crown race.

Fun Fact: The Belmont Stakes is known as the "Test of the Champions" and "Run for the Carnations". The prize is one million dollars, as well as a silver bowl trophy made by Tiffany and, of course, the legendary cape made of white carnations!



Unfortunately, I'll Have Another was pulled out of the Belmont Stakes due to tendonitis. "A mere 18 inches of swollen sinew connecting the left front knee and hoof of I'll Have Another has dashed hopes the chestnut colt would become the first winner of horse racing's Triple Crown in 34 years," the Wall Street Journal quoted. The champion horse could've raced, but his owners decided that it was best not to risk it since he is worth \$40,000 in stud fees for breeding purposes, and racing him could've killed him.

Union Rags benefited from I'll Have Another's absence, because he became the new favorite and ended up winning the Belmont. He snuck up on the leading four horses with only 100 yards to go, including the second-place winner from the same farm as Bodemiester, Paynter, and passed them all in order to win the longest Triple Crown race.



Dragonfly's Horse Help



Dear Dragonfly,

When I take my horse to shows, she refuses to drink any of the water that they supply at the show grounds. I'm worried about her getting dehydrated before we compete. Help me!

- Something In The Water

Some horses are extremely high-maintenance when it comes to when, where, and what they'll drink. The only way to tempt them into taking water is to make it more appealing, so your horse can't resist! Try favoring the water with apple juice (no citrus juices, we horses hate those) or even chunks of apple or carrot. When offering your horse flavored water, always make sure to offer her normal water too, just in case she doesn't like the special kind. Also try bringing a bucket from home. Sometimes horses like me want something familiar when they go somewhere new (like a show), and will be more willing to drink water from a bucket they recognize. And, if everything fails, try soaking the hay that your horse eats overnight in water. At least then she'll be slightly hydrated! Good luck competing!

Dragonfly's head: iart-learning.com

Got a question for me, Dragonfly?
Email your problem to emmabiancak@gmail.com
or visit our website, pegasusmagazine.weebly.com

Dear Dragonfly,

I always read about saddles, bridles, martingales, and other pieces of horse tack in Pegasus Magazine, but I'm not sure what goes where! - Tack Attack

Horses wear so many different kinds of tack, sometimes it's hard to tell what they have on! Tack is any kind of equipment that goes on a horse. The easiest two pieces to identify are the saddle and the bridle (yellow). The saddle sits on a horse's back, right behind their withers (the lump where their shoulders meet their neck) and is where the rider sits. A rider puts their feet in the stirrups, and the saddle fastens with a girth (red). The bridle goes over a horse's face and is connected to the reins (pink) that help a rider steer the horse.

Other pieces of tack include the martingale, crupper, neck strap, and more. A simple martingale (green) attaches to the bridle's noseband and the saddle's girth. A loop that goes around a horse's neck keeps it in place. A crupper (blue) goes around a horse's tail and keeps the saddle from sliding too far forward on a horse's back. A neck strap (purple) is another loop that goes over a horse's neck and is only there for beginner riders to hold on to. All three of these pieces are optional.

Of course, there is much more tack out there, and these are just the basic pieces, but I hope this helps! Thanks for asking!



Horse with tack: s380.photobucket.com



Curly's
Guide
to...

Shoe Shopping

Horses wear all kinds of accessories on their feet... take a look at horse hoof style that goes beyond horseshoes!

Human

accessory

Horse translation

Sneakers



Horseshoes

Just like sneakers, they're the ultimate staple – the shoes you wear almost every day. They also come in a variety of different styles, most of which are built to help horses like me perform better while moving at top speeds or competing in sports.



The similarities stop there, though. Horseshoes are made out of metal, rather than canvas and rubber. They are usually screwed or hammered to the bottom of the foot with seven nails, although they are sometimes glued into place, and their sole purpose (Curly pun!) is to protect the hoof from wearing down on rough surfaces. Shoes are removed every 4-6 weeks and replaced with new ones. Horses that are only ever ridden in arenas and fields do not need horseshoes.

