



Horses do Bend in the Rib Cage

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Horses Ribcage

Above is a link to a video Dave took of 2 young Bachelor Pryor Mountain Mustangs in 2007 showing a great example of bending in the rib cage

There are some teachings going on where it is stated that horses do not bend in the rib cage. I hope in posting the photos and video above puts to rest this myth stated by those that have spent no time truly observing or know to feel horses in riding. They have not taken any time to actually study fully anatomy, locomotion and Bio-mechanics of horses.

Anyone that has ever even spent quality time on the back of a horse or done really productive ground work with a horse surely knows and understands the importance that rib cage flexibility plays in much of the movement any horse makes in utilizing the use of its body. It's part of knowing the "feel" one needs and feeling what the rib cage is doing, is going to help one know how to guide and not interfere with the rib cage so the horses legs can follow through as they should in desired executions in performance.

I also ask that in watching this footage watch the legs and how the bend in the rib cage is important and comes into play when the horses moves a hind leg under its self, which many of your have been taught to focus on but also one must also focus on the opposite leg must step away first before the leg to step under can be achieved. Then look to how the forelegs have to function with each other also.

I direct folks in analysis to watch:

1. The full body as a whole to start, then in re watching break the body down into sections.
2. Rib cage
3. Hind quarters
4. Forequarters
5. Head and neck

Analyze each and how they have to relate to work together and then step back and watch it again as you did the first time and:

6. Watch the whole horse again

This video also is such a great visual in observing just how horses use their bodies as a complete unit.

Observe when they can't take the step out with one leg and under with the other, raise the root of the neck and lower the hindquarters to maintain control of their body and use it to lean and unbalance their opponent. A great example of balance, with the body working in harmony.

I also really enjoy at the end the clean and easy canter departure of Flint the Grullo roan stallion.

Please don't be one of those that walks around with the "eyes wide shut" as the saying goes but do more than believe just what is said and learn to see it for yourself, in turn the biggest benefit to this is actually a learning process and understanding the horse more to get the most possible we can in asking it to perform.

Ignorance is a choice, don't let it be yours, enjoy the adventure and the joy to fully understand how a horses body works and yours also .One of those great keys that brings it all together to the best it can be.