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A Day in the Life at Coventry

Horses getting out, nothing to report except it has been above 30 degrees. Kristin's horse Andy got a job. After all these years of hanging out he finally has a mission. We are going to miss Andy! Lets hope he is on his best behavior and a little less like Dennis the Menace at his new home! Here is a photo of Valerie stretching Andy. Our website should be, horses stretching dot com. Can't get enough!



Basic Position ~ Coming Through ~ Tilting...

Going through old photos I found these of me riding Magic! I have a good basic position and acquiring good basics are the hardest part of riding, but once a rider and horse have a foundation the rest is easier! Warming up Magic, yes she is deep (behind the bit) in the first photo



but she is round and in front of the leg! And, what does in front of the leg mean? These are all the things you learn in a Coventry lesson! In the next,

photo Magic is tilting her head to the left, rather I am allowing her to tilt to the left. Her left ear is higher, her right ear lower thus her head is tilting! Obviously, I have too much left rein. If I took up more contact on the right rein her head will level out and not be tilting. Valerie, to the left, shows a much nicer frame of a horse stretching equally into both reins. Here is a quiz for you:

Does in front of leg means A, B or C?

- A. Horse's front legs are stepping in front of the rider's leg?
- B. The rider's legs are in front of the horse's hind end?
- C. The horse's hind legs are stepping under the rider's seat and leg



In these two photos, Magic is not stretching, she is trotting nicely and could be coming a little more 'through!' Does that mean she is behind my leg? Also, is she tilting her head? How do you know if she is tilting, look at her ears? To know if she is in front or behind the leg, notice where her hind leg is landing. Her hind hooves should step either in the print the front leg leaves (tracking up), behind the print of the front leg (under tracking) or in front of the print of the front leg, (over tracking.)



Over tracking is ideal. Magic is however, nicely positioned left, she just needs to be more in front of the leg. Till next time happy riding!



