

SOP No: ATT 038

SUBJECT Demonstrate the use of hobbles and sidelines

POLICY: These procedures are only performed by the 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. Do not get into a position where the horse can strike or kick you. Make sure your horse handler is standing correctly and attentive.

EQUIPMENT: Safe stock yards, halter and lead rope, serving hobbles, sideline rope

PROCEDURE:

1. **Serving Hobbles:** Choose a quiet mare familiar with serving hobbles as the demonstration horse. Buckle up the strap around the horse's neck, and then bring the 2 lines between her front legs. One of the lines has a fixed end, while on the other line, the rope is free and will need to be tied off. You will secure the fixed line first. Keep a hand on her as you proceed down towards her hind quarters, and run your hand down her hind leg to the hock. Secure the buckles firmly above and below the hock joint on each leg. Make sure she has her hind legs up underneath her, and then tie the rope off with a quick release knot. To remove the serving hobbles, unsnap the buckles, bring the lines back through her front legs, and undo the strap from around her neck.
2. **Sidelines:** Choose a quiet mare familiar with sidelines as a demonstration horse. Secure the rope around her neck using a bowline knot. Keep your hand on her as you bring the coil of rope down towards her hind quarters, and run your hand down her hind leg. Feed the rope around her hind leg from inside to outside, and lower the rope until it sits around her pastern. Twist the rope around itself a couple of times to pinch the rope close together. Tugging gently on the rope, bring her hind leg forward, and secure the rope back at the neck with a quick release knot. To remove the sideline rope, undo the quick release knot, untwist the rope and remove from around back leg. Undo the rope around her neck.
3. When working near her hind legs, it is safer to stay close. Make sure the mare always knows where you are by keeping your hands on her as you work with her.

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.