

Drum Beat



Romeo of Dream Catcher farm
Enjoying the fresh AIR!

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE OUTSIDE OF A HORSE THAT IS GOOD FOR THE INSIDE OF MAN.
WINSTON CHURCHILL

Got CHAT? Facebook?

Ever see your wonderful Drum do something that just astounds you?

Ever just want to ask questions about tack, showing, or feather care?

Join the American Drum Horse Association online!

The ADHA has several ways to share news, ask questions and post pictures of your amazing animals.

You can start any topic related to Drum Horses, or you can jump into any conversation. We welcome new mem-

bers with open arms. There is no judgement and no question is seen as "silly". We have all, at some point, been standing in the barn scratching our head thinking "how am I going to fix that?" Ask other owners, just like yourself. You will be amazed at the response you get, from new and old drum horse owners.

You can join the ADHA chat group on Yahoo for daily discussions at anytime.

Its easy! Just go to www.groups.yahoo.com and

type ADHA, follow the steps and post away!

The Facebook page for the ADHA, is a great way to show off your horse for all Drum enthusiasts around the world to see. Your friends and family on Facebook will be able to see your post as well as any post that you "like". You never know just how you might effect the future of the American Drum Horse!

We look forward to seeing you online!

Training Tips: Stallion Handling thoughts from our Members Compiled By Rebecca McKeever of Horse Feathers Farm

The following is a compilation of Stallion handling techniques compiled by members of the ADHA yahoo chat group. It was a great discussion on the behavior of stallions and how to work with them for breeding and showing. I come from a horse competition background and my main goal even with the stallions is to work and show them. They have to behave. I've also worked at some top stables that bred and showed stallions and my handling techniques come from them.

1) Hand breed. Never let them rush a mare to cover. If they sniff a mare and curl their lip, back them up gently a few paces to remind them who is in charge. Our stallion backs himself up now without me asking.

2) When hand breeding do the same routine. Use a different halter or rig for breeding than their regular kit. Whether a rope halter, halter with lead or chain, or a chifney bit, make sure it is the same one and used only for breeding. Stallions know the difference and become very comfortable if you follow the same routine each time you take him out to cover a mare. We never use a chain on our gypsy stallion, Aislan, unless he is breeding. He knows the difference and can go from quiet boy to one on "point" as soon as that chain comes out.

3) Submission starts long before you breed. We are not talking about rough handling, but submission through work. The stallion must listen to you! Heather Rioux said it best: "the stallions must submit, not by force but rather firm respect and consistency"

4) Work them regularly. Work

around the mares, take them to other stables and work them there. Work, work, work. In hand work is great, but you have to do it right.

5) Stop with the treats. They get too pushy.

6) Maintain a boundary. You can break the boundary, but he can't.

Laura Moon added that stallions need to be worked with while young. They are never too young to start ground manner training. Don't let them stand around - stallions need jobs! As she well stated, they eventually prefer to stand quietly than work in circles!

So come and join us in the ADHA yahoo group chat room! It is a pleasant place to learn, share and commiserate with your fellow Drum