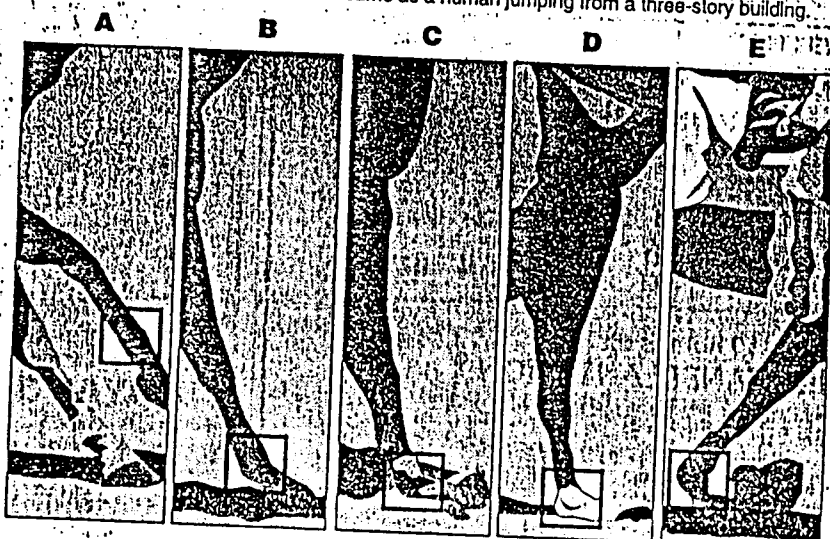


IMAGINE A LEAP FROM 3 FLOORS UP

A horse's hind legs are used for propulsion, but the forelegs bear the weight and provide balance. At one point in a horse's stride at full speed, only the lead foreleg will be touching the ground. Thoroughbreds weigh about half a ton and run at speeds up to 40 miles per hour — on shins no bigger around than a human forearm near the wrist. In human terms, the force exerted on a horse's lead leg while running at full speed is the same as a human jumping from a three-story building.



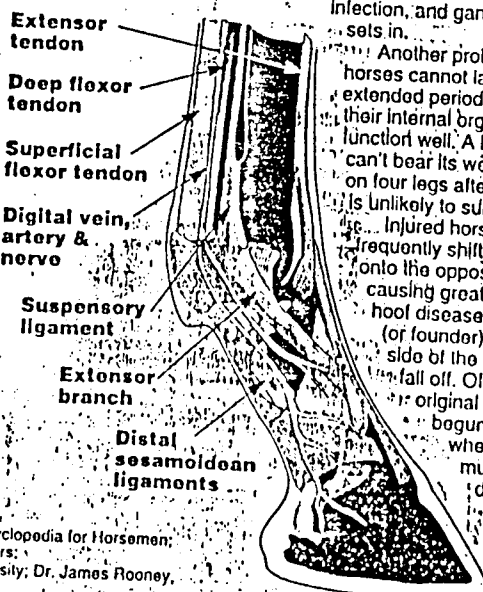
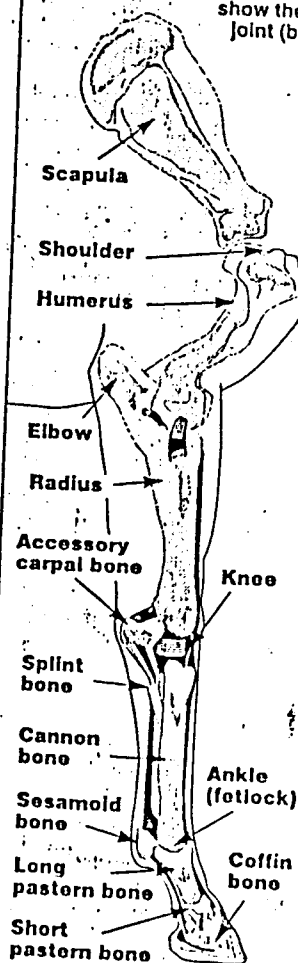
A horse's design violates a key engineering tenet, according to Dr. James Rooney, a professor of veterinary science at the University of Kentucky and specialist in biomechanics: The fetlock joint (ankle) "moves many degrees while it's being loaded with a thousand pounds. So that area is frequently damaged." The drawings above show the phases of a normal stride. Notice the position of the fetlock joint (boxed) in shock absorption (A-D) and propulsion (E).

