

# Trainer Tips

Welcome to Frontier Western Shop's resource of training advice from professional horse trainers! Each month we will post a new article from one of our accredited trainers in different disciplines of competition and horsemanship.

## November 2009 Team Penning with Dave Fraser

Having a well broke horse makes for a lot more enjoyment and a good relationship between a penner and his horse. It is also easier to pen consistently and be more competitive if you have a good working relationship with your horse and he is easy for you to control.

Today there are quite a few horses that become penning horses that come out of cowhorse, reining or cutting programs. These horses have been broke and trained specifically for these events, giving them a good foundation for when we start penning on them. This sometimes makes it easier for us as they will usually go where you want and respond to what is being asked of them.

We work on people at clinics to give them horsemanship instruction on how to keep control of their horses throughout their run. This not only provides a safe environment for the penner, but maximizes their chances to be competitive. Being in position gives you the best chance of success.

Taking time out to improve your horsemanship will reinforce a lot of basics to you and your horse. He will become better broke and more controllable, with you both being more confident when the pressure is on during competition. Spend time just riding your horse. Simple things like riding him up into your hands with your legs, moving off your legs, speed transitions, or just stopping and standing still, will reap rewards later during your runs. To be able to get him to speed up, slow down, stop, bend and flex, respond to leg pressure, and be soft in the bridle takes time, but is usually time well spent.

Penning is a timed event. When you speed your horse up it is easy to lose control. A lot of



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### **Team Penning Accomplishments**

2 Time CTCPA National Hi Point Champion Truck Winner  
1998 CTCPA National Finals Open Class Winner  
4 Time AQHA World Show Qualifier  
2001 CTCPA National Finals Hi Point Open Rider  
Cheyenne Frontier Days Shoot Out Champion  
Cam Clark Super Classic Shoot Out Champion  
USTPA Finals Top 10 Open  
2002 Denver National Western Champion  
2002 Calgary Stampede Champion  
2002 Regina Agribition Champion

penning horses have no problem going from 'slow to fast' , but often struggle going from 'fast to slow', sometimes making it difficult to make successful runs.

How you handle your horse and keep them in position and under control, will have a major impact on your success in the penning arena. If we are confident in how well our mounts are prepared to respond to us in various situations, success will come to us more often.