Prof. Jesse Beery’s

A Course In
HORSEMANSHIP

Book 3 - Lesson Seven

KICKING and BALKING

How to handle a No. 2 type Kicker
How to handle a No. 3 type Kicker
How to handle a No. 4 type Kicker
How to handle Kickers belonging in a combination of types
History of "Black Demon," the Vicious Stallion
Supplementary Appliances for Kickers
How to handle Balkers of different types
How to handle Confirmed Balkers
How to handle horses that Rear

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WHY A HORSE KICKS

Nature has provided all animals with some means of defense. The dog has sharp teeth; the cat, teeth and claws; the cow, sharp horns; and the horse, solid hard hoofs. Kicking is the horse's natural method of defense. In a horse's wild, natural state, biting and striking may be the introduction to a battle, or small difficulties may be settled with the forefeet and mouth, but the principal battles are fought with the hind feet. As we know the horse, he has no more need to kick than a cow to use her horns. But the fact remains that there are an enormous number of horses that have this habit.

The causes for kicking are numerous, but they may be reduced to two. The first is, the Disposition of the horse. The types No. 3 and No. 4 have the instinct of self-defense developed so highly that at the least indication of danger, or mistreatment, they defend themselves. This tendency is so marked in some horses of these types that they kick at almost nothing. The habit grows to such an extent that it becomes easy for the horse to kick, until we say it has a "Disposition" to kick.

Because it has this disposition is no reason for classing it as an outlaw and thinking it cannot be handled. Its natural tendencies will only require more patient and persevering effort to make it as obedient as those in any other type.

Most horses do not kick on account of a bad disposition, but because their owners were ignorant and REALLY TAUGHT them to kick by poor management in colt training.

If the horse kicks when the hold-back strap breaks and leaves the cross-piece of the shafts strike the hind quarters, it is only an indication that he was not properly educated when a colt.

Kicking because the line gets under the tail is another indication of poor training when a colt.

This reminds me of a circumstance that happened years ago, in my first work. I was handling a colt, and had, so I thought, made the work very thorough, but I had not poled him. I had hitched up and driven him quite a distance, everything going apparently all right, when in switching his tail he caught the line, and bringing this line in contact with the unbroken member of his body, he immediately became unmanageable; with the result that we had a regular smash-up, breaking the harness and rig all to pieces. After this accident it was necessary to give the colt a lesson in subjection in order to remove the bad impression that had been made, through my attempting to hitch him up before every member of his body was educated. Do not make this mistake yourself; be sure that the colt is indifferent to being touched anywhere about the body so that the touch of the harness, will not frighten him.

I cannot place too much emphasis upon the necessity of thorough colt training. Of the thousands of horses brought to me to be broken of a bad habit, had a few minutes a day, for a few days in their early training, been spent in making every part of their body submissive, many hundreds of accidents would have been prevented.
The poling process explained in Book No. 1 may seem simple and unnecessary, but it has been the means of preventing many horses from becoming confirmed kickers.

Through bad management and lack of early colt training not only types No. 3 or No. 4 are made to kick, but also types No. 1 or No. 2 have been driven to the same habit. I say 'driven' to it because any horse with any life about him, will, in madness defend himself.

Every horse that becomes a kicker (excepting some in type No. 4) does so in self-defense. Of course, after the habit is repeated a few times he learns his power, and it becomes a vicious habit. Since there are these two steps in forming the habit, there are two things necessary to fix in the minds of the kicker. First, submission. Second, he must learn that whatever caused him to kick will not hurt him now.

Rough handling is injurious and does no good. The treatment for any habit depends upon the disposition of the horse, its age and the length of time it has had the habit.

An old horse or one that has had a habit for many months or years, is much more difficult to break than a colt or horse that has exercised a habit but a few times.

A horse may kick much harder the first time or two after starting to kick, than one that has kicked off and on for a long time, but the latter is much more difficult to break than the former.

The causes of kicking are so nearly alike in types No. 1 and No. 3 that the plan for handling both will be covered in one set of instructions. No. 2 and No. 4 being alike, should be handled alike. Types Nos. 1 and 3 may be called nervous kickers, and types Nos. 2 and 4, stubborn kickers. It is very seldom, however, that you will find a type No. 2 that kicks.

