

Groundwork Level 2 Requirements

- **Have satisfied all requirements for Groundwork Level 1**
- **Watch “The 7 Games of Parelli Natural Horse-man-ship” and fill out question sheet.**
- **While blindfolded, be a horse and have another student lead and lunge you. Then switch.**
 - ▶ When being the horse, do your best to really think and react the way you feel like a horse would think and react. Give the handler at the other end of the lead rope every opportunity to learn how to be a better horseperson.
 - ▶ No talking between horse and handler other than what a handler might say to the horse as aides.
 - ▶ After this exercise really talk about what you felt from the handler while you were being the horse. Do this in a way that will help this handler become a better horseperson. Give real compliments and helpful accurate and detailed advice as needed.
- ▶ **Knows difference between direct and indirect feel.**
 - ▶ direct feel is when we are “hands” on. Could come from leg, whip, hands, rope, etc.
 - ▶ indirect feel is what we do when we are driving or lunging the horse.
- **Can define “sullyng up.”**
 - ▶ Sullyng up is what you see when a horse stops trying, shuts down and just stands there or continues to do something that obviously has no regard for your request. The horse is basically telling the handler that they see no way to be successful in this task that you are trying to help them achieve. When you see a horse sullyng up, stop, take a break by just leading the horse off to a new location, you might even let the horse graze for a bit or even put the horse in it’s pen for a bit while you get a bite to eat or something to drink. Sullyng up is caused by a lack of good feel between the horse and the handler. As the reasoning member of this partnership that you are trying to establish, take time to really think about what it is you’d like from the horse and how you might be able to be more clear in how you are asking (your presentation.) See the Riding Level 1 Requirements on phasing up for ways to solve any sullyng up issue.
 - ▶ Some older horses will sully up because they figure you’ll just give up and go away if they ignore you long enough. These older horses are a gift to us as we learn proper horsemanship. Sometimes they need to be handled like you would handle a difficult child. Remember that getting angry with them will not help you or your relationship. Draw your “line” and stick to it as you expect them to follow through with your request without any anger directed at them. You might express some intensity in your presentation, but let any feelings of intensity go as soon as the horse responds at all. Remember, they do just want to get along, for the most part.
- **Can identify some horse body language:**
 - ▶ Fear
 - See pages 12, 8, 29, 56, 57, 60, 76, 78 & 91 in “*What Is My Horse Thinking?*” by Lesley Bayley
 - Wide Eyes
 - Ears intently forward
 - wrinkle in their eye brow.
 - Head up
 - tension in gait.
 - wide eyes - even the whites might show
 - ▶ Relaxation, Confidence, Comfort

- licking and chewing
- See pages 8, 9, 14 & 38 in *What Is My Horse Thinking?* by Lesley Bayley
- quiet eyes - no wrinkles in eyebrow
- ▶ Discomfort
 - tossing of head
 - chewing on hitching rail
 - preparing to bite
 - See pages 37, 40, 41 & 81 in *What Is My Horse Thinking?* by Lesley Bayley
- **Can move the horse with feel and release (direct feel):**
 - ▶ at the hindquarters on both sides
 - ▶ at the barrel on both sides (near the flank)
 - ▶ at the neck on both sides (near the throatlatch)
 - ▶ at the shoulder on both sides
 - ▶ at the chest
 - ▶ Handler notices when horse tries and allows time for the horse to think and feel successful.
 - ▶ Remember to phase up as necessary.
- **Can lift and lower the horses head.**
 - ▶ with tact and not holding the horses head, lower 'til nose touches the ground and horse will keep it there. Remember, small releases go a long way with a horse as you build your partnership.
 - ▶ Same with lifting the head, as high as the horse can.
- **Tip the nose from side to side from the end of the lead rope.**
 - ▶ notice the slightest try from the horse. It is not necessary for the entire head to move, just a change in the horses focus with a slight movement is enough at this level.
- **Can back the horse 6 steps with a float in the rope**
 - ▶ Always keep in mind that you would like to get more done with less in this as well as all the exercises.
 - ▶ Think about the horses biomechanics. How must they move in order to back up?
 - ▶ Do not chase the horse back by closing the gap between you and the horse. Maintain the same distance you start with. You may step forward with his/her step backward so the horse does not run into the lead rope.
- **Can step the horse forward one step from the end of the rope**
 - ▶ Handler needs to start noticing how much is too much at this level.
 - ▶ Just one step, no more.
 - ▶ Release the horse forward.
- **Can back the horse one step from the end of the rope.**
 - ▶ Just one step, no more.
 - ▶ Maintain a float in the rope.
 - ▶ Release the horse backward.
 - ▶ Do not chase the horse back.
- **Can lead from both sides with the handler's position kept between the horse's head and shoulder.**
 - ▶ Make sure the horse has enough room to move their head around, but is not crowding.

