Leone Equestrian Law LLC

Your Legal Questions Answered!

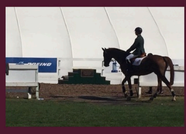
Do you have your own equine legal question that needs answered? Or a situation in which you could really use some advice?

Submit any equestrian legal questions by **email here** with the subject line "Leone Equestrian Law Q&A."

We'll answer your questions in our monthly newsletter or on the Leone Equestrian Law Facebook page!

In the Community

Next time you're at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, Alberta, keep your eyes out for this new mounting block, donated by Armand Leone and his brothers, Peter and Mark.



The placard reads: "This mounting block has been designed and donated by the Leone Brothers (Armand, Peter, Mark) and dedicated to the athletes of the world competing here at Spruce Meadows in their pursuit of excellence."

Throughout the month of October, Leone Equestrian Law's Armand Leone has weighed in on "the mollification of American show jumping" in a three-part series, published by the ***Chronicle of the Horse****.*

Find excerpts and links to the full-text of each article below, and subscribe to the Chronicle of the Horse to read more 'Between Rounds' columns with Armand Leone as they appear.

Part One: In Praise of the Difficult Ones

HORSE SHOWS
BETWEEN ROUNDS WITH
ARMAND LEONE

In Praise Of The Difficult Ones

In the first of this three-part series about "the mollification of American show jumping," our columnist looks at the way bad horses make good riders.

PHOTO BY FRANK SORGE FOR ARNO BRONKHORST

Although Ireland, shown after the Hickstead and Hamburg Derbies in Europe, tested the mettle of horses and riders alike, Leone and Volka, 5, finish any one of our U.S. grand prix riders could jump a clear round over that course. In fact, how many of our country's riders have ever successfully competed in the Hickstead Derby, the Hamburg Derby or the Aachen Derby in the last five years? I would venture to say that we could count the answer on our fingers.

Only Spruce Meadows (Canada) has consistently tested the mettle of horses that we used to have in the United States, and that we were exposed to by Baker, Mische and Carruthers. There are no riders or bank jumps in our grand prix events, and the few water jump prix events still use the water jump, and I can only think of two venues that have had a bank in recent years.

Our younger riders today don't have the necessary experience, toughness and ability to ride the difficult horses and tackle the difficult courses that we were all routine jumps in our day. Starting in the 1970s, the American Grand Prix Association developed a year-long series of events across the country. The fences were big, the water wide, and the riding was physical.

Pamela Carruthers, brought European style grand prix jumping to the United States, and U.S. show jumping embarked on a meteoric rise. The Cleveland Grand Prix and the Tampa Invitational (Fla.) introduced width, water, walls, combinations and banks to our grand prix riders.

Many barns built simulated natural obstacles at home, and the professionals at that time had to learn how to ride, train and jump them. Double ditches, slides, tables, devil's dykes and open waters were all routine jumps in our day. Starting in the 1970s, the American Grand Prix Association developed a year-long series of events across the country. The fences were big, the water wide, and the riding was physical.

Recently, several prominent trainers and riders have discussed how the discipline of show jumping has changed, and it has.

Prior to 1950, American show jumping, with its standing martingales and rub classes without time allowed, was a vastly different sport than the one practiced in Europe. Then in the 1970s, Jerry Baker and Gene Mische, along with the renowned course designer

Continue reading part one here!

Part Two: Where Did the Grit Go?

HORSE SHOWS
BETWEEN ROUNDS WITH
ARMAND LEONE JR.

Where Did The Grit Go?

In the second of this three-part series about "the mollification of American show jumping," our columnist looks at the way our courses used to demand determination.

PHOTO BY JOSH WALKER

Chaps Are For Wussies

There's a big difference between having to meeting fred and its walls at home?

Dad didn't mince words when I came home. Complaining about picking rocks out of the ring was unacceptable and unsympathetic. It was my dad's manner, and the turnout of the horses and riders, rocks. The horses needed turnout between shows. Although things have changed now as the paddocks was part of the footing in the work, cure of them, we couldn't have them.

Although things changed now as the paddocks was part of the footing in the work, cure of them, we couldn't have them.

"The disrepair, but training attire for everyone is dirty pants and muddy boots," says Armand Leone Jr.

Serving In The Gilli Cavalry

Just ask Morris. There was a joke that was passed down to me that I have to recite the military to get back home to our fathers could just used us to ride in the cavalry with Morris. He trained us hard and without sympathy. "Gee, you're not riding very well today." We were trained over every type of natural obstacle imaginable because Morris' father had built a course that was designed to train a horse to jump the Hickstead Derby (England), the Aachen Derby (Germany), the Hamburg Derby (Germany), Pamplona/Sitsa (France), the International Jumping Derby (Ireland) and the Spruce Meadows (Canada) with their ditches, banks and waters, alone and in combination. Riding then was a contact sport, and we played for real. The dirtiest,

Continue reading part two here!

Part Three: What Happens Next?

HORSE SHOWS
BETWEEN ROUNDS WITH
ARMAND LEONE

What Happens Next?

In the last of this three-part series about "the mollification of American show jumping," our columnist looks at how we can begin to turn riders back into horsemen.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEES

> "Over hill, over dale, tally ho is wholly different than Perfect Prep and whoa, whoa, whoa."

Show jumping today is becoming less accessible to more Americans as the costs of participating increase. This is a dangerous trend, because the wealthy rider has become the new normal. Fifty years ago, riders made their way up the ranks riding both good and bad horses owned by others; now, most grand prix riders or their families own their own horses.

The youth of today need to avoid riding on easy street. Riding only nice horses and nice courses is fun and nice to watch, but it doesn't develop the underlying foundation a horseman needs to be a great rider. So, how can we stop the mollification of the sport?

Continue reading part three here!

An equestrian athlete dedicated to fair play, safe sport and clean competition, Armand Leone served as a director on the board of the U.S. Equestrian Federation and was USEF vice president of international high performance programs for many years. He served on USEF and U.S. Hunter Jumper Association special task forces on governance, safety, drugs and medications, trainer certification and coach selection.

Leone is co-owner at his family's Ri-Arm Farm in Oakland, N.J., where he still rides and trains. He competed in FEI World Cup Finals and Nations Cups. He is a graduate of the Columbia Business School in New York and the Columbia University School of Law. He received his M.D. from New York Medical College and his B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Connect with Leone Equestrian Law!

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