

"Fairytale of the Black and White Horse"

A story from the equestrian world of the 21st century

(for all the horse lovers that don't speak German)

The decay of riding culture?

No doubt, the unbelievable show trot- the huge, 'almost jumps' in passage and half-pass- are emotional and impressive. BUT: What are the consequences for the horses? Who is paying the price for this 'supershow' ? Is that in terms with our riding culture? Is that modern? Is that the future? Or is this tension even a case for animal welfare? What is behind so called "old fashioned" riding? So many questions- BUT do the answers really fit in our fast moving time, where it is all about show and action? And who- apart from the horses- is interested in the answer? Who still seriously cares about the horses?

Once upon a time there was a white horse. This beautiful and unknown creature appeared all of a sudden and for most completely unexpected , like phoenix rose from the ashes. It almost won the world championship. It soared (with show trot and tense steps) through the arena – the audience could not believe their eyes. Over 60 000 (!!!) horse enthusiast jumped of their seats! The media announced the birth of a new superstar! But the euphoria was short lived! At the next competition people started to wonder: Lamé or unclear rhythm? Carers were seen with ice packs- it had to be cooled- but what had to be cooled? The dream in white is only 9 years old!!! The veterinarian check before international competition put an end to the triumphal procession. The white horse vanished into thin air. Nobody asked about it anymore. The comeback has been announced over and over again, but never happened. The latest news: The poor animal broke its leg and had to be put down! Was it the leg that broke down or the ligaments? We don't know!

But that's nothing to worry about, already everyone is talking about the black horse...and it can throw its legs even higher, so they say!

The whole equestrian world is head over heels. He is so calm and relaxed. And the rider sits beautifully. Records are broken, one after the other. Of course, the sensation awakens the equine economists from their beauty sleep. This horse has to win for Germany!

Many millions are paid-so they say- for a sensational horse that has had troubles to pass some veterinary checks, so they say! We don't know- and it doesn't matter as long as the legs fly up to the jaw.

The sale of merchandise is on its peak, "Everything is best"! And a nice young man who wants to have a go with the black superstar is also quickly found. Will he be able to step in his predecessor's food steps? In the beginning it looks promising. BUT: God knows what's going on, everything starts to go downhill. The black dream is falling to pieces. It seem like the horse is breaking in the middle. Has something been overlooked all this time? Did this horse always go with a hollow back? Has it been carried between seemingly elastic seat and the Weymouth bit? Was our record world championship holder really a mechanised leg horse, which has only been carried through the test with tension. Many questions arise.

Good advise doesn't come cheap! Readers, what do you reckon? Of course! The answer is hyperflexion. That's the way to fix him! That's the way to get the most hollow back up! Up, but as hard as concrete! And with all the negative consequences for his psyche and physical wellbeing. Is the swinging back- the relaxed flexible horse "out".

Aren't we interested in the classical riding philosophy anymore, with the healthy, powerful horse in the centre ? That CAN'T be true! FN, FEI where are they? What are they planning to do? The time has come- we can't wait any longer. There has to be an end to the self-adulation and snobbishness. We need a new beginning for the welfare of the horses. NOW not tomorrow!!!

We wish the wonderful black horse ALL THE BEST for its future, especially for its health.

Signed: Wu Wei Publishing and Gerd Heuschmann