

On Hanging One's Fans

Horse owners complain about heat all too early. Every once in a while you come to a decision that you just have to hang some of your fans in order to get some peace and quiet back into your life. So just hear the owners out, and then hang them.

Inherited tradition was that stall fans clamped to stall doors with bungee cords. And, end-of-season, owner's cords were tied to the owner's fan's handle, and the package went up to the Quonset hut.

What a mess. Bungee cords aren't sized for this task, there were all sorts of spur-of-the-moment stall door wrap-arounds sucking-up slack. And, where did the bungees go, dead-of-night-January, that they weren't on the fan in June? And, saints preserve us, when ownership worked out alright, and the fan was clamped to the stall with bungees, inquisitive horses, bored horses, would press on the near fan-screen until the fan blades tick-tick-ticked against the screen, and until the fan-motor slowed, and the fan-motor stopped. Can you say hot-summer-electrical-overheat? Say, fire?

Somebody's now invented \$18 brackets to hang a \$20 fan. Oh, great, and I need to spend more than \$650 for brackets. Hope I don't have to dismount my doors (rollers are wider than this "bracket-spacing" to hold 20-inch box fans). Hope the brackets don't interfere with door movement open-and-close (I worry, because the bracket wires seem to go between the inside of the door and the outside of the stall, and, in many cases, there's not much space to give away.

You have inch-and-a-half fencing staples, and you have baling twine.

Drive the two staples at 18 inches apart in the stall door top-board.

Thread pieces of baling twine through the outer corners of the fan screen, and tie them with half-hitches very close to the fan's metal casing. Make sure the fan's airflow points INTO the stall (the cord is always mounted to the AWAY side). Plan to make the fan switch to be at the side of the fan. Plan to make the cord exit the fan at the side of the door AWAY from its "opening," so the cord can be kept shorter, and this control can keep it farther away from the inquisitive horse's nose and teeth.

Bring the cut ends from one twine (right handed, I pick that side) up through a staple, so that that side of the fan would hang about half-an-inch above the solid door bottom. Make two half-hitches. Bring up the other (left?) side's twine ends through the second fence staple, and raise the fan (its left?) SLIGHTLY above horizontal. Tie the first half-hitch in the second twine. Check the fan for horizontal, and, only after, make that twine's second half-hitch. Cut both twines with three or so inches remaining beyond their staples (the result looks better).



Bottom line, if a young, if a bored, horse pushes through the bars at a fan, now the fan rises on its negligible weight, on the baling twine, and does not stall. Too, the barn looks (regarding fans) relatively organized, has no welter of color, shape, size, bungees. Seems now a theme could exist.

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