



ASK MONTY

April 3, 2013

Greetings!

Shout out to all [Equus Online students](#) who are sharing concepts of force-free partnerships with horses worldwide. We'd like to know how to facilitate your access to [Monty's horse training videos](#). You can guide us by answering **one simple question** in the online poll below:

[CLICK HERE to take the Equus Online Uni video poll NOW!](#)

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI

THIS WEEK IN Equus Online University

DUALY DANCE WITH FOALS LESSON 2: TRAINING WITH THE X-SMALL DUALY

Did you know that there is an extra-small Dually Halter made for foals and ponies? Learn how to use it when your foal is ready to learn to lead on [Equus Online University](#) this week!

Current students log in here: www.montyrobersoniversity.com

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

Don't miss the upcoming series: Mindful Dressage with Monty Roberts and Steffen Peters, Olympic Medalist!

Join-Up Now!

Or go to www.montyrobersoniversity.com/about-the-uni

QUESTION AND ANSWER

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Monty's Principles

KEEPING THE HORSE

After a complicated year for us in this corner of the universe, spring is a herald of better times... WE HOPE!



Willow and me... There is so much to do with her. At one point things got so bad I thought I would have to find her a home. I'm sure you have heard about the situation in Spain. Work is on the tight rope and animals have a tendency to want to eat every day just like we do.

The weather has been terrible so there is no new grass yet and hay sometimes goes up. But I put Willow on a diet... **Like [Shy Boy](#) she likes to eat and eat...** And I figured that she costs me less than a packet of tobacco (if I smoked). So I put my foot down and she stays. **Not that we wanted to give her away!**

Question:

Is there significance to defecation when training horses in an enclosed area. ie. Is it nervousness or release?

Monty's Answer [Part 1]:

Let me say right at the outset that I discuss this phenomenon quite often as I do my demonstrations. If I have written an answer to this question, I can't remember having done so. But before I answer the question, there is a significant amount of mind organizing that I feel compelled to do. First of all let me state that I have no idea why you use 'enclosed area' as a parameter to this behavior. Without any question **this is a natural physiological phenomenon brought about by a psychological trigger**. This phenomenon dates back millions of years before there was any enclosure of any kind and has nothing to do with fences, walls or any man-made structure.

In addition, I outline two options as to why this phenomenon might take place: you use the terms nervousness or release which limits me to a conclusion that is not the answer to why **defecation takes place in times of fear, stress or uncertainty**. Remember that **horses are neophobic**. Anything new or viewed with uncertainty causes certain physiological activity brought about by a psychologically induced state of concern. These circumstances occur because of environmental concerns regardless of the horse's vocation.

The fact is that evidence suggests that this phenomenon occurred on the open plains of North Africa millions of years before there were humanoid creatures residing on this planet. When the horse is subjected to sight, sound, smell or tactile fears, circumstances occur within their physiology whereby certain fluids are secreted directly into the intestinal tract. There is an immediate loosening of the bowels often causing uncontrollable defecation. It has been estimated that **a stressful circumstance may easily release 10-20 pounds of fecal material** in a very few minutes.

In years past Pat and I spent many hours sitting in the sales pavilion of the world's highest level of Thoroughbreds at auction. Each sales ring had a staff member with a scoop and a tub to pick up droppings from about 98% of every young Thoroughbred that passed through the ring. We got to know some of those fellows who had this job. I remember so well Joe at Keeneland who had been the official pooper-scooper for 40 years before retirement. I remember asking him how many horses went through that ring without clearing their bowels. He told me that it averaged probably one per day and a day at Keeneland would see almost 400 pass through the pavilion.

[Part 2 in next week's Ask Monty]

 Forward to a Friend

NEW MEMBER OF THE ROBERTS FAMILY: "MONK"

So today we finally started on the sides of our country road... I was going to do it last year! Oh, well, better late than never. And **the Dually Halter is the answer**.... I have weak wrists and without the Dually, Willow would be taking me for a walk. And I still have work to do so she leads properly. Yes, I go over and over the Leading videos. They are a big big help. I haven't been able to be as consistent as desirable. But Willow is wonderful and in the hands of someone more familiar with horses.

Hugs and regards from Cantabria!
Christy and Willow

BE A LEADER

"People who provide for their horse a comfort zone, leadership and clear parameters within which the horse can operate at his optimal level, are likely to be effective trainers."

~ Monty Roberts

Please share your thoughts on leadership by emailing us:
askmonty@montyroberts.com

Monty on HRTV



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<http://www.hrtv.com/MontyRobertsShow/>

Horse & Country in the 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.

Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

Monk meets Shy Boy! The latest member of the Roberts family is Monk, a mini tri-colored Australian Shepherd. Left to right: Monk, Pat Roberts, Mustang Shy Boy and Monty

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?



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

May 3, 2013: [Tour Date in Germany](#), Neustadt/Dosse

May 18, 2013: **A Night of Inspiration with Monty** at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang California. Open to the public with limited space. http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/night-of-inspiration/. Contact admin@montyroberts.com or +1 805 688 6288

between 9 am and 5 pm Pacific Standard Time.

August 5-9, 2013: **Monty's Special Training**. Read clinic description at <http://www.join-up.org/education/>. Contact info@join-up.org or call 805-688-3483.

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/

KEEP IN TOUCH

Let us know what you are looking for in content from these emails. Send your comments and requests to askmonty@montyroberts.com.

Never miss an e-mail from Monty: To ensure you receive this email in the future, add askmonty@montyroberts.com to your list of approved senders or select the Add/Save to Address Book function in your email browser and follow the appropriate instructions.



Sincerely,
Monty Roberts



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