



INTRODUCTION TO HORSES

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#1 - SAFETY

Precautions when handling and caring for horses

While horses are large animals, some can be easily frightened. Because of their large size, a frightened horse can have a reaction that is also large, and people can be hurt if they are not careful to respect this beautiful animal. In this lesson students will learn some basic horse behavior and safety rules for working around horses.

SOFTLY

Is it nicer to be around a person who talks quietly to you, or is it nicer to be around someone who yells at you? All horses like someone who has a nice, quiet voice. It keeps them from becoming scared of you and helps them to like you.

SLOWLY

Horses do not see the same way that we do this is why we always work slowly. If you jump around, run around or wave your arms around, the horse will be frightened of you and it will take much longer for you to be friends.

KINDLY

Do you like mean people or kind, nice people? Do dogs like mean people or nice, kind people? All animals and people like kindness. Being nice and gentle to the horse helps him to be your friend. They want to be your friend and will be your friend if you are kind to them

When Around Horses you should

SPEAK SOFTLY,
WALK SLOWLY & PAT GENTLY

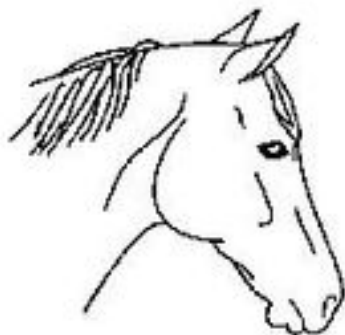


**NEVER STAND DIRECTLY BEHIND OR IN FRONT
OF A HORSE!!**

Horses have “blind spots” in front of their nose and directly behind them, if you stand there they will not see you and could get scared and kick you with their hooves or hit you with their head!

Reading a Horse's Ears

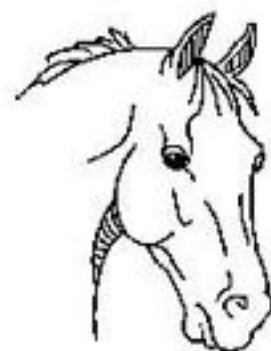
The horse's ears and actions are the key to his emotions. He can tell you what he is paying attention to and how he feels by the way he uses his ears and the way he acts. Following are some tips to his emotions.



Ears forward but relaxed
interested in what's
in front of him



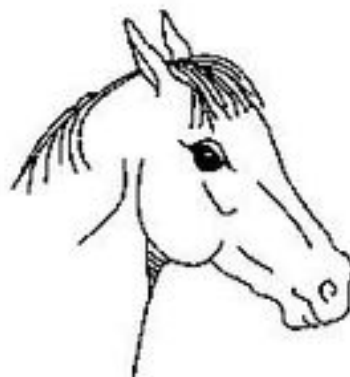
Ears turned back but relaxed
listening to his rider
or what's behind him



Ears pointed stiffly forward
alarmed or nervous about what's
ahead. Looking out for danger



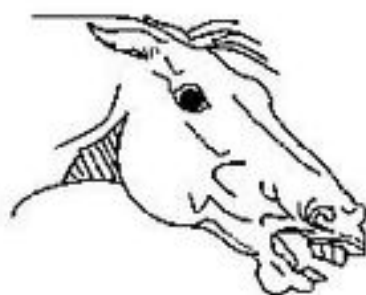
Ears pointed left and right
relaxed, paying attention
to the scenery on both sides.



Ears stiffly back
annoyed or worried about what's
behind him; might kick if annoyed.



Droopy ears
calm and resting,
horse may be dozing.



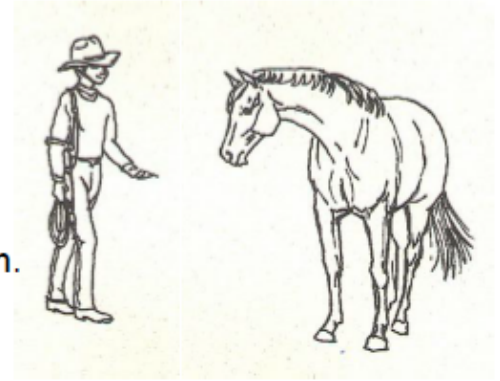
Ears flattened against neck
violently angry, in a fighting mood.
May fight, bite or kick.