Styles



The basic "half-round" horseshoe



Fullered shoe (for heel support)



Shoe with heel calks (for grip)



Aluminum racing plate (lightweight)



Egg bar shoe (for extreme heel support)



Heart bar shoe (for frog support)

Platform Heels



Hoof Extensions

Hoof extensions are very similar to platform heels: both make your legs look longer, both make you four inches taller, both are more expensive than normal shoes, and both I would never wear if you gave me a million carrots. Hoof extensions are usually worn on gaited horses (horses that can perform special movements) to allow their legs to look more graceful. They also exaggerate the motion and flight of the hoof. Hoof extensions are strapped to the hoof and nailed in place.



Socks



Toenail Polish



Boots



Leg Wraps

While humans might wear socks every day, horses like me only wear their version of socks (leg wraps, aka stable bandages) when their legs begin swelling due to injury.



Tip: When you put a leg wrap on one of a horse's front legs, you have to put it on the other one too, so the horse is balanced.

Trust me – we hate it when you make us all wobbly! The same goes for the back legs.

Hoof Polish

Hoof polish is simply just a hydrating liquid that is brushed over a horse's hooves in a fashion similar to nail polish (Curly pun #2!). It comes in two main colors: clear and black. Horses with light-colored hooves, like me, use clear, and horses with dark brown or black hooves used black. Of course, they also make glittery versions that are impractical and expensive, but if you're me, you'll buy one and give it to Pegasus, telling him that it's his normal kind. Ha! His hooves were pink and sparkly for a week!



Horse Boots

Horse boots come in a variety of styles, just like human boots. They are used mostly for protection while horses are jumping or moving quickly. Some horses wear them every day, while others only wear them occasionally.

Curly: creeksidecurlies.net White tag: blog.mrandmrsmith.com
Sneaker: fitsugar.com Horseshoe: slobmys.wordpress.com
(Styles: Half-round: horseshoebarn.com Racing shoe: cottamhorseshoes.com Rest: thehorseshoemuseum.com) Ugg boot: shorelinesurf.com Platforms: replicah.com Hoof extensions: thehorseshoemuseum.com Socks: ilifejourney.wordpress.com
Nail polish: health.howstuffworks.com Stable bandages: moonrakerqh.com How to steps: spitfirespouticepaper.com, stitchinginthekitchen.blogspot.com, and encyclopediaequestria.blogspot.com Hoof polish: tackroominc.com and petazon.com

How to Apply Stable Bandages (Leg Wraps)



1 Start by wrapping the gamgee around the leg (make sure it is flat. I hate bumps!) so that the opening is on the outside of their leg. The edge should face the back of the leg.



2 Then, starting just below the knee or hock, begin wrapping the bandage around the leg, working downwards. The folds should overlap and there shouldn't be any wrinkles. Make it tight... but not so much so that it cuts off a horse's circulation.



3 When you reach the coronet band (right above the hoof) start to bandage back up the leg, going over what you've already done. Then fasten the Velcro strap so that it faces the back of the leg.



Want to learn more about boots? Wait until the next issue of Pegasus, where Curly takes you to Boot Camp!

4 PAGES OF AMAZING TIPS!

Jump without faults!

Improve your performance!

Win more ribbons!

Super Summer showing Special!

Have your best show season ever with Pegasus Magazine's amazing guide!

Easy-Loading Trailer Tips

Sometimes the hardest part of the show is getting there. Make it easy for yourself!

What You Need



A halter and lead rope



Travel boots



Tail bandage and tail guard



Always wear a helmet!

Coming In



To load your horse into the trailer, give yourself enough room to walk in a straight line to the ramp. Walk beside your horse up the ramp and encourage your horse with your voice. Some horses will walk in slowly, but others will run in. Be prepared! Once your horse is loaded, tie him up and either close the partition or breech strap (whichever your trailer has).

Top Trailer Tips

- ✿ If your horse has trouble loading into the trailer and is always hesitant to walk in, park the trailer next to a tall wall or hedge. Walk on the other side of your horse so that he has you on one side and the obstacle on the other side – and no way to run out!
- ✿ Never apply a tail bandage wet because it will shrink as it dries.
- ✿ Put a hay net in the trailer to keep your horse occupied on long trips.

What NOT To Do



Don't stare at your horse as you lead him in. Looking horses in the eye is threatening, and they'll think you're forcing them to go somewhere.



Don't pull the horse into the trailer!



Never lead a horse into a trailer sideways.

