

AMERICA'S HORSE

HOW TO TIE A LEAD ROPE



Tips for safely tying up your horse.

From the America's Horse library

Take Me to Your Lead Rope

Think about safety and remember this simple knot when tying up your horse.

By Dennis Moreland

EVERYTHING ABOUT HORSES HAS TO BE SAFETY FIRST.

1. When you tie a horse to a fence, don't tie too low. This particular stall has vertical bars, and if I looped the lead rope around the bottom of a bar, it would be too low, so I'm going to tie my horse to the top of the stall. Here's how:
2. After you've circled the lead rope around a stationary object (make sure it's very sturdy), make a loop with the portion of the rope closest to the halter.
3. Then take the tail of the rope and thread it through the loop.
4. Take the tail of the rope, wrap it once around the portion of the rope going to the horse's head, then thread it back up through the loop.
5. This is called a bowline knot, and you can always get slack in it to untie it easily.
6. As an additional note, make sure your lead rope fits the function. I usually use a half-inch nylon lead that ties directly onto the halter, and it's fine for tying a horse to a fence or trailer. But if I want to tie to a horse walker, or maybe to an overhead tree limb where the horse can circle around, I'll need a lead rope with a swivel snap on it to keep the lead rope from getting twisted. When you're buying a lead rope with a snap, make sure it's a good-quality snap that won't fail on you. ■



AQHA member Dennis Moreland has been making quality working tack since 1976. Visit www.dmtack.com to learn more about his Dennis Moreland Second Edition line.