OTHER SIGNS YOU SHOULD NOTICE ARE:

- **Tucking the tail down tightly.**
Danger to the rear.
Horse may bolt, buck or kick.
Watch out if ears are flattened too!
- **Switching the tail.**
Annoyance and irritation:
 - at biting flies, stinging insects or tickling
 - bothersome actions of a rider or another horse.
- **Droopy ears and resting one hind leg on toe.**
Calm and resting, horse may be dozing.
Don't wake him up by startling him!
- **Wrinkling up the face and swinging the head.**
Threatening gesture of an angry or bossy horse.
Watch out for biting or kicking.

The Correct Way to Approach a Horse:

1. Talk to the horse with a quiet voice.
2. Go up to the horse SLOWLY so he can see you.
3. Pet the horse on the shoulder and neck.
4. Do not stand too close to his head or behind him.



GROOMING

A horse should be groomed before and after he is ridden. The first requirement is to use the hoof pick to remove stones or other small objects and dirt that may have been embedded in the feet. Following that, the body of the horse should be groomed, first with a curry comb – except for bony areas such as the knees or hocks – and then with a stiff-bristled brush. Then, the mane and tail should be combed thoroughly. Tangles should be combed from the ends first, and the comb should be worked gradually to the roots of the hair. The dandy brush and grooming cloth are used to put a finishing touch on the haircoat of the horse. The sweat scraper need only be used if the horse has been run hard and is fairly sweaty or lathered.



Curry Comb



Body Brush



Dandy Brush



Hoof Pick (or Hook)



