# DVM1 Horse Handling and Restraint

# Session 2

A close up of a sign

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## Learning outcomes:

At the end of this practical students should:

* Demonstrate how to correctly apply a horse rug
* Tie a horse to a break away using a quick release knot.

Assumed competencies:

* Know the correct procedure for safely approaching a horse
* Be able to catch a horse, fit and secure a halter and lead a horse
* Identify and appropriately use grooming equipment.

### Preparation

For the second horse handling practical class we will continue to work on approaching the horse and applying a head collar in addition learning how to apply a horse rug and tie up using a quick release knot. Please review the material below prior to attending the practical class.  Throughout these sessions you will complete the same tasks that you did on the simulators but on the live animal.

Watch these videos:

Application of a Rug- [UOM - AHCS - Equine - Basic Handling - Application Of A Horse Rug (Simulation) HiRes 2022-08-19.mp4](https://unimelbcloud.sharepoint.com/:v:/t/MVSDVMAHCS2/EeOxgIim_89KlNVGVOKDUVAB4pXkqaUHNvD0FgBj47FHog?e=QXJLaR)

Quick Release knot- <https://echo360.net.au/media/34c7ab18-1e1c-4731-bfa6-1aa2674729e0/public>

### Application of a Rug

Horses are incredibly adaptable when it comes to climate and are found in both, some of the hottest and the coldest places on earth ranging from -40°C to 60°C.

Being warm-blooded, the horse tries to keep its central (core) temperature as close to 38°C as possible. However, in very cold climates the extremities of the body such as the feet may fall as low as 5-10°C or reach as high as 60°C when standing on hot sand.

In simple terms, the horse will feel cold or hot when the air temperature falls below 0°C (the lower critical temperature) or rises above 25°C (the upper critical temperature). There are several main reasons why we use rugs on our horses at this time of year: to keep them warm; to keep them dry; to keep them clean. If they get wet they lose more heat.

All horses should have access to shelter and, where they have good shelter, healthy younger horses do not always need to be rugged. Each horse is different though so treat each horse individually, with some being more likely to need extra warmth and protection than others.

The clinical skills booklet will provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to apply a horse rug.

[Equine Placement of a horse rug.pptx](https://unimelbcloud.sharepoint.com/:p:/t/MVSDVMAHCS2/EYg3zzok5DVGlFXzuxmajqcB_6VS4YJB0CfeNPz2_WhJBw?e=JoE1Uc)

### Quick Release Knot

The value of the quick release knot is its ability to be quickly and easily untied in the event of an emergency. If a tied horse panics and pulls back on the rope, a single tug on the end of the lead will free them. The quick release knot’s ability to provide an “emergency exit” is the reason it is valued as the knot of choice for safely tying horses.

The lead rope should be tied to allow just enough slack that the horse can hold his head normally, but not so loose that he is able to lower his head to the point that he could potentially get his leg over the rope. As an added safety precaution to ensure a foolproof breakaway for your horse in an emergency, horses should be secured to a “safety string” created by tying a loop of baling twine around the post or through a ring. They should never be tied directly to a fixed object.

The clinical skills booklet will provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to tie a quick release knot.

[Equine Quick release knot.pptx](https://unimelbcloud.sharepoint.com/:p:/t/MVSDVMAHCS2/EZpjgwz-PKFKjJR6PMWD8KoB7OWdvSnx0neqasASYbajsg?e=KTZDxe)