

Pick up his Feet

Teach your horse to pick up and hold his own feet.

12-06-2007

Teach your horse to pick up and hold his own feet: How do you pick up your horse's feet? Do you pinch the tendon at the fetlock to get him to wince just enough for you to grab his foot and pull it up? And then do you have to stand there, bent over, holding up that foot? Wouldn't it be nice if your horse picked up his own foot and handed it to you, and then held it up himself? Stand at your horse's shoulder, facing the hindquarters, and lean down as though you're going to pick up your horse's foot. Put your hand on the chestnut, then snap your fingers (or whistle or whatever signal you'd like to teach your horse) and lightly grasp the chestnut. Continue holding the chestnut, even getting a pretty good grip on it, until your horse makes the slightest try at picking up that foot. The instant he tries, let go. Repeat the process. The better your timing gets at the release, the sooner your horse will understand what you want.

After several times of accepting the slightest try, begin to ask for more effort, always starting from the beginning. If he puts weight into the leg, let the foot go and start the whole process again. You could spend the whole 10 minutes on one foot each day and by the end of the week, your horse will pick up his feet at the snap of a finger!

<< [Back to more 10-minute tips](#)