

## Coventry Equestrian Center



**In Stride w/ Coventry Report #80**  
Monday, Tuesday morning horses out  
Rain and storms keeping them in at night.

**Natural Hoof Trimming.** Our lecture on Sunday was fascinating we learned not only about "Natural Hoof Trimming," but about Paradise Pastures, and all kinds of things. look for details in upcoming reports. I am not going to pull my horses shoes off, but I learned a lot... I love doing these Sunday afternoon talks in the Golden Room. we have lots more planned, so stay tuned.



Are you on the Fast-track to somewhere? Or, in other words, are you feeding your horse Fasttrack? If you want to buy it wholesale instead of retail go to this link.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2bho5iffhtk1vyv/start> Also, Gerry at [www.norcrestfarm.com](http://www.norcrestfarm.com) is the one selling it, I think she invented Fasttrack for horses. We feed it to our horses, it is probiotics for horses.

*Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are but princesses that are waiting to see us act just once with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything terrible is in its deepest essence, something helpless that needs our love. -Rainer Maria Rilke*

**Every now & again someone asks me a question through email. Here is my reply to someone telling a student that the voice is a natural aid.**

I teach "dressage" which means the gymnastic training of the horse. Dressage riders ride with their legs, seat & hands, in the show arena the voice is not legal. However, we can sneak using the voice as long as the judge does not hear. In hunt seat, I am not sure of the voice rule, but in jumpers the voice is practically expected.

There are only three natural aids, legs, seat and hands, the rest are considered artificial aids - voice, whip, spur, martingales. My riders use their voice all the time, but not in the show, unless, like I said, we are doing it under our breath.

**Question. You mentioned that the outside rein is used to slow the horse down, what did you mean by this?**

The outside rein is the supporting rein. it straightens the horse, half halts the horse, directs the size of the circle & balances the horse. Is there anything else you want it to do? (Ha Ha..) However, more simply, it is also the break pedal. The rider communicates from the inside leg to the outside rein. The inside leg says go forward, if need be, and the outside rein controls the energy. This is called the diagonal aids. I see it like a valve in a car's engine that allows how forward the car goes. (Talk to a mechanic about the analogy..)

Typically, hunt seat riders do not ride on contact, so how they slow their horses down is usually by circling. The hunt seat trainer here has the rider's circle until the horse finds his own balance.

I teach my riders to eventually, ride on contact with a straight line elbow to bit. Riding in a frame or on the aids means to maintain the horse round and soft at the poll. By keeping the horse in a frame or nose on the vertical and soft at the poll the rider becomes a master at controlling or harnessing the horse's energy in a harmonious rhythm. By learning to correctly half halt & in coordination with the other aids the horse becomes, as I call "silly putty to the aids."

Often, unfortunately, I see hunt seat riders go to a more severe bit instead of actually training the horse to half halt. Flat work is the key to riding, once again it simply means training.

Keep the questions flying, below is an article I wrote entitled **The Silent Dialog**, one of my favorites. link to article The Silent Dialog  
- <http://blythdale.tripod.com/coventryequestriancenter/d59.html>

**The Three R's for Riding  
Relaxed Rhythmic and Round  
you heard it here first  
Here is the link to that article...**

<http://blythdale.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/the-three-rs-of-training2.pdf>



