

"The Smallest of Choices"

The interesting thing about owning horses is the unknown factor about unforeseen accidents and disasters. You can plan a trail ride or going to a rodeo or horse show. Yet being prepared for some type of emergency is very tough. You can have an equine first aid kit, phone numbers to veterinarians along with your horse trailer ready to load and go. There will still come a time when nothing you have done or prepared for is enough for your horse's needs. This time of your horse's life and yours is when small choices really come to the forefront of your decision making ability.

There is always misfortune without compensation in your life. You do everything right and take no short cuts or cutting of corners in your planning. Yet something just comes along and before you know what is going on your horse's life and possibly your life is in danger. All the planning and preparedness seems to be just a waste of your time. It has done absolutely nothing to help you and your horse out of whatever the current issue is. This is very frustrating along with being very confusing to you. Yet there is a way of coping and dealing with these unfortunate issues and times in your horse's life.

When it is time to decide to put your horse down, when the horse's life is over. The quality of life is gone and pain management means ending the horse's life is the only way to relieve the pain. You really are at the mercy of those types of situations. Major medical or psychological problems limit our ability to have a lot of choices. Most times there is only one way to take care of whatever is wrong. This can make you feel helpless, with wondering how could this have been avoided? Avoiding many of these times in your horse's life comes down to the smallest of choices we make as horse owners.

Fixing a bad section of fencing to prevent an injury, filling holes in the pasture so a horse does not step in it and get hurt. Keeping all electrical cords and wires out of your horse's way so they do not get electrocuted. Regularly checking the tire air pressure and greasing the wheel bearings on your horse trailer. Inspecting barns and fences for storm damage. Yearly shots and regular worming schedules. Making sure your horse is always eating and drinking water. Patrolling your land for horse thieves and trespassers. Avoiding sick horses when having your horse around strange horses. Regular yearly health and dental check ups. Some type of regular hoof care routine and schedule. All of these and more are the small decisions that horse owners make, or do not make that have such a large factor in the unforeseen things that come into your horse's life!

There will always be accidents and catastrophic issues, yet by making small decisions all the time. You do diminish those unforeseen large decisions that are really out of your control. I hope by bringing this small subject to light it may make it easier on your horse and yourself when choices seem limited and there is no real good choice available. So take a moment and see if right now you can make a small choice to consider the environment and way of life your horse has. Maybe just maybe this small choice will prevent or alter the course of a major decision that you wish that you did not have to make.

By BJ Rickard – The World OF Horses – Stall13.com
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