



CERTIFICATE 1

Ground Tasks.

PURPOSE

1. When you enter the yard, pen or paddock in which your horse is, the horse should acknowledge your presence by either turning and facing you, or walking up to you. This shows respect and submission by the horse towards his Alpha horse and leader.
2. For a horse to give you lateral flexion, without resistance is a respect and trust issue. It also shows softness in the jaw. The horse should maintain this position until the halter has been tied.
3. Rubbing your horse all over again shows trust, especially around the hindquarters. Picking the front feet up using the chestnuts and the back feet using the point of the hock demonstrates a cue which the horse has been taught to respond to. Picking up the horses feet should not be a matter of strength. To have the horses head turned towards you demonstrates both submission from the horse and also places you in a safer position in that if the horse has an adverse reaction or shies, by having the horses head tilted towards you, their hindquarters will move away from you.
4. Standing at the horses shoulder and obtaining lateral flexion shows submission by the horse. For the horse to remain in this position whilst you throw a rope over his head shows trust and acceptance.
5. For a horse to stand still whilst you throw a rope all around him and over his body shows that the horse trusts you. He accepts that you are not going to hurt him and therefore is prepared to stand still.
6. The plastic bag on your hand is a step above just using your hand. It also introduces the horse to those 'killer' (?) plastic bags. By rubbing the horse all over with the plastic bag on your hand is another way of gaining trust and acceptance from the horse.
7. Most horses accept, very quickly, the plastic bag on your hand. However, once it's on a stick, horses see it as having a mind of its own. It is here that you may experience some adverse reaction as the horse works out that the plastic bag isn't going to hurt it.
8. This task starts to confirm to the horse that you are its 'boss' and therefore can get it to move. Probably the most important part of controlling a horse is its brakes. To teach a horse to stop better, it must first be able to back up better.

9. The next best thing to having brakes is to have a handbrake. To disengage the hindquarters shows that you can control the hips and therefore render them ineffective in using them to buck, bolt or rear. This also leads to your horse doing turns on the forequarter and later on canter leads, simple changes and flying changes.
10. Submission through the ribs is a very important part in the basic or foundation training of horses. In order to achieve this, the horse must be able to step sideways, away from pressure. By standing in front of your horse you can use you halter and leadrope to control the forwards, backwards, up and down directions of the horse. By placing pressure on the horse's ribs you are able to close the fifth door. This allows the horse only one more door to move through. This movement is also essential in helping the horse to achieve correct longitudinal balance.
11. A turn on the hindquarter helps to teach the horse to open his shoulder and step laterally. This helps to keep the horse light in the front end and will later lead to spins, roll-backs and pirouettes.
12. As explained in other sections of this package, in order to maintain lightness in the back-up on the ground, it may be necessary to tap the horse under the chest whilst applying the back-up cue to the horse's nose. Obviously you cannot tap the horse's chest whilst riding. Therefore, in order to maintain a soft cue whilst riding, you have to utilise another form of discomfort. To use your leadrope as a form of discomfort to induce the horse to back-up helps to ensure lightness. However, this technique can be used in anywhere whilst on the ground to either slow, stop or back a horse up, especially from a distance.
13. To obtain flexion and submission through the whole body is to ensure a soft body. This will then create a less resistant, yet agile horse. By circling a horse whilst ensuring submission through the hindquarters, flexion through the ribs, openness through the shoulders and softness through the jaw will help greatly to achieve this.
14. A great desire of most true horsemen is to achieve better results with less effort and less contact with your hands. One way of achieving this is to have the ability to obtain desired movement with your seat. By causing a horse to back with pressure on its shoulders starts to create a cue on the ground which, when riding can be continued and eventually lead to hands-free, balanced and softer ridden halts.
15. To float one, two or three horses should only be a one person job. Moreover, being inside a float with horse is unsafe, if not just plain dangerous. Therefore, the ability to place your horse on a float by merely standing outside and directing him demonstrates skill and is both safe and practical.

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