



ASK MONTY

November 27, 2013

Greetings!,

Monty often states that the most important part of any piece of equipment that you put on a horse is the hands that hold it. For the most part, there is no such thing as harsh equipment. It can only become harsh when the rider's use causes it to be.

Harsh use of hands or legs is never appropriate, and a student who works hard to develop good communication through a soft touch is what we hope for, regardless of the equipment. Monty elaborates on this topic in his Question and Answer column this week.



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QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

I am doing an essay and talk at school about the use / misuse of spurs. Would you be able to tell me what your opinion is about them and maybe give me some tips? I would like to see them banned but need to convince the rest of my class, many of whom ride, about this. One of my paragraphs is about how you treat and train horses in a good way.

Monty's Answer:

Whips and spurs by themselves can do no harm; it's the hands and feet that hold them that do that. Spurs have been commonly employed in procedures whereby you are asking the horse to move forward. But, once you begin to dictate to the horse, demanding obedience or causing pain, you will most likely have to employ strong-arm tactics throughout the life of the horse. I believe that if you can begin early in the horse's life to communicate and negotiate, requesting rather than demanding, you will instill an attitude of cooperation that will serve you well.

It is my belief that it is not necessary to use spurs early in the training procedure. The softer you can be to gain the desired results, the better. Should you wish to use spurs later, you should remember that they are for communication only, not to inflict pain. The spur should be looked upon as an instrument that puts your contact point closer to the horse for better communication. To ensure that I never cause pain, my spurs are covered with rubber, but the leg without spurs is far better in the early stages of schooling.

Into-pressure is a response that the horseman needs to deal with when educating a horse to accept communication sent through the legs. There are many ways to initiate the process of requesting your horse to yield to your legs or heels but one should be aware that yielding to pressure in an into-pressure animal must be taught as it is not natural for the horse. Good luck on your essay and talk. Let us know how it goes.



We're celebrating Thanksgiving in the United States! Monty's Join-Up Kit includes: Dually Halter with DVD, a From My Hands to Yours textbook, a Join-Up DVD and a Six Month subscription to Monty's Equus Online University.

Retail value \$188.95 for only \$150. That's a 20% savings!

[CLICK HERE TO CHOOSE YOUR KIT!](#)

Limited time offer expires end of day December 3, 2013. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or special offers. Shipping not included or discounted.

HALTER SIZING MATTERS

The Dually color is according to size.

The Extra Small Size is Green

The Small Size is Red

Forward to a Friend

The Small Size is Red
The Medium Size is Black
The Large Size is Blue

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THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



In this week's video lesson on [Equus Online University](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com), Certified Instructor Courtney Dunn shows us the progress of a young horse into his second day of training under saddle.

Join-Up Now!

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

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

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?

See Monty's Demonstrations Near You!

November 30 - December 1	Brazil horse training workshops with Monty Roberts, 9 am - 5 pm, limited to 40 participants. Call +55 11 3882-0008 or write encantadoresdevidas@sirin.com.br	BR
December 7 -8	Brazil horse training workshops with Monty Roberts, 9 am - 5 pm, limited to 40 participants. Call +55 11 3882-0008 or write encantadoresdevidas@sirin.com.br	BR
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
January 26, 2014	Life Lessons: A Personal Development Workshop at Flag Is Up Farms See more at: http://www.montyroberts.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Life-Lessons-web.pdf	USA
April 4, 2014	Pferdezentrum Schloss Wickrath , Mönchengladbach	DE
April 6, 2014	Landgestüt Zweibrücken	DE
April 8, 2014	Reitsportzentrum Hohenzollern , Bisingen	DE
April 11, 2014	Reitverein Bayer Leverkusen	DE
Aprl 13, 2014	Gestüt Tannenhof , Heidenrod-Watzelhain (bei Wiesbaden)	DE

Monty's Principles



As part of the Monty Roberts 'Stablemate to Soulmate' Autumn Tour 2013 in the UK, we put out a call to any British Forces combat veterans suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) to come along to experience a 'Join-Up®'.

Monty's previous work with PTSD has proven the remarkable healing powers of working with horses through his Horse Sense and Soldiers weekends. Join-Up offers a powerful tool to deal effectively with the emotional trauma, anti-social behaviour, withdrawal and anger associated with PTSD.

