



CROSSROADS DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING SOCIETY

THE CROSSING

March 2025, Volume XXII, Issue 3

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From Your President

March Board Meeting Date Change: We will be meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at Calhoun's at Kingston Pike and Pellissippi Parkway. If you want to join us for dinner, be there at 6 p.m.; meeting starts at 7 p.m. Our February board meeting was cancelled due to heavy rains and March's meeting has been delayed a day, so I could return from out of town and be present. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We will be working on our schedule of events for the year at this meeting, so your input is valuable. A suggestion has been made to offer fewer schooling shows and more clinics. Are there clinicians you would like to see us book? Please contact any board member with the name of the clinician and his/her contact information and why you feel this would be a good clinic for our members.

What dates would you like to participate? Normally, our spring schooling show is the first Saturday in May (May 3, 2025); our June schooling show is the third Saturday in June (June 21, 2025) and the September schooling show is the last Saturday in September (September 27, 2025) with Fall Fun Day to be October 18 or 25. Are there better dates for clinics, if we do clinics in lieu of a schooling show? Are there dates that would help you be better prepared for other shows, such as A-rated shows, that you participate in? What about Fall Fun Day? In 2024, we changed the format to encourage green horses/green riders with W/T/C and W/J/L classes, leadline and halter classes with "horsey" games in the afternoon. Would you like to do this again or go back to a "mock" hunter pace as we have done in previous years? And of course, are you willing to volunteer to help us out with the events we scheduled? We want to know what YOU want as we want CDCTS to be YOUR club and meet your needs.

You were recently sent a survey about the direction you'd like to see us go. A few folks completed this at the annual banquet. Please take about 5 minutes to fill this out and return it.

Until next month, stay warm and Happy Riding!

Carolyn Ordal
CDCTS President

CDCTS is a USDF Group Member Organization and all members are automatically USDF Group Members. For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.



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The Chronicle Of The Horse

‘Don’t Do That! Why Punishment Is A Problem

Published: February 12, 2025

Words By: Blogger Matt Brown

I can picture my seventh-grade teacher, let’s call her Mrs. Smith, with her bun wound almost as tightly as she was, wagging her finger at me, and putting on a very stern look.

“Matthew! Stop throwing those beer nuts across the classroom!”

I don’t remember exactly what went through my head when she told me to stop, but I do remember what my response was, and it was the opposite of stopping. As soon as she turned her back, fling, there went another beer nut.

I’m pretty sure Mrs. Smith hated me. Actually, I remember one particular time I was in the principal’s office with Mrs. Smith and my mom, where Mrs. Smith told the principal and my mom I was the worst student she ever had. I took that as a challenge.

My point in relaying this embarrassing detail about my life isn’t to convince you to try beer nuts (but you should, they’re delicious). It is to say Mrs. Smith’s approach didn’t work. Telling me to stop, sending me to the principal’s office, giving me detention—none of those things got me to change my behavior. In reality, it hardened my behavior. I already thought I was a bad kid, so to me, giving me detention was just proof of that fact.

If Mrs. Smith had just asked why I was acting out, what was causing the behavior, she would have learned that my best friend had died earlier in the year and my parents were getting divorced. Had she made more of an effort to get to know me, she would have found that, before entering her class, I was a straight-A student who was always on the honor roll. I just didn’t care anymore.

I can already hear a chorus of rebuke, “As sad as that is, that doesn’t excuse bad behavior,” which isn’t necessarily wrong. But, the punishment and the time spent trying to get me to stop didn’t work to change my behavior. All it did was make me hate school and lean harder into my misbehaviors.

During that time someone suggested that my dad take horses and riding away from me until I could behave. Luckily, he did not do that; he knew that riding was my only escape and my only pleasure during a difficult time. By allowing me to ride, he wasn’t rewarding my bad behavior or excusing it; he was keeping me from becoming even worse and maybe giving up on everything completely.

On reflection, I don’t blame Mrs. Smith. I am sure she was doing her best with a disruptive kid, and my point here isn’t to try to prove that punishment never works. Punishment has its place, but to use it alone as a tool to change behavior doesn’t work. Had Mrs. Smith asked why, had she made an effort to understand what was happening with me, she might have approached me with a bit more empathy or tried something different to curb my bad behaviors, rather than just using punishment.

I am sure that all of us, at least those of us who were “challenging” like me, can think of similar examples in their lives. We remember a time when we were told, “Don’t do that,” and stopped just long enough for the authority figure to turn around, walk away or otherwise not pay attention. At which time most of us probably proceeded to do exactly what we’d just been told to stop doing. I am not passing judgment. Believe me, throughout my life I have relished doing what people told me not to do.



Rider and trainer Matt Brown argues for taking a more thoughtful, less reactionary approach to unwanted behaviors in horses. (Kimberly Loushin Photo)

'DON'T DO THAT! WHY PUNISHMENT IS A Problem - CONTINUED

So, if it's not effective, why do we like to say, "Don't do that!" so much and try to punish behavior away? We use punishment because it's easy. Punishment lets us feel like we're addressing an unwanted behavior without actually having to engage more deeply with the problem. Studies and experience show that punishment often doesn't have the intended effect of curbing the bad behavior.

