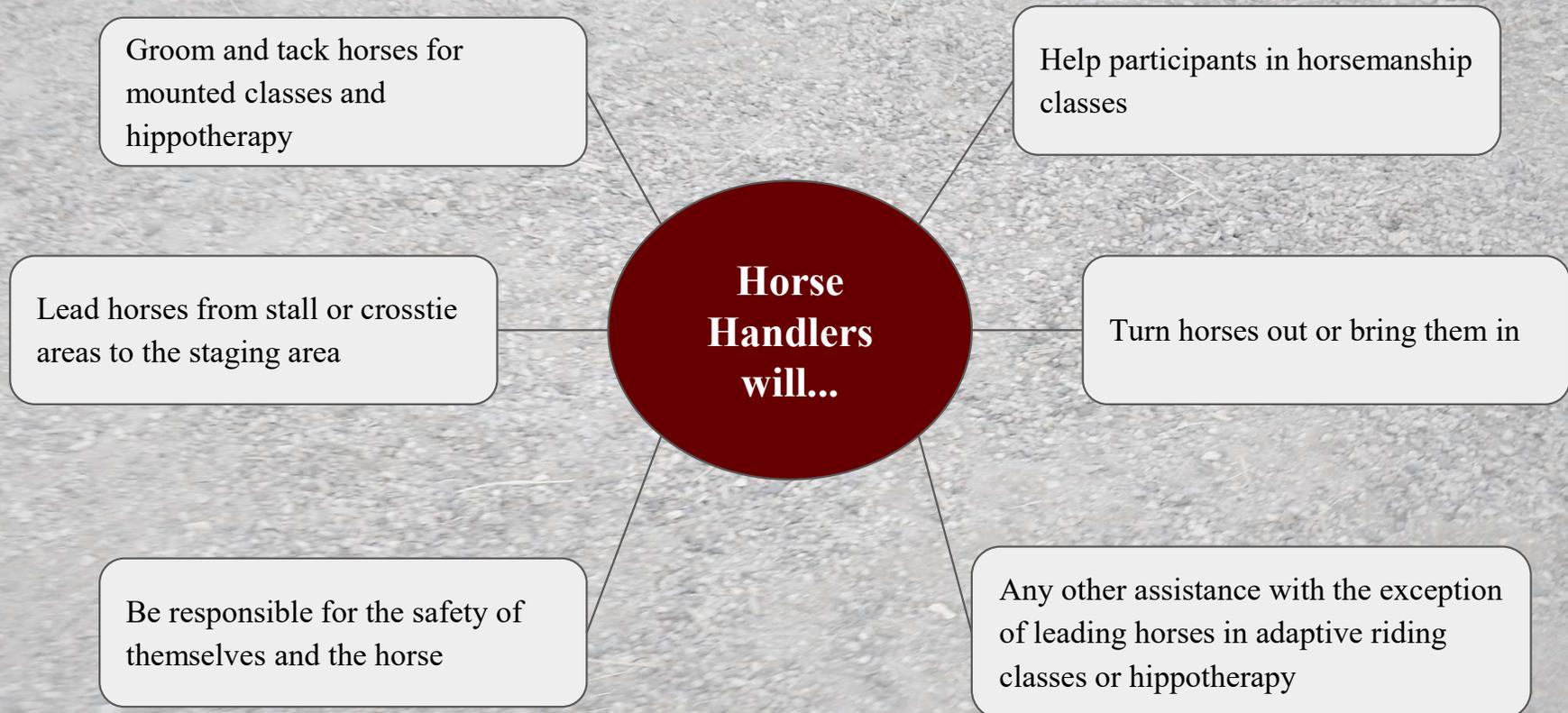




**Welcome to Level 2 Volunteer
Refresher Training!**

The Duties of a Level 2 Horse Handler



What a Level 2 Horse Handler must Demonstrate

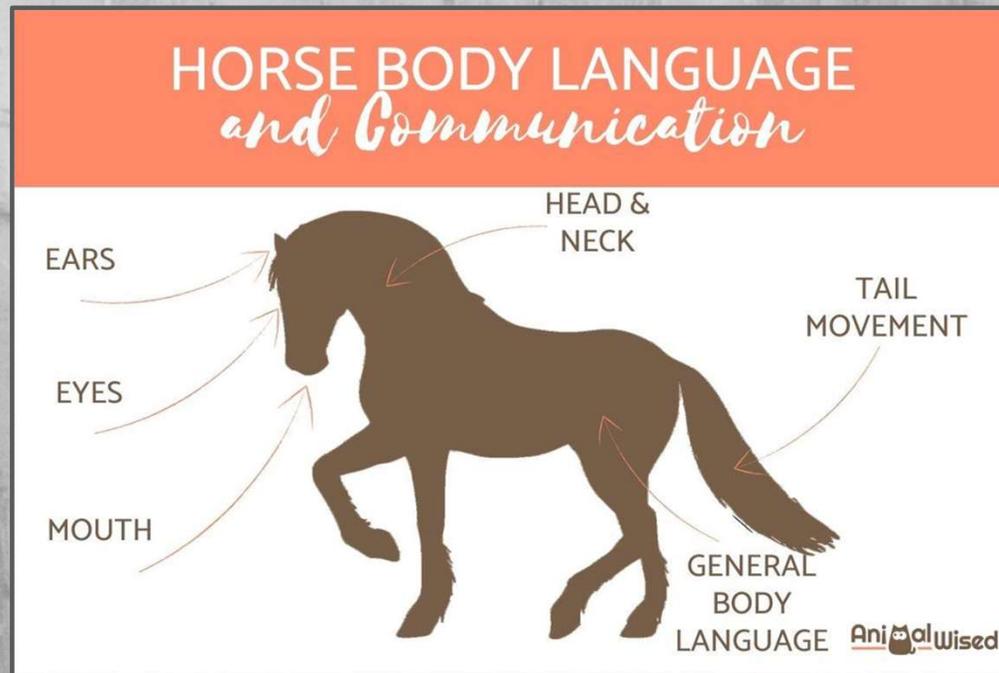
Competency in haltering, tying, grooming, and tacking (technical skills)



Competency in being able to work around and lead a horse safely (situational awareness)

- Situational and spatial awareness
- Proficiency in reading horse communication
- Determines the Path of Least Resistance
- Confident and safe with the horse

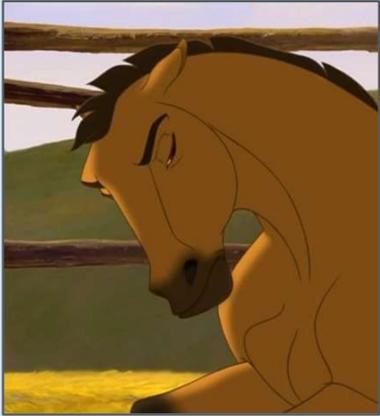
Horse Communication



Horses are fight or flight animals. They always think in a 'prey' mentality.

Horses communicate with their bodies. Watching how they act will help you notice what they're feeling.

Sleepy



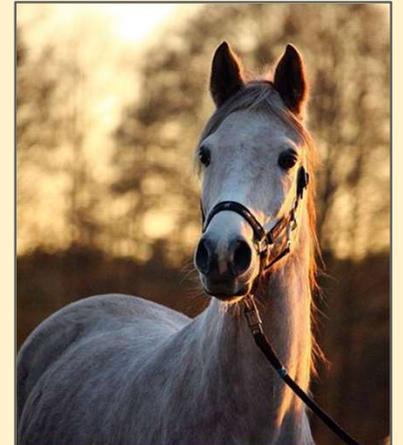
Angry



Unsure



Alert



Blind Spots of a Horse

Directly in front...



... And directly behind



Horses also cannot see directly on top or directly beneath themselves.

Horses Help Voice Commands

Matching voice commands to their actions!



First Steps to Handling our Horses

Are you calm and collected?



Make sure you're not bringing in any angry, frustrated, or upset energy around the horses. This may affect how they react to you.

First Steps to Handling our Horses

Where should you check for information about the horses before you start?

