

PROTOCOL WHEN WORKING IN A VETERINARY CLINIC

by Emil J. CarrÈ, CJF

In most of our work as farriers and veterinarians there is little or no reason for our paths to cross on a regular basis - but can and does change when we are presented with a lameness of the foot and lower limb of a horse. What can develop as a result of a lameness in this region is an interdependent relationship between the two professions that will, if well-executed, lead to the successful treatment of the problem and, hopefully, the return of the animal to sound work. This complimentary style approach is much like the working relationship in

human medicine between a surgeon and an anesthesiologist. One cannot work successfully without the other, yet they work on the same patient in the same area.

RESPONSIBILITY

(Defining who is in charge of what)

Our capacity for effective action is best illustrated in those areas where we experience having a choice. Choice includes the sense that our opinion is a valuable part of the process. We long to participate in a life that contributes in some way to the people around us. This is a

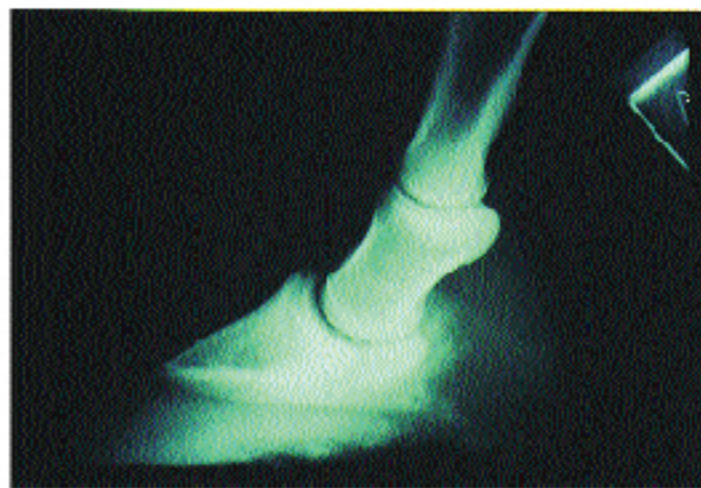
human quality, true in all healthy relationships, yet we often overlook the boundaries, the written and unwritten rules that keep each of us from infringing on

another's territory. This is true of nations, marriages and the workplace. So how do we define who is responsible for what in a process where more than one person needs to participate in accomplishing a goal?

DEFINE YOUR JOB

Webster defines a veterinarian as "One who practices the medical and surgical care of domestic animals." A farrier is defined as "One who shoes horses." A professional is defined: "One engaged in a profession for pay, a vocation, esp. in a branch of science or learning."

As you can see, we are, by definition, responsible for two totally different jobs. Yet what we experience on a daily basis is often something quite different. We may find ourselves somehow trying to "do our thing" on



PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

This issue of The Natural Angle is unusual in the sense that it is not dealing directly with hands-on, practical applications or techniques. But we hope as you read the material that it will give you a some food for thought - perhaps helping you in your business and personal life as well. It is a sad event that has pushed this to the surface for us but we felt it was useful to share these words with you.

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the other person, thus imposing our will rather than delegating responsibility.

We farriers often catch ourselves, if we take the time to listen, using the language of our counterpart's profession as though we somehow crossed over an invisible line and became him or her. When we speak to horse owners this way, they become confused as to who is responsible for what and the job becomes even more difficult.

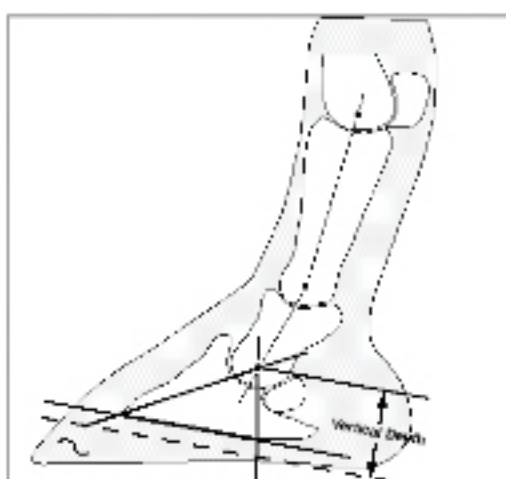
Most states have a "practice act" which provides a legal definition of the practice of veterinary medicine yet falls short of mentioning the role of farriery as a part of any procedure performed in the treatment of lameness. California state law contains Section 4840: "Authorized Acts for Animal Health Technicians and Unregistered Assistants", which spells out what is and is not prohibited.

Under California law, if you are a farrier working with a veterinary clinic, you need to be officially employed by the clinic and covered by their liability insurance. If not, you could find yourself in court, should something go wrong.

What both farriers and veterinarians are concerned with, though, is the physical well being of the horse. With a little understanding and mutual respect, we can succeed in this task. As we develop a deeper understanding of each other, our ability to accomplish tasks is increased.

