

Ground Work with Horses

Catching:

Approach- should be from shoulder angle with announced approach

Haltering- halter must fit animal properly and be placed on from the 'crown piece' down

Leading/Tying:

Position- person should be at the horse's throatlatch when leading

Holding the lead rope- rope should be held in a way that hand cannot be trapped in the rope if horse break away

*NOT coiled around hand/placed around neck

Knot- tie horse to solid object with a slip/quick release knot

Length- horse should be tied at eye level with 18-24 inches of slack (about an arm length)

Maneuvering Around Horse:

Side to Side- maneuver around horse without putting self in danger by being next to horse with hand on the hip, or out of kicking range

*DO NOT pass under the horse's neck or in kicking zone

Picking up front foot- place hand on horse and run hand (hand away from the horse) down front of horse's leg. Once leg is lifted, use close hand to stabilize the leg.

Picking up rear foot- place close hand on horse's hip and run off hand down back of leg and then pull leg forward prior to using close hand to stabilize leg

Bridling & Saddling:

Blanket & saddle placement/care- blanket should be placed forward and slip back into place to keep hairs flat. Blanket should be clean and intact at place of animal contact. Saddle should be placed carefully on horses back in correct position while minimizing discomfort to animal.

Cinching- cinch should be checked prior to tightening. Cinch needs to be tightened correctly and secured correctly (king or ring pin). If back cinch is present, the front cinch must be done first. When unsaddling, back cinch must be undone first.

Bit placement & fit- bit must fit properly in horse's mouth with bars "snug" against corners of mouth (no wrinkle to slight wrinkle of corners of mouth)

