

Megan Print

I use natural horsemanship techniques, a combination of Clinton Anderson, Chris Cox, and my own methods. In general I put the horse in a round pen for initial training. After some moments I try to befriend the horse. I gradually touch the whole body over the course of a few days. Next I free longe, changing directions, become the leader, and I gain the horses trust. I begin to tie using a telephone pole and an inner tube. (Robin Rivello is my mentor and my methods are similar to hers.) During this time I work on grooming and picking up their feet, slowly. I always end on a good note with lots of praise. I work on leading while still in the round pen, and once the horse has mastered leading there, I will lead the horse outside of the round pen. (With a helper if I feel it may be needed). I work on saddling by slowly introducing the pad first, over several days, until the horse is comfortable with me putting in on and off. I put pressure on the horses back to prepare for mounting, and jump and down on the ground until the horse doesn't care what I am doing. I will progress this until I am lying across the horses back without the horse taking a step. I start introducing the saddle daily until the horse is comfortable with wearing the saddle, and does not move. The first time I mount the horse I make sure I have an assistant holding the horse and we are in the round pen for safety.