

Foxhunting Mounted Lesson Plan

Title: Riding in Control on a Trail

Objective: Learn to watch for hand signals from riders in front and react quickly and effectively

Level of Students: D2-D3

Length of lesson: 30 minutes

Special materials: ring and bridle path, fairly narrow thru wooded area so instructor can walk to it.

Introduction

1. Introduce yourself and ask names of all students.
2. Have your ever run into the pony in front of you on a trail or in the ring? Were you looking at how clean your saddle was and everyone stopped and you ran by everyone? Or into a tree?
3. We are going to practice keeping our focus on the horse in front of the line and stopping when a hand signal is given. What might happen if you keep running into the pony in front of you?

Body of Lesson

1. What is the hand signal you give to riders behind you if you are going to stop? Did you know this is used in the hunt field?
2. Demonstrate trotting along(on foot), then switching reins to one and using other hand to signal stop.
3. Have each rider practice that at the halt, then walk to halt.
4. Have group line up with horse length between and have first rider use hand signal and other put hand up when they see it.
5. Have group walk or trot, depending on skill, watch rider @ front, stop on hand signal. All should use hand signal, lean back and stop with reins in one hand. Ponies will get the idea thru repetition of the weight shift, as the hand signal helps to straighten riders bodies and use their seat. Some adjustment of nosebands or martingales may be necessary to increase control.

Closing

1. Summary-stopping on hand signals is important for safety, silence in the hunt field and practicing keeping your eyes up!
2. What else-any questions about using one hand to stop?
3. Well done & thanks!