

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

SOP No: ATT 025

SUBJECT: Movement of horses

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.
Demonstrator: Experience in horse handling.

PRECAUTIONS: Wear sturdy footwear
Horses should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.
Assess the mob as a whole while in the yards for their temperament.
Always scan the yards and laneways for obstructions or rubbish that may cause injury to animals.

EQUIPMENT: Lead ropes
Collar ropes
Sidelines
Hobbles
Halter
Crush or yards

PROCEDURE:

1. Encourage horses to come to a call with some feed.
2. When moving a mob of horses up to yards, arrange the gates so that they open into the laneway away from the direction the horses are moving. This will reduce the risk of injury to the horse such as hip capping.
3. It is important to allow horses to string out and find their own position in the line whilst coming up to the holding yards. This will reduce the likelihood of the dominant horses behaving aggressively towards the more timid horses. Close the gates.
4. Move quietly through the mob and select the more aggressive or flighty horses for removal to another yard to allow the mob to settle.
5. Approach the selected horse between the nose and shoulder. Look for signs of acceptance; hold out your hand to allow the horse to sniff your hand. If the horse reacts adversely, step back to give the horse time to become accustomed to you.
6. Put lead rope up high around horse's neck to gain control of the head and pull the horse slightly to you.
7. Slide the long strap of a halter over the neck behind the ears and slide the nose band over the horse's nose. Buckle up the halter so that there is sufficient space under the chin strap to fit a clenched fist.
8. Lead horses from the side of the horse's head.
9. When leading horses into the veterinary crushes, walk in first with extra lead rope and shut the front gate. Another person will be required to close the crush behind the horse.
10. Tie horses up to a secure post with approximately a neck's length of free lead. Ensure the tethered horse is not within kicking distance to another tethered horse.

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11. Collar ropes could be used if extra restraint is required during husbandry procedures.
12. Alternatively sidelines may also be used the restrain horse movement during breeding procedures.
13. Hobbles can be used to minimise movement and reduce the likelihood of kicking or striking.
14. When putting these restraints on horses, run your hand from the horse's head to the lower limb before buckling up. This reassures the horse and helps it to know where you are.
15. To return horses to the paddock, take halters and restraints off horses in the holding yard, check that all gates are open or closed as required. All open gates should be facing the direction that the horses are moving to reduce risk of injury to the animals. Put adequate pressure on the horses to move quietly back to their paddock without causing a bottleneck at the gates. Shut all gates and ensure that the latches are secured properly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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REVISED:

REFERENCES