



## TIPS from [www.ActionRiderTack.com](http://www.ActionRiderTack.com) Archive #1



Judy researches the **INTERNET** for information on everything from the latest news on EPM to weed control. She found that if she adds ".edu" to her search, she can choose from more reputable sites.



**TRIVIA:** To put the **HORSE'S RELATIONSHIP TO MAN** in perspective, stand in the middle of a 100' X 200' arena. If you start by looking at the in-gate and then let your eyes travel 50 feet to the first corner, then 200 feet down the long side, 100 feet across the far end, 200 feet up the other side, and then 50 feet back to the gate, your gaze will have traveled the distance that represents the 55 million years of the horse's evolution. Now look at your little fingernail. That represents the number of years that the modern horse has been domesticated. From "How to Think Like a Horse" by Cherry Hill.



Do you have **BIRDS NESTING AND PERCHING** in your barn? Do they spook your horses and leave their "calling cards" on your shoulder? Kari solved her bird problems by installing a revolving amber light that she bought at an auto supply store in the rafters. The movement of the light discouraged the birds from making her barn their home.



Trish always carries a long heavy duty **BUNGEE CORD** in her trailer. If it is windy or if she is parked on a hill, she uses the cord to hold her heavy trailer door open as she loads and unloads her horse.



It is very important for trail and endurance riders to be able to **MOUNT AND DISMOUNT FROM EITHER SIDE** of their horse. Sometimes safety necessitates an offside dismount or remount. Work with your horse in a safe environment at home if she is nervous or unsure of this new training procedure. Get help from a trainer if you need to. It helps to work with your horse from both sides in all kinds of training situations.



Feeling dusty, sweaty and tired after several hours in the saddle? Amber carries **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED MOIST TOWELETTES** in her saddle pack. They are great for cleaning up before lunch or a reviving "facial" in the middle of a long trail ride or endurance competition. Just remember to "pack it out" and return the used towel and wrapping to your saddle bag.



Jen shares this idea for using the **PLASTIC ENVELOPE OPENERS** with the little razor in them. She says they make great baling twine cutters. The ones with the magnets on the back are especially nice because they can be stuck on something metal near where you keep your bales.



Launa, in Idaho writes: If you have to **GIVE YOUR HORSE PILLS** here is a way that they don't hate seeing you each day you have to medicate them.

- Get a large syringe (the big one) and cut the end off with a serrated knife just above where you put the needle, so that the largest part is open.
- Mash or grind up the pills (helps if you have a mortar and pestle, but the end of rolling pin in a cup works pretty good too).
- Fill the syringe about 1/3 to 1/2 full with Karo Syrup, then put the mashed up pills in. (I put a little more Karo Syrup in on top of that and then stir it up in the syringe with a butter knife.

- Then when I give it to the horse I just put it in the side of his mouth, like worm medicine. Try to get it back as far on their tongue as you can. The karo syrup makes it sticky, so they don't spit it out so easy, and it is sweet, so they like to eat it.

This works better than putting the medicine in grain or just shoving it down their throats with a pill mechanism. They aren't so bad if you have to give them medicine a couple of times a day for a week.



Eric writes that his horse H-appy has a **VERY SHORT TAIL** making it difficult for her to whisk away flies. Eric solved the problem by unraveling hay twine strands and braiding it into H-appy's tail. Note: be careful to cut the strands short enough so your horse won't step on his/her new 'tail'!



Wouldn't you love to have a picture album of your favorite rides? Andy slips an inexpensive **DISPOSABLE CAMERA** into his shirt pocket or saddle bag and snaps great pictures along the way. Andy also suggests, get your friends to take pictures of you and your horse out of the trail.



Gerri suggests that you **TACK UP BEFORE APPLYING FLY SPRAY**. When your horse's back gets warm, the pores open and fly spray can cause skin irritation under the saddle area. She also recommends applying fly spray with a sheepskin buff'n'dust instead of with the spray bottle so that the spray doesn't get into your horse's eye, causing pain and stinging.



Did you know that all those **FREE MAILING LABELS** you receive in the mail can be very useful? Julie takes a few sheets with her to horse shows and expos. She uses them to enter contests and to leave her name with vendors. So next time you receive that junk mail don't throw them away!



With so many riders using similar looking helmets, Carrie wanted to avoid any chance of a mix-up or helmet loss. She attached a **SMALL DOG TAG** to one of the straps with her name and phone number. You can attach a similar tag to bridles and other equipment too!



Deidre avoids messy drips that attract flies and dirt by pouring her **VEGETABLE OIL** into a used mustard type squeeze bottle. Now she can neatly squeeze as much oil over her horse's feed as she needs and avoid yucky drips and spills.



Ever wonder what to do with those **OLD HORSE SHOES** your horse left laying around for you? Mary took those old iron shoes and attached them to the wooden posts supporting her hitching rail. You can actually nail or screw them to any wooden post such as a lamp post or gate entrance. Let your imagination run wild.



Hoof boots, gaiters, extra caps, pads, screw drivers, foam, etc - yikes! Get one of those **GARDEN BUCKET ORGANIZERS** things that fit into one of your white buckets and you can keep all your paraphernalia organized. Just pick up one bucket and go to your horse and everything is there for you to apply your boots.



What's the best way to **CARRY YOUR ELECTROLYTES**? Some riders preload a syringe and wrap it up and hope it doesn't leak. Some carry a small film canister and pour it into a syringe, add water and shake. Another way is to premix your electrolytes with probiotics, applesauce or however you may like and then put it into a Guilden's type mustard container, the type with a squeeze spout that has the little cover for the tip. At your stop just squeeze the amount you need into a syringe and give it to your horse. PS Carry the mustard container in a ziplock just in case!