On their grooming bucket



On their stall card

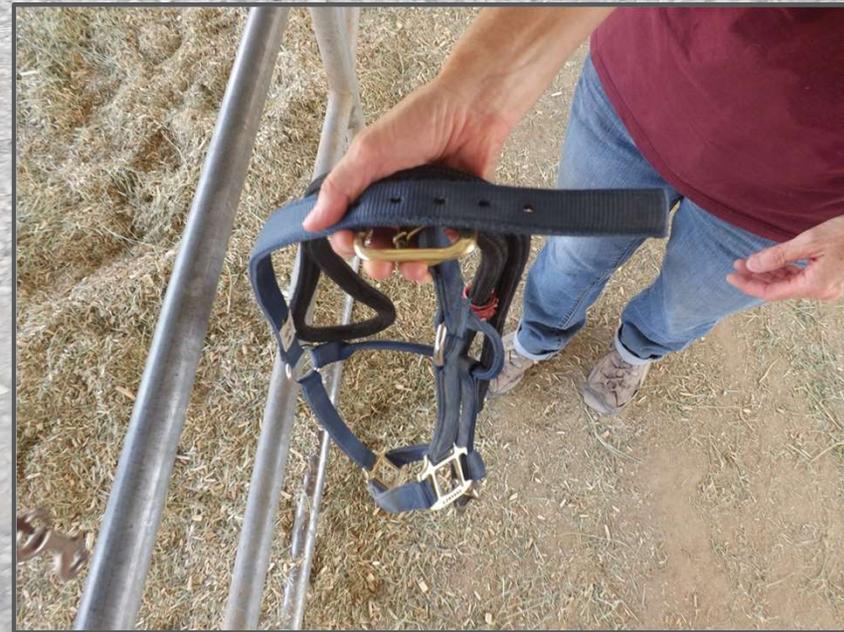


On the herd info sheets on the tack room walls



Haltering

Make sure you're prepared heading into the stall! Have your lead rope organized and ready to place over the horse's withers. The halter should be unbuckled and ready to go, too. Nothing should be rapped around your arm or over your shoulder.

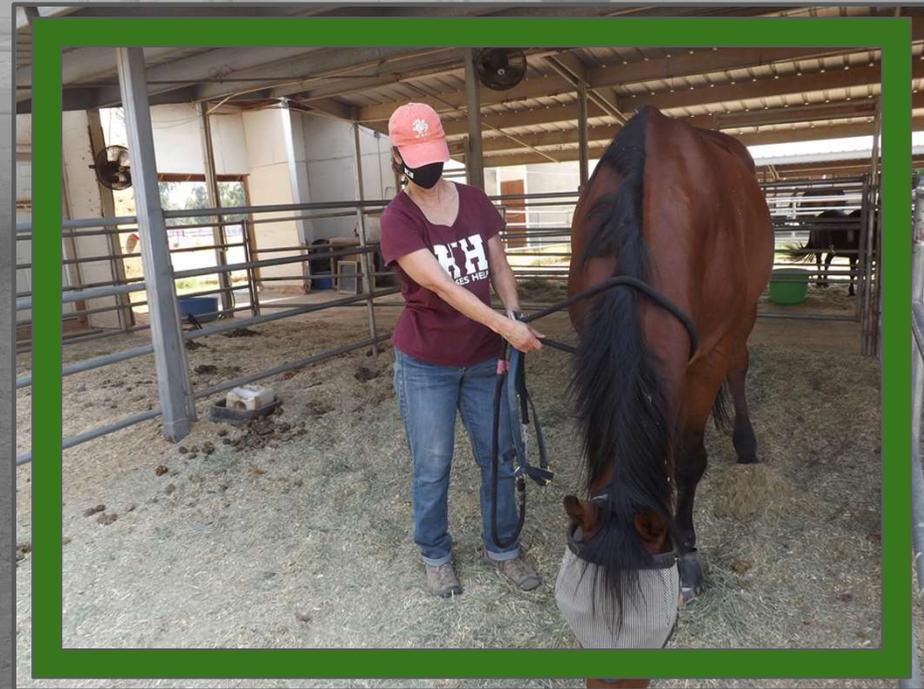


Haltering

Keep yourself safe by not wedging yourself between the horse and the rail.



Move the horse to a better position by looping the lead rope around their neck and moving them away from the rail.



Haltering

Additional Notes:

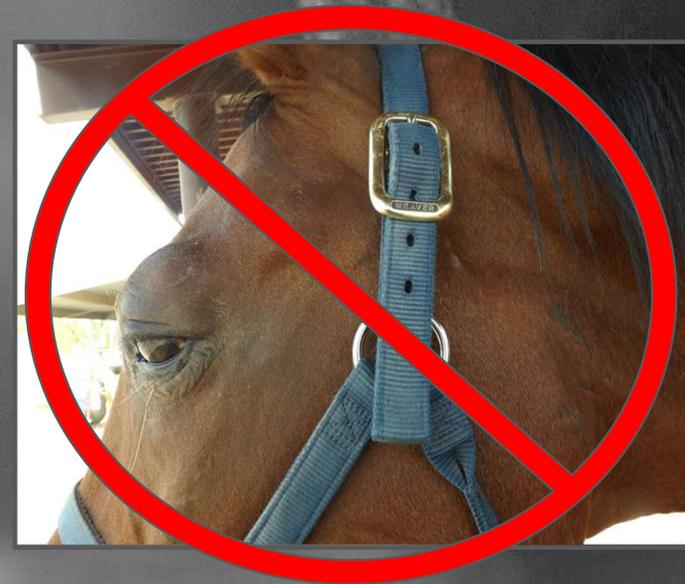
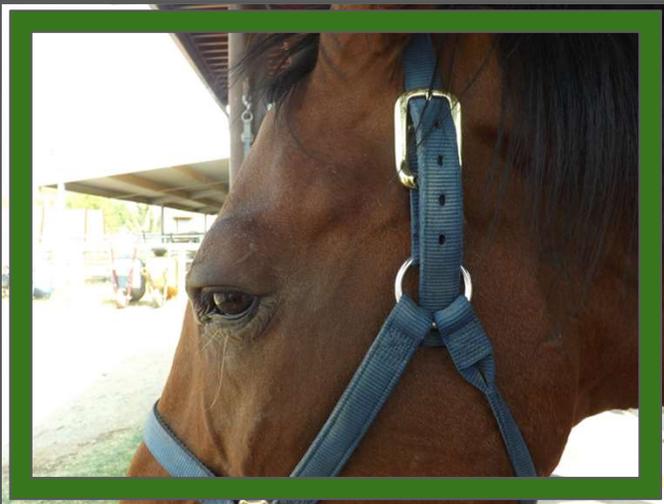
1. Never lay the lead rope on your shoulder or wrap around your arm/hand. It is a PATH violation!
2. Always halter from the left side of your horse.
3. Remember to watch your energy!



Haltering

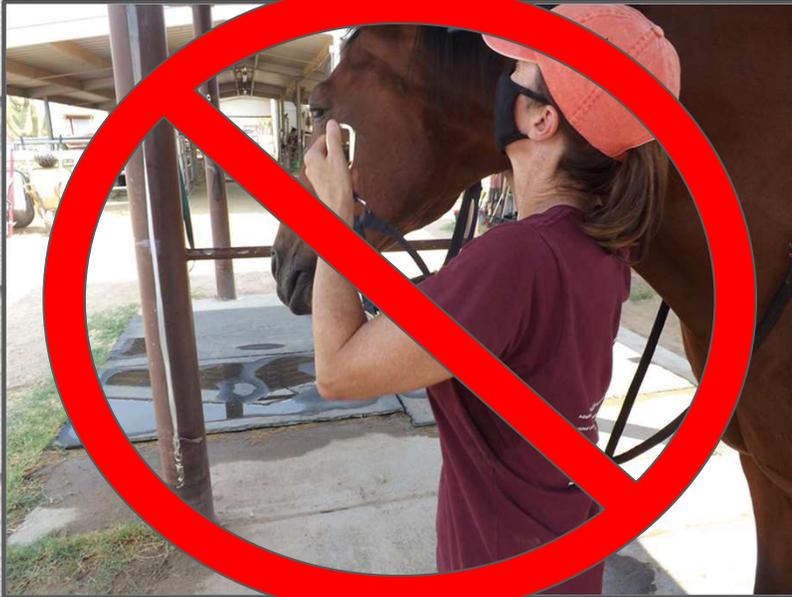
Which of these pictures is not the Horses Help way to buckle a halter?

Leave the crown piece out of the buckle. If an emergency happens, the halter can be undone quickly.



