

Ground Manners

(USPC D Manual, 2nd Ed., pgs 145-159 & USPC C Manual, 2nd Ed., pg-282)

Name: TEACHER COPY

Date: _____

What does "Ground Manners" mean?



How a horse behaves when handled on the ground.

Why is it important?

Good manners makes the horse safer and easier to handle.



What do YOU (the handler) need to do?

Communicate (speak) clearly

Pay Attention

Be Aware of your horse at all times



Things you can expect from a well-mannered horse:

1) Turn to face you when you come into his stall.

2) Easy to catch and halter



3) Wait for you to lead him through the door or gate

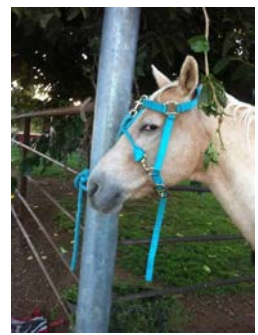
4) Stand quietly in the cross-ties



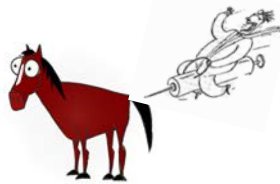
5) Allow to be touched and groomed



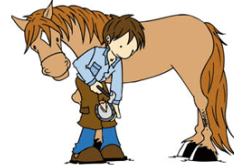
6) Stand **still** to be **bridled** and saddled.



7) Accept **wormers** and **shots**



8) Lift each **foot** easily when asked.



9) Accept gentle touching with the **crop/whip** without fear or resentment.

10) Get on a **Trailer**



11) Leading



a. Obey when on a **LOOSE lead line**

b. **Stand quietly** when you say "Whoa" or "Stand"



c. Should stay even with your **shoulder** when walking or trotting in hand.



d. No crowding, pulling ahead, or hanging back while being **led**.

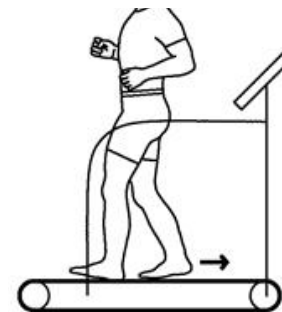
e. Should stop when you **stop**.



f. Should move off promptly when asked.

g. Allow you to **lead** from both sides

h. **Back-up** when asked



i. Obey simple **commands** such as Walk on, Trot, Whoa, Stand, and Over.

Teaching good manners requires:

Patience Practice Attention to detail

Letting a horse make mistakes and then punishing him for them is bad training. Pay attention to your horse to stop him BEFORE the mistake and REWARD him for doing well.

You MUST handle your horse correctly ALL THE TIME.

Careless and inconsistent handling is unfair to your horse and could be dangerous. It lets him develop bad habits that have to be corrected; this is the fault of a careless handler.

A Good Start for Good Manners:

1. Know that your horse is NOT A PET. It is a 1,000 pound animal who at any moment can react unexpectedly.
2. Know that horses scare easily, especially in unfamiliar surroundings
3. Approach your horse from where he can see you, towards his shoulder is best. Don't come up to him from his blind spots (front of eyes, or from the rump)
4. Move slowly
5. Speak quietly. Don't run, shout, or make loud noises.
6. If he is nervous, pat him and talk quietly to him.
7. Some things are ordinary to us but scare horses; Pay attention to the things around you. Balloons, bouncing balls, crinkly bags, opening an umbrella, a bike rider; all these can look like a monster to your horse if he isn't used to it.