

How to Circle and What Makes a Good Circle

In order to turn your horse in a circle there are many things you need to think about. You need to make sure you are able to keep your space and control your horse.



How To Circle Your Horse:

Here are a few steps to follow when circling your horse.

Call out

1. If you are riding with others it is important to remember to call out before you circle. This will help the other riders know where you are going so they can plan where they have to go. Then everyone can keep their own space.

Look, Eyes, Shift, Weight, Hips

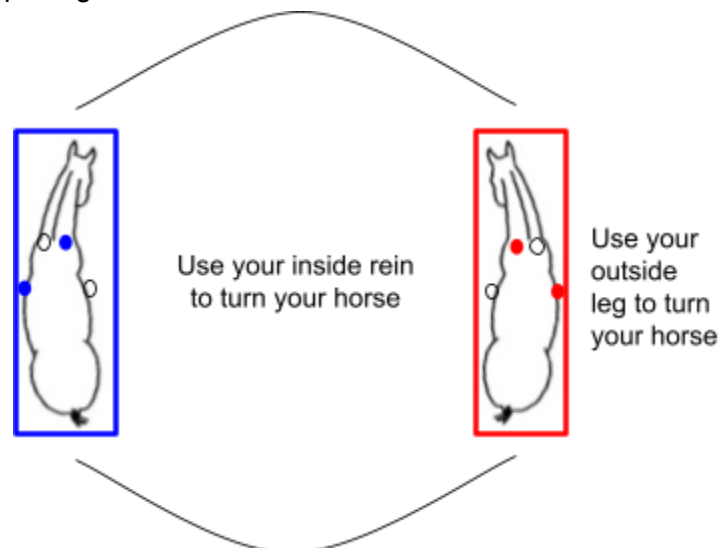
2. Looking in the direction you want to go will help your horse know where to go. If you do not look where you are going your horse will get confused and not listen as well. When you turn and look your horse will feel your hips and weight shift and will understand where you are trying to turn them.

Forward, Energy, Lots of Leg

3. Using your legs helps to steer your horse in a circle as well as keeps them moving. You should have more energy and squeeze with your legs to keep your horse going at the correct speed. Use more pressure with one leg so your horse knows which way to circle.

Steer, Left, Right, Inside, Outside, Direction, Bend, Turn

4. Make sure to ask your horse correctly to turn in a circle. You should use your inside rein and outside leg to turn the horse in a circle. Be careful not to pull the rein too much so you can keep a big circle.



Qualities of a good circle:

These are the things that make a circle good.

Same Direction not Reverse

- ★ While doing a circle you should continue going the same direction. Never circle towards the wall, always to the inside of the arena and keep your distance from the other horses.

Big, Round, Even, Space, looking

- ★ A circle should be big, even, and round. This will make it easier on the horses and make sure that they don't get hurt. You should be staying the same distance from the center of the circle the whole time.

Control

- ★ Practicing doing a good circle can help you learn to control your horse's speed and direction. This is important to understand so you can be a safe and confident rider.



Timing

- ★ Time your circles correctly so you can have the right spacing and speed. If you circle while there is a horse next to you that may cause a problem. If you circle after they pass you will have more room to keep everyone safe.

Transitioning in a circle, leg, energy

- ★ A circle that is too small will cause your horse to slow down. So it is important to make sure your horse stays in the correct gate. You should do a big circle and continue to remind the horse what speed they should go. Your horse should only transition when they are told to.

