



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Trailer Loading Problem

Dear Mr. Bell,

My name is Nicholas Craycraft. I have a 4 year old Quarter Horse mare that has been trailered a couple of times in her life and has all of a sudden refused to go into a trailer. She had been loaded as a yearling to go to the county fair and brought home. During the unloading at her home she got stung by a bee and hurt herself coming out. The next time she was loaded was when she came to her new home at 4 years old. It took about 30 minutes but she got in.

Then a couple of months down the road my father and I loaded her to go to a horse show. This was the first time that she had been loaded onto a step trailer, her previous experiences had been with a ramp. She balked and my dad gave her a slap with the lunge whip and she hopped right in. Now is where the real problem started. At the show when we loaded up to go home she wouldn't go onto the trailer. My dad decided to give her encouragement the same way but the result was very different. My father resorted to more physical tactics which only escalated the situation and only got us farther from the door. Anyone who moved toward her rump she would kick at, any pulling on her or snap of the chain lead would send her vertical striking. After 4 hours, and her stomach grumbling horribly and about 10 minutes of just relaxing, a friend and I moved each hoof one at a time to the door. Then we were able to pick up one front hoof at a time and putting them onto the trailer. She then went into the trailer the rest of the way herself.

Last week we tried to work on just loading and unloading with her. After a good work out my father and I tried to load her with no success. Since she would start to balk at even going near the trailer I spent 3 days walking her out to the trailer to feed her there. We borrowed her former owner's trailer thinking that the ramp would make her more comfortable. We still have the same result. Every horse person that we know is completely baffled and we have tried every tactic that they and we know and there has been no success. I don't know what I should do. Could you please help? Thank you very much for your time sir.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Craycraft



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Hello Nicholas-

First of all, where are you? Perhaps we have an accredited instructor nearby who can help you.

Since what you're doing isn't working, you must be prepared to do it all differently. Tell you Dad to stay home. He'll do nothing but upset the horse if he's anywhere nearby. She's not dumb and will become instantly uptight with him around.

Then you have to begin anew and learn a completely different approach to dealing with your quarter horse and all horses, called Frank Bell's 7 Step Safety System that begins with bonding. This will establish the trust you'll need to succeed.

Now I sure wish I had a couple hours to try to explain how to load such a horse, but what I did was produce a DVD on this exact subject. 5 horses in 4 seasons are loaded, some easily, some with great difficulty into a variety of trailers. But it all begins with teaching horses how to drive, the 4th step in my program. Because trailer loading, just like most endeavors with horses is all about preparation. Walking in and out of stalls, confined openings, over plywood, tarps, etc. will instill a can-do attitude. Then when the horse is prepared, they walk right into the trailer.

So order from my site or call 800-871-7635 and leave your shipping and payment details and order the following:

[Discover the Horse You Never Knew
Trailer Loading](#)

You'll want a rope halter with a 12' lead to perform the exercises that take place before loading. We sell them as well and if you do need one, consider our [Getting Started Package](#) that includes all the information and tools you'll need to proceed, then succeed. Implementing this evolved approach will change, for the better quite dramatically, the way you relate to horses forever, my promise.

Safe Riding Always,