INTERDEPENDENCE

Interdependence is the concept of "we" - we can do it, we can cooperate, we can combine our talents and abilities and create something greater together. It is a mature concept.



As with the surgeon and the anesthesiologist, we farriers and veterinarians must understand that we need the best thinking of other people to combine with our own. Once the diagnosis is made by the veterinarian, the treatment may or may not involve farriery. This kind of teamwork is something only truly interdependent people can accomplish. Unlike independent people whose concept is "I can do it," interdependent people can share themselves with others.

How do we achieve these lofty goals? I suggest we seek out and meet people with similar goals.

Look for people with like minds who want to work with us.

If you are a veterinarian, identify the farriers in your area who share your feelings; if you are a farrier, do the same. Approach and introduce yourself. I would even go so far as to create a network of people you know and in whom you have faith so you can call when you

need to refer to someone else. It is one of the most liberating experiences you will ever experience when you can turn over some or all of the responsibility to someone else.

PERCEPTUAL FILTERS

We define perceptual filters as the lenses through which we see the world. These filters have a profound effect on how we feel. They are made up of our underlying assumptions and beliefs about reality, our attitudes about ourselves and others, and our past experiences and current expectations. Is it no wonder then that ten people might look at the same thing several different ways?

Most of us don't understand that not everyone sees things as we do. Abraham Maslow was quoted as saying, "He who is good with a hammer tends to view everything as though it were a nail." Think for a moment about how things might improve if we worked at trying to see things through the other person's eyes. What if we took time to understand before trying to be understood? The

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challenge of understanding is one we have to work on independently, for we are the only ones over who we really have any control.

SYNERGY

Synergy simply defined means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts - that water, lemons and sugar together make a wonderful

drink called lemonade. Synergy is everywhere in nature and we can learn to apply its principle of creative cooperation to our day-to-day lives. To bring the best thinking of everyone involved in what we do together will create a winning situation for everyone.

Many of us have learned in our

lifetimes to adopt and "either/or" mentality - that common "You are either with me or against me" kind of thinking. When we do this we greatly reduce our possibilities for success because we have only given ourselves two choices. This is a result of not valuing the other person, and of not appreciating the possibility that those same differences of opinion, if combined, might just result in a totally new way of looking at a problem.

If we can train ourselves to value another person because he or she sees a situation differently, we can begin to approach the real essence of synergy. The product of this kind of fusion can open up unlimited possibilities and will surely lead to the kind of winning solution that benefits everyone.

In conclusion, we are at the edge of something great when we can meet at the bottom of the mountain and walk the path to the top together. Mutual respect and value are always the essence of successful relationships. n



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References: Edward Hoffman, The Right To Be Human: A Biography of Abraham Maslow; Ernie Larsen, Stage Two Relationships; James O. Herman, PhD, A Handbook on Esteem; Stephen R. Covey, The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People.

Excerpts from interview with Emil Carré, Anvil Magazine July, 1992 and August, 1992 Issues

I think it's extremely important for me and maybe important for all humans to look inward - ask yourself the question: Who am I? How do I fit in here? And who are all you others? One of the ways that I got rid of anger or how I deal with anger today is I try to look at things and say to myself, what do I have power over and what do I not have power over? The Serenity Prayer says, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." I wake up every morning and think about that.

If you're going to have a direction in life, you have to have a philosophy about that direction. You have to label what it is you want out of this, and that's not to say you can't change your philosophy along the way. But, if you're going to start in a direction, you should create a philosophy that says, "I want to go in this direction, and these are the things that I will and won't do, and these are the things I believe in and the things that I don't believe in. Then you have a pretty good chance of staying on track. It's when you just break into things blindly that you have a hard time - because you don't have a goal or philosophy.

I attribute much of my success, much of the skill that I have today, to the willingness on other people's part to share their talents with me. After I did the initial educational part of learning how to shoe horses, I became involved with farrier associations. As you remember, back when we first met, it was the California State Farriers Association and that evolved into the Western States Farriers Association. And back in 1977 I joined the American Farriers Association, and through those groups and through that involvement, my life has been opened up to a whole world of things. I've had the opportunity to work with what I consider some of the world's greatest, like Gene Armstrong, Bob Marshall, Dave Duckett, Edward Martin, and many, many others who have been willing to share what they have with me and others. I think the growth for people happens, not



only as a result of your willingness to try to grow, but other people's willingness to share what they have with you. The fellowship and the camaraderie that exists in these organizations and in this group of artisan farrier/blacksmiths are a wonderful thing.

We all have our idiosyncrasies, but if you can work through that stuff, there is a tremendous amount to be learned from those people. And I attribute much of my success to their willingness to share what they have.

