

this exercise is the first step in teaching the concept of moving his hind end away from pressure.

III. TEACHING STAGE

1 Loop the string from the Handy Stick around the foal's neck and then thread the end of the string through the eye to create a loop around the foal's neck. Once you have the end of the string through the eye, tie it off loosely so that it won't tighten if the foal pulls against you [Photo A].



This is one of several lessons where you'll use the string from the Handy Stick to fashion a loop around the foal's neck. Using the string will give you better control of the foal's movements and make it easier for him to understand what you're asking him to do. I've found that using the string around the foal's neck rather than a rope halter keeps the teaching process uncomplicated for both the handler and foal. Remember, the simpler you can keep it for yourself, the easier it will be for the foal to understand what you're asking him to do. If you use a halter before the foal understands how to yield to pressure from behind his ears, he will be more worried about the halter pressure

than about trying to understand the lesson. The string should be loose around the foal's neck so that when you pick up on it, there's plenty of free space between the string and his neck. When you tie the string off, be sure that you do it correctly so that when you pick up on the string and apply pressure, it doesn't tighten around his neck and make him feel uncomfortable.

2 Stand on the foal's left side, next to his ribcage so that your belly button is facing his body.

When foals yield their hindquarters, it's common for them to take a step back with their front legs. If you're standing up by the foal's shoulder, it is likely that he'll step on you. Even though he's not a 1,000 pound animal, it's always best to use precaution and protect yourself. Always practice safety first.

3 Place the fingertips of your right hand on the side of the foal's hindquarters. Then spread your fingers like prongs on a pitchfork [Photo B].

There are three buttons on a horse's side—the back, middle and front. The back, near the flank, moves the hindquarters; the middle moves the ribcage; and the front, near the girth, moves the shoulders. Place your fingertips on the side of the