**HOW TO HANDLE A NO. 1 OR NO. 3 KICKER**

With nervous kickers (No. 1 or No. 3), give general subjection by throwing, followed by the use of the safety rope as described in the lesson on Subjection. When the horse shows complete subjection by throwing, while he is yet down pole his body all over, until he shows no resistance when touched. Repeat the poling process after you put the safety rope on the horse. If you are using a Beery Bit, always have it adjusted in the "Easy Adjustment" when using the safety rope and when you take off the rope then fasten bit for a "Powerful Bit."

Have a string of tin pans on hand arranged as follows:

Buy a half dozen ordinary tin stew pans—without handles to them—these pans should be from six to eight inches in diameter and from two or three inches deep, punch a hole in the center of the bottom of each, with a spike nail, or anything that will make a hole large enough to run a 5-16 inch rope through.

Now take a 5-16 inch rope, either sash cord or a good grade of regular cotton rope, long enough so that you can string all these pans on it, having each pan just the right distance from the one above it so that the edge will strike the pan above and below it.
if the string of tin pans is picked up and moved in the slightest degree.

To "string" these properly, tie a knot in the end of the rope, run the rope through the hole in one of the pans, tie another knot in the rope three or four inches above the pan, and then run the rope through the second pan, keeping the bottom of the pans up, of course, and so continue until you have from four to half a dozen pans on a single "string." Then fasten a snap to the upper end of the rope, so that you can fasten this snap to the ring in the crupper, if you care to. This snap makes a nice hand-hold, too, when you are using the pans about the horse.

It is usually best to have three or four "strings" of pans ready to use whenever you need them.

Your assistant should fasten a string of tin pans to the horse's crupper. In doing this, he should step to the horse's left side, about on a line with his hips and if he is very nervous and excitable and tries to kick, or even shows an inclination to do so, have another assistant take hold of his head with his left hand, stand on the left side of the horse, and with his right hand, press on the horse's left shoulder and pull his head slightly toward the left, but not enough to make the horse turn his hind quarters away from the man who is handling the pans.

He should reach back with his right hand, in which he is holding the pans (these should all be placed, one within the other, as near as possible, so they will not dangle against the horse's legs until you are ready for them to); and fasten the snap in the ring on the crupper. Just as your assistant fastens the snap he should spring backward, toward the front of the horse and away from him.

You should be ready to control the horse with the safety rope and lines and, it would be best for your assistant to have the guy-line, merely fastened to the bit ring, on the left side, to assist, if need be, in controlling the horse's first, most reckless resistance.
Many horses will do some very vicious kicking in the start.

The object is not to make the horse more nervous but to show him that you can control him when he is doing his very worst, if that end cannot be accomplished, the pans had better be off.

Have someone make all the racket possible behind and at both sides of the horse. This racket should start rather abruptly so the horse will resist quickly. When he shows any inclination to kick, bring him to his knees, one time after another with the safety rope until he pays no attention to the racket or dangling pans. If there is any particular place or object that caused him to kick before, repeat the work there.

If the kicker is old and confirmed in the habit you should give him a lesson in general subjection (Disabling and throwing and the use of the safety rope), followed by two or three lessons with the rope, one each day, before you try to hitch him up. When ready to hitch up, do not do so without first putting on the safety rope and giving him a "work-out." Use a four-wheeled rig.

Have an assistant help you hitch him up the first time. Have on the safety rope and the guy-line attached to the bit and use them to show the horse that you can control him between shafts just the same as you could outside of them.

Using tin pans, horse fiddles etc. to force a horse to resist the safety rope.

Just as soon as you feel that you can control him without the rope, tighten the left line and immediately following the command "Whoa" give a severe pull with the right line. At this point have your assistant take off the rope quickly and then repeat the command "Whoa" and the action, which will cause him to think that you have the same power over him that you had with the rope. If he fails to respond, use the safety rope. Continue until he will stop at command without any action whatever of the rope or lines.
You should use the rope, while driving, as you would at any other time. It is a good plan when the horse is hitched up, to run the rope back to the rig, along the outside of the horse's right hind leg and between the horse and the trace. Some prefer to run it between the trace and the shaft. Either plan is all right. Personally, I prefer having it between the trace and the shaft.

If the horse is young, or has only kicked a few times about one lesson of general subjection, followed immediately by the lesson between the shafts will be sufficient for him. The power of the safety rope should be reduced to the lines and then to the voice in handling a young horse just as you did it with the one that was old and confirmed in his habit.

