

TWISTER TRAILER

NRHA
NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION



TRAILERING TIPS

TWISTER TRAILER: Charmayne, you have hauled horses to many wins over the years. What would be your number one tip for trailering horses?

CHARMAYNE JAMES: My biggest rule is to cut back on stress. Any change to a horse is stressful. Whatever you can do to relieve that stress equals the best chance of keeping that horse healthy and able to compete. So to do that, I haul as much of my own feed as possible. I think it is really important to use your own feed. A lot of competitive horses have ulcers, so anything you can do to keep them relaxed is key.

TWISTER: Is there anything else you like to do with your horses to cut back on stress?

CHARMAYNE: Yes, water is critical. Hydration is really important. I usually travel too long to take my own water with me, but online you can buy a chlorine filter that hooks onto a hose. It removes chlorine from city water. I find this helps horses to drink. If you have a horse that just refuses to drink, you can get some of that lemon juice at the grocery and squirt some of that in their mouth, sometimes that will make them thirsty. Also, ALWAYS offer them water 20-30 minutes after they eat. Most horses will eat a little, drink a little, eat a little. So keeping clean, fresh water with them as much as possible is important. I have the little automatic waterers in the trailer, but sometimes those get filled up with hay so when we stop (every 6 hours at least) I always offer a bucket of water.

TWISTER: How often do you take breaks?

CHARMAYNE: Well, younger horses, they will get stressed easier, so I stop more often, my older horses, probably every 6 hours, at least, I will stop and get them out of the trailer to move around. Obviously it depends on weather and if we can find a safe place to get them out. Letting them get their heads down is really important, especially when you have mangers or have them tied in the trailer. Horses need to get their heads down to clear out their respiratory tract. This cuts down on illness.

TWISTER: How do you set up your windows and vents in the trailer?

CHARMAYNE: I am constantly fussing with the windows and vents. I want to get maximum air flow. But I don't like having things fly into the horses' faces. I keep the head windows closed, unless we are stuck in traffic, then I will jump out and open up those windows to get the maximum amount of air movement in there. You really want to have the metal face screens and fly screens up. If you have rocks fly up or a flat tire, you don't want debris hitting your horse. I also have an insulated roof, which I think keeps the trailer cooler and also helps with noise, and I have fans in the trailer for if we get stuck in traffic. You really don't want the horses to overheat.

TWISTER: Do you wrap your horses' legs?

CHARMAYNE: I don't wrap, unless I have a horse that has a tendon injury, stocks up, needs extra support, or if I know a horse moves around or scrambles in the trailer, I might wrap the horse next to him. I don't want anything that will keep heat on their legs.

TWISTER: Do you have a technique for which order you load your horses?

CHARMAYNE: Well, if I have horses that are kickers, they go in the back stall, if I have horses that are buddies, I put them next to each other. You need to know your horses. Whatever you can do to relieve stress will pay off.

TWISTER: You pull a reverse slant load trailer, why do you choose this style?

CHARMAYNE: I was one of the first ones to develop and use a reverse slant load trailer. Scamper [her legendary horse] always wanted to stand facing backwards. I think it helps them balance better and take the starts and stops better. We were in a trailer wreck, and I think that hauling that way helped him survive without injury. His rear end took the brunt of the impact.

TWISTER: Anything else?

CHARMAYNE: Just know your horse, relieve stress, and pay attention to small details to be a winner!

CHARMAYNE JAMES

This Trailing Tips article, brought to you by Twister Trailers, interviews barrel racing legend, Charmayne James.

Arguably one of the most well known names in the equine industry, Charmayne's impressive 11 World Championships is only surpassed by her ability to pass on knowledge and teach others how to achieve success with their horses.

www.TwisterTrailer.com
800.207.6373