
When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by campbh - 2007/12/30 15:59

Just wanted to tell you about the most fabulous hack out I had on my young QH today – it's taken a little time, getting him to hack out calmly on his own; when he arrived, he was a little skittish outside of an arena. He's done extremely well hacking in company, but was very much lacking in confidence when out on his own.

Today he proved that he's a bit of a solo hacking star and I'm just so proud:woohoo: ! We went out for 2 hours on our own across the downs and over to the next village on a route he hadn't done before. He dealt with farm traffic, deeply rutted ground, loose dogs, pheasants, deer, shooters, hikers, trail motorbikes, ponies being galloped up and down a stubble field right beside him by kids who clearly like to go somewhat faster than us, and he didn't bat an eyelid. He loped and jogged when asked, just the politest horse and a pleasure to ride. To cap it all – he crossed a 30ft river, this from a horse who was puddle-phobic! It took some persuading to get him in at first and I pulled a fast one by backing him up into the water when he refused to go in forwards – but the strategy worked better than I could have imagined! Once in up to his knees, he didn't hesitate in turning around and wading across, getting a full under-chassis wash in the process! He was a bit taken aback by the current as we passed by the bridge arches but just got on with the job, so careful with his footing on the pebbly base. Maybe the round of applause he got from the walkers watching him from the bridge made up for the dunking – but he felt so much more confident after the crossing, and was quite happy to wade back in on the return journey!

A lot of 'proud mum' blah blah, I'm afraid, but some people on this site have been so helpful in getting us this far. Thanks, in particular, to Shane Borland for giving my horse some essential foundation in the arena, to Joey for providing some invaluable nannying with Seren and great tips on riding out, and to QQH for inspiration and moral support(!), and of course to Tommi for proving to be such a big-hearted polite horse and taking all my challenges with such good grace, even scary, icy rivers on a cold December day!

Next challenge... Highland cows :whistle: !

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by BLACKJACK - 2007/12/30 17:04

Well done you and your youngster! how old is he ?

I've got a rising 3 year old going for further training next year in kent for 6 months.

I cant wait to ride him, but patientence is a virtue I suppose. I had my old cob pts a year ago so have been without a mount for a year now:(I am booking up six months worth of lesson so I am up to speed so to speak.

blackjack

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by Joey - 2007/12/30 17:25

Absolutely fab, sad I couldn't come on out with you and Tommi on what was a fab hack out (not a puddle but a river!) but on the other hand bril that you just get on and achieve what you need to achieve. Onwards and forwards with Tommi, making of a great trail horse!

Gonna be a good to see you at the Shows again next year!

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by curly - 2007/12/30 17:29

I really envy you having downs to ride over and a river to cross, make the most of it! Although I live in beautiful countryside there is hardly any off road riding which is so disappointing.

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by QQH - 2007/12/30 18:38

WOOOOOOOOOOHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!! You go girl :laugh: :P :laugh: :P

Now I really have to put the boy(s) in the trailer and come find you.

Well done.

Jude xxx

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by campbh - 2007/12/30 20:37

Thanks everyone for your comments, I'm still grinning from ear to ear!

Blackjack - Tommi is 5, so not really a youngster in QH terms, horses of 3 and 4 already seem to have done so much, but not he, so he is only just a Grown Up, I think! Enjoy your youngster - I am really enjoying taking the small steps, not the big ones, each small gain brings so much pleasure, you've got all that ahead!

Joey, you gotta come up here when Seren's back in work, we've got some seriously long trails to enjoy before you get gobbled up by the smoke... :(

Jude - would love you to bring the boys up :lol: , this is outride heaven round these parts and why I moved here from London! The more routes I discover, the better it gets... Seriously, I know the livery yard I'm at is considering trying to organise a trail ride/weekend (AQHA.UK or other); but I'd love to have more western riders to ride out with, as Curly says, when you've got outriding this good, it's a crime not to use it!

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by westernsaddler - 2008/01/01 23:39

Fantastic to read - made my evening. Sounds like you had a great time. :D

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by hunterrookie - 2008/01/02 16:26

Campbh is too modest to mention that Tommi had also spent the previous day being a total angel when we went schooling at a very smart but very spooky arena in the Cotswolds the day before!

Not only did he cope with the arena like a pro but put up with the weird combination of Shane giving another youngster a 'going forward' lesson, Chic making sure that Vix stayed fully alert at all times !!! and the OH practicing his 'peanut pushing' on madam!

No wonder he wants to be a duck instead of a QH!

Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by Calamity - 2008/01/09 17:28

Hi, well done with your horse - he obviously thinks you are a very trustworthy leader. I've been hacking out my rising 4 year old all last year and I know how it feels when you come back and you've done something great - my last great moment was passing one of those tractor and hedge-cutter things that make a huge noise and spit branches out everywhere. Not a problem!

Whereabouts do you ride out? I'm down in Sussex but hope to travel this year to AQHA trail rides and other gatherings to enjoy more of our fantastic countryside.

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Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by Angie - 2008/03/12 20:00

Just what I would like to do too...have a ride with your best friend! My youngster is coming home tomorrow, think I will take it slow at first though and oh boy wouldn't that be nice too, if you not far away come and join me for my first trip!!!well done and many more happy hacking days.....

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Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by QQH - 2008/03/12 21:25

Angie wrote:

Just what I would like to do too...have a ride with your best friend! My youngster is coming home tomorrow, think I will take it slow at first though and oh boy wouldn't that be nice too, if you not far away come and join me for my first trip!!!well done and many more happy hacking days.....

where are you and where's your youngster been??? Have trailer...will travel:whistle:

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Re:When riding out becomes a pleasure

Posted by campbh - 2008/03/12 21:33

Hi All

Thanks for your comments - I'm determined to encourage my QH to be as versatile as possible!

He's back in training now and coming on very nicely, but already I feel his confidence levels outside of an arena diminishing so I know I've got my work cut out to keep him 'comfortable in all worlds'. To that end, I'm planning a few 'time-out' weekends over the coming months where he can get back out in the open and realise it's not Too Scarey!

He's going to do his first TREC competition in May and possibly a long distance non-competitive ride in August along with his various pleasure ride engagements - a bit of a change from the show pen! Angie, Calamity, you're both relatively nearby, so PM me if you have any big outriding plans; if I can arrange for my QH to be at home at a specific w/e's and there aren't show conflicts, I'd really love to ride out with other westernshoppers this summer!