



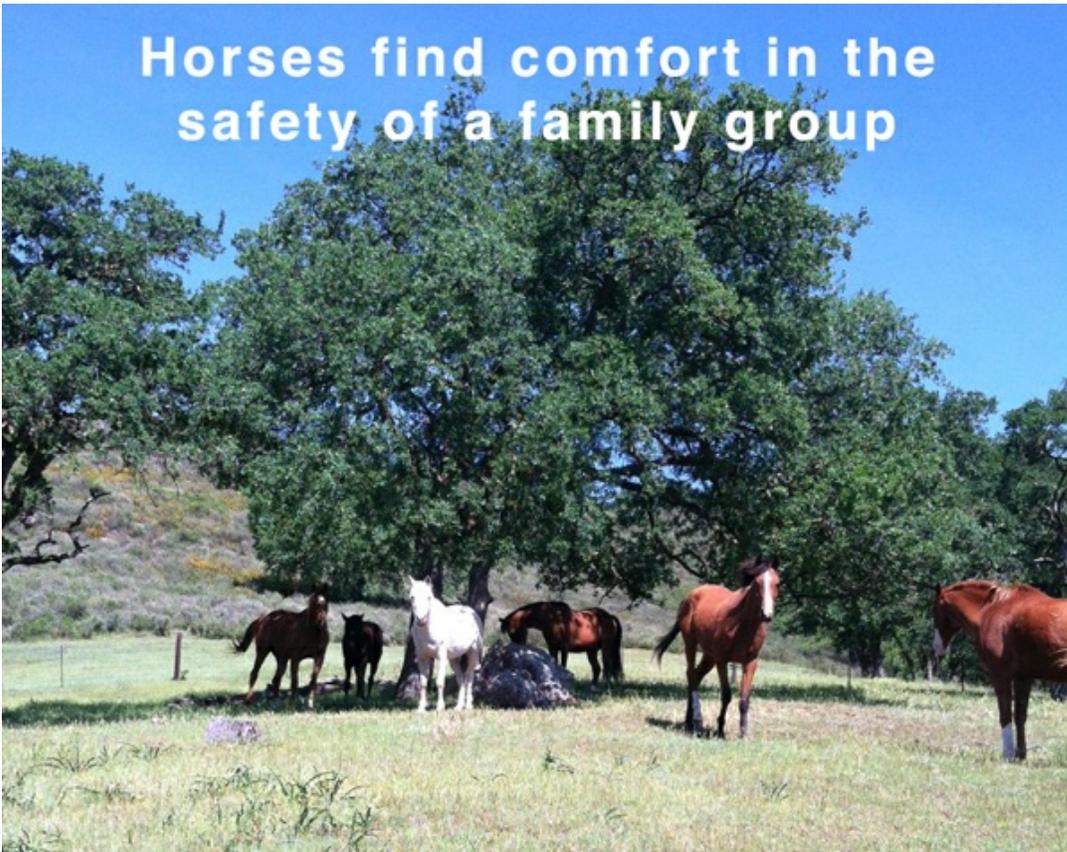
ASK MONTY

May 1, 2013

Greetings!,

One of the fastest-increasing remedial problems in today's horse world is separation anxiety. It is well for us all to remember that horses are herd animals. They find comfort in the safety of a family group numbering at least ten and often over thirty. We humans tend to assume that a horse will be just fine all on its own. In doing so we are ignoring one of their most basic needs.

Horses find comfort in the safety of a family group



When we take the time to learn the nature of the horse, and its language too, we begin to respect the needs they have. They are **basically fearful of anything unfamiliar** to them. Being alone means that they are vulnerable to predators without the protection of the family group. It is understandable that this adds to the fear that they might be killed.

It is therefore important to incrementally train horses to accept separation from the group by building up their confidence over repeated training sessions. Read Monty's question and answer column below to find out Monty's recommendations for a sweet mare that is struggling with the challenge of being separated from her herd.

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Monty's Principles

To Roma with Love!



There is no doubt that every horse that comes into my life teaches me something. Roma has taught me about infinite patience and the importance of persistence. She is a shining example of how anything is possible with Monty's techniques and the right mindset.

Roma came to be as supposedly unstarted but it soon became clear that someone had already tried to start her and had made her terrified of the idea of being ridden.

So began a long process of desensitizing including plastic bags and a dummy rider. With the real rider it was a question of infinite patience, with

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

I'm a huge fan of you and your work. Your book "From My Hands to Yours" is my favorite horsemanship textbook and it is my everyday manual. It helps me a lot to educate my 3 years old Paint horse. I live in Bulgaria - Eastern Europe - and unfortunately here we do not have any natural horsemanship clinics. I have educated my horse alone, after reading your books and watching some of your [Equus online videos](#).

Me and my mare have a very good relationship. She lives outside in a ranch situated at the foot of the mountain with 23 other horses. So she is a free and happy horse. When I go to take her from the pasture she starts to whinny and runs toward me. She works with me with pleasure and meets my requests without any resistance.

