

## The Art of the Halt

**A balanced halt is important for both hunter and dressage horses—here's how.**

*By Sharon Biggs*

August 2007

Halting is an essential skill for obvious reasons—dismounting, avoiding collisions and so on. The halt is more than just coming to a stop, however. A good halt shows that your horse is listening to and respecting your aids, is balanced enough to stop correctly and is willing enough to move forward immediately when asked. If you have trouble with the halt, chances are you have trouble with other things, particularly transitions.

The halt is also a good indicator of a horse's training and attitude. So one of the first things Sherie Grant, an FEI dressage trainer from Sycamore Trails Stables in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., does when trying out a new horse is to see how he handles the halt. "Ask him to halt and see what he does," she says. Does he grab the bit? Does he come behind the bit? Will he move forward after? The halt tells you a lot about the horse, how shy or how strong he is, and if he accepts your aids."

**\*\*For the full article, pick up the August 2007 issue of HORSE ILLUSTRATED.\*\***

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