



Horse Body Language

A horse's mind and body are deeply connected. When you read a horse's body language, you are reading its mind. A horse is continually giving off signals about what it is feeling – anger, defiance, boredom, fatigue, relaxation or submission. A horse never pretends ... what you see is what you get.

- **Horse's head is up** – something's wrong or has attracted his attention. He's worried or concerned about something.
- **Horse's head is lowered** – if it's staying in a lowered position the horse is being submissive (often out of fear).
- **Horse holds his head level with his back then bobs it up and down** – the best signal of all – the horse is bowing to you saying 'I respect you'.
- **A horse uses its head to challenge you** – by putting his head into your space.
- **Ears pinned back** – the horse is angry (stand back).
- **Ears laid back** – he's relaxed and attentive and has your attention.
- **Ears pricked forward** – his attention is fixed on something in the distance and he is alert.
- **Ears that constantly move around** – the horse is relaxed and tuned in to the environment around it.
- **The horse rolls his lips around, chews, blinks, flexes his nostrils and blows out of his nose** – a relaxed horse.
- **The horse's face looks frozen, stiff with wide eyes** – he's scared of something.
- **Standing, the horse's front legs are even** – a calm stable position.
- **Standing with one leg forward** – the horse could be restless and ready to move.
- **A horse's tail is tight against the croup** – the horse is apprehensive.
- **Tail is swishing** – the horse is agitated.
- **The tail is pointed up and stiff** – the horse is excited.
- **The tail hangs light and loose** – the horse is calm.

