

Horse Trails and Tales

Eleanor Kellon, VMD

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Easy Tips



- It's more important to know where to find information than it is to memorize that information.
- Understanding the facts, not just what people say, is important to good decision making.
- Facts sometimes change as new information becomes available.

Knowledge

I was going to blog about getting ripped off this week (something I hate), but decided to put a more constructive twist on it. Let's talk about knowledge.

The official definition of knowledge is:

a (1) : the fact or condition of [knowing](#) something with familiarity gained through experience or [association](#) *(2)* : acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art, or technique *b (1)* : the fact or condition of being aware of something *(2)* : the range of one's information or understanding <answered to the best of my *knowledge*> *c* : the circumstance or condition of [apprehending](#) truth or fact through reasoning : [cognition](#) *d* : the fact or condition of having information or of being learned <a person of unusual *knowledge*>

(Merriam-Webster)

Many people seem to think of knowledge as something they have learned and can recall off the top of their head. To me it's more than that. Yes, some of your knowledge will be available for immediate recall, especially if you have to use it frequently. More important though is knowing how to find information when you need it. You don't have to memorize the entire contents of a book if it is on your library shelf. You can refer to it as needed.

Truth is the archenemy of ripoffs.

The primary definition of knowledge is all about familiarity. I have a bit more respect for the word than that. Knowledge to me should be factual and useful, like definition c above. You may be very familiar with a theory that the world is actually flat after all, but that won't be of any use to you and it's certainly not factual.

Our lives run on myriad facts – what time we have to be at work, what the mortgage payment is, what a bag of grain costs. The facts are subject to change, but if they do we just adjust our knowledge base to accommodate that. Some things are more complicated. If you need a new car and don't know much about cars, you may visit a number of different dealers but common sense alone will tell you to take what they say with a grain of salt. None of them are going to refer you to someone down the road that might better suit your needs.

Sticking with the car analogy, even if you don't know much about cars you can assemble facts that will guide your choice, like down payment, monthly

payment, gas mileage, service/warranty details and any independent reviews you can find. The same process can carry over into your horse-related decisions, if you know the right questions to ask.

As mentioned, I hate being ripped off. Hate the idea of anyone else being ripped off too. Providing horse owners with knowledge they can use to make the best decisions for their horses has been a driving force my entire career. So has been the quest for knowledge that is useful and factual. I intend to keep doing that to the very best of my ability.

The best way to always be right (almost anyway!) is to stick to facts and keep your mouth shut if you don't know what you're talking about. The best way to make good decisions is to base them on facts/knowledge, and to know where to find the information you need.

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Eleanor Kellon, VMD

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