Grooming Cloth

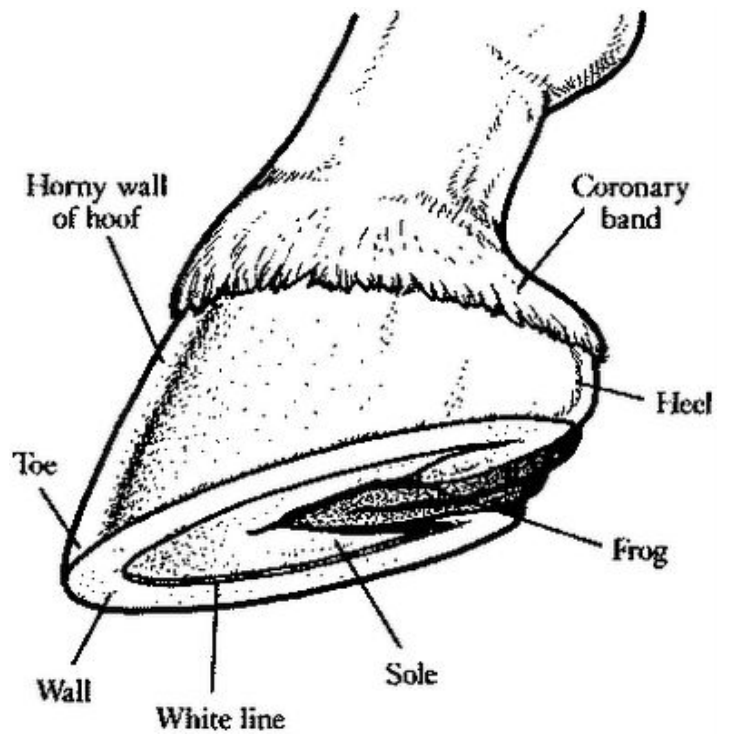
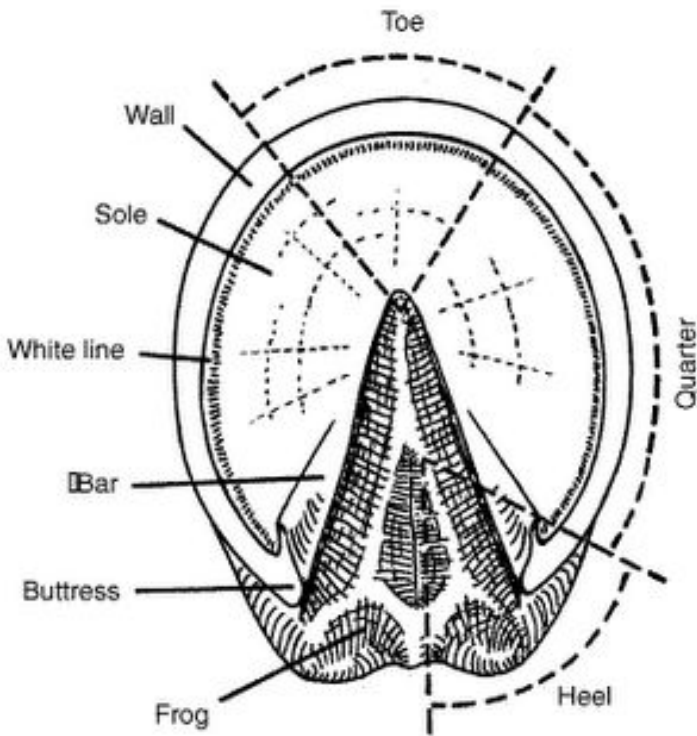
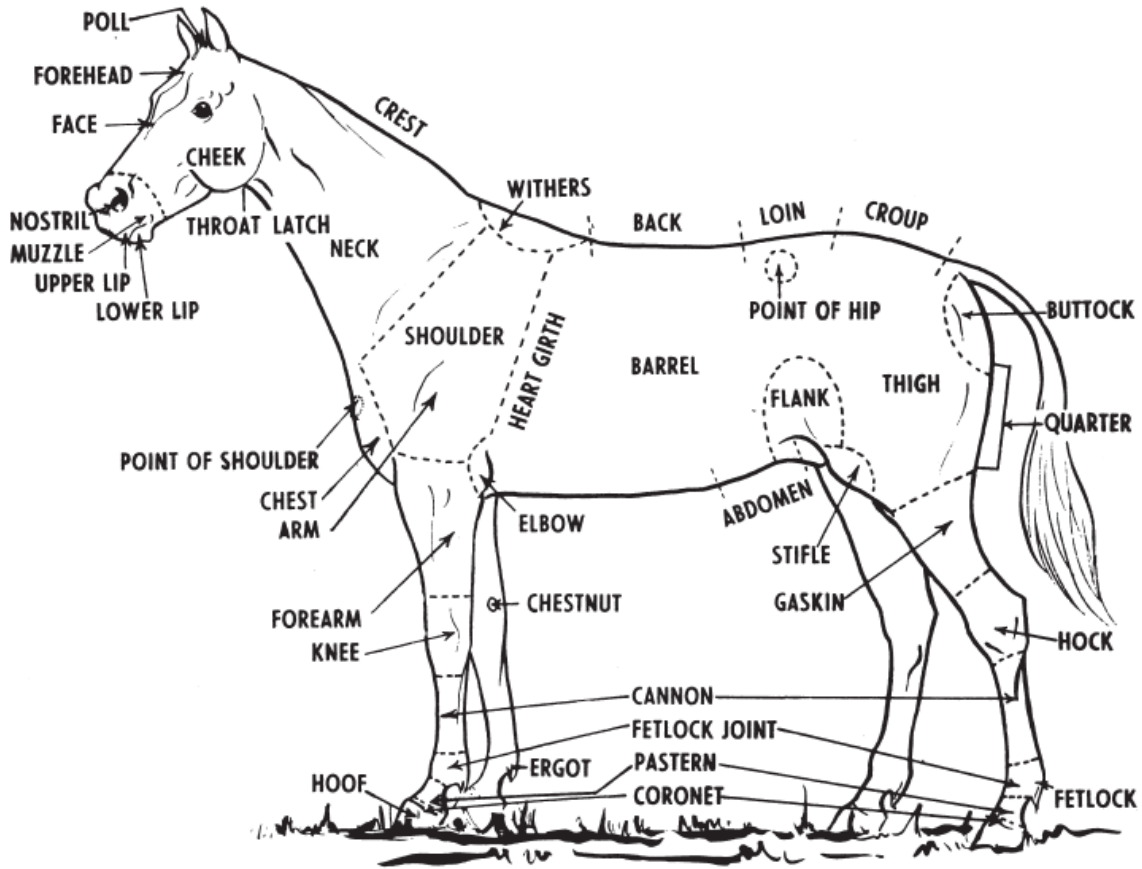


