

8 Now jump up on the colt's withers and swing your legs back and forth a few times to warn him that you're coming. Then swing all the way up onto his back by sliding first one leg up to run the length of his spine and then the other leg so that you are lying along the topline of the colt [Photos J & K]. Keep your knees together.

For your safety, it's extremely important that you keep your knees together. The better you keep your knees together, the safer you are because as long as they're together, you're not riding the horse. If he gets frightened and moves forward, you can easily slide off and land on your feet. If your knees aren't together, you could end up grabbing onto each side of his body if he jumped forward and then you'd be riding the horse, which means you would be in danger of getting thrown off. Remember, you DO NOT want to ride the colt; you just want to get him used to you being up on his back and desensitized to your weight. You want him to realize that it's a pleasant experience and nothing he needs to be worried about.



If the colt is quiet and has proven to you that he doesn't want to act silly, you can fold the lead rope in half and lay it over his neck so that it is out of your way, but it's where you could easily reach it if he went to move.

9 Once you're lying on the colt, vigorously rub him on both sides of his body with your hands in big circular motions [Photo L]. Don't stop rubbing the entire time you're lying on him.

Remember, you are a human curry comb. As soon as you get up on the colt's back immediately start rubbing him with both of your hands in big circular motions, one on each side, like you're a massive big curry comb. Rub him on his neck, on his sides, under his belly, and anywhere else you can reach. You don't want to rub him so hard that you're hurting him, but you don't want to get up there and be real sneaky about the whole thing. The worst thing you can do is get up there and be scared. The whole secret to the success of this exercise is to act like a human curry comb – rubbing the colt everywhere your hands can reach. If you get up there and act timid, he'll read your body language and become suspicious and nervous. Act like he's an old, broke, kids horse and you're just rubbing him down. The worst thing that can happen at this point is the

