

ASHA convention AOT forum February 15, 2008

Panel- Joan Lurie, Anne Judd, Smith Lilly, Eitan Beth-Halachmy, Bob Ruxer

Joan Lurie- Working with Weanlings

Her first recommendation was to read Jim Aikman's book on training and showing in-hand.

Joan stated that best key point was repetition.

She also found it best to keep the colt/filly with the mare. Joan will put the mare out in a pasture while she is working with the mare.

Joan said to spend a lot of time with your babies so they learn to make you their "safe place" and find their confidence with you.

Joan feels a lot of babies are at their best when they are 5-6 months of age.

When arriving at the show Joan always takes them out the day before they show to get them comfortable with their surroundings.

Ann Judd- Choosing a mount for a customer (horse shopping 101)

Before you shop make a check list of what you are looking for, and rate them in order of importance. What you can live with and what you can't.

Make sure you look more than once, and try and keep your emotions out of it.

VET CHECK!!

Smith Lilly- Bits and biting

Smith says to try and use the least amount of bit to get the job done.

Bit structure-Thicker-milder, Thinner-less mild

Smith starts all of his colts in a smooth half-cheek

A lot of his seasoned horse wear a half-cheek fishback.

On many to re-educate them Smith will use a half-cheek straight bar bit with plain donuts to try and straighten up their mouths. (even bridle)

To introduce the curb Smith will use a short, slip shank curb bit with a wrapped curb chain.

10 things to think about with a curb bit

1. Thick or thin? Smith usually used a thick copper wire port
2. Port height-depends a lot on their tongue-big/small tongue, Smith does not tie tongues.
3. Length of shanks
4. Top and Bottom of shanks- Short top-sharper the bit, long top more action at the poll.
5. Roughness of mouthpiece.
6. Weight of bit- one that is heavy in the bridle, pick a lighter curb. (aluminum)
7. Curb chain must lay flat. Almost all Smith's curb chains are wrapped.
8. Use of a sharp curb chain- one that doesn't tip well.
9. The lower you hang the bit the more severe the action.
10. You should always ride with light and relaxed hands.

Eitan Beth-Halachmy- Self Carriage

A horse doesn't follow it head, it's in the shoulder

E. Beth-Halachmy con't

You must get control of the backend

“How do you talk to the feet?”

You must know where all four feet are by using your balance, seat, and thoughts.

Bob Ruxer-Just told stories about the breed and his thoughts about where we are heading.

Recommended readings-“The Silver saddle”, and any of Alois Podhajsky's books.

Open Forum February 16, 2008.

Redd Crabtree, Dick Kearney, Nelson Green, and a USEF representative.

In regards to judging, all felt that exhibitors should read the specks for their division, and well as class conduct.

Nelson Green stated that he felt there has been a lot of changes in the horse business, and for judges and those would want to become a judge there are fewer opportunities for people to “practice” judging.

The USEF rep stated that there were only 44 feedback sheets that were filled out in 2007, out of all of the USEF rated shows.

He strongly encouraged all of us to take advantage them the feedback sheet and fill them out!

It was proposed for the 09' ASHA convention that there be a judging clinic for exhibitors.