



# Equine Soundness

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## Certification Verification

On our webpage we asked about special questions you may have. Here is what M. Radkin asked:

"When a farrier (trimmer) drives up in his truck and the sign on that truck advertises that this person is "certified" in some way, how do we verify that?? Trimmers and Farriers can advertise in local magazines or on tack shop bulletin boards and claim anything they want, because we don't have a way to verify their qualifications! Please tell us how, where to check out these people who have our horses' actual lives at stake! Barefoot or shod, we need to know if these people are even certified at all."

Certification Verification is indeed a difficult task in many ways. First of all, there is the problem of asking. But take heart, if a professional is offering his services, there should be no problem with him telling you what he learned and where. Once you have identified a professional whom you may want to hire, just give him a call or send an e-mail.

Ask some very specific questions:

- Are you certified in your profession?
- What certification do you hold?
- Who certified you (which school)?
- How long have you been working in the field after certification?
- What are your strengths (specialties)?
- What can I expect from your services?
- Can you give me references?
- What do you charge?
- How soon will you be back?
- What do I have to provide, what do you expect from me as a horse owner?



Make sure that every one of your questions gets answered to your satisfaction. Make some notes and verify the information you received. There are various ways to do that. You can call the certifying body and inquire about the individual.

## Certification Verification continued

Some schools have their graduates listed. After you received the information from the professional, do an Internet search and find the certifying school. Proceed from there.

When checking on references, ask about punctuality, reliability, how long the professional is already working for the individual and most important: How does he handle the horses? Is he patient and compassionate, or short tempered and rough?

Here are some of the schools that are certifying barefoot hoofcare professionals, visit their websites to learn more about their programs:

Equine Soundness Inc.— <http://www.equinesoundness.com>

AANCHP— <http://www.aanhcp.net/>

Equine Science Academy—<http://www.equinesciencesacademy.com/>

KC LaPierre—<http://www.equinepodiatry.net/>

International Center for Equine Arts—

<http://www.internationalcenterforequinearts.com>

Strasser Hoofcare—<http://www.strasserhoofcare.org>

There also are some schools that certify people after 5–7 days, but we do not think you can teach people how to trim in such a short time.

# How many Horses?

Draught, recession, rising cost of feed etc. How many horses can you afford?

A few years ago I taught a class in continuing education at the local college: Horsemanship 101. In this course we investigated how much it would cost to keep a horse behind the house versus boarding. Considering the same amenities, the "behind the house" horse turned out to be twice as expensive as the boarded horse.

Granted, these are only numbers, who can put a value on our beloved animals? But there is a legitimate question: How many horses can you afford?



## How many horses cont.

I have just added up expenses for the horses I own:

They come to \$ 250.00/month for each horse. That includes feed, property maintenance, annual dentistry and annual Coggins test. I have not calculated the mortgage or building depreciation into that. I do not have to pay for trimming, lessons, acupuncture, massage, trailer maintenance etc. Would I have to calculate that in, I would have to add probably another \$ 150.00/horse/month. So far my horses have been very healthy. I haven't needed a veterinarian in a while, but I have calculated how much I can spend on veterinary care, should the need arise.

As a hoof care provider I get daily calls and e-mails inquiring about hoof care. I often hear: "I would love to have you trim my horses, but I cannot afford that." Or: "I would really need to get my horse's teeth floated, but I have to pay some other bills first." "Your detox program sounds terrific, I love to do that for all of my horses, but there are too many".

Horses are luxury animals, they need a lot of care and are potentially very expensive. Responsible ownership includes to have the financial means to afford all the professional care your horse needs to stay healthy. Reducing the number of horses you own may ensure better care for the ones who are left.



## Foaling Season is here!

To raise a healthy foal is a huge job! Now that foaling season is here, please remember a few things about these precious newcomers: Foals should be out day and night. A stall is not a suitable environment for a newborn horse. Movement is really important, so are playmates. All the major organs, skeleton and movement apparatus can really only develop adequately with lots of movement and play. Unless you have a huge area and very hard ground for your new foal to move on, trimming as early as two weeks of age may be necessary. Talk to your hoof care provider. You may be able to avoid a lot of problems later on by early trimming.





Check out our courses at  
[www.equinesoundness.com](http://www.equinesoundness.com)

We offer hoof care instruction for horse owners, professional students, veterinarians and farriers. You can take one course at a time and pay as you go. Study all the theory at home and meet with one of our experienced instructors in your area for the practical part.

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Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends.

Hoof Care for the 21st Century

## Horse for Sale

Looking for a special horse? Check this one out: He has been raised with the barefoot approach and has excellent feet, never been shod. He's a grandson of Roemer (KWPN)(recently inducted into the Dressage Hall of Fame), great grandson of Contango. The dam's is by Starman (Westfalen) of the USET Olympic Jumper fame. Rembrandt will be five years old on May 24, 2008. He has had about 6-7 months of flat work as a base with the nice Dutch rider shown riding him. He was last measured at 16.1 1/2hh and should finish at about 16.3hh perhaps a bit less. He will be presented for sale at \$25,000 USD this spring before show season. He has a nice calm disposition and is frequently ridden on the road with traffic. A full set of x-rays will be included in the price as well as video footage of flexions etc.

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJfOucyYIAQ>

Seller: Hermen Geertsma DVM  
Aldergrove, BC  
<http://www.geertsema.ca>

