

HCA has introduced a new model of horseback bed. Its design is so innovative that it represents a revolutionary improvement. The most important advantage of the new model is that it makes the work of the horses and the driver much easier.



Horseback-bed riding is a therapeutic form of riding designed for people with physical disabilities. It is becoming increasingly popular in Europe, and particularly in the Netherlands. By introducing its new model, HCA is offering this growing market an alternative to the standard horseback beds, which are highly stressful for horses, difficult for drivers to control, and can be uncomfortable for clients. The new model does away with these disadvantages. Tests carried out at various riding schools have shown that the new horseback bed is much easier on horses, safer, easier to manoeuvre, and much more comfortable for clients.

HCA is owned by Dutch carriage-builder Andries Veeneman. He developed the new prototype in close consultation with Johan Roelofsen, owner of “Manege zonder Drempels”, a Dutch riding school specialising in hippotherapy and equine-assisted therapy. Their main concern was to ensure safety and ease for the client, the horses and the driver. In the new model, there are no belts or harnesses that get in the way of clients or horses. The horses walk freely beneath the structure, which they push forward with their chest and shoulders. In the event of an emergency, the driver can release the horses immediately without leaving his or her seat. To make the carriage easier to control, the weight and pivot point have been shifted to the back.

Other horseback beds have small wheels in front that make it difficult for horses to go round bends. This problem has been eliminated in the new model. The bed is made of low-maintenance canvas with a transparent panel in front that allows the driver to keep a close eye on the horses. A colourful hood cover made of flexible material is soothing for clients and protects them from the sun's rays. The carriage also has room for attendants. Another benefit is that the bed can be adjusted to suit the size of the horses, the driver and the individual client.

Horseback-bed riding is a method of riding in which clients, often persons suffering from multiple disabilities, lie in a type of hammock that rests on the horses' backs. The movement of the horses and their warmth massages the clients' bodies, improving their circulation and helping them to relax completely. As a result, their bowel function improves, they may have fewer epileptic seizures, and their lungs are cleared of mucus. The great advantage of horseback-bed riding as a form of therapeutic exercise is that the client moves without anyone touching him or her. The rides last approximately thirty minutes.