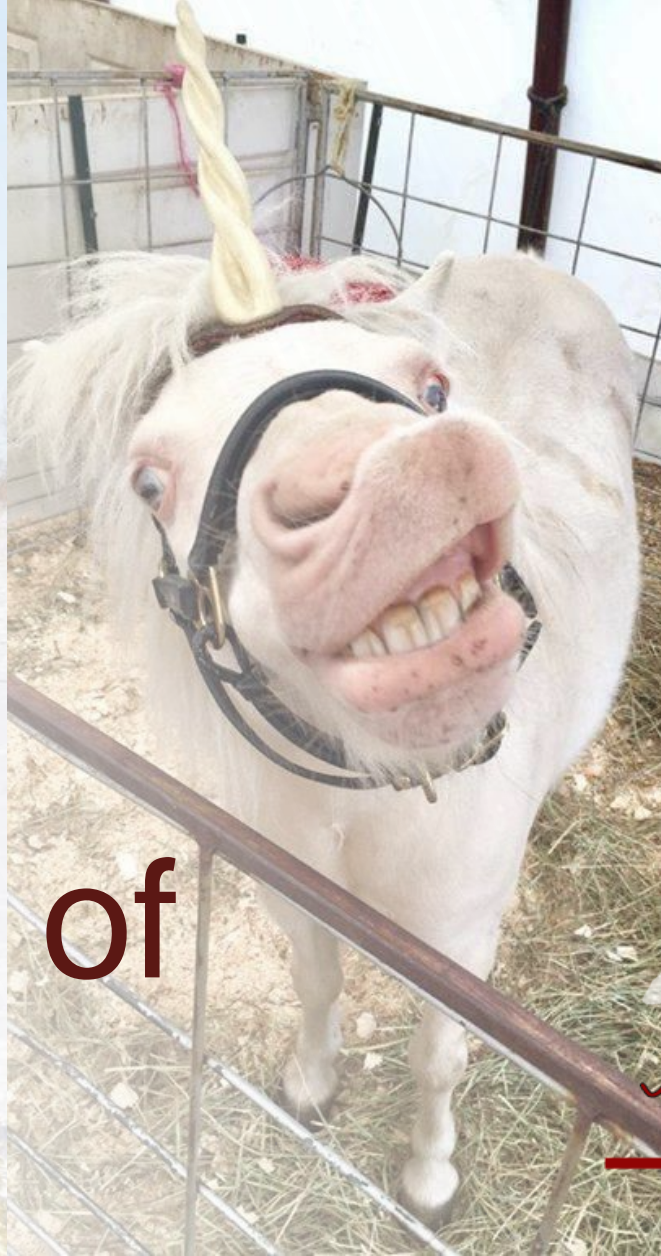


Fundamentals of Trick Training



*Miniature
Horsemanship*
Kendra Gale

Be Polite

1 – let them look for cookies

2 – ignore them

3 – when they look away mark and reward

4 – feed away from your body

5 – repeat

6 – go for a walk

7 – repeat

Target

- 1 – show them the target
- 2 – when they touch the target, GOOD & treat
- 3 – repeat
- 4 – move the target a bit
- 5 – move so they have to take a step

Smile

Hold the treat above nose.

Watch for movement of lip.

Bridge and reinforce.

Gradually ask for more expression.

Add a cue (at beginning or end of complete behaviour.)

Cross over legs /sidepass

Solid Be Polite

Stand beside them, cross your legs over *AWAY* from them.

They will come towards you, and mirror your crossover.

Reward the **FIRST** step (or lean)

Build up to it.

Back end might be slow, be patient.

Picking something up

Have a target history.

Then wait for lipping at object. And reward.

Build to teeth.

Then to picking up.

Then duration.

Backing

Two Ways

First – mirroring.

Be polite position, and we're going to back. One step, slowly.

They will rock back or take a step, and we will reward.

Second – target.

Place target at their chest, when they step back to reach, bridge and reinforce.

Third – Shaping

Watch for weight shifts back, bridge and reinforce, and build.

Lying Down

Capture – wait for horse to be down, bridge and reinforce. Can make it attractive.

Shaping – Teach head down. Teach end of the trail pose. Wait them out.

Force – Rope on front leg, pull head around and overbalance.

Bow

Between the legs bow – follow a cookie or a target between front legs.

One knee – picking up front leg, and then lure with treat.

Teaching the leg up – bridge and reinforce weight shift off, then off ground, then higher, then hold it up, THEN teach rock back using a treat or target.

Ground Tie

Use a mat or station. And make it rewarding.

Start with just standing. And reward standing still.

Then move your feet, reward standing still.

Then can you step to their withers, reward standing still.

Move progressively further, reward standing still.

Then move other directions, reward standing still.

Hint: feed LOTS – chewing will help them stand.

Keep it short.

Painting

Step 1 : hold something.

Step 2: Movement

Nod & Shake Head

When I taught Hawk: I used a tickle on chest for nod, and crest of neck for shake head.

Cue: Cute no Handsome yes

Finnegan: learned from watching Hawk.

Mirror?

Rearing

Capture – easiest. Recommend protective contact (behind a fence). Could develop out of play as well, if they don't offer it.

Hawk – before I knew better ;) I made a big move towards him, startled his front feet off the ground, rewarded and built from there.

If I was to teach it now – begin with weight shift to hind quarter, teach a “Crunch”, tuck abs and lift withers, and build energy until front feet lift – more of a “levade” introduction than a rear.

Potentially could also use a target – high energy play day and hold target high, reward any lifting of front feet.

Spanish Walk

Pool noodle! Walk with horse (recommend liberty leading as then less for you to juggle) and hold noodle so they accidentally hit it with a foot. The moment they do, bridge and reinforce.

After a few repetitions, they will try to hit it or stomp it – reward both a lot!

Once they are reliably stomping or reaching for the noodle when offered from a standstill, get them walking well, then offer the noodle and you should get a few steps.

Build gradually – it's a gymnastic exercise.

Bonus – once they are solid, try offering the noodle at a trot!