

SOP No: ATT 039

SUBJECT Lift a hind foot, clean and use hoof testers

POLICY: These procedures may only be performed by operators who have been educated 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. 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, hoof pick, hoof testers

PROCEDURE:

1. To lift a hindlimb, start by moving from the shoulder to beside the horse's hip facing the rear of the horse. Put your hand, closest to the horse, on its tuber coxae. Run the other hand down the back of the horse's leg, then as you push the horse's hip to shift its weight away from you, pick up the leg and pull it forward and upward towards you. Once you and the horse are stable, push the leg backwards while stepping forward so that the horse's foot is supported between your flexed knees.
2. Clean the horse's foot with the hoof pick, using the hoof pick from heel to toe of the horse.
3. Once the foot is clean, you can use hoof testers to check the sole, frog and heels of the foot. Use firm pressure to detect any sore spots.
4. Do not just drop the leg when you are finished. Let it lower to the ground as you step away. Make sure your head does not go down within kicking range from the horse's back legs.
5. Do not have the hoof pick or hoof testers in your hands when you pick up and put down the hind limb.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

REVISED:

REFERENCES

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