Haltering

Do not flip crown piece strap over the horse's head.



Fly Masks



Don't put my fly mask on from directly in front of me! This is one of my blind spots and could startle me.

Fly Masks

Take the fly mask off before class. If flies are bothering your horse, you can put the fly mask back on over the horse's halter.

Remove and replace the fly mask in the same fashion as haltering.



Stand on horse's left side...



Hold the fly mask in your right hand...



Gently place it over the horse's face.

Tying a Horse

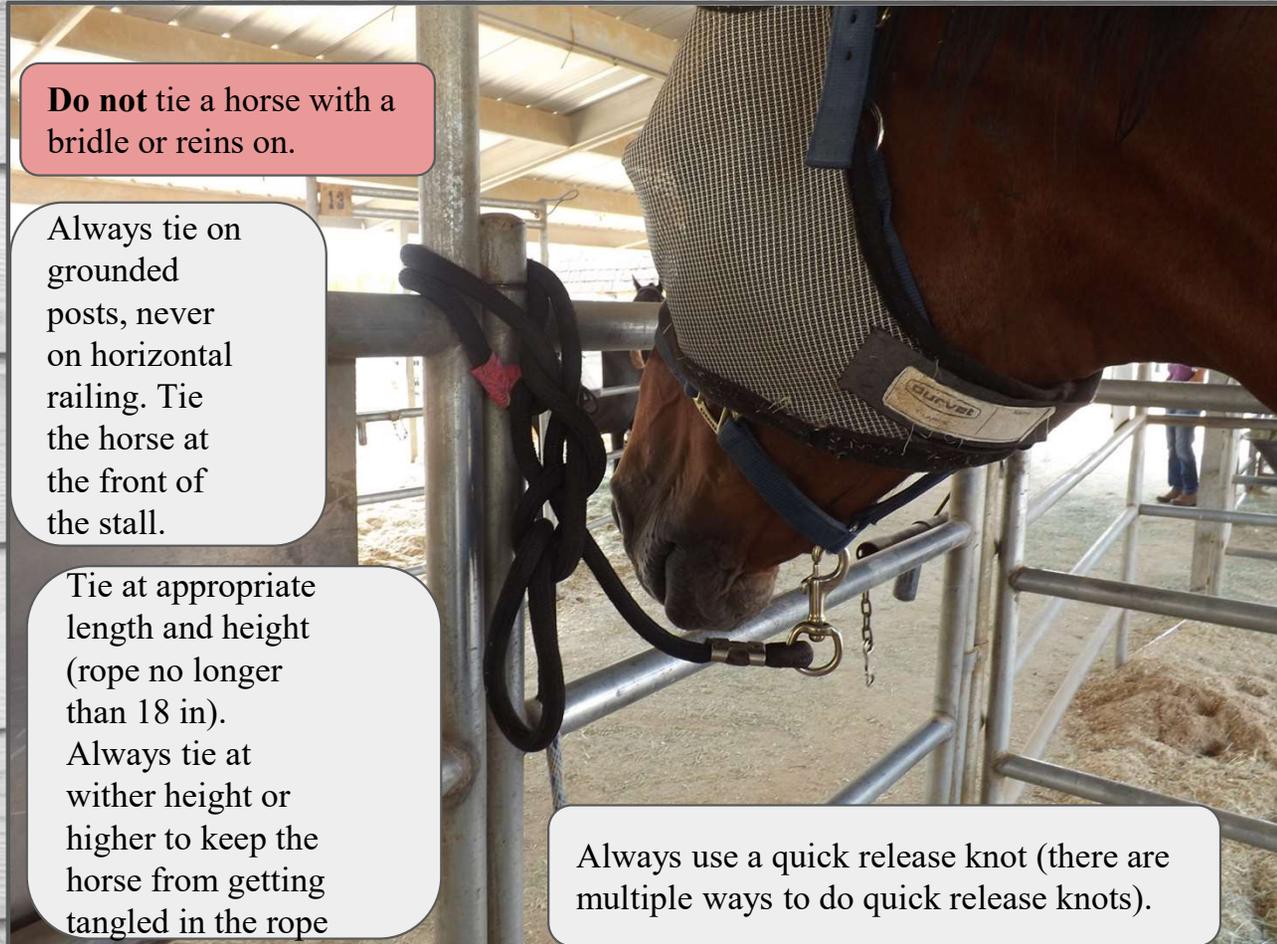
Make sure the stall gate is closed when tying a horse in their stall. Be sure to latch it if you have to step away!



Do not tie a horse with a bridle or reins on.

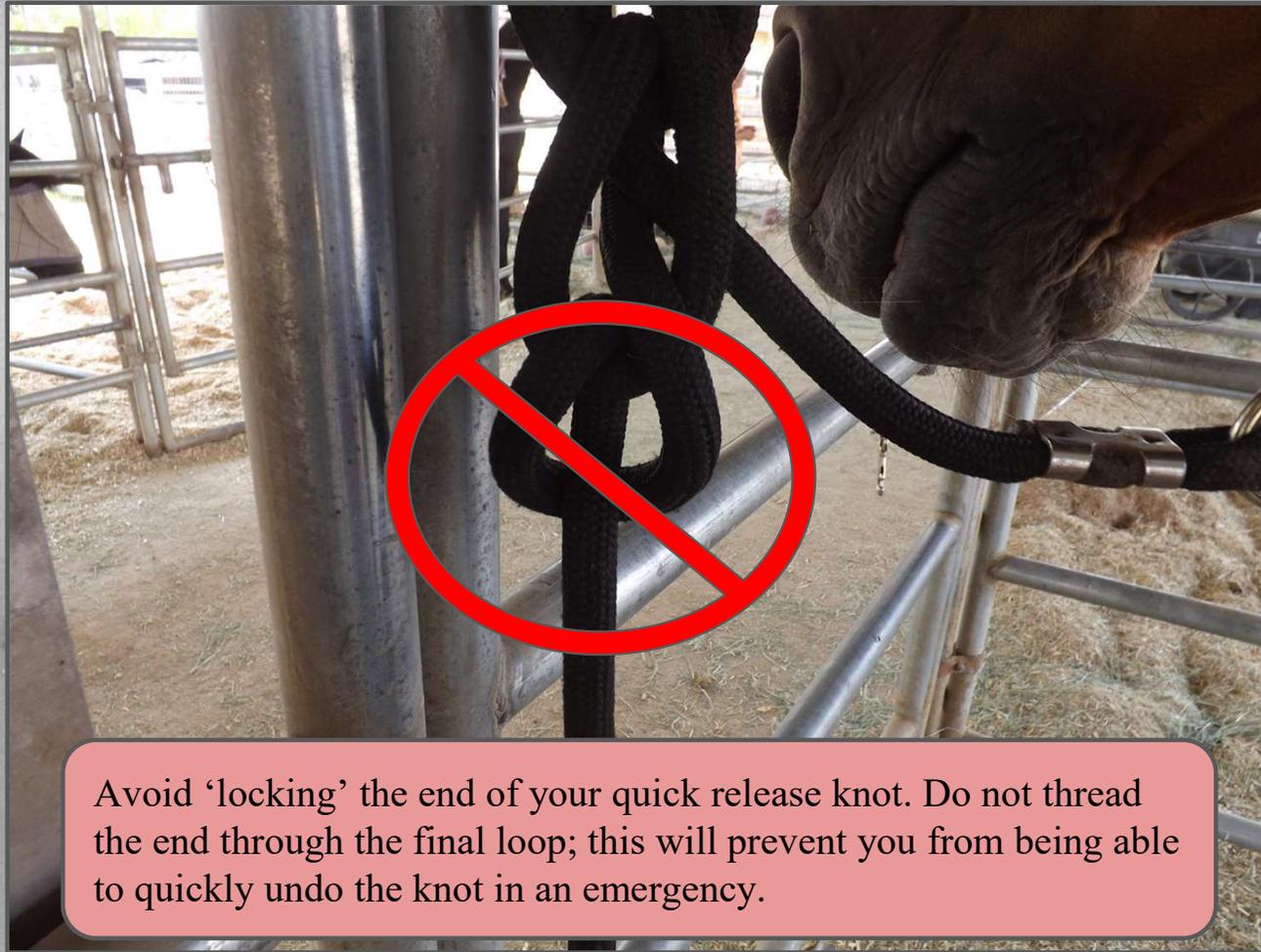
Always tie on grounded posts, never on horizontal railing. Tie the horse at the front of the stall.

