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## **A Note on Haltering**

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When you must halter a reluctant horse, perhaps by placing it between gates or in some other severely confined space, it is difficult to figure how to create a reward sufficient for the horse to recognize it as such, so that it will be easier to halter the next time. Here is a way you can overcome that problem. After haltering the horse, place the lead rope over a solid pipe or other object and hold the end, while keeping the horse quiet in the confined space. Obtain another halter and gently place the noseband up and over the horse's nose, again and again, occasionally pretending to fasten the headstall as well. Each time the noseband slides up on the horse's nose, move it up and down gently, rubbing the horse's nose in a way that you think will feel good to it and reduce its resistance. At intervals, especially just after placing some part of the second halter on the horse, scratch its withers and neck and exclaim positively to it, as you do whenever rewarding it. Continue this until the horse begins to put its nose into the halter. You should find that the horse will gradually become quieter and more willing to accept the noseband and other movements around its neck and head.

You must keep the horse quiet during the use of the second halter. Be sure that the horse is eventually released from the confined space in a quiet way.

Repeat this every time you are required to confine the horse to halter it.

Remember that you should always give a reluctant horse time to become comfortable when you approach it for haltering, and you should never try to halter it suddenly or forcibly when you are in the open where you are likely to fail. I provide some other cautions and procedures in *Teaching Yourself to Train Your Horse*.

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