Why injured horses can't be saved

BECAUSE its survival mechanism is flight, a horse that suffers a leg fracture usually tries to run, which often damages the limb's circulatory and soft-tissue support systems beyond repair. The two main arteries in the lower limb are right over the sesamoids, and when those bones shatter the vessels can be severely damaged in a matter of strides.

Another complication is that horses have no muscle, a major source of blood supply, below the knees in front and hocks in back. The major components of that part of the limb — tendons, skin, bone — have the worst blood supply of the tissues. The circulation disruption often is a greater problem than broken bones because blood supply is critical for healing. Without circulation to bring in white blood cells, antibiotics can't be delivered to the site of infection, and gangrene readily sets in.

Another problem is that horses cannot lay down for extended periods because their internal organs won't function well. A horse that can't bear its weight evenly on four legs after six weeks is unlikely to survive. Injured horses frequently shift their weight onto the opposite limb, causing great risk of the hoof disease laminitis (or founder), where the side of the hoof can fall off. Often, the original fracture has begun healing when horses must be destroyed because of founder.



SOURCES: The Illustrated Veterinary Encyclopedia for Horsemen; American Association of Equine Practitioners; Dr. Marc Ratzliff, Washington State University; Dr. James Rooney, University of Kentucky; Dr. Larry Bramlage.

OCR

1. How many greyhounds are born in the United States each year?

The National Greyhound Association, the registry for all racing greyhounds, estimates that about 30,000 greyhounds will be born in the U.S. in 1997, a decrease of 30% since 1992.

2. How old are greyhounds when they begin racing?

Most begin at about a year and a half, and continue until 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 years old. Some will race beyond their fifth birthday, and a select few past their sixth.

3. Does racing come naturally to greyhounds?

Greyhounds love to run, and are competitive by instinct. In racing, there is no stimulus other than the mechanical lure to make the greyhounds run. When the starting box opens, the animal's natural instinct is to chase the lure, and try to reach it first.

4. Is racing safe for greyhounds?

Yes. If an injury does occur, each track has a veterinarian on the premises to attend the animal immediately. However, prevention of injury is a top priority. The industry has funded extensive research into methods for ensuring the safety of racing greyhounds while they are competing. Much of that research is conducted at the University of Florida's Center for Veterinary Sports Medicine, the only facility of its kind in the nation.

How are greyhounds trained to race?

At about a year old, greyhound puppies are transferred to training kennels. They run and chase by instinct, so initially their training consists of chasing a lure dragged along the ground. As they mature, they are taught to run on circular tracks, with the mechanical lure suspended above the ground. At about a year and a half, they graduate to longer, oval tracks, starting boxes and competition.

5. How does the American Greyhound Council ensure humane treatment for greyhounds?

The Council administers a range of programs to ensure humane treatment from the farm to the track. Greyhound farms must adhere to strict guidelines and pass inspections by AGC authorities. At the track, contracts and licensing procedures require that proper animal care practices must be followed. Those who fail to treat animals properly on the farm or at the track may be denied racing privileges on a temporary basis or permanently expelled from the industry.

7. Does the industry use live lures?

No. The industry has banned the use of live lures in training and racing. State laws also prohibit the use of live lures. Industry members who violate this practice may be expelled from the sport for life.

8. Where are greyhounds kept when they are not racing?

Greyhounds live in climate-controlled kennels, usually on or near the tracks where they race. They are turned out several times daily for mild exercise and play, exercised on sprint paths and taken for walks.

9. What happens to greyhounds after they retire?

The majority of retired greyhounds (about 16,000 a year) are usually adopted as pets or therapy dogs, or returned to breeding farms. Those that are unsuitable for adoption or breeding programs are humanely euthanized by licensed veterinarians or approved animal shelters. While local humane societies and animal shelters euthanize nearly 15 million unwanted pets annually, fewer than 12,000 greyhounds were euthanized in 1995. This number continues to decrease each year through reduction in breedings and expansion of greyhound adoption programs.

10. Why do some animal rights groups oppose greyhound racing?

Although opponents of greyhound racing claim their position is based on animal welfare, the truth is that these groups oppose any use of animals for any purpose, because they see animals as equal to humans in all major respects. Animal rights groups do not acknowledge legitimate animal welfare programs like the American Greyhound Council's because, in their view, animal welfare reforms simply make animal use more acceptable to the public.

