

SOP No: ATT 040

SUBJECT Lift a front 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 forelimb, stand beside the horse's shoulder facing the rear of the horse. Run your hand, closest to the horse, firmly down the back of the horse's leg. Then as you push the horse with your shoulder to shift its weight, pick up the horse's leg. Lift your lower leg, closest to the horse, over the horse's lower limb, and secure his foot between your flexed knees. If you adopt a "pigeon toed" stance, this brings your knees in tight. Avoid wrapping the thumb around the limb in case the leg is withdrawn suddenly.
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. You should replace the horse's leg back on the ground when you are finished. Do not drop it. Grasp the leg just below the knee and lower to the ground. This ensures 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 fore 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.