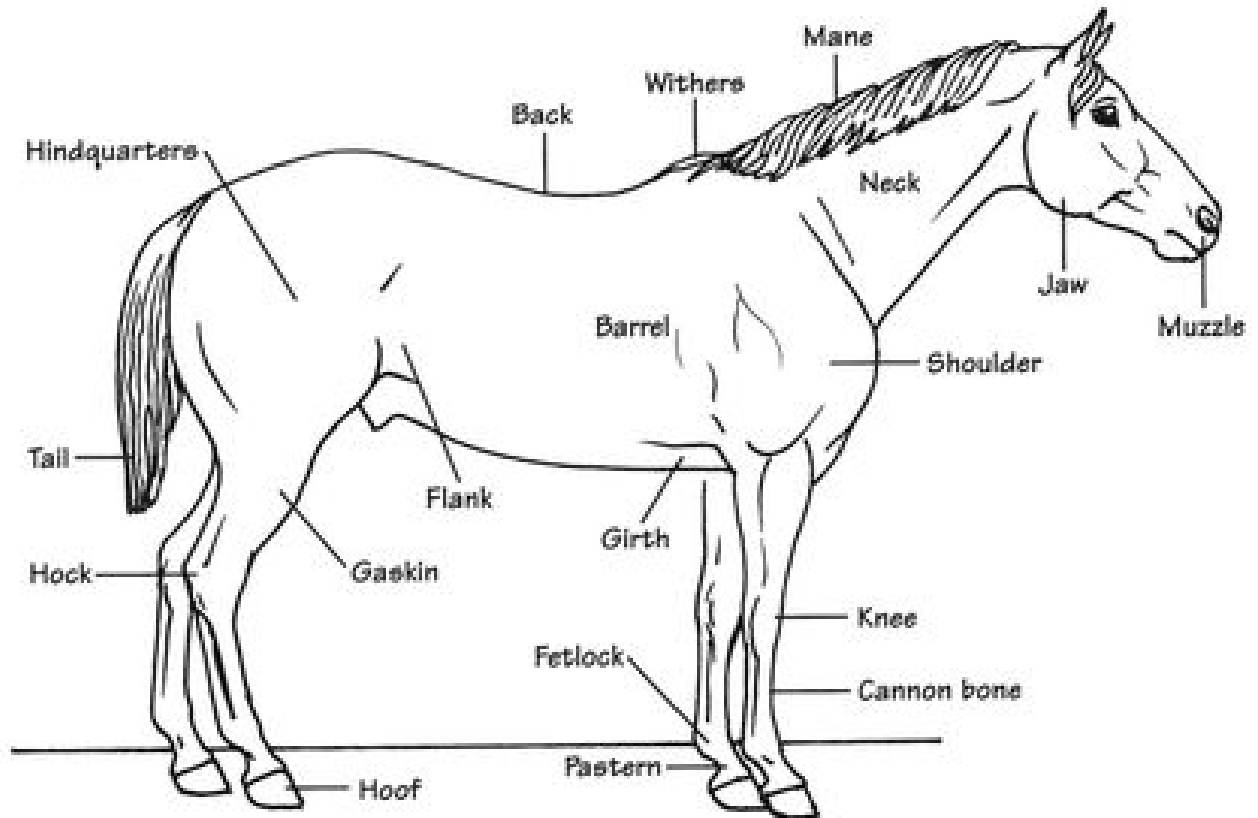
Sweat Scraper



Mane and Tail Comb

PARTS OF THE HORSE





Parts of the Horse Word Search

J D H I N D Q U A R T E R S D F A L N P
 A B O Z Z E G J B M A C X H P K N E E A
 W U C M P S N R F O O H T O F I P R Y S
 X M K G A H T P J C E K Q U D E Y B L T
 A S I Z W M A N E T A I L L I O N A D E
 G M F Z P I O G H Y M J N D X P T R I R
 A Q E V C A N N O N B O N E C L E R S N
 S R T H M S B K P W S I T R L A T E L W
 K P L A C M R U E B A C K I N S A L G I
 I P O K L F U P G R N K R V H N J P W T
 N B C D E K C Z F A R L P G O E G J F H
 D A K Z U L E T Z D H M I J P C J E A E
 J S U D A Q V O P L N C A B D K V N Q R
 F L A N K A B S T R E N L G I R T H Y S

HORSE COLORS & MARKINGS



BAY



CHESTNUT

APPALOOSA PATTERNS



BLANKET



GREY



BLOOD BAY



SEAL BROWN



FLEA BITTEN



BLACK



LIVER CHESTNUT



DOMINANT WHITE

DISTINGUISHABLE MARKINGS GUIDE



STAR



STRIP



SNIP



CRESCENT



STAR & STRIP



STAR & STRIP
& SNIP



BLAZE



BALD FACE



CORONET



PASTERN



FETLOCK



HIGH
FETLOCK



SOCK



3/4 STOCKING



STOCKING



WHITE
LEG
TO KNEE



HEEL



OUTSIDE
OF
HEEL

HORSE BREEDS



See how many you can find!

COLIC

What is Colic?

Colic is what we call a stomach ache in horses. There are over 70 different types of Gastrointestinal (GI) "Stomach" problems, making colic one of the most common ailments in horses.

Major Causes

- **Changes in feed, environment or routine**
- **stress from unusual hard exercise or travel**

Pawing



Excessive Sweating



Kicking Stomach



Rolling A Lot



Stretching



Not Eating



Waiting for a Vet

- **Hand walk for 15-20 minutes**
- **Offer water**
- **Have travel plans ready in case you need to go to the vet hospital**

