

# Stable Vices

(USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, p193-196)



Name: Teacher Copy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Whenever your students get restless - have them get up and moving by taking turns acting out these vices and bad habits.
- At the end of the lesson, use the charades cards and have them pick a vice/habit to act out. The group would have to name the vice/habit and say how it's caused and/or how to fix it.



What is a stable vice? abnormal behavior in stall or pasture

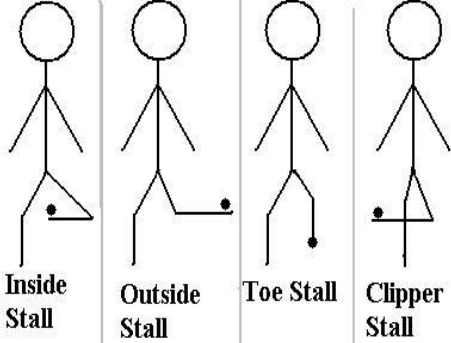



Why do horses get them? because they are bored, unhappy, or nervous

What kind of horses have vices? Horses kept mostly in stalls or pens

What can you do?

- Educate yourself!
- Keep your horse happy and occupied:
- see other horses / stall toys / stall gate instead of a closed door / but especially, give him plenty of time in the pasture!

	<u>Name of Vice</u>	<u>What is it?</u>	<u>What does it hurt?</u>	<u>Why do they do it?</u>	<u>How to fix it.</u>	<u>Picture</u>
1)	<b>Cribbing</b>	-Grabs solid object with teeth. -Arches neck. -Swallows air.	Suck so much air can colic, become thin and run-down.	Theory: Endorphins are released during the behavior; horse is addicted to the pleasure of the endorphin release. ➤ <i>Re-word this suited to the age of the students</i>	Incurable. Can wear cribbing strap around throat. Must be taken off for 1 hour a day to dry out neck	
2)	<b>Wood Chewing</b>	Chews on wood, does not suck in air	Damage to stalls and fences	-Lack of roughage. -Vitamin/mineral deficiency. -Boredom. -Teething.	Manageable. -Increase hay. -Increase exercise. -More time in pasture. -Paint wood with bad	

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					tasting coating.	
3	<b>Stall Kicking</b>	Kicking and smashing stall walls and doors with hind hoofs.	-Damage to stall. -Injury to hoof and legs of horse.	-Too much stall time. -Doesn't like neighbor. -Gets attention. -Anxious to be fed.	Manageable. -Increase exercise. -Change stall neighbors. -Pad stall walls. -Use kicking chains or shoes. -Don't reinforce by feeding.	
4	<b>Weaving</b>	Pony sways from side to side, swinging his head, shifting from foot to foot.		-Mostly in nervous, stressed, high-strung horses. -Boredom. -Excess feed. -Confinement.	Manageable. -Provide more pasture time with other horses. -Install U shaped stall gate.	
5	<b>Pawing</b>	Digs holes in stall floor. Tips over buckets.	Holes in stall floor. Wears down hooves. Loosens shoes.	-Boredom. -Anxious to be fed. -Confinement -mostly in young horses.	Curable. -Provide more pasture time -Don't use ground feeders. -Use rubber mats in stall. -Formal restraint lessons.	
6	<b>Tail Rubbing</b>	Swaying the tail and rump hindquarters against fence or stall wall.	Rubs tail hair off.	-Dirty udder, sheath, or tail. -Shedding -Pinworms/ticks -Habit	Manageable. -Regular grooming -Sheath/udder cleaning. -Deworming -For habit - use electric fence.	

# Bad Habits




What is a *bad habit*? **undesirable behavior during training or handling**




Why do horses get them? **the result of poor techniques and lack of understanding of horse behavior**

What kind of horses have bad habits? **Horses who have had mistakes in training.**





What can you do?





- **Educate yourself!**
- Understand the needed **retraining** techniques


	<u>Name of Habit</u>	<u>What is it?</u>	<u>Why does it happen?</u>	<u>How to fix it</u>	<u>Picture</u>
1)	<b>Biting</b>	Biting humans	-when groomed roughly - girth too tight -being harassed	-remove cause -short slap and loud NO!	
2)	<b>Bolting</b>	Horse gallops off at high speed	-poor fitting saddle -painful bit -past abuse and fear	Manageable -check tack - retraining -avoid riding in open spaces -pull horse into circle	
3)	<b>Kicking</b>		-prior abuse -poor temperament -ill fitting tack	Manageable -check tack -retraining	