Watch your horse carefully for a few drives, and when he shows any sign of fear, you can, by this wrench of the lines and a sharp "Take care" prevent him kicking and soon overcome the habit entirely. Be sure to keep him under control, for if he should kick again after having been subdued, he would be as confident of his superior strength as he was before subjection, and he will also learn to know when the appliances are on and when they are off. I do not want you to get the idea that horses in types No. 1 or No. 2 are desperate characters—they simply need the proper handling when once the habit becomes fixed, and if you carry out my instructions there is no reason why you should have any trouble in handling them.

Horse submissive with tin pans fastened to the crupper

HOW TO HANDLE A NO. 2 OR NO. 4 KICKER

If No. 2 or No. 4 type horse is badly confirmed in the habit it is usually best to use, either a second form war bridle or "Halter-Pulling Hitch"—which will be explained later, instead of the guy-line.

The guy-line is to be used in a certain way; (this too will be explained later)—in
connection with the safety rope before and after they are hitched up.

The "Halter-Pulling Hitch" is used only on kickers that are exceedingly sullen and do not respond to the use of the guy-line.

After hitching them to the post, as will be explained fully, under the head of "Halter Pulling," and forcing them back into the rope until they become afraid to pull against it, you untie them, put on the double safety rope, bridle and lines, leave on the halter-pulling rope and use it as you would a guy-line.

If the horse responds readily to a pull against the jaw or mouth and still fights the guy-line, then, as I have already mentioned, use the second form war bridle UNDER the ordinary bridle.

How the halter-pulling hitch is used in handling a No. 2 or No. 4 kicker. (This should be used with the Safety Rope.)

When the horse has entirely submitted, give him a good poling. When you have reached the stage where you no longer need your assistant, every time you start your horse, he should drop carefully back along the left side of the rig, without attracting the horse's attention in the least, until he is even with the rig, then while the horse is still in motion he should get in, holding the rope or strap, ready at a moment's notice, to jump out, run forward and assist you, if need be.

Showing Second Form War Bridle under ordinary or training bridle
Drive him until you get no resistance to the safety rope; then reduce the power of the rope to the lines and the voice by a strong pull and a twitch with the lines, as described above, and remove the rope and twitch. As soon as you feel that you can get along without the assistant using the war bridle, guy-line or halter-pulling hitch have him drop back carefully, from in front of the horse until he can hand the end of the rope or the line to you. At the least inclination to kick give the horse a severe jerk which will remind him of his subjective treatment and will stop his desire to kick. Take off the war bridle, guy-line or halter-pulling rope as soon as its power can be transferred to the lines.

It requires a great deal of patience and perseverance to train a horse of this kind. The appliances should be carried for some time, and if there are any indications of his not yielding to the lines, put on the appliances and give him a lesson in subjection. Do not use the appliances any more often or any longer at a time than is absolutely necessary, but use them hard while you do use them.

These same methods I have used in all my work, and have never failed, notwithstanding the most confirmed and vicious horses were often brought to me to handle.

It is a very easy matter, when using the safety rope, in connection with the guy-line, second form war bridle or "halter-pulling hitch" to "pump the horse out" with them; that is: when the horse starts to resist the rope, after the assistant has started him with the appliances he is using, you should pull the rope, just enough to control the front feet and by "giving and taking," that is, easing up on the rope enough to make the horse believe he can, by a movement of his front feet, regain the use of them, make the horse balance on his hind quarters; raise and drop his front quarters, until he will finally settle down on his knees submissively.

Your assistant, in the meantime, keeps the slack out of the strap or rope he is using, and if necessary, pulls on it, if he sees the horse is getting overbalanced and liable to fall over backwards.

"Working the horse out" with the Safety Rope
It may be interesting to know the details of the breaking of one of the most vicious kickers that is recorded in the history of horsemanship.

While I was giving an exhibition in Richmond, Indiana, I received a letter from a Mr. Lewis, of Jamestown, New York, who had noticed one of my advertisements, probably a "Beery Bit" advertisement, in one of his papers. He said he had a very valuable stallion eight years old and that he would give me $100.00 if I would come and break him. He said further that the horse had been hitched to a cart when two years old and had broken away from several men, who were helping to break him, and had kicked the cart to pieces. He had run and kicked for miles with a part of the sulky clinging to him, which bruised and cut him in such a manner that from that time on he would cringe and kick at the sight of a rig, or even a man coming up behind him. Many attempts had been made to break him, but all had failed.

Since I had arranged to make a tour through the west, I replied that I could not afford to go for the $100.00 but would go and break his horse if I could advertise and handle him publicly and receive the gate receipts in addition. He replied immediately that he accepted my proposition, and that there would be no trouble in getting a large audience, for the horse was known far and wide for his vicious kicking and the many failures to subdue him.