Tie at appropriate length and height (rope no longer than 18 in). Always tie at wither height or higher to keep the horse from getting tangled in the rope



Always use a quick release knot (there are multiple ways to do quick release knots).

Tying a Horse



Avoid 'locking' the end of your quick release knot. Do not thread the end through the final loop; this will prevent you from being able to quickly undo the knot in an emergency.

Crossties



1

Remember to take the path of least resistance when entering the crossties.



2



3

Enter through the south end of the crossties and walk the horse to the farthest crossties available (unless specified to use another one).

Do not lead your horse behind any other horses in the crossties!



4

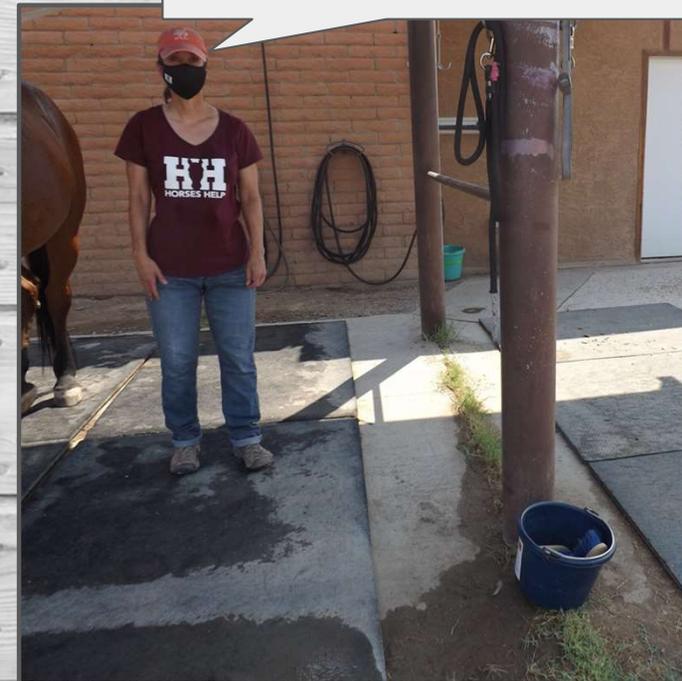
Crossties



I'll keep my lead rope clipped to the horse while I attach the left side...

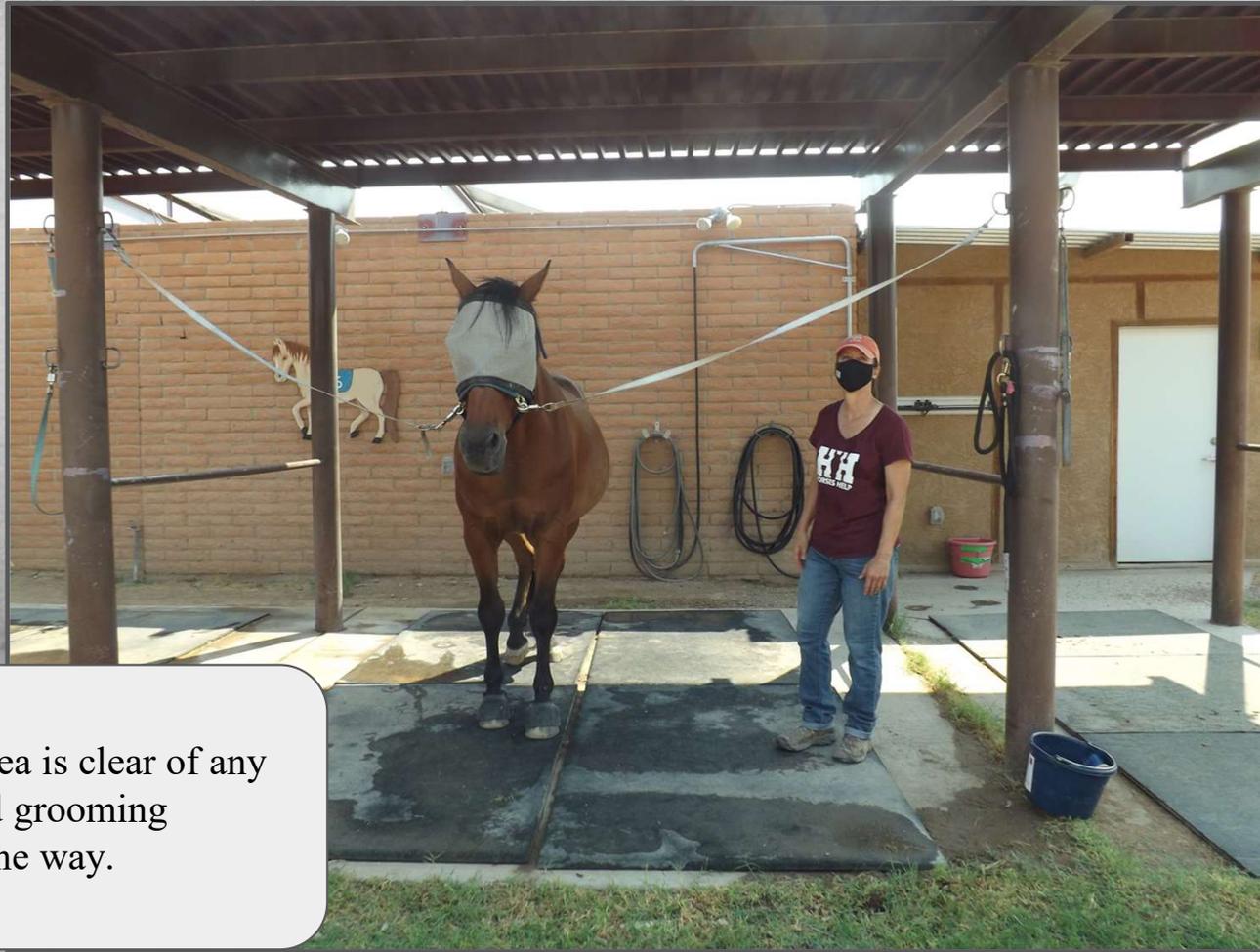


... and then she can unclip the lead rope once the right side is secure!



We are set! I stuck one loop of the lead rope through the rail so I can easily pull it free if needed. The grooming bucket is set below it so it's out of the horse's way.

Crossties



Ready to go! The area is clear of any tripping hazards and grooming supplies are out of the way.

Moving Around the Horse



Remember to use a safety hand when moving around the horse! Place your hand on top of their hindquarters as you walk behind them so they are aware of where you are.

Grooming

Always have the horse “on lead” (lead rope in your hand) when handling their face.

Grooming the horse is an important step. This gets them clean before tacking up, gauges how the horse is feeling, gives you a chance to check the horse for injuries, and establishes your hierarchy with the horse for future interactions.

If you need to apply something to a horse’s face in the cross-ties, hold onto them with the lead rope and unclip the horse from the cross-ties.



Never handle the horse’s face/mouth while the horse is tied. This includes removing or putting on a fly mask & brushing the horse’s face. If a horse cannot move away, it can cause a safety issue.

