



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Head Shy Horse Rears When Bridling

Hi,

My sister just bought a 5 year old race horse and she's having troubles with getting the bridle over his ears. When we try to he rears up, and once we finally get it on him he's fine. Do you know how to help us?

Thanks,
Joey

Joey:

He's probably been "eared down." Twisted his ear to get him to stand still - its old cowboy stuff that only causes problems. I have a couple of videos that will help you. The first is "[Solving 7 Common Horse Problems](#)" which covers ears and problem biting along with a number of other typical issues including catching the difficult horse, pull-back, foot-handling, barn-sour, and herd bound.

The second horse training video is "[Retraining the Racehorse](#)." This gives specific exercises in helping bring racehorses back to being well-rounded mounts. With the ears, it's a matter of patience. You'd begin by loving on him and getting him to trust you which I call bonding. Bonding is the very first important step in my 7-Step Safety System. From there it's about trust and confidence building, then working on issues like the ears. Rub his eyes with the palm of your hand. He'll likely lean right into it and show you he enjoys that firm circular touch. Then use your fingernails to scratch his forehead and around the base of his ears, then back off and let is soak in. Start over and this time try to sneak your hand quickly right over his ears. If you are good, the horse will hardly react. Now, if this does work out, you'll continue to swipe your hand slower and slower over those ears thereby building his confidence until you can actually begin to stroke the ears and have the horse enjoy it thereby turning the "lemons into lemonade."

Patience and empathy are the key words here. My foundation work, "[Discover the Horse You Never Knew](#)" could provide a major breakthrough for your sister as it has for thousands of other horsemen and women. Read the [Western Horseman article](#) on my web site. It's free and will explain my approach very well.

Safe Riding and Happy Trails,