We had my tent put in storage and made the journey with my assistant. When we arrived, we were not disappointed in finding a subject that was to test to the utmost our skill as horsemen. He stood about sixteen hands high, well built and muscular. His beautiful form was well developed and powerful. He bore himself with pride and defiance, for he had met in his eight years of life, no man or beast that could curb his indomitable will.

The Celeron Ball Park was secured for the performance. It was an ideal place, as it was situated on the famous Chautauqua Lake, with its large pavilion and ball grounds beautifully lighted by electricity.

We advertised in the city papers that this horse would be handled, and when the night came it was proven to us, without a doubt, that this was one of the most famous horses we had ever found. Every seat in that great amphitheater was taken and an interesting, anxious audience awaited the performance.

When we first brought him out we placed the harness on him, to know for ourselves and to let the audience know just what sort of mettle we had to deal with. As fast as the harness could be placed on him he would send them flying across the arena. We then placed the throwing appliances upon him and threw him, with him kicking and resisting every move.

He kicked while toppling over on his side and kicked while down. He kicked first with one foot, and then with the other, and then both. When shaking a string of tin pans over him, while he was down, every time we came within reach of his feet, he would send them flying from our hands. After several minutes work he lessened his resistance to such an extent that we felt justified in letting him on his feet and putting on the safety ropes and guy-line.

He began as fresh as at the beginning. He reared, he plunged and kicked at everything...
in sight. He tugged and strained at the safety ropes as he felt his forelegs restrained. He kicked while one forefoot was up, and kicked while on both front knees, with one foot and with both.

I never saw a horse before nor one since, that could kick so hard, so quick, nor so continuously as that one. One of his tricks, was a quick leap backward and a lightning kick at the driver, which kept my assistant busy with his strenuous pulls on the guy-line.

After an hour and a half of continual fight, myself and assistants were so exhausted we could not continue the struggle and could see no apparent lessening in the strength of the horse. By consent of the audience we agreed to finish his subjection, hitch up, and drive him the following evening.

During the next day we took him in front of the amphitheater, with no audience present, thinking he might show some signs of submission while his muscles were sore. To our great surprise he was as limber and vicious as ever, as is shown by the photograph taken that morning.

You will observe that he was kicking so rapidly that it was impossible for the camera to catch and photograph his heels. We immediately put him back in the paddock and he remained there until evening.

The spacious amphitheater was as crowded that evening as the evening before. We started in with the determination to subdue him and drive him if it took all night. At the first attempt to put on the double safety ropes the fight began.

He was as game resisting and kicking as he was the night before. After he had ceased
somewhat to resist the safety ropes, we snapped tin pans to his crupper. No sooner would they be snapped fast, than by one of his lightning strokes he would send a pan with the speed of a baseball against the netting in front of the amphitheater.

The fight seemed to be getting harder and harder as we strained every nerve to come out victorious. The audience watched with intense eagerness, as the tension of both horse and trainer seemed strained almost to the breaking point. Horse and trainer alike received shouts of approval and applause as each in turn gained a point.

For an hour and fifteen minutes it was a succession of kicks from the one, and continual tugging on the safety ropes on the other. It seemed a question to the audience as to which would be victorious, and they stood ready to bestow their praise upon either for having overcome such a worthy antagonist, when suddenly the horse changed from all the appearances of ferociousness to that of meekness. He realized his inferiority to the human mind. The audience saw the change almost as soon as the trainer, and, as one man, they rose to their feet and sent forth cheer after cheer. The owner, a very noted and conservative horseman, rushed to the center of the ring clapping his hands and shouting, "Good for you, Beery, good for you." We hitched the horse to a buggy and drove him, before the people, while he acted to perfection.

We left for home a little later, but by a personal letter, we were informed that the horse was being driven about the city and was under perfect control.

An indication of both fear and viciousness
SUPPLEMENTARY APPLIANCES FOR KICKERS

A horse that has a vicious habit will show it often, especially if it is of long standing. By teasing and ill-treatment, a horse may often become more vicious than the lines or examination of the head would indicate. The illustration above shows very clearly the expression, indicating both fear and viciousness.

SAFETY LINES

Put an overcheck on your horse with a ring in it just back of the ears. Take a cord eighteen feet long; run one end of it through a ring in surcingle at one side of the horse, through ring of the bridle bit, back through ring at top of surcingle, forward and snap into ring of overcheck. Then take another cord of the same length, and put on opposite side in the same manner. Step behind and take the cords for lines. You then have powerful control of his head with these lines, which will be good to teach a stubborn horse to stop at the word of command.