Grooming

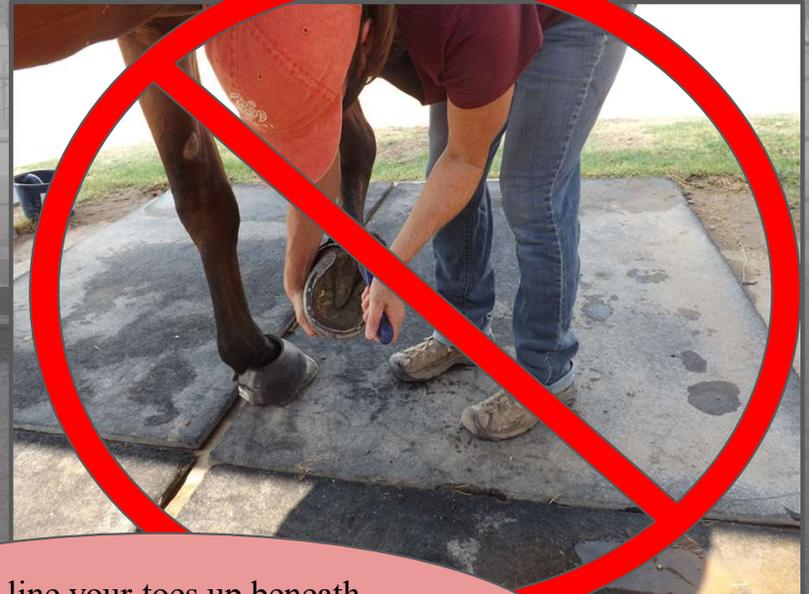
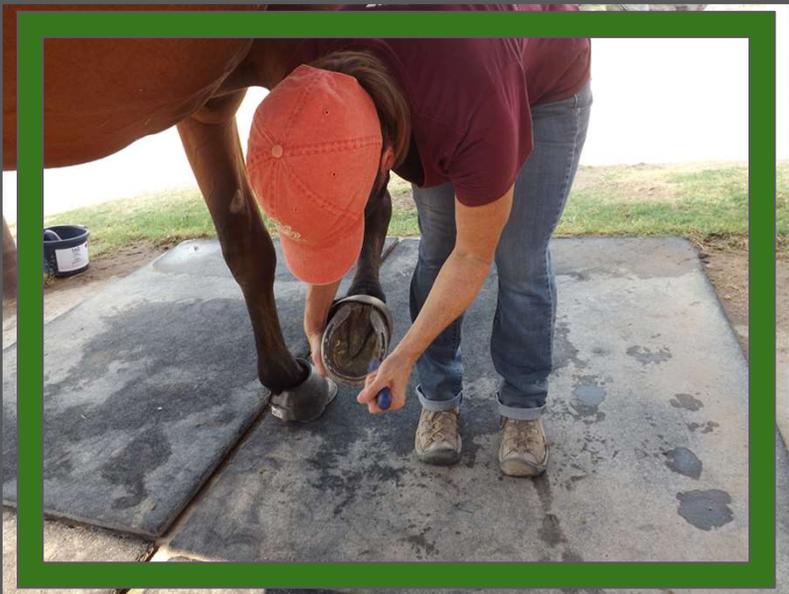
When grooming a horse in his/her stall, place your grooming bucket in the aisle just outside of the stall. Position it appropriately so you can reach through the railing with your hand to select tools from the bucket.



Stay Safe!
Do Not climb or lean
through stall railings.

Picking Hooves

Picking the horse's hooves is the first step in grooming at Horses Help. Horse's legs should never be lifted higher than the middle of your shin while cleaning feet. Keep horse's legs in alignment with their body.



Do not line your toes up beneath the horse's foot. If they pulled their foot away and set it down, they could step on you.

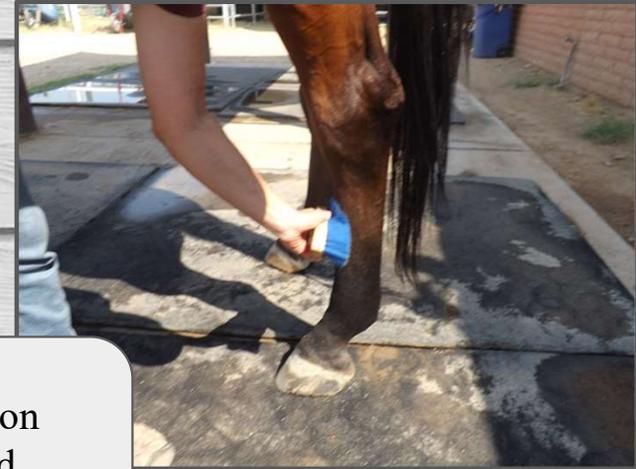


Give your horse warning before you reach for their foot. Run a hand down their leg to the foot you want to pick up.

Grooming



Start with the curry comb to bring dirt and dust to the surface of the horse's hair.



Use the soft brush on the horse's legs and face.

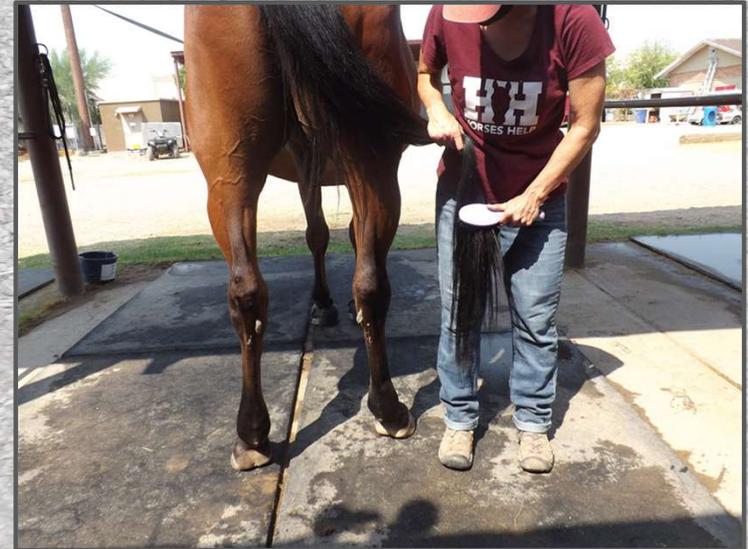


Use the stiff brush next to 'flick' away debris.



Grooming

The mane and tail brush can be used to untangle the horse's mane and tail.



This volunteer is correctly standing to the side to stay out of the horse's blind spot directly behind him.

Saddling Up

Check the saddle racks in the tack room to find your horse's assigned saddles, girths, and pads.



Check the tags to see if they're written in **red**. This means the horse might share a saddle with another horse, so it might be on that horse's rack.



I'm assigned to tack up Tao, and this rack says the saddle is Tao's!



I'll double-check the tags to make sure this is all Tao's before putting it on him.

Saddling Up

All the tack is set on the rail to keep it out of the way and easily accessed.

Everything is lined up neatly and ready to be put on the horse!



Pads

The pads are the first thing to go on the horse. Start with the dressage pad first.



The half pad comes next. Make sure it's on top of the dressage pad so it doesn't get sweaty and dirty.



Lifting the Saddle

When placing the saddle on the horse's back, be gentle and set it on the back rather than flinging it onto the horse.

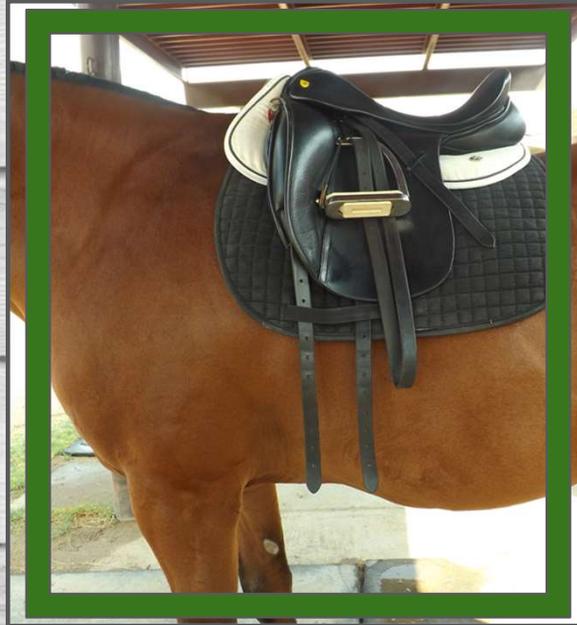


Saddling Up

Tent the saddle pad after the saddle is in place.



This saddle is in the correct placement.

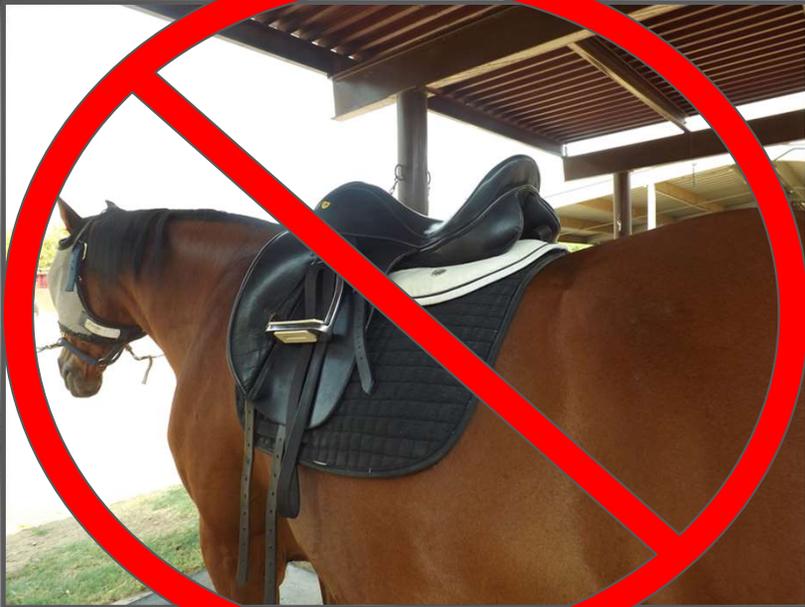


Make sure the saddle is sitting behind the horse's shoulder.



