



February 20, 2013

Greetings!,

How can an artificial arm assist in the effort to get a horse ready for the farrier? Find out about this innovative approach in Monty's question and answer column below.

Monty continues to find innovative ways to help the whole horse through thoughtful hoof care, check out [this video](#) he shot with renowned farrier Ada Gates.



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## Monty's Principles



I gave a copy of Monty's ["From My Hands to Yours,"](#) in Spanish, to a Nicaraguan man who works as a groom here on Roatan, Honduras. Santos is the sweetest man and he is so very gentle with the horses in his care. I watch him exercise the horses whenever I get the chance. I have always been so impressed by his gentleness and exceptional riding ability.

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

### This Week's Question:

My young horse, who is 10 months old, needs farrier attention yet it seems to me that he is too young for Join-Up. What steps should I take before bringing in my farrier? Kerry Milford

### Monty's Answer [Part 2 of 3 Parts]:

The following procedure is for yearlings and older horses. I would suggest that your student be introduced to the round pen and go through one, two or three Join-Ups on successive days. Once Join-Up has been achieved and your horse is perfectly **willing to follow you with his adrenaline down and volunteers to stay with you** comfortably, I suggest that you put your student through two or three daily sessions with the Dually halter.

Once that has been accomplished, you are well on your way to having your horse stand comfortably while you pick up and deal with his feet. To begin the farrier-schooling process, you should **first rub your horse over, or spray him, with insect repellent**. He finds it disconcerting if he has to stand on three legs and can't stomp one to remove an insect. Once the repellent is applied, you can begin to pick each foot up repeatedly.

If, at this juncture, your horse is perfectly willing to give you one foot at a time and stand on the other three while you tap on the lifted foot and run a rasp over it, you are probably ready to give your farrier a call. If your student is reluctant, offers to kick, or refuses to allow you to tap or rasp the lifted foot, **I suggest that you fabricate an "artificial arm."**

At this point, the good horseman should reflect on why a horse might react in this fashion. Each of us should quickly remember that the flight animal relies upon his legs to carry him to flee for survival. We should immediately understand that **acting out violently toward the horse does nothing but convince him that we are predators** and out to cause him harm. Delivering pain to your student is absolutely inappropriate.

To make an artificial arm like the one I use to train horses that are difficult for the farrier, you will need the following items:

1. An old rake or broom handle, cut 3 feet (approx. 1 meter) long, or a hardwood cane with a straight-handle grip, not curved grip.
2. One heavy-duty work glove.
3. One sleeve of a discarded sweatshirt or heavy work shirt.
4. One roll of electrical, gaffer or duct tape.

Place the glove over one end of the pole and fill it with straw or shavings. Slide the sleeve into place so that the cuff can be taped at the wrist portion of the work glove. Fill the sleeve with sponge, straw or shavings, and tape the upper end of the sleeve to secure the material inside. You should have approximately one foot (30 cm) of uncovered pole for easy handling.

I'm finding it fun for me, at this stage in my life, that innovative students, encouraged to keep open minds, are making some very interesting discoveries. Kelly Marks is the director of the original Monty Roberts courses in England. She brought Ian Vandenberghe to be an instructor in my concepts. Ian came up with an idea that is very helpful, particularly for small, female trainers. He concluded that if the arm had a stiff thumb on it, the handler could, at the appropriate moment, slide the thumb down behind the rear leg, stopping at the pastern.

Using the padded thumb, the handler could actually lift the hind leg without placing her own arm in jeopardy. I was on tour in England when I received a very difficult horse, with a strong desire to kick. The English team brought me Ian's improved arm and I found it very effective.

If your equine student wants to kick the artificial arm, do not discourage him. Return the arm to the position that bothered the horse until the horse accepts it anywhere you want to put it.

Begin using the arm by massaging the body, shoulders and hips of the horse before proceeding to his legs. You can even rub the belly, and up between the hind legs. **Spend considerable time in the area of the flank, as it will be often touched by the farrier's shoulder.** Bad habits can get started if the horse is still sensitive in the flank area before the leg-lifting procedures begin. Use the arm to massage all four legs until the horse is perfectly happy dealing with the procedure.

If you are dealing with an extremely flighty or dangerous horse, you may consider using an assistant so that one person can control the head while the other uses the arm. Remember, if the horse acts out or pulls his leg away from you, drop the leg immediately and then school with the Dually Halter. This will not be necessary with most horses that are raised domestically, but it could be an advantage with mustangs or horses raised with little human contact.

Be alert and watch for improvement, and when you get it, remove the arm from that position at once and go to the other side of the horse to continue working. Your student will regard this as reward for not kicking, and is likely to quickly improve. With your student cooperating fully when you pick up all four feet and tap and rasp, ask your farrier if he has an old pair of farrier's chaps that he can lend you, if you don't own a pair yourself.

