

ARENA – STEP 1

Go and call your horse softly. If you've ever had a horse come to you in greeting or in recognition of who you are, you will understand the inexplicable joy it brings! If you haven't- then we want to give you the opportunity and skills to do so now . Learning how to call a horse softly takes patience, dedication and attentiveness to the horses and your own surrounding. First enter the field or area your horse is in. Say his/her name gently in a low voice- high pitched voices can sometimes startle horses and make them leery to approach humans. If your horse does not come instantly, don't be worried. This can take even professionals hours to accomplish on first try! Enter the pen in an area your horse can see you- but here is the key- do NOT approach your horse. Instead, wait for your horse to approach you. If you need to stand, squat, sit, whichever- do so. But do so safely. If you sit cross legged and your horse spooks or kicks out you may not have time to move out of the way fast enough. Confidence and safety are both key when handling horses but be sure to have balance between the two!

Here are a few pointers to help you out:

- 1) Stay in an area your horse can see you- horses cannot see directly in front or behind themselves so avoid those spots.**
- 2) Get comfortable- this can take a long time! Be encouraged if it does, that means you have the patience and dedication it takes!**
- 3) Wait for your horse- don't get distracted on facebook or texting, your horse will show signs he is interested in coming to you and eventually he will- and trust me, it is a moment you don't want to miss!**
- 4) Stay positive, horses, like most animals have the ability to sense intention. This is why most domestic horses can get along well with dogs and cats even though naturally dogs and cats are predators to the horse.**
- 5) Move softly and speak softly to your horse. Horses respond best to a gentle, but firm voice, touch and presence.**

So your horse came to you! Now for the next step- haltering. Even a young horse that has not been haltered generally take haltering or tying on of the rope well if handled confidently and quietly.

Watch the following video(s) to learn how to put a rope on your horse! Don't forget you can practice these things at home as well! Have fun, and good luck!