



ASK MONTY

October 2, 2013

Greetings!,

What makes a great herd leader? How do herd leaders behave? Find out in Monty's question and answer column below.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

Dear Monty,

On my way of exploring every part of the horse industry I have been studying the concepts of **Cardyn Resnick, a Californian trainer who does liberty training**. In her books and her videos she explains how she grew up watching horses in the wild and makes an interesting claim: lead horses always make horses that are lower in the pecking order going in front of them when day travel in the wild. She says a lead horse never walks up in front. In the world of so-called Natural Horsemanship you always ask the horse to go behind you or with its nose next to the human's shoulder, because horses should learn to follow the leader. So, what is right? In which order do wild horses travel?

Would be great if you could clarify that for me.

Thank you for everything you do to the world of horses!

Kind regards,

Florian Oberparleiter

Monty's Answer:

Dear Florian:

In all of the Hollywood movies the lead horse of the mustangs was a stallion. That seems logical because they are bigger and more beautiful and they make a great fuss when other males come near their harem. I have no idea what Ms. Resnick sites as the leader of the herd. It is my observation that it is virtually always a mature aging female. This question teases my mind to remember the movements of these individuals as they live in the open spaces of the wild.

It seems that I am spending more and more time, when I am home, with the deer that constitute the family group living in the wild near my home. What occurs to me is that we seldom see family groups lined up and marching as migratory animals. We more often see **a large family group operating in nearly a circle** and moving more like a school of fish, first one direction and then another **to seek out grazing, shade, water or safety**. It is not generally a line.

The lead mare is most often near the front, but on one side of the group or the other. She will generally dictate the turns and sways of the herd. It is my observation that each of the family members know where she is at all times and they tend to follow her movements whether or not she is actually out in front. I have always said that **these lead matriarchs will generally be positioned so that they are between their family and what they perceive to be any danger**.

The stallion who claims to own the harem will, for the most part, be stationed somewhere near the rear, generally out to one side and often on higher ground than the bulk of the herd. His

responsibility seems to me to be to protect his harem and not to be considered a leader. He will follow the lead mare, just the same as the other family members do. Ms. Resnick may agree or disagree with my observations and that's fair enough, but it is how I see it.

It seems to me that the deer are an even better window to what the horses do because their

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Monty's Principles

Dear Mr. Monty Roberts,

I'm not so good in writing in English but I'll try to do better than I could.

I'm Bruna, I'm 30 and I live in Italy, in a little city named Lodi (it's near Milano).

About one month ago I read [your book about Join-Up](#) and in reading your book I've discovered many interesting things about my life, my past.

I'm in therapy with a psychotherapist since January 2012 and only in this month, while I was reading your book, I discovered many agonizing things that **my mind completely forgot** when I was only a child. Something terrible. I didn't remember anything before reading your book, in reading horse psychology you tell in your book I feel amazed and the things about my past bob up.

I want to thank you very much for **the**

actions are simply amplified when it comes to the safety needs of the family group. The flight tendencies of the deer are multiples of what the horse is. This means they do the same but only more so. Ms. Resnick indicates that the leader never walks in front and 'never' is a very big word. I have often seen the leaders go in front. It is true however, that it is a small percentage of the time.

I have never brought myself to conclude that the leader actually made horses go in front that were lower in the pecking order. I simply don't believe that happens. It is clear that lower pecking order horses go in front for a high percentage of the time they are in motion, but I do not believe they are made to do so. It seems to me that the leader chooses the direction, disciplines the adolescents but rules the family in a rather soft and non-violent manner.

It is my opinion that follow-up is an expression of a horse desiring to follow a human who is actually making decisions that are extremely similar to those made of the matriarchal leader of a wild horse herd. I have often said that where horsemen are concerned God needed to create two life spans. The first one was to learn the necessary concepts for dealing with horses and the second for attempting to pass these concepts on to the next generation.

It's good to hear from you again, Florian. Thank you for the question. It is provocative. Hope this communication finds you well and happy with your work. Our family is all well.

Sincerely,
Monty

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THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



Why do some horses buck with their first saddle, and what can we do about it? Find out, this week, on [Equus Online University!](#)

[Join-Up Now!](#)

Not a student yet? Click on: www.montyrobertsuniversity.com

Current students log in here: www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/sessions/new

BACK IN THE UK... MONTY ON TOUR



"Hugh's face when he achieved Join-Up was one of the highlights of the evening. Best description that I

encourage you found in writing that book because it change my life. Now I've to work on my past and I want to try to work with children with the aid of horses. Thank you very much for your testimony. I think it's very important, especially for me!

Have good luck!