Title picture: petinfoonline.com Ribbons: sportsform.co.uk What not to do pictures: jedihorsemanship.com Lead rope: countrysupplies.com Halter: pets.oodle.com Travel boots: eshop.courts70.co.uk Tail bandage and guard: millbryhill.co.uk Helmet: horsetrailerworld.org Coming in: thriftyfun.com

Get your HORSE ready in NO time!

Grooming, tacking up, finishing touches... getting a horse show-ready takes longer than the show itself! Use our tips to shorten the preparation time, so you have more minutes to spare.

Grooming

Try giving your horse a quick dry clean by brushing him over with just a curry comb, body brush, hoof pick, hoof polish, and mane comb. As long as his coat is shiny, his hooves are clean, and his mane and tail are unknotted, he's ready to be seen. Don't waste time bathing him or using the entire grooming kit!



Teamwork gets a horse cleaned even faster! Grab some friends and get your horses ready together!

For extra shine on your horse's coat, use a special color enhancer built to bring out the shades of a horse's coat. Also try rubbing your horse with a stable cloth.

Stable cloth: the inexpensive little tool that works wonders



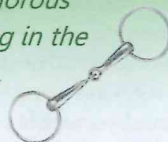
Got a horse with a dirty tail that can't be cleaned? Grab a bucket, fill with soapy water, and soak.

Tacking Up

If your tack has any designs or imprinted patterns, brush them with toothbrushes because sponges won't get the same show-worthy sparkle!



Soak dirty bridle bits in water overnight to avoid vigorous scrubbing in the morning.



If your horse is a drooler (or it's hot on the show day and his foamy saliva gets all over the bridle) wipe down the cheekpieces and noseband as soon as the bridle is taken off, before the slobber hardens and becomes difficult to scrape off.

Finishing Touches

Professional show jumpers have said that their favorite horses are bays – because they're so easy to clean! If you're part of the unfortunate group that has to deal with light-colored gray or palomino horses, your worst nightmare might be your horse's grass stains. To get rid of them without hours of scrubbing, just grab some white or yellow sidewalk or blackboard chalk and scribble over the stains. It works for dirt stains, too!



If your dark-colored horse is dusty, dip your body brush's bristles in clean water, shake to get rid of excess, and then brush your horse over. The dust will stick to the damp bristles and leave you with a shiny, dust-free coat!

Rub baby oil on your horse's muzzle and around his eyes for extra shine and color.



STOP refusals & runouts!



A refusal is when a horse approaches a jump and then stops at the last minute. In contrast, a run-out is when a horse approaches a jump and then quickly turns away from the jump right before it. Horses can do these things for a number of reasons: they are inexperienced, they are nervous, they are in pain, or they are just feeling naughty. All of these problems can be solved with proper training, with the exception of being in pain. Always make sure your horse's saddle and bridle are fastened correctly before riding to avoid hurting your horse.



↑ The cure for refusals is easy: just keep kicking and nudging the horse forward. Start with a very simple jump, such as a pole on the ground, and urge the horse to trot and canter over it. Progress to higher, scarier jumps and begin adding things like fillers and fake flowers as your horse progresses. He'll be ready for shows in no time!

How to... Carry a Crop

If your horse runs out:

Carry a crop on the side of your horse's shoulder that he runs out on. Then, if you see your horse trying to run out, quickly smack his shoulder!

If your horse refuses:

Carry your crop on the inside side of your horse's shoulder (the proper way to do it) and then, if the horse looks nervous as he approaches the jump, smack him on the hindquarters. Tapping his shoulder won't help you at all in this case. A horse gets its power from the back end, so doing this will force him to move!

Possibly the most annoying thing that your horse can do on show day is spook at all of the unfamiliar jumps. Not only does it count against your score - but it makes you look less skilled than you really are! Master these tips so that you never have to endure the humiliation again.



↑ If your horse is well-trained and knows how to jump correctly but still runs out, guide poles can really help him if he is scared, nervous, worried, or being silly. Simply set up a small, straight fence with a ground pole (a pole on the ground just in front of the fence that is there to help horses know when to take off). Then take two more jump poles and rest them on the top of the upright pole so that the ends touching the ground are parallel to the jump's wings.

When riding this exercise, let your horse stand in front of the fence and look at it before he jumps it. The first time, he might be a little bit apprehensive, but the guide poles on the side will keep him from running out. The second time, he should have more confidence. As your horse gets more skilled, you can remove the guide poles. Try this exercise at home a few times before going to a show. By then, your horse shouldn't need the guide poles and will be ready to jump without them. Just remember to let the horse look at each fence before the competition, though, because new surroundings can be scary to some horses.