So now replace beer-nut-loving, seventh-grade me with a horse. We all know "that one horse" in the barn that we are told, "Watch out for him. He's a biter." It's easier to label that horse a biter and to give them a whack and say, "Stop that!" when they bare their teeth than it is to figure out why they are biting in the first place. What are they trying to tell us through the behavior? Are they in pain? Bored? Searching for connection?

Maybe the whack and, "Stop that!" was necessary in the moment—or maybe not—but either way, the whack isn't training. It's not teaching the horse anything other than to be head shy, or that humans are not to be trusted.

A new student once came to me to ask about her horse, who tried to bite her every time she tried to blanket him. She was told the horse just needed to deal with it so she should elbow him each time he went to bite her. Unfortunately, she said the horse was starting to become more aggressive about it, so I asked her to show me. As we approached the horse's stall the horse seemed alert to our presence but pretty content. Ears forward looking at us like, "Are you bringing food? Do I get to go out?"

When she picked the blanket off the stall door the horse moved to the back of the stall, and when she opened the door the horse turned away. I told her to stop there. I asked her to notice the horse's behavior. Inadvertently, she had ignored the horse's quieter protests, going to the back of the stall and turning away, which then led the horse to say, "Hey, I don't like this!" in a much louder way, biting instead of simply moving away.

So I asked her to wait at the stall entrance until the horse turned back around. It took a couple minutes, but eventually the horse turned around to look at us again. Then I told her to just reach her hand out to invite the horse over to say hi. To this, the horse didn't move away, but he also didn't come to say hi either. I told her to take one step inside the stall with her hand still outstretched. At this the horse turned away again. Again, I told her to stop and wait for the horse to turn back around. Again, it took a minute, but the horse eventually turned to face her again. I told her to take one step closer to the horse. She did, and this time the horse didn't turn away.

I said to take one more step. Again, the horse stayed facing her. One more step, and she was close enough to touch the horse. I asked her to scratch him on the withers a bit then slowly put the blanket over his back, but if the horse gave any sign of discomfort to stop until he relaxed again before slowly proceeding. It turned out that this particular horse was uncomfortable with someone coming at him quickly with something in their hands. It actually had nothing to do with the blanket. It took just a few times of the student slowing down when she entered the horse's stall for him to get comfortable enough that he stopped trying to bite her.

It could've just as easily been the case that an ill-fitting blanket was making the horse uncomfortable, or that he didn't like being touched and it didn't matter if that was by a hand or the blanket or a brush. Trying to figure out what was causing the behavior took a little time. It would've been much faster just to elbow the horse. Unfortunately, more often than not this approach escalates the behavior like it had in this case.

Instead of reacting and assuming a horse is the worst in the world, like Mrs. Smith did with seventh-grade me, we can ask why. Maybe the horse needs to see a vet, needs a more enriched environment or maybe just needs more (or less) attention. Maybe if we were as quick to be curious as we are to react or judge, we might just start to understand our horses a bit better. In better understanding what's happening for them, we might be able to take a more effective approach to dealing with unwanted behavior. Maybe using better training techniques or finding better ways to motivate a behavioral change isn't even the answer. Maybe simply listening is the answer. What I know for sure is that it can't hurt, and it might be enough to facilitate a change in a positive direction.

Matt Brown is a lifelong horseman and student of the sport of three-day eventing. He is a five-star competitor and has represented the U.S. as a member of Nations Cup teams at Aachen (Germany) and Boekelo (the Netherlands). He was an alternate for both the 2015 Pan American Games (Canada) and the 2016 Rio Olympic Games (Brazil).

[Click here for web link to the above article.](#)

CDCTS CLASSIFIED CORNER

Trailers for Sale. Tobruk Trailers. Merhow and Cherokee aluminum trailers. Custom living quarters for large horses. Hitches and repairs. Call 865-674-7041 or email tobrukfarm@charter.net.

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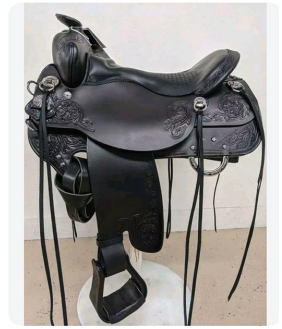
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Troxel Schooling Helmet Brand new, in box, never worn, medium - \$85

Tipperary Eventing Vest, size medium, never worn - \$125

Contact: Diane Carlson
865-922-3614 or
dianeandcharlie56@gmail.com

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Full Page (7"wide X 10" high)	\$10 per month	\$20 per month
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Quarter Page (3.5"wide X 5" high)	\$2 per month	\$5 per month
Business Card (3.5"wide X 2" high)	FREE	\$2 per month
Classified Ad	FREE	\$1 for each 25 words

Please send ads, via email to cdctsnews@gmail.com. Make checks out to CDCTS (put "advertising" in the check memo line) and mail them to Kacy Schnake, 324 El Jon Lane, Kingston, TN 37763.

