



# Behaviour

Equine Guelph Horse Behaviour & Safety Workshop

# Body Language

Horses use body language to “talk”  
Their signals are easily understood  
by other horses

# Head Positions



# High Head

Carried high when tense  
or anxious/fearful



# Low Head

If face is taut and tense  
*and*  
head is low,  
horse is **angry**



# Body

Are either of these horses relaxed?



# Tail

- Carried **high** denotes anxiety/spirit
- **Lashing** is a sign of **anger**
- **Flicking** may be a sign of annoyance or a fly biting
- **Clamped tight** against the body is a sign of **fear**

# First Line of Defense

- “Flight or Fight”
- Horses have a large “safety space”
- Horses have lightning reflexes



# Other Creative Attacks

- Up and
- Over
- **WWE** (World Wrestling Entertainment) **moves**

# How Does the Horse Kick?

- When kicking, the power comes from his hip. Stay in close or stay outside his kicking range, which is about 15 feet
- Horses can kick to the side as well as to the rear

# How Does He Get Up?

- Heads up!
- Face forward
- And onto your feet

# The Psychological Horse



# End of Section