

ZONES OF THE HORSE

Knowing and understanding the zones of the horse is a very important part in keeping you and the horse safe. Certain zones are safer to approach than others. When working with horses, you can also ask them to move in a certain direction by utilizing their zones. Horses and livestock animals have what we call a line of motion or point of balance. The horse's line of motion is located at their withers. If you apply pressure in front of their line of motion, the horse will move backwards. If you apply pressure behind their line of motion, the horse will move forward. Let's check it out!

ZONES:

1. The horse's nose and head. When riding at JHTR you will steer your horse's nose in the direction you want to go. This zone is helpful in building a horse's confidence!
2. Right behind the horse's ears and runs down to their withers. If you apply pressure to this zone, the horse will either turn away or back up. This zone is also where your reins are located when riding. **This is the safest zone to approach because the horse can always see you!**
3. The horse's front legs and barrel. If you apply pressure to this zone, the horse will either move forward or sideways. This zone is where the saddle sits on the horse!
4. The horse's hind legs to the base of the tail. When you apply pressure to this zone the horse will move forward.
5. The horse's tail. **The horse cannot see you when you approach this zone which makes it the most dangerous zone to approach!** You can be easily kicked in this zone if the horse gets startled. When brushing a horse's tail at JHTR, always stand beside the horse's hind leg and hold their tail to the side!