For example, John Hoyt, president of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), said on August 29, 1984, in a speech to greyhound track operators, "There is a developing ethical consciousness within our society and culture which views the exploitation of animals for any non-essential purpose as wholly inappropriate."

Based on this premise, animal rights groups such as the HSUS have mounted expensive publicity campaigns attacking the use of animals for food, clothing, medical research, education, entertainment and companionship.



Animal Welfare vs. Animal Rights: The Great Debate

In recent years, animal rights activists have challenged society's right to use animals for human benefit. The discussion has evolved into a debate between two fundamentally opposing views. Although some people view animal rights and animal welfare as synonymous, in fact these two philosophies are irreconcilably different.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has defined animal welfare as "...a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia."

Those who adhere to the animal welfare philosophy support the responsible use of animals for food, clothing, research, education, sport, recreation and companionship. They view animal use as both appropriate and necessary to our survival and to our quality of life.

Animal welfare advocates, therefore, accept responsibility for the humane treatment of animals in their charge. Conscientious farmers, researchers, hunters and pet owners follow proper animal welfare practices not only because it is right, but in accordance with state and federal laws or established industry-wide codes of practice. In the greyhound industry, these codes of practice ensure high standards of humane animal care from the farm to retirement.

In contrast, animal rights supporters reject all animal use, no matter how humane, because they believe that animals are the same as human beings in every major respect, and therefore deserve the same rights. Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) official Michael Fox has said, "The life of an ant and the life of my child should be accorded equal respect." Ingrid Newkirk, founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA) has said, "There is no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy."

Some animal rights philosophers have even suggested that animal welfare reforms actually impede progress toward animal rights because they improve the conditions under which "animal exploitation" occurs, making it more difficult to stimulate public opposition to animal use.

OCR

This, in fact, has been the position of the Humane Society of the United States with respect to greyhound racing. In 1984, HSUS President John Hoyt told an audience of greyhound track operators, "...Under no circumstance, no matter how significant the changes and improvements made, will greyhound racing as now practiced be approved or endorsed by those within the animal welfare/rights movement. For...there is a developing ethical consciousness within our society and culture that views the exploitation of animals for any non-essential purpose as wholly inappropriate."

However, in the animal rights view, all animal uses are "non-essential." Even lifesaving biomedical research is under attack from animal rights group, including HSUS and PeTA. PeTA's Newkirk has said, "Even if animal research produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it...even painless research is fascism." The message is clear: the lab rats must be saved, even if human beings die as a result.

The majority of Americans reject this anti-human, animals-first philosophy. Mainstream Americans believe it makes sense to use animals for food, clothing, medical research, education and entertainment, as long as we do so responsibly. That is the commitment of the American Greyhound Council and its members.

Jumping tall

When Cindy Piper first saw EJ Wee Cash, the chestnut gelding was a sorry mess.

He was a skinny, bony, gangly five-year-old Quarter Horse, and that was about all Piper of Hamel, Minnesota, knew about him. She had bought him over the phone from her veterinarian (who'd picked him up at a sale barn), solely on the good doctor's word that the horse could jump.

Could he ever. EJ Wee Cash, known in the jumping world as Charles R, bested a field of traditionally bred jumpers on October 25 in the Washington International Horse Show's \$15,000 Cosequin International-Open Jumper Puissance class. To do it, the 16-2 hand former racehorse cleared a fence that was seven feet tall.

Piper, president of the United States Pony Club, set to work in the summer of 1993 schooling EJ Wee Cash to be a fox-hunting horse. After he won a couple of local shows, Piper decided he was too strong and too talented to be a Pony Clubber's fox hunter. Besides, he didn't like foxes.

"He just didn't see the concept of going out and chasing foxes," Piper said. "He just wanted to go."

Which was what he should have wanted to do. Bred by the late Kansas horseman Elwood Jones, EJ Wee Cash was by the Dash For Cash stallion Cashagamble and out of the Wee Folk (TB) mare Shes A Wee Honey. But the horse was a washout at the track, finishing eighth in his only start, a 550-yard claiming race he started as a three-year-old at Manor Downs. So forgettable was he that his owner at the time doesn't remember him.

Nor can he remember where or when or to whom he sold the gelding. EJ Wee Cash's whereabouts are unaccounted for until he resurfaced in 1993 at the sale barn of Big Ed Dauphanais in Elk River, Minnesota.

