



Dealing with an unruly horse

Horses establish dominance by aggression. Because they relate to you as part of their herd, you will want to be higher in the hierarchy than your horse. If your horse doesn't respect you it can be a very dangerous situation for you.

Signs of disrespect include turning their back to you, stepping on you, crowding you, slamming their body against you or hitting you with their head. Horses also give clear signs when they are mad, uncomfortable, stressed or unhappy before they kick or bite. Unsafe signs include pinned ears, baring teeth, switching tail or aggressive look in their eyes.

Not correcting bad behavior ultimately rewards your horse for being disrespectful.

What do you do if you already own an unruly horse and you are an inexperienced horse owner?

You can either sell your horse and find a more suitable one or find a reputable trainer or horse person in your area to train your horse and teach you how to develop the horse's respect and your own horsemanship skills. There are established methods that a good trainer can use to help you and your horse.

Dr. Fernanda C. Camargo and her friend Skye.



**Read Dr. Camargo's horseback riding safety blog
by following the link at saddleupSAFELY.org.**