How Safety Lines are adjusted

Showing Second Form War Bridle ready to use on horse bad in stable
These lines are very effective for the kicker that gets its head against its breast and makes it impossible to control it by the mouth. The horse that bucks and kicks can soon be brought under control by these lines, for by pulling on them the head is elevated straight into the air. Do not be any more severe than is necessary to secure obedience. When the horse obeys, show your approval at once.

If you have a horse that will kick at you in the stall, you can easily break him by a few lessons with the Second Form War Bridle, the Pulley Bridle, or a modification of the Second Form War Bridle.

The modified Second Form War Bridle is made as follows: Make a stationary loop around the lower jaw about two inches below where the bit goes; pass the loose end up the right side of the head, just back of the ears and down the left side to the eye. Turn back holding the loop thus made with the right hand, and retrace the loose end down the right side of the face, through the mouth, above the upper teeth, beneath the upper lip, and up through the loop held in the right hand. This bridle should be made of 5-16 inch sash cord, eighteen feet long.

Carry the cord, to the back part of the stall. Pass out of the stall some other way and in a little while come up behind the horse, pick up the cord and tell the horse to "get over," If he makes an attempt to kick, give him two or three severe yanks. Repeat a few times until the horse learns to know he is under your power in the stall as well as any other place.

A bad horse or colt should never be placed in a narrow stall. Have stalls large enough that you can get around your horse without being crowded and your horses may have some comfort and rest when lying down. In breaking a horse that kicks in the stall, the lesson should be given from both sides, so that he will be broken on both sides alike.

Treat the horse kindly as soon as he submits, or he will be confused as to the reason of his punishment. Never allow a horse to be teased if you do not want a dangerous animal.
BALKING

Of all the habits horses may have, balking is the most aggravating. Nothing tries one's patience more than to hitch up in a hurry, anxious to be off, only to find, upon climbing into the vehicle, that the horse is not ready to go, and probably will not be for an hour or so.

A balky horse usually stands and looks back, as if it expected something to happen from the rear, and he is very seldom disappointed, for the driver usually makes the air hot with a volley of words and the hissing of the whip. His words have absolutely no meaning to the horse and naturally he becomes more and more confused and his senses more and more blunted. It will be better instead of yelling and slashing with a whip to sing a song and step to one side and slash the fence. The horse's confusion would change to astonishment and he would probably move off.

No horse balks simply because it wants to stand. There is no reason for a horse balking the first time; several repetitions of the cause, followed by a succeeding act, becomes a habit, and the habit remains when the cause has long since ceased to exist. The old, confirmed balker has long since forgotten the cause of his balking, but he continues the habit, just like the man who began using tobacco for dyspepsia, continues its use after the dyspepsia has ceased.

Often in teaching classes, men would come to me and say that they had a horse that would not start just when they wanted him to; that he would not bite nor kick nor anything else mean, but simply stand. Now, when they told me the horse balked, I knew that it would not do any of the other things at the same time, because the condition of the horse's mind in balking will not permit of anything else. If he would kick or do anything else he would immediately be out of the mood to balk (except horses in No. 4 which sometimes kick for resentment). BALKING IS A CONFUSED, INACTIVE AND ALMOST INSENSIBLE CONDITION OF THE MIND.

Take, for instance, a colt in type No. 2. He has a very strong will of his own, and as you turn toward the stable door, his strong will is fixed on going into the stable. Before reaching the door you pull the line for him to go in another direction. Now there are two opposing forces working on his mind, that powerful will to go to the stable, and a strong pull on the bit to go away from the stable. Since he can think of but one thing at a time, he becomes confused and sullen and stops. If the first stroke or two of the whip does not attract his attention to something else others will only lock his mind and make him all the more insensible to his surroundings.

Take an illustration from type No. 3, with his nervousness and ambition. He is hitched by the side of a slow, sluggish horse. The command "Get up," is given and the ambitious colt leaps forward, promptly, only to jerk on his tender shoulders, and mouth, because the old horse did not obey at once. When this is repeated a few times, he becomes confused, because he was jerked for going forward and whipped for going backward, and, in his confusion, he could only stand and prance.

I have seen men of keen intellect, who were entertaining talkers in ordinary conversation, arise before an audience with a well premeditated speech, and be unable to say a word, and become so confused they could hardly tell their own name and not
know enough to sit down. It is something of the same condition of mind the balking horse gets into.

