



Horsemanship Class

Equipment

www.silverdollargh.com best price on halters and ropes

Why and how equipment works

How to put halter on and tie correctly

Safe rope handling

Safe side of the horse/handler should stand on the same side as



trimmer

Bunching rope up – restricts feel and timing

Horse stepping on rope

Throw rope so tail does not bite

Swing rope so tail bites

Attach halter to fence and throw loops down rope

Stand on rope create a pulley to help horses who are claustrophobic stepping on rope

Tying

Do you know if your horse ties?

Where and when to tie

Not Tying / Calmer horse

In pasture or away from friends?

Cross ties

Single tie

Safety knots and twists/Bank Robbers Knot, twist over itself to cause drag for horses who pull back

Safe and unsafe zones

Personal Space

How to protect

Body Blocks-blocks are used in personal space only. = Block

w/rhythm

No Hitting/No Emotion

What category: Unfit or Fit

Unfit prey animal = dominate / examples wimpy

Predator = Fear

Fit prey animal = respect

Kick Zone

How to move with confidence/stay close to horse keeping hand on horse at all times



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Who kicks? Why? Causes
 When to worry about kicking
 Right brain- kick from fear
 Left brain – kick from dominance

Catching

Approach, Retreat, and Re-approach
 Use the horse's drive line to adjust where you should stand

Angle of / Humans
 shoulder / Horses hind
 quarters, while in approach

and in retreat / 45%

Watch horse's ears
 and eyes while maintaining
 45% angle with body

Approach and retreat
 No Sneaking

2 types of horses / Right
 brain and Left brain

Using games 1, 2, 3,
 and 4 to distinguish be-
 tween the two types of



horses and aid trimming

When do I use rhythmic pressure?

When do I use steady pressure?

Horse evaluation

Knowing the horse before you start causes less mistakes

Use friendly game to get a feel of the horse

Can you touch the horse all over? Find scratchy spots.
 Can you swing the rope over the back?

Porcupine game to test sensitivity

How does he move? Away? Or Toward? Watch facial expressions
 eyes, ears, feet, and tail (body language)



How tight is the muscle tissue?

Driving game to establish leader-
 ship / balance with retreat and
 friendly

(rope toss)

Set up to move feet with driving
 game

Yoyo game for respect / leadership

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How working with each type is different

Right brain

Scared, unconfident, moves fast

Left brain

Confident, dull, moves slow

How to work with each type

Right brain/ horse has to move his feet to be comfortable – just direct the motion don't stop.

Lots of friendly game with out being sneaky (remember don't be an unfit prey animal) using retreat to builds confidence

Move feet use more friendly / Push (steady pressure) on hind quarters until it is the horse idea to stop moving his feet then rest and allow him to stand. Feel for this shift in attitude then reward.

Don't sneak around; use lots of different approaches use lots of rope tosses

Left Brain

Speed things up be provocative establish leadership

Drive all zones don't invite horse into your space to use friendly Game use rope toss or carrot stick to stay at a safe distance.

Picking up the foot

Suggest he pick up his feet by putting your body in the asking position and wait for him to respond. Long phase one.

Asking for the foot

Cradle foot rather than hold

Allow horse to have foot at all time in the beginning

Build for longer and longer. Don't assume if he gave his hoof to you he is comfortable with you having it for ever

When the horse is more confident ask for foot back right away

Retreat, Re-approach and game #1 for right brain horses

How not to move your feet/what happens when you move your feet

How to effectively retreat and re-approach while working on front feet

How to effectively retreat and re-approach while working





on hind feet

How and where to stand while supporting the foot Working across hind legs

Set up to improve with each visit

Schedule feet soaking with trimming /
suggest owner purchase and use soaking
boots

How to maximize time with horse to get
most cooperation

Make your visit with each horse some
thing he looks forward to doing.



Don't pressure an unconfident horse.

Build confidence now so trimming will go
faster later.

Having a handler is really helpful! If he/
she is an emotionally fit handler!

Should you trim in pasture or away from
the herd?

Trim where the horse feels the safest.

Treats and Food / causes the horse to in-
vade handles space / save treats

till finished

Bring all equipment even if you don't in-
tend to use it (hoof stand etc.)

Placement of hoof stand – Place where
you won't fall over it and out of
horses blind spot / Hoof stands could

cause injury to horses if

stepped on.

What do I do when the horse moves his feet?

Moving feet is the answer to stopping feet. In a Right Brain horse try disengaging the hind quarters by walking out from the shoulder and pushing on the hind quarters with steady pressure but with flat of hand so to invite him to push back. Once the horse starts to disengage feel for the horse to slow down or push back. When the horse starts to resist your push stop pushing and allow him to stand. When he is standing play game # 1 the Friendly game rather than going right back to the feet. Remember you are doing this for him, not to him. Take the time to build his confidence now so you can spend more time trimming in the future.

Moving feet is also the answer with a left brain horse only your strategy changes slightly. Left brain horses are usually indifferent to your presence and encroach in your space in a slow kind of way. These horses are very slow to react. Game # 3 works well with these horses. Driving the horse backwards if he is creeping forward in your space or in each zone depending on which part of his body is encroaching on your space. Always follow things up with the Friendly game.

Play friendly game with the horse's leg while holding the foot. Get him used to other things going on while you are holding his foot. Like rub his belly or

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opposite leg etc.

What do I do when a horse tries to bite me?

Usually a left brain dominate game and backing is the answer. Use the driving or Yoyo game. Body Blocks work well too.

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And don't underestimate the little ones. They need the same consideration and training

