

The Equine Endurance Athlete

Selection and Development

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Selection of the endurance prospect

- Conformation
- Soundness
- Athletic ability
- Behavior



Maintenance and Development

- Training
- Preventive health care
- Nutrition
- Farrier
- Alternative therapies
- Saddle and Tack
- Crew
- Repeated veterinary evaluations

Conformation

- Overall balance
- Foundation
- Back



Balance

- Thoracic limbs
- Core
- Pelvic limbs



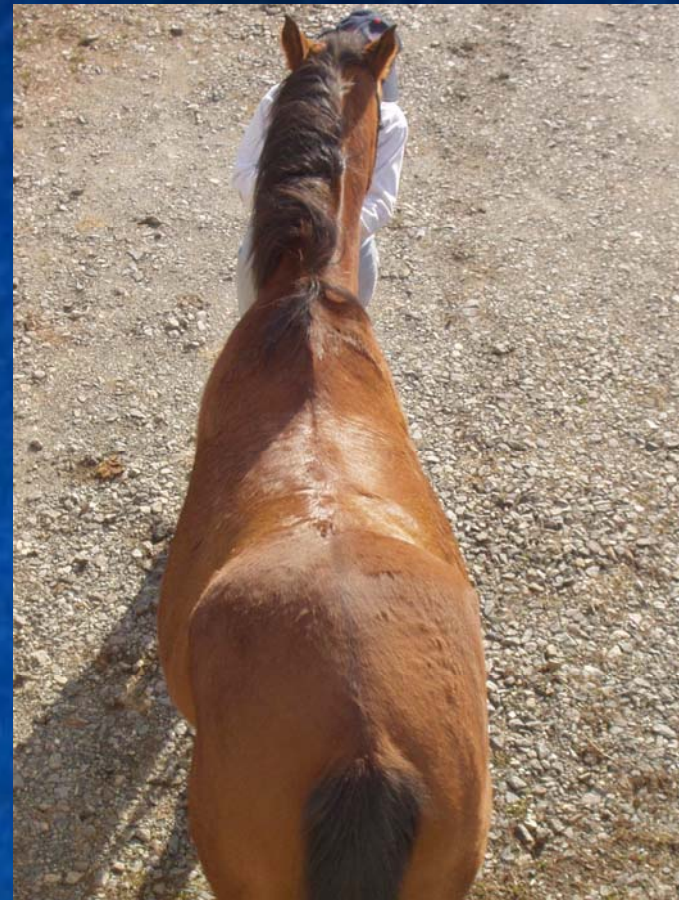
Foundation - Feet and Legs

- Hoof structure and balance
- Weight bearing
- Bony column
- Joint angulation
- Substance
- In Motion



Back

- Withers
- Lumbar
- Ribcage
- Smooth shoulders



Soundness

- “Way of going” or lameness?



Athletic ability

- Efficiency of movement
- Heart rate
 - Resting
 - Recoveries
- Stoicism
- Genetics
- Mutants

Behavior

- Individual preference
- Bold, Sensible, Adaptable, Honest, Curious...



Purchase Examination

- Veterinarian with endurance experience or other sport horses
- As detailed as possible
- Protect your investment ahead of time
- Consider the horse's level of training





Maintenance and Development

Training

- Training log
- Health log
- Monitoring
 - Electrolyte metabolism
 - Muscle metabolism
 - Glucose metabolism
 - Lactate thresholds
 - Organ systems

Train for Diversity

- Environmental variables
 - Desert, forest, beach, cities



- Confinement
 - Stalls, Hospital, Shipping, Trailering



Preventive Health Care

- Vaccinations
 - Influenza
 - Geographic risks
- Blood testing
 - EIA
 - Travel requirements
- Parasite control
 - Internal
 - External
- Dentistry



Nutrition

- Feed analysis
- Soil analysis
- Supplements



Farrier

- Use only the best
- Work with veterinarians
- Work with other farriers



Additional Therapies



- Massage
- Acupuncture
- Chiropractic



Tack

- Does the saddle fit?
- Does it still fit?
- In good repair?



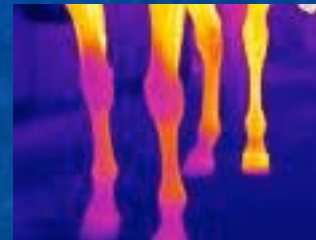
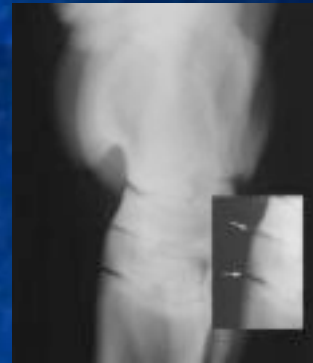
Crew

- Well educated
- Well trained
- Social skills
- Professional



Veterinary Evaluations

- Physical examination
- Soundness and gait
- Diagnostics
 - Bloodwork
 - Radiographs
 - Ultrasound
 - Endoscopy
 - Thermography
 - MRI



USEF Selection Criteria

*Ability of the Rider;
Ability of the Horse;
Adaptability;
Competitiveness;*

*Conditions at Trials;
Consistency;
Demonstrated Ability;
Demonstrated Ability to Peak;*

Demonstrated Ability to Perform;

*Difficulty of Event(s) Completed;
Experience;
Experience in Specific Terrain;
Fitness of Horse and Rider;
Horse Health;
Horse Manageability;*

*Major Ride/FEI Experience;
Metabolic Issues;
Overall Completion Rates;
Presentation of Horse;
Quality of Competition;
Record as a Combination;
Soundness of Horse;
Team Commitment;
Training History/Experience;
of Rider*

*Training History/Experience
of Horse;*

*USEF or Private Vet Exams;
Varied Climate Experience;
Varied Condition Experience;
Varied Performances; and,
Varied Trail Experience.*