We had an extraordinary response to this call out, and one of the veterans that came forward was Paul Wilson. Paul had served for 10 years in the British Army as a mechanic in the REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers), including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having now left the Army, he had been formally diagnosed with PTSD, but like many veterans is struggling with anger and trust issues with little help or counselling.

Paul attended the demonstration at Crofton Manor, and after a brief chat in the round pen with Monty about his experiences, they began to work with lovely show jumper called Sidney. It was clear to the hushed crowd what a powerful and therapeutic moment it was when reaching the Join-Up and the giving of trust passed between them. Monty commented later to me what an incredibly good student Paul was, who despite having no knowledge of horses, listened to the instructions carefully and achieved a very strong Join-Up. So strong in fact that the horse, Sidney, tried to leave the round pen with Paul when he left at the end! His wife Vicki said she had not seen him smile like that in over two years, since he returned from Afghanistan.

This transformational experience can help veterans understand how to control their





For information about Monty's worldwide demos, the courses held at Monty's farm in California go to:
http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/

MONTY'S CHALLENGE

I recently acquired a year-old Newfoundland Pony filly. This is a sensible working breed that has evolved over centuries in Newfoundland but this filly is quite self-possessed. When she got her first shots last month she reacted quite strongly - there was a lot of squirming and a little bit of pony wrestling in the alleyway. I tried taking her up to her older companion's box stall door for comfort but it didn't help much.

The second set was if anything worse. Before I could say anything, the vet did the tap tap on her butt and the filly exploded. She was insulted and very reactive. We did manage the job but there has to be a better way. She is due for more shots this month!

This pony has been raised by experienced breeders who employ natural horsemanship techniques. She has certainly never been abused. She leads well and seems well socialized. The vet suggested doing a systematic desensitization using treats. I don't normally feed horses by hand but tried this for a few days. I can touch the filly's butt but anything more than that elicits angry tail swishing and circling. So I searched clicker training and horses and discovered your site.

Agreed - treats are a bad route. But what is possible with a pony this young? She quickly becomes defensive and that says there is a bit of disrespect going on. I have raised a number of warmbloods in past years and never had this problem. It isn't as easy working with a baby brought up by someone else.
 Any suggestions welcome!

Now Playing: Robert Miller, DVM, & Ada Gates, Master Farrier



Feel Good About the Direction Horsemanship Is Going!

The Horsemanship Radio Show is an online radio show (podcast) dedicated to the exploration of good horsemanship throughout the world. Hosted by Debbie Loucks (Monty Roberts' daughter), the show includes segments, tips and interviews exploring good horsemanship.

One of the fathers of the modern natural horsemanship movement Dr. Robert Miller joins Debbie to discuss the past and present and pioneer female master farrier Ada Gates shares her story and how good horsemanship plays into good farrier work. Plus, Joel Baker with this week's tip on traveling with your horses.

Listen in... <http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2013/11/14/horsemanship-radio-episode-4-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-master-farrier-ada-gates-and-dr-robert-miller/>

[Click here to bookmark](#) the Horsemanship Radio episodes on **iTunes**.

[Click here to bookmark](#) the Horsemanship Radio episodes on **Android**.

Carrie Scrima of the American Competitive Trail Horse Association and Phillip Ralls, trainer of high performance reined cow horses will be on the show starting November 30 2013. New shows air the 15th and the 30th of every month brought to you by Index Fund Advisors www.IFA.com

Part of the Horse Radio Network.
<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/>

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.

anger, confront painful memories, cope with real life situations and move on with their lives and relationships. We are working hard on some exciting plans in the UK to enable Monty to work with a wider audience of these brave PTSD combat veterans and serving personnel who can benefit so much from this therapy. More news soon!

Ele Milwright, Intelligent Horsemanship

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
<http://www.facebook.com/theruralchannel>

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!



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, UK



Watch Monty Roberts on Horse & Country TV in the UK (Sky channel 280), Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden

and Malta. See: <http://www.horseandcountry.tv/monty> for more info.



Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

Sincerely,
Monty Roberts

