



January, 2017

TRAINING TIPS FOR STARTING HORSES

1. CORRIDOR WITH BELL

Introductory training tips

Give horses a long straight entry

Encourage riders to push with seat and NOT too much leg

Do not halt first time through – just walk through

Do not insist on a square halt-but **MUST** be straight

May come above the bit to halt-better than halt and step back

Only a few seconds to start- once confident -establish halt **RELAX-**

then **TOUCH** the bell- only when confident ring the bell

Then walk straight out



2. THE JUMP

Introductory training tips

Start with pole on the ground

Long straight entry

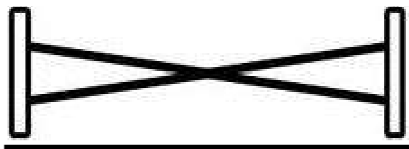
Ride horse over the centre of the pole

Make sure to look UP

When confident trot

ANY rushing back to walk – horses **MUST be relaxed**

May start a cross rail but **VERY low**



3. SIDE PASS POLE

Introductory training tips

Best to place this pole near a fence so horses are head to wall-then riders are not pulling on horses mouth

Walk horse over pole and allow horse to become accustomed to the pole under their belly

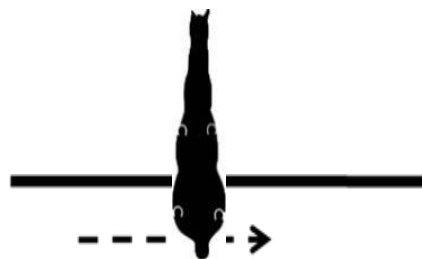
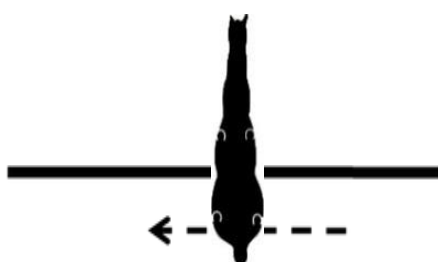
STAND - RELAX

**Rider should have the pole under their feet-
DO NOT look down-this puts your horse off
balance**

**Once relaxed and standing quietly horses may then progress to standing
1mt from end of pole- RELAX - then leg -yield off**

**Sit straight- shoulders should move SLIGHTLY ahead of the quarters Keep
neck straight with gullett slightly away from the direction of travel**

THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT OBSTACLE ON THE COURSE



4. THE BRIDGE

Introductory Training Tips

**First time horses ALWAYS follow an experienced horse
NOT one you think might go over- one that you have seen go over QUIETLY**

If they get a fright at the beginning they will remember it-and even if they settle they are usually very suspicious of a new bridge/ competition

Start at walk one horse space between

Long straight entry

Once confident -then try trot on a large circle and then walk on, smooth transition to walk, several metres out from bridge

