



Instructions for Use

Ezyloader Head Collar Adapter

If you are reading this then the chances are your horse is difficult to load, or lead. I have been a professional horse transporter for over 10 years, and have moved hundreds of horses, so I come across “bad loaders” all of the time. I really understand how frustrating this problem can be – especially when stuck at or trying to get to a show or event!

Being dragged across a yard is never fun either. The rules are the same for horses that are difficult to lead. With bargy or highly strung horses – increase the pressure for unwanted behaviour and reward/praise good behaviour.

There are many types of loading evasion tactics that different horses present us with but 90% of them respond positively and load successfully using the Ezyloader, as long as it is used correctly.

I have developed this device alongside an Equine Vet and other horse professionals, but the training aid is only as effective as the person using it. Here are some (not all) of the common reactions from horses that are difficult to load:-

1. The horse may not go near the horsebox at all. Even when seeing it at the bottom of the driveway! He may stop and refuse to move forward towards it and even back away.
2. Your horse may walk to the bottom of the ramp and then stop. No amount of coaxing or pulling or feeding will make him move an inch, or even place one hoof on the bottom of the ramp!
3. Your horse may dance around the bottom of the ramp, going from side to side and twisting and turning. Any steps at all, rather than placing a hoof on the ramp itself. Often leaving himself in a position, perhaps sideways, or at the side edge of the ramp where you can't then proceed to make him walk forwards.
4. Your horse may rear, sometimes right up in the air waving his legs in your face or even going over backwards in an attempt to not go in.
5. Finally your horse may walk up the ramp (or sometimes angrily run up it!), get to the top and then reverse back down again, over and over again.

BEFORE YOU START:

Before you have connected the Ezyloader to your head collar, you need to ensure you understand the following (NB if your head collar has a loose, as opposed to a fixed ring, on the underside please see the note at the end*):-

1. Put on a hat and gloves and have a long lead rope, or cut a lungeline off to leave yourself with a good length of lead rope, so you can get out of the way if needed without letting go.
2. Proceed with total confidence – your horse WILL be able to tell if you don't mean business!
3. Each movement and action from you needs to be clear and consistent to get the message across and for it to work.
4. Don't let anyone else help you. This method is a one to one training session between just you and the horse. Anyone else standing around or pushing from behind or waving their hands will stop it from working. The horse has got to have TOTAL concentration on just YOU, with no other people to distract this relationship.
5. If your horse is a youngster or has never loaded before then you can still use the Ezyloader but do so with more patience and be gentle and understanding. It is great for teaching them what they are supposed to do.
6. Don't be in a rush. Allow plenty of time for the first few sessions. Don't wait until you are late for a show and are stressed!

THE RULES:

The first thing you are going to do (and nowhere near the horsebox) is to get your horse to move backwards and forwards. With each action you are trying to get your horse to do you need to follow the rules:

1. Ask your horse first with no pressure on the Ezyloader
2. If he does as you ask (ie walk forwards or reverse backwards) then praise him with a coaxing and friendly voice "good boy well done".
3. If he doesn't do as you ask, then ask again with NO pressure from the Ezyloader, but with a more angry sounding voice, "WALK ON". If he then does as you ask then immediately coax again with a friendly voice. He needs to hear the clear difference in your voice tone, when he has done good or bad.
4. If he still hasn't done as you ask, then pull on the Ezyloader FIRMLY whilst asking for the action again in a kind voice. Do not let off the pressure until the horse moves in the direction you are asking, even if it's only ONE INCH! As soon as he even shuffles forward the teeniest distance you must let go of the pressure IMMEDIATELY and praise with a "good boy well done" voice.
5. So its Ask your horse, Ask again, Ask with pressure from Ezyloader and don't release the pressure until he has made a movement in the right direction. Sometimes this may take 10-15 mins of continuous pressure but you MUST NOT give in. This will be the longest time you ever have to battle it out, as once you have won the battle, it will get easier and easier until there is no battle.

6. Once you have got your horse moving forwards and reversing backwards and respecting your commands fluently, you are ready to approach the horsebox.
7. The same rules apply no matter what type of bad loader you have from my above list. You praise the forward movement and growl/shout and put pressure on the Ezyloader when they don't move as you ask, but releasing it and using your kind voice the moment they do. Take your time, this stage must not be rushed.
8. Some horses may rear to get the pressure off but you mustn't let go (but keep yourself a safe distance away to not get hurt). If your horse does rear then shout/growl and pull HARD down on the Ezyloader until he lands when you must release the pressure. I find that they never try to rear a second time once they realise how uncomfortable it is when you hang on.
9. If your horse side steps then NEVER turn your horse away and re-align them. You must pull on the Ezyloader in the direction you need them to be in until they sort themselves out. Each time you turn your horse away to turn and come back correctly you are rewarding them. You must always ask them to come onto the ramp and never to turn away from it. You can pull them back around to the centre of the ramp using the Ezyloader without turning them away from it. If your ramp is low enough then keep asking them to step forward onto it, even if it's from the side.
10. If your horse plants and doesn't move at the bottom of the ramp then start by gently pulling the Ezyloader, and if there is no movement then increase the pulling pressure and start to sway/pull it from side to side. This will eventually annoy the horse into giving in and stepping forwards – often in a temper! But as soon as you get that first step immediately release the pressure and praise with your voice. When you ask for another step then do the same thing and ask first with no pressure, and then add pressure and ask again, using your voice. The voice and pressure must go hand in hand to get the clear message across.

The procedure is the same with all types of horse. Pressure on if they refuse to go forwards after asking nicely first. Don't release the pressure (in fact increase it slowly) until you get the motion you have asked for, and then immediately release and praise using your voice. Wait a few seconds and then ask again for another step.

The device does work in almost every horse that is a bad loader but it needs to be used correctly by the handler. With patience and practise you can retrain your horse to be the perfect loader. If you have any questions please email us at hello@myhorsenetwork.co.uk and we will be able to help.

*If your head collar has a loose ring underneath that moves around to the side of the head when pressure is increased then clip the Ezyloader clip to the same Square ring that you first threaded the Ezyloader through – creating a full circle around the nose. It is important that you ensure you release the pressure immediately the horse behaves in the way you have requested.

IMPORTANT WARNING –

NEVER use the Ezyloader to tie up your horse. This is a training aid only.