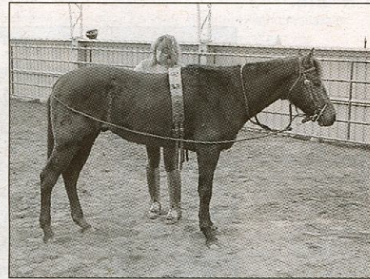


Starting Your Own Horse

Interested in "Starting your own horse" but not sure where to start?

In this our seventh article of this series, we will be studying the how's and why's of long lining. This is a very important step leading to an uneventful first ride. In this article Gisela will be long lining our 3 year old Quarter horse stallion "Gus" and 3 year old Arabian stallion "Fonzi" for the first time.

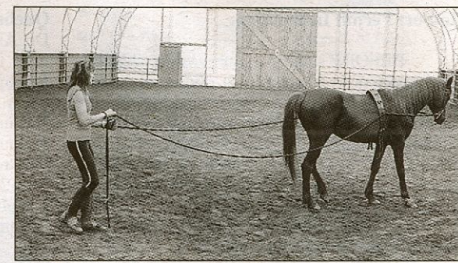
to find out if our horse will accept this pressure while on the ground.
So where do we start?



In this first photo we will be asking "Gus" to yield his hind end to the pressure from one line. We start out with this exercise just to make sure he will accept pressure when applying it with a line to move his hip around. This is a very important first step.



In the second photo Gisela has applied light pressure to the line on Gus's hip and after some hesitation and even pushing into the pressure Gus has decided to step out and move away from the pressure. When applying light pressure to the line, be patient and let your horse figure out what to do. Repeat this exercise on both sides until it becomes second nature for your horse.



In this fifth photo Gisela asks Fonzi's hip to yield to pressure. Gisela carefully steps to the right of Fonzi resulting in the left line applying pressure to Fonzi's left hip. If you look closely you will see Fonzi yielding to the pressure by crossing over with his hind legs.

This is a great exercise in getting a young horse to comfortably yield to pressure and for us to determine if they will yield to the pressure from our leg when in the saddle.

Freedman Harness

Continued from Page 1

ing the Fair of Seville or Feria as it's known," Freedman said. "It was an amazing experience and as carriage enthusiasts we had a wonderful time. Many of our Freedman Harness clients exhibited their horses and carriages during the Feria using our harness."

Freedman has been a member of The Carriage Association of America for 25 years and is a past CAA Board Director. "I get to that region in Spain about four times a year and have many clients and friends there," Freedman said. "I was able to get the collector's to open their doors and make their carriage collections available for us to see."

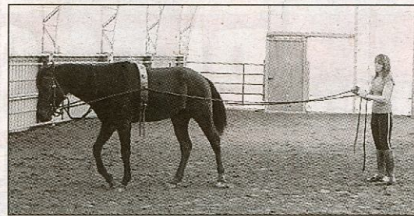
Jennifer Singleton of the Carriage Association of America accompanied David and rest of the group on the trip. Singleton recalled those remarkable collections and said, "I've been to Spain twice before, but I'd never before been to any of the collections we visited, nor met any of the collectors and farm owners." Singleton continued, "Everyone we met during the trip was extraordinarily nice and welcoming to the members of our group. I -and I'm sure many of the others on the trip- would love to go back."

Freedman said the group was able to see over 300 carriages in collections and over 600 horses and carriages in the streets of Seville. "Our co-host on the trip was an architect and he had great insight into the many historic buildings of significance in the city," Freedman added.

Freedman Harness is known worldwide for their harness and equestrian leather goods. For six generations horsemen have respected, admired and valued the carriage harness bearing the maker's mark of Freedman's. The Horseshoe trademark has become synonymous with classic styling, timeless quality and legendary craftsmanship. After more than 200 years, Freedman's is still the choice of royalty, heads of state, and owners of the best of the grand champion show horses and ponies. Handcrafted of the finest materials, with an exquisite attention to detail, Freedman harness and leather goods set the standard of excellence in harness making and accessories.