Saddling Up

This saddle is too far forward.

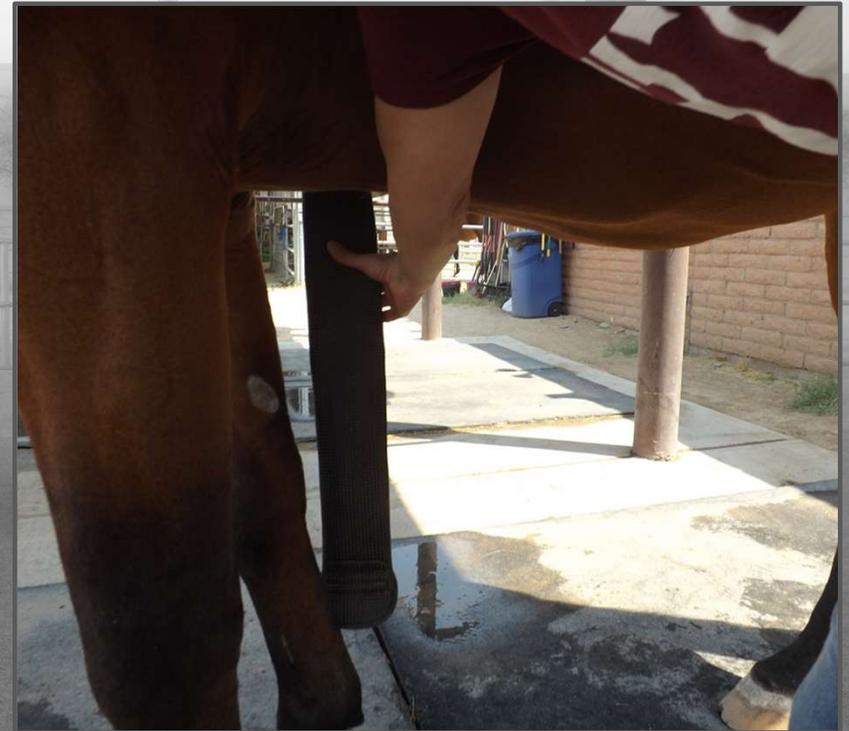


This saddle is too far back.



Saddling Up

Attach the girth on the horse's right side first.



Go back to the horse's left side and reach under to bring the girth towards you.

Cinching



Cinch in gentle stages. Do not yank the girth tight all at once. The instructor does a final girth check to make the girth 'riding tight'.

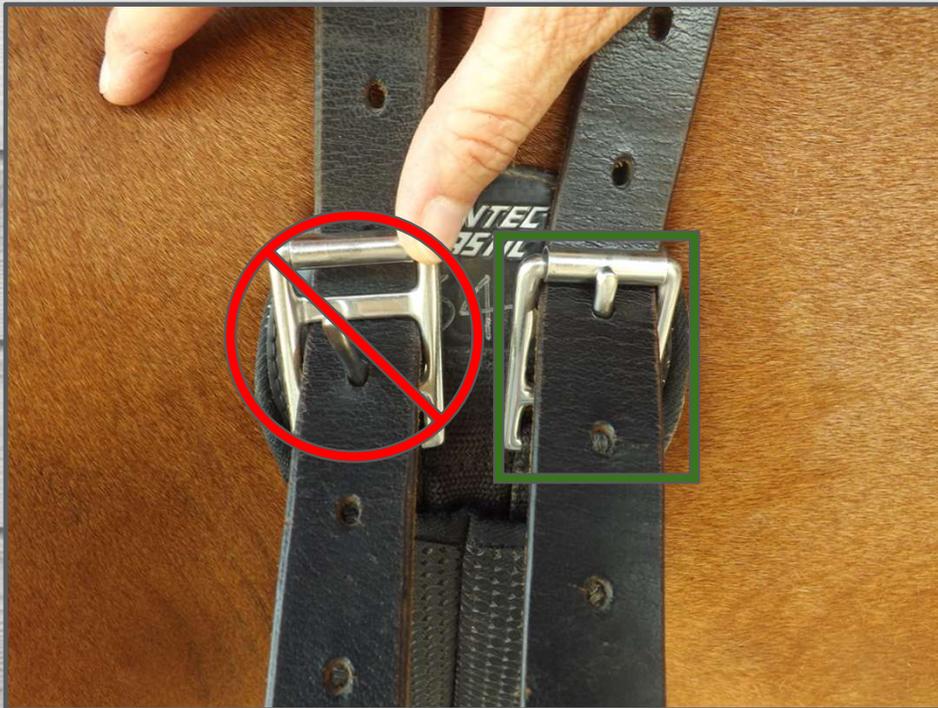


Check the girth tightness in-between the horse's front legs. This is where it is the most accurate.



Cinching

I didn't thread the strap against the roller! I put it through the immobile piece beneath the roller, and now it's stuck.



Bareback Pads

Bareback pads go on top of either a dressage pad or a western pad for added cushioning.



When using a dressage pad under the bareback pad, thread the straps through like you would for a typical saddle.



Bareback Pads



Attach the girth evenly on both sides of the horse.



Tighten the girth in gentle stages; do not yank the girth tight all at once. The instructor does a final girth check to make it 'riding tight'.



Saddling Up

Tent the saddle pad

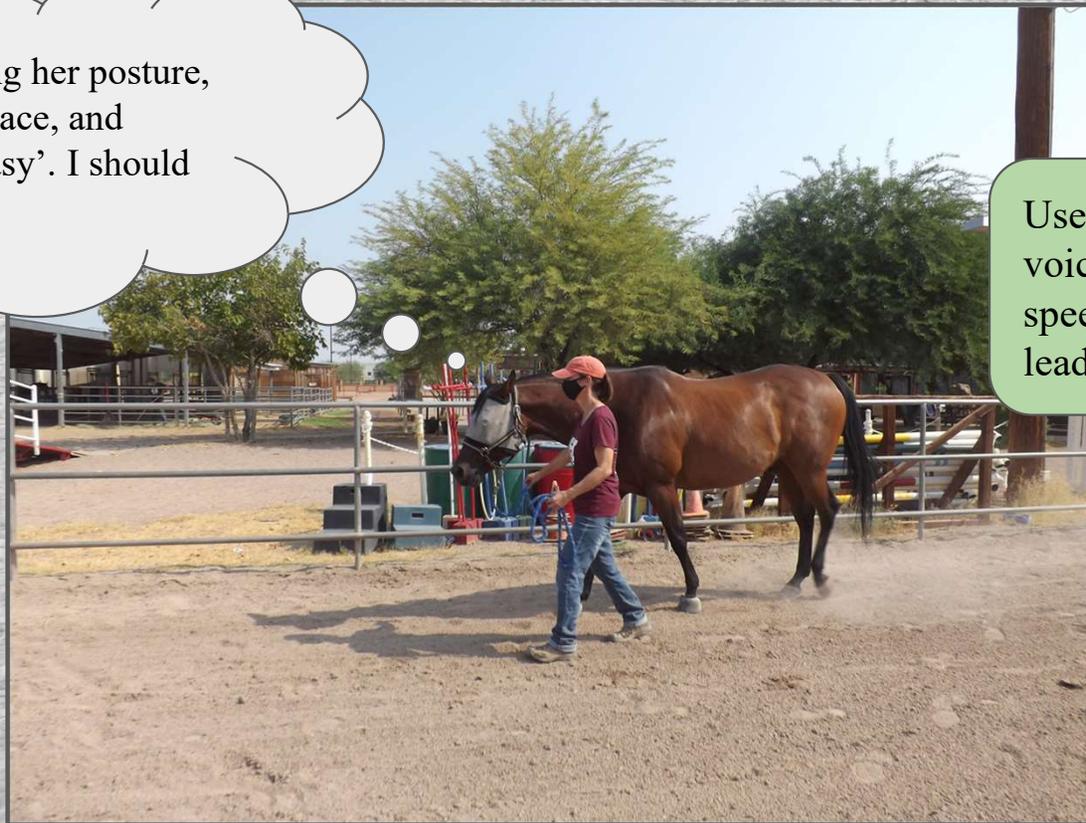
Tighten the girth
gently in stages

The three most
important
things to
remember
during tacking
are...

