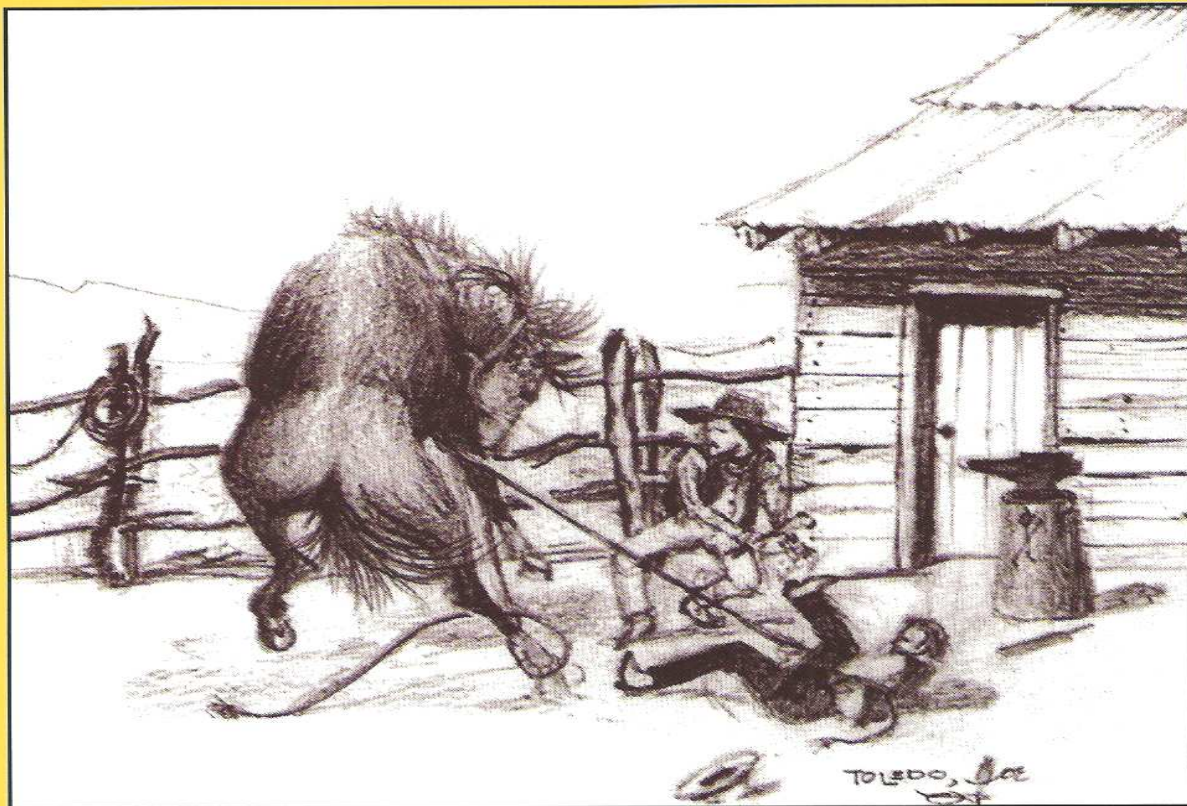


— How to —

# Train Your Horse to Stand for Trimming and Shoeing



**NO FEET,  
NO HORSE**

Larry Fox, Ph.D.

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# NO FEET, NO HORSE

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*How to Train Your Horse to Stand  
for Trimming and Shoeing*

Larry Fox, Ph.D.

***NO FEET, NO HORSE***

*How to Train a Horse to Stand for Trimming and Shoeing*

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**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication**

Fox, Larry

No feet, no horse: how to train a horse to stand for trimming and shoeing / Larry Fox.

P. .CM.

ISBN 0-931866-68-5

1. Horseshoing. 2. Horses—Training. I. title.

SF907.F67 1995

95-2020

636.1'0833--dc20

CIP

**Text Photos** by the author unless otherwise indicated.

**Text illustrations** by Nancy Robinson, except the hoof and knot illustrations, which are by the author.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Printed in the United States of America.

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**To**  
*Bill and Jennifer,*  
*Charcoal and Taffy, Brandy and Mitar.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I want to thank all the owners of all the horses I have ever trimmed, shod, broke, trained, boarded, hauled, rode or in any other way ever related to, for they provided the experience for the lessons which I have learned and which I have tried to share in this book.

I especially want to thank Dr. Peter Skafte for his patient encouragement.

## FOREWORD

Where I'm from, in Boulder County, Colorado, we are said to have more horses per square mile than any other county in the United States. This gives a horseman, such as myself, ample opportunity to become aware of the most common problems in handling and maintaining horses. One of the most extensive and serious problems is that of the horse whose feet cannot be readily and adequately attended to because he has not been trained to stand properly. As a horse-shoer I've run across the problem so often that I've found myself looking for a concise training book to which I could refer my customers so that they could teach their horses how to stand. I found however that no such text was readily available and decided to write such a manual myself. This book is the outcome of that decision.

