

## Pulling Back



### **Pulling Back When Tied by Red and Julie Wycoff at Reds Saddle Mules**

What exactly does it mean...pulling back when tied? That is the real question. We figure that this would refer to what is known in the horse world as “setting back”. A very large percentage of horse owners have dealt daily with this problem. This means that when a horse is tied to something, they set back on their haunches and try to free themselves...over and over until you have to untie them or they will injure themselves by breaking the rope, breaking the snap that holds them, breaking the halter, or breaking what they are tied to. This type of behavior is usually caused



by tying your horse to a hitch rail that is too low. If the horse moves it's head and feels pulled down, this is a very scary sensation to a horse. This can result in horse that sets back so severely that they can never be tied. A proper height for a hitch rail should be between your animals nose and eye height. Our hitch rails are between 4 foot 3 inches to 4 foot 6 inches. This is a big problem in the horse world.

Mules, on the other hand, do not usually react as severely as a horse because of their instinct of self preservation inherited from the donkey. However, if you tie your mule to a hitch rail that is too low, you will be encouraging set back behavior. This is a problem that can be easily avoided by taking a few simple corrective measures prior to working with your mule.

First, your equipment must be strong enough not to break. If you tie your mule to a hitch rail