All horses getting out regularly. The pastures look great. Overnight turnout just around the corner

Positioned Left

Positioned right.

Sarah Varner & Matty

There has been lots of talk recently about the rider turning her torso with the horse's shoulders. Yes, our shoulders should be parallel to the horse's shoulders in the turns, however, our head should still look between the horse's ears, that is unless you are scouting for your next jump, or perhaps navigating center line! The above photo shows a nice "position right" at a canter between horse and rider. The horse is bent around the rider's inside leg, and its whole spine from "tail to poll" is "positioned right" with the inside rein bending the horse from the withers to the poll and leg bending the horse at the rib cage. At the same time, the horse is balanced up and on the outside rein.

The next photo (upper right hands corner) is a rear view of the same horse "positioned left." You can also see here how the rider's inside shoulder is turning with the horse's bend left, and the outside rein is keeping the horse in "horizontal or longitudinal balance." A horse that is positioned or bending inside with no outside rein for counter balance will likely "fall in" toward the center of the circle. That is why we use the "diagonal aids," or in other words the inside aids working in conjunction with the outside aids to keep our horses not only "between the aids" but in "balance."

The next photo (below) shows a horse cantering a straight line and the rider's shoulder are parallel to the horse's shoulders too, not twisting either left or right but straight. This rider does not lean or collapse in any one direction but is balanced on both sides of her body (seat), thus her horse performs balanced as well.

Straight @ the canter
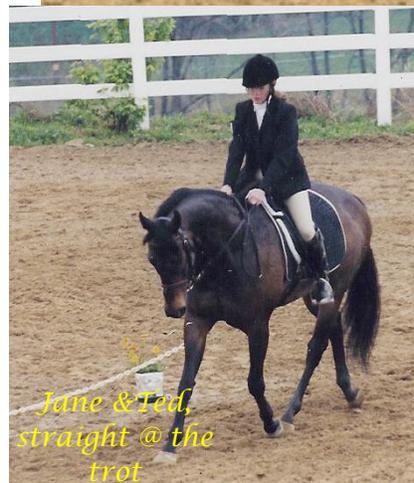
Jane &Ted, straight @ the trot

A Straight Horse has its head in front of the shoulders. the ears level and not tilted, & the shoulders aligned in front of the haunches. The shoulders are not "popping out" or leaning in any direction. Hinds legs will be tracking into the prints of the front hooves...