	<u>Name of Habit</u>	<u>What is it?</u>	<u>Why does it happen?</u>	<u>How to fix it</u>	<u>Picture</u>
4)	<b>Balking</b>	Refusal to go forward often followed by violent temper if rider insists.	Fear, heavy hands, stubbornness, extreme fatigue.	Curable. Review forward work with in-hand & longeing. Turn horse's head to untrack left or right. Strong driving aids with no conflicting restraining aids (no pull on bit). Do not try to force horse forward by pulling - you'll lose.	 An illustration showing a person in a pink shirt and purple pants pulling a brown horse by a lead rope. The horse is pulling back, and the person is leaning forward. The background shows a field with trees and a blue sky with a speech bubble saying "Geeee!".
5)	<b>Barn Sour Herd Bound</b>	Balking, rearing, swinging around, screaming and then rushing back to the barn or herd.	Separation from buddies or barn (food, comfort).	Curable but stubborn cases require professional. A capable trainer that insists the horse leave the barn (herd) and then positively reinforces the horse's good behavior so horse develops confidence. The lessons GO and WHOA must both be reviewed.	 An illustration showing a person in a red shirt and blue pants running away from a black horse. The horse is following the person. They are in a grassy area with a large tree in the background.
6)	<b>Can't Catch</b>	Avoids humans with halter and lead.	Fear, resentment, disrespect, bad habit.	Curable. Take time to properly train, use walk-down method in small area first, progress to larger. Remove other horses from pasture; treats on ground, never punish horse once caught.	 An illustration showing three children chasing a horse. One child in a red shirt and blue pants is running towards the horse, while two other children in blue and orange shirts are running behind. The horse is running away from them.



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7)	<b>Can't Handle Feet</b>	Swaying, leaning, rearing, jerking foot away, kicking, striking.	Insufficient or improper training. Horse hasn't learned to cooperate, balance on 3 legs, take pressure and movement of farrier work.	Curable but persistent cases require professional. Thorough, systematic conditioning and restraint lessons: pick up foot, hold in both flexed & extended positions for several minutes while cleaning, grooming, rubbing leg, coronary band, bulbs etc.	
8)	<b>Halter Pulling</b>	Rearing or setting back when tied, often until something breaks or horse falls and/or hangs by halter.	Rushed, poor halter training, using weak equipment or unsafe facilities so horse gets free by breaking something. Often horse was tied by bridle reins and broke free.	Can be curable but very dangerous and incurable in some chronic cases which require professional. Might use stiff bristled broom on the rump or wither rope on advice of professional.	
9)	<b>Head Shy</b>	Moves head away during grooming, bridling, clipping, vet work.	Initially rough handling or insufficient conditioning, painful ears or mouth problems.	Curable. First eliminate medical reasons such as ear, tongue, lip or dental problems. Start from square one with handling; after horse allows touching, then teach him to put head down.	
10)	<b>Jigging</b>	Short, stilted walk/jog with hollow back and high head.	Poor training attempt at collection, horse not trained to aids, too strong bridle aids, sore back.	Curable. Check tack fit, use aids properly including use of pressure/release (half halt) to bring horse to walk or use strong driving aids to push horse into active trot.	

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11)	<b>Rearing</b>	Standing on hind legs when led or ridden, sometimes falling over backwards	Fear, rough handling, doesn't think he must go forward or is afraid to go forward into contact with bit; associated with balking; a response to collected work.	Can be curable but is a very dangerous habit that might be impossible to cure even by professional. Check to be sure no mouth or back problems. Review going forward in-hand with a whip and review long	
12)	<b>Shying</b>	Spooking at real or imagined sights, sounds, smells, or occurrences.	Fear (of object or of trainer's reaction to horse's behavior), poor vision, head being forcibly held so horse can't see, playful habit.	Generally curable. Put horse on aids and guide and control his movement with driving and restraining aids	
13)	<b>Stumbling</b>	Losing balance or catching the toe on the ground and missing a beat or falling.	Weakness, lack of coordination, lack of condition, young, lazy, long toe/low heel, delayed breakover of hooves, horse ridden on forehand, poor footing.	Curable. Have hoof balance assessed, check breakover, ride horse with more weight on the hindquarters (collect), conditioning horse properly.	
14)	<b>Tail Wringing</b>	Switching and/or rotating tail in an irritated or angry fashion.	Sore back from poor fitting tack, poorly balanced rider, injury, rushed training.	May not be curable once established. Proper saddle fit, rider lessons, massage and other medical therapy, proper warm-up & progressive, achievable training demands.	

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15	<b>Striking</b>	Taking a swipe at a person with a front leg.	Reaction to clipping, first use of chain or twitch, restraint of head, dental work.	Curable but very dangerous especially if coupled with rearing as person's head could be struck. Review head handling (mouth, nostrils, ears); head down lesson; and thorough body handling and sacking out.	

➤ *Explain the difference between a VICE (abnormal behavior) and a BAD HABIT (undesirable behavior)*

**Rating Requirements:**

**D2 - Name three common stable vices.**

**C1 - Discuss types and causes of stable vices.**