

Knowing that serious accidents can occur when working around horses, I was motivated to write "Ground Rules for Horses".

GROUND RULES FOR HORSES

As a responsible horse owner and breeder, for the safety of all concerned, meaning the horse person and the horse for me:

It is essential that a horse understands and is fully trained to understand the ground rules when in the presence of human beings.

The ground rules are as follows:

1. Stand still – four feet on the ground and standing relaxed.
2. Allow its entire body to be handled for various procedures – e.g. farrier work, vet procedures without resistance.
3. Respect human's space – no pushing, shoving, running over humans
4. Lead wells, backs up, easily changes directions – gives the handler space, and maintains the same speed as the handler, and will follow the handler literally anywhere without resistance.

Each and every horse should know these rules so that the humans can work around them safely. Working as a farrier under a horse who refuses to stand still and doesn't want to have it's body touched can be extremely dangerous to say the least.

Its too late to think about the "what ifs" and "should haves" after someone has received personal injuries, nor is it fair to put the horse in a situation where it is so uncomfortable that either it hurts itself or the people around it.

It is our responsibility as horse owners to make absolutely sure that the horse we are asking others to work with have excellent ground manners and are safe to work around.



This horse is following the ground rules!

Respectfully Submitted:
Delle Fairclough – Owner, Breeder, Trainer
Mandel Arabians
www.mandelarabians.com