Never Knock a Pole!

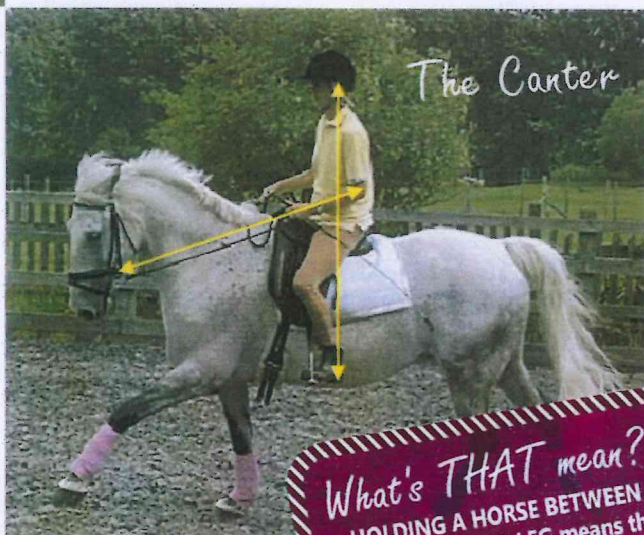


Knocking down poles in the middle of a jumping class can mean the difference between first place and last place at a show... but luckily, the solution is only a page turn away.

← If you notice that you are knocking poles often when you ride, it could be for a number of reasons. Fix the way you ride and your dilemma will be cleared up easily!

→ For a great jump, you need a great canter. This means that you are cantering on the correct lead and making sure your horse is moving forward actively with a bounce in his step. You should be holding the horse between your hand and leg.

→ Your position is also vital. Remember to sit up straight! (This means that you can draw a straight line from your ear to your shoulder to your hip to your heel.) You should also have the correct bend in your arm – so that you could draw a line from your elbow to your hand to the horse's bit. Put your weight in your heels (not your toes!) and, if needed, shorten your stirrups for jumping since they should be shorter than they were for flatwork.



What's THAT mean?!
HOLDING A HORSE BETWEEN YOUR HAND AND LEG means that the rider has short reins and can feel the horse's mouth at the bit.



↑ Sometimes horses lose their focus and jump sloppily, resulting in a knocked pole. If a rider keeps their reins short and urges the horse up to the jump, the horse is more likely to leap without confusion. Most of the time, a focused horse makes a successful jump.

← The approach is important for a fault-free jump. Steer the horse straight up to the fence instead of cantering up to it on a curve. You have a higher chance of clearing the jump if you have the space to ride up to it.

What's THAT mean?!
BAScule is a term referring to the ideal arc shape a horse makes when it jumps over something.

→ As your horse moves over the jump, don't lose your contact with the reins! Hold on tight, because if you drop a rein, your horse might alter his bascule over the fence.



← If you have the correct canter, position, and approach and your horse is still knocking poles, try tapping him with a crop as he takes off to remind him to pick up his hooves.

Beautiful Breeds #1

Paso Fino horses

Learn more about one of the equine world's most unique horse breeds!

Just like dogs and cats, horses come in many breeds. Each one acts different, looks differently, and was bred for different purposes. Now Pegasus Magazine is going to feature one in each issue... starting with a breed that's almost flawless - the Paso Fino!

Did you know that a Paso Fino horse is a blend of three other horse breeds: the Andalusian, the Barb, and the Spanish Jennet (a breed now extinct)?

The Brilliant Paso Fino

Paso Fino horses are world-renowned for their phenomenal intelligence, agility, rhythm, liveliness, and loyalty. Paso Fino horses are quick learners and try very hard to please, which means that they are very smart and willing to learn.

As a whole, the Paso Fino is a very kind and gentle breed. Its docile temperament makes it the ideal horse for both competition and pleasure riding, for both young children and adults. It is rumored that Christopher Columbus brought Paso Finos with him when he discovered America for their beauty, stamina, and smooth gait.

Did you know that the first Paso Finos came from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Columbia and Venezuela?

Did you know that Paso Fino horses aren't the only breeds that can perform the Paso Largo, Paso Corto, and Paso Fino? Peruvian Paso horses can do these ambling gaits as well!