PREVENTION

- ~ allow your horse to have plenty of turn out
- ~ keep feed / hay in field out of sandy areas
- ~ have a constant supply of clean water
- ~ limit how much hard feed your horse gets
- ~ have routine dentist checks every six months



A HORSE'S HAIR SERVES IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING:



BODY
TEMPERATURE
REGULATION

INSECT
PROTECTION



PROTECTION
FROM THE
ELEMENTS



BLOOD
VESSEL
INSULATION

RAIN ROT

A fungus caused by bacterial organisms, spread by direct contact between infected animals, contaminated environments and biting insects.



Factors like prolonged wetting by rain, high humidity and high temperature can increase the development of Rain Rot.

Rain Rot starts as small lumps on the skin/hair and progresses into matted tufts of hair as well as large (sometimes crusty) scabs. Underneath the scabs sometimes the skin is pink with puss when the scabs are first removed.



To treat Rain Rot, first remove all the lumps and scabs from the hair and skin. Then clean your horse with a medicated shampoo containing Chlorhexidine. Finally, make sure to disinfect all of your grooming tools to prevent re-infection.



SCRUB

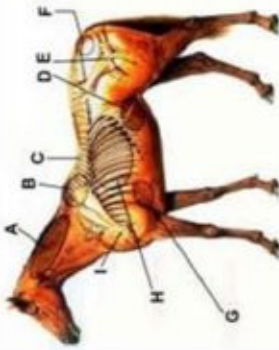


CLEAN



DISINFECT

BODY CONDITION SCORING CHART



Areas of Emphasis for Body Condition Scoring

- A: Thickening of the neck
- B: Fat covering the withers
- C: Fat deposits along backbone
- D: Fat deposit on flanks
- E: Fat deposits on inner thigh
- F: Fat deposits around tailhead
- G: Fat deposit behind shoulder
- H: Fat covering ribs
- I: Shoulder blends into neck

1 Poor

Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischia projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.