As for style, I have written this book as simply as possible so that it could be understood and used by the average horse owner as well as the knowledgeable professional. My intention has been to avoid complexity and anatomical detail where such information would not be necessary for achieving the goal of teaching a horse to stand in a self-controlled and well-behaved manner.

The section on foot structure and function is only included to familiarize the horseman with that terminology which

is needed to discuss foot care, trimming and shoeing. It is quite simple and in no way pretends to constitute a thorough treatment of those subjects. There are a number of good books available for anyone who wishes to look into those topics in more detail.

Since so many of the problems encountered in working on a horse's feet are due to vices, a good portion of this book is concerned with correcting vicious behavior. Since it is necessary for a horse to be well-behaved before he can be properly trimmed or shod, this book may be regarded as a manual for teaching your horse discipline, self control and good behavior. Such characteristics not only enable a horse's feet to be properly cared for, but also will make him a better mount and a more enjoyable animal to be with.



*On a long Colorado drive.*

## INTRODUCTION

*No Feet, No Horse* is a book which explains, as the subtitle states, how to train a horse to stand in order to have his feet worked on. The importance of a horse's feet being kept in healthy condition is second to no other consideration in maintaining a good using horse, and is most simply summed up in the old adage "no feet, no horse." A moment's reflection will reveal the significance of that statement. If a horse has bad feet and consequently cannot be used, then one may as well not have the horse.

Proper foot care requires that a horse be willing and able to stand and balance himself on his three remaining feet while his other foot is being worked on. To think that such behavior is normal for a horse is mistaken, and becomes readily apparent when one considers how totally unnatural it is for any animal to have metal attached to the bottom of its feet by driving nails through its hooves. Indeed, when you think about it, it is remarkable that an animal which is known for its instinct to protect itself by running away has succumbed to man's decision to nail metal onto its feet.

Since it is mandatory for a horse to stand in a quiet and well-behaved manner so that a farrier can do a proper job of trimming or shoeing him, and since it is unnatural for a horse to allow his feet to be trimmed and shod, it is necessary that he be trained to stand properly. The purpose of this book is to explain how to accomplish such training.

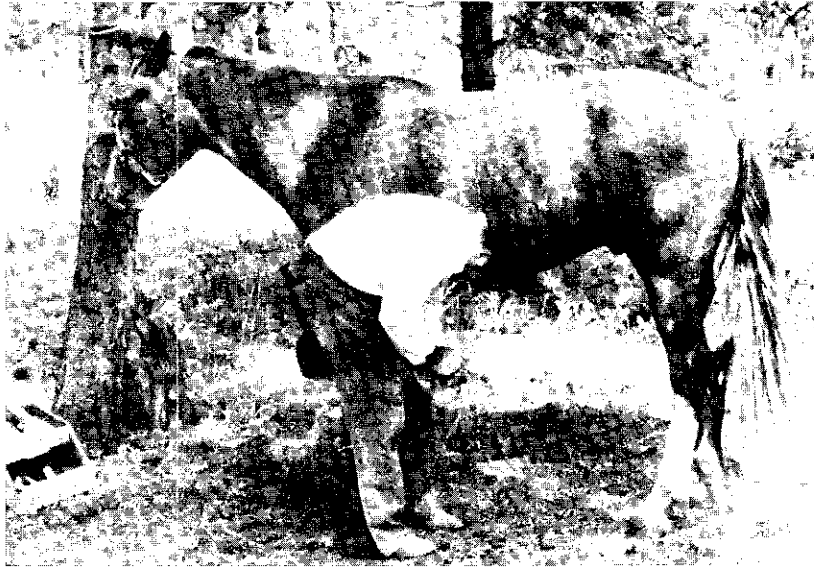
As a horseshoer and trainer I can assure you that for the relatively small amount of training it takes to teach the average horse to stand properly, the rewards are great:

**First**, you will never have trouble finding a farrier. Every farrier is happy to acquire a well-behaved horse to add to his list of regulars.

**Second**, the better your horse stands the better will be the quality of work which is done on his feet, and the healthier and sounder he will be as a result. When a horse is trying every trick he knows to get the farrier out from under him, it is barely possible for the farrier to get the job done. The probability of a farrier doing a good job on an unruly horse is unrealistic.

**Third**, a well-behaved horse is less expensive to shoe. There will be no additional charges for ill-behavior or on-the-spot first-aid.

And **finally**, a disciplined horse, standing well, will preserve his own nerves, his owner's pride, and his farrier's back and disposition.



*The author with one of his students.*