

## Stages of introducing obstacles to the horse:



Begin by walking calmly over poles on the ground.



Then trot ground poles at rising trot to maintain the trot.



Set up patterns of obstacles and walk your horse through them.



Longe and lead your horse around and over obstacles calmly.



Cross rails help center your horse and teach him where the base of the jump (where to take off) is.



You add width before height – if things go poorly, you lower the jump. Cantering jumps comes after the horse has learned where the base is from trotting them.



LOOK for your next fence/jump while you are in the air.



Follow your horse's neck over the fence; let him close your angles as he jumps (don't jump ahead of him); drop heels & use calf contact; press your hands on his neck when either of you are first learning.

