

Foxhunting Mounted Lesson

Title: Moving Pony's Hindquarter off the trail

Objective: Students will learn technique for getting pony off the trail

Length of lesson: 30-45 minutes depending on # of students

Special materials: Crop or dressage whip and gloves for instructor, simulated trail with poles on the ground, gaps between them, use standards for "trees"

Introduction

1. Ask ponies' and students' names
2. Demonstrate hunting situation, standing on a trail @ a check, someone says "ware staff" and you have to dive into the bushes and turn your pony's head toward the trail
3. Let's teach your ponies how to get off the trail, make it easy for you to do that, even with the excitement of hunting

Body of Lesson

1. Do you know how to back your pony? Can you move him sideways with your leg?
2. With each pony, test his/her response to pressure at the point of shoulder and pressure with the handle end of the whip where the rider's heel goes.
3. Demonstrate with one pony, have rider on loose rein, ask pony to back & then ask pony to move over, by pushing handle of whip to his side, then stifle and saying "over", keeping hand on the reins if necessary. Do this with each pony, having rider ask for reinback without pulling, tip shoulders forward, slide leg back, help them with the whip.
4. Have riders practice walking thru the path of poles, turn to one side, go thru gap, keep pony's head toward the trail and move hindquarters over. Encourage them to reward pony with voice and hand, keep soft rein and remain halted.

Summarize

1. When might you use this maneuver? D3s have to do rein-back at a rating, too, right? What might happen if your pony's rear end is sticking out in the trail when other horses or hounds come by?
2. Any questions?
3. Thanks!