2 Very Thin

Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischia prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernable.

3 Thin

Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernable; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae appear rounded but easily discernable; tuber ischia not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.

4 Moderately Thin

Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernable; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae not discernable; withers, shoulders, and net not obviously thin.

5 Moderate

Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



6 Moderately Fleshy

May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs fleshy/spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along sides of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.



7 Fleshy

May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.



8 Fat

Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.



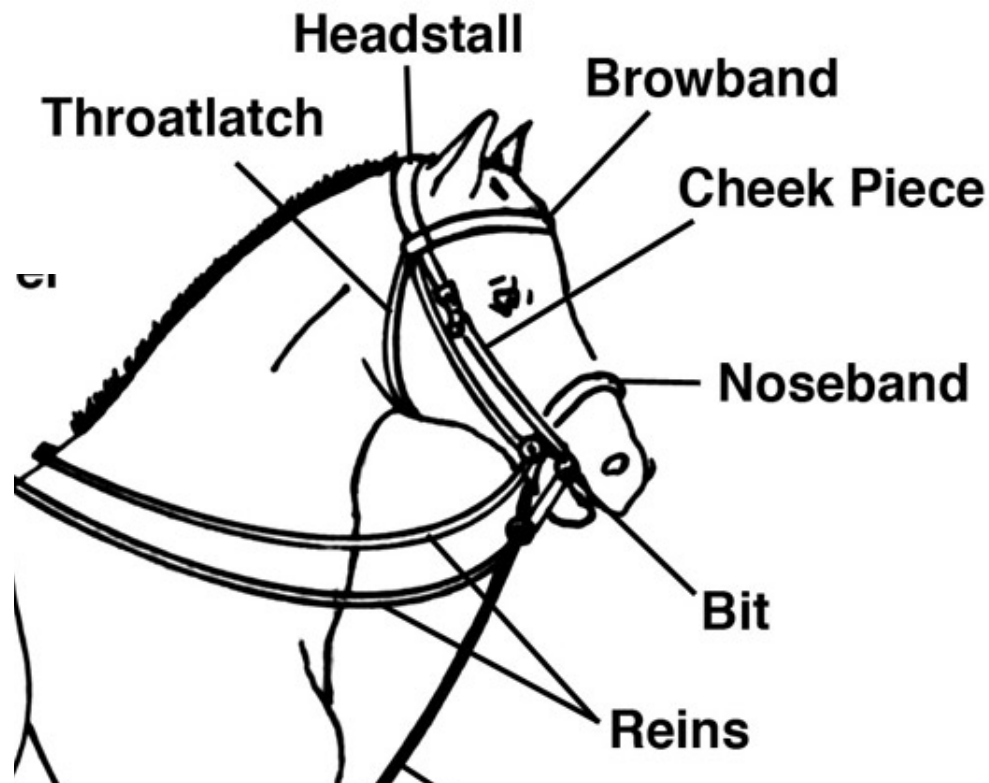
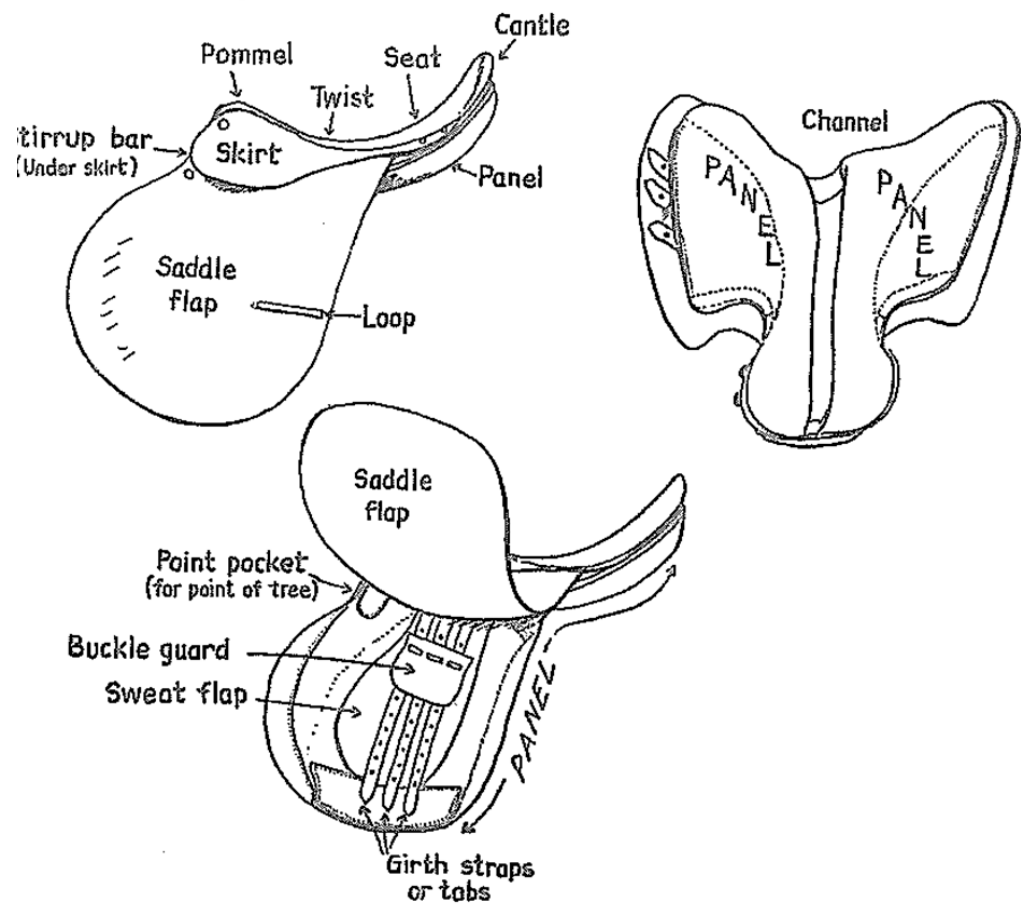
9 Extremely Fat

Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing.



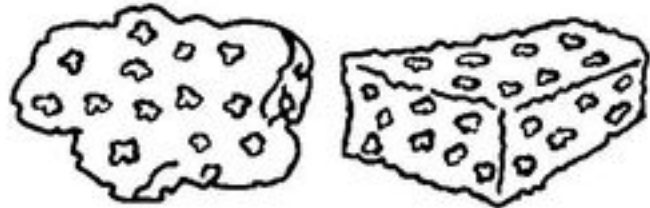
Excellence in Equine Nutrition

TACK AND EQUIPMENT

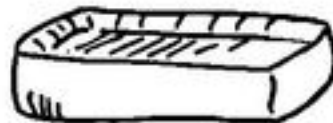


TO CLEAN A SADDLE AND BRIDLE, YOU NEED;

a bucket of
warm water



a dry cloth



a bucket of warm water

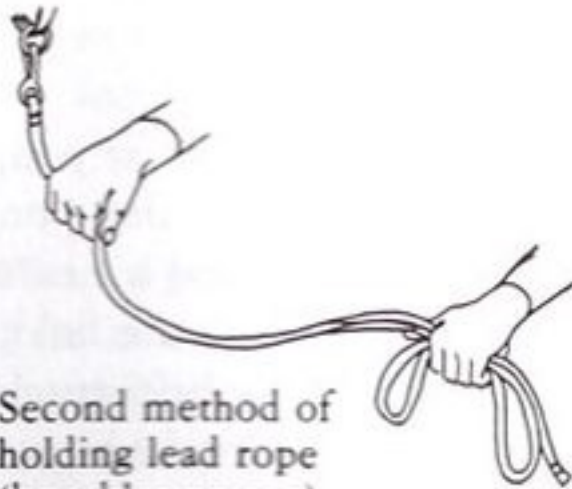


a sponge



LEADING A HORSE

First method of holding lead rope
(thumb on top) Leading hand
about 6 inches from halter.



