

Equine thoracic spine problems

The equine structure is based around 4 pillars, and the bow and string theory. The bow and string theory indicates that when the horse is worked correctly the thoracic spine will rise therefore allowing the head to come down and engaging the hind quarters therefore working the top line.

The problem arises is when the thoracic spine does not lift this will cause problems in the pelvis and the cervical spine. As there is reduced flexibility this means that the two opposite areas will be put under more stress when the rider will try to make the horse work its top line.

If the thoracic spine does not lift there are a few other complications which can occur, such as over sensitivity of the thoracic spine, repetitive injuries to the cervical spine or pelvic area, inability to get the horse to work over the top line.