



www.CoventryEquestrianCenter.com #168

*Horse in Monday & Tuesday out Wed, yeah.
Looks like smooth sailing from here.*

Spring Vet Day is April 1st, if you have not signed up call the farm 724 223 9692 or Canon Hill Vet. There is \$10.00 handling fee for us to hold your horse and/ or take time out of our day to assist the vet in finding your horse et al...

Julie the chiropractor is going to be here Friday if anyone wants their horse adjusted... let me know.

Special Olympics is suppose to start at Coventry Wed. April 21st from 530pm till 630pm. It is an eight week program. If you want to volunteer let us know.



Nancy Lewis Stanton

is schedule at Coventry for dressage clinics April 16th & 17th and May 15th & 16th. Visit Nancy's website at www.SendonWay.com. She is an incredible rider and I hear fantastic trainer/ teacher. I have been wanting to train with her for a long time. PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP about the April clinic. Even if you just ride Saturday in April that would be great. The horse above Nancy bought as a weanling and is now showing him at Grand Prix, she did all the training. Here she is on you tube showing this horse Grand Prix

View Nancy and Rhavel's Grand Prix at the 2008 Dressage Encore, Grand Haven Farm:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk3KVOT0tWQ&feature=user

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!

Elastic Elbows - Keystone to on the bit



This is a nice photo because it shows the rider softly positioning or bending the horse onto the arc of the circle with her left elbow and inside leg. Her outside elbow has straightened some allowing her to bend the horse to the inside. Often riders forget to yield or give with the outside rein so the horse can bend and they find themselves in a tug of war with the contact. Yielding or following the the contact forward does not mean dropping the contact. As you can see, she has not dropped the contact on the outside rein. Her inside elbow closes the angle to bend and her outside elbow opens the angle to follow, thus the horse can bend and there is no resistance from the horse.

This rider's inside leg is also on the horse so the horse will not "fall in" because of her positioning the horse to follow the arc of the circle. Her outside rein too keeps the horse from falling in, by "supporting." As a result, she bends the horse's whole body not just his neck. Once again, here we have "whole horse riding." Riding the horse's whole horizontal body (a future article) and the rider's aids working in symphony to talk to the horse.

If a rider's hands are pressed down she will lose the ability to position, bend or soften the horse in the neck. Elbows have to stay "elastic," with a straight line elbow to bit so they can open and close the angles with the horse's motion. Contact must always follow and be in line with the bit... Notice the straight line elbow to bit in the photo to the left. Her hands are soft (thumbs are up) she is not struggling or over riding to do anything and the horse is piaffing under her invisible aids...

