

Groundwork Test



Imagine you're standing in...

The center of a clock, the horse follows the numbers



Emotional pressure

With the horse facing you, whip the ground left & right.



Go Now, Stop Now

The horse The horse should lope before 9.

Test your horse.

This test reveals a horses' understanding of groundwork cues and their emotional control.

The purpose of this test is to evaluate a horses understanding of emotional and physical transitions. The test includes standing still during emotional pressure, moving energetically forward, stopping quickly and standing under emotional pressure.

1

WHIP AROUND

This tests the horses ability to stay calm when the energy in the room goes up.

2

TURN & LOPE

This tests the horses willingness to move forward, with understanding.

3

STOP AND WHIP

This tests the ability to transition between high energy and low energy smoothly.

Step 1:

Stand in the center of the clock, horse facing you. Whip the ground loudly around the horse.

Passing: horse stands quietly but attentive.

Failing: horse moves, try to go left or right.
Proceed if passing.



Step 2:

Ask the horse to turn to your left (counterclockwise). Ask the horse to lope before reaching 9 o'clock.

Passing: horse lopes before reaching 9 o'clock, confident, relaxed.

Failing: horse bolts. Horse drags rider. Horse refuses to lope by 9 o'clock. Horse breaks gait.

Step 3:

Ask the horse to stop at 12 o'clock, facing you. Whip the ground loudly.

Passing: the horse stops at 12 o'clock, stands quietly but attentive while you whip.

Failing: Horse travels past 12 o'clock. Horse stops but won't stand still during whipping.

FAILING THE TEST & RECOVERING

If you and your horse fail this test, DO NOT REPEAT THE TEST AS A FORM OF TRAINING. Instead...Observe where the communication was lacking and work on the individual components of the test.

If the horse would not stand for the whipping around it is a sign that he is too light and sensitive. If the horse would not lope by 9 or tried dragging you, then the horse is too dull.

If he passed step 1 & 2 but not 3...then he is close to understanding. It is likely that this horse has the basics but the handler has not asked the horse to do transitions in quick sequences.

