



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Clipping

Dear Frank,

I was just online trying to find a way to clip my horse. I have worked hours and months with him and he will not clipped. I just came across the "Irish pony hates being clipped..." and I read what you said to do... I have tried and it has failed. I've been in the horse industries for 17 yrs and I have never had a horse not clip... and I just don't know what to do. He has had a sedative and he will strike at you. I had the vet come this spring to also give him something stronger and still you can not get close to him with the clippers. I'm just praying there is some way. I go to AQHA shows and am so embarrassed about not be able to clip his ears and legs. I have to Bic his muzzle and take scissors to his bridle path but he doesn't like scissors either. I have to neck twitch him to get that done. Just praying for hope and wonder what else can I do? I don't want to give up... I know there is hope out there.

Wondering if you have any advice for me.

Thank you,
Tracey Faulkingham

Where do you live Tracey? Perhaps we have an Accredited Instructor nearby who can help you through this sticky issue with your pony.

I guess you'll have to change your approach, since what you're doing isn't working, is it? Once a horse gets uptight, nervous, fearful. . . we'll then you've lost the battle. So #1 rule, don't push the horse past rational = right brain and right = flight.

Find yourself something you can plug in that sounds like clippers, like a power drill or a small massage vibrator. Place it a couple feet from your horse's feed, as far as necessary for the horse to tolerate and eat. Don't feed the horse without the unit turned on running, making that annoying sound. Before long your pony will associate the noise with food = positive. Then you'll move the object progressively closer until it is right there and pony is eating happily.

Then, with a bend in the pony's body and using a cordless noise maker simulating the clippers, you'll begin on the pony's back, rubbing in circles as you talk soothingly and keep a bend and stroke the pony's neck/withers. All this with your two hands. But allow the pony to move. That is fine. Eventually he'll accept the noise/vibration on the back, then up the neck, and back down quickly, then again a little slower, etc.



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Now actually clipping the whiskers around the muzzle and inside the ears might never happen. Those hairs are for protection and he might just know that. Instead, I'd be strong at the shows and stand up for your horse's protective instincts. Hopefully there are some sane judges who understand this aspect of survival.

This technique is demonstrated in my DVD entitled, "[Solving 7 Common Horse Problems.](#)" More importantly, consider learning an evolved approach that begins with giving to your horse; we call it bonding and it sets the stage for success with any endeavor you should choose because you'll have a relationship based on trust not force. And this is all detailed in my landmark DVD-[Discover the Horse You Never Knew.](#) Learn and apply these techniques and you'll change the way you relate to horses forever. . . my promise.

Safe Riding Always,

Frank R. Bell