



# Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

## **Horse Does Not Lead Well and Pulls Back When Tied**

Dear Mr. Bell,

My name is Suzanne. I just bought a huge racebred quarter horse mare. The owner could not handle her and the mare got away with lots of stuff. The three problems are: stopping while being led and refusing to move, pulling with all she has so she could go graze, and the last and most annoying is while she is tied she will back up and struggle and sit on her butt in the dirt trying to get away or just to loosen the rope so she can get her head down to graze. She doesn't get away but she always manages to loosen the rope.

Lately here she has gotten extra bad about it. You can get her tied but if you touch the lead or the halter she starts the struggling. I think she is lazy and stubborn. How would you handle this horse? I would greatly appreciate any suggestions.

Thanks,  
Suzanne D.

Dear Suzanne:

These bad habits are easily fixed with a bit of understanding (theory) and applying the proper (techniques), and good (timing) which are the 3-T's of all training.

When the horse balks, that is won't go forward, you have to make it annoying while she resists. I keep the pressure on and with my other hand I form a flat plane and begin hacking at the lead which jolts the horse's head. I do it until the horse takes a step forward, then quit immediately. Instantly and allow it to sink in. Do this repeatedly and before long the horse will not want to resist.

Same with eating. When that head drops down, use an upward jerking motion with slack in the lead or rein until the horse stops. I accompany both with an annoying shhhhhhhhhhhhh noise while they are doing the wrong thing. That noise and all pressure stops the instant the horse complies. I'm making the right thing easy and comfortable and the wrong thing difficult and uncomfortable. Very simple. But you have to put your plan together so you are prepared to act the moment the horse exhibits this unwanted behavior.



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As far as pull-back, this is a very dangerous vice that can hurt you, the horse, and anyone nearby especially if the lead or halter breaks. This is one of the issues I specifically address in my "[Solving 7 Common Horse Problems](#)" video. It's far too complicated to explain using email. But there is a logical approach to teaching the horse not to pull-back called a [belly-rope](#). We sell these for only \$19.95 in addition to the "Problem Solving" video. I do not allow anyone to purchase this product without the video. So I would highly recommend you order those two products.

All vices need to be approached in a similar manner. We don't believe in beating up the horse. We simply find ways for the horse to "hit the brick wall" when they do the wrong thing. Get creative and you'll begin to think like a horse then it all makes perfect sense.

Happy Trails and Safe Riding,

*Frank R. Bell*