Luckily, Piper and her vet saw potential in EJ Wee Cash, and Piper placed him with folks who could do him justice. In October 1993, she contacted some jumper riders at the Minnesota Fall Horse Show. Donald Cheska of Wisconsin carted him home.

Cheska contacted Ed Connors, who called an up-and-coming jumper rider from California named Francie Steinwedell-Carvin.

"Ed told me he knew of a Quarter Horse that I might could trade a couple of hunters for," Francie said. "He said, 'Trust me!' So I did, and Charles came. He was green and big, and he bucked a lot."

Owned by Francie and her mother, Fran Steinwedell, Charles R received his name from the Charles R Ranch, a New Mexico spread that Fran's sister and brother-in-law own. Around the barn, Charles also answers to "Charlie" and "Chuck."

Francie and Charles worked their way up through the open jumper ranks – from training jumper to preliminary to modified to open and then to Grand Prix, the highest level in open professional jumping. Charles was the Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association's leading amateur/owner jumper in 1995.

"He would do everything I asked," Francie remembered. "Sometimes he jumped with funny form – he would do anything to jump clear."

In 1996, Francie qualified to compete at the Volvo World Cup Finals in Geneva, Switzerland. Francie took Charles as her mount for the speed class, where the jumps are of moderate size and time decides the winners.

"He's not a speed demon," Francie said of Charles. "But he is very quick. He has a big stride, and he covers a lot of ground. He can clear a jump and land and then, BOOM, he can turn right around – just like a Quarter Horse."

In October, Francie competed at the Washington show as part of the United States Equestrian Team. Not many American riders opted to ride in the puissance class, which works a lot like a reverse limbo contest. Riders who jump cleanly progress to the next round, where the jumps are fewer and higher. But to win the class meant double points for the team.

"The chef d'equipe (who acts as the team's coach) said I didn't have to go," Francie remembered. "But I said, 'I want to go, and Charles can do it.'"

The main jump in the puissance class, a huge wall, was upped from 5'9" to 6'6" to 6'9" to 7' to 7'3". For comparison, Grand Prix jumps range from 5' to 5'6" in height, and the tallest fence in AQHA show competition is 4'6".

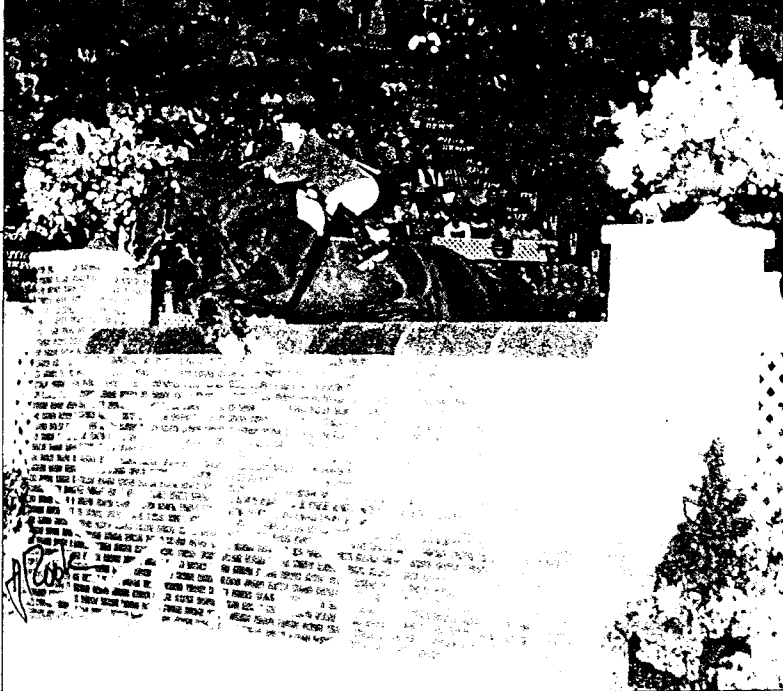
Francie and one other rider were the only two to clear the seven-footer, but the other rider opted not to try the next height with his young horse. Francie and nine-year-old Charles rode back in one last time.

"Charles had started to get tired," Francie said. "Then we cantered in and they announced us. They said again that he was an American Quarter Horse, and the crowd went wild. And when they started screaming, he just loved it."

"There was a practice oxer (jump) and then that long gallop to the big wall. The arena was dead silent on the video. I was thinking, 'Why do you even think you're going to jump this?' And then we went up and up and up and then over. It was a hard landing, and Charles shook his head. He loved it – it never entered his mind not to jump it."