It would be brutal to abuse the man because his mind became inactive in the new surroundings, and it is still more brutal to abuse the balking horse with his lesser mental powers.

HORSES NOT CONFIRMED IN THE HABIT

Nearly all horses that have balked only two or three times can be broken without the use of appliances simply by a little generalship.

The first thing necessary is that the horse thoroughly understands and is obedient to the commands "Whoa" and "Get Up." You may think it funny that he should know "Whoa" when he "Whoas" too much already, but there is a vast difference between a horse stopping of his own account and stopping at the command. Just before he reaches the place and while he is telling you by his eyes and ears and motion of the head that he is about to stop, say, "Whoa," firmly, and give a powerful wrench on the lines. By stopping him before he stops of his own accord, you have disconcerted him and thrown him into a thoughtful mood. When you feel that you have his attention drawn from balking, give a confident, "Get Up" and at the same time a side pull on the line. You catch him unawares, and he is beyond the spot without having balked. Stop at different places until he stops at word of command. Often a horse that balks, because he wants to go one way while you pull the other, can be squared up by pulling on the other line, and as soon as the head is squared with the body he can be turned in either direction.

CONFIRMED BALKERS

In handling a confirmed balker there is no use to try to compromise or even try to out-general. He is to old a case to coax. He knows he can stand as long as he pleases. He glories in his ability to take a hard thrashing (at least I believe he would if he could talk).

I can not imagine any means by which a horse in type No. 1 could be made a balker. Types No. 2 and No. 4 produce sullen balkers, and No. 3 a nervous balker, caused by being fooled a number of times. Take one in type No. 2 into a lot with the surcingle, safety rope and guy-line and give a good lesson in general subjection. Pull the safety rope gradually to get all the resistance possible. Say, "Whoa," and make him stop immediately by a pull on the lines and safety rope, bringing him to his knees.
In starting, the assistant should be forward, and whether the horse is in a balky mood or not, should, at the same time the driver gives the command and stroke of the whip, give a severe pull with the guy-line. This should be repeated in quick succession four or five times, the assistant crossing to the opposite side each time that the horse may be pulled first to the right and then to the left.

I usually counted one, two, three, so that at "three" my assistant and I would work in unison, I with the whip and command, and he with the guy-line. After four or five such pulls, the assistant will need rest, then say, "Whoa" and with the lines and safety ropes, make the horse stand. Repeat this process of starting and stopping three or four times. Let the horse know that when you say, "Whoa," you mean it and mean it at once.

Also let him know that "Get Up" means, not simply "Go" but "Go at once." As soon as he goes at slight pull on the guy-line it could be unfastened from around the neck and snapped in the bit ring. Do not let the assistant wait until the horse gets set, but use the guy-line, and use it hard, on the slightest sign that the horse does not want to go. This lesson should continue from a half hour to an hour, and a lesson a day given three or four days in succession before hitching up (unless the horse shows by his submission that he is ready to be hitched before that time).

It is no use to hitch up to a vehicle until you have all the resistance knocked out of him with the surcingle on. Repeat the lesson in subjection when hitched up, for he is now getting more into the surroundings where his habit has cropped out very strong upon previous occasions. You will, probably, not get the resistance you did at first, but be prepared to win. When you use the guy-line, use it hard.

Have it for your aim all through this process to throw the effect of the guy-line and safety ropes into the lines and voice and dispense with the appliances as fast as that aim can be accomplished. With this kind of balker, however, it is best to carry your appliances for some time so that if he refuses to go, upon arriving at a certain place that has caused him to be stubborn before, give him a lesson in subjection good and hard. He needs to know that you are boss at all times and at every place.
For a balker in type No. 3, give the subjection as prescribed for that type under general subjection. After you have thrown the horse, snap the whip over him, and at each side, without touching him, so that he may learn the proper use of the whip. As soon as he lies quietly allow him to get up. Attach the safety rope and guy-line. It will be sufficient to snap the guy-line in the bit. A severe pull on the guy-line, first on one side and then on the other as for No. 2, usually causes them to come forward with a leap.

One or two lessons of subjection before hitching up, with a slight repetition after they are hitched up, usually brings horses in this type under control. When they show indications of balking, stop them suddenly, before they stop of their own accord, and snap the whip on each side and over their backs as you did in subjection. This reminds them of that process, gets them under your control, and a firm, "Get Up," will start them off.

One morning in my early experience, a man drove into my barn lot leading a pony, five or six years old. He asked my price for breaking a balker, and I replied "twenty-five dollars."

