



Lowering The Head

Volume 1, No.3

Foundation
Horsemanship
Level One Series

Exercise

Dropping the head in response to either pressure from the rein, lead rope or our hand.

Objective

To get the horse to respond to pressure in a soft and calm manner. To prepare the horse for tying up, lowering of the head when bridling and riding.

Equipment

Halter and bridle

Tips

When applying pressure in this exercise via the rope or hand start with light pressure and increase slowly till the horse responds.

If the horse resists strongly try rocking the horses head downwards by pulling and releasing slightly till you get some give from the horse. Remember we are not trying to hold the horses head down, if he lifts his head maintain the same pressure but go up with the horse till he gives then release.

Introduction

1. Drop the head from the Lead rope

Step 1 Hold the lead rope about 2 inches from the snap. Ask the horse to drop his head by placing downward pressure on the lead rope, this will apply pressure through the halter at the poll and around the back of the jowls. Watch the tip of the horses ear and when you get a small amount of give in a downward direction, release the rope completely. Remember to reward the slightest try from your horse. The aim of this exercise is to be able to get the horse to lower his head as far as the ground.



2. Drop the head from the lead rope over the poll

Place the lead rope over the horse poll and hold the rope with one hand on either side of the horses head about level with his jaw. Apply even downward pressure with both hands. Watch the tip of the ear for downward movement. Release totally all pressure when the horse gives to the pressure. Continue to train this exercise till the horse can softly lower his head to any position.

3. Drop the head from your hand on the poll

Standing on the near side of your horse beside his head facing forwards place your hand palm downwards on the horses poll with light downward pressure.

When your horse responds by dropping his head from the pressure remove your hand. Do not follow the horses head down in the initial stages while training this exercise.

Reapply pressure from your hand to get the horse to drop his head again.

We are looking for the horse to leave his head at the height he has dropped his head to.