Chestnut Paso Fino: Horse Illustrated Magazine Poster Gray Paso Fino: Equinenow.com Paso largo gait silhouette: zazzle.com Paso corto gait silhouette: reality.sgiweb.com Paso fino gait silhouette: gaitedhorses.net

Did you know that the Paso Fino's coat can be any horse color except Appaloosa (spotted)?

Did you know that the Paso Largo can be as fast as 30 miles per hour?

Specialty Gaits

One of the things that makes the Paso Fino such an incredible breed is its ability to move with specialty gaits known as 'ambling gaits'. As well as walking, trotting, cantering, and galloping, Paso Finos can also move by doing the *Paso Largo*, the *Paso Corto*, and the *Paso Fino*.



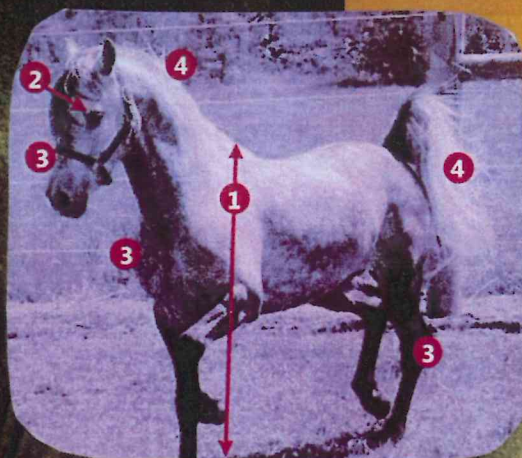
The Paso Largo is the fastest gait and is usually the speed of a normal horse's canter or gallop. A horse fully extends his legs while doing the Paso Largo.



The Paso Corto is very graceful and elegant. It is the speed of a normal horse's trot, but so smooth that many riders sit to it. This quality makes it the perfect gait for a relaxing trail ride.



The Paso Fino, also known as the Paso Classico or the Fino Fino, is often described as "breathtaking". The horse's legs move past each other at extremely rapid speeds, but the overall speed of the gait is slower than the average horse's walk, almost as if the Paso Fino horse is standing in place.



Did you know that the name "paso fino" means "light step"?

How to Spot a Paso Fino

The Paso Fino is a very unique breed with special characteristics that make it easier to identify. Look for these prominent features on horses to see if they could be related or similar to Paso Fino horses.

1 Height

All Paso Fino horses range from 13-16 hands high (from 4.4 feet to 5.4 at the shoulder), but are on average around 14.5 hands high (4.10 ft.).

2 Tiger Eyes

As well as having normal-colored eyes, Paso Fino horses can also have eyes that range anywhere from light yellow to dark amber. These unique eyes are known as "tiger eyes", and Paso Finos are the only horses that have them.

3 Body Shape

Many Paso Fino horses have small heads with curved noses and widely-spaced eyes. They also have sloping shoulders and sleek, strong legs complete with small hooves.

4 Big Hair

It is well known that most Paso Fino horses have unusually large and bushy manes and tails!

Flying Horses

Your horse doesn't have to be a Pegasus to be able to fly...

What It's Like

Riding on a plane isn't very different from riding in a trailer. As long as a horse doesn't mind being in a small space, they should be able to fly without any trouble. In fact, the whole travel process is so easy that Liane Crossley from Young Rider Magazine says, "Horses are probably more comfortable on an airplane than most humans". Let's see:

Humans Vs. Horses



While you spend hours waiting in a crowded airport terminal, horses get to walk right out of the back of their trailer and up a ramp, onto a specialized horse jet!



Horses stay in small, side-by-side stalls called pallets, as close to other horses as they would be in a straight-load trailer. The horses are separated by low "sniffing boards". Humans, on the other hand, sit in cushioned seats and are allowed to get up and move if needed.



Humans are able to leave the airport directly after their flight (like baggage claim), but horses have to stay in quarantine facilities for two days before they are released and are checked for diseases that they might have acquired while in other countries.

Have you ever wondered how the horses of the rich and famous make their way around the world for countless competitions and shows? They don't take a trailer – especially if they are traveling internationally. They fly!

Read on to learn more about flying horses.