[To be continued next week in this column]

He was thrilled to get [Monty's book](#). I do believe it is likely the first on the island of Roatan. I hope it is the first of many - Santos' boss came by while we were talking and took the picture. She has already asked for a copy of the book in English and says she will borrow Santos' copy until I am next at your farm.

I thought you might enjoy knowing that I am trying very hard to advance Monty's methods here on the island. And, of course, seeing such a pretty horse is always a treat! Mancito is 3 and is just starting to develop his gait. It is already quite pronounced and he is quite a showoff when he knows he has an audience. He is a very nice horse with a very gentle disposition.  
Kris R.

## An Artificial Arm

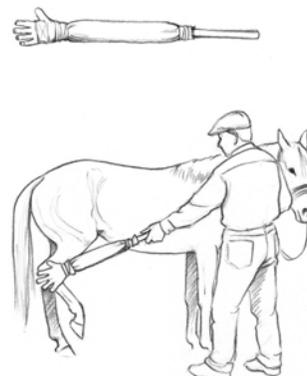


Illustration by  
Jean Abernethy

Learn about Monty's safe techniques to help horses learn not to be afraid of the farrier and behave cooperatively for their hoof care sessions in Monty's textbook: [From My Hands to Yours](#).

## Clinic at Monty's Horse Ranch



At this clinic, Monty Roberts and Charlotte Bredahl will share with you how they stay true to their concepts of training

## THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



This week's video lesson on [Monty's Equus Online University](#) illustrates simple procedures for balanced hoof care with guest lecturer/farrier Ada Gates and Monty.

Current students log in here: [www.montyrobertsuniversity.com](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com)

Not a student yet? Click on: <http://montyrobertsuniversity.com/sessions/new>

Join-Up Now!

Or go to [www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/about-the-uni](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/about-the-uni)

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?

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## Here Comes Flo!



Readers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, watch out!

Interesting article on **Florian Oberparleiter** in the current issue of CAVALLO.

Flo did a video lesson series with Monty on **Liberty Training** on [Equus Online University](#) last year.

[Click here](#) to read the article's online version. Make sure you click your way through all seven chapters!

## Monty on HRTV in the USA

**HRTV**

Watch Monty on HRTV Tuesdays at 6:00 PM Eastern / 6:00 PM Pacific.

Please check local TV directories for your time and channel or the HRTV website where times are in Eastern Standard Time:

<http://www.hrtv.com/pros/monty-roberts/>

with re-airs on the weekend.

## Horse & Country in the

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**February 16, 2013:** [Bury Farm Equestrian Centre](#) (Afternoon demo); Mill Road, Slapton, Bucks, LU7 9BT, UK

**February 20, 2013:** [Merrist Wood Worplesdon](#), Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE

**February 24, 2013:** [Solihull Riding Club](#) (Afternoon demonstration); Four Ashes Road, Bentley Heath, West Midlands, B93 8QE, UK

**March 2, 2013:** [The Hand Equestrian Centre](#); Clevedon, Somerset, BS21 6TG

**March 6, 2013:** [Corporate Night of Inspiration](#) at Flag Is Up Farms (private)

**March 16-17:** [Monty Roberts and Charlotte Bredahl Clinic](#) at Flag Is Up Farms, California. Classic Dressage and Western Riding in Harmony with Your Horse. Call 805-688-6288 for details.

**March 22-24, 2013:** Another FREE 3-day clinic for war veterans with Monty at Flag Is Up Farms! Contact: [maya@join-up.org](mailto:maya@join-up.org) or [admin@montyroberts.com](mailto:admin@montyroberts.com) for info.

**April 6, 2013:** [Monty Roberts Jubileums Show](#), Flyinge Equestrian Center, Sweden

**May 3, 2013:** Tour Date in Germany

**May 11, 2013:** Possible Tour Date in Holland

UK



Watch Monty Roberts on Horse & Country TV (Sky channel 280) in the UK and

Ireland. See: <http://www.horseandcountry.tv/monty>

for more info.

## Monty's Challenge

My young horse, who is 10 months old, needs farrier attention yet it seems to me that he is too young for Join-Up. What steps should I take before bringing in my farrier?

Part 3 of Monty's answer is coming next week!

## Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

Forward to a Friend

For information about Monty's worldwide demos and the courses held at Monty's farm in California go to:

[http://www.montyroberts.com/ab\\_about\\_monty\\_calendar/see-monty/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/)

## Be a Leader

Name the Leadership Traits that Help You with Horses

Mutual enjoyment, trust and learning. Respect for the mind, heart and spirit of the horse.  
- Pat Mitchell

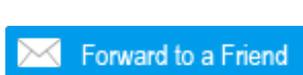
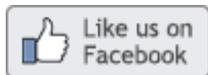
Please share your thoughts on leadership by emailing us:

[askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com)

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Sincerely,

**Monty Roberts**

