

Course	Agricultural Science I
Unit	Equine Science
Lesson	Handling Horses
Estimated Time	50 minutes

Student Outcome

The student will become familiar with the proper methods of handling a horse, including how to lead, lunge, mount and dismount, and safely trailer a horse.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the proper methods of leading a horse.
2. Identify the purpose of lunging.
3. Discuss the methods of safe mounting and dismounting.
4. Identify the different types of equitation.
5. Discuss restraints and their use.
6. Describe the proper method of haltering.
7. Describe why and how a horse is groomed.
8. Explain safe procedures when putting a horse in a trailer.
9. Discuss any local, state, and federal regulations involving horses.

Grade Level Expectations

Resources, Supplies & Equipment, and Supplemental Information

Resources

1. *Equine Science* (Student Reference). University of Missouri-Columbia: Instructional Materials Laboratory, 1995.
2. University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division agricultural publications
 - a. G2881: Saddling, Bridling and Riding the Western Horse
 - b. G2844: Haltering and Tying Horses
3. *Equine Science Curriculum Enhancement*. University of Missouri-Columbia: Instructional Materials Laboratory, 2003.

Supplies & Equipment

- ☐ Lead rope, halter, twitch, English and Western saddles

Supplemental Information

1. Internet Sites
 - ☐ KBR/ Trail Blazer/ LRTC (outdoor safety and survival section). KBR Horse Net. Accessed July 3, 2007, from <http://www.whmentors.org/saf/safety.html>.
 - ☐ Loch, W. *Haltering and Tying Horses*. University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division agricultural publication, G2844. Accessed June 29, 2007, from <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/ansci/g02844.htm>.
 - ☐ Loch, W. and B. Ballenger. *Saddling, Bridling, and Riding the Western Horse*. University of Missouri Extension Division agricultural publication, G2881. Accessed

July 3, 2007, from

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/ansci/g02881.htm>.

2. Print

- ❑ Ensminger, M. E., and C. J. Hammer. *Equine Science*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2004.
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Interest Approach

Invite a local saddle club representative, breed association representative, or other local equine expert to discuss horse handling with the class.

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Instructor Directions	Content Outline
Objective 1 <i>Properly leading a horse is an important safety issue. If the handler does not lead the horse in a safe and secure manner, injuries can result to the handler and/or the horse.</i>	Describe the proper methods of leading a horse. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Walking to the horse's left2. Lead ropes3. Length of rope4. Holding the rope (in right hand with excess coiled in left hand)5. Tying a lead rope
Objective 2 <i>Lunging is a method of training and exercise for both the unbroken horse and the trained horse. It provides exercise to help in muscle development, as well as providing an excellent training method.</i>	Identify the purpose of lunging. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Space required2. Reasons for lunging a horse3. Working the horse in both directions
Objective 3 <i>Mounting and dismounting a horse is simple, but it is important to do it in a safe manner. Make sure the equipment is in good condition. A worn girth or stirrup can break and cause injury to the rider and/or horse.</i>	Discuss the methods of safe mounting and dismounting. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Checking equipment first2. Mounting on the left side3. Dismounting by reversing mounting procedure
Objective 4	Identify the different types of equitation.

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
<p><i>The wonderful thing about equitation (process of riding) is that there are different styles, such as Western and English.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western 2. English
<p>Objective 5</p> <p><i>Sometimes it becomes necessary to restrain the horse in order to provide some sort of treatment. This is accomplished in different ways, depending on the reason for the restraint and on how well the horse responds to restraints.</i></p>	<p>Discuss restraints and their use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using a halter and lead rope 2. Gripping the neck 3. Twisting an ear 4. Twitch (device attached to upper lip) 5. Sideline 6. Hobbles
<p>Objective 6</p> <p><i>Always approach a horse from the side or at an angle. Never approach it straight on or from the rear because it can't see well in those areas. Use equipment that is in good shape and fits properly. Approach with caution, and in general, make the horse aware of your approach.</i></p>	<p>Describe the proper method of haltering.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confidence 2. Proper angle 3. Proper equipment 4. Halters in the pasture
<p>Objective 7</p> <p><i>Part of properly caring for and handling a horse is grooming. The frequency of grooming depends on the how often the horse is ridden, the environment, and whether or not the horse is stabled. Grooming helps maintain the horse's health, keeps parasites controlled, and helps teach the horse manners.</i></p>	<p>Describe why and how a horse is groomed.</p> <p>Grooming</p> <p>Clipping hair</p> <p>Braiding mane and tail</p> <p>Washing</p> <p>Blanketing</p> <p>Daily grooming vs. for show</p> <p>Health care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picking out hooves 2. Checking for injury

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
Objective 8 <i>There are safeguards that should be taken into consideration when handling a horse. One of these precautions involves getting your horse into the trailer.</i>	Explain safe procedures when putting a horse in a trailer. 1. Leg wraps 2. Trailer (equipment) safety 3. Loading 4. Unloading
Objective 9 <i>Owning a horse is a big responsibility. Not only must an individual know how to care for a horse, but he/she must be aware of local, state, or federal laws governing horse ownership.</i>	Discuss any local, state, and federal regulations involving horses. 1. Blood tests (Coggins) 2. Liability 3. Health checkup
Application:	Other activities 1. Go to a local training facility and observe their training methods. 2. Go to a horse show and watch how exhibitors handle horses during different events. 3. Invite a local trailer dealer to point out safety innovations and different styles of trailers. 4. Bring in grooming tools and a horse and demonstrate how to properly groom. 5. Bring in a horse and demonstrate the proper steps of care and handling. Let students practice. 6. Research English and Western riding and present the findings to the class.
Closure/Summary	Safety is the most important part of handling a horse. Improper handling can result in injury to the handler, the horse, or both.
Evaluation: Quiz	Answers: 1. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. a

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
	10. d 11. d 12. b 13. c 14. a