

# London Horse Sports

Your London and Region Directory to Everything Equine



Newsletter July 2011

[www.LondonHorseSport.ca](http://www.LondonHorseSport.ca)

## Horse Holding 101

by Tamaran Gray of [equinebodyworks.ca](http://equinebodyworks.ca)

“All horses are not created equal. Ask any farrier, vet or therapist, and they’ll tell you that there are people they would prefer to have holding horses for them. In fact, quite a few vets and therapists and a growing number of farriers actually employ their own horse holders.

Sure, anybody can hold a horse. But sometimes you’re better off with a horse tied to a wall than with certain people on the end of the lead rope: the guy who holds the tail end of a 12 foot long lead rope while sitting on a muck bucket; girl who keeps her horse on a lounge line because she doesn’t like to stay close; the women who’s more concerned about her clicker hand than her lead rope hand; and the kid who can’t feed carrots fast enough and let’s the horse swallow the plastic bag.

While these stories are about the extremes who make for good story-telling, farriers, vets and therapists get small doses of their behavior from lots of horse holders. As a horse owner, there are a number of things you can do that make holding the horse easier. You can create a situation or environment where you’re not setting things up to fall apart.

Here are two tips that will help get you, your horse and the person working safely through a shoeing session:

1. If you feed at a specific time everyday, you don’t want to schedule your visit for that time. Horses are creatures of habit, and they don’t like it when you break them out of their routine. And they certainly don’t like it when they think everyone is getting fed but them.
2. Horses are herd animals, and if you’ve got them to close or too far away from their pasture mates, they’re not going to give you their attention. Likewise, there are comfort areas where horses will relax. Its a known fact that one fly can keep a horses attention better than two people. Using a good fly spray and running a fan during fly season can make everyone’s day go more smoothly.

So keep these tips in mind when you have your next appointment.”

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## Calendar

### July 2011

- ◆ **2nd** – G.R.E.A.T. club show (Tilsonburg)
- ◆ **3rd** – Rusty Gaits Saddle Club Show (Aylmer) Rain date
- ◆ **3rd** – Highland Green Stable’s Spring Event (London)
- ◆ **3rd** – Oxford Trailriders Club Show (Ingersoll)
- ◆ **3rd** – Dressage at Cidermill Farms (Harrow)
- ◆ **3rd** – London Horsemanship Club Show (Ilderton)
- ◆ **6th** – Eden Ridge Wednesday Schooling Show (London)
- ◆ **8&9th** – Thames Valley Riders Club Show (Dorchester Fairgrounds)
- ◆ **9&10th** – Southwest Trillium Hunter/Jumper Show @ London Hunt
- ◆ **10th** – London Dressage Association Show @ Eastwood
- ◆ **10th** – SWO Combined Test @ Highland Green Stable (London)
- ◆ **10th** – G.R.E.A.T. club show (Tilsonburg)
- ◆ **10th** – Triple C Saddle Club Show (Shedden)
- ◆ **16th** – Cactus, Cattle, & Cowboys Western Festival (West Lorne)
- ◆ **16&17th** – Southwest Trillium Hunter/Jumper Show @ Warwick EDI
- ◆ **17th** – Oxford Trailriders Club Show (Ingersoll)
- ◆ **17th** – Rusty Gaits Saddle Club Show (Aylmer)
- ◆ **20th** – Eden Ridge Wednesday Schooling Show (London)
- ◆ **22-24th** – OQHA All Novice Show & Area 1 Sensational Summer Circuit (Ilderton)
- ◆ **23rd** – Thames Valley Riders Club Show
- ◆ **24th** – ORCHA show
- ◆ **24th** – Prelude Hunter/Jumper Circuit Show @ Warwick EDI (Mossley)
- ◆ **30th** – London Horsemanship Club Show (Ilderton)
- ◆ **31st** – Red Valley Saddle Club Show (Strathroy)
- ◆ **31st** – Prelude Hunter/Jumper Circuit Show @ Railside View EC (Dutton)
- ◆ **31st** – Triple C Saddle Club Show (Shedden)

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