



PHOTO: LUCKYBRAIDS.COM

**This is an accident waiting to happen. The lead is wrapped around fingers. Plus, the horse is already distracted! He could not hold him with that hand position.**

Keeping safe is a matter of consistently following simple rules. So, lead your horse properly to enjoy lots of safe and relaxing times together. ■

- Don't loop. If you don't need a shank, use a lead rope. Or, hook to the bottom ring without creating a dangerous loop for him to put his foot through.

- Knot the end of the lead. If the horse bolts, the lead won't slide through your hand.

- Shank for safety. Better safe than sorry. If your horse is hot, unpredictable, worried or inexperienced, a chain over the nose can help you comfortably keep his attention. However, typically people put the chain over the nose so the halter shifts to hurt the eye. A better option is to twist the chain over the noseband, run it through the ring on the other side, and under the chin to the clasp on the near side cheek ring. Then, the halter does not slide.

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