



TRAINING ~ stretching a horse at the canter (below) in jumping position. I like the elbow to bit connection, as the rider must follow the longitudinal motion (or forward and back motion) of the horse's top line at the canter and walk. That is why a rider must keep a straight line elbow to bit and not press the hands down. When the hands are pressed down the hand/ arm aids cannot follow this oscillation of the horse's back. Stretching at the canter is not required for dressage tests, only at the trot.



On a beautiful day some of the girls went trail riding. Here they are from Milo's perspective

New horse Pink Topaz at Coventry. I am sure you will be seeing lots of her pictures soon! She lives in the exclusive mare barn at the top of the hill

"Believe you will be successful and you will."
 -- Dale Carnegie, motivational speaker



Often Diamond's Grandmother shares with me her daughter's blogs for school. Olivia is 13 years old, read blog below...

"...And before I wrap up my entry, I would just like to say one more thing. Horseback riding is a real sport. So many people tell me it isn't, liars. It really is. In fact, it is an olympic sport, a very difficult olympic sport on top of that. So many times a day people tell me that I don't actually do anything, that the horse does it all, that it isn't real. It drives me insane. Do you have to communicate with a half ton animal in your sport? Not unless you are an equestrian athlete. Thank you for your time :)"

Olivia started riding at Coventry several years ago and not only has she excelled in dressage but this year she won the WPDA Junior Rider Intro Award with a 67.6% and for the Mountaineer Hunter Jumper Association she was Champion Canter Xrails and for Equitation over Xrails too. For her Interscholastic Equestrian Association, riding at Becky Bloom's barn, she qualified for the regionals in 2012.

So much seems to happen at Coventry, it is hard to keep up. I think most of the news now gets posted on our face book page check. Check us out at this link ~ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coventry-Equestrian-Center/168359289851372?fref=ts> I am sure the next newsletter will feature Coventry winning every WPDA Sanctioned schooling show awards, and there were 11 shows ☺



In these two photos the same rider is cantering. I like how the horse is balanced from the outside supporting rein! The rider's position is in the middle of the horse and the horse is cantering uphill! Rider's at Coventry learn there are two ways to canter ~ in jumping position and sitting... To be a complete rider you need to be able to do both!



Natalie who owned Lindenn, went to college and is riding on the team. It seems every week I get another photo of her smiling holding a winning ribbon from a hunter show, no less! Way to go Natalie!! It's all that good dressage ...



