

5 STEPS TO TRAILER LOADING

The most important thing is that you can find rest at any time while entering or exiting the trailer. This also means that you can take it step by step, and that your horse can move one step at a time.

FIRST STEPS ON THE TRAILER

1

The first approach to the trailer determines how your horse will load for the rest of the session, so it's important that this is done calmly and confidently. Give your horse the time and space to investigate. When he did well, back up and try again.

BUILDING ON THE HALFWAY POINT

2

When you can confidently step the front legs off and on the ramp, it's time to introduce the hind legs. Take your time with this, as this requires balance and mobility from your horse. Give your horse the time to lean forward and pay attention to the moment your horse starts looking into the trailer, instead of at the ground or at their feet.

HIND LEGS ON THE RAMP

3

Build on the steps. Make sure that your horse is not closing his eyes and rushing in. They have to consciously take every step in and out the trailer.

STEPPING INTO THE TRAILER

4

Work your way up to the chest bar, making sure that your horse is relaxed and feels at ease. If not, back up until you find your point of rest again. From there, decide to either end the session or take it one step at a time again.

BACKING OUT OF THE TRAILER

5

Finally, exit the trailer step by step, alternating between forwards and backwards. Remember that the way you exit the trailer needs to have the same relaxation as the approach. Spend as much time on exiting the trailer as you did entering it.



9 STEPS TO YOUR TRAILER SETUP

Preparation is key. It's important that you have your trailer set up and ready in a way that's safe for training. You can put it in an arena, or in another closed off space, somewhere where there's little distractions so you and your horse can focus entirely on the training.

DIVIDER

1

Make sure the divider of your trailer (if you have one) is fully opened.

LEADING POSITION

2

Lead from a position in front of your horse, teaching your horse to lean forward into the trailer in a "yes" posture.

CLOSE BIT BY BIT

3

Close the divider bit by bit when your horse starts to feel comfortable.

CLOSE FULLY

4

Work your way up to closing the divider fully, taking your time to return to the point of rest if needed.

REASSURE

5

Spend time with your horse, **make sure to not tie your horse down.**

THE BAR

6

Train the sound and movement of the bar, making sure your understands the sound and motion.

THE RAMP

7

Repeat the process of the bar with the ramp, teaching your horse the movement, sound, and touch when closing it.

REPEAT

8

Repeat every step until your horse is completely comfortable with it and understands the process.

BACK OUT

9

Teach your horse to come back out of the trailer step-by-step, without your horse rushing out.