- ▶ Demonstrate how to neatly and effectively loop the lead rope.
 - ▶ Demonstrate how to safely hold the loops of the lead rope.
 - ▶ Tester will call out at least 3 turns in each direction from both sides of the horse.
- **Can square up a horse.**
 - ▶ Careful and thoughtful foot placement is what is needed here.
 - ▶ Square means square. Not kinda square.
 - ▶ Different kinds of feel are allowed for this exercise here, but remember to get good at doing this with the horse held only at the halter knot below the horse's chin.
 - ▶ Pick a back foot to be the foot you'll square up to.
- **Can back horse one half circle in each direction.**
 - ▶ Remember the bend in the horse will be opposite of the bend in your circle.
 - ▶ Smoothness counts.
 - ▶ Think of about a 5 - 10 meter circle.
- **Lunge a horse at a walk, trot and canter and back down the gaits - both directions**
 - ▶ Lungeing is a good skill to learn for many reasons. First, not everyone has a round pen to be able to send a horse around them at different gaits to check lameness issues, or just for exercise. Second, lungeing is a basic skill that many horsepeople use to warm their horse up before a ride. Third, lungeing is a skill that requires steady hands and proper control of your equipment. These kinds of skills will relate directly to most everything you do with a horse.
 - ▶ Learn how to handle a lunge line and whip without involving the horse. Get good at reeling up your lungeline and maintaining good control of your whip before you even think of putting yourself at one end of a 20' line and your horse at another with a long whip in your hand.
 - ▶ Do each gait a minimum of 3 times around in each direction.
 - ▶ All handler's eyes must be positioned behind the horse at all times.
 - ▶ Make sure you are not pulling on the horse.
 - ▶ Keep your feet moving to help encourage your horse to keep his/her feet moving.
 - ▶ Keep all equipment, lunge line, whip and horse neat and tidy.
 - ▶ Keep end of whip out of sand
 - ▶ Be able to wind up and let out your lunge line with ease.
- **Send horse through barrels to mimic a gate. Twice in both directions.**
 - ▶ Allow enough lead rope that horse can feel free to make this move
 - ▶ Make sure line of sight is such to encourage horse to go through gate.
 - ▶ Ask horse to stand quietly until you send him or her back through the other direction.
- **Stop horse with front legs on one side of obstacle and back legs on other. Then back over the obstacle.**
 - ▶ Hold position for a count of 10 before backing.
 - ▶ Now for a real challenge - lead the horse all the way over the obstacle forwards, then back them over it.
- **Now put it all together. At a distance of no less than 10 feet from the horse, send the horse around you in one-half of a circle, change directions of the horse and send the horse around you in one-half of a circle in the other direction, change directions again and stop horse in front of you - facing you would be best, but a good stop with interest and attention will be OK.**
 - ▶ Student begins to understand how a horse disengages the hindquarters and flows through with the

forehand.

- ▶ Keep a float in your rope. Claim space, do your best to not pull on the horse.
- ▶ Practice this with a human at the end of your lead rope before you practice this with a horse.
- ▶ Keep the life up in your horse.

- **Some Safety Rules**

- ▶ Rakes should always be put away directly after done using. If you need to set one down for a bit, make sure the tines are facing down.
- ▶ Shovels should always be put away directly after done using. If you are setting it down for a short bit, make sure the scoop is facing down.
- ▶ Wheelbarrow should be stored in an upright position. Always put all tools away directly after using them.
- ▶ Pitchfork is especially dangerous. Use caution at all times when handling a pitch fork. Never use pitchfork in a manner in which someone could be poked. Never put a pitch fork through a fence or stall window if the horse is leaning towards it.
- ▶ If not wearing either your jacket or your helmet, they need to be secured in such a way that the wind will not blow them, at all times. Breezes and winds come up suddenly and a loose flying element can frighten a horse.
- ▶ Keep lunge line in neat coils in your hands or with a float of more than 1 at all times when you have it attached to a horse.
- ▶ Never allow the rope to coil tightly or even somewhat tightly around your hand.

Note: Any required videos are available to borrow from Robin. Any recommended reading is the responsibility of the student to acquire. Many of these books are available at the local library.