



Horses out overnight and had the pleasure of being rained on! Pastures are replenished!

My beautiful girl Promise went to heaven August 16th. Sad... thank you everyone for your kind thoughts and words. She is missed! She sent me these words after her passing



I envisioned a horse with Promise and let her go as she soared to the unknown realm of pure love infinity from which we all come...

*Ride your Horse Forward and put it Straight!**

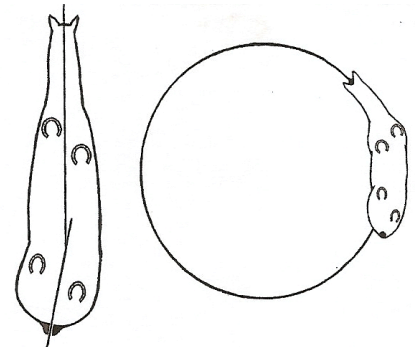
Here are some drawings of the horse and how its body is positioned on the circle and kept straight on the straight lines. If you ride at Coventry this training information is drummed into your head! Horse positioned on the circle and straight on the straight line! And everyone is asked why, and every student knows why! Doing it is the challenge!

The first drawing below we assume the horse is tracking left. So in both drawings the horse's shoulders are falling out! You can see how the rider needs to use the outside rein to move the shoulders back in line with the hindquarters! Both hands left is the more advance way to move the shoulders, opening left rein and outside rein to move shoulders to left is the more basic way. And then the outside leg (the right leg) reinforces and helps to move the horse's rib cage to the left also. Riding the whole horse not just the shoulders... All the rider's aids are working in unison to straighten the horse. In the second illustration, the horse's shoulders are in line with the horse's hindquarters.

These diagrams show how the horse can be crooked.

The horse's hindquarters are swinging to the left.

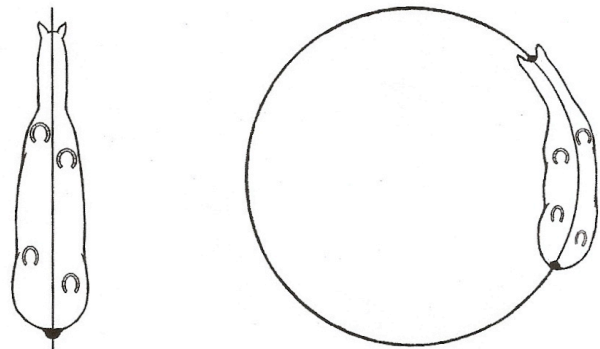
On the circle the horse's right shoulder is falling out and there is too much neck bend.



Straightness can be a difficult concept to teach and understand yet it is the key to balance, rhythm and impulsion.

Straightness

Basically the straightness of a horse refers to the 'line' following his spine from poll to tail.



- ❖ When working on straight lines the horse's spine should be relatively straight.
- ❖ When working on curved lines the horse's spine should be uniformly bent, that is curved like the arc of a circle without any deviation at any point. The hindlegs should follow the same line as the forelegs.

Straightness is so fundamental to working the horse correctly, to achieving balance rhythm and pace, that the rider should be taught to understand straightness first.

The rider does need the ability to judge the horse's straightness and to ask the horse to work with a regular, constant line from poll to tail.

* Gustav Steinbrecht (1808–85) is considered one of the masters of dressage. His advice to ride the horse "forward and straight" is one of the foundation ...

