



Handling the Sore Horse

There are several things to remember when dealing with a sore horse. The equine is an animal that fights through flight. So not every horse that pushes you over is badly trained. Our experience with such horses is that they are in a lot of pain and simply looking out for themselves.

To deal with a very sore horse requires a lot of patience.



A horse that does not hold the hoof up for long is not necessarily obstinate, but cannot stand on the other hoof. I have never seen anything else to be true.

Your training and relationship with the horse starts right there. The sooner you give him the hoof back, the more comfortable he will be with you and the sooner and longer you will be able to hold the hoof up again.

Many Equine Hoofcare Professionals are women and muscle is not always an option.

While trimming the sore horse

- 1.) stand him on soft footing or on any footing that makes him most comfortable
- 2.) make a plan for what you want to do before you pick up the hoof and be ready. Sometimes you can only get one or two swipes with the knife
- 3.) when the horse is anxious, afford him the company of his buddy, that often calms him down and you get the job done
- 4.) carry some Bach Flower Rescue Remedy (in health food store or on the Internet). One drop inside the lip often does wonders (for the owner too)
- 5.) try feeding some hay, a horse that has the head down and is munching is more relaxed and finally
- 6.) if nothing helps you to get that hoof up because the horse is too sore to stand, try the Equisling (<http://www.equisling.com>) or any similar device

The Equisling



Horses with inflammation in the hooves may find some relief in ice cold water, may that be added to boots, or may that be a stream they can stand in. Horses who have been laminitic for a long time may need some massage for their backs as they have been reaching under for a long time to support their weight and



may be all cramped up.

Read more about what massage can do for a horse in rehabilitation in the folder "Introduction to Complimentary and Supportive Care"

U
N
O

A
L
L
A

V
O
L
T
A
—

O
N
E

A
T

A

T
I
M
E