NEVER TROT OR CANTER OVER BRIDGE



5. SINGLE / DOUBLE SLALOM

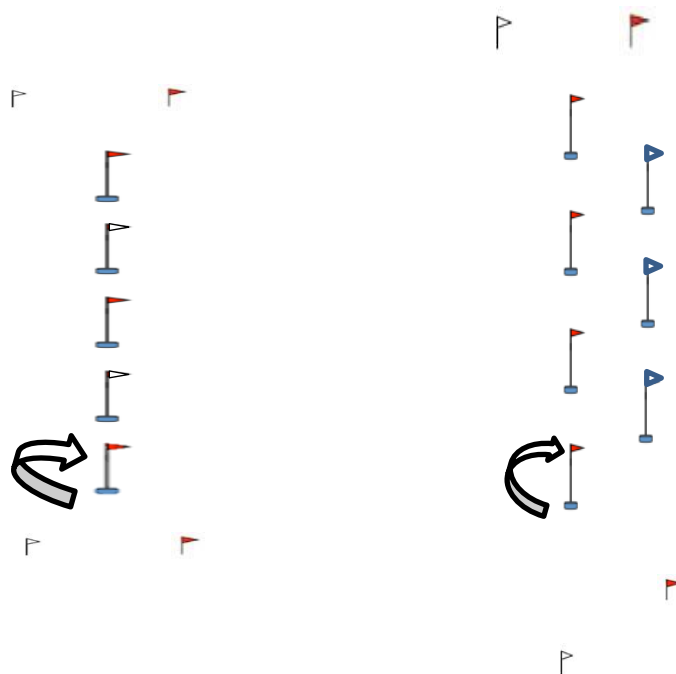
Introductory training tips

Start in walk

Always approach with 1st pole on the right

May be shallow loops OR large half circles

But must show clear changes of bend on
centerline



6. STOCK PEN

Introductory training tips

Walk into the stock pen from either side-NOT straight in then turn

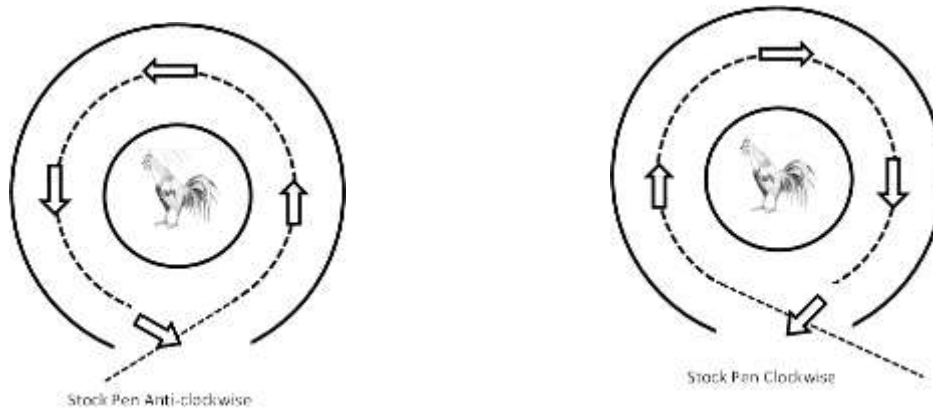
Stay on the outside track-use inside leg to encourage bend STAY IN BALANCE

The object is NOT to spin around the small pen-but stay in balance-to come out of the pen and eventually do a canter pirouette

Coming out of the pen-stay close to outside wall then turn (preferably around the quarters)

Then re-enter the stock pen in opposite direction

Riders may trot the stock pen BUT walk the change of direction BALANCE



7. THREE / TWO BARRELS

Introductory training tips

Always train in walk to start

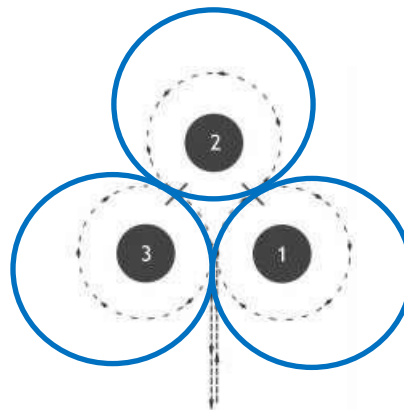
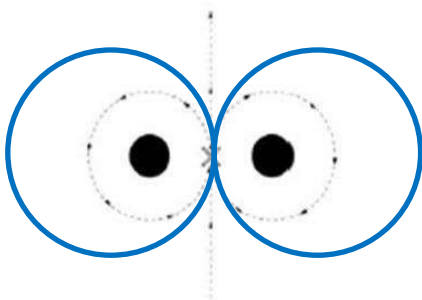
TWO BARRELS-ALWAYS CIRCLE RIGHT BARREL FIRST Long straight entry through the centre of the two barrels, bending to the right, circle right first, change bend and circle left- in the lower levels circles may be any size but must be symmetrical

THREE BARRELS- MAY CIRCLE EITHER BARREL FIRST-UNLESS STATED IN DIRECTIVES Full circle around 1st barrel — change of bend and half circle around top barrel – change of bend and full circle around last barrel

ALL circles and half circles MUST be symmetrical. The **BARREL** does not have to be the centre of the circle.

Trot when confident

Good exercise is to trot then walk a few steps when changing bend then trot again.



8. THE JUG

Introductory training tips

Long straight approach

Halt near table- not right next to- horses MAY come above the bit-better then stepping back

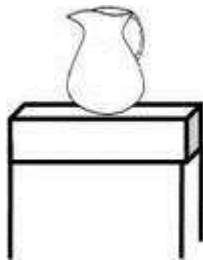
When able to be closer touch jug –

walk off

Then lift jug slightly –then more etc

Be careful with tall horses - when rider is leaning down their legs tend to ride up and the horse gets an aid to move -LEGS STILL

When all calm and relaxed trot a long straight approach with a walk transition then halt. ALL SMOOTH



9. POLE PICKUP AND DROP OFF

Training tips for Introductory level

Use a small pole

Stand next to drum – lift pole with thumb facing up

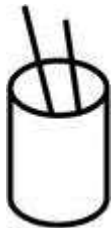
When calm - hold out to the side

Any problems throw POLE out away from horse

Walk a large circle to left when holding pole

Once the horse is relaxed carry pole upright

Halt next to barrel RELAX then deposit pole gently BOTTOM END IN (thumb facing up)



10. THE BULL

Introductory training tips

Ride a large circle to left in front of Bull approximately 10mts away.

At the walk- when approaching the Bull leg yield slightly- just 1 mt to start

DO NOT expect the horse to go on top of the Bull TAKE TIME if you frighten him- that's what he will remember- the fear

DO NOT leg yield on top of Bull –it is not necessary – yes you need to lift the ring but remember the length of your arm then the length of the pole- so approximately 1.2 mts off the Bull is sufficient

When the horse is confident and smooth start going for the ring. Well before the bull lift pole to correct level then keep your focus on the tip of the pole and the ring

Upon securing the ring immediately lift the tip of pole-so as not to lose the ring



11. THE GATE

Introductory training tips

Approach the gate head on- HALT and RELAX- then move the quarters to the right – RELAX- with right hand closest to gate- hindquarters towards the hinge - unlatch gate – STAND and RELAX

Then push gate open and stand with horse in between gate – take hand off gate – STAND and RELAX

Walk off

DO NOT RUSH THIS OBSTACLE – one step at a time

AT INTRODUCTORY LEVEL THE GATE IS NOT CLOSED