The Carriage Association of America was founded in 1960 and is the oldest and largest international organization devoted to the preservation and restoration of horse-drawn carriages and sleighs. The association has introduced thousands of people to the wonders of collecting these vehicles and the pleasures of driving them. The Carriage Association also helps members discover the beauty and charm of a life-style that has all but vanished from our modern world.

For more information on the tradition of Freedman Harness or their high-quality goods, visit the website at www.FreedmanHarness.com. For more information on The Carriage Association of America, visit their website at www.caaonline.com.



In the third photo Gisela asks Gus to move forward using the following voice commands.

She first says "Gus" loud and clear (to get his attention) Then she says "Walk" loud and clear for him to walk. Before asking your horse to walk make sure to have even and light contact in both lines. Allow your horse to step forward first before you do and allow him to pull some line through your fingers before you step forward. Once your horse is moving forward follow in behind making sure to maintain even and light contact on the lines. Notice in this photo that Gus is moving forward while Gisela waits a moment to join in.

Depending on your horse you may need to carry a buggy whip to encourage them to move forward. In this photo Gus is willing to move forward with simply voice command.

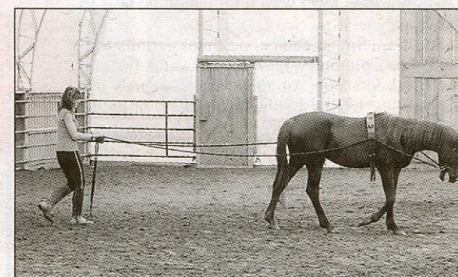
This third photo can also be used to demonstrate the principles involved with the Halt using voice commands and appropriate contact.

When asking for a Halt use the following voice commands: First slowly say "Easy" (stretch it out slow eeeaaassssyy) Then say "Whoa" (stretch it out slow wwwhhhoaaaa)

Before asking your horse to Halt make sure to have even and light contact in both lines with at least 3'-4' of excess line (see photo). As you start to say the word "Easy" begin to slow your walk allowing the line to slowly pull through your hands very slowly. As your horse begins to slow use the word "Whoa", stop your feet while the horse is still moving allowing the line to slowly slide through your fingers. As your horse slows even more increase the pressure on the lines sliding through your fingers until your horse comes to a complete halt.



In this fourth photo Gisela creates a turn to the right with Fonzi. She creates the turn by bringing her left shoulder forward while maintaining even contact on both sides. The turn is made by "giving" the outside rein as opposed to "taking" the inside rein. Your horse will definitely know the difference and will let you know if you are doing it correctly by his response.



In this sixth photo we are ready to end Fonzi's first long line session on a good note as he stretches his neck and back while letting out a nice yawn. He has accepted the contact, yielded to the pressure of the lines and the end result is a cool, calm, trusting horse ready for the next step in our training process

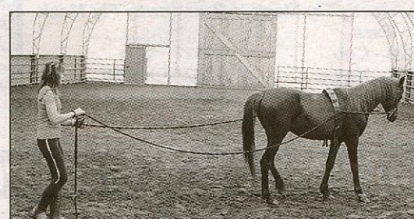
So Where to go from here?

In our next article we will be ready for the first ride. We will introduce you to the steps taken during the first ride, and things to avoid. Remember that the horse has an excellent memory and will remember that first ride for a long time regardless of how it turns out. It is our responsibility to make it a pleasant experience.



Written by Walter Mantler

Walter & Gisela Mantler own and operate Symphony Stables, a training facility in south-western Ontario. They start, train and finish horses for both Western and English disciplines. They have apprenticed directly under Chris Irwin for years and are recognized among his top trainers. They run a series of horsemanship and personal development clinics throughout the year. To learn more about their techniques and services please visit: www.symphonystables.com



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