He said his boys had tried to break him, but he balked so bad that they could do nothing with him. He said they had tried every way that they knew; that they had whipped and whipped, and had become so tired out and disgusted that they had knocked it down with a fence rail. He said he would like to have it broken, but that the pony was not worth the twenty-five dollars added to the purchase price. I refused to lower my fixed price and he started away. He had not driven far down the road when he turned and came back, and said he had thought the matter over and concluded that if he would take the pony back home as it was, it would be worth nothing, and that he might as well leave it and have it worth something.

I gave the pony its first lesson that evening, and found it one of the most determined balkers that I had ever seen. I gave it two lessons in subjection, throwing it with the guy-line and safety rope, before I hitched it up.

The safety rope and guy-line were used the first two times it was hitched up. For about a week when giving it daily drives, it made indications of stopping. Each time I gave it a set back with the lines, said, "Whoa," and made it stand a minute or two while I stood in the rig and cracked the whip on each side as I had done when it was thrown. When I noticed by the moving of a foot or the switching of a fly that its muscles were relaxed I could pull on one line and a firm, "Get Up" would start it every time. I usually kept horses two weeks but this one I drove for about three weeks to make sure that it was properly broken.

Instead of writing the owner to come after his horse as was my custom, I thought it best to deliver the particular horse myself, and see how it would act, when brought back to its old surroundings. When I turned into the lane—the scene of so many of its experiences and hard knocks—the familiar scenes so brought back its former state of mind that its ears began to turn back rigidly, its head to turn from side to side as is the custom of balkers, and other indications told me that the old habit was cropping out and was about to overcome all my careful training.
It was only by exercising all my skill, by stopping once or twice and attracting its attention to the whip, by a pull on the line now and then, or a sharp "Take Care," that I succeeded in getting up that lane without the pony balking. I told the owner how it was affected upon arriving home and he said I had better give it some subjective treatment there to finish my work.

I repeated the subjective treatment which I had given it, hitched it up, and lightly repeated it at different places, and turned it over to the owner. I knew the pony would go all right for me or any one else that knew how to handle horses, but I did feel risky in turning it over to its balky drivers. But it retained its lessons and was the family driver for many years.

There are a very few extreme cases among balkers that lie down and refuse to get up. However, we have had such cases in the ring. I usually told the audience that my first assistant could "blow the horse up." He would unexpectedly blow his breath hard into the horse's ear, and at the same time I would hit the horse a sharp blow across the hind quarters with the whip, both together, so taking the horse by surprise that he leaped to his feet. In the few cases this did not reach, a pint of water was poured down the horse's nostril while his nose was held up. We used to tell our audience that the horse would have to get up then, or he would drown lying on the ground. This never failed to have the desired effect. These remedies have no ill effect as some inhumane remedies sometimes do.

These latter cases are found mostly in types No. 4, and a very few in type No. 2.

In handling a No. 4 balker you should first lay it on its side to get the reckless and rather stubborn resistance out of it. The mere act of throwing it down will take the conceit out of it and will convince it that it MUST WORK if you say so.

Follow this with the use of the safety rope and guy-line, or the "halter-pulling hitch," if the guy-line does not prove effective (in some instances it does not).

It takes much longer to handle a No. 4 type balker than any other type, because they are very treacherous, resentful and stubborn.

Make your work thorough. Throw the horse on his side a dozen times if necessary. Give three or four lessons with the safety rope and guy-line or "halter-pulling hitch," before hitching up.

Do not hitch to a rig, until the horse will obey the commands, "Get Up" and "Whoa" under all circumstances, without the use of the safety rope or the aid of your assistant.

Hitch the horse single first. Put your safety-rope, the guy-line, or "Halter-pulling hitch" on him again. Be prepared for trouble. Most balkers, especially those in type No. 4, have a great deal of trouble reduced to the rig—that is, they have had their trouble in the start there, and will act fairly well outside of shafts, but, the moment they are hitched to a rig, all their old trouble comes back to them and they are ready to put up another fight.

Use the safety rope and your other appliances, after the horse is hitched up, as much
as you did before. However, it is seldom that it is necessary to use the appliances any
great length of time, when the horse is hitched up, because a little use of them
will remind him of his former handling and he will soon give up.

Continue with the use of the safety rope, the guy-line or "halter-pulling hitch" until
the horse will respond to the commands, "Get Up" and "Whoa," as well between
shafts as he did out of them. After reducing the power of the safety rope and guy-line,
or "halter-pulling hitch," to the lines and voice, as you have already been told, then
remove the special appliances.