Charles knocked a block off the 7'3" wall, but his effort won the class and a standing ovation from the crowd.

Francie plans to ride Charles in this summer's trials for the World Championships, held in Rome in October. She's also got her eye on Sydney in 2000. *By Roy Jo Sartin.*



Former racehorse EJ Wee Cash, now known as Charles R, and Francie Steinwedell-Carvin clear a seven-foot wall.

Readers who know of former racehorses that have gone on to other careers are invited to call The Quarter Racing Journal at (806) 376-4888, ext. 374.



The Sweeping Animal Rights Agenda

In recent years, animal rights groups have launched an aggressive attack on all forms of animal use. Their campaigns are based on the belief that animals are the same as human beings in every major respect, and therefore should not be used for any purpose, even when human lives are at stake. The same organizations that actively oppose greyhound racing have mounted vigorous attacks against lifesaving biomedical research; the use of animals for food and clothing; wildlife management through regulated fishing and hunting; zoos, circuses, rodeos and racetracks; and even the ownership of pets. It's a sweeping agenda, and one that has far-reaching implications for human beings worldwide.

Here is the animal rights philosophy, as expressed by some of the nation's most prominent animal rights leaders.

Ingrid Newkirk, *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA)*

"Animal liberationists do not separate out the human animal, so there is no basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They're all mammals." (*Vogue*, September 1989)

"Even if animal research produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it." (*Vogue*, September 1989)

"Even painless research is fascism, supremacism..." (*Washingtonian Magazine*, August 1986)

"Pet ownership is an absolutely abysmal situation brought on by human manipulation." (*Washingtonian Magazine*, August 1986)

"One day we would like an end to pet shops and the breeding of animals...Dogs would pursue their natural lives in the wild." (*Chicago Daily Herald*, March 1, 1990)

"Eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship, enjoyment at a distance." (*Harper's*, August, 1988)

"In a perfect world, all other than human animals would be free of human interference, and dogs and cats would be part of the ecological scheme." (*PeTA Statement on Companion Animals*)

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

"The life of an ant and the life of my child should be accorded equal respect." (Michael Fox, HSUS Vice President, *Inhumane Society*, Fox Publication)

"Under no circumstance, no matter how significant the change and improvements made, will greyhound racing as now practiced be approved or endorsed by those within the animal welfare/animal rights movement. There is a developing ethical consciousness within our society and culture that views the exploitation of animals for any non-essential purpose as wholly inappropriate." (John Hoyt, HSUS President, August 29, 1984 speech to the American Greyhound Track Operators Association, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York)

OCF

"Don't breed, don't buy, don't even accept giveaways." (John Hoyt, HSUS President, *HSUS News*, Summer 1991)

"One generation and out. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding...We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding." (Wayne Pacelle, HSUS, former director of the Fund for Animals, *Animal People*, May 1993)

"The Humane Society of the United States today called on pet owners and professional breeders to stop all breeding of dogs and cats. The society said it would seek a mandatory two-year moratorium calling for penalties against violators, if a temporary ban doesn't significantly reduce dog numbers." (*USA Today*, March 19, 1993, coverage of March 18 HSUS news release calling for two-year moratorium on all dog breeding)

"We don't have time for the miracle of life for dogs and cats." (Nina Austenberg, HSUS, *"Throwaway Pets"*, PBS production, 1993)

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

"People should not breed dogs and cats." (Roger Caras, ASPCA President, *"Throwaway Pets"*, PBS production, 1993)

"The ASPCA is currently supporting legislation (to ban greyhound racing) in New York...Still, the tremendous strides taken by people within the industry and those in the greyhound adoption movement go largely uncovered. Indeed, significant change is coming from within the industry." (Jacque Lynn Schultz, "Running on Empty," *ASPCA Animal Watch*, Winter 1996)

Gary Francione, Director, Rutgers University Animal Rights Law Clinic

"The enactment of animal welfare reforms actually impedes the achievement of animal rights. Welfare reforms, by their very nature, can only serve to retard the pace at which animal rights goals are achieved." (Francione, with Tom Regan, "A Movement's Means Creates Its Ends," *Animals' Agenda*, January/February 1992)

Tom Regan, *Animal Rights Author and Philosopher*, North Carolina State University

"It is not larger, cleaner cages that justice demands...but empty cages." (Regan, *The Philosophy of Animal Rights*, 1989)