Bruna Miragoli, Italy
www.Facebook.com/MontyRoberts)

Online Lessons for Horse Lovers

Dear Monty,

I and the whole **White Oak Horse Rescue** team members from IL. Just want to take a minute to say:
THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE EQUINES ALL OVER THE WORLD MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND YOURS ALWAYS!

P.S. I love my membership to your [online university](#) :-)

Yours Truly:
Fellow Horse Lover
Tammy Smith

Share the Joys of Join-Up



How to Share Monty with friends: What better way to share Monty and his concepts than to take them to meet Monty - online! [Click here](#) to see the NEW LOOK and resource Monty has for horse lovers worldwide:
www.MontyRobertsUniversity.com

Send this link to those you have always hoped would understand the goodness you feel in Join-Up. Have a look around yourself and let us know what you think AskMonty@montyroberts.com

Do it...for the love of horses!

Monty's Challenge

Dear Monty,
I have read your books and even conducted Join-Up successfully. I respect you and your concepts with extremely



the highlights of the evening. Best demo yet that I have been to..."

~ Tina Elliott from Facebook

More info here:

http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?

October 2	Bishop Burton College , Beverley, Hull	UK
October 4	Gleneagles EC , Gleneagles, Auchterarder, Perthshire	UK
October 6	Richmond EC , Breckenbrough Farm, Brough Park, Catterick, Richmond, North Yorkshire	UK
October 15	Helsinki International Horse Show , Next Generation Tour	Finland
October 17	South Staffordshire College , Rodbaston Campus Penkridge, Staffordshire	UK
October 19	Myerscough College , St. Michael's Road, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire	UK
October 25	Hartpury College , Hartpury, Gloucester,	UK
October 30	Crofton Manor EC , Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire	UK
November 1	The Grange EC , Northlew Road, Okehampton, Devon	UK
January 25, 2014	A Night of Inspiration with Monty at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang, California. Call (805) 688-6288 for more info.	USA



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/

sincere conviction. I know that you mean well with every recommendation that you make. It is my firm belief that you have an open mind and that you do not wish to impose your discoveries on anyone else without thorough justification. With these thoughts in mind I would like to call to your attention that there are many cultures globally that believe that the earth is far less than 50 million years old making it impossible for horses to have existed for that length of time. Since none of us know for sure, wouldn't it be better if you altered your statements to allow for the potential of a slightly different calendar regarding the existence of the earth, the human species and the animals that you have spent a lifetime studying? Please do not regard this as a serious criticism, only as a suggestion. Sincerely, Ron S.

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!

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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/>

CALLING EX-FORCES VETERANS WITH PTSD

Following Monty Roberts' on-going success with helping military veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), **we would like to extend his offer of help to all ex-forces personnel in the UK.** Monty is keen to demonstrate the extraordinary healing power of working with horses during his forthcoming Autumn Tour, which runs from September to November 2013, and we are looking for **Veterans with PTSD who may wish to try this deeply therapeutic experience** for themselves.

For many sufferers of this debilitating and difficult syndrome, finding and giving trust can be an immensely significant and life changing moment. We have found that the sufferers of PTSD often feel unable to ask for help, and it is the families, wives and partners are left to find the support they also need. Please feel free to share this post as freely and widely as possible.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Some of you may have seen Monty working with Paul, an ex-soldier, during last year's tour, and we were touched to have received this letter from his wife a couple of months ago - *"We have all as a family, just sat and watched Paul with Monty at the demos on Horse & Country TV. It was very emotional as what a difference the past year has been. Paul has lived the past year as a different person, much calmer and happier in life. I can't begin to explain to you how our lives have changed, from living in a house with a very aggressive, troubled man... to the happy carefree person he has become. I really do believe that Monty has helped Paul, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this, because no one else would."* ~ Paul's wife

CANADA'S RURAL TV



In Canada, Monty's Backstage Pass show airs Thursday & Saturday-10:30 AM, 4:30 PM, 11 PM (all times are EST) on television

on The Rural Channel. More info as to where The Rural Channel is available: <http://theruralchannel.com/get-trc/>

If you have questions or need more info go to info@theruralchannel.com or reach out on any of their Social Media platforms: @TheRuralChannel

A NIGHT OF INSPIRATION AT MONTY'S FARM



"I just have to say that the Night of Inspiration photo with Shy Boy peeking out amongst all of those happy faces made me smile. What a total freaking ham he is-and Monty's smile is as big as Shy Boy's. It just made me laugh, and feel happy for all of those folks who got to meet both of them. You gotta love it!! What a cute pair they are! They must have been brothers in another life." ~ Julie Malick

The next experience is **January 25, 2014**. Write to admin@montyroberts.com or call +1 805 688-4382. Space is limited. [Click here](#) to learn more!

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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.

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Sincerely,
Monty Roberts



Horse & Country, 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