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*Your provider for premier arena surfaces, design and construction.*

SAFEKEEPING

should follow function. Make sure a full fist can fit between the halter and throat.

4. **Leather is best.** You want the halter to break if the horse gets caught. Otherwise, he'll panic and break his neck. It happens in a second. Nylon won't break when it should. So, choose leather. If you use a nylon halter, make sure it has a leather headstall for safety, even, if you only use the nylon halter when bathing the horse.
5. **Break away easily.** If the horse panics, it is better that he break loose than break his neck. I don't tie horses to trailers because I don't want a loose horse where it can access a road. In the barn, a horse should break free at the halter rather than the wall. Baling twine won't break. And, if the tie lets go at the wall, it will whip around and hurt anyone nearby, including the horse. A better option is to use a cable or zip tie on the halter. A small or medium size one will break readily. The other option is to fold three strands of yarn in half, loop it around the halter ring and make three knots. Then, snap to the yarn or cable tie. These reliable releases avoid a spook snowballing into a crisis that injures. Usually, if the horse breaks one cross-tie, he'll relax.
6. **Go naked.** In stalls, horses should not wear halters. Depending on where you live, turning horses out without halters can minimize risk. Of course, if your horse is into jumping out or may get loose, consider the options carefully.

Knowledge is power. And, it is yours. Be consistently mindful to avoid heartache. Make good choices and enjoy your happy horses! ■

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