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 CDCTS Board Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Jim Koford	4 Jim Koford	5 Jim Koford
6	7	8 CDCTS Board Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

ARTICLES FOR THE CROSSING

Please submit articles for your monthly CDCTS newsletter, *THE CROSSING*. Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month. Send your article by email to: cdctsnews@gmail.com.

EVENTS

2025 CDCTS Events

Schooling Show Dates: Spring, May 3; Summer, June 21; Fall, September 27; Fall Fun Day, October 18 or 25

2025 Local Events

Jim Koford: April 3-6, May 1-4, June 5-8, July 3-6, August 1-3, September 4-7, October 2-5 (subject to change), October 30-November 2, December 4-7.

Next Meeting

Note Change of Meeting Date for March

March 12, 2025

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Calhoun's Restaurant

(Pellissippi/Kingston Pike Intersection)

10020 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN

6 p.m. for dinner, 7 p.m. for meeting



Region 3 USDF GMO #0319

CDCTS is a USDF Group Member Organization that caters to dressage and combined training (eventing) riders and enthusiasts in the Knoxville area and throughout East Tennessee.

By joining CDCTS, you will be on the fast track to learning about shows, clinics and other great educational opportunities in our area. You will get to meet other like-minded, horse loving people, and you will become part of a group that is continually working to promote dressage and eventing in your area.

In addition, by joining CDCTS, you automatically become a Group Member of USDF, which provides you with many additional benefits in the dressage arena.

Visit us on the web for more information and downloadable content at www.CDCTS.org

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CDCTS



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Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society 2025 Membership Application



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CDCTS membership year is 1 December 2024-30 November 2025. After 1 December, the effective date of membership begins the day the form and correct dues reach the CDCTS Secretary at the address below. CDCTS is a USDF GMO and its members are automatically USDF Group Members. For Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF. \$24.00 of your primary GMO membership fee goes directly to USDF for your Group Membership. Electronic copies of CDCTS applications will be held until funds are received.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____ USDF#: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: () _____ Secondary Phone: () _____

Primary Email address: _____

Birth date: _____ (required by USDF for all riders under 21 years of age,
and requested for those over 21 years old to assist in limiting doubled entries at USDF)

I would like to Join: _____ /Renew: _____ Crossroads Dressage and Combined training Society for the
membership year 1 December 2024—30 November 2025 in the following category:

a. Charter Member (Founding member of the club whose membership has not lapsed) _____ X \$23.00 _____

b. Adult Member (Over 21 years old as of January 1, 2024) _____ X \$52.00 _____

c. Junior/Young Rider Member (21 years old or younger as of January 1, 2024) _____ X \$28.00 _____

d. Family Membership (\$52 Primary Member + \$13.00 per each additional member) _____ X \$52.00 _____

_____ X \$13.00 _____

e. Early Bird Discount (Payment before November 1, 2024) **deduct \$5.00** _____ - \$5.00 _____

ARE YOU PAYING WITH PAYPAL? (cdctsg@gmail.com)

IF YES, ADD \$2.00 _____

Total: _____

List the Additional Family Members below:

Name: _____ Phone #: () _____

I would like to volunteer to support the club in the following areas:

Horse shows: _____ Scribe, _____ Scorer, _____ Runner, _____ Ring Steward, _____ Concessions, _____ Set up and
Tear Down, _____ Hospitality

Other: _____ Phone Contacts, _____ Committees, _____ Board Member, _____ Write for Newsletter, _____ Publish
newsletter, _____ Website, _____ Sell Advertising _____, Other _____

Please make your check payable to CDCTS and return to:

Kacy Schnake, CDCTS Treasurer
324 El Jon Lane
Kingston, TN 37763

Office action:

Date Received: _____

Check #: _____

Amount: _____



**Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society
2025 Professional or Business Application**



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Primary Contact: First Name: _____ Middle Initial: ____ Last Name: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing or Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: () _____ **Secondary Phone:** () _____

Primary Email address: _____

I would like to Join: ____ /Renew: ____ Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society for the membership year 1 December 2024 - 30 November 2025 as a **Professional or Business Member (please select one)**

a. I/we wish to provide a lecture or training series with the following details:

b. I/we wish to sponsor a class in a CDCTS Schooling Show for the following amount _____ or with the following goods and/or services _____. *Please select Spring or Fall Show or both.*

c. I/we wish to sponsor a _____ (trophy, ribbons, neck sashes, etc) in a schooling show. *Please select Spring or Fall Show or both.*

d. I/we wish to sponsor a year end award. Please specify which award and amount.

e. I/we wish to support the club in another manner. Please specify below:

Please fill your form out and mail it to:

Kacy Schnake, CDCTS Treasurer
324 El Jon Lane
Kingston, TN 37763

Office action: Date Received: _____