

Our Horse Therapists are treated almost as if they are "employees" of our organization rather than "animals" that we "take care of." We make it clear to clients and employees and volunteers that when we go into our stalls, we are going into their space.

We call the following, "The Triple H Way" not because it is the right way, or the only way or even the best way. That is for the reader to decide. But it is THE TRIPLE H WAY...simply because it is the way we respect and treat our horses...it is what they have come to be used to and are familiar with...and it is what works for us. Hopefully it may work for you.

- **We create an environment where we are part of the herd, therefore we need to make sure that we are a partner and a trusted leader**
- **We ask our horses to do things; we do not tell them.**
- **Before we ask, we set them up for success.**
- **If they don't achieve what we're asking them for, we ensure that we are making sense to the horse, and then we encourage them until they do it.**
- **Praise, praise, praise for anything the horse does that is good:**
  - Cleaning a hoof
  - Head down
  - Licking and chewing
  - Audible sigh, etc.
- **We make doing it right easier than doing it wrong.**
- **If a horse doesn't cooperate, see the following five reasons that might be the cause:**
  1. The horse doesn't understand what you're saying.
  2. The horse has never been trained to do what you're asking for.
  3. The horse can't do it physically.
    - Perhaps because of pain or discomfort.
  4. The horse can't do it mentally.
    - Perhaps because of fear, lack of trust or frustration.
  5. The horse is deliberately being disobedient.
- **We redirect our horses before considering correction.**

**Always remembering:**

**Releasing pressure trains the horse; Constant pressure sours a horse.**