

Setting a Solid Foundation

Four Stages of Breaking a Horse:

- 1) Setting the Foundation (1st month)
 - a. Vertical direction: four stages with willing submission, ride a perfectly straight line and curved line (horizontal direction) at any speed.
 - b. The horse should ride perfectly between your hands and feet.

- 2) Using Jobs to Build on the Foundation (2nd month)
 - a. There are many things a person can do, for this class you will be tested on the material on the “second month task completion score sheet.”
 - b. In this stage you must sacrifice your roping for horsemanship, the focus is not on accomplishing the job, but using the job to build on the foundation. We are focused on gaining *confidence* in the job and trust with you, don’t give them more than they can handle.

- 3) Taking the Foundation to do a Job (send them home)
 - a. In my training program this is where I would send the horse home and the person could have fun riding the horse and hopefully the horse had enough confidence that the person could sacrifice the foundation to try to get their job done (i.e., roping, cow working, etc.)

- 4) Maintaining the Foundation
 - a. A person can only sacrifice the foundation to get the job done for so long and then a person must come back and sacrifice the job to build on the foundation again, slowing down and gaining more confidence in the “four stages” with “willing submission” keeping “direction.”
 - b. After the first two months and you have sent the horse back home and the owner has sacrificed the foundation to get the job done, give the owner an option to send the horse back to you to put another month on them to re-establish the foundation again. After one month I usually send the horse back home again and the person may have to do this several times until the foundation sticks.
 - c. For best results educate your clients in how to keep the foundation.
 - d. Also I also encourage my clients to ride them right after training to get the feel of them, but also encourage them to turn them out to let the foundation set in.
 - e. I always like to turn a horse out after one or two months of hard riding. Just like us, a horse needs a break, turn them out that third month and often they will ride better than if you would have ridden them three months in a row.