

## Horse Training Questions 2011

To train horses, what are the 3 things you need to know and understand?

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What is a conditioned response?

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What are the 4 things that are important to a horse?

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What is positive reinforcement?

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What is negative reinforcement and when should it be used?

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How do horses communicate?

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What is a cue and what is the most important thing about a cue?

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The foundation of riding begins with \_\_\_\_\_

How many zones are there to the horse's body? \_\_\_\_\_

Name the zones of the horse's body.

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What is a horse's first response to pressure?

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What is a cue?

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At what age does training begin?

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Where is the center of balance or the “neutral point” of the horse’s body?

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Where can a horse see objects with binocular vision and what is unique about this type of vision?

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Where can a horse NOT see?

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Where does a horse see poorly?

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At what age are the spinal bones mature?

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What are some signs indicating aggression in the horse?

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Why is it good to work a horse on circles? When is it not good?

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**Demonstration Checklists**

Age of Horse \_\_\_\_\_

When you demonstrate these skills, have your advisor, trainer or parent date and initial them. You may use this checklist for any age horse.

Weanling (or other first stage horse)	Date	Initials
Put on the halter and lead the horse showing that he will start with little or no pressure and stop on command.	_____	_____
Demonstrate that he will allow you to pick up all 4 feet.	_____	_____
Show that you can touch all parts of the horse's body.	_____	_____
Demonstrate that the horse will tie.	_____	_____

**Second Stage**

Touch every part of the horse including the mouth and tongue, udder or sheath, and that you can lift the tail and touch the area under it	_____	_____
Pivot your horse on the haunches	_____	_____
Move your horse back with light pressure on the nose	_____	_____
Have your horse flex his neck to either side and hold it without pressure for 10 seconds	_____	_____
Show that you can make the horse back up straight, away from you, the length of your 12 ft. lead and stand facing you with the belly of the rope on the ground. Have the horse return to you.	_____	_____
Show that you can pivot the horse on the haunches and turn him on the forehand by moving or using rhythmic motion.	_____	_____
Show that you can lunge the horse in both directions and stop him	_____	_____

Show that you can move the horse laterally, both directions, at least 20 ft. using rhythmic motion \_\_\_\_\_

Show that your horse will stand quietly while you strike the ground with whip, training stick or rope) by the horse's side and show that the horse will accept a rope swinging over his head \_\_\_\_\_

Have your horse go between yourself and a fence or other object with only a 3 ft space \_\_\_\_\_

Send the horse over a jump or under a wither height object (tree limb, rope, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Show that the horse will load in a trailer \_\_\_\_\_

**Two Year Old (or older)**

Lunge the horse on a 25-ft line showing a reverse at the trot and a reverse at the canter with a flying lead change \_\_\_\_\_

Lunge the horse on a 25-ft line over an obstacle and through an obstacle \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstate that the horse will flex his nose to the girth on each side and keep it there without rein pressure for 10 seconds \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrate cornering your horse to both sides on the ground and while mounted \_\_\_\_\_

Ride a circle in both directions at a walk and a trot. \_\_\_\_\_

Canter a circle in both directions demonstrating correct leads \_\_\_\_\_

Stop and back your horse at least 10 ft while mounted \_\_\_\_\_

Sidepass at least 10 ft in both directions while mounted using a fence to block forward motion \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrate a turn on the forehand of at least 180 degrees in both directions while mounted

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Demonstrate a turn on the haunches of at least 180 degrees in both directions while mounted

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Walk the horse through an obstacle course while mounted. Course should include going over logs, between obstacles placed 36 inches apart and backing with at least one turn while backing

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**Three Yr Old (or older)**

Mount and ride a circle to the left and then to the right on a loose rein at the walk, trot and canter demonstrating soft transitions up and down through all gaits

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Back your horse at least 20 ft while mounted without the horse opening his mouth

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Trot a figure eight then canter it, using a simple lead change

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Demonstrate sidepassing over a pole or between poles while mounted

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Demonstrate a turn on the forehand of 360 degrees while mounted

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Demonstrate a turn on the haunches of 720 degrees while mounted

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Halt from a canter without rein contact

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Sit quietly on your horse while an audience claps

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Do a pattern which includes sidepassing while moving forward at the walk and the trot; picking up leads; going over logs at a trot and a canter; doing a flying lead change in at least one direction

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