I have been doing this for a long time. We're growing old, and eventually we're going to have to turn the reins over to the younger guys. I want to share with them what I have so that when they take over, my clients will have as good a person as they had before. n

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The "manufactured" system that is used by some horseshoe manufacturers, Kerckhaert for instance, involves the use of pre-formed bar stock and a series of presses and hydraulic devices. Shoes made on this system are generally made with higher carbon steel, as they don't gain any hardness from the process. Bar stock is cut to length, run through a heating device and then into the machine. The various steps of creasing and punching then take place as well as the hydraulic bending which forms the final shape. Two of the advantages of this system are the speed and flexibility. The machinery is adjustable and can be changed so that nail patterns, creases and other features of a shoe can be modified if the market demands change. It is also very fast, making 32-35 shoes per minute. The only after process necessary is the pitcheling, which is done cold so that the material is sheared out, leaving a clean nail hole.

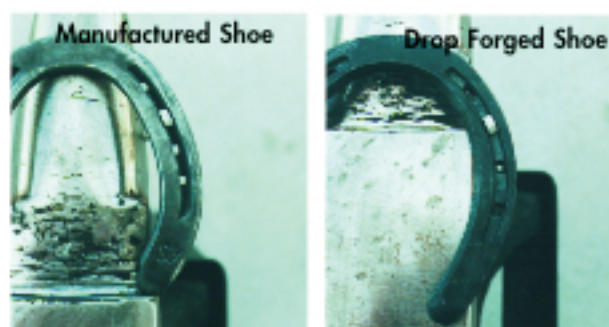
The North American market depended for many years on shoes that were made on drop

forging equipment. The term drop forge comes from the process. The upper half of a die is literally dropped onto the lower half - creating an impact that forms the raw material into the shape cut into the die. They usually start with round steel that is cut to length and then shaped on a bender to approximate the shape of the die. Some of today's manufacturers still use drop forge equipment but others have shifted to forging presses. Forging presses still use dies much like the drop forge hammers, but the force that forms the steel is not from dropping the top die but rather from hydraulics or mechanical arrangements that exert hundreds of tons of pressure. The drop-forged shoe is made from very low-grade steel but gains hardness from the forging process. Shoes made using a die system have

to be trimmed. The flash - or excess material - is squeezed out the sides of the shoe cavity. A smaller press is usually adjacent to the large hammer or press that forms the shoe. A trim die removes the flash, leaving a telltale mark that this was a forged product. The nail holes are usually punched through in the same process with the trimming. This is done with heat still in the shoe - which sometimes leaves material in the nail hole area. A number of today's forged shoe manufacturers run the shoes through belt sanders to minimize this problem.

The forging process can be automated but typical speeds are 8-12 shoes per minute. An advantage for the drop-forged shoe is that you can cre-

ate many elements in the die that can be difficult or impossible to do on other systems. But dies are very costly, even when done in house, and changes to design are less likely as a result of the high costs of tooling.



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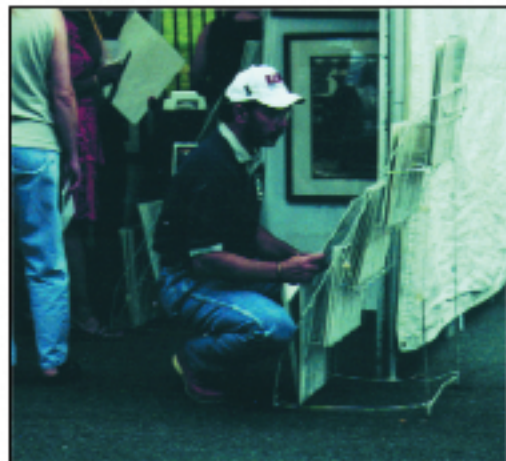


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EMIL JOHN CARRÈ, CJF - 1946-2002



We recently lost a great friend and a good man. He cast a wide net in his effort to create an "interdependent" lifestyle, snaring farriers, owners, veterinarians and many individuals in his personal life. Many know of his recent tenure as President of the American Farriers Association, his work as a clinician and his writings. But I think we have only seen the tip of the iceberg regarding all the private, personal stories of his one on one effort to encourage and elevate those he came in contact with. In the brief period since his death, we have heard many stories from those who felt this positive impact in their lives.



Emil Carré dedicated his life to the farrier and equine industry and all those involved in it, no matter what their role. The article we have reprinted in this issue gives some sense of his constant effort to bring people together - always with the hope for positive results. His was an effort that we should all consider embracing - and continuing. I think in that way we can best honor him - and remember him.

Emil's wife, Cate and his family have asked that anyone interested make contributions to the American Farrier's Association, to be used in a memorial fund to further goals that Emil felt important for the Association. If you are interested, please contact John McCutchen, AFA Executive Director at 859-233-7411 or by email: jmccutchen@americanfarriers.org.