

Kids + Horses = Magic

presented by the American Youth Horse Council

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Tying Your Horse

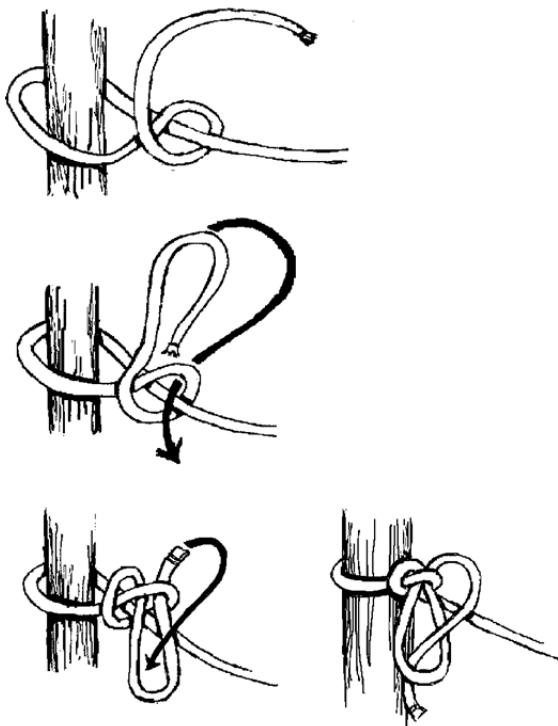
It is very important to know how to use the proper knots when tying a horse. There are two basic knots that every horse person should know. This pamphlet demonstrates both of those knots and how to use them.

Quick Release Knots

The Quick Release knot should be used whenever you tie a horse with a halter and a lead rope. There are several types of quick release knots that can be used safely with horses. This pamphlet only demonstrates two of them.

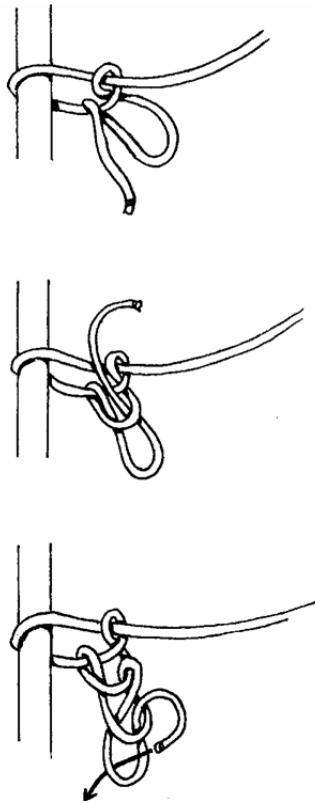
Type A

This is a relatively easy knot to use, however it may not release in an emergency. If the horse pulls strongly against it the knot may tighten. To prevent that, wrap the lead around the post twice before tying.



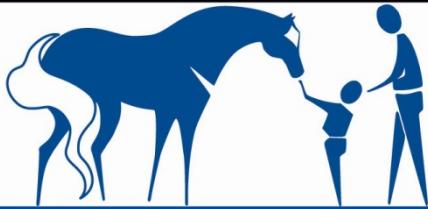
Type B

This knot should release quickly even if the horse pulls back hard.



Practice

Practice both knots with an experienced person until you can correctly and safely tie a horse. If you have difficulty tying quick release knots, quick release hardware snaps (or "panic snaps") may also be used to safely secure a horse.



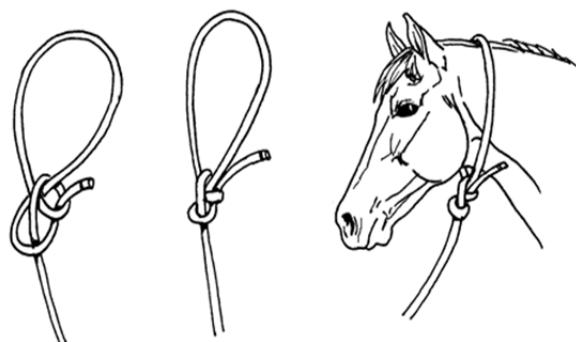
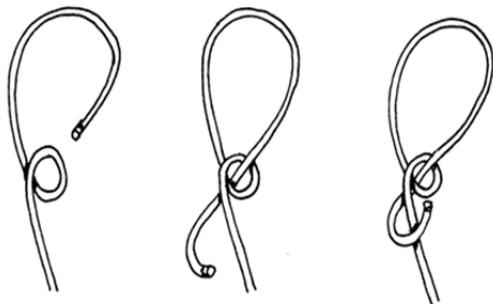
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Bowline Knot

The bowline knot can be used when a loop is needed that will not slip or tighten. It can be used around the horse's neck if needed.



Where To Tie

Always be sure to tie to an object that is strong and secure. This will help to avoid the danger of escape, equipment breakage, or injury if the horse pulls back. Once a horse has broken loose he is more likely to pull back the next time he is tied. Tie to a post set securely in the ground, not to a rail on the fence. If the horse pulls back, rails may break or come loose and seriously injure or frighten the horse. This can also be a danger to the handler trying to catch a panicked horse.

Never tie below the level of the horse's withers. Tie your horse with a rope long enough to allow comfortable movement, but short enough to avoid the horse getting entangled or a foot over the rope. Never tie your horse by the reins as he may pull back and break the reins or injure his mouth. Always use a halter and a sturdy lead line when tying. Tie your horse far enough away from strange horses so they cannot fight or kick. Tie a safe distance away from tree limbs, brush, or other objects in which a horse might become entangled.

Working Around a Tied Horse

When working around a tied horse, *never* walk under or step over the tied rope. Walk around the rear of the horse, out of the kick zone. Always untie the horse before removing the halter.