Make sure the saddle is
behind the shoulder

Leading

She's lowering her posture, slowing her pace, and telling me 'easy'. I should slow down.



Use your body language and voice to change your horse's speed. Reinforce with the lead rope as needed.

Leading

Take the **Path of Least Resistance** when leading around the barn/campus.

There is plenty of space for me to walk down this aisle!



A wheelbarrow is making this aisle too narrow. We should ask someone to move it.



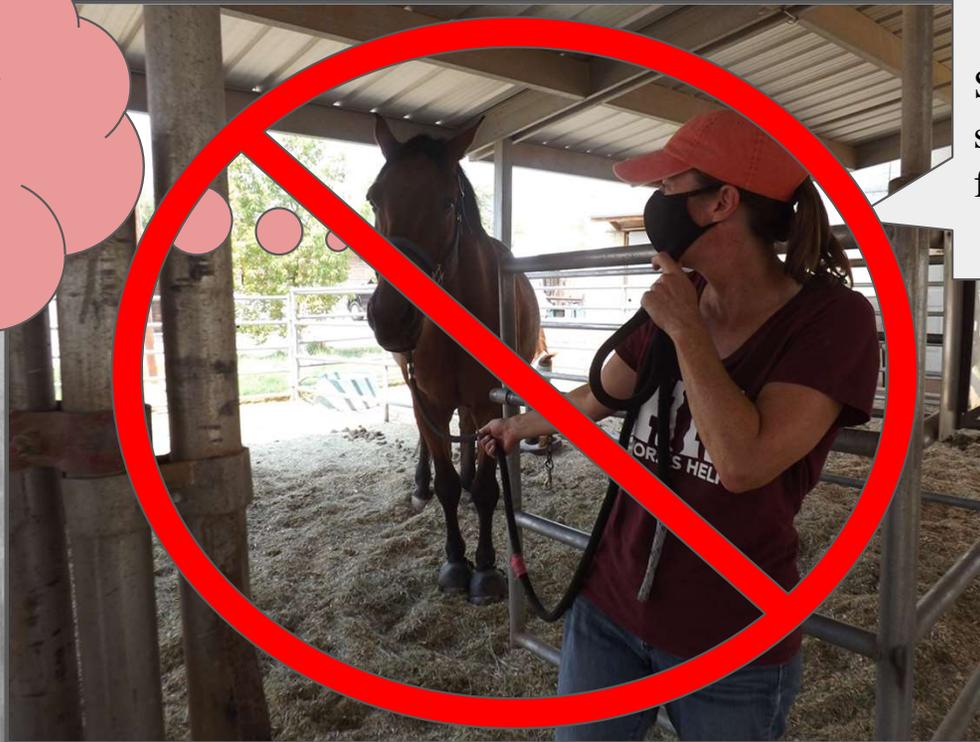
Leading

When walking a horse out of their stall, open the gate outward first and then ask them to follow you through.



Leading

The gate is swung in towards me. I have less space to move and could run into it.



Sorry, Tao! I should have swung the gate out and away from us.

Leading

Never wrap the lead rope around your hand or set it on your shoulder.

Our horses are rewarded with a release of pressure. Once the horse does what you've asked them, take the pressure off to reward them. This might mean you stop applying pressure to the lead, or do not continue saying a voice command.



Keep two hands on the lead rope.

Remember to use voice cues!

Stay by your horse's head when leading.

Leading



Do not let your horse dive for grass or feed while on lead.

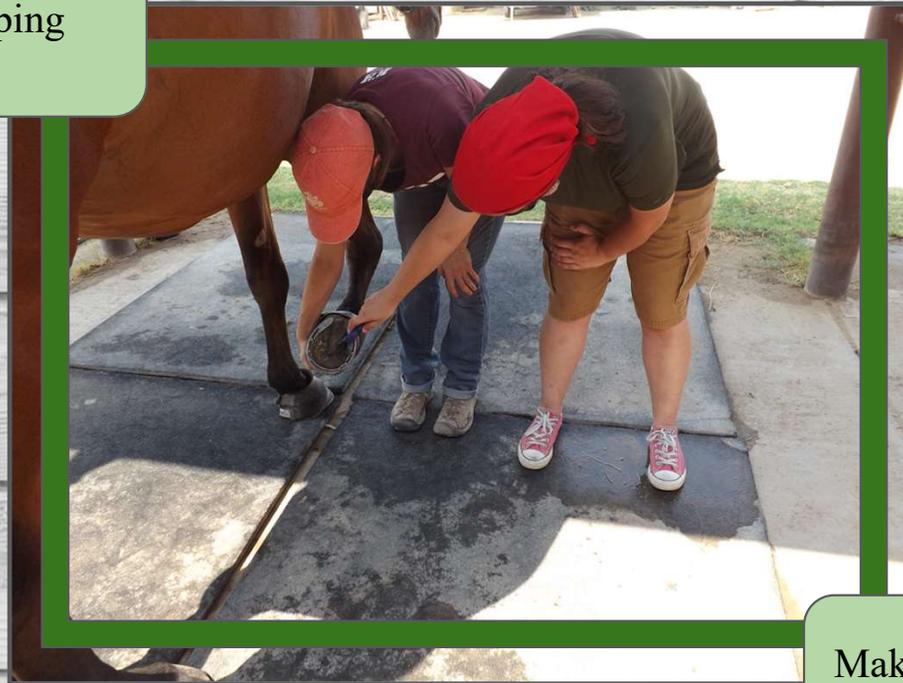


We also don't want our horses to rub their faces on you or take treats from your hands. This can lead to bad behavior.



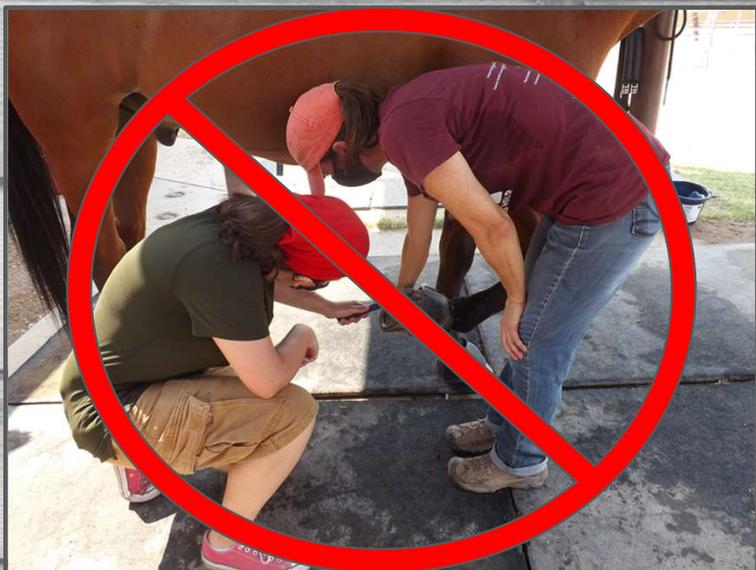
Helping Participants

Keep yourself between the horse and a participant when they're helping pick out hooves.



Make sure they're stood facing the back of the horse, too.

Helping Participants



Participants need to stay on their feet while around the horse.

Make sure no one goes under the horse's neck, too!



After Class Duties

Groom down the horse to clean off any dried sweat or dust

Clean out the horse's hooves to check for rocks or packed dirt

If you used any equipment, like a crosstie, make sure it goes back to its clipped position.

