

## HI Spy: How do you Deal with the Local Know-it-All?

**The horse world is full of people who think they know everything about horses and horsemanship. What's your strategy when you're bothered by busybodies?**

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There's an old saying that free advice is worth what you pay for it. In other words, it's often worth nothing. But there is a lot of advice freely offered in the horse world. In fact, nearly every boarding facility has its resident know-it-all. They're more than willing to advise you on how to saddle your horse, train your horse, feed your horse, trailer your horse and doctor your horse whether or not you actually care to listen.

In all fairness, sometimes an experienced horseperson will offer unsolicited advice as an intervention in order to prevent a potential tragedy. For example, perhaps they notice that a cinch isn't tightened or a horse is missing a front shoe. But we're not focusing on these kindhearted individuals. We're concerned with that one person you try to avoid at the feed store because they can't help but counsel you on which grain, pellet or supplement to buy. We're also interested in the one rider who constantly informs you that your horse is counter-bent, over-bridled, too fast or too slow. You know the type.

While we don't want you to mention any names, we would like to hear how you personally deal with the ubiquitous know-it-all. What do you do when you're given advice that you didn't ask for? How do you react when you know that the advice is completely contrary to what you know in your heart is correct? Do you instigate a know-it-all smackdown and put them in their rightful place? Do you remain diplomatic, smile politely, and then continue with what you were doing on your own, anyway? Do you respond with something blunt like, "Thanks, but I'd prefer to follow my vet's advice"? Or do you run and hide behind the tack room whenever you see the busy body approaching?

This is an opportunity for you to share your wisdom. Just click on [Submit a Comment](#) below and share your best tip for handling nosy know-it-alls. Some of the responses may be featured in an upcoming issue of Horse Illustrated.

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