

Improve the Quality of Your Flying Lead Changes with Steve Heinecke

By Steve Heinecke | Photo Courtesy of Kaydence

As a trainer, when it comes to preparing for the show ring, no detail should be overlooked. In the same sense, as a judge, when it comes to deciding a winner of a class, it is oftentimes the little details that make the biggest impact.

In the hunter and equitation rings, the flying lead change has a great impact on the riding score. Yet achieving a flying change of lead and doing it correctly can be two different things.

First and foremost, we must understand and analyze how a horse completes a flying lead change. A flying lead change occurs when a horse swaps from one lead to the other without breaking from the canter and, preferably, does not change in rhythm, but continues to follow the pace and path established by the rider.

When a horse changes its lead, it is slightly bending its head in the direction of the new lead, while keeping the outside shoulder on the same track and allowing the outside hip to come in. Naturally a horse wants to follow his head, and by only using your inside rein, the horse may not be able to bring his haunch in and execute a clean lead change.

To learn more about improving your flying lead changes, continue reading Steve's article at www.thecarolinasequestrian.com.



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