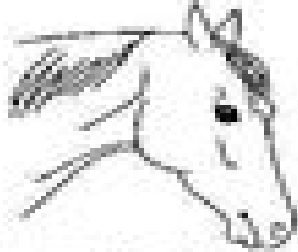


Reading a Horse's Ears

The horse's ears and actions are the key to his emotions. He can tell you what he is paying attention to and how he feels by the way he uses his ears and the way he acts. Following are some tips to his emotions.



Ears forward but relaxed
interested in what's in front of him



Ears turned back but relaxed
listening to his rider or what's behind him



Ears pointed stiffly forward
alarmed or nervous about what's ahead. Looking out for danger



Ears pointed left and right
relaxed, paying attention to the scenery on both sides



Ears wiggly back
annoyed or excited about what's behind him; might kick if annoyed



Droopy ears
calm and resting; horse may be dozing



Ears flattened against neck
violently angry, in a fighting mood
Play fight, bite or kick

Other signs you should watch for:

- **Flicking the tail down tightly.**
Danger to the rear.
Horse may bolt, buck or kick.
Watch out if ears are flattened too!
- **Swishing the tail.**
Annoyance and irritation
 - all biting flies, stinging insects or ticks
 - itchy areas of a rider or another horse.
- **Droopy ears and resting one hind leg on the other.**
Calm and resting. Horse may be dozing.
Don't wake him up by startling him!
- **Wincing up the face and swinging the head.**
Threatening posture of an angry or bossy horse.
Watch out for biting or kicking.