

D1-D2 Unmounted Lesson Plan

How to tie a Quick Release Knot

Purpose: To teach the participants how to tie a quick release knot

Equipment: Enough cotton lead ropes of 7-8' length for each participant to have one. Have the running ends of the rope identified in some way, ie paint, ribbon. A bag of small individually wrapped candies of several varieties, avoid gum.

Ages from 6-9

Group size 4-6

Divide the groups into teams of 2-4

Have the participants watch while you tie a quick release knot, one end attached to a horse, preferably. For some reason they seem to learn this better if the end that should have a horse on it, does. Loop the rope around the pole, upright, or ring, explaining that we should never tie a horse to a board to a fence and why. Make a loop with the running end of the rope with the running end on the top of the loop. Place this on top of the rope attached to the horse (who should be asleep by now) making sure that all three parts of the rope are touching on top of each other. Place the unused hand through the loop and grasp the running end with enough rope to make a small loop. Bring it up through the loop tightening the loop as you go. Do this several times. Have the participants try it themselves in teams of two; one being the horse. Then switch so each gets to learn the activity

Divide them into teams of 2-3 and have them tie the quick release knots around an appropriate tying area. The team that first has all members with a correctly tied knot first wins first choice of the candy... Second gets second choice.

Now ask them why we would want to tie our horses up with this knot, how long we should have the rope and why, and why we use certain types of ropes, cotton, nylon, leather (not to tie with and why.) Be ready with praise!

Reference: D Manual; pg 141-144 Susan Poulton, March 2007