

National Day of the American Cowboy!

In my continued efforts to generate a correct conception of the Term Cowboy, I again mention a bit (and links) to highlight the correct reputation of the American Cowboy. I have lived and worked as a Cowboy and Horseman for many years (both home in Texas and here in the UK). Here in the UK I have endured the disrespect shown toward the name /term "Cowboy" and as such I continue my efforts to change that attitude and image, as non-confrontationally as possible. I provide below, some site addresses where readers can find more information and a link to the Fort Worth Stockyards.

[Fort Worth Stockyards](http://www.fortworthstockyards.org/), www.fortworthstockyards.org/

And [National Day of the American Cowboy | Flickr Blog](http://national-day-of-the-american-cowboy.flickr.net/en/2015/07/25/national-day-of-the-american-cowboy)
[blog.flickr.net/en/2015/07/25/national-day-of-the-american-cowboy](http://national-day-of-the-american-cowboy.flickr.net/en/2015/07/25/national-day-of-the-american-cowboy)

A bit of Texas: Texas was settled originally by the Ancient Coahuiltecan Indians (5000 years before time of Egyptian Pyramids, Greeks and Romans !). The Law arrived West of the Pecos River in August 02 1882.

On this day in 1882, the commissioners of Pecos County officially appointed Roy Bean justice of the peace. He retained the post, with short interruptions, until he retired voluntarily in 1902. As he gained fame for being an eccentric and original interpreter of the law, the Kentucky native became known as the "Law West of the Pecos." For example, when a man carrying forty dollars and a pistol fell off a bridge, Bean fined the corpse forty dollars for carrying a concealed weapon. The forty dollars covered the man's funeral expenses. Bean died in his saloon on March 16, 1903, of lung and heart ailments and was buried in the Del Rio cemetery. His shrewdness, audacity, unscrupulousness, and humor, aided by his knack for self-dramatization, made him an enduring part of American folklore. This year the National Day of the American Cowboy is recognized on 25th of July, 2015. This is a "Nationally" recognized date in USA (and of course in "Texas" my home state). This date is set aside to "Honor" the cowboy way. I hale from Ft. Worth, Texas which is nationally known as "Cow town". The "Fort Worth Stockyards" saw more than 4 million head of cattle trailed from 1866 to 1890 via the "**Chisholm Trail**" **from** Fort Worth to Chicago prior to the implementation of the Railroad. Currently /for benefit of tourism, the city has rebuilt the Northside Stockyard area to resemble the 1800 period and now provides a twice daily herding of 50+ Texas Long Horn Cattle down Main Street in mornings, to grazing, then back in the afternoons. The "National Day" festivities include seven rodeos and riding events featuring top amateurs and professionals. You can also partake in fun contests for watermelon eating and seed-spitting, best moustache, most worn-out boots, and buckaroo coloring. When you get hungry, check out the many steak houses and restaurants, known for their juicy steaks, burgers & hotdogs. Kids love taking period photos at The Jersey Lily Old Time Saloon Photo Parlor and on a tame Longhorn.

Equine facility & transport designs:

Another important point I continue to try to get across is in regard to erroneously and horse unfriendly built equine housing and transport equipment. I often see and try to politely as possibly comment on how stables and trailers are built so much differently here than in the Southern USA (esp. Texas) and how they are too often built in a fashion that is not friendly nor helpful to horses. I often run into examples of poor stable construction & problems, often within otherwise well designed Farm

August 2015 Essex Rider Magazine
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based equine facilities. The main problems I come across are stables and trailers built too confining in size as well as being built without sufficient windows in order to (1) provide needed ventilation and (2) to avoid the natural claustrophobic problems horses face. Their lack of binocular vision and the limiting close up view of their peripheral vision caused by being in stables without sufficient outside vistas exacerbates their natural very stressful claustrophobic reactions. It is not an overly expensive job to provide sufficient windows cut into at least two or three sides and in the rear (of stables, trailers or boxes) and can be built (in stables) small enough to prevent any damage to adjoining occupants. This easily prevents the "cave style" situation which is "hard wired" into all equine minds over many millions of years and which won't be changed in our lifetimes. I have observed many equine problems being largely caused by these claustrophobic conditions, over the last 33 years in the U.K., whilst I visit and deal with problem horses. I have also seen horses enduring higher than normal summertime heat without sufficient ventilation. I have seen them standing in their stables without these basic needs and as a result they were exhibiting extreme discomfort and acting in very agitated, potentially dangerous, poor habit forming manners. To me, this is cruel treatment and most folks should realize how detrimental it is keeping horses in these situations.

I also come across many trailer and truck carrier (aka "box") transport vehicles which generate loading issues and other problems, caused in large part by design and construction problems. The most common are lack of "sufficient" and/or "properly located" windows and ramps used in cases where they are not really necessary (mostly in trailers) as well as ramps built without sufficient stability to assure horses. Location of windows is important in order that horses can not only "see out of them" but so that they can "see" things pass by out of sight - rather than disappearing. Many trailers have badly located windows which leave the horse in a situation where they see something coming from the front quarter only to then see it suddenly "disappear" from view which leaves them to worry about whether the "thing" is behind them afterward. When these recommendations are followed, the result is "always" positive. Back home in Texas, I very seldom ever ran across trailer loading problems, as our trailers are generally very open design (as can be seen on links in my site). Also our trailers do not often use ramps to load as horses are just fine climbing up. Of course horse boxes in Texas generally are built to lower the bed and have longer and much more stable built ramps. I spend a great deal of time convincing horses the empty space under ramps is not dangerous to them. I have also found it best not to tie horses in transit as they need to be able to balance and if they actually fall they need to be able to move their head & neck weight in order to get up. A tied rope can keep them from being able to maneuver their head and neck using the counter weight as they normally would. Most often I travel this way with all horses especially race horses that are less well trained and more hyper.

Note: when horses travel loose (without tie down) a jockey door is important to allow the attachment of a lead line (I always use 15 to 20 foot long lines for unloading) before opening the back door or any exit door.

Ya'll ride safely and Aware.

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