

Quick Tips

- When teaching a horse to load, be sure to work on a safe, non-slip surface.
- Keep the trailer floor clean of hay and debris.
- Never pull straight down on a horse's head in an effort to hold or pull him on the trailer - especially if he tries to back up.
- Keep the trailer as open and well lit as you can when loading your horse.
- It is okay to use treats for comfort or as a target but not as a bribe.
- Although it is rare, some horses are claustrophobic and panic when they are on the trailer. Be sure to get the opinion of a qualified professional before making such a diagnosis. Sometimes a stock trailer where a horse can be shipped loose is a solution for a claustrophobic horse or a horse that has had a traumatic experience in a trailer.
- Train your horse to walk, stop and back readily on cue before you get to a trailer.
- Train a green or problem horse in an enclosed space such as a riding ring or round pen.
- Use treats that won't upset a horse's stomach when training.
- Be kind to your horse. If you are going to lose your temper, walk away and get control of your emotions, then go back to your basics.
- If the horse digresses, go back to your basics and be consistent about your aids.
- The more you work with your horse, with the same clear signals, the better he will become.
- Be sure to wear gloves while working with a horse.
- Always ship in a leather or 'breakaway' halter.
- Wear an approved hard hat and/or protective safety vest when working around horses.
- This is not personal for the horse—so don't handle them as such. They are animals that need to be trained with persistence and consistency. So be persistent and consistent.
- It is not about the trailer. It is about handling and your horse's ability to respond to your cues.