

HORSEMEN MANNERS & ETTIQUETTE

Horse Manners

No horse can have good manners on the trail unless he is properly trained to do so. The same bad manners in a horse at home make him a poor trail companion. The unexpected on the trail magnifies the problems of kicking, biting, running away, crowding other horses, bucking and rearing.

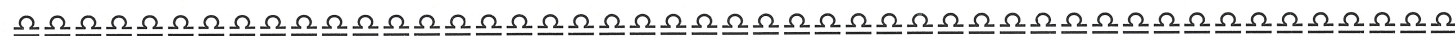
In order to put good trail manners on your horse, you will need to practice at home. Trail riding in a group has a way of "un-training" your horse, so his lessons must be well learned in order for them to work on a trail ride, where he (and you) need them most.

Give to the bit ~ Giving to the bit is the beginning of your horse having brakes. So practice this cue until your horse will give every time you ask without resistance.

Hips over ~ As the horse takes a big step to the side with his hindquarters, he ends up turning about 90 degrees. If he will do that, you can limit his ability to bolt forward or shy easily, and you can slow or stop him by making a series of 90-degree turns.

Head down/calm down cue ~ The head down cue allows the horse to calm down even when he's excited. It gives you a way on the trail to gain control when you most need it.

Spook in Place ~ Teaching your horse to face something that startles him can prevent him from spinning out from under you, and keeps the scary thing in front of him instead of behind him, where he views it as chasing him.



HORSE HEALTH ~ ACUPUNTURE

Acupuncture in the treatment of disease involves the stimulation of specific points along affected channels to reopen "blocked" energy flow and reestablish normal functioning. Diagnostic acupuncture uses these same meridians to detect an energy blockage. Precision in selecting the proper points, inserting needles (if used) to the proper depth, and maintaining treatment for the proper length of time, all are critical for successful acupuncture.

When To Consider Acupuncture? Use these rules of thumb:

1. Seek conventional treatment first. Where appropriate, augment it with acupuncture, or;
2. Try acupuncture after conventional treatment has produced less-than-satisfying results.
3. If your horse has a condition for which every passing minute means more tissue damage and a worsening prognosis (such as laminitis, severe colic, bowed tendon, or navicular disease), seek proven conventional care as his primary treatment. You can then use acupuncture to augment that protocol.
4. Following is a sampling of conditions for which acupuncture has been reported to be beneficial, on its own or as an adjunct to contemporary medicine:

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| • Peripheral nerve paralysis | • Navicular disease | • Laminitis |
| • A variety of musculoskeletal-related lameness | | • Hives, shock |
| • Cribbing | • Stomach ulcers | • Nervousness |