The second time you attempt to drive him, go prepared for trouble, for you may have
it. Have your appliances in the rig so that you can put them on, at a moment's notice,
if need be.

A horse that balks when hitched to the side of another horse is often broken of the
habit by putting on the halter pulling rope, or hitch, hitching him to a good stout post
and forcing back into the rope (as will be more fully explained in Book No. 5) until he
fully understands that when he pulls backwards he is punished. Then hitch to the
wagon. Leave on the halter-pulling rope and attach the end of it to the hame of the
gentle horse. It should be tied just long enough so that as long as the balker keeps his
end of the single tree on a line with the other horses, he will not feel the rope around
his body. The instant he refuses to go, the rope tightens around his body. He will then
spring forward to avoid the hurt.

Whatever you do, never allow any horse, no matter what his type or habit, get the idea
that you are using the appliances, no matter what they are, as a means of
PREVENTING him from doing a certain thing. Use them only for the purpose of
controlling and subduing him and when you have gained that end, TAKE THEM
OFF, as you were told before.

In handling all balkers, it is necessary to keep your presence of mind and keep your
attention fixed on your horse, that you may anticipate its every action.

I never advise, especially the first two or three driving lessons, the combining of other
business with the breaking of a horse or training of a colt. While your mind is on other
business, you cannot give the attention necessary to the training of a horse.

Any rough, brutal treatment is worse than useless, while anything that will attract the
attention of the horse from its own sullen feelings is along the right channel. This
point of the lesson I usually made very effective before my audience in the following
manner. After a horse had shown his stubbornness, and after working for some time
with the subjective treatment, just when I knew the horse was about to yield, I had
him stop by the side of the center pole of the tent. I appeared angry and seized the
long limber lash whip, saying that I was tired of that horse's stubbornness and was
going to whip him good and hard if he did not start. I began unmercifully striking
over the horse's back and lashing the center pole. My first assistant heightened the
effect by yelling, "Cut it out;" "Stop, or I'll have you arrested," etc. After the first
three or four strokes the audience saw where the whip was really striking; an attendant
seeing the horse's attention drawn to the noise of the whip "mercifully" led him up a
few steps and left me whipping the post. This was better than a lecture and served to
impress the audience with the fact that it is entirely useless to beat a balky horse.

Too many people use the whip on a horse just at the wrong time, and lose the entire effect. A stroke with the whip, particularly in case of a balker, if applied a few seconds too soon or too late loses the desired effect. If the whip is ever used, use it in a manner that will assist in getting the horse straightened up where you want him. Always keep your head and never use the whip as a means of taking revenge on the horse.

The man that is everlastingly talking about being "kind" to a horse is frequently the most brutal. When making up a class we would sometimes meet men that would say: "Oh, I know how to handle a horse, you must be kind to them. Go see Mr. Jones about taking your lessons," etc. This same man knew about as much about the proper application of kindness, as though such a thing never existed.

As a rule he was the kind that would have his horse tied to the rack and would rush out of his office to make a quick trip, somewhere. When he approached the horse it showed him by its every move that it was excited and impatient to be off. It would be champing the bit, stamping the ground, prancing around, etc. The man would untie the horse and go back to crawl into the buggy. He would "cluck" at the horse in an effort to get him to move forward, and the horse would stand and look back, first to one side, then to the other, but refuse to move. The driver would be afraid to whip him now, and so he gets out and pets him, but without diverting his attention. He again gets into the buggy, but knows that he dare not whip the horse, for he might refuse to go for an hour or more, if he did. After a little while, the horse, in a maddened fit, springs forward, possibly leaping ten feet the first jump. The driver is thoroughly angered by now, and, as the horse is in motion and he knows that by whipping him he will not stop, he pulls out the whip and uses it unmercifully on him.

What has he done? He has ACTUALLY CAREDSED THE HORSE FOR BALKING
and whipped him for doing the very thing he wanted him to do. This is the idea that some men have of the application of kindness.

Whatever you do, do it in a manner that the horse can understand you. If he balks, and through no fault of yours, he needs humane correction. The more often you whip a balky horse the worse his habit becomes. When the horse is balking his mind is in such a maddened, senseless state that no matter what cruelties you used they would be worthless. Appeal to the dumb animal's understanding. Do not expect him to know more than you could possibly know, were you in his place and had his intellect, instead of the superior intellect you now possess.