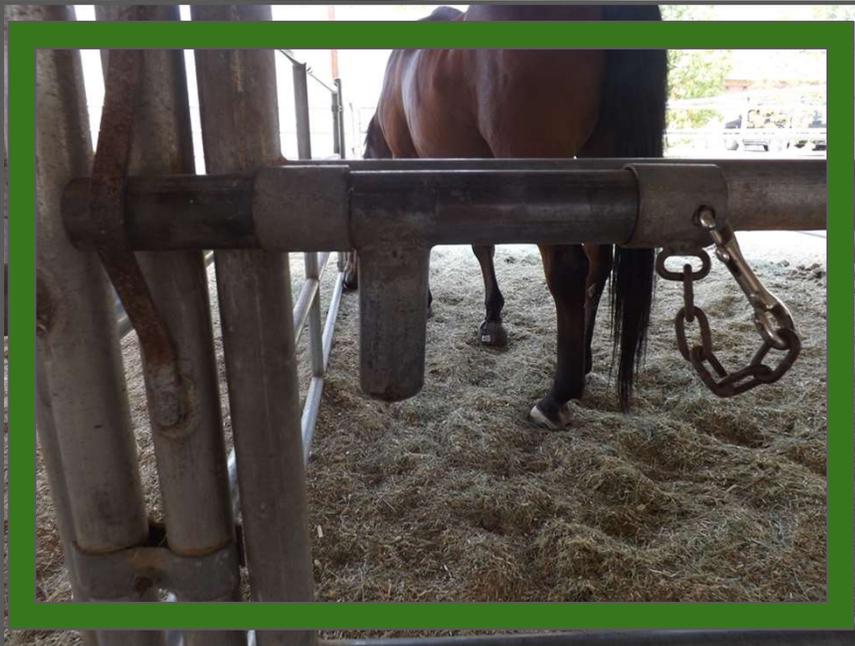
After class, you should...

Follow up with the instructor about any challenges the horse or team may have had during class

If flies are out, be sure to put the horse's fly mask on when they are returned to their stall



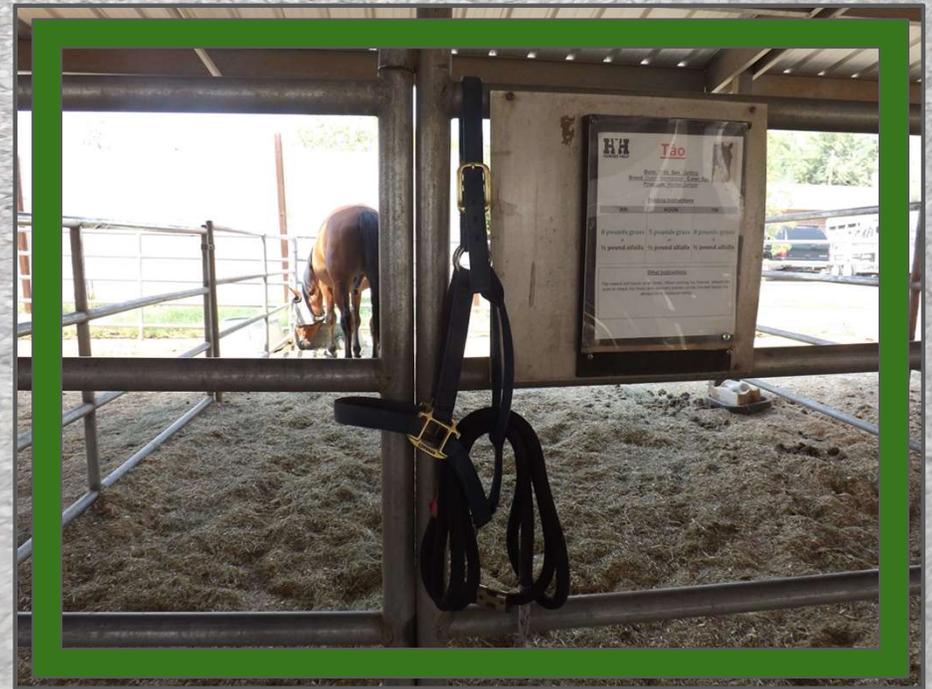
Stall Gates



Make sure you clip your horse's stall gate closed.

Stall Gates

Hang the halter on the railing between the stall gate and the stall card with the lead rope folded neatly through the halter (under the noseband).



Can you find all the errors in this picture?

The horse is not tied with a quick release.

The horse is not tied to a solid post.

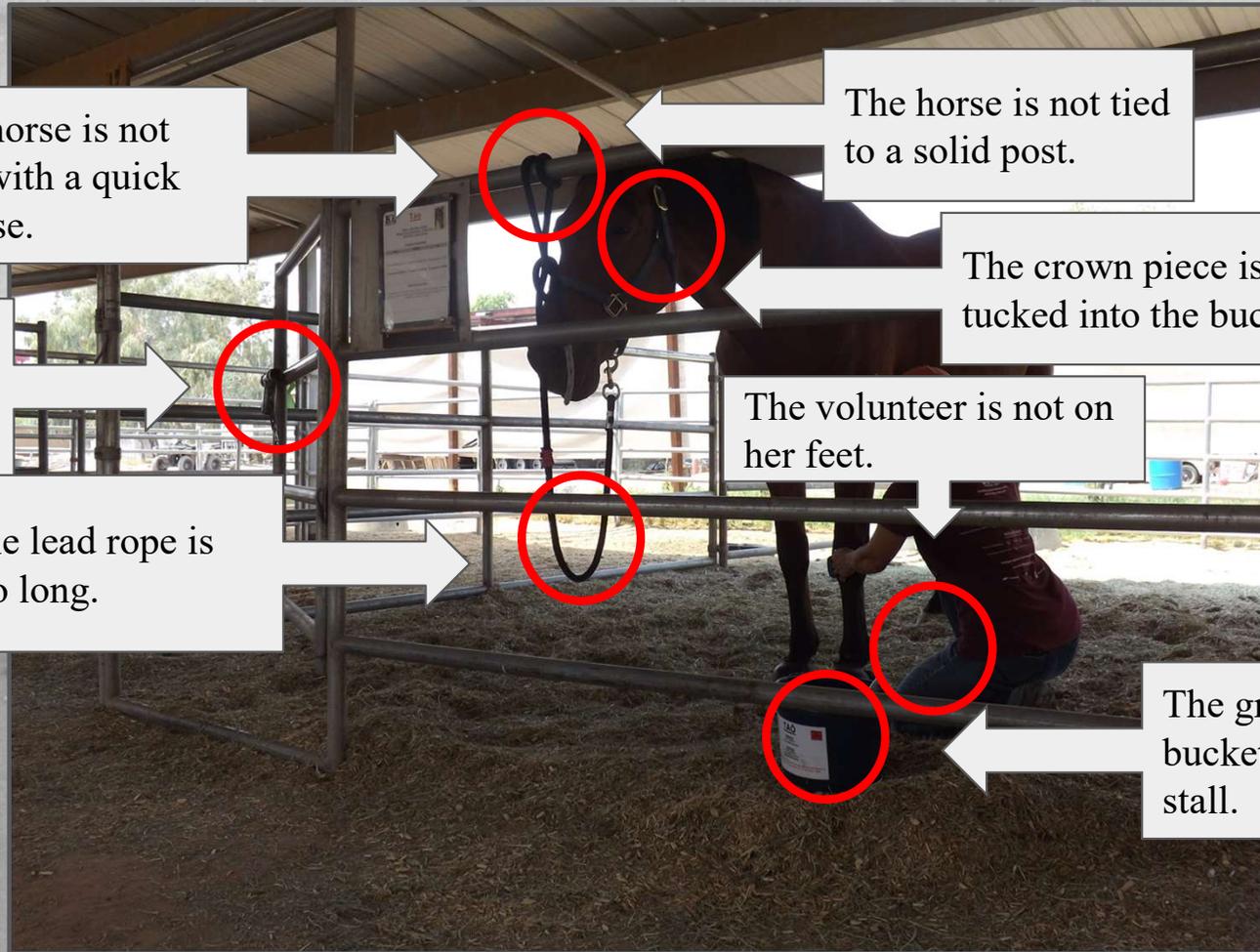
The crown piece is tucked into the buckle.

The gate is not closed.

The volunteer is not on her feet.

The lead rope is too long.

The grooming bucket is in the stall.



Next Steps

**Take the 'Level 2 Refresher Quiz'
and pass with at least an 80%**

**This is an open note quiz and
retakes are permitted.**