Owners and trainers are not allowed on horse planes, so the animals aboard are cared for by special flying grooms. These educated and skillful workers make sure that horses have plenty of fresh water and hay during the flight, and help with loading and unloading afterwards. Flying grooms make a living out of making sure horses get where they are going safely, and get to visit huge racecourses, famous farms, and elite competitions on their travels. Kath Mellor, a groom for top British showjumper, Oliver Townend, says that one of her most important jobs is to keep horses drinking, because if they become dehydrated they might put themselves at risk of getting colic.

What to Wear

Most jet-setting horses don't wear as much protective gear as you'd think – tail bandages and heavy padding can fall off during the flight, and the flying grooms often find it difficult to reposition or rewrap them. Here's what you do need:



Bell Boots

An airplane pallet isn't very spacious, so horses might accidentally bump their legs inside. Bell boots protect limbs from getting hurt!



Duct Tape

To keep a horse's shoes from falling off, trainers often wrap a horse's hooves in duct tape before they board the plane.



Head Bumper

A padded head bumper would act like a helmet and protect the horse if it were to bump its head on the low ceiling.

BUTTERFLY'S JOURNAL

What Happened LAST TIME



Butterfly discovered the reason that Curly didn't like Firefly: he was afraid that Firefly's plan would involve flying and therefore would leave Curly out because he is not a Pegasus.

It was pouring by the time Curly and I arrived back in the field. Through sheets of blinding rain, I could see Pegasus and Firefly talking. Pegasus' ears were perked upright with interest and Firefly's were laid back against his neck, furious and determined.

"How is the planning going?" I asked, leaping over the fence and trotting over to the pair. Curly followed, splashing me with a wave of mud as his hooves struck the ground.



"Firefly just finished telling me his plan," Pegasus explained. "I think it'll work, Butterfly. We have a chance!"

"Great!" I stepped closer to Firefly and asked him to describe the plan for Curly and I. A cold rain droplet landed between my eyes and ran down my muzzle. I snorted.

"First, we must split into two groups, the look-outs and the adventurers," Firefly bellowed in his powerful voice. "The look outs will make sure that Amelia and her father do not leave their house. If they do, the lookouts have to distract them while the adventurers put the plan in action."

"What do the adventurers do?" Curly asked.

"That's the tricky part," Firefly replied solemnly. "They'll be responsible for looking for the key to Dragonfly's enclosure. You see, Amelia's family keeps their Pegasi on their property like caged animals in a zoo. They must have acres and acres of land, and almost all of it is filled with huge wired domes. The Pegasi are kept inside of the domes so they can't fly away, and there isn't much space. From what Dragonfly told us in her letter, we can tell that she is in a dome with a shed and a pen and paper inside. There is only one dome that has a shed inside, and it is in the middle of the property. It is the hardest to break in to, but we must try."

Curly's eyes widened with curiosity. "How do you know all of this?"



"I've been there," Firefly said distantly, as if his mind was millions of miles away. His voice was as flat and emotionless as always, but I wondered if, somewhere underneath his dark shield, Firefly was feeling scared, sad, or maybe in pain. "I went to save a friend once. She was in the same place as Dragonfly."

"Is that how you got your big scar?" I blurted before I realized. Instantly, I wanted to take my question back, but I couldn't.



Firefly shot me a glaring look. His eyes weren't threatening, but almost angry. Angry as if he was impressed by my logic. "How did you know?"

"I didn't. I guessed." I lowered my head submissively. Still, I could see with my 260 degree vision drops of rain running down Firefly's cheek and falling into the scar, riding along it until they hit the arc and ridge of his throat, like a leaves in a river. I watched as the drops fell from his face to the ground almost like tears.

"We should pick jobs," Pegasus decided.

I still felt like I didn't have enough information about Firefly's plan, but I knew that each second that we took asking questions was another second that Dragonfly had to live in torture. There wasn't enough time for clarifications.

"There should be two people on each team," Firefly neighed. "I will be an adventurer. I know the place."

"I'll be a look-out," Pegasus offered.

I was about to volunteer myself as an adventurer when I remembered Curly. Being a "look-out" was probably the less-exciting job. Would Curly feel as if we were assigning him something easy because he didn't have wings? Would he think we were treating him unequally?

That was when Curly shocked me. "I'll be a look-out."

"Are you sure?" I looked at him carefully.

"Yes. You should be an adventurer, Butterfly," He nudged me lightly with his nose – the horse version of a smile. "You'll be good at it."