



Advanced Horsemanship Clinic



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4 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

In any situation in life, there are ways to simplify seemingly difficult problems. One way is to break down the process into manageable, bite-sized pieces. By doing so, the problem will be solved in steps that will create confidence and success with less anxiety. In this article we will cover the 4 important questions that should be asked of yourself with every task you ask your horse to do.

Question #1: What do I want?

You have to start somewhere and you must have a task in mind. In the beginning, you may be asking your horse to simply move forward. The first task should not be complicated because you want the horse to be successful.

Question #2: Is what I want fair?

Because you want your horse to feel confident and trust you, you want to be fair in what you are asking it to do. Simplify your requests and make sure you have mastered the basics.

Question #3: Can you communicate what you want your horse to do in a way it will understand? Horses learn that they are doing the right thing by being rewarded by the release of pressure. Once the horse has made a positive response to your request, the release of pressure communicates success.

Question #4: How do you measure the results? You will have to decide what grade you give your horse and yourself. Your first attempt may not be perfect, but it may be “perfect for right now.” These questions will be repeated over and over with every attempt. Each time you repeat the sequence your definition of “perfect” will be redefined.

Once you have answered question #4 you will ask yourself Question #1 again. This time you will refine that question, asking the horse to complete the task more accurately. By doing so, you will guide your horse to success with less anxiety.

“Horsemanship is an opportunity to practice Humanship everyday.”