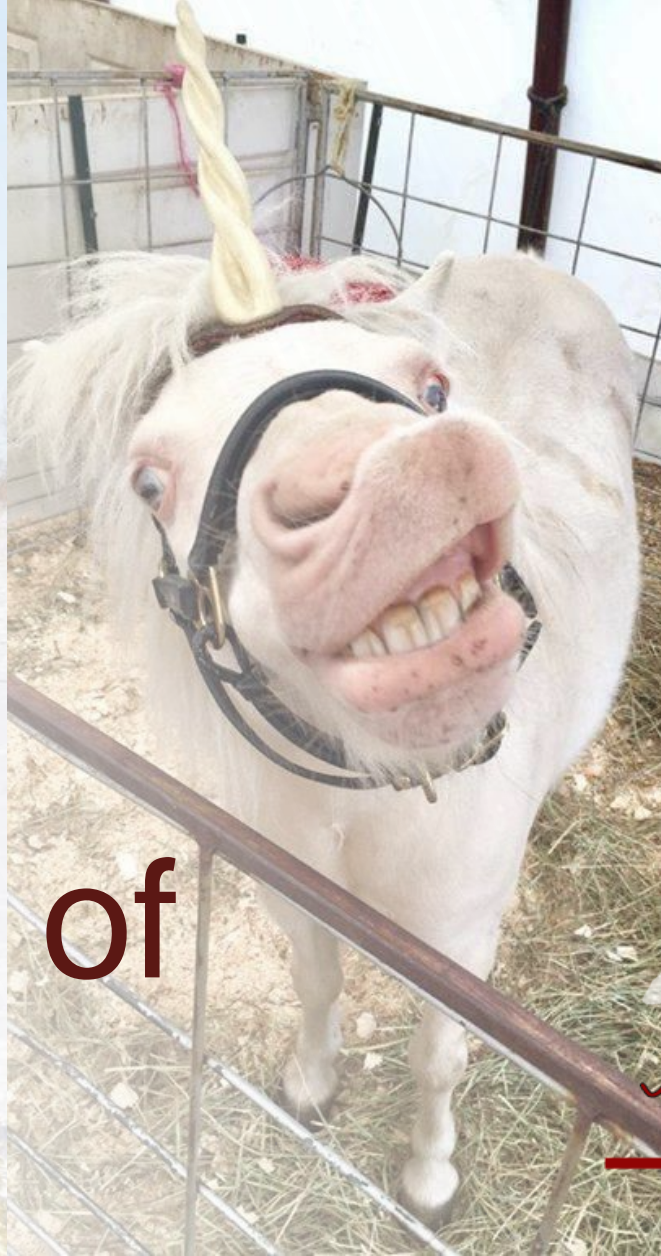


Fundamentals of Trick Training



*Miniature
Horsemanship*
Kendra Gale



Why Teach Tricks?

- The fun cuteness!
- Building a strong communication system
- Improving your horse's reinforcement history with you and with learning new things



Using Food Rewards

- The most effective tool you can use.
- Makes training rewarding for both horse and human.
- Helps make it very clear to the horse when they got the right answer.



SAFELY

Using Food Rewards

- Use a marker signal.
- Teach treat manners - nose off.
- Remember that the first thing you teach with food will be a default behaviour.
- Consider protective contact.



Benefits of Using Food Rewards

- Working towards a reward instead of away from pressure.
- Allows the horse to use their problem solving skills.
- Create positive association with the behaviour, with training in general, and with you.



Three Ways to Teach a Trick

- Capturing
- Shaping
- Prompting



Capturing

- The easiest way to teach a trick.
- Notice something they already offer.
- Reward it so they offer more often.
- Add a cue.



Shaping

- Build on an offered or inspired behaviour.
- Reward small efforts or steps towards final goal.
- Continue to shape until the final behaviour.
- Also fun to see what your horse will offer if allowed to be creative.



Prompting

- Physically moving the horse into position.
- Can use pressure or target/lure or environmental set up.
- Can be more precise but potentially less beneficial.



Helpful Tools

- Target
- Choice
- Play



Keeping it Fun

- Train what your horse offers.
- If they are struggling, either try a different method, or a different behaviour.
- Keep sessions short.



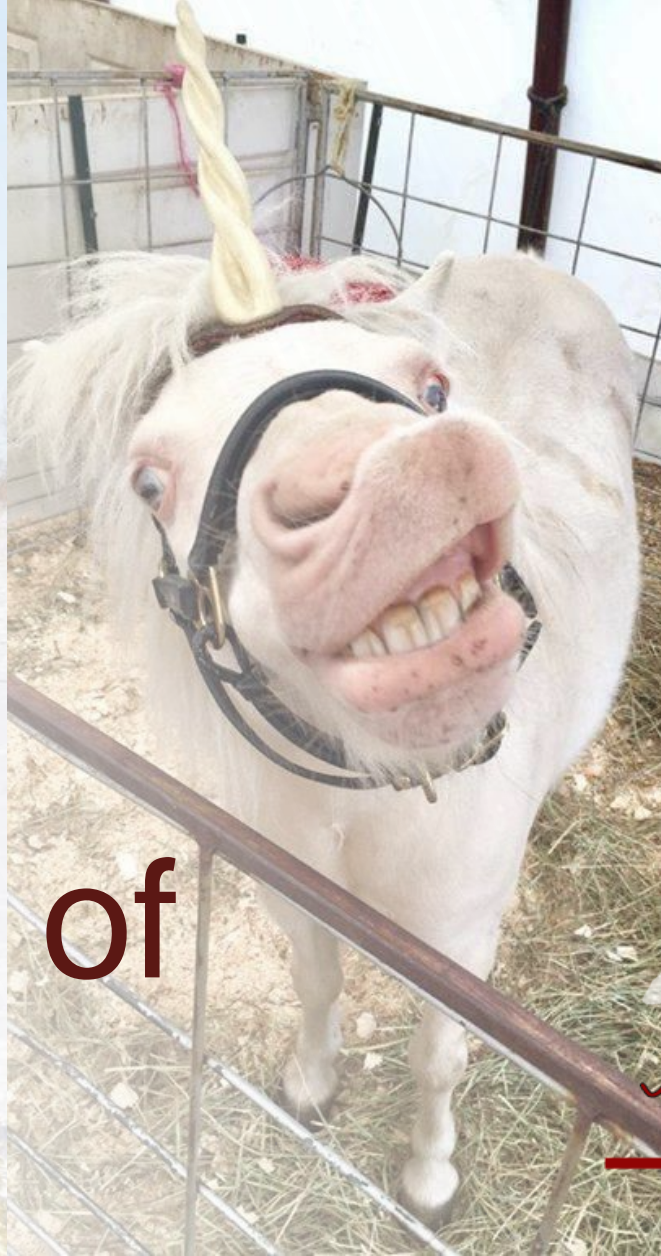
It's All Tricks To Them

- These same principles apply to all training.
- No matter what you're training, if it's fun and rewarding for both horse and human, you'll be successful.



Questions?

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