



WELCOME

The Ride Smart Club is the best place to better your horse and horsemanship. Follow along with Craig on the journey to enhancing your skills and becoming a better horseman. Be sure to check ridesmartclub.com often for new content and videos.

LETTER FROM CRAIG

Excuses, Excuses

February brings adverse, undesirable, cold, wet snowy weather conditions that may seem like a good excuse to just sit around and become a couch potato, or what I call in our business, a horse potato!

People ask me, "Do you ride when the weather's bad?" In February, I will do as much riding as I can. Just because it's snowy and cold does not mean you have an excuse to get lazy! This is a time you can take advantage of indoor arenas and indoor events. There are many winter rodeos, stock shows and expos that a person can attend to watch and observe, learn new things, find new tack to keep one's self on the cutting edge. Also, here at the Double Horn Ranch, I find that these chilly, rainy, snowy, days are a good time to clean and oil my tack and equipment.

You may not be able to ride, but there is no excuse not to exercise yourself. I'm a big believer in physical fitness and I try to do some type of exercise or workout routine each and everyday. As I exercise, I can visualize riding and improving my all my equine techniques. You could even pop in a Craig Cameron training DVD as you're exercising!

When you are fit, your level of horsemanship goes up, just the same as when you're unfit, your level of horsemanship can go down. So use that as a motivation to exercise so that when the weather does change and you do have the opportunity to ride, you will be more prepared physically, mentally

and emotionally.

NOW GET OFF THE COUCH, put your slicker on and get moving!

Your friend,

Craig Cameron

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Q&A

Question: We've had a lot of snow this winter, unusual for my area - can I ride my horse in the snow? If so, what's the safest way to do so?

Answer: For you guys up north, you can absolutely ride in the snow, but

if you have shoes on your horses' feet, be aware that they can get snow packed in those shoes, and that can be very tough on horses. If it accumulates, it leaves the horses just standing on these big, icy balls. One way to prevent that is to oil their feet. We use linseed oil to keep their feet and shoes from icing up. You simply put the oil on the bottom of their foot, and it will help prevent the snow pack from forming so severely. Sometimes, however, you have to simply stop and clean those snow packs out by hand.

One other thing - you can use Borium - a little piece of metal that you can put on the shoe - to help give your horse more traction in the snow, especially virgin snow that hasn't been ridden on or packed down yet.

- Craig

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Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Craig Cameron & the Ride Smart Team
Craig Cameron Ride Smart Horsemanship

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