

SOP No: ATT 035

SUBJECT Applying a chain shank and rearing bit to assist in the physical restraint of the horse

POLICY: These procedures may only be performed by operators who have been trained in the correct techniques, and under the supervision of their demonstrator who is skilled in horse handling. Leather boots must be worn.

PRECAUTIONS: Be constantly aware of the horse's body language and responses. At all times work calmly and quietly around them. Make sure gates are closed securely. Ensure there are no hazards which could cause injury. Make sure you do not get into a position where you could get crushed between the horse and the rails, gate, etc, or kicked. Make sure your horse handler is standing correctly and attentive.

EQUIPMENT: Safe stock yards, halter and lead rope, chain shank, rearing bit

PROCEDURE:

1. **Chain Shank:** Apply the chain to the horse's halter by threading the chain in through the lower left-side halter ring, bringing it gently over the horse's nose, threading it back out through the lower right-side halter ring, and up the right side of the jaw. The clip is then snapped onto the upper right-side halter ring. Unclip the lead rope from the halter and attach to the end of the chain.
2. If the horse misbehaves or pulls when walking, the handler can then apply pressure from the chain over the bridge of the horse's nose. The chain shank should never be jerked but used with the least amount of force to make it effective.
3. **Rearing Bit:** Insert the rearing bit gently into the horse's mouth and secure the head strap by the buckle sufficiently so that a wrinkle or two of skin sits at the corners of the horse's mouth. Open the clip of the lead rope from the halter ring, and refasten so that the ring at the bottom of the rearing bit is also incorporated along with the ring from the halter.
4. To remove the rearing bit, make sure the lead rope is unclipped from the rearing bit before unfastening it. Undo the buckle and while keeping a slight hold on the head strap and bit, allow the horse to expel the rearing bit from its mouth.
5. Never tie up a horse wearing either a chain shank or rearing bit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. Rose, R.J. and Hodgson, D.R. Manual of Equine Practice. Second Edition. W.B. Saunders. Philadelphia. 2000.