She is very calm and she love to be with me, but we still have a lot to learn. I do not have any problems with her when we ride outside the ranch and there is an experienced horse in front of her leading. But **I would like to learn her to be a leader and to be able to ride alone without any other horses** around her. Unfortunately, currently she doesn't feel self-confident when she has to lead the group.

Sometimes when I ask her to outrun the horse in front of her and to lead the group she makes some meters galloping then suddenly starts to push to the right side and stops. The same frequently happens when I take her for a walk alone, especially when we are near the pasture. :)

It is most probably my fault...Would you please advise me what to do?

Monty's Answer:

Everything that we observe as behavior from our horses is generated as a response to what we the human have done. It doesn't matter how proficient we are as horsemen we all make mistakes and **we must deal with the response that we get from our horses because of the mistakes we make**. In your question I quickly recognize errors which are coming from the human contact. I recommend that you take advantage of my [Equus Online University](#) because there are so many lessons there that would assist you with these problems.

It's great that you have [From My Hands To Yours](#) and I can quickly recommend that you read several chapters. One is on separation anxiety. Another is on barn sour and a third has to do with balking or napping. Each of these chapters deals with equine behavior that I am hearing in your question. I have had good success when riding a horse like this well into the country side and then tying the horse safely using a tree limb with flexible contact.

While the horse is tied, I take up a position between 5-10 meters away from the horse and allow for the animal to exhibit anxious behavior with no reward attached. Sometimes it takes hours before they stop digging and acting out against the idea of being alone. Eventually however one can create a horse that is willing to go with you without other horses involved. I don't want to assume anything; therefore I need to ask if you have achieved a Join-Up with your horse. This builds trust. Let us know how this idea works.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI

much repetition and really breaking it into tiny steps. Even once we could get a rider on her, the rider absolutely wasn't allowed to move and we spent for example 20 sessions just getting her to accept the rider touching his own leg.

But little by little the transformation occurred and we celebrated every small achievement. Eventually we were hacking out, then we were starting to compete and now she has just taken part in her first 90km endurance ride here in France. Incredibly we won. The horse that couldn't be started now can't be stopped!

Monty Roberts Certified Instructor, Jo Bond www.BondWithYourHorse.com

Winning Prize: Ride With Monty

Here is an exceptional opportunity for those of you in the USA! By becoming a member of ACTHA you have a chance to **win an all-expense paid trip, airfare included, to Monty's farm** and the opportunity to saddle up with Monty. Winners will be whisked away to California and will be treated to an equine experience they will never forget! Register with ACTHA to enter this incredible prize drawing: www.actha.us/register



Download the flyer here: <http://www.montyroberts.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/saddle-up-with-Monty.pdf>

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BE A LEADER

"We, as "behavior-shaping" horsemen, must work to become competent at creating partnerships with



Monty Roberts: Mindful Dressage with Steffen Peters Equus Online Uni

Current students log in here: 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

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?



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. More info at

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. **SOLD OUT! Now booking for Saturday September 21, 2013**

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.

Coming Soon: New Summer Dates to See Monty!

Inspired Retreats with Monty! Write to askmonty@montyroberts.com

[Click here](#) to read more:

http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/inspired-retreats-professional-development-training/

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/

YOUTUBE FEATURE!

Willing Partners™ FUN with Horses... watch the video!

creating partnerships with our horses."

~ Monty Roberts

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

Monty on HRTV



Watch Monty on HRTV Tuesdays at 6:00 PM ET.

Special Offer for Monty Roberts' Fans! **First month FREE** of HRTV.com when you subscribe now! Just use the **promo code MR13** when you sign up!

HRTV

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/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.

Monty's Challenge

I am a student on your [Equus Online Uni](#) (and a very grateful one at that!) that greatly respects your opinion and has been helped immensely by your teaching and testimony. I am gathering tidbits and tips on natural horsemanship from a number of places, including hand-me-down magazines and American Indian history. However, you have probably been my greatest influence in the art of horsemanship, which is why I hope you'll find time to answer my question.

I have found the practice of laying down a horse as a form of "gentling" in both modern horse magazines and



Monty Roberts Willing Partners: Quixote Concerto

Native American history. I have seen it done (though not in-person) in a seemingly acceptable and successful manner...but also in a (in my softhearted opinion) violent and simply wrong manner. Does it depend on the horse and person, or do you think this method is completely right or wrong? It just seems to go completely against the language of Equus, but I am just learning and trust your experienced judgment better than my own, although my instincts tell me forcing a prey animal down like that would terrify it more than train it. Thank you so much for your time and teaching!

Catch the Copy Edit



A **NEW** edition of [From My Hands to Yours](#) is coming in 2013! We're adding new sections for an Edition 3. Would you help us correct any errors or typos you may have caught in Edition 2 please. Write your details to debbie@montyroberts.com (Mistakes are opportunities to learn. - Monty Roberts)

INSPIRATIONAL MOMENTS

Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

Giulia Orth

Dan Quinajon





**“I did not create my training concepts.
I only discovered what nature already
had in place.”
Monty Roberts**

"Everyone meet the newest addition to the family, Monk! Talk about natural; Cody has already taken to helping Monk learn the ropes here on the ranch. Aussies are just born leaders!"
pictured: Pat Roberts, Monk and Cody

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

