

## 4-H PEI VIRTUAL EQUINE PROJECT

# UNIT 2 – Trailering



Please view all of the videos and articles listed below.

**Articles:** **Equine Code of Practice** (review all of [Section 8: Transportation](#))

[https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine_code_of_practice.pdf)

**Video:** **Trailering your Horse Safely** (~5 min) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6V\\_Z9mo2bc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6V_Z9mo2bc)

**Video:** **Ask the Vet - Trailering safety tips** (~7 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfBCFi1CUQU>

**Video:** **Horse Trailering Tips** (~15 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysWSeiuuDs>

**NOTE:** For the safety of the handler it is a very good idea to always wear a helmet, gloves, and closed toed shoes (preferably boots) when loading a horse on a trailer, especially when training a horse to load. Some people even choose to wear a safety vest when working on trailer loading with an inexperienced and/or difficult horse.

The number one mistake people make when it comes to trailering their horses is simply that they do not train their horses regularly for loading. Just like any skill your horse learns you they need to have regular practice at it for your horse to be a reliable loader. One thing some people do to keep their horses keen to load is occasionally feed them their grain meals in the trailer. However even just having them walk on and off the trailer a couple times every few months can keep this skill from getting rusty.

Below are 4 videos on training horses to load. Each trainer has their own techniques but the similarities in all videos are:

1. **Patience** – The trainers take all the time that is needed for the horse to learn what is expected of it.
2. **Kindness** – Any training methods that implements the use of pain or fear will generally cause more issues than they solve. This is not to say you will never use punishment as a correction for dangerous behaviour or rudeness, but punishment should always be used sparingly and fairly. For the most part punishment is only acceptable for discouraging an undesirable behaviour such as kicking or biting. Using punishment as motivation to learn new things is abusive; in the short term it may yield results with some horses but in the long run it can shake your horses' confidence in themselves and their handler.
3. **Consistency & Clarity** – Although each trainer has a different method they all have their own ways to communicate to the horse with clarity what they are asking of it.

**Video:** **How to Load a Horse On a Trailer** (~11 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhBXyEoe7oA>

**Video:** **Loading a Difficult Horse** (~12.5 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh4XENWCdRc>

**Video:** **Positive Horse Training** (~2 min) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF\\_Q8klm7NI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF_Q8klm7NI)

**Video:** **How to Teach Your Horse to Walk into the Trailer on its own** (~2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy0IzIx8hZA>