

C) Balanced Life to Direction Ratio

Direction – When the slack is taken out of the rein, the horse puts the slack back in the rein with suppleness through the poll and loin with: **3) horizontal**, and **4) vertical flexion**.

Six Signs to Identify Horizontal Direction

- 1) Broken in poll horizontally. Hairline should curve between ears (poll).
- 2) Nose should be directly underneath the eye, no head tilting.
- 3) Cannot see white in eye, horse should be looking back not forward.
- 4) Front feet and hind feet should follow on the same path made as the nose.
- 5) Horse's body should arc around our leg.
- 6) If horse has horizontal direction should make perfect circles.
Horizontal direction walking = perfect circle walking, horizontal direction trotting = perfect circle trotting etc.

1 = Standing – displays 1, 2, and 3 in six signs to identify Horizontal Direction.

2 = Walking – displays 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in six signs to identify Horizontal Direction.

3 = Slow Trot – displays 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

4 = Trotting – displays 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

5 = Loping – displays 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

3) Horizontal 1 2 3 4 5

Vertical Direction

When the slack is taken out of both reins horse breaks in the poll vertically resulting in the horse's nose being perpendicular with the ground.

1 = Standing, 2 = Walking, 3 = Slow Trot, 4 = Trotting, 5 = Loping

4) Vertical 1 2 3 4 5

Life – Ability to move the horse with any given speed at any given time.

1 – Takes many steps to drive into a lope from standing, horse goes from standing, to walking, to trotting, then finally loping. 5 – Can jump into a lope from standing instantly, horse goes from standing to loping at any given time.

5) Life 1 2 3 4 5

6) Life to Direction (horizontal) Ratio = _____

More life than direction = Lack of confidence in horse

More direction than life = 5:3, 4:3 ok, if life is 2 or less horse is lazy and will begin losing direction. Balance the ratio.

D) Solid Foundation of Maneuvers (Mechanical)

The ability to move the 3 parts of the horse in any direction, to accomplish any job. (4 stages)

7) Stage 1 1 2 3 4 5

- Stop forward motion, pivot around inside front foot

8) Stage 2 1 2 3 4 5

- Using the hindquarters to pull the horse in a reverse motion

9) Stage 3 1 2 3 4 5

- Shoulder and hindquarters moving together in a lateral motion

10) Stage 4 1 2 3 4 5

- Stop forward motion, pivot around the inside hind foot

Extra Credit) Helping the horse (Weight placement/
Length of rein) 1 2 3 4 5

D) Solid Foundation of Maneuvers (Mental)

Horse and rider begin to receive insight into how they can move together in perfect unity to accomplish a job. Horse experiences willing submission, good communication, a balanced life to direction ratio, and a mechanical foundation of maneuvers all at the same time. It's like you are riding in the dark and somebody switches on a light. All resistance leaves and it makes perfect sense to *you* and the *horse*. The horse becomes as light as a feather, moving in perfect unity with the person. There is no resistance in doing the job. We are able to pick up the feet and move them wherever we want. These are the "ah-ha" moments when riding a horse.

- 1 – No mental foundation
- 2 – Brief seconds during the ride
- 3 – Bouncing from second to minutes during the ride
- 4 – Minutes during the ride
- 5 – Consistency during the ride

11) 1 2 3 4 5