Second method of
holding lead rope
(knuckles on top)

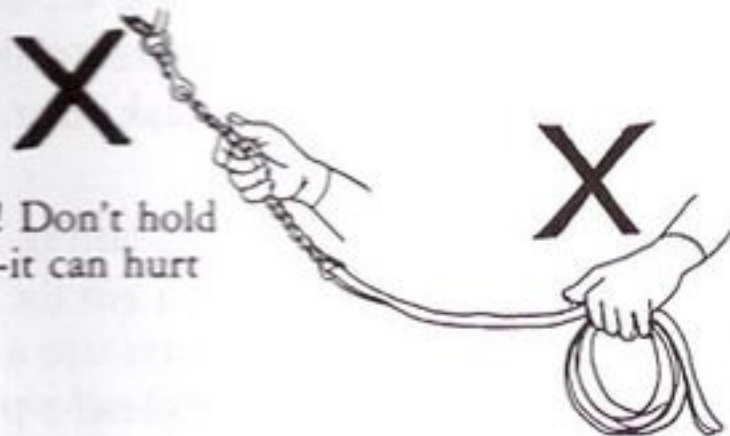
End of lead folded,
not coiled

Leading don'ts:

DANGER! Never lead
by the halter without a
lead rope.



DANGER! Don't hold
the chain—it can hurt
your hand.



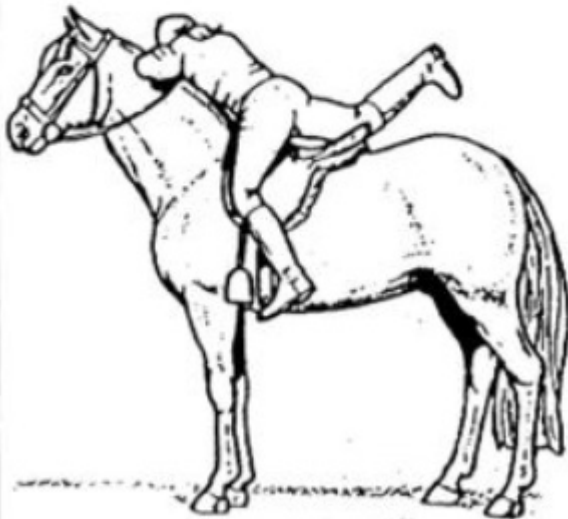
DANGER! Never
coil the end of the
lead—it can tighten
up on your hand!

Holding the lead rope

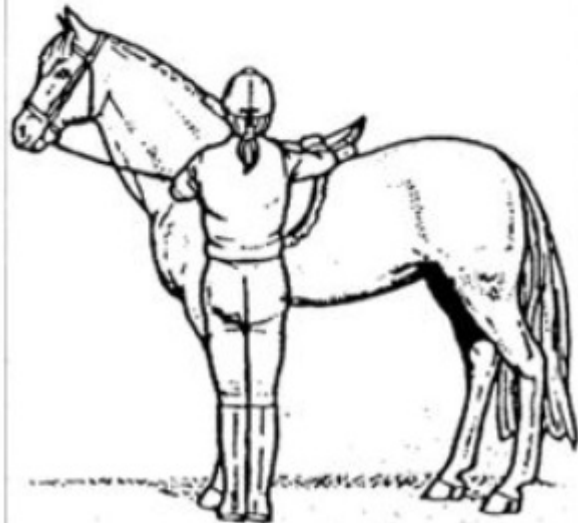
MOUNTING & DISMOUNTING



Halt your horse and drop both feet out of your stirrups



Hold your horse's mane or the pommel of your saddle, lean forward and swing your right leg behind you



On